



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 2014



Birds in Huddersfield 2014 is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports produced by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover illustration: **Osprey (Stuart Brocklehurst)**.

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

Rear cover photograph: **Lesser Scaup (David Pennington)**.

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Birds in Huddersfield

2014

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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

As I end my term as President at the forthcoming AGM, this prompts me to reflect on my involvement with our annual reports since I first joined the club in 2001, shortly after I retired.

I first heard of the Club through a chance meeting with Mike Denton, who was quick to see me at Blackmoorfoot one day and pressed a programme card into my hand, setting me on a path of ever more involvement for which I may never forgive him. At that time our Recorder was Brian Armitage. I had been out near Castle Hill on the morning of the very first time I came to a Club meeting, had been spotted by Brian with my binoculars and he made me immediately welcome that evening. A few days in the field with Brian quickly demonstrated how much he knew and I didn't, but he is a patient and excellent teacher. Brian is held in the highest regard amongst the birding community and he single-handedly maintained our records and wrote the annual reports. The task was however growing and beyond the reasonable scope of one individual. At this point, somewhat rashly, I offered to give Brian a hand with the 'publishing' aspects of the report and in arranging printing – little did I know what lay ahead.

Since then, I have handled the publishing and printing of some 13 reports, including for two years after Brian retired as writer, when Russ Boland similarly and excellently single-handedly wrote them. We then reorganised, separating the role of Recorder, now David Butterfield, from that of writing the report, which became a team effort under the tutelage of Mike Denton as 'Technical Editor'.

The team approach has worked superbly and, as we were behind with reports, we were able to catch up with a massive concerted effort by doing two reports a year for two years – I can still hear that sigh of relief from all concerned. This time we again meet the target we set of publishing the report in the autumn after the relevant year-end.

Two members stood down this time after contributing every year since the team was formed – David Pogson and Russ Boland, who has informed and entertained us in equal measure in his excellent reviews of the year. We thank them both heartily. We welcome Dave Sill who has joined and also taken on the review of the year in great style.

The team of course extends to our photographers, on whom we now rely to bring our reports to life, and there are many superb photos again this year, all taken in the Club area. Stuart Brocklehurst's artwork has graced our cover for many years – this time with a superb Osprey.

The recording and publishing of '*Birds in Huddersfield*' is in my mind the single most important role of the Club and the report of a standard of which we can be proud. This despite my occasional mistakes, which fortunately some eagle-eyed member always spotted, showing that at least someone was reading it. It has been a pleasure to be part of such an able team and I hope to continue the publishing role, for the time being, unless that is Mike Denton can way lay some other unsuspecting birder.

As if to mark my retirement in style, the birds of Huddersfield have laid on a bumper year in 2014, with 177 species, including three new to the area. Read all about them here and, while you do, please spare a thought for the efforts of the team that brought it to you.

Mike Wainman

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 49 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2014* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk



2014: THE BIRDING YEAR

This has been a very good year, 177 species recorded, five more than last year, which in itself would be nice, but add to that the fact that no less than three of them were new to our area makes it rather special. And on top of all that all of them had excellent photographs taken. Well done to all concerned.

January opened with unseasonably mild weather, lots of rain and SW gales, which were probably what kept the previous year's Great Northern Diver at Ladywood Lakes (where it remained until 4th July). This longer than usual stay enabled a good number of birders to get their year lists off to a flying start. On the whole it was fairly quiet and, although as many skeins of Pink-footed Geese as last year passed over during the month, nowhere near as many individuals were involved, in fact the daily maximum was 600 at Blackmoorfoot. Horbury SW once again hosted Chiffchaff showing characteristics of the Siberian race throughout, though this time only a single was involved. The first days of the month did produce two interesting gulls. A second-winter Yellow-legged Gull was at Blackmoorfoot and on the same day an adult Kumlien's Gull was at Langsett. Amongst some good monthly wildfowl numbers were mainly 45 Wigeon at Dewsbury SW, 19 Goldeneye on the Calder at Horbury and a 'redhead' Smew on the lower lake at Bretton Park, though not an infrequent winter visitor to this location, it was very welcome nonetheless. The first snow showers saw 20 Snipe on Wholestone Moor and shortly afterwards observers were surprised to find 40 Golden Plover at the unusual dizzy, wintery heights of Chew Res. and no less surprising at Snape Res. was a rare winter sighting of a Grey Plover feeding in Rape stubble. Flocks of winter thrushes were into three figures with 150 Fieldfare and 100+ Redwing at various locations being the maxima. Some garden watching was rewarded with the months' top counts of seven Brambling at Linthwaite and 12 Siskin at Cowcliffe, also 30 Linnet feeding near Lepton and c.20 Crossbill at Langsett Banks were worthy of note.

The very mild conditions continued into **February** with some gale force southerly winds and driving rain. Nevertheless, on one of the calmer days a Hen Harrier was seen hunting across the moor above Marsden and another was at Blackley later in the month. More raptors came in the welcome form of a Red Kite over Wilshaw followed by two more over Elland GP and the first Merlin of the year seen at Blackmoorfoot. Ingbirchworth Res. held an impressive 29 Whooper Swans and even more so five Bean Geese of the Tundra race which even settled in a field nearby, three years since the last ones visited. A Green Sandpiper visited Dewsbury SW and two Jack Snipe were at Ringstone Edge. Single Mediterranean Gulls put in an appearance at Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone Edge. Two very different flocks came in the form of 250 Golden Plover at Cheesegate Nab, contrasting with the c.100 Goldfinch around Huddersfield Civic Centre. As even milder weather brought the month to a close regular sightings of Stonechat were made in the Marsden area.

The first day of **March** was pleasant, misty and still first thing, sunny later. What happened to winter? A first-winter Mediterranean Gull visited Ingbirchworth Res. but after a quick change brought heavy overnight rain a nice drake Smew graced the Calder at Horbury and then another Mediterranean Gull, this time an adult at Blackmoorfoot, with a Green Sandpiper remaining at Ossett Spa to the month end after being joined by a second. It was towards the middle of the month after some mixed, but still mild conditions before a Red Kite flew over Golcar, 10 Shoveler were at Dewsbury SW and 120 Redwing at Blackmoorfoot. It was from this point that things began to liven up after a spell of very strong winds from the W brought the first summer migrants, when Wheatear and Sand Martin visited Blackmoorfoot and a Blackcap was at Colne Bridge SP.

In the meantime yet another Red Kite had flown over Blackmoorfoot and a nice flock of c.500 Fieldfare were still in the Penistone area. The last of another beautiful winter visitor, Whooper Swan, were seen as c.60 flew W over Colne Bridge. This brought us to an eventful end to the month when, apart from eight Raven and 10 Ring Ouzel in the Little Don Valley, a beautiful Avocet graced the filter beds below Langsett Res. for just a short while before heading off in a northerly direction. Another of the three new species for our area, an impressive male Two-Barred Crossbill, was found by diligent observers in the Dovestone area. What an end to the month!

Fairly benign weather continued into **April** and apart from a few more arrivals in the early part things were relatively quiet, though 80 Fieldfare were still in the Marsden area. Goshawks were seen at a potential breeding site and we can only hope that they met with some success as this beautiful species tries to hang on for dear life in our area. Conversely five single Red Kite were seen in the area, a Hen Harrier at Blackmoorfoot and a Marsh Harrier drifting W at Harden were the other raptors of note, along with the first of the year's Hobby sightings. Blackmoorfoot observers were rewarded when a remarkable three pairs of Garganey and a summer plumage Red-Throated Diver also visited, and two days later, after an absence of eight years in our area, three Velvet Scoter turned up at Langsett Res.

Some very pleasant warm weather during the second half of the month helped to move things along and Little Ringed Plover were recorded from 14 sites with plenty more summer visitors also arriving. The main influx however started in earnest in the third week and by the month end just about everything was in, including the first Swift and Cuckoo along with a flurry of tern sightings which included Little and Black at Blackmoorfoot, the only ones seen this year, and Common and Arctic too. At the same venue a Bar-Tailed Godwit flew E, a fitting end to a very fruitful month.

Despite a pretty cool start to **May** the last of the summer visitors were making themselves heard, Garden Warbler and, particularly pleasing, Reed Warbler and Tree Pipit, with a little later more churring Nightjars than usual and Quail singing at Royd Moor Res. A grounded Whimbrel stayed long enough to be photographed, more Arctic and Common Tern passed through and at one site Ringed Plover were suspected of breeding.

May also gave us two great new area species, first a Lesser Scaup at Ingbirchworth Res. This species is easily overlooked, so well done to all concerned. The second, easier to identify if not hiding, was a Purple Heron at Dewsbury SW, this bird eventually gave flight views which allowed it to be photographed. Who knows in not many years' time whether this species will have followed other relatives and may well be breeding? Watch this space. In the meantime species that wouldn't normally be classed as more mundane, a Red Kite and a Marsh Harrier had passed over Harden and Marsden Moor respectively. A singing Black Redstart gave us a very welcome spring addition to our ever increasing number of autumn records, but very sadly this is in contrast to the single record of a beautiful Hawfinch on the last day of the month.

Early **June** brought little of note apart from a welcome singing Quail and another Red Kite, but it does give us a chance, now that all are back in their breeding territories, to take stock as it were, and see how records compare for some of our declining species. Unfortunately, our records showed that the news isn't good for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker – barely hanging on; Spotted Flycatcher – well down; Tree Pipit –down again; only one Wood Warbler seen and heard and not a single record of Woodlark. It was not all doom and gloom, however, as Yellow Wagtail appeared to be holding on and Sedge, Reed and Willow Warblers were about the same as previous years. An increase this year of Cuckoo and Nightjar, with a slight increase in Redstart and Whinchat numbers, boosted morale.

Early **July** was the normally quiet period but at least we had another warm month with some very hot days towards the end. A good run of Common Scoter began with up to 19 individuals involved and three Little Egret sightings continued another good year for this ever increasing species. Langsett Res. gave us some roosting Yellow-Legged Gulls and three Whimbrel flew over. A healthy number of autumn records began with a juvenile Black Redstart and a Marsh Harrier passed over. Finally, strong W winds brought the month to a close and rewarded observers at Blackmoorfoot Res. with four Sanderling flying W, no doubt taking full advantage of the headwind.

Apart from suffering the aftermath of Hurricane 'Bertha' in the second week conditions were quite placid in **August**, and we started to see some early movers with an Osprey over Marsden, two Marsh Harrier over Blackmoorfoot, a number of Hobby and no less than 11 Buzzard at Gunthwaite Dam. Some welcome waders were the only Greenshank record of the year at Ringstone Edge, Green Sandpiper at Royd Moor Res. with no less than five at Dewsbury SW and three welcome Sanderling visited Langsett. Ringstone Edge was paid a five minute visit by three Little Egret and Great White Egret were seen over Marsden Moor and Scout Dyke. The gull roost at Langsett Res. held an adult Caspian Gull for a couple of days, a Little Gull departed W from Dewsbury SW and more fly-over Arctic and Common Tern occurred.

The first half of **September** brought yet again some very hot days albeit some with a misty start. The last Swift was seen on the second day quickly followed by Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, two Ospreys and plenty of Hobby sightings, to make this the best September out of the last ten. Two Fieldfare were in very early considering it would be nearly a month before the next arrivals. On a 'viz-mig' watch observers were rewarded with up to nine Tree Pipit flying SW at Pule Hill, whilst other migrants included a Sedge Warbler in Ingbirchworth, five Redstart at Blackmoorfoot and a Lesser Whitethroat grounded by early morning mist at Hepworth. Bretton Park held a maximum 70 Teal and the first Pink-Footed Geese went NE over Pule Hill which started a very good winter period for the species. Back on the 'viz-mig' scene, at Harden Quarries six Ring Ouzel flew W and no less than 2,500 Meadow Pipit went S on a single day. Then the highlight or highlights of the month came on the last two days. First a Buff-Breasted Sandpiper feeding with Golden Plovers at Ringstone Edge, only the 5th record for our area, and the day after, probably due to the presence of the aforementioned, a rare autumn sighting of a Dotterel.

For the first couple of days **October** started as September had left off, and then began a period of strong S and SW winds which on a couple of days were 'howlers' made worse by heavy rain. Pink-footed Geese were still seen on 16 days with a maximum 1,058 over Harden Quarries and 15 adult Whooper Swans departed W from Blackmoorfoot. Taking refuge here was a male Scaup and the only Pochard of the month, again a male, was at Royd Moor Res. Blackmoorfoot had the first Goldeneye, which started quite a lean spell of sightings here, at this once well frequented spot.

Raptors were very much in evidence, plenty of Common Buzzard moved through and towards the end of the month four Rough-legged Buzzard, which carried on into the following month, and led to a bumper year for them. There were ten Merlin records in the Marsden area, coinciding with the build-up of Twite at the feeding station and a few Peregrines doing likewise with Woodpigeon passing through, also a very late adult Hobby went low W into driving rain at the same place.

A Rock Pipit at Deer Hill was joined by a second, more Black Redstart were seen in the hills, a late Yellow Wagtail flew S and up to 10 Wheatear were at Blackmoorfoot. Watchers on 'viz-mig' duty had a busy month, 60 Pied Wagtails were counted as they flew SW at Harden Quarries, almost 15,000 Woodpigeon flew SW down the Colne Valley and 2,500 Starling waited in fields above

Marsden until fog on the tops lifted before continuing W and eleven Ring Ouzel flew S. Finally, winter visitors increased in numbers to a maximum of 367 Fieldfare W over Blackmoorfoot and in a half-hour period, a magnificent 2,000 + Redwing flew SE over Rastrick and the last day of the month brought a Snow Bunting S over Pule Hill.

November opened on a by now familiar note, with a lot of rain and some very strong, mainly SW winds, though the second half was more typical with some days of very poor visibility and lower temperatures. These conditions favoured overhead thrushes when over the first three days at Harden Quarries observers logged an impressive 4,500 Fieldfare and almost 3,500 Redwing. The influx of Rough-legged Buzzard continued and involved up to 13 more individuals, perhaps with this species it is more than likely there was some duplication, but it was an excellent year nonetheless. Other raptors included two Hen Harrier above Marsden and more Merlin and Peregrine. Some good wildfowl counts were carried out with 60 Wigeon, 82 Teal and a maximum of 10 Goldeneye at Dewsbury SW. At Bretton 32 Gadwall, 17 Shoveler, 93 Goosander and two Red-breasted Merganser were the pick, with a single of the latter at Blackmoorfoot too where 16 Barnacle Geese went over before turning W up the Colne Valley. There were late sightings of Black Redstart and two of Ring Ouzel, but the biggest surprise of all must have been a probable Reed Warbler singing in a very well watched Linthwaite garden.

Early **December** was much colder with falling temperatures bringing some wintery showers. A very high count of 20 Goldeneye at Blackmoorfoot, albeit for just one day, was still welcome as were 70 Teal at Bretton Park and 30 Wigeon and Gadwall at Horbury Strands/Wyke. On the raptor front a Red Kite drifted over Whitley Common and there were several records of Peregrines. A Kittiwake departed W at Blackmoorfoot Res. and the first Iceland Gulls for two years visited with three in just two days. Almost 8,000 Woodpigeon passed over Pule Hill in two days, another high number of Pied Wagtail were present at Dewsbury SW, 45+ Blue Tits were present at Blackmoorfoot and three figure counts of Fieldfare and Redwing were noted bringing the month and year to a close.

Dave Sill.

Many thanks to Russ Boland for all his hard work in previous years.

THE WEATHER IN 2014

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

The Met Office have stated that provisional full year figures for 2014 show it is the UK's warmest and fourth wettest year in records dating back to 1910. It is also the warmest year on record in the Central England Temperature series, which dates back to 1659 and is the world's longest running instrumental temperature series. This year's record means that eight of the UK's top ten warmest years have happened since 2002.

Huddersfield experienced the 12th wettest year since our records began in 1990. A total of 868.94mm of rainfall was recorded compared to the average figure of 912.3mm. The wettest month was December with 134.6mm of rainfall (14.7% of the year's total). The wettest day of the year was the 27th March when 31.4mm of rainfall was recorded. The driest month of the year was September with 12.2mm of rainfall. The driest spell of the year was between Monday 16th June and Monday 23rd June, 8 days in total. The wettest spell was between Wednesday 1st Jan and Wednesday 29th January during which a total of 112mm was recorded.

The warmest month of the year was July with an average temperature of 18.6°C. The warmest day of the year was July 25th when an average temperature of 21.9 °C was recorded. The highest temperature during the year was 29.5°C recorded on Saturday 26th July. The coldest month of the year was December with an average temperature of 5.86°C. The coldest day of the year was Saturday 27th December when an average temperature of 1°C was recorded. The lowest temperature recorded during the year was -2°C recorded on Saturday 27th December.

The windiest month of the year was February with a mean wind speed of 16.78km/hr; this is the third windiest month of all months since our records began. The windiest day of the year was December 22nd with a mean wind speed of 44.28km/hr, one of the highest recorded figures since our records began. The highest gust of wind for the year was 134.28km/hr recorded February 12th.

Monthly Overview 2014

All average figures are those recorded by the Applied Sciences weather station since 1990. All months of the year recorded higher than average temperatures except for August. The temperature only fell below zero on 13 days of the year.

January – It was the wettest January since 2008 with only one day escaping rainfall. It was also the mildest since 2008 with temperatures only falling below zero on three days.

February – Temperatures were nearly a degree centigrade above average. It was the wettest February since 2011 and the sixth wettest since our records began. Only three days with no rainfall. The third windiest month since our records began with significant damage caused on Wednesday 12th.

March – It was the 7th warmest and 8th Wettest March since our records began. A maximum temperature of 18.9°C was recorded on Thursday 13th – the third warmest temperature recorded for March since our records began.

April - It was the 3rd warmest and 7th driest April since our records began.

May - It was the warmest May since 2008 and the seventh warmest May since our records began. It was the second wettest May since our records began.

June - Huddersfield experienced its 6th warmest and 5th driest June since our records began. It was the driest June since 2006. Wind speeds were much lower than average.

July - It was the fourth warmest July since our records began with temperatures not falling below double figures. The month was very dry with below average rainfall and 21 days without rain.

August - Cool, wet and windy! It was the coolest August since our records began with temperatures over 1.5°C cooler than average. Rainfall and wind speeds were above average. Ex hurricane 'Bertha' passed over the UK on the 10th – 11th bringing some unseasonably windy and wet weather. It was by far the windiest August since our new weather station was installed in 2005.

September – It was the fourth warmest September since our records began and the driest on record; wind speeds were also very low for the time of year. Below average wind speeds were also recorded.

October – It was the fourth warmest October since our records began and the warmest since 2006. Halloween was the fourth warmest October day since 1990. Although there was below rainfall only eight days of the month escaped rain.

November – Again very mild, average rainfall but only seven days free from rainfall. It was the fourth warmest November since our records began.

December – Above average temperatures but the sixth wettest December since our records began. Wind speeds were particularly high for the time of year.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

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

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

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

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

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

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2009 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

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

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

On page 121 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 272 species and 13 additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2014. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

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

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

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2014

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Records were received from 10 sites (13 in 2013).

Breeding was only recorded at **Ladywood Lakes** where up to four adults were present throughout the year and four juveniles were in evidence by mid-May.

Other records were as follows:

Ossett Spa SW – a first-winter on 1st January and two adults on 13th April.

Bretton Park – up to three were present from January to mid-March and again on 10th June but there were then no further records until two adults and six juveniles were seen on 17th September. These birds then remained until the year end and attracted an additional bird between 22nd November and 17th December.

Boshaw Whams – the immature present in late December 2013 remained until at least 20th August.

Dewsbury SW – two adults on 11th January.

Battleyford – an adult on 2nd February.

Dewsbury SW – two adults on 11th January, three on 13th March, two on 20th April, three on 18th May and two on 1st June.

Horbury area – four were on the Strands/Wyke on 14th February, with six there on 4th May and four on 24th December. A single adult was on the canal on 6th March. An adult was seen regularly on the river between mid-March and mid-May with nine on 7th May and four, one of which was an immature, on 16th May. Two were on the river on 30th July, one of which had been colour-ringed as an adult male at Pugneys CP on 16th January 2007 and had bred on the Calder Park Lake during that year.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Birds were seen during the first winter period as follows:

Bretton Park – an adult on the Lower Lake on 17th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two adults were present on 4th February and seven adults arrived at 10.25hrs. on 17th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – 29 were present on 17th February but this had reduced to two adults and a juvenile the following day.

Penistone – a herd of c.15 flew W at 11.00hrs. on 18th February.

Colne Bridge SP – a herd of c.60 flew W on 24th March.

Birds were seen during the second winter period as follows:

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 11th October, seven flew SE on 20th October and six adults were present on 3rd December.

Elland GP – four on the ski lake on 12th October

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 11 flew E at 09.50hrs. on 20th October and a single flew E at 09.40hrs. on 15th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in October, 15 adults departed W at 08.30hrs. on 23rd, two adults and two juveniles flew S at 10.15hrs. on 24th, and the five (3 adults and two juveniles) present on 29th were joined by a further six (2 adults and 4 juveniles) which arrived from the NE at 09.50hrs. Four adults

were present on 9th November, an adult departed E at 09.30hrs. on 17th November and an adult was present on 3rd December.

Waterloo – seven flew S on 29th October.

Winscar Res – four adults were present on 1st November.

Isle of Skye Quarry – 10 flew E at 08.33hrs. on 4th November.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Rare winter visitor.

Five birds of the Tundra race *A. f. rossicus* were present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st February. The birds remained detached from the other geese present and eventually settled in a field to the NW of the reservoir (MCW).

This is the first record of this race in the Club area since birds were in the same area in early January 2011.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

There was no repeat of the large numbers recorded in the first winter period of 2013 (3750 in two days) but the number of skeins was similar.

10th January – 600 W (140 + 110 + 60 + 140 + 110 + 40 between 11.10hrs. and 13.00hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**; two skeins of c.100, which may have involved some of the Blackmoorfoot birds, flew W over **Golcar**; 380 W (150 at 11.25hrs. + 230 at 11.50hrs.) over **Cupwith Res.**; 350 W (250 at 12.40hrs. + 100 at 13.10hrs.) over **Scammonden Water** and 150 W at 10.50hrs. over **Elland GP.**

11th January – c.160 NW at 09.30hrs. over **Rastrick** and 75 W at 12.05hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

16th January – 220 NW (80 at 11.05hrs. + 140 at 11.10hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**.

18th January – c.180 W at 10.25hrs. over **Golcar**.

19th January – c.150 ESE over **Skelmanthorpe** and c.100 W at 16.00hrs. over **Brockholes**.

10th February – 525 (250 W at 11.00hrs. + 275 W at 11.15hrs.) at **Brun Clough**.

17th February – c.60 W at **Crimble Clough** and 180 W (80 at 10.00hrs. + 100 at 10.45hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**.

18th February – 66 NW over **Dewsbury**.

1st March – 80 WNW over **Ramsden** at 11.35hrs. were almost certainly the same as birds seen flying NW over **Meltham Moor** a few minutes later.

5th March – 28 W over **Lepton**; 30 NW at 11.15hrs. at **Bradley Park GC** and c.35 W at 11.30hrs. over **Bretton**.

10th March – 90 NW at 10.50hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.

Grounded birds were reported as follows: a single was at **Scammonden Water** on four dates in January; one or two were seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on seven dates between 14th January and 17th March; two were in fields at **Annat Royd Lane** on 8th February; and singles were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 12th March and **Hepworth** on 31st March.

In the second winter period 58 reports were received (compared to 40 in 2013). There were exceptional movements on 11th and 12th October when 2000+ were seen moving over the area.

21st September – a distant skein was heard flying NE at 07.40hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
24th September – 15 SW at 16.17hrs. over **Deer Hill Res.**; 46 NW at 10.40hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden** and 42 W over **Winscar.**
25th September – a skein was heard flying SE after dusk over **Newsome.**
27th September – c.60 NE at **Harden Quarries** and 44 E at **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
28th September – 64 over WNW over **Harden Quarries.**
29th September – 18 E over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
1st October – c.90 E at **Almondbury.**
3rd October – 78 SW at **Dewsbury SW.**
5th October – 85 E at 08.31hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
6th October – 100 W at 17.45hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
11th October – 240 (130 E at 09.15hrs. + 110 W at 10.45hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot**; c.50 NE at 11.00hrs. over **Rastrick**; c.260 W at 11.38hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden**; 361 (250 WNW + 101 E) at **Harden Quarries**; c.250 E over **Meltham** and c.150 E at 19.09hrs. at **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
12th October – 1058 (995 E + 63 WSW) over **Harden Quarries**; a skein heard flying NE above the cloud layer at 08.49hrs. + 150 SE at 08.49hrs. + three skeins heard heading NE at 09.10hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden**; 100 NW at **Hepworth**; 70 S at 14.20hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and c.30 over **Bretton Park.**
17th October – c.470 (305 NE at 08.37hrs. + 165 NE at 08.40hrs.) over **Isle of Skye Quarry.**
18th October - c.50 W over **Holmbridge.**
19th October – 180 E at 10.20hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**, c.100 E over **Meltham**, several skeins totalling 1220 SE at **Winscar.**
22nd October – 11 S at 07.49hrs. over **Oldfield** and 14 (5 S + 9 W) at **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
23rd October – c.40 E over **Meltham.**
24th October – 26 W over **Almondbury**, 136 (60 W at 08.35hrs. + 22 W at 13.15hrs. + 54 E at 14.30hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and 55 E at 17.00hrs. over **Marsden**
25th October – 350 E (170 at 09.05hrs. + 180 at 11.35hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot** and c.200 E at 09.00hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
26th October – 909 (50 NE at 08.05hrs. + 75 NE at 08.25hrs. + 30 NE at 08.28hrs. + 450 ENE at 08.30hrs. + 100 ENE at 08.32hrs. + 60 S at 08.34hrs. + 44 NE at 08.50hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
28th October – 8 E over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
29th October – 38 (3 W + 35 NW at 09.25 hrs.) at **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
1st November – c.260 E at 08.05hrs. over **Harden Quarries** and c.50 NE at 09.00hrs. at **Brockholes.**
2nd November – c.190 (130 + 60) E at **Harden Quarries.**
3rd November – c.175 E (65 at 07.45hrs. + 110 at 08.00hrs.) over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
4th November – 115 E at 08.23hrs. over **Bradshaw** and a distant skein heard flying E at 08.30hrs. + 45 E at 09.15hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
9th November – c.101 (21 E at 08.50hrs. + c.80 at 09.35hrs.) over **Harden Quarries.**
23rd November – 35 E at 08.55hrs. at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and 42 E at 10.25hrs. over **Langsett Res.**
24th November – 4 W at 09.35hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot.**
25th November – 148 W (40 at 10.10hrs. + 20 at 10.30hrs. + 88 at 10.20hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
30th November – 121 (35 E at 08.50hrs. + 56 W at 09.30hrs. + 30 W at 09.31hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**
13th December – 75 NW at 12.50hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot.**

14th December – 10 W at 08.50hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and 60 W at 10.05hrs. over **Horbury SW.**

28th December – 526 W (largest party (135) between 10.40hrs. and 11.45hrs.) over **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**

30th December – c.100 over **Meltham Mills** and 37 W at 13.45hrs. at **Wards End Farm, Marsden.**

The only grounded birds involved a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd/4th November, four at **Annat Royd Lane** on 6th November and a single at **Snape Res.** from 19th to 21st November.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

With the exception of June, the **Ingbirchworth** area held birds throughout the year, with the flock size generally exceeding those of 2013. Other sites with larger counts than normal were **Langsett Res.** and **Barnside, Hepworth.**

In the Ingbirchworth area, as in 2013, **Ingbirchworth Res.** held the lion's share. In January/February up to 112 were regularly recorded but, with the exception of c.300 on 17th March, numbers remained in single figures until 17 were present on 3rd September. Thereafter, the flock size increased to 132 by 10th September and 175 by 24th September, and remained at c.130 until early November, after which it never exceeded 70.

Other sightings from this area involved the following maxima:

Royd Moor Res – c.100 on 18th August and 128 on 31st August.

Ingbirchworth Common – 30 flew S on 15th September.

Annat Royd Lane – c.120 on 4th November and 164 two days later.

Spicer House Lane – c.200 on 8th December.

The only record from **Langsett Res.** during the first winter period involved 30 on 10th February. Later in the year, the 37 present on 3rd September had increased to 106 two days later and 146 on 7th September. Between then and early October, although numbers never fell below 30, there was a maximum of 74 on 15th September.

At **Barnside, Hepworth** up to 16 were present during the last two weeks of March and five were seen on 15th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the downward turn in records reported for the last two years continued and like those years, this was probably due to the lack of a Canada Goose flock (see below) which in the past has attracted long-staying individuals. A skein of 25 flew W at 10.50hrs. on 17th January; in March, two were present on 9th, a single flew W at 10.35hrs. on 23rd, and one was present on 26th; singles were seen on 9th April and 6th and 25th May. There were no further records until a skein of 22 flew W at 13.00hrs. on 24th October; in November, two were present on 9th, five flew W at 10.35hrs. on 10th, and two were seen on 29th. The only other record involved five which flew N at 10.15hrs. on 4th December.

Smaller numbers were reported from other localities:

Meal Hill – although birds were present throughout the year with Canada Geese, no figures were forthcoming.

Ladywood Lakes – three on 1st and 11th January and a single on 20th April

Winscar Res – two on 14th January.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two on 12th March.

Dewsbury SW – two on 14th March.

Bretton Park – seven on 14th March and six on 12th October.

Horbury – a single on the River Calder on 19th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 12th April.

Dewsbury SW – two on 20th April.

Slaithwaite – two on the canal on 17th May.

Lower Windleden Res – seven on 30th May.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – in November, four flew W at 07.05hrs. on 5th, 55 flew W at 10.10hrs. on 19th and four flew W on 24th.

Castle Dam – a single on 23rd and four on 27th December.

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

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

Monthly maxima at regularly occupied sites were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	2	5	12	9	3	15	8	18	0	2	0	0
Bretton Park	130	nc	148	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	108	53	125	150
Horbury Strands/Wyke	25	46	38	nc	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth Res	106	225	92	7	1	5	5	19	361	201	151	161
Ladywood Lakes	70	nc	nc	nc	10	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Langsett Res	nc	nc	43	33	33	58	27	nc	88	nc	nc	nc
Royd Moor Res	nc	34	4	nc	nc	nc	63	260	nc	nc	nc	nc
Scout Dike Res	30	72	51	nc	nc	nc	nc	220	nc	nc	nc	75

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were very sporadic in appearance, with occurrences on a maximum of nine days per month with the exceptions of 19 in March and 13 in August, and no flocks remained for more than four days duration.

Breeding was reported from eight sites (same as in 2013):

Dewsbury SW (1 pair), **Deanhead Res.** (9 goslings), **Ladywood Lakes** (1 pair), **Langsett Res.** (6 goslings), **Redbrook Res.** (1 pair), **Wessenden Res.** (3 goslings), **March Haigh Res.** (6 goslings) and **Gunthwaite Dam** (3 goslings). In addition, a single paired with a farmyard Greylag, along with their seven goslings, were present at **Winscar Res.** in late June.

The following sites had counts in excess of 25 birds:

Scammonden Water – 102 on 15th and 82 on 20th January and 210 on 3rd November.

Ringstone Edge Res – 53 on 11th March and 26 on 11th April.

Broadstone Res – 26 on 17th March and 84 on 17th September.

Winscar Res – 28 on 17th and 38 on 24th March, and up to 58 throughout July.

Horbury – 34 on the River Calder on 19th March.

Upper Windleden Res – 38 on 24th March.

Brighouse-Elland – 42 on 29th March.

Dewsbury – 36 on the River Calder on 2nd September.

Annat Royd Lane – 30 on 4th November.

Sparth Res – 41 on 13th November and 41 on 14th December.

Castle Dam – 66 on 20th November and, in December, 62 on 3rd, 173 on 12th, 167 on 23rd and 306 on 27th.

A Canada x Greylag hybrid was present at **Langsett Res.** on 15th April.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a flock of 16 flew N over the reservoir and turned W up the Colne Valley at 09.05hrs. on 8th November (MLD, GBS).

Goose sp.

Blackmoorfoot Res – on 5th March a flock of c.80 geese which flew W at 09.55hrs. was too distant (over, or beyond Wholstone Moor) for positive identification. The way the birds were grouped together (i.e. not forming a 'V') coupled with the small size, overall darkness with much white at the rear and a faster wing beat than Pink-footed Goose, strongly suggested Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* (MLD, CH, GBS).

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

This year records came from three locations, compared to eight in 2013 and six in 2012.

Blackmoorfoot Res – as in the previous five years, there were only a small number of records, with most being in the first half of the year. In January, a single was present on 12th and four on 14th. February saw singles on 8th and 14th, four on 19th, a single on 22nd, and five (2 present + 3 which arrived at 11.50hrs.) on 25th. It was equally as quiet in March which could only muster four on 10th, singles on 23rd and 25th, and two on 28th. There were then no records until five juveniles flew W at 08.25hrs. on 4th August. The only records thereafter involved three which flew W at 09.10hrs. on 5th November, five on 14th November and two on 26th December.

Langsett Res – four on 19th January.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 25th January and 27th February, three on 7th March, a single on 12th April, and three on 22nd August.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from seven locations (6 in 2013) but there was no evidence of breeding.

Holmfirth – there were occasional sightings of a male and female on the river throughout the year.

Blackmoorfoot Res – single males were present on 5th January and 15th April.

Bretton Park – three (2 males) on 17th January, a male on 3rd November and an unsexed bird on 21st November.

Dewsbury SW – a male on the River Calder on 28th April, four unsexed birds on 8th September and three (1 male) on 1st October.

Brockholes – a leucistic male, along with a normal male, were present on the River Holme on 4th May.

Dewsbury – a male and female on the River Calder on 8th June and an unsexed bird on 12th July.

Ryburn Res – five (3 males) on 18th October.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

There were reports from 16 locations (15 in 2013).

Meal Hill attracted birds on a near daily basis during the first winter period, with the last (6) on 1st April. The largest gathering involved 30 in mid-February. Birds were regularly attracted to **Castle Dam** and **Ossett Spa SW** during this period but were scarce at other sites.

Other records during the first winter period were as follows:

Ossett Spa SW – after seven on 1st and two on 26th January, there were no records until March, but up to 11 were present on eight days between 2nd and 26th. The only other record involved a single on 13th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in January 14 were present on 2nd, two on 13th and a single on 21st. The only other records concerned singles on 10th February and 4th and 16th March.

Broadstone Res – 28 on 4th January, 23 on 12th March and six on 29th March.

Dewsbury SW – 45 on 11th January and, in March, eight on 4th, 11 on 9th and 10 on 11th.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 14th and four on 27th January and a single on 21st February.

Castle Dam – after 14 on 16th and 17 on 22nd January, up to 17 were recorded on five dates between 2nd and 24th February. The only other record involved a single on 20th March.

Gunthwaite Dam – one on 24th February.

Scout Dike Res – three on 2nd March.

Dewsbury – four on the River Calder on 14th March.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – six on 30th March.

An eclipse male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th June was an unusual summer occurrence.

Following the first returning birds in early September, birds became more widely distributed, but aggregations were generally small, the largest flock consisting of c.40.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in September, a single on 4th, five on 12th, three on 28th and 10 the following day were followed by up to eight (usually 3 or less) on 18 dates between 3rd October and the year end.

Broadstone Res – nine on 12th September and c.40 on 18th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 15th September, five on 30th October and, in November, five on 3rd, 17 on 10th and 13 on 18th.

Meal Hill – five 5th October then fluctuating numbers until the year end. Due to the site being private and the lakes surrounded by trees it was not possible to obtain any quantitative data.

Bretton Park – 11 on 12th October, 15 on 9th November, and 18 on both 22nd November and 7th December.

Dewsbury SW – 20 on 6th November.

Royd Moor Res – four on 9th November.

Winscar Res – four on 10th November.

Castle Dam – two on 20th November and, in December, two on 3rd, three on 12th, seven on 23rd and 14 on 27th.

Boshaw Whams – two on 22nd November.
Ringstone Edge Res – two on 25th November.
Scout Dike Res – three on 3rd December.
Horbury Strands/Wyke – 30 on 14th December.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from 10 sites (14 in 2013) but, as last year, no breeding was reported. Birds were very scarce after June, and the only sites which harboured birds were **Bretton Park** and **Blackmoorfoot Res**.

Ossett Spa SW – five (3 males) on 1st January and a male and female on 12th/13th April.

Bretton Park – there was a good run of records between 5th January and 23rd March when up to seven were regularly present, but there were 14 unsexed birds on 17th January and 12 (9 males) on 24th January.

Ladywood Lakes – a male on 11th January.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – six (4 males) on 19th and 26th January, 16 (8 males) on 14th February and, in March, 10 (5 males) on 2nd, a male and female on 4th, four (2 males) on 6th and 19 unsexed birds on 30th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were five records: two males on 7th February, a male on 14th March, a male and female on 5th and 26th September, and a male on 19th October.

Horbury – birds were seen on the River Calder as follows: in March, a male and female on 12th, seven (5 males) on 19th, and a male and female on 26th. A male and female were present on 4th May and a male on 7th May.

Scout Dike Res – a male on 12th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – a male and female on 13th March.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 17th March.

Dewsbury SW – an unsexed bird on 8th April, a male and female on 20th April, three (2 males) on 18th May, four unsexed birds on 30th May, and three (2 males) on 1st June.

Gadwall

The only records in the second half of the year, apart from those mentioned above from Blackmoorfoot, were from **Bretton Park**, where good numbers were present between 17th September and the year end. Most records involved double-figure aggregations, with maxima of 18 on 9th November, 32 on 22nd November and 21 on 27th December.

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

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

Records were received from 27 locations (28 in 2013) but the number of records decreased by 32 from 2013. Breeding was confirmed from one site. With the exception of **Dewsbury SW**, which held a good assemblage during the first winter period, numbers were generally on the low side.

Birds were reported during the first half of the year as follows:

Horbury SW – six on 1st and 19th January, four on 26th January, two on 2nd March and five on 30th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were only recorded on seven dates between 2nd January and 18th April, with a maximum of seven on 2nd and 15th January, eight on 19th January and six on 4th April.

Bretton Park – recorded almost daily between 5th to 30th January with a maximum of 19 on 17th, but the only other record involved a single on 5th March.

Gunthwaite Dam – six on 5th January, eight on 24th February, 10 on 26th February and six on 14th March.

Scammonden Water – three on 10th January and two on 15th January.

Dewsbury SW – exceptional numbers, commencing with c.300 on 11th January, were present on a near daily basis until 20th April. Although numbers decreased after this date, there were double-figure counts throughout, with a maximum of 90 on 27th February, 78 on 4th/5th March, 80 on 6th and 9th March, and 92 on 17th March.

Langsett Res – four on 17th January with six two days later, two on 11th April and a single on 19th May.

Cannon Hall CP – 34 on 18th January.

Ossett Spa SW – up to five were present on eight dates between 19th January and 14th March.

Royd Moor Res – three on 21st January and a single on 15th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – eight on 26th January and 14th February and, in March, 12 on 2nd, six on 4th and 28 on 30th.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 2nd March and four on 17th March.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – two on 9th March.

Broadstone Res – two on 13th March.

Horbury – c. 10 on the River Calder 19th March.

Carlecotes Ponds – a single on 15th April.

Little Black Moss Res – two on 15th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 28th April.

White May Moss – a male and female were present in May.

The only breeding evidence came from the **Isle of Skye Quarry** where up to seven occurred sporadically from 21st January until late June when a single youngster was observed. The only records thereafter involved singles on 6th, 17th and 19th September, five on 19th November and two on 30th November and 3rd December.

Records after the breeding season were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were present on 40 dates between 8th July and 26th December. Most of these occurrences were in low single-figures, the maxima being 12 on 15th August, 32 on 12th September, 12 on 28th September and 30 on 26th December.

Wessenden Res – a single on 10th July.

Dewsbury SW – following the 23 on 16th August there were then fluctuating numbers until the year end, several in high double-figures. Maximum numbers involved up to 78 from mid-September to late October, 82 on 6th November and 185 on 26th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to four occurred on eight dates between 28th August and 18th November, with 16 on 10th November.

Langsett Res – in September, three on 7th, four on 11th, 21 on 23rd and seven on 26th, nine on 4th October, 14 on 10th November and c.11 on 16th November.

Deer Hill Res – four on 24th September.

Hepworth – four on Bedding Edge Pond on 10th October.

Bretton Park – five on 12th September, 37 on 9th and 33 on 22nd November and, in December, 24 on 7th, c.70 on 17th and 40 on 27th. These birds were attracted to the extensive areas of exposed mud created by the lowering of the water level in the Lower Lake.

Harden Quarries – two flew S on 28th September.

Bedding Edge Pond – four on 10th October.
Royd Moor Res – eight on 13th October and seven on 3rd November.
Meal Hill – a single on 14th October.
Scout Dike Res – two on 30th October and five on 3rd December.
Upper Windleden Res – five on 10th November.
Gunthwaite Dam – 29 on 29th November and 18 on 12th December.
Horbury Strands/Wyke – 20 on 14th December.
Horbury SW – five on 14th December.
March Haigh Res – seven on 26th December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Birds were reported from 55 widely scattered locations with maximum numbers at regularly counted sites as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	37	39	38	19	28	27	36	48	58	47	48	42
Bretton Park	106	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	99	60	86	280
Ingbirchworth Res	53	46	33	37	104	70	105	139	177	108	68	54
Langsett Res	62	45	11	20	7	nc	55	94	152	103	89	8

Elsewhere notable counts (40+) were as follows:

Holmfirth (on the River Holme) – c.120 on 1st January, up to 100 throughout February and c.50 on 9th August.

Greenhead Park (on the ornamental pond) – c.50 on 4th January, c.60 on 30th January and 57 on 11th September.

Gunthwaite Dam – 58 on 5th January and 46 on 12th December.

Winscar Res – up to 90 until late March and again in July/August and November/December with 98 on 1st December.

Meltham Mills – 40 on 7th February.

Dewsbury SW – up to 65 between mid-September and early November.

Breeding (ducklings) was recorded from the following locations: **Blackmoorfoot Res** – 186 with 50+ reaching the flying stage; **Ingbirchworth Res** – 98; **Broadstone Res** – 16; **Gunthwaite Dam** – five; **Dewsbury SW** – 14; **Horbury** – four on the River Calder; **Little Don Valley** – 12; **Langsett Res** – 110; **Black Moss Res** – seven; **Brun Clough** – six; **Redbrook Res** – eight; **Kirklees College, Huddersfield** – three on the canal; **Tinker Hill** – 12; **Castle Dam** – four; and **March Haigh Res** – no figures.

A drake paired with a Mallard x Muscovy Duck hybrid was at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15th April. The outcome of this strange union was unknown.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

In the past two years, birds have only been recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, but this year there were records from five localities.

Scammonden Water – a female on 15th January (DT).

Langsett Res – a female on 18th January (MC, NWM).

Royd Moor Res – a male on 21st January (MCW).

Dewsbury SW – a female departed E at 10.40hrs. on 13th March (JH).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single on 29th September (CH, GK) and a male on 25th December (MLD).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Rare passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. hosted the species for the second year in succession. A party of three males and three females were present on 15th April (MLD, CH *et al.*). These birds had already formed pairs, and were seen to display and even copulate.

This is a remarkable number for any Yorkshire locality in spring.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

There were records from 11 locations (9 in 2013), with **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Dewsbury SW** and **Horbury Strands/Wyke** having the lion's share.

Dewsbury SW – three (1 male + 2 female) on 11th January, two on 27th February, eight on 4th and 6th March, eight on 9th March, 10 on 11th and 14th March, three on 8th April and a single on 20th April. Later in the year: three were present on 10th September, 14 on 14th September, four on 1st October and seven on 28th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were five records: six (2 males) on 13th January and singles on 13th March, 28th August, 1st and 26th September and 26th December.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – six (3 males) on 19th January, three (2 males) on 26th January and, in March, three males on 2nd, a male on 6th and 12th, and two (1 male) on 26th.

Other birds were recorded as follows:

Ossett Spa SW – all records involved males: in January, one on 1st, three on 11th, four on 19th, and a single on 26th February.

Bretton Park – five (1 male) on 5th January and 17 on 22nd November.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 22nd January.

Elland GP – five on the ski lake on 31st January.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 10th March.

Broadstone Res – four (3 males) on 12th March.

Boshaw Whams – a male on 29th March.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 6th August, two on 3rd September, and three on 10th November.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Occurrences of this once common passage and winter visitor are becoming much scarcer and reports were only received from four sites (6 in 2013).

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded on slightly more days than last year, but none remained for more than two day's duration. In the first half of the year a female was present on 14th January and males on 18th February and 26th April. Thereafter a single was seen on 29th July, a male was present on 12th/13th August, three (2 males) on 9th September, a male on 28th/29th September, and, in November, a female on 6th, 10 (7 males) on 12th and a male on 17th and 30th.

Bretton Park – two males on 24th January and a male on 5th and 13th March.

Dewsbury SW – a male on 28th March.

Royd Moor Res – two males on 8th September and a male on 16th October.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Records were received from 27 sites (25 in 2013).

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	1	3	3	2	2	5	5	7	4	4	6	1
Ingbirchworth Res	16	8	9	8	9	14	24	24	10	4	10	12
Bretton Park	51	nc	23	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	15	15	17	26
Windy Bank Res	3	7	4	3	1	5	5	10	6	4	3	4

Once again, the numbers in the table above give a false impression of occupancy at **Blackmoorfoot Res**. During the first half of the year birds were only recorded on 41 days (same as in 2013) and on a further 65 (84 in 2013) in the last six months of the year.

Away from the above localities, flocks of six or more were reported as follows:

Meal Hill – small numbers were present during both winter periods, with a maximum of 12 in the first winter period and seven in the second.

Elland GP – 10 on 4th January.

Ladywood Lakes – six on 19th January, nine on 2nd February, six on 4th February and 2nd March, and nine on 14th December.

Gunthwaite Dam – 14 on 5th January.

Royd Moor Res – six on 22nd January and eight on 14th July.

Dewsbury – six on the River Calder on 31st March.

March Haigh Res – six on 1st April.

Langsett Res – seven on 11th April, 10 on 7th August, and six on 15th August and 5th September.

Scout Dike Res – 10 on 3rd December.

Breeding was confirmed at **Winscar Res.**, where four small ducklings were seen in early July, and on the River Calder at **Dewsbury**, where three females were seen with a total of 19 young in mid-August.

Other sites which hosted one to five birds on occasional dates were:

Digley/Bilberry Res., on the River Calder at **Horbury**, **Longwood Res.**, **Castle Dam**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Redbrook Res.**, **Deanhead Res.**, **Wessenden Valley** and **Harden Res.**

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

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were three records (2 in 2013) one of which involved a long-staying individual.

Elland GP – a first-winter male remained on the ski lake between 4th January and 8th April (JB, DHP, DT *et al.*).

Cupwith Res – a female on 10th/11th January (DHP, DT).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 6th October (TD, CH, DHP *et al.*).

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

Rare visitor.

The first record of this long-awaited species in the Club area caused initial confusion. A male in adult-type plumage at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 8th May was originally considered to be a Scaup *Aythya marina* (MC, DHP, MCW). When John Hewitt scrutinised photographs on the Barnsley website, however, he realised the bird's true identity. The record, after circulation amongst the British Birds Rarities Committee, was accepted and became Huddersfield's first Lesser Scaup.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were records from three localities (11 in 2013 and 5 in 2012).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were 10 records (same as in 2013). In the first half of the year March produced single males on 17th (MLD, NWM *et al.*), 23rd (MLD, CH, GK) and 28th (CH, NWM *et al.*). There were then no records until two males and a female appeared on 8th May (MLD, GBS *et al.*). There was a run of records in July, a female-type on 13th (MLD, CH, GK), nine (6 males) on 19th (MLD, GBS *et al.*) and 19 males (1 present and 18 flew W at 09.35hrs.) on 20th (MLD, CH, GBS). In September four males were present on 1st (MLD, CH, DMO) and a single male on 5th (MLD, TD, CH). The only other record involved a female-type on 13th October (CH).

Ingbirchworth Res – a female on 5th April (NWM) and a female-type on 10th to 12th April (MC, DD, DHP *et al.*).

Ringstone Edge Res – single males on 30th July (SL, TM) and 21st August (DF).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Rare passage visitor.

Three birds, thought to have been two immature males and an adult female, were present at **Langsett Res.** on 28th April (MC, DT, JMT *et al.*).

This was the tenth record for the Club area and the first since a female at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd October 2006.

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Records were received from 15 sites (16 in 2013 and 19 in 2012).

Good numbers were present on the River Calder at **Horbury** between 1st January and 19th March: in January these gatherings consisted of up to 19 birds, but during February/March no more than seven occurred. Records from other sites during the first winter period never exceeded four individuals, with Blackmoorfoot having the lion's share.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 2nd January, two on 22nd February, singles on 24th February, 13th and 27th March and two on 11th and 15th April.

Elland GP - one on 4th January.

Digley Res – a single on 5th January.

Cupwith Res - two on 10th/11th January, 11th March and 16th April.

Bilberry Res – two on 12th January and 17th February.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only January record involved two on 13th. Between 5th February and 11th April up to four, but usually only two, were present on a total of 41 dates, and thereafter a male was seen daily between 22nd April and 5th May, and again from 12th to 15th and 17th May.

Harden Res – a single on 17th/18th January.

Winscar Res – a single on 27th January.

Windy Bank Res – a single on 6th February.

Redbrook Res – two on 23rd February.

Scammonden Water – two on 11th March.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 17th and 24th March.

The first returning bird was a juvenile at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** for three days from 18th October. With the exception of this site (see below) records during the second winter period were few and far between and no other location produced records until early November.

In addition to the above **Blackmoorfoot** record, one or two birds were seen at this site on a further 21 dates between 31st October and 30th November, with four on 10th October, but the only December records involved three on 25th and an impressive flock of 20 the following day.

The only other records during this period were as follows:

Dewsbury – 10 on the River Calder on 7th November.

Boshaw Whams – two on 9th November.

Broadstone Res – a single on 18th November.

Horbury – one on the River Calder on 14th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 30th December.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Rare winter visitor.

There were two records: a 'redhead' on the Lower Lake at **Bretton Park** on 14th January (DBu) and a male on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 2nd March (DT).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Two records were received (one in 2013).

A male and female-type were present at **Bretton Park** on 9th November (DBu) and a female-type was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th November (NWM).

This was the first Blackmoorfoot record since 13th October 2011.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from 21 sites (30 in 2013) but, with the exception of 93 at Bretton Park on 15th November, numbers were generally down from recent years.

Maximum numbers from regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	15	9	10	2	2	0	0	0	4	2	6	6
Bretton Park	8	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	29
Horbury (R. Calder)	6	4	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windy Bank Res	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present on a near daily basis between 2nd January and 11th March (71 bird/days) with occasional singles until 10th May but records during the second half of the year were sporadic and only amounted to 30 bird/days. The number of bird/days totalled 108 (297 in 2013).

Away from the above mentioned locations birds were reported in the first half of the year as follows:

West Vale – a female on the River Calder on 9th January.

Sparth Res – four on 10th January, six on 30th January and 8th March.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a female on 11th January and five on 9th March.

Elland GP – six on 15th January, seven on 27th January, six on 13th April and three on 14th April.

Ringstone Edge Res – a female on 15th January and two on 28th January.

Deanhead Res – two on 20th January and 5th and 11th March and six on 24th March.

Butterley Res – four on 16th February.

Scammonden Water – two on 11th March.

Dewsbury SW – seven on the River Calder on 12th March.

Horbury – four on 12th March.

Earlsheaton – three on the River Calder on 13th and 28th March.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a male from the N reversed and returned in that direction on 28th March.

Digley Res – five on 29th March and two on 12th April.

Slaithwaite – a male on the canal on 12th April.

Breeding, for the eighth consecutive year, was confirmed at three localities: **Mirfield** where a female had two newly hatch young by 22nd May; **Colne Bridge** where a female and four juveniles

seen on 26th May; and on the River Calder at **Ossett** where a female was seen with six small young on 12th July.

With the exceptions of those enumerated in the table above, the only records after the breeding season were as follows:

Deer Hill Res – a single on 23rd and 28th August.

Langsett Res – two on 4th October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – two flew W on 6th November.

Ladywood Lakes – five on 30th December.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Records were received from 20 localities, five more than the previous two years, but the only proof of breeding came from the **Isle of Skye Quarry** (2 broods) and **Dean Head Hill** (1 brood).

Although birds were recorded throughout the year at a number of localities, numbers present were unimpressive, and the only double-figure counts involved *c.*20 calling/displaying males at **West Nab** on 19th January, a similar number at **Langsett Res.** on 16th February and 94 on a survey of the **Marsden Moor Estate** in May.

A single at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 26th October was only the second the observer had seen there in the 14 years he has resided there. One or two were then seen on several dates to the year end.

The above figures are surely an underestimate of the true numbers present. A more representative sampling method would be bag numbers from the local shoot. If any member is in a position to obtain such data, a far better understanding of the population size could be gathered.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from 10 localities (12 in 2013), but the distribution of this species is governed by introductions by the shooting fraternity.

There were no records from the species' usual stronghold at **High Hoyland**, and the only double-figure count involved 10 at **Thurgory Lane** on 30th October.

The only other records were as follows:

Clayton West – a single on 28th February, two on 15th May and four on 27th May.

Bretton Park – two on 14th March.

Gawthorpe Lane – two on 27th March.

Hall Ing Lane LNR – a single on 30th April.

Carlecotes Ponds – at least two on 4th May.

Meal Hill – two on 15th May and 9th June.

Lepton – two in Lucy Lane on 19th June.

Upper Denby – a single on 24th June.

Butterley Res – two on 14th September. The observer, who watches this area regularly, considered the species to be unusual at this locality.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

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

There were records from 33 widely scattered localities (40 in 2013) but the only breeding evidence concerned three juveniles at **Maythorn** in early September and two adults which were accompanied by three juveniles at **Snape Res.** on 16th September.

At **Blackmoorfoot** up to eight (generally only 1 or 2) were recorded on single dates in January, February, three dates in June, a single date in July and two dates in September. With the exception of a single in Jubilee Quarries on 6th June all other records involved birds on Meltham Cop. The only localities with regular sightings were **Botany Lane** and **Thurgory Lane** where at least 10 were present throughout September and the **Isle of Skye Quarry** where eight were present on most visits between 17th September and 12th November.

With the exceptions of those outlined above from Blackmoorfoot, other records during the first half of the year (from 21 localities) never involved more than two individuals and it was not until August that larger coveys were seen. Most records continued to be of one or two birds but up to four were present on **Cheesegate Nab** on several dates between early August and early December; five were seen at **Shelley** on 10th August; six were along **Deer Hill Road** on 24th August; up to five were at **Snape Res.** on several dates between mid-September and mid-November; six were present at **Harden Moss** on 20th October; four were seen at **Acres Lane, Digley** on 24th October; four were present at **Dewsbury SW** on 27th October with five there on 6th November, and four were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25th November.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Up to three singing males were located at two localities (same as 2013).

Royd Moor Res – a single was singing from farmland to the north of the reservoir on 19th May (DBu).

Brow Grains – on 7th June two birds were singing in the big field to the north of the pump house and another was singing near the cattle grid on Deer Hill End Road (DMP, SP). These birds then remained in the area until 24th June, being seen or heard on a further seven dates (DHP, NWM, HQ *et al.*).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Records were received from 36 widely scattered localities ranging from lowland in the east to high moorland in the west. Despite being widely released by shooting syndicates, the only double-figure counts involved up to 15 at **Hepworth** during March, 10 in **Deffer Wood** on 15th May and 10 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 5th December.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** up to four birds were present throughout the year and three females with young were present in June/July. The only other breeding records involved a brood of four at **Horbury** in early May and a female with five well-grown young at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 3rd September.

Garden records came from the following sites:

New Mill – a male was present until mid-April but the only record thereafter involved a single on 17th December.

Wards End Farm, Marsden had at least two throughout the year with up to eight in late March and up to 10 in early December.

Almondbury – a single was present throughout February and March.

Clayton West – a single on 11th April.

Heppworth – two on 9th June and eight on 25th September.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Rare winter visitor.

A summer-plumaged adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** arrived from the NE at 11.10hrs. on 17th April (MLD, CH, GBS *et al.*).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor.

The adult first recorded at **Ladywood Lakes** in early December 2013 remained until 9th July (numerous observers) when it was seen to depart NNW. A bird at Fly Flatts Res., Halifax on 9th/10th July was identified as the same bird by comparison of photographs posted on the Calderdale Website and those taken shortly before its departure from Ladywood Lake by Gwyn Williams.

At one time the bird had a fishing hook dangling from the edge of its bill but it was apparently caught by a fisherman who kindly removed it. This is a remarkably long stay for any diver species at an inland water.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Records were received from 20 waters and spanned all months of the year, with breeding occurring at seven of these.

Horbury – up to five were regularly present on the River Calder between 1st January and 6th March but the only record later in the year involved a single on 14th December.

Bretton Park – up to eight were present throughout the year and two pairs raised three young.

Dewsbury – up to three were regularly seen on the River Calder during both winter periods.

Ingbirchworth Res – one or two were present throughout the year and a pair raised five young.

Meal Hill – one or two were present for most of the year and an adult was feeding a begging young on 7th September.

Ladywood Lakes – a single on 2nd January.

Whitley Res – singles on 19th January and 26th December.

Royd Moor Res – singles were present on 22nd January and 16th February and two on 17th March. There were then no records until two were seen on 28th July. Thereafter up to four were seen on a further seven dates to 8th December.

Gunthwaite Dam – a pair, present between late February and early August, raised at least two young from a brood of four.

Elland GP – three on 8th March.

Healey Mills/Kerry's Food NR – a single on the River Calder on 9th March.

Scout Dike Res – two on 17th March and four on 25th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 26th March and 4th May and two on 24th December.

Langsett Res – although considered unusual at this locality there was a single on 11th April with two, perhaps a pair, between 15th April and 19th May. A single was present on 1st and 3rd December.

Broadstone Res – a pair, present between mid-April and late October raised three young.

Redbrook Res – a pair, present between mid-April and mid-July raised two young.

Carlecotes Ponds – a single on 15th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – as in 2013, there were only a small number of records, with no birds remaining for more than a day's duration. There were single birds on 19th May; three days in June, August and September, and two days October.

Dewsbury SW – a pair raised five young.

Harden Res – a single on 23rd July.

Meltham Mills – a juvenile on 22nd August.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Recorded from 13 waters, the same as the two previous years, with breeding occurring at four of these.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a single on 19th and 31st January. There were then no records until a single on 1st March, after which birds became 'resident' until 9th October. As can be seen from the table below, the usual autumn build-up never materialised, and the July record of nine relates to birds present for one day only (all other occurrences were of 6 or less). A pair nested along the west bank, fledging two young by mid-August. Following the exodus by birds on 9th October, one to five (usually 1 or 2) birds were recorded on a further 12 October dates, singles were seen on 7th and 9th November, and two were present on 4th December.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	5	6	5	4	9	5	4	5	1	2

Bretton Park – present throughout the year with one pair breeding and a noticeable build-up in numbers between mid-September and mid-December. After 11 on 17th September numbers increased to 24 from mid-October to early November and 26 were present on 22nd November. Numbers decreased thereafter and only 12 remained in December.

Ladywood Lakes – two were present between 1st January and 1st June and, although a bird was sitting on a nest in mid-April, the outcome is unknown.

Scout Dike Res – there were only seven records between 12th January and 3rd December which mainly involved up to three birds, but five were present on 17th March and eight on 28th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – present between 21st January and 3rd November with a pair raising one young. Numbers never exceeded the five on 27th March and 8th May with the exception of six on 21st July.

Royd Moor Res – up to three were present on numerous dates between mid-March and early November with a maximum of five on 14th July.

Broadstone Res – a single was present between 31st March and late July, with two on 26th July.

Elland GP – two on 14th April.

Deer Hill Res – one remained between 18th and 30th April.

Boshaw Whams – a single on 5th April. Sighting from this reservoir are unusual.

Horbury – a single was on the River Calder on 4th May and two were present three days later.

Scammonden Water – a single on 17th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles were present on 21st May and 7th August.

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

Common passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Recorded throughout the year from a total of about 30 localities, the same as 2013, but, unlike that year, there were some exceptional numbers at Blackmoorfoot and Bretton Park.

Meltham Mills – singles were seen on Windy Bank Res. on seven dates in January, four in February, and four in early September, with two being present on 18th September.

Elland GP – up to eight were present on six dates between 4th January and 24th March.

Dewsbury SW – up to six were present on the River Calder on an almost daily basis, with eight on 11th January and 1st October and nine on 26th December.

Colne Bridge SP – up to three were frequently recorded overflying the area throughout the year.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded on a total of 69 dates (64 in 2013) with occurrences spanning all months. There was an unexpected peak in January (17 dates, with no birds staying for more than a day) and the more usual peak between July and September. Numbers involved were usually low (one or two, only occasionally up to seven) but 14 immatures flew W at 09.40hrs. on 13th July and 26 (immature present + 17 W at 09.30hrs. + adult arrived at 09.40hrs. + 7 W at 10.50hrs.) on 31st July. Adults showing the characteristics of the race *P. c. sinensis* were present on 22nd March (CH, DHP, SP *et al.*) and one flew W at 10.20hrs. on 10th April (MLD, CH, GBS). Birds over flew (or departed) the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 56% of birds flew between west and north (the normal direction) and 28% flew south.

Bretton Park – the only records in the first winter period involved four on 5th January, a single on 30th January, two which flew W on 5th March and a single on 14th March. There were then no records until four were present on 17th September. A group of 40 on the Lower Lake on 12th October must have been an impressive sight. Thereafter, there was a single on 9th November, 18 on 22nd November, four on 7th December, and two on 17th December.

Royd Moor Res – up to four were present on three dates in January, singles were seen on 15th April and 9th July, two on 14th July, three on 18th August, and singles on 22nd October and 9th November.

Scout Dike Res – two were present on 12th January, a single on 21st January, three on 24th February and singles on 17th March and 22nd and 30th October.

Ladywood Lakes – one or two were seen on eight dates between 19th January and 20th April.

Yateholme – two were on Riding Wood Res. on 17th February with a single there on 30th September and at least seven were present on the Yateholme group of reservoirs on 13th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – there were only three records, each of two birds: 17th March and 18th and 30th November.

Horbury – up to three, but usually one or two, were regularly seen on the River Calder, canal or the Wyke/Strands during both winter periods, and occasional birds were recorded in May and July.

Ringstone Edge Res – single were seen on 21st and 24th April and four on 7th August.

Scammonden Water – a single on 24th April.

Holmfirth – a single on the River Colne on 12th and 19th September.

Broadstone Res – one to three were present on 10 dates between 25th July and 8th December.
Boshaw Whams – three on 28th August, a single on 7th September, then up to five were recorded regularly to the year end.
Langsett – a single was attempting to fish in one of the old settling tanks at the Filter Station on 3rd September.
Langsett Res – the only records involved a single on 10th/11th September.
Harden – six on 20th September.
Harden Quarries – five flew W on 21st September, a single flew W on 28th September, four flew NW on 12th October, and a single flew WSW on 2nd November.
Deer Hill Res – a single on 1st and 4th October.
Winscar – two flew W on 19th October.
Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles flew W or SW on 22nd and 27th October, 1st November and 22nd December.
Castle Dam – a single on 20th November.
Whitley Res – a single in full breeding plumage on 26th December.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

There were four records, a sharp decrease from the nine in 2013.

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single which arrived from the SE at 14.10hrs. and departed NW 10 minutes later on 2nd July (CH) was the fifth record for the reservoir.
Elland GP – a single on 19th July (AW *et al.*).
Dewsbury SF – a single on 31st July (JH).
Ringstone Edge Res – three arrived at 08.00hrs. and departed S five minutes later on 28th August (SL).

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

Vagrant.

There were two records, the fourth and fifth for the Club area.

A single flew W over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 20th August (DWS) and a single flew E over **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th August (DH).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

Records spanned all months and, as in the previous two years, were received from about 40 locations.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey House** where 10 occupied nest were present in late March (same number as last year), **Bretton Park** which had a minimum of 13 nests (32 in 2013), **Scammonden Water** where there was a minimum of five nests (not reported last year), and **Cromwell Bottom** where six nests were occupied in late April (not reported last year).

As in 2013, away from these breeding sites there were no double-figure counts but, despite there being only 13 nests at **Bretton Park**, 32 birds were present on 17th January and 36 on 14th March. Birds were present throughout the year in the **Horbury** area, but figures rarely exceeded four, the five at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 7th May being the exception. One or two were present at **Windy Bank Res.** between January and mid-October. At most other sites records were infrequent, with very few long-staying individuals. Usually fewer than three were present and the only counts in excess involved five which flew W over **Lockwood** on 3rd February, seven at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 31st July, and five at **Clayton West** on 10th October.

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a quiet year, although it was appreciably better than the previous six years. One or two (generally only 1) were seen on 162 dates (121 in 2013) between 16th January and 25th December (although there were no November occurrences). The only exceptions involved three or four birds on 23 days, five on 18th June and 6th August and seven on 16th July.

A single visited a garden pond at **Crimble Clough** on 13th and 24th February and, as in 2013, a confiding individual attracted much attention from the general public as it occasionally fed along the River Holme in the centre of **Holmfirth**.

PURPLE HERON *Area purpurea*

Vagrant.

A single was flushed from a reed bed at **Dewsbury SW** on 26th May (JH). The bird then went into hiding, and was not seen for a further 20 frustrating minutes. After flying off to the east, it returned 10 minutes later and allowed the observer to obtain some photographs of the bird in flight. Eventually the bird departed to the east.

Photographs of the bird, which was an addition to the Huddersfield List, were posted on the Club website by JH.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare to scarce visitor. Increasing.

A good increase over last year, and back to the high of 2 years ago.

Wilshaw – a single on 10th February (SCK).

Elland GP – one drifted SW on 18th February (DF) and a single flew N on 22nd February (JU).

Golcar – a single drifted over Swallow Lane on 10th March (DT).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were five records: a single flew S at 12.25hrs. on 21st March (ADea, GK); in April, one was over Meltham Cop at 14.30hrs. on 9th (CH), a single drifted W over Meltham Cop at 13.35hrs. on 14th (MLD, TD, CH) and one flew W over Meltham Cop at 14.15hrs. on 16th (MLD, CH, MJS); and a single flew SW over Meltham Cop at 12.35hrs. on 5th November (GK). These were the fourteenth to eighteenth records for the reservoir, the first being in April 2006.

Isle of Sky Quarry – one flew NE on 16th April (AK).

Yateholme – a distant bird flew towards Holme Moss on 26th April (DMP, SP).

Harden Quarries – two flew WSW on 19th May (MC).

Harden – a single flew WSW on 21st May (BBS).

Carlecotes Ponds – one on 8th June (BBS).

Kirkburton – two circling over fields at Dogley Bar on 7th July (JKP).

Whitley Edge – a single in flight with a Buzzard on 14th August (JF).

Langsett Res – one flew E out of our area on 27th August (MC, NWM).

Langsett – one on 28th September (MCW).

Whitley Common – a single flew NW pursued by Carrion Crows on 21st December (MCW).

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

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
17	10	19	12	19

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Not a bad showing, despite being down on the last two years.

Harden – a ‘cream-crown’ flew W on 20th April (MC).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a ‘cream-crown’ flew SW on 31st May (DWS).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were four records, all involving ‘cream-crowns’: one high over the reservoir departed ESE at 11.05hrs. on 28th July (MLD, CH); a single flew W at 12.40hrs. on 8th August (TD, CH); one flew W at 12.20hrs. on 15th August; and a single flew W at 11.45hrs. on 3rd September (SP). These are the twelfth to fifteenth records for the reservoir, the first being in May 1999.

Harden Quarries – a ‘cream-crown’ flew W at 07.35hrs. on 7th September (NWM).

Number of Marsh Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	1	1	5	3	4	4	10	10	7

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Another better than average year was welcome.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a ringtail flew in low from the direction of Dean Head, landed briefly then departed E towards Cupwith Moor on 3rd February. A ringtail was seen hawking low behind Head Clough, where it disturbed two Red Grouse before moving slowly E at 07.50hrs. on 1st November, and a ringtail flew very low N at approximately 50 yards range on 4th November (all DWS).

Blackley – a ringtail flew W on 20th February (GBS).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a ringtail arrived from the north and circled to the south of the reservoir at 10.35hrs. on 14th April (MLD, CH, GBS).

Fox House Moss – a ringtail flew E being mobbed by Curlews on 28th April (MC).

Pule Hill, Marsden – a ringtail flew rapidly S on 7th September (JMP, DS).

Number of Hen Harrier records in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
4	4	1	4	1	5	5	3	8	7

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

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

The only record involved a single which displayed over a potential breeding area between 8th and 11th April (MC, JM).

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Despite reports coming from a little over 50 sites, which is well down on last year, dated records are approximately 20% up. This is due mainly to a quarter of all records coming from one site in Marsden and two in Meltham, this despite the fact that records again were down at Blackmoorfoot.

Reports of displaying in April came from **Binn Green, Digley, Holme Styes** and **Winscar** with a minimum of two pairs at **Yateholme**. An adult female was seen, circling low with two juveniles at one site in **Marsden** on 24th August, but no confirmation of breeding in the Club area was received.

Birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot** with the exceptions of June and December. Generally only a single was present and the only records in excess concerned two on five days in September and 5th October and three on 11th October. The number of sightings from this locality continues to fall, however, and the months with the highest bird/days were September (10) and October (9), although it was generally less than six.

Other than the above, all records were of single birds, apart from a **Rastrick** garden which was not only visited most weeks throughout the year by both male and female but three individuals were recorded on two occasions. Other garden sightings came from **Meltham, Slaithwaite, Marsden, Netherthong, Lockwood, Fixby, New Mill, Hepworth** and **Cowcliffe**. Prey species was varied and included the following: Pied Wagtail, Blackbird, House Martin, Twite, Starling, Tree Sparrow and House Sparrow, whilst more optimistically Wood Pigeon, with Collared Dove appearing most popular. Conversely one was seen being chased by two Long-tailed Tits at **Ingbirchworth**.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	9	18	19	11	8	9	23	19	25	12	17

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

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

Records were received from 73 sites, about the same as last year, with birds being reported in every month. Proof of breeding is probably under reported but would it seems, be on the increase. At

one site three young successfully fledged, another saw a juvenile begging food from an adult and a third had two juveniles and two adults together, whilst others had pairs present throughout the breeding season both displaying and carrying nesting materials.

With such a visible mobile species some duplication of birds is more than likely, but as can be seen from the table below the number of sightings is increasing dramatically.

Blackmoorfoot – recorded on 29 occasions (20 in 2013), with birds putting in appearances between mid-February and late October with the exception of July. All records related to singles with the following exceptions: three over Meltham Cop on 19th February; nine (1 flew SW and 8 W) on 24th February; and two over Meltham Cop on 8th September. All records involved typically plumaged birds apart from a very pale bodied individual on 31st October.

Cheesegate Nab – up to five were present throughout the year. A single was involved in a prolonged aerial dispute with two Ravens on 12th November.

Yateholme – seen regularly with four on 19th April, then five on 30th August and an impressive 20 on 25th October which included eight individuals appearing to be ‘on the move’

Harden – noted regularly, including a very pale individual on 17th May. Two were present on 19th May, three on 30th August and there was an autumn maximum of six on 11th October, with four the following day.

Meltham – birds were regularly seen at four sites in the area.

Marsden – though three were seen on 1st April most records were of birds moving W during the autumn period, with seven on 5th October and four on 11th October.

Langsett – frequently recorded, with two on 16th May and four on 27th August.

Isle of Skye Quarry – regular sightings, with four on 22nd September and three on 17th November. Also one was seen nearby associating with a Rough-legged Buzzard on 16th November.

Winscar – regularly seen with up to six on 14th April.

High Hoyland – two on 3rd January, a single on 16th March with three the following day and six on 24th August.

Holme Moss – four on 19th April.

Snailsden Moor – four on 23rd April.

Gunthwaite Dam – a minimum count of 11 on 24th August.

Penistone – three drifted N on 21st September.

Royd Moor Res – four were seen together on 16th October.

Other sites where one or two birds were recorded were **Deanhead Clough, Bank Wood, Whitley Wood, Ringstone Edge, Carlecotes Ponds, Farnley Tyas, Digley, Clayton West, Kirklees Park, Brockholes** and **Cawthorne**. There were occasional records of singles over the Town Centre.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	8	25	30	18	10	12	20	24	29	12	10

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

There was a tremendous influx of this species into the British Isles during the second winter period, many of which infiltrated the Club area.

Riding Wood Res – a possible juvenile seen on 25th October (DMP, SP).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a juvenile moved slowly W at 14.15hrs. on 31st October. A differently plumaged juvenile was seen moving low W at approximately 120 yards range at 09.25hrs. on 1st November. Two adult males flew low to the W on 3rd November: one at a distance of approximately 180 yards at 09.30hrs. and a much darker bird which did likewise at 11.25hrs. (all DWS)

Saddleworth Moor – two juveniles present on 31st October (G. Crowder, M. Rigby) had increased to three on 3rd November (A Makin). Up to three were then reported daily until 9th November.

Harden Quarries – a juvenile was watched on and off to the N of the reservoir during the late morning on 1st November (RJB, MC, NWM, DHP, DMP, SP). A juvenile was seen in flight to the ESE at 11.20hrs. on 9th November (MC, DMP) and was photographed a few minutes later over Harden Edge by NWM.

Harden – a juvenile on 2nd November (MCW).

Digley Res – three by the Holmfirth road above the reservoir on 10th November (J. Smith) may have been the Saddleworth Moor birds.

Bradshaw – a juvenile was seen c.400 metres W of the Isle of Skye Quarry and eventually drifted off NE together with a Buzzard at c.14.30hrs on 16th November. It was thought to be possibly one of the birds that had recently been present in the Saddleworth Moor area (DHP).

Greenfield Res – a single at 12.20hrs. on 25th November (M Rigby).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

Eight records, which spanned both migration periods, is the highest number of sightings since the same number were reported in 2008.

Elland GP – a single over at 13.00hrs. on 26th March (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot – there were three records: a single flew N at 10.25hrs. on 9th April (MLD, CH, GBS); one flying N over Orange Wood at 14.35hrs. on 14th May turned back S and was joined by a second, both of which continued S – presumably one of these birds returned as one flew N some 20 minutes later (TD); and a single flew N over the reservoir and turned W up the Colne Valley on 16th May (MLD, CH, GBS).

Booth Wood Res – one flew N at 18.00hrs. on 24th April (TW).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single was seen only briefly as it disappeared into low cloud on 31st August (DWS).

Clock Face Quarry – one flew S on 7th September (DF).

Langsett Res – a single landed in Cliff Wood on 10th September (MCW).

Number of Osprey records in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
9	2	2	8	3	1	2	5	5	8

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Recorded throughout the year, but only 164 dated records were received from 53 sites (the same as last year) and the species probably remains much under recorded.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a male was present throughout the year, and on several occasions a female was seen, with a juvenile on 7th July. For the second year, no interest was shown in the nest box secured to the YW tower by YW in 2012. On a number of occasions in June, however, a male was seen carrying food down the Clough (to the north of the reservoir).

A little more proof of breeding was noted this year with a young bird heard calling from a nest in the **Butterley Res.** area, at least five young fledged at **Deer Hill** and three or four did likewise at **Kirkheaton**. A party of five together at **Higher Green Owlers, Marsden** on 14th July would suggest successful breeding there as would a female seen visiting a nest box at **Broadstone** and a pair displaying at **Ramsden Clough**. Up to four were present throughout the year at **Cheesegate Nab** and six were counted at **Yateholme** on 30th August.

Reports otherwise concerned mainly singles though at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, birds were recorded regularly throughout the year apart from January with up to four hunting around **Marsden Moor**.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

A much better year for records of this our smallest and most elusive bird of prey, with reports coming from 16 sites as opposed to the 11 of 2013. There was no proven breeding in our area though birds were present with some 'interaction' at one of two possible sites.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – seen regularly at this well watched moorland site with a total of 34 records including every month apart from January and May. Ten records in October coinciding with the build-up of Twite numbers which they were regularly seen chasing, and two were seen on 1st and 24th October and 25th November.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were eight records: a single over Meltham Cop on 28th February; in August, what may have been the same juvenile was seen on 3rd and 8th and there was a female-type on 22nd/23rd; and in October, singles were present on 3rd, 7th and 11th.

Pule Hill, Marsden – singles were seen on 24th and 27th September, and 5th, 11th and 31st October.

Harden Quarries – one flew W and one S on 21st September, two were present on 27th September, two flew S on 1th October and two were seen on 1st November.

Windleden – three were seen together on 21st April.

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles on 19th March and 11th April, then two on 25th September and one on 17th October.

All other reports concerned singles and were recorded between 1st March and 9th November from the following locations: **Blakeley Res.**, **Harden Moss**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Langsett**, **Holmfirth**, **Meltham Moor**, **Whitley Airfield**, **Harden** and **Deer Hill Res.**

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

As can be seen from the table below 2014 was a record year for numbers although unfortunately these didn't produce any proof of breeding.

Harden – singles were seen on seven dates, one in April, although the date was mislaid (MC). An adult sat on a post for 20 minutes on 21st May (MC); one flew E on 8th June (MC) and what may have been the same birds was present the following day (MCW). Singles were recorded on 26th July and 5th August, the latter ‘buzzed a Swallow’ before departed E (all MC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were seven records (3 in 2013): a single over the north bank on 15th May (MLD, TD *et al.*); an adult flew N on 24th July (MLD, GK, GBS); in August, an adult was over Meltham Cop on 17th (CH), a single was chasing hirundines over the north bank on 22nd (SP), and one was over the fields to the west on 31st (SP); in September, an adult was over Meltham Cop on 2nd (TD, CH) and a juvenile was over the fields to the west on 9th (TD, CH).

Wards End, Marsden – there were eight records. A single was mobbed by Carrion Crows on 18th May; one flew high to the W on 3rd August; a juvenile was hunting round Head Clough on 8th August; a juvenile on 10th, 16th/17th and 21st September could possibly have been the same bird (all DWS). A very late adult flew low to the W in heavy rain on 23rd October (DWS, KW^r).

Winscar – a single on 21st May (BBS).

Marsden – a juvenile was hunting down the side of hedge at The Dean on 19th August (DWS).

Langsett – one flew South on 20th June and on 11th September one was hunting Swallow (both MCW).

Thornhill – a single on 25th June (JH).

Ingbirchworth – a distant individual on 12th July (DMP).

Skelmanthorpe – an adult was ‘buzzing’ a Swallow on 6th August (KW^h).

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 6th August (JB).

Dewsbury SW – one spent some time hunting Sand Martins and Swallow on 9th August (JH).

Riding Wood Res – a bird landed in Pines giving good views before moving off on 16th August (DMP, SP).

High Hoyland – one in Deep Haigh Wood on 24th August (BBS).

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

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
13	7	8	8	11	12	16	28	18	33

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

Reports were only received from 21 sites, well down on the 30 of 2013, and spanned all months. Breeding was only recorded at one site where, although eggs were laid, due to reasons unknown no young were reared.

Winscar – singles on 9th January and 5th July.

Scammdon Water – a single on 25th January.

Broadstone Reservoir – one on 27th January.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – an adult male was present on 6th February, one flew low to the W on 15th March and a second-year female did likewise on 17th March. All other records (19) were between 9th September and 17th December. These coincided with the build-up of Wood Pigeons in and through Head Clough, and involved mainly singles though two birds were seen on 16th September, 2nd October and 8th and 12th November.

Mirfield – a single hunting small gulls at Bog Green on 14th February.

Ingbirchworth – one flew SW on 16th February.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single was over the fields to the west on 23rd March; one departed N on 13th June; in August, singles were present on 1st and 4th and a juvenile was over the fields to the west on 23rd; a single was over Meltham Cop on 2nd September; and one flew S on 3rd October.

Carlecotes – a single on 29th March.

Langsett – one on 30th March.

Yateholme – a single on 9th April.

Dove Stone Res – a single on 18th April.

Harden – a single on 20th April, one flew W on 18th October and singles again on 1st November flying SW and 2nd November.

Deer Hill – one mobbing a Buzzard on 21st April.

Bradley – a second-year bird on 26th April.

Whitley Beaumont – a single on 2nd May.

Marsden – one landed on a derelict mill in Mount Road on 14th June.

Windleden Edge – a juvenile on 4th September.

Marsden Pule Hill – two on 1st November.

Whitley Common – one in the late afternoon was attracted by a huge Starling flock on 23rd November.

Dewsbury SW – one was pursuing Teal on 26th December.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Breeding was confirmed for the second successive year, with other records coming from an additional three locations.

Dewsbury SW – birds were heard calling from two separate areas on an almost daily basis during the early months. There were fewer records during spring, but breeding was proven when a short-billed young bird was observed at close quarters on 12th September. However, the only reports thereafter involved a single on 25th October and two on 6th November (JH, DT).

Gunthwaite Dam – following on from several records of one or two in December 2013, two were again noted on 4th January. Singles were then reported on several dates up to 31st March (DMP, MCW *et al.*).

Elland GP – singles were recorded by the River Calder on 25th January (JB), and on the main lagoon on 20th October (NCD, DF).

Bretton Lakes – singles were noted on 9th (DBu) and 22nd November (GC).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Although records were received from slightly fewer locations (30, compared with 36 in 2013), this is not thought to indicate any change in the fortunes of the species. Indeed, it might simply be that some sites were not checked this year. Of those that were, breeding was proven at 13 (11 in 2013) and suspected at several more.

Breeding was confirmed as follows:

Dewsbury SW – at least seven broods were hatched, but no further details were forthcoming.

Colne Bridge SP – of two pairs in residence, at least one bred successfully and managed to raise three young.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were present between 2nd March and 1st October. Two pairs attempted to nest, one on two occasions, but the six young from the second attempt survived for less than a week.

Gunthwaite Dam – records included two pairs on 31st March and three juveniles on 31st July.

Royd Moor Res – five pairs were noted on 15th April, with two juveniles being seen on 31st August.

Flight Hill – an adult tended four chicks with the help of at least one sub-adult at a pond on 1st May.

Ingbirchworth Res – four pairs were present in mid-April, with three juveniles noted on 8th July.

Meltham – two half-grown young were on Quarmby & Sykes mill dam on 11th June.

Brun Clough Res – an adult was with seven young on a nearby pond on 14th June.

Holmroyd Wood – at least one adult and one small young bird were on boggy ground on the woodland edge on 26th June.

Meltham Mills Res – a pair accompanied by three newly hatched young were present on 26th June. Later, at least two juveniles were present on 16th August.

Horbury – five adults and four young were on a pond between the Wyke and the Strands on 30th July.

Boshaw Whams Res – three adults and a juvenile were present on 20th August.

Additionally, breeding was thought to have taken place (or at least been attempted) at the reservoirs at **Scout Dike** (6 pairs on 17th March) and **Langsett** (2 pairs on 11th April) as well as at **Bretton Lakes** and **Meal Hill**.

Unlike in some years there were no significant winter counts from the **Horbury** area, but again this could well have been a result of the vagaries of observer coverage. Instead, the largest recorded gatherings were at **Bretton Lakes** where, after monthly maxima of 23 in September and October and 24 in November, 36 were noted on 7th December. Elsewhere, the only double-figure count from outside the breeding season came from **Panna Mill Dam**, where 13 were present on 11th October.

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

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

Records were received from 17 localities (20 in 2013), with breeding occurring at a minimum of eight of them. As usual, reports from some areas were somewhat sketchy and irregular, but the following two sites received attention consistent enough for it to be worthwhile tabulating the maximum monthly counts at each.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth	6	16	23	18	17	27	23	23	7	5	2	3
Castle Dam	12	17	12	nc	nc	9	16	18	nc	18	19	20

Evidence of breeding came from the following.

Colne Bridge SP – a pair raised three young.

Ossett Spa SW – one was incubating eggs on 13th April. Later records involved a pair with nine young on 4th May (though these appeared to have reduced to four by 21st) and what was thought to be a different brood of six on 27th July.

Horbury – a pair and six young were on a pond between the Wyke and the Strands on 16th May.

Dewsbury SW – eight adults and nine young were counted on 18th May.

Ingbirchworth Res (see above) – five nests were active by mid-May, leading to 16 young birds in evidence on 30th June. Later counts of young included 12 on both 14th July and 6th August, but only two on 28th August and 8th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – up to three were seen on a daily basis between 8th April and 25th June, and a pair was thought to have bred, failing at the egg stage. The only records thereafter involved a single from 27th to 29th July, one again on 28th August, and two on 2nd September.

Gunthwaite Dam – two adults and a juvenile were noted on 31st July.

Castle Dam (see above) – nine birds on 10th June included an unrecorded number of young.

Additionally, breeding was thought likely to have at least been attempted at **Bretton Lakes**, **Meal Hill Lake**, and the reservoirs at **Broadstone** (one pair), **Royd Moor**, and **Scout Dike** (where the monthly maxima included 23 on both 17th March and 15th April). Breeding might well have also taken place at **Elland GP**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, and **Meltham Mills Res.**, all of which held two or more birds during April. Unfortunately, no records at all (positive or negative) were received from Cannon Hall CP, thus making it impossible to be sure whether or not breeding had occurred at this known favoured site.

Outside the breeding season, other double-figure counts came from **Ladywood Lakes** (15 on 1st and 20 on 26th January) and **Bretton Lakes**, where, after 16 on 5th January, later monthly maxima rose from 11 in September and 10 in October to 35 on 9th November and a noteworthy 43 on 27th December. As can be seen, this increase shows some correlation with the fall in numbers at Ingbirchworth, and is perhaps evidence of mass short-distance relocation at this time of year.

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

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

Reports were received from well over 30 localities and commenced with one at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th February. There was then a gap of five days until the next, a single at **Digley** on 17th, but by the end of the month a further five sites had yielded records. These included **Boshaw Whams Res.**, where the six on 22nd had increased to 11 by 27th, a count which somewhat disappointingly turned out to be the maximum at what has become a traditional early spring gathering point.

March progressed in much the same fashion, with a gradual spread to 11 additional locations. As expected, most were in the uplands, but Calder Valley records from this month included two at **Dewsbury SW** on 4th, two overflying **Colne Bridge SP** on 19th, and two also at **Horbury Wyke** on 30th. Again there were no particularly high counts, but seven were at **Digley** on 4th, 10 at **Broadstone Res.** on 12th/13th, and six at **Winscar Res.** on 24th. April then saw the usual dispersal to breeding areas, with the result that subsequent reports only rarely referred to more than one or two.

Breeding has become commonplace over the past few years, and in general no longer attracts the attention that it once did. Hence, the following records are considered far from comprehensive.

Ladywood Lakes – one was incubating eggs on 25th April.

Butterley Res – two pairs bred, with at least one young bird present on 12th June.

Wessenden Res – a pair laid eggs but the nest was thought to have been predated by Carrion Crows.

Isle of Skye Quarry – as in 2013, a pair bred on a high ledge on the rock face. Two young reached the half-grown stage but were both then found dead; an outcome possibly connected with the recently regular presence of two large dogs and their owner.

Snape Res – a pair on territory from 6th April were incubating eggs by 5th May.

Winscar Res – three pairs and at least two young were present on 27th May.

Lower Windleden Res – five pairs were noted on 30th May.

Ramsden Res – one pair bred, or at least attempted to do so.

After the breeding season, birds continued to be recorded at a variety of locations on most dates until late July. Typical reports referred to ones and twos or an occasional three or four; the only exceptions being at **Broadstone** (10 on 5th and 11 on 14th) and **Winscar** (6 on 8th). As is usually the case, occurrences then suddenly became scarce, and were limited to just two sites during August. These were **Blackmoorfoot**, where two on 9th preceded one on 12th, and **Brockholes**, where an overflying single was heard calling on the evening of the latter date.

(PIED) **AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare passage visitor.

A single graced the filter beds below **Langsett Res.** for at least two hours on 30th March before departing N at 13.50hrs. (MCW, JW).

This represents the third confirmed occurrence in the Club area; the previous two being in March 2005 and September 2010.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

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

The year saw an upturn in the fortunes of this charming visitor, with records from 14 sites between 11th April and 20th August. As is well-known, its breeding proclivities are largely dependent on specific and often temporary conditions which vary between different sites from year to year. This being so, it can be fairly easy to predict where an attempt might take place. However, given the continuing Schedule 1 status of the species it is still thought prudent to leave breeding locations unnamed.

At **Site A**, two were present on 11th April, with at least one being seen on the following day. However, there were then no records then until July, when a pair and two fledged juveniles were present on 17th.

At **Site B**, a pair laid at least one egg but the nest site was later washed out by rising water levels.

At **Site C**, a pair was seen in display and copulation was observed in mid-April. They were then recorded regularly, with four birds present on 29th June, and three (an adult and 2 juveniles) on 28th July.

At **Site D**, courtship and display were noted on 27th April.

Sites E, F, and G are linked, and it is possible that breeding took place at each of them. At site E, a nest with four eggs was located on 3rd May and, despite this first attempt being predated, the pair went on to rear four young to the flying stage. A nest was also located at Site F, but the outcome of this attempt is unknown. At Site G, reports from June included three adults on 12th and four birds (1 of them apparently recently fledged) on 14th. Up to three adults were then recorded fairly regularly for the next two months, with a juvenile again noted on 29th July. On this same date, a

juvenile was also present at a nearby fourth site, but this could well have originated from one of the other three, or perhaps somewhere more distant.

At **Site H**, two vociferous birds were noted on 16th June, with occasional reports of singles thereafter.

Other records were received from the following sites:

Dewsbury SW – singles were recorded on 16th April, 20th May, and 7th and 13th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the first was a single which circled the reservoir and departed S on 24th April. There were then none until July, when records consisted of an adult on 13th, four juveniles on 16th, one flying S on 18th, a single which departed W on 26th, and an adult present from 27th to 29th. August then brought an adult and a juvenile on 4th/5th, two adults and a juvenile on 6th, an adult and a juvenile again on 7th, and finally a juvenile on 19th.

Winscar Res – a single was noted on 26th April.

Hepworth Iron Company – at least one was present around the pipe works on 14th May.

Ossett Spa SW – two were found on 21st May but not seen thereafter.

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

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

In terms of numbers and frequency of occurrence the year was rather nondescript. However, two suggestions of potential breeding made it noteworthy, and especially so since both were at upland sites. The first came to an end when an apparent territory was abandoned after prolonged heavy rain caused water levels to rise. The other involved the presence of an adult with two young near suitable breeding habitat towards the end of June.

Deer Hill Res – two seen on several dates from 5th May showed signs of being paired up and on territory. Unfortunately, rapidly rising water levels soon put paid to any chance of breeding, and there were no further sightings after 19th (MC, DHP, DMP).

Ringstone Edge Res – the only report from May referred to two on 10th, but a series of records in summer included two again on 29th June and singles in July on 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 15th (HBC, DHP, DT).

Hepshaw – an adult with two juveniles in a field off Bedding Edge Road on 28th June had almost certainly bred locally; possibly within the extensive grounds of the nearby Hepworth Iron Works (DMP).

Wessenden Res – five on 29th July (KWr).

Blackmoorfoot Res – three autumn sightings involved a juvenile on 14th August (MLD), an adult on 19th August (MLD, CH, GBS), and another juvenile on 7th October (DT).

(EURASIAN) **DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor.

A single was discovered by the observers of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (see below) in a bare field at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on the morning of 30th September (JB, AC *et al.*). Soon afterwards it departed W with Golden Plovers, and there was no further sign until 4th October, when what was presumably the same individual was present on the reservoir shore until late morning, at which point it too flew off with Golden Plovers (DF). Photographs were obtained on both occasions.

Prior to this, there had been only a single autumn record of this species (Broadstone Res., September 1985). Hence it could possibly be argued that the occurrence was even more surprising than that of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

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

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

The first sighting of the year involved 35-40 birds near **Chew Res.** on 13th January. High moorland areas such as this are usually deserted in winter, so the occurrence was considered unusual. Other January records came on 21st (a single at **Snape Res.**) and 27th, when 38 were at **Whitley Edge** and five were at **Featherbed Moss** (another high altitude site).

February began with 14 ESE over **Honley Moor** on 3rd, two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th, and 13 at **Snape Res.** on 13th, but these counts were soon overshadowed by those from the vicinity of **Cheesegate Nab/Maythorn/Broadstone Res.**, where a roving flock was 250 strong by 24th. Elsewhere, 39 were at **Harden Moss** on 27th, but counts from a handful of other sites never exceeded single figures.

In the recent past, March has occasionally brought flocks of up to 1000, but this year it was quite different. The **Broadstone** birds had evidently moved on, with just 10 remaining there on 15th, and the only noteworthy counts came at the end of the month, when c.80 were at **Hartcliff Hill** on 29th and c.50 at **Deer Hill** on 30th. These two sites then continued to host double-figure gatherings throughout April, with those at the latter including several birds in immaculate plumage which were obviously destined to breed at more northern climes. Also remaining fairly popular this month was **Harden Moss**, where numbers again peaked at 39 on 23rd. At **Blackmoorfoot**, the monthly maxima rose from 16 on 19th April to 20 on 5th May, but these were unrepresentative counts in what turned out to be a somewhat mediocre spring at this site and indeed over most of the Club area.

On the breeding grounds, a National Trust survey of the **Marsden Moor Estate** revealed 47 territorial pairs, mainly along the watershed. This represented an encouraging 20% increase on a similar survey undertaken in 2004/5. Occasional records of small numbers in display were also received from other high moorland sites around this time, but the only indications of breeding success came from **Rocher Moss**, where eggshell fragments and an agitated pair were found on 19th May, and **Featherbed Moss**, where 18 adults behaved as if young were present on 26th May. As ever though, this lack of evidence could have been at least partly due to a reduction in observer coverage.

Mid-summer reports were typically few, and increasingly localised. A flock of around 60 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 26th June were thought to be failed or non-breeders, but in any case they soon moved on. The following three months were then dominated by **Blackmoorfoot**, which yielded records on seven dates in July (maximum 33 on 25th and 31st), seven dates in August (maximum 44 on 1st), and ten dates in September (maximum 11 on 20th). Elsewhere, the only other report from July involved 10 off **Windmill Lane** on 11th. In August, 23 were at **Snape Res.** on 2nd, but counts thereafter were lower, and there were none at all after 12th. However, late September brought some evidence of passage, with seven flying SE at **Harden Quarries** on 28th and varying numbers at **Ringstone Edge** around this time.

For most of October, numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** fluctuated between zero and 52, but the end of the month saw an increase to 70 on 28th and 80 on 30th. This apparent influx was also noted at **Maythorn**, where c.60 appeared on 28th. Meanwhile, visible migration occurred at **Pule Hill** (33 W on 11th and 11 W on 31st) and **Harden Quarries**, where 27 flew SE on 12th. Occasional reports were also received from three other sites, mostly involving singles flying E. One of these was **Wards End Farm**, where three also flew E on 5th November, but subsequent sightings that month were restricted to **Blackmoorfoot**, which held 38 on 9th and three on 10th, and **Maythorn**, where there was an isolated count of c.150 on 13th. This was followed by a gap of 11 days until 24th, when 50 at **Blackmoorfoot** proved to be the final record of the year.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare visitor.

The only sighting involved one in non-breeding plumage which was discovered on fodder rape stubble at **Snape Res.** at 11.40hrs. on 27th January. It was photographed during its stay, which came to an end at 13.00hrs. when without provocation it departed high to the SSW, calling repeatedly (DHP *et al.*).

This record is unusual in respect of both time of year (most occurrences are in autumn) and habitat (grounded individuals are seldom found locally away from reservoir edges or, occasionally, sewage works). Also notable is the fact that the bird was alone, without the company of Golden Plovers or Lapwing.

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

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

Red listed.

The following table provides a comparison of monthly maxima at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with those at the same site from ten and twenty years ago. Such counts can give a rather inflated impression of typical numbers present, and little can be inferred in terms of population dynamics (1994 was considered a poor year), but as a series of snapshots they are perhaps of some interest.

Blackmoorfoot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1994	47	60	24	0	0	58	250	263	154	230	107	150
2004	400	82	11	0	57	133	450	453	450	120	270	120
2014	199	18	13	4	14	106	332	370	500	450	180	300

Elsewhere, records of 50 or more in January were received from **Broadstone Res.** (maximum 50 on 2nd), **Rastrick** (c.70 circling over on 14th), **Deer Hill Res.** (maximum 150 on 19th), and **Whitley Edge**, where numbers gradually rose to 350 on 27th. In February, counts were generally lower, but they included 80 at **Snape Res.** on 7th, c.50 at **Whitley Common** on 25th, and c.100 at **Harden Moss** on 27th. This month also brought evidence of passage, with 33 considered to be ‘early movers’ at **Harden** on 16th, 13 W at **Wards End Farm** on 18th, and 22 W at **Cliff Wood** on 22nd. March then saw a further reduction in flock sizes, although **Ringstone Edge Res.** did continue to hold 30-40 until at least 24th. Two other records from this month were also worthy of mention. One involved a bird at **Whitley Common** on 1st which was leucistic on one side yet looked completely normal when viewed from the other. The second referred to a lone male at a high-altitude pool on **Featherbed Moss**, where it remained from 30th until at least 17th May.

Breeding activity was first noted at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, where a pair appeared to be on territory on 24th February and four birds were in display by 3rd March. A minimum of two pairs then succeeded in hatching young at this site, with sometimes up to eight adults showing agitation during May. At **Snape Res.**, at least eight adults were incubating eggs by 23rd April, with chicks visible on 13th May and several additional young noted on 9th June. Seven pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot** (these accounting for the May entry in the table above), and small young were seen on 30th June. At **Brow Grains/Deer Hill**, at least five pairs all produced young. A minimum of two pairs bred at **Annat Royd Lane**, where two young were seen on 20th June. At **Whitley Edge**, at least one half-grown young had managed to escape the attention of the 'hordes of corvids' on 22nd May. At **Brun Clough Res.**, 24 adults behaved as if young were present on 2nd June. Other localities in which breeding was at least attempted included (with minima in brackets) **Harden Moss** (9 pairs), **Holme Moss** (8 pairs in roadside fields which soon afterwards became a Tour de France campsite), **Marsden Moor Estate** (8 pairs), **Barnside, Hepworth** (5 pairs), **Thurgory Lane** (5 pairs), and **Wards End Farm** (4 pairs on 18th April, reducing to a single pair by 9th May). Unfortunately, there were no records at all (positive or negative) from the favoured Langsett area.

Unlike with some of our other common breeding waders, July usually sees no drop-off in numbers, and this year proved no exception. Away from Blackmoorfoot, maxima this month included 148 on rooftops in a **Dewsbury** industrial estate on 24th, c.300 at **Broadstone Res.** on 26th, and 130 at **Crosland Heath Airfield** on 31st. The latter count might well have included birds from Blackmoorfoot, but in any case numbers at this site soon rose to 200 and remained around the same level throughout August. Elsewhere, most August records involved single-figures, although c.100 were still at **Broadstone Res.** on the last day of the month.

September was fairly similar, with a series of mid-double-figure counts from **Dewsbury SW** and flocks of c.150 over **Cheesegate Nab** on 7th, c.250 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th, and c.150 over **Royd Moor Hill** on 20th. October then saw 350 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 1st, c.200 at **Deer Hill** on 11th, and 115 at **Whitley Edge** on 31st. Meanwhile, visible migration had begun in earnest. Counts at **Harden Quarries** included 128 mostly SE on 28th September, 111 SW on 11th October, 448 (which included a single flock of 400 ESE) on 12th October, and 78 (mostly flying in directions between S and E) on 2nd November. In the Marsden area, October counts included 67 W over **Wards End Farm** on 16th, and 30 W at **Pule Hill** on 31st. The former site then yielded records in November involving 65 W on 8th and 51 SW on 12th.

Elsewhere, November brought birds to **Bretton**, where counts included 38 on 3rd, 80 on 21st, and 26 on exposed mud at the Lower Lake on 22nd. Other records came from the **Scammonden** area (30 at **New Hey Carrs** on 3rd and 75 at the reservoir on 20th), **Maythorn/Whitley Common** (maximum c.350 on 9th), **Deer Hill** (c.100 on 11th) and **Ringstone Edge**, where 28 were present on 25th. These were followed in December by c.150 at **Roughbirchworth** on 12th, c.50 again at **Bretton** on 17th, c.50 also at **Clayton West** on 26th, and an impressive 420 at **Castle Dam** on 27th.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were two records of this less-than-annual visitor, both of them falling within a nine-day period during summer.

Blackmoorfoot Res – four flew W at 10.35hrs. on 30th July (MLD, CH, GK, GBS).

Langsett Res – three were present on 7th August (MCW).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Once again there was evidence of probable breeding on some of our higher moors. Elsewhere, there were four one-day singles in the early months and a typical run of records in spring and autumn; the latter of which included birds at two lowland sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles flew W on 25th January, 20th February, 12th April, and 7th May, on which date two were also on the north bank. Autumn records involved two on 31st July, one on 3rd August, three on 12th August, singles on 26th August and 3rd October, and three on 17th October.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles were noted on 16th February, 19th and 22nd April, 10th May, and 5th July.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single was present on 24th February.

Saddleworth Moor – breeding season records were received from three distinct parts of this extensive upland area. At the first, singles on 12th April and several dates in May were followed by four on 1st June and occasional sightings of one or two up to 20th July. At another, three pairs behaved as if chicks were present on 20th June. On this same date, a pair also appeared to have a nest at the third site.

Marsden Moor – a National Trust survey revealed 15 pairs on territory, mainly along the western edge of the estate. The extent of any overlap with records from Saddleworth remains unclear, but in any case this represents an increase of 44% compared with a similar survey undertaken in 2004/5.

Deer Hill Res – records were confined to early May and involved two on 6th and six on the evening of 9th, but just one remained the following morning.

Dewsbury SW – a single was present from 11th to 13th July.

Bretton Lakes – autumn work on the dam and spillway of the Lower Lake led to very low water levels which proved attractive to a number of waders. These included a single Dunlin on 21st October.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

Vagrant.

A juvenile was discovered in a bare field to the west of **Ringstone Edge Res.** around midday on 29th September. During the afternoon it moved back and forth between the field and the reservoir shore in the company of Golden Plovers and Lapwings until, at 17.10hrs., it flew off high to the S. Incredibly though, it was found back in its original field the following morning, when it showed well enough for some excellent photographs to be obtained (JB *et al.*).

This represents the fifth record for the Club area, the third for Ringstone Edge, and the first recorded anywhere since a single at the same site in 1991.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from seven locations, of which six were in the uplands and one in the Calder Valley. Of the seven, three sites held birds in the first half of the year and four during the second. No more than two individuals were recorded at any one time.

Farnley Tyas – two were in a boggy area on 2nd January (RS).

Wholestone Moor – singles were located on 4th January, and 13th and 24th March (DT).

Ringstone Edge Res – two among c.40 Snipe on the N shore on 16th February (HBC) were followed in April by singles on 16th (DT) and 21st (DF).

Dewsbury SW – an early migrant was flushed from a footpath on 10th September (JH).

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles were present on 12th and 17th October and 3rd and 5th November (DHP).

Scout Dike Res – a single on 25th October (RJB) preceded two on 3rd December (MCW).

Marsden – one was found in the vicinity of Wards End Farm on 10th November (DWS).

(COMMON) **SNIFE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

The first two months brought records from five areas. Double figure counts involved 14 at **Wholestone Moor** on 4th January with 20 there on 11th January, a noteworthy c.40 visible on the N shore at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 16th February, and 24 at **Dewsbury SW** on 18th February. Away from these sites, the maximum was seven at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th February.

From early March, most reports related to birds on their breeding grounds. Display was first noted on 11th at **Bradshaw**, where up to four were then regularly visible from the roadside for the remainder of spring. Once again, the boggy upper reaches of the **Colne** and **Holme Valleys** provided the majority of records from this period, with drumming and ‘chipping’ heard regularly at several widespread locations. One was **Snape Res.**, where, probably due to some serendipitous land management, it was reported to have been an outstanding breeding season. This was also one of only two sites (the other being **Yateholme**) where observers managed to see newly hatched young. However, it was not all good news. At **Holme Moss**, at least six pairs were on territory in fields which soon afterwards became part of a Tour de France campsite. Meanwhile, a National Trust survey revealed just six pairs on the **Marsden Moor Estate**; this representing a 67% decrease on the 18 pairs found using the same methodology in 2004/5.

Display was also noted at **Brun Clough Res.**, **Broadstone Res.**, and at several sites in the **Winscar/Windleden** area. Most reports referred to one or two, but one observer counted 17 territorial birds between **Snittlegate/Flight Hill** and **Harden** in late May. Unfortunately though, there were no records at all (positive or negative) from the favoured Langsett area.

As usual, mid-summer sightings were few and far between. In July, one or two were flushed on several dates at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, but the only reports from elsewhere were of four at **Dewsbury SW** on 12th and two at **Broadstone** on 26th. August was even more bereft, with records limited to one or two on four dates at **Blackmoorfoot** and three at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th. However, this latter site sprang to life in September, when 32 were counted on both 1st and 12th. Elsewhere, numbers remained low, but the month drew to a close with the first evidence of visible migration at **Harden Quarries** (2 on 21st, 3 on 27th, and 10 on 28th – all flying SW) and **Blackmoorfoot** (4 W on 22nd and 8 W on 23rd). This continued into October, when 13 flew W at the latter site on 3rd, and eight flew W at **Harden Quarries** on 5th. Maxima this month included 14 at **Dewsbury SW** on 3rd, 10 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 25th, and 20 at **Scout Dike Res.**, also on 25th, but birds were generally thin on the ground, with counts elsewhere never exceeding four.

The final two months saw distribution compressed even further. Singles were occasionally seen at **Wards End Farm** until Christmas Eve, and there were isolated records of 11 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th November and two at **Scout Dike Res.** on 3rd December, but these counts were dwarfed by those from **Dewsbury SW**. These included 42 on 1st November and 48 on 2nd December, and the fact that the 48 were flushed from a relatively small area means one can only wonder about the numbers which might have been present over the site as a whole.

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

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

There were four sightings in the early part of the year involving a single flushed at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 21st January, one rescued from the road (apparently uninjured) at **Farnley Tyas** on 8th March, a single near **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 1st April, and one which flew across **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and into Orange Wood on 4th April.

Although not necessarily reflecting a genuine increase in range, breeding season records were substantially more widespread than is usually the case. Once again, observers were mostly reluctant to give an estimate of numbers present, but roding was reported from **Deffer Wood, Bentley Spring, Law Bottom, Holmbridge, Winscar, Thurlstone Moor, Copthurst Plantation, and Yateholme**. It was also noted on several dates in the **Langsett** area, where a minimum of five were active on 11th June and two young birds were photographed near Swinden Lodge Lane on a date in August. This same month also yielded a record of an individual near the reservoir there on 7th.

By contrast, the latter months were virtually barren. Most years see an influx of continental birds which usually reaches its peak in November. However, the only record from that month (and indeed for the whole of this period) was of one caught in car headlights as it sat in the middle of **Bare Bones Road** on the evening of 9th November.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record was of two which flew E at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.40hrs. on 26th April (CH).

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

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
4	1	1	2	18	2	0	5	0	2

Godwit sp. *Limosa* sp.

Two on the west bank of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the morning of 12th August were only viewed from the south bank and, unfortunately, were too distant for specific identification. To add to the torture, they departed unseen (CH, GK, GBS).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A total of 13 individuals were recorded at eight upland sites on 12 dates, of which seven were in spring and five in autumn. This constitutes an average-to-good showing.

Whitley Common – a single present on 17th April (MCW) was followed by one in flight on 14th May (GS).

Digley – one fed in fields above the reservoir on 27th April (MC).

Flight Hill – a single was present on 28th April (MC).

Deer Hill Res – in May, one photographed in a nearby field on 6th (PH) preceded two on the reservoir shore on 9th (DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles were noted in flight on 7th June (SE at 08.35hrs.), 20th July (S at 10.05hrs.), and 29th July (W at 11.10hrs.) (MLD, CH *et al*).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single flew W on 22nd July (DWS).

Langsett Res – a single departed W on 15th August (MCW).

Harden Quarries – one flew W at 10.25hrs. on 30th August (MC, NWM, DHP).

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

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

The first to arrive were in February at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (2 on 10th) and **Maythorn** (8 on 15th). Subsequent records from the former site that month involved singles on 19th and 22nd, 11 (3 S and 8 W) on 25th, three flying S on 26th, nine on 27th, and a single S on 28th. This was similar to the pattern emerging around **Maythorn**, albeit that numbers in the latter area rose higher, reaching 35 by 26th. Nearby, singles were noted at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22nd and 24th, on which date one was also at **Ringstone Edge Res.**

As usual, the highest counts of the year took place in March. The month began with c.55 near **Langsett Res.** and 15 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st, but an influx was even more evident on 8th, when 36 flew W at the latter site and groups elsewhere included 30 at **Deer Hill Res.**, 40 at **Thick Hollins Moor**, and c.60 at **Maythorn**. However, numbers at most of these sites were never as high again. At **Blackmoorfoot**, 24 flew W on 11th, and 12 did the same on 12th, but later counts were all in single figures. At **Maythorn**, numbers gradually reduced to six on the last day of the month. The one exception was **Deer Hill**, where 42 on 21st represented the last noteworthy gathering of the spring.

Once again, the early signs of breeding activity were recorded somewhat vaguely, with the first mention of display referring to a pair at **Windleddon Edge** on 24th March. Birds were obviously more widespread during April, when song and display were noted at several upland sites, but, aside from six flying W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th and six at **Black Moss** on 15th, counts never exceeded a paltry four. In most areas this apparent quietness continued into May, although a National Trust survey did illustrate the value of purposeful coverage when it revealed an estimated 34 pairs on territory on the **Marsden Moor Estate**. The last day of the month then brought the first indication of breeding success, when a pair in this area behaved as if they had young. Further evidence came in June, with single young birds noted at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 2nd and 9th and **Deer Hill** on 20th (on which date two adults were with two young at **Broadstone**). **Deer Hill** then yielded a good count of 23 on 25th, but it is unknown how many (if any) of these were recently fledged young. This also applied to a group of 10+ at **Brun Clough Res.** on 14th.

July is often rather bereft of birds and was this year even more so than usual. One or two juveniles continued to be seen throughout the month at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, but the only other records involved singles over **Marsden** on 16th and **Harden Quarries** on 26th. August fared slightly better, with up to five noted on eight dates at four sites, but the sole report from September was of one flying W at **Marsden** on 1st. This was followed in October by a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1st and two there on 10th and singles which flew S over **Pule Hill** on 12th and 31st.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Records were received from 28 localities (31 in 2013) and, whilst breeding was strongly suspected at several of them, it was confirmed at just one. On a more positive note, mid-July brought news of an extraordinary gathering at **Ingbirchworth**.

The first report involved what turned out to be the only lowland sighting of the whole year; a single at **Elland GP** on 10th April. Hot on its heels were further singles at **Ringstone Edge** and **Langsett Reservoirs** on 11th and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th, but the next 10 days yielded no records at all. However, birds had appeared at an additional five sites by the end of the month. These included **Deer Hill Res.**, where two pairs were considered to be on territory by 30th.

Breeding was confirmed at **Snailsden Res.**, where an adult was with two juveniles on 23rd June. Breeding almost certainly also took place at **Lower Windleden Res.**, where agitation was shown by one of the four birds present on 30th May. Other sites hosting birds apparently on territory included the **Little Don Valley** and the reservoirs at **Langsett** (2 pairs), **Butterley**, **Blakeley**, **Wessenden**, **Redbrook**, **Brun Clough**, **Deanhead**, **Ringstone Edge**, **Yateholme**, and **Winscar**, where at least two pairs were in evidence on 27th May. Additionally, singles were noted around this time at the reservoirs at **Dove Stone**, **Yeoman Hey**, **Greenfield**, and **March Haigh**, and also at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, albeit on only one date (21st May) at the latter.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, ones and twos continued to appear on a mostly sporadic basis through May and early June. However, there was then a gap of 16 days, after which a single on 19th June perhaps represented the first evidence of post-breeding dispersal. This was followed by further singles on four dates to the end of the month, and records on 11 dates in July, mostly of one to four but featuring an isolated high count of 11 on 12th. Birds then occurred more or less daily during August (maximum 6 on 9th) and early September (maximum 3 on 1st), but there was then a week-long interval until singles on 19th and 21st and two on 23rd; this being the final record of the year.

By contrast, records from most other areas had just about dried up by early July. For example, at **Winscar Res.** a notable 11 were present on 30th June, but the only report thereafter involved three on 8th July. Admittedly, certain reservoirs did continue to yield occasional records into August (**Wessenden** up to 4th and **Royd Moor** to 31st) and September (**Langsett** up to 7th and **Deer Hill** to 9th) but, away from Blackmoorfoot, virtually all of them related to singles. The one real exception was at **Ingbirchworth**, where, after three on 7th and 8th, and one on 14th, a remarkable 27 were present on 17th July, comfortably surpassing the previous Club area maximum of 21 at Dewsbury SW in July 1950. However, the occurrence was typically ephemeral, with subsequent records from this site being limited to two on 24th July, singles on two dates in August, and one on 5th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Records came from seven sites and spanned all months other than January and May.

Dewsbury SW and the adjacent River Calder – a single on 18th February was followed in March by one which frequented the filter beds between 17th and the end of the month. However, there were none then until July, when five from 9th were joined by another four on 14th; this making a Club record-equalling nine in total. Subsequent reports referred to three on 15th and five on 17th August, with one to three then present on several dates between 26th August and 7th October (JH). **Ossett Spa SW** – a single was noted on nine dates between 2nd March and 13th April and could well have been present throughout this period (DT, DHP).

Maythorn – a single was at a small pond near the southern end of Potters Gate track on 11th June (HQ).

Royd Moor Res – one was present during the afternoon of 31st August (DBu).

Langsett Res – a single flew E during the late afternoon of 4th October (MC).

Elland GP – one was photographed at the main lagoon on 20th October (NCD, DF).

Bretton Lakes – a single, presumably attracted by the very low water levels and resultant mud (see Dunlin), was occasionally encountered around the Lower Lake between 3rd November and 27th December (BBSG).

(COMMON) **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Barely hanging on to its status as an annual visitor, the sole record of this fine wader involved a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on the morning of 29th August (DF).

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

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

Records were received from nine sites and, of 30 dated sightings, all but two related to the period from March to June. Of these, the most welcome were a series indicating probable breeding by up to two pairs on previously favoured moorland in the far West of our area.

Ossett Spa SW – after a single on 2nd March, two to four were recorded on a further eight dates up to 13th April. Given that this site was not covered every day, it is possible that birds were present throughout this period.

Dewsbury SW – one was present on 9th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 17th March were followed by singles on 19th, 22nd, and 30th April.

Marsden – two circled high over Wards End Farm on 7th April prior to departing W.

Brun Clough Res – this tiny roadside reservoir played host to two on both 15th April and on 12th May, and a single on 14th June. The proximity of this site to Rocher Moss (see below) suggests that some of the same birds might have been involved.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles were noted on 15th April, 5th May (flying S), 20th June, and 23rd August, the latter of which departed W at 08.00hrs.

Rocher Moss – after a single on 19th May, two pairs showed agitation on 2nd June, with at least two adults still present a week later.

Whitley Edge – one flew W over this former breeding area on the evening of 27th May.

Scout Dike Res – a single in the south-west corner of the reservoir on 16th October was the last record of the year.

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

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** an adult departed W at c.14.00hrs. on 25th December (TD, CH).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Resident breeder, decreased to (1), 0-5 pairs. Numerous passage and winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
400	400	300	22	1	0	33	56	60	220	400	450

The only roost count at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved 5,280 on 2nd January.

Small groups were seen at a number of widely scattered localities throughout the year, but the only treble figure counts involved the following:

Bretton Park – c.150 on 5th January, 213 on 12th October, 243 on 9th November and c.300 on 27th December.

Castle Dam – during the first winter period birds were using this area, mainly as a pre-roost loafing site, and the following were the maximum gatherings: c.600 on 16th and c.150 on 22nd January, 271 on 4th February, 300 on 16th and 24th February. The only count later in the year involved 412 on 27th December.

Hepworth – c.200 on 27th January.

Langsett Res – the roost in the first winter period held a maximum of 1,350 on 16th February. Later in the year roosting numbers began to build from mid-August: the 256 on 14th August had increased to 369 the following week, 544 by 7th September, and 1,114 by 23rd September, but this had fallen to 730 by 27th October.

Dewsbury SW – 330 on 27th February, 286 on 4th March and 260 on 26th December.

Whitley Common – c.300 on 17th March.

Digley Res – 130 on 20th September.

Lindley Recreation Ground – c.100 on 20th October.

Pole Moor – 250 (with 150 Common Gulls) on 23rd December.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – 100 on 24th December.

Winscar Res – a small colony now exists at this site which, this year, held at least four pairs. The dumping of domestic ducks by persons unknown has attracted duck-feeders, which in turn offers the gulls an alternative food supply.

Visible migration was only noted at four localities:

Blackmoorfoot Res – 63 flew NW on 8th July.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 158 flew W during the morning of 13th July, most of which were adults, 70 (52 W + 18 E) on 20th August, 35 W on 15th October, a minimum of 107 W on 22nd October, 61 SW on 1st November with 103 W the following day.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 604 flew SW on 10 dates between 11th October and 9th November, with a maximum of 272 on 31st October.

Harden Quarries – 75 (25 SW + 50 NE) on 12th October.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

The only record involved an adult at **Dewsbury SW** which departed W at 11.45hrs. on 22nd August (JH).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there was a good run of records, but only five birds were thought to have been involved: an adult seen on seven dates between 7th January and 15th February was presumably the same individual (MLD, TD *et al.*); a first-winter roosted on 16th February (MC, NWM, DHP); a summer-plumaged adult was present on 3rd March (MLD, CH *et al.*); an adult remained between 26th October and 1st November (MLD, SP *et al.*); a first-winter was also present on this last date (MLD, DMP, SP *et al.*); and a different first-winter was seen on 2nd November (CH, DMP).

Ringstone Edge Res – an adult on 16th February (NCD, DF).

Ingbirchworth Res – a first-winter was present on 1st March and an adult on 1st November (both DMP, SP).

Ravensthorpe – an adult was at Biffa Waste on 29th December (SD).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records during the first winter period were from a number of widely scattered localities, especially in the east of the area, but counts rarely exceeded 40, the following being the exceptions:

Blackmoorfoot Res – 720 roosted on 2nd January.

Ingbirchworth Res – 43 on 14th January, 58 on 24th February and 48 on 24th March.

Whitley Res – c.100 on 19th January.

Broadstone Res – c.100 on 29th January.

Oldfield – recorded regularly with a maximum of 72 on 4th March.

Emley Moor – c.300 on 18th March.

Apart from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had up to six (but usually 2 or 3) on 38 dates between 6th May and 5th September, the only other records during the summer months were as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – five on 14th July and a single on 28th August.

Broadstone Res – three on 14th July.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles flew W on 16th July and 14th August.

Langsett Res – in August, a single roosted on 7th August, as did three on 16th and 13 on 26th.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 31st August.

Numbers began to build from mid-September and, although widely distributed, numbers were uninspiring, rarely exceeding 15, the only exceptions being as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – 28 on 27th October.

Broadstone Res – 50 on 12th October and 38 on 1st December.

Pole Moor – 100 on 9th December and 150 (with 250 Black-headed Gulls) on 23rd December.

Visible migration was noted at three localities:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 99 flew SW on six dates between 1st September and 4th November with a maximum of 84 on 31st October.

Harden Quarries – singles flew NE on 12th and 13th October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 173 (most of which flew W) on 22 dates between 13th October and 30th December with a maxima of 22 W on 28th October, 21 on 11th December with 23 the following day and 35 W on 22nd December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	2	12	16	22	23	11	21	29	13	4	3

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

Langsett Res – a single roosted on 11th February.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – seven flew W on 13th February, two flew W on 15th March, five did likewise following day, three flew W on 4th April and singles flew W on 8th and 17th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 17th February and a single on 17th March.

Deer Hill Res – three on 19th February.

Elland GP – a single on 21st April.

A pair frequented the **Winscar/Snailsden** area throughout May/June and, although courtship behaviour was observed, there was no proof of breeding.

From mid-May until late October birds were reported from a number of widely scattered localities but the usual autumn build up in the Broadstone area was well below par, although Langsett held good numbers of roosting birds. Numbers at most localities rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

Annat Royd Lane – 12 on 7th June,

Ingbirchworth Res – c.20 on 8th July, c.140 on 28th August, 17 on 10th September, 28 on 22nd September, 28 on 17th October and 14 on 31st October.

Langsett Res – the roost built up from 59 on 26th July to 161 by 7th August and high figures were then maintained until late October. In August there was a maximum of c.222 on 16th and 471 on 26th, but in September this had increased to 626 on 7th, 808 on 11th and 1,763 on 23rd. Numbers thereafter decreased, but 993 were present on 26th September, 605 on 4th October and 231 on 27th October.

Broadstone Res – 22 on 6th August, 23 on 8th September, 26 on 11th October and 11 on 22nd October.

Whitley Airfield – 85 on 20th August.

Butterley Res – a flock of 20 flew NE on 14th September.

Whitley Common – c.110 on 27th October.

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

Ingbirchworth Res – four on 3rd November and two on 24th December.

Royd Moor Res – two on 9th November.

Castle Dam – a single on 12th December.

Ravensthorpe – two at Biffa Waste on 29th December.

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

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 261 (most of which flew W) on 54 dates between 17th May and 26th December with a maxima of 16 (14 W + 2 E) on 28th September, 14 W on 11th October, 25 (11 NW + 14 NE) on 13th October, 15 W on 22nd October and 23 W on 28th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 22 flew S on 30th May, 17 E on 20th July, 21 S on 14th August, 29 N on 28th September, 13 E on 29th October and 16 W on 8th December.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 46 flew SW on nine dates between 27th September and 9th November, with a maximum of 20 on 12th October.

Harden Quarries – 23 flew SW on 11th October and 19 SW and 13 NE the following day.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As is now normal, the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** never held more than single figures during either winter period. There were a good number of movements which exceeded this figure, however. A total of 22 (10 W + 12 E) on 20th January, 24 E on 30th January, 53 E on 29th October, 57 W on 9th November, 24 W on 24th November and 117 W on 22nd December.

There were records from a further 16 localities (20 in 2013), showing that the species is still not as common as formerly. For completeness all records are given.

Langsett Res – 300 roosted on 4th January. Later in the year the roost only held two on 16th August, eight on 26th August, no more than three throughout September and six on 27th October.

Honley – four on 11th January.

Elland GP – a single on 27th January.

Broadstone Res – 10 on 27th January, a single on 22nd October and 52 on 1st December.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles flew S on 5th February and W on 21st February and three flew W on 15th March. There were then no records until a single flew E on 29th June. On 36 dates between 12th July and the year end a further 799 passed over, most of which flew in a westerly direction, with a maxima of 36 (22 W + 2 S) on 3rd November and, in December, 89 W on 8th, 117 (106 W + 11 SW) on 12th, 88 W on 22nd, and 77 W on 27th.

Ingbirchworth Res – in February, four were present on 8th, a single on 13th, and six on 19th and 24th. A single was present on 17th March, at least 10 on 28th August and up to seven on four dates in December.

Deer Hill – at least 100 in various sized flocks flew W during the afternoon of 16th February.

Thick Hollins Moor – a single on 23rd February.

Black Moss Res – a single flew NE on 15th April.

Deanhead Res – two flew SW on 24th April.

Harden Moss – a single on 12th May.

Royd Moor Res – three on 31st August.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 80 flew SW between 1st September and 9th November, with a maximum of 36 on 27th October.

Harden Quarries – a flock of c.45 flew SW on 9th November.

Oldfield – up to four were noted regularly between 2nd and 25th December.

Ravensthorpe – c.100 at Biffa Waste on 28th December had reduced to c.10 the following day.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Most records, as last year, reverted to the previous pattern of occurrences, with most being in the second half of the year.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a second-winter on 4th January (CH) and a second-summer on 21st May (MLD, GBS).

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult on 24th February (MCW), two adults on 6th August (DBu, AK), an adult on 27th August (MC) with two second-summers the following day (DBu).

Langsett Res – there was a good run of records of roosting birds which commenced with two on 26th July (MCW). Between 7th August and 26th September up to three were present on 12 dates (RJB, MC, NWM, MCW). Based on age and plumage differences, at least eight birds were involved in these sightings. The only records thereafter concerned single adults on 4th and 27th October (MCW).

Whitley Edge – an adult on 27th October (MC).

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Rare visitor.

This species was recorded in the Club area for the third year in succession. An adult in the roost at **Langsett Res.** was present from 14th to 16th August (RJB, MC, NWM, MCW) and what was presumed to be the same bird on 26th August and 1st and 5th September (MCW).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

There were three records, the first since January 2012.

Dewsbury SW – an adult flew slowly eastwards in a party of large gulls on 26th December (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res – a juvenile was present on 26th December (JB, DF).

Ravensthorpe – a juvenile was present at Biffa Waste on 28th/29th December (JA-B, SD, DHP *et al.*).

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

An adult present in the roost at **Langsett Res.** on 4th January (MC, DHP, GS *et al.*) had been disturbed from its usual roost at nearby Broomhead Res. This is the second record of this race in the Club area, the first being from the same location on 6th February 2008.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	17	9

As can be witnessed from the table above this species has virtually disappeared from the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** The only movements over the area were as follows: 17 flew W on 24th November and, in December, nine W on 22nd and nine E on 31st.

This species becomes less common in the Club area as the years progress, and the following were the only additional records:

Langsett Res – 84 roosted on 4th January.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 5th January and a single on 24th February.

Fixby – two flew W on 13th January.

Bretton Park – singles on 14th March and 7th December.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – in May, three flew W on 6th, a single two days later, five W on 16th and seven W the following day. On 25 dates between 17th July and the year end a further 164 passed over, most of which flew in a westerly direction, with a maxima of 33 (29 W + 4 SW) on 12th December, 24 W on 24th December and 23 W on 29th December.

Windleden Edge – a single flew W on 15th September.

Broadstone Res – a single on 22nd October.

Ravensthorpe – a ‘few’ were present at Biffa Waste on 28th December.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

Rare passage visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single flew NE at 10.00 hrs. on 26th April (CH, DMP, SP, GBS).

This was the sixteenth record for the reservoir,

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare to scarce passage visitor

The only record involved a summer-plumaged adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd April (MJS).



Shoveler, Calder Valley, 9/3/14



Lesser Scaup, Ingbirchworth, 8/5/14



Purple Heron, Dewsbury Sewage Works, 28/5/14



Red Kite, Isle of Skye Quarry, 16/4/14



Merlin, Harden, 27/9/14



Lapwing, Ringstone Edge, 23/4/14



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ringstone Edge, 29/9/14



Jack Snipe, Farnley Tyas, 2/1/14



Iceland Gull, Ravensthorpe, 28/12/14



Cuckoo, Holmfirth, 13/6/14



Tawny Owl, Langsett, 17/5/14



Long-eared Owl, location withheld, 3/5/14



Rock Pipit, Deer Hill, 30/9/14



Black Redstart, Isle of Skye Quarry, 3/8/14



Blackcap juvenile, Meltham, 18/6/14



Goldcrest, Isle of Skye Quarry, 16/10/14



Pied Flycatcher, Langsett, 21/4/14



Treecreeper, Honley, 11/5/14



Two-barred Crossbill, Binn Green, Dovestones, 10/4/14



Snow Bunting, Isle of Skye Quarry, 4/11/14

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Only recorded from four localities (same as 2013), with birds occurring between 26th April and 16th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in April a party of five departed NE at 08.40hrs. on 26th (CH) and a single was present on 30th (MLD, CH *et al.*). The only other record involved an adult which arrived at 10.20hrs. on 20th July (MLD, CH *et al.*).

Horbury – two on the river opposite the SW on 7th May (DBu, AK).

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 14th May (KWr).

Langsett Res – an adult on 16th August (RJB, MC, MCW).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were only three records, all from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**:

Three (1 departed E at 09.30hrs. + 2 which arrived at 11.05hrs. and departed E at 11.10hrs.) on 27th April (MLD, CH, GK), a single was present on 8th May (MLD *et al.*) and a juvenile departed W at c.16.00hrs. on 26th August (MC).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This under recorded species was only reported by four observers who provided 58 records from 15 sites. All counts, despite the large numbers in the Town centre never exceeded the c.60 in **Holmfirth** on 10th February.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Records were received from 34 widely scattered localities, the same number as 2013.

Although present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot** birds were very sporadic in appearance during the first winter period and were occasionally absent for several weeks duration. Up to six (generally only 2 or 3) were involved and a pair probably bred in the barn near the Will's-O'-Nat's public house.

The majority of records involved no more than half a dozen birds and, although present at some sites throughout the year, a good number of locations only held birds during the winter months. Singing birds were heard at six sites between 28th February and 8th July and a pair were investigating a nest box on the heath below **Broadstone Res.** on 24th April, but breeding was only confirmed at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, where up to four juveniles were present in July. The only double-figure assemblages concerned 10 at **Whitley Edge** on 21st February and 27 at **Ingbirchworth** on 21st April.

At **Pule Hill, Marsden** a total of 13 flew SW on seven dates between 7th September and 3rd November, with a maximum of five on the latter date.

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

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

In the first winter period flocks in excess of 100 were only recorded at four sites: 120 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 5th January, c.100 at **Bretton Park** on the same date and 117 there on 30th January, 200 at **Horbury Bridge** on 26th January, and up to c.200 at **Barnside, Hepworth** in late March.

Breeding was only confirmed at four sites, but this is surely a sign of under recording.

The largest flock in the second winter period, other than at three visible migration sites mentioned below, involved 96 at **Bretton Park** on 7th December.

Migration was particularly heavy at the following locations:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 13,681 flew S or SW on 14 dates between 7th September and 9th November, with maxima of 4,718 on 3rd November and 3,115 the following day.

Harden Quarries – 3,105 flew SW and 1,130 flew NE on seven dates between 21st September and 9th November, with maxima of 836 (816 SW and 20 NE) on 1st November and 1,407 (740 SW and 667 NE) on 9th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 23,478 passed over on 30 dates between 30th September and 30th December. The majority of birds flew in a direction between SW and NW and included a maxima of 1,200 (750 SW and 450 NW) on 20th October and 14,900 SSW in three hours on 29th October.

(EURASIAN) **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Although widespread, especially in gardens and urban areas, the species is probably under recorded.

There were records from nine gardens, eight of which noted birds throughout the year, but these never exceeded more than a handful with the exceptions of up to 15 at **Dalton** and up to 23 during both winter periods at **Lockwood**. Single pairs bred at **Crosland Moor, Almondbury, Fixby** and **Skelmanthorpe** while two pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot**. Breeding probably took place at **New Mill** and singing birds, again reflecting probable breeding, were heard at **Clayton West, Brockholes, Margaret Wood** and **Deffer Wood**.

An interesting observation was made in an **Almondbury** garden on 7th November where, in steady rain with no wind, five birds perched on the uppermost branches of a cherry tree raised one wing to the vertical as if trying to wet their underwings. Although this behaviour is not unusual, it tends to be restricted to the warmer months.

Unlike 2013, when good numbers were reported at migration watch points, the only records this year involved four which flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 7th September with six doing likewise on 1st October and a single which flew E at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 27th October.

(COMMON) **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Red listed.

Another increase this year with records from over 30 localities, the majority from upland/moorland habitats.

The first records involved singles at **Harden** and **Royd Edge Clough** on 21st April. Birds then became more widely distributed and up until late June were regularly recorded from the **Isle of Skye Quarry** (up to 3 birds), **Harden**, **Langsett** (3 sites), **Marsden** (3 sites), **Meltham** (2 sites) and **Winscar**.

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

Wilshaw – 29th April.

Cheesegate Nab – 3rd May.

Holm Styes – 3rd May.

Rastrick – 3rd May.

Hartcliff Hill – 5th May and 29th June.

Digley Res – 5th/6th May.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 8th, 13th and 18th May, 1st June, and a juvenile on 31st July and 2nd August.

Dewsbury SW – 13th May and 1st July and two the following day. These birds spent all their time in the Reed Warbler colony.

Netherthong – 14th May.

Clayton West – 15th May.

Elysium – 17th May.

Wood Nook – 19th and 22nd May.

Hey Green – a single on 20th May was present for at least four weeks.

Butterley Res – 26th May and 1st June.

Margaret Wood – 26th May.

Yateholme – 30th May.

Dunford Bridge – 30th May.

Brockholes – 31st May.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 1st/2nd and 14th June and 23rd July.

Ossett – 6th June.

Snailsden Moor – 6th June.

Hade Edge – 14th June.

Riding Wood Res – 21st/22nd June.

The last bird of the year, a juvenile, was at **Harden** from 15th to 22nd and 28th September.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Occasional breeder.

There were sightings from two locations on the eastern edge of the Club area, singles being seen on 13th April and 21st May. Sadly a bird was found freshly dead at the roadside not far from one of these sites on 23rd October.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Records came from 27 sites and spanned the whole year. This represents a slight increase on 2013 and is a welcome reversal of the steady decline noted over recent years.

The species has become decidedly rare at **Blackmoorfoot** and the only records in the first half of the year concerned a single on a wall to the west on 14th January, two on Meltham Cop from 25th to 28th February and a single on a wall to the west on 19th June. The only records thereafter, all of singles, involved birds near the inflow from 14th to 23rd August and again from 1st to 5th September, and Meltham Cop on 16th/17th October.

Although recorded from 27 sites, most of these involved birds for short periods only, and the only localities which held birds throughout the year were **Helme**, **Harden** and **Lepton**. The only breeding records were from **Farnley Tyas** (1 pair) and **Meltham** (1 pair raised young and another pair probably bred).

All records, other than the family parties noted above, related to no more than two individuals with the exception of four at **Dean Brook Road**, **Netherthong** on 5th July.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded from a minimum of 27 sites, a similar number to 2013, but only at **Meal Hill** and **Almondbury** were birds recorded throughout the year.

Breeding was confirmed at **Longroyd Bridge** (3 juveniles in mid-May), the **Little Don Valley** (a recently fledged young in mid-May), **Langsett Banks** (wheezing young heard in late May) and **Meltham Wood** (no further information). Although a nest box at **Broadstone Res.** held a bird on 7th and 15th May there was no proof of breeding.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were heard calling during daylight hours on 3rd and 19th March (S bank wood), 28th March (E bank), 24th May, 29th/30th June and 15th/16th August (S bank wood). The presence of this species was also revealed by the finding of a moulted primary on 20th June and a moulted secondary on 3rd August.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

In sharp contrast to 2013, when breeding was very poor, this year proved to be the best year since systematic survey work began in 1998.

There were at least nine pairs, probably as many as 11, in the south of the Club area. Most pairs had three or four young but at least three pairs had broods of four or five. At least three pairs bred at a locality in the NW of the Club area, with one pair having three well-grown young by mid-May.

It will come as no surprise to learn that this good breeding success coincided with a good vole year.

A single hunting under street lights at **Harden** on 4th November was unusual.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

There were records from only eight locations, all between 9th April and 26th July, with the exception of a single on 6th December.

Birds at potential breeding sites generally only amounted to singles for a days' duration but, although two displaying pairs were present in one area for several weeks, there was no evidence of breeding.

Records away for the potential breeding areas involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot** which was circling high over the N bank and drifted E when mobbed by Carrion Crows on 21st May and one was sitting on a fence post at **Whitley Common** on 6th December,

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

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

There was a welcome increase in churring males.

In the south of the Club area churring males were heard in five different sites between May and August, but at two previously occupied sites no birds were present.

At another site a churring male was present between 1st June and 13th August.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th April and two the following day were the earliest, but it was not until early May that birds became widely distributed.

Birds continued to be seen at **Blackmoorfoot** on a daily basis between 3rd May and 12th August with the last, an isolated single on 2nd September. Birds were present in smaller numbers than normal, with assemblages only reaching high double figures on a handful of occasions (all in May/June) and a maximum of 100+ on 4th June.

The low numbers at Blackmoorfoot, presumably caused by birds flying high due to the fine weather, were also reflected at other sites. Most records, even from the well-watched sites, rarely reached high double-figures, and the only treble-figure counts involved 213 which flew W in 90 minutes at **Dewsbury SW** on 13th May and 105 which flew W at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 31st July.

Breeding evidence came from **Greenway, Golcar** where three birds were entering nest sites, 12 out of the 14 nest boxes on the viaduct at **Slaithwaite** were occupied and at least one pair bred at St Luke's Hospital, **Crosland Moor**. This latter mentioned site was demolished shortly after these birds had vacated and, unfortunately, another long-standing breeding site has been lost.

By mid-August most birds had vacated the area, and the only records thereafter involved two which flew W at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 21st August, two over **Golcar** on 28th August and a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd September

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

With records from over 26 sites the increase noted in previous years has been retained. However, the downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued unabated, and only amounted to singles on a total of 32 dates between 9th May and 5th December.

Most records were of one or two individuals, but four were on the River Calder at **Dewsbury** in late March, three were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 23rd August and three were at **Bretton Park** on 17th September and several dates in November/December.

Birds were present throughout the year at **Colne Bridge SP, Tunnel End Res.** and **Sparth Res.** but there was no evidence of breeding. Birds were regularly recorded throughout the first winter period at **Gunthwaite Dam** and **Panna Mill Dam**. At **Bretton Park**, a former stronghold, there were no records between 14th March and 17th September.

Breeding was confirmed at **Colne Bridge** and on the River Calder at **Horbury**.

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

There were records from 18 widely distributed localities (22 in 2013) but, with very few exceptions, birds were only present for short periods.

The only record from **Bretton Park**, a favoured locality in the past, involved a single on 30th January. It was a similar picture at **Langsett Res.** which only had singles on 11th April and 7th and 11th September. Birds were seen at six sites in the **Marsden** area, but the only localities where birds were seen with any regularity were **Hey Green** and **Wards End Farm**.

Juveniles were recorded at **Longwood** in mid-June/early July, **Hey Green** in mid-July/early August (2) and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and the **Grimescar Valley** in early September, but whether these birds originated from these locations is unknown.

All records from **Blackmoorfoot**, where the species is an irregular visitor, involved singles on three dates in April, 18th August and 9th November. Most records, as is usual, were from Orange Wood.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

As last year there were records from 47 widely distributed locations, with June being the most productive month due to juveniles visiting garden feeders with adults. Drumming was heard at eight sites between early January and late March, but birds then fell silent until singles were drumming at **Ladywood Lakes** on 21st May and **Horbury** on 14th December. With the exception of family parties, most records involved one or two individuals, but five were present in **Deffer Wood** on 28th February.

Breeding (birds visiting nest holes) was only confirmed at **Helme Wood**, **Langsett Banks** and **Ingbirchworth** but, due to the presence of family parties in numerous gardens, it must have occurred at many more. Juveniles were also reported **Pighill Wood**, two sites in **Marsden** and **Meltham Mills**. On a negative note, however, for the first time in many years there were only five records from a garden at **New Mill**, suggesting a local decline.

Birds were seen at visible migration watch points as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – singles flew SW on 24th August, 1st and 22nd September and 11th October.

Ward End Farm, Marsden – two flew high to the W on 30th September.

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

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

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

With only two records the decline of this species sadly continues.

A single was in trees alongside the River Holme at **Sands Recreation Ground, Holmfirth** on 10th February (DBu). The bird was in the company of two agitated Nuthatches and, although a Great Spotted Woodpecker was nearby, it did not get involved in the fracas.

The same lucky observer saw a single feeding on the ground and lower branches of beech trees in **Menagerie Wood, Bretton Park** on 9th November.

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

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

The first records of the year involved singles at **Snape Res.** on 27th/28th January and **Upper Cumberworth** the following day. There were then no records until 10th February when two flew W and two S at **Blackmoorfoot** and birds were recorded as present at **Crosland Heath Airfield**. By the end of March birds had become widely distributed but numbers remained low, the maximum being 10 at **Thurgory Lane** on 19th February and an unusual spring assemblage of up to 50+ in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** in early March.

With the exceptions of 136 on a survey of the **Marsden Moor Estate** in May and migrating birds (see below), numbers for the rest of the year were unimpressive and never reached double-figures at any locality. Interestingly, however, although no proper survey was undertaken, the species appears to have had an exceptionally good breeding season at **Snape Res.**, due in part to temporarily serendipitous land management by the farmer.

Autumn migration was noted at the following locations:

Blackmoorfoot – in September one to four flew W on six dates and in October one to three flew W or S on five dates with 11 W on 28th.

Harden – c.5 S on 21st September, c.35 mostly SW on 27th September, 57 SW on 11th October, and three S on 1st November.

Hartcliff Hill – 16 S on 27th September.

In the **Marsden** area watches at **Pule Hill** and **Wards End Farm** on various dates between 21st September and 11th November never revealed more than four birds per day, most of which flew SW or W.

With the exceptions of the above October records birds became very scarce at this time, but 18 were at **Thurgory Lane** on 5th October and 12 were still present there at the month end. The only November records concerned the migrating birds outlined above, and the only occurrence thereafter involved a single at **Broadstone Res.** on 6th December.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

The first records for the year involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 21st March and four on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 26th March. There were then no records until 5th April when four were present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** Birds were then reported from a further 15 widely scattered locations until the last, a single, at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th September.

With the exceptions of birds at breeding colonies and Blackmoorfoot (see below) numbers rarely exceeded a handful, the exceptions being 80 at **Horbury SW** on 12th April, up to eight at **Ringstone Edge Res.** between mid-April and early May, 80 at **Dewsbury SW** on 20th April, 10 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st April, and eight at **Ladywood Lakes** on 1st May.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** where 40 birds were visiting nest holes by mid-May; c.10 appeared to be breeding under Newgate Bridge at **Mirfield**; and a colony of c.10 nests was located along the Broad Canal at **Aspley** in mid-May. These last mentioned birds were constantly in and out of holes caused by missing bricks in derelict mills.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, following the first outlined above, birds were then seen on a further 121 days (54 in 2013) until the last, a single, on 30th September. Numbers rarely reached double figures but in May 25+ were present on 4th and 8th and 20+ on 11th; in August in excess of 20 were recorded on several dates, with 40+ on 16th and 19th, 30+ on 20th, and 60+ on 21st and 23rd. This remains the only non-breeding locality in the Club area where birds are encountered with any regularity.

Visible migration watches produced the following:

Wards End Farm – a single N on 14th April, one W on 21st May and two W on 30th August.

Pule Hill – one SW on 28th August.

Harden Quarries – five S on 30th August.

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

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

The first records for the year involved a single at **Dewsbury SW** on 2nd April and two at **Helme** two days later. Thereafter birds were seen at a number of widely scattered localities throughout the summer months but large assemblages were few and far between, the exceptions being as follows: **Dewsbury SW** held 200 on 20th April and an impressive gathering of c.1000 two days later, and **Ingbirchworth Res.** held c.200 on 25th April.

Breeding was only reported from a handful of sites, but surely went unrecorded at many more.

The first records at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned two on 8th April, four the following day and six on 10th/11th. Birds were then seen on a daily basis until the last (5) on 11th October and two pairs bred. By comparison to last year, numbers were very subdued, usually remaining below 30, and only reached treble figures on a few days in August. In spring the largest assemblage only amounted to 30+ on 12th April, 45+ on 19th and 25th April and 50+ on 8th May. Later in the year the only high counts were in August, and amounted to 150+ on 16th, 400 on 25th, 300 the following day, and 150+ on 30th.

Despite the low spring/summer figures, the larger autumn assemblages noted above for Blackmoorfoot were also reflected at a number of other sites:

Langsett Res – c.100 on 26th July and, in September, c.150 on 1st and c.100 on 5th.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.100 on 30th July.

Broadstone Res – c.200 on 12th September.

Visible Migration watches revealed the following records:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 100+ flew W on both 17th and 22nd July and 30 W on 30th August.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 146 flew SW on eight dates between 22nd August and 10th October, with a maximum of 49 on 28th August.

Hartcliff Hill – 18 flew S on 26th September.

Harden Quarries – 44 flew SW on 11th October and three did likewise the following day.

The three at **Harden Quarries** on 12th October noted above were the final sightings for the year.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Common passage visitor.

The first records involved a single over the Tesco Supermarket in **Penistone** on 11th April, and five at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, 10 at **Horbury SW** and one at **Colne Bridge SP** on 12th April.

Birds became widespread by late April but, with the exception of 130 at **Dewsbury SW** on 30th May, assemblages never exceeded 40 until early August. The first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was a single on 13th April. Up to eight were then seen on most dates in April and thereafter birds were present on an almost daily basis until the last (4) on 10th October. As in 2013, numbers rarely exceeded 25, but 40+ were present on 2nd May, 90+ on 21st August, 80 on 4th September and 50+ on 27th/28th September.

Following previous years' requests for all breeding records, breeding was confirmed at 11 sites (9 in 2013). **In order to understand the fluctuating fortunes of this species it is essential that members continue to submit all records of breeding locations including negative records from past breeding locations.**

The breeding sites were as follows:

Black Horse PH, Dalton – two nest (3 in 2013 and 5 in 2012).

Marsden (Waters Road) – three nests.

Marsden (Mount Road) – at least one nest, but any others were not viewable.

Marsden (Glenroyd) – no figure supplied.

Marsden (Warrington Terrace) – at least one nest, but any others were not viewable.

Marsden (Hard End) – at least one nest, but any others were not viewable.

Marsden (Warehouse Hill) – at least one nest,

Almondbury (Kaye Lane) – one nest.

Honley (Bradshaw Road) – three nests.

Thongsbridge (Stoney Bank Road) – four nests.

Linthwaite (Upper Clough) – one nest.

Linthwaite (Causeway Side) – one nest.

Lepton – one nest.

Breeding may have also taken place at **Lockwood** and **Slaithwaite** but there was no conclusive evidence. On a negative side, no birds were seen at the former breeding colony on **Blackmoorfoot Road, Crosland Moor** and there were no nests at **Banks Road, Golcar**, although they have apparently bred there in the past.

Other than the double-figure counts noted above from **Blackmoorfoot**, autumn assemblages were generally very low, and the only significant numbers concerned 40+ at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 5th and 14th August, c.54 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th August and c.30 at **Royd Moor Res.** which moved off NW on 8th September.

Migration at **Pule Hill, Marsden** amounted to 176 birds flying SW on five dates between 22nd August and 7th September, with a maximum of 89+ on 22nd August. At **Harden Quarries** about 77 flew S in two flocks on 27th September and a single did likewise on 11th October.

With the exception of the Harden Quarries record mentioned above, the only other October records related to a single at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 14th and two over Morrison's Supermarket in **Meltham** on 15th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Once again, **Carlecotes Ponds** hosted some of the few remaining local representatives of this species, with at least one singing male appearing on 4th May, still present a fortnight later, and then one last sighting on 16th June. The only other spring record involved a bird in song-flight at **Royd Moor Res.** on 19th May. Autumn migration brought a single SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 24th August, with maybe as many as nine flying SW there on 7th September and two flew W at **Harden Quarries** on 31st August. The last of the year involved a single at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** on 13th September.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

During January **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held birds on most days, with a maximum of 35+ on 19th. Birds were more in evidence here in February, with as many as 45 on 11th. The few other sites with double figure counts in the first three months were **Whitley Common** with c.30 on 17th March, **Wards End Farm, Marsden** with similar numbers heading west on 25th, and **Broadstone Res.** with c.40 heading north-west on 31st. With the exception of 352 on the **Marsden Moor Estate** in May, numbers at other localities were unimpressive until autumn.

In contrast to this quiet first winter quarter April yielded fifty records from across the Club area, with 62 grounded by fog at **Digley** on 2nd being easily the biggest assemblage. Birds were displaying in suitable nesting habitat in the **Ingbirchworth** area on 16th, at **Broadstone Res.** on 18th, at **Langsett** on 23rd, and up to six pairs were at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** in late April and the first half of May, with breeding confirmed by late June. Birds were seen carrying food at **Broadstone Res.** and nearby on 25th and 30th May.

Mid-summer sightings included up to 30 at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, and then autumn migration, as always, brought by far the largest counts of the year. The only visible migration at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** featured 50 which flew W on 30th August, and this site then had a maximum of 50+ on 1st and 4th September, with 200+ on 20th. Birds had vacated the area by early October and there were no winter records. Elsewhere, migration counts included 360 heading S over **Hartcliff Hill** on 26th September, while observers at **Harden Quarries** counted c.100 flying SW on 20th, 238 the next day, and the remarkable tally of 2,426 flying into a basically southerly headwind on 27th, followed by 244 on 28th. In October counts here steadily declined from 883 SW on 11th to 166 SW on 12th to 25 SW on 25th, and then just eight S on 1st November. At **Wards End Farm, Marsden** there were regular counts of up to 30 for this period. Meanwhile, observers at **Pule Hill, Marsden** had counted 2020 flying SW on 18 dates between 22nd August and 9th November, with a maximum of 436 on 22nd September. Small numbers lingered at several sites in December, with the only double-figure count of 25 spending Boxing Day at **Dewsbury SW**.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Two photographed at **Deer Hill Res.** on 30th September and 1st October (DHP) were followed by a single on 3rd (DMP). The single was considered to be a different bird as none had been present on 2nd.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

There were 17 records between 10th April and 5th October, which roughly equals the 2013 tally.

The first sighting came from **Deer Hill Res.** where a female was feeding in the run-off channel on 10th April, this was followed by a single which flew S at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27th April and a male at **Ringstone Edge Res.** the following day. Late May brought records from **Snape Res.**, where a pair were present from at least 24th, remained to breed. Both birds were seen carrying food on 12th June, and two young were observed on 26th.

No birds were seen thereafter until 7th August, when one was at **Langsett Res.** Later in the month singles were seen at **Ingbirchworth** on 20th and in the fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd. A single was at **Dewsbury SW** on 26th August with two the following day. The last of the year flew S over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 5th October.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

No fewer than 220 records were submitted, evenly distributed throughout the year, from at least 40 different sites across the whole of the Club area, which has necessitated some brutal editing! Pairs bred at several sites in the **Meltham** area, **Honley**, **Colne Bridge SP** (3 young in mid-July), **Marsden** (8 pairs with confirmed breeding from at least 3 sites), **Ingbirchworth**, **Dean Brook Road** and **Chew Brook** (2 pairs with recently fledged young in late July). At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were just three records of one or two in January/February, with birds then settling here between early March and early December, regularly collecting food from the inflow before flying 700 metres to their nest. In August four were present on 15th and five on 20th and 28th, while birds followed a similar pattern at **Ingbirchworth Res.** Almost all other records were of one or two birds, although six, including four young, were seen at **Windy Bank Res.** on 24th June; five were present there in mid-July. The filter beds at **Dewsbury SW** held two between late February and late August with nine on 27th August.

At **Pule Hill, Marsden** a total of 29 flew SW on eight dates between 24th August and 24th October, with a maximum of nine on 24th September, and up to five were recorded on migration at **Harden Quarries** on several dates in September.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

The fact that 50 fewer records were received for this wagtail than for its grey cousin is, ironically, an indication of how much more common it is! Indeed there were reports of large winter and migratory gatherings from various venues especially at **Dewsbury SW**, where c.300 were present on 11th January, 140 on 2nd February, 138 on 6th March, 75 three days later, and 38 on 19th March. Not surprisingly, **Horbury SW** was also an irresistible first winter attraction for up to 50. Mount Pleasant school in **Lockwood** had 20 in attendance at the end of January, and those in fields near **Blackmoorfoot Res.** reached a similar figure on 7th February; two pairs then took up residence and bred. A flock of 25 were in a field by **Bird's Nest Lane** on 24th February. Observers at several sites mentioned adults feeding young in May.

Few summer counts reached double figures apart from 35 on **Marsden** cricket pitch early on 24th July, c.20 on the airfield at **Whitley** on 20th August, and 14 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** also in late August. A flock of c.50 was on the dam wall at **Langsett Res.** on 15th September. Visible migration counts at **Pule Hill, Marsden** produced a total of 131 flying SW on 16 dates between 1st September and 4th November, with a maximum of 28 on 23rd September, while a count at **Harden Quarries** on 11th October reached 60 heading SW.

Numbers at **Dewsbury SW** began to increase in November, rising from 38 on 1st to 178 on 11th and 210 on 26th December.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were four records:

Royd Moor Hill – a male on 17th March (MCW).

Dewsbury SW – a single on the sprinkler beds on 1st April (JH).

Harden Moss – a single on 28th April (MC).

Langsett Res – the flock of c.50 Pied Wagtails noted above on 15th September contained two which belonged to this race (MCW).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

Rare indeed this year, with just one record of c.15 seen briefly in a tree near **Rastrick** library on 27th January, before flying off after being disturbed by a Mistle Thrush.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Almost 100 reports were received, evenly spread across the year, from about twenty areas, some of which, such as **Windy Bank Res.** and **Hey Green** are clearly well watched. Breeding was confirmed on the **River Holme** at **Berry Brow**, and at three sites on the same river at **Honley**. Adults were seen feeding young in early May at **Hey Green**, on the river in **Holmfirth**, and at **Langsett**, where there were three pairs. Birds held at least five territories in **Marsden**, including the centre, and **Holmfirth** centre was another reliable spot.

There were fewer records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, all in the second half of the year, and all by the inflow; a juvenile on 28th/29th June, singles on 30th July, 13th August, six dates in September with two from 26th to 28th; and singles on 12 October dates with two on 5th and three on 13th. A single was regularly seen on the River Colne in the vicinity of **Huddersfield Stadium** between late July and early October, and up to two were present at **Deer Hill Res.** during October/November,

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This year's picture resembles last year's in all respects, with over one hundred records spread across the area and with sightings throughout the year. Several observers kept a close watch on their garden birds' behaviour from month to month, and were among those who provided evidence of breeding, including an adult carrying food/faecal sac at **Ward End Farm, Marsden** on 10th July. A pair in **Crimble Clough** took up residence in a concrete Swallow nest as in 2012. Other contributors monitored larger areas such as **Bretton Park** and **Margaret Wood**, where an adult was seen carrying food or a faecal sac in late May. In many instances, typically for this species, evidence of their presence was aural rather than visual.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

A total of 140 records of this widely distributed and easily detectable species maintains the pattern of recent years. Some contributors monitored the behaviour of garden residents, while others submitted counts of birds in larger areas. At least three pairs were displaying at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** in early March, followed by proof of breeding in mid-June, despite two unsuccessful nests in a hedge, while a **New Mill** garden-watcher reported at least three successful broods in July and August. In **Brockholes** a juvenile was rescued from the clutches of a cat. Curiously, one was observed heading SSE over **Harden Quarries** on 11th October.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

195 records of this conspicuous and confiding bird were received, including monthly garden and local patch counts. Nest-building was under way in early March, the earliest record coming from **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 4th, and on 15th birds were filling an open-fronted nest-box with leaves at **Crimble Clough**. Sadly the first report of young had a sad outcome as all the hatchlings from five eggs in a garden nest-box at **Rastrick** were killed by two days of cold weather in late April. Observers continued to report the presence of juveniles in gardens and other habitats throughout the summer until well into September. One lucky youngster in **Brockholes** was rescued unharmed from the clutches of a cat.

Few counts reached double figures, although nothing matched last year's autumn tally of 82 in **Bretton Park**, where the highest monthly total was 17 in September. A December count of c.20 in the **Scout Dike** area was the year's highest.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

This proved to be one of the best recent years for this very welcome visitor, with over 20 records from five distinct sites.

A singing male was first seen at St Luke's Hospital in **Crosland Moor** on 30th May (AC *et al.*), and remained there until 8th June. The **Isle of Skye Quarry** hosted the next arrival, when a juvenile was present from 28th July until the end of September (NWM, DHP *et al.*), long enough to be seen by many local enthusiasts, although the bird was somewhat elusive. Another bird seen from a distance feeding with chats at **White Hull Farm, Marsden** on 28th August (DWS) was thought to be a juvenile. What was presumably the same bird then took up residence at nearby **Wards End Farm** and was present until 11th October (DWS *et al.*) and two birds were seen on 27th and 30th September and 1st October (DWS). A single was present in a **Shepley** garden on 28th October (NWM), another was found on **Marsden Moor** on 5th October (S & HC), and one rather late individual was seen at **Riding Wood Res.** on 3rd November (SCK).

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Almost 50 records is twice the number for 2013, but many refer to the same bird[s], and the number of venues was just three higher, so this attractive visitor remains much less widespread than in the recent past.

A male at **Langsett Res.** on 11th April was the first arrival, followed a week later by another at **Elysium**. The former site held two males by 17th May, and six singing males were counted there two days later. Meanwhile another male was singing at High Lea in **Marsden** on 18th, two males were reported at **Helme** on 18th June, and on 22nd a pair were found at **Holme Styes**, one of the few remaining regular sites, apparently visiting a nest in a derelict outbuilding. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a female in Orange Wood on 23rd April was an unusual spring occurrence. A juvenile was in the garden at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 24th June.

Up to four were near **Helme** throughout July and until 18th August. A juvenile was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st July, and the next day a male was spotted in **Holmbridge**. The next reports, also of males, came from **Deer Hill** on 8th August, and from **Red Lane, Meltham**, on 10th. There were three sightings of males in late August at **Winscar Res.** and two on the last day of the month, one near **Broadstone Res.** and a single female at **Brow Grains**. Autumn sightings at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** featured singles on eight dates between 15th August and 15th September, with, in August, four on 19th, two on 20th and 22nd, five on 24th, three on 30th, and two on 31st. September contributed further sightings from some aforementioned venues, the last at **Helme** on 20th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas).

Another slight increase in the number of sites where this species was found this year is perhaps a cause for some optimism, although there was just one instance of confirmed breeding, in what remains a favoured spot for these birds.

The year's first recorded arrival was at **Whitley Common** on 18th April, and the only other April sightings were of a male and female at **Deanhead Res.** on 23rd, with only the male present on 24th and 26th, and a single at **Dewsbury SW** on 28th. Early May produced birds at two well-watched sites, with the first record, of a male and female, at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 2nd, and at **Brow Grains** a male on 3rd was the first of two pairs which bred in the area, with fledged young being seen on 6th July. A female was at **Broadstone Heath** on 8th May, and a male at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th. **Deer Hill** hosted a male on 15th May, and then, five, of which four were singing, were found between here and **Meltham** on 1st June. The only other May reports concerned three presumed pairs on the **Marsden Moor Estate** (Buckstones, Wessenden and Wessenden Head) and a single at **Scammonden Water** on 21st.

July produced just two sightings, a singing male on **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 2nd, and three in bracken at **Crowden** on 17th. The **Wards End Farm** observer was rewarded by up six birds, but usually two or three, on a near daily basis between 15th August and 21st September. Six were also present at **Brow Grains** on 25th August and 7th September, while **Pule Hill** yielded further sightings of a single on 28th August and three on 14th September. Other September records involved a single at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 5th, two at **Broadstone Res.** on 8th, a single in the fields to

the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** 9th and three on 16th. A single at **Harden** on 28th September was the last of the year.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Twice as many records were received than in 2013, although this does not reflect a dramatic increase in overall numbers, as many were the fruit of committed frequent observation of one site.

The only January sighting was of a male and female near the inlet cascade at **Dove Stone Res.** on 10th. **Wards End Farm, Marsden** was the only source of February records, with two sightings of a male and two of a male and female. There were six March records, but only two localities were involved: **Wards End Farm** had a male and female on 3rd and a female on 22nd, while **Deer Hill Res.** had up to three birds on four dates; a male on 8th had a completely white rump. A female at **Deanhead Res.** on 12th April had been joined by a male on 23rd and **Scammondon** hosted a male in late April. May produced up to two birds at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Deanhead Res**, **Blakely Res.** and **Brow Grains**.

Following the single breeding attempt last season, it is pleasing to report confirmed breeding at the following locations: **Little Don Valley** (2 pairs), and single pairs at **Wards End Farm**, **Blakeley**, **Butterley Res.** and **Brow Grains**. Breeding almost certainly took place between **West Nab** and **Deer Hill**, while alarm calls at **Wessenden Res.** suggested probable breeding and a pair with four young at **The Dean, Marsden** in late July may have bred nearby.

Away from the breeding locations records then became sporadic. A juvenile on the south bank of **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th June was an unusual sighting. A male was singing at **Winscar Res.** on 30th June and the only August records concerned a single at **Hassocks Lane** on 5th. In late September two were seen at **Redbrook Res.** and **Harden**, and on several dates in October up to two males and two females were on Meltham Cop at **Blackmoorfoot**. At least five, and probably as many as seven, were at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 8th October, while **Hartcliff Hill**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Broadstone** and **Ingbirchworth** were new sites in the autumn. The only December records, with the exceptions of singles at **Low Common** on 1st and **Broadstone Res.** on 6th, involved up to two which remained at **Wards End Farm** to the end of the year.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

With almost two hundred records between the first, a male at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th March and the last at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 19th October, some might say that this species is hardly uncommon! However, few observers were able to offer evidence of breeding, as this was only confirmed at **Wessenden Head Res.**, **Standedge**, **Lower Windledon Res.**, **Brun Clough Res.**, and **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.

March records came from seven sites, featuring up to five birds. A remarkable flurry of 78 reports covered almost every day in April, including frequent counts at several sites such as **Broadstone** (maximum of c.22 on 11th), **Ingbirchworth** (15 on 15th), **Digley** (10 on 18th), **Blackmoorfoot** (21 on 21st), **Maythorn** (15 on 26th), **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Wards End Farm**, **Langsett**, and

Deanhead Res. May was also a rich vein, with 40 records, but no counts exceeded the eight at **Wards End Farm** on 14th and on **Thick Hollins Moor** on 15th.

At **Blackmoorfoot** two juveniles on 14th July and a single juvenile on 31st July were rather early, then between 9th August and 30th September up to six (usually only 1 to 3) were present in the fields to the west of the reservoir on a total of 15 days. Elsewhere, although there were counts, some almost daily from a wide range of sites, numbers remained low, with none higher than the four at **Harden** and **Deer Hill** in mid-September. In October birds were only recorded from five locations. Two were at **Deer Hill** on 1st; **Blackmoorfoot** held three on 3rd, six on 10th, five the following day, and a single on 14th and 16th; three were at **Hartcliff Hill** on 11th; three were at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 17th and a single was present on 19th; and two were seen at **Cheesegate Nab** on 18th.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

There were four reports of birds showing characteristics of this race, all in spring. Two were present in a field off **Bird's Nest Lane** on 13th April (HQ) with a male there on 17th May (MC), three were at **Winscar** on 16th May (MC), and a male was in the **Little Don Valley** on 19th May (MCW).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Two thirds of this year's 34 records were in spring. An impressive gathering of ten were in the **Little Don Valley** on 30th March; the same day as three were in the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, with two still remaining the following day. A singing male that arrived at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 31st March was followed by a female the next day. The first of the **Cheesegate Nab** visitors appeared on 9th April, a male and female were seen the next day, and by 11th seven were present in their favoured field. Meanwhile, at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, two males were seen on 10th April, to be followed by a female on 14th and a singing male on 18th. The next stopover spot was Meltham Cop at **Blackmoorfoot**, where two males on 16th were joined by two females the next day. Other April visitors, all of one or two birds, were from **Digley, Hartcliff Hill, Dean Head Res., and Wards End Farm, Marsden**. The only May record referred to four pairs in the **Little Don Valley**, where adults were seen carrying food at three sites by mid-month.

The first autumn record concerned two adults and three juveniles feeding on rowan berries in the **Wessenden Valley** on 20th August. Birds were observed on migration at three sites: a single flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 24th August, as did two males on 5th October and three on 10th October. A flock of six flew W at **Harden Quarries** on 21st September and at **Wards End Farm** there was an impressive total of 11 (5 flew S + 6 W) on 14th October, with two flying S the following day.

The only records thereafter involved a single at **Penistone** on 28th October, at least eight at **Greenfield Res.** on 17th October, a male near **Binn Green** on 2nd November, and a rather late immature at **Wards End Farm** on 19th November.

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As last year, just over two hundred records reflected regular monthly scrutiny of observers' gardens, and included some local patch counts. Winter visits to **Bretton Park** yielded a high of 23 in late January, but only three in November and December. One **Meltham** garden regularly produced a double-figure count with as many as 18 in mid-February. The **Wards End Farm** observer reported nest-building in late March, two pairs present in mid-April, and then a nest with young on 27th April had been found destroyed the following day. Birds were building a second nest by 1st May, and were successful in raising three young. Several other observers also followed the breeding process. The year's highest tally was c.30 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 3rd December.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

Of the 150 records received from a wide range of venues across the Club area 80 were for the last three months of the year, whilst almost half of these reports were for March. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, rather surprisingly, none were seen in February, and although January numbers were mostly below 70, there were 150 on 4th and 7th, 350 on 16th, and 400 on 20th. March had a similar pattern, but flock size was greatly reduced, with a maximum of 180 on 16th, and no sightings after 27th. Elsewhere in the first winter period 200 were near **Hepworth** on 14th January, with 100 here on 16th February, c.350 were on **Whitley Edge** on 27th January, and c.500 were at **Roughbircworth**, near Penistone on 20th March. A flock of 80 were at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 5th April and then there were no further sightings until 26th, when eight were on **Harden Moss**, with one lingering until 6th May.

Two birds briefly at **Ingbircworth Res.** on 3rd September were well ahead of other autumn arrivals. Indeed, two singles at **Harden Quarries** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, on 28th and 30th respectively, were the only other September sightings. At the latter venue numbers steadily increased during October, with 60 heading west on 25th, and 221 on 30th, of which 55 roosted at the site. The last day of October brought counts, mostly of fewer than 100, from nine different venues, the largest being 367 which flew west over **Blackmoorfoot**. The last two months accounted for over a third of the year's records, November starting with an impressive migration count of 677 flying S or SW over **Harden Quarries** on 1st, but this was eclipsed the next day by a remarkable tally of 3,853 flying S or SE at the same site. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** six counts between 31st October and 9th November produced a total of 1,544 flying S or SW of which 966 passed over on 31st and just one on 9th, when another 829 headed south over **Harden Quarries**. Almost all the remaining counts, including no fewer than 29 from **Wards End Farm**, were of smaller flocks, either passing over or settled, sometimes in the company of Redwings. There were few records of grounded birds in December, and the only three-figure counts involved 100 at **Low Common** on 1st, c.100 at **Wards End Farm** on 26th, and 180 at **Castle Dam** the following day.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Over half of this year's 124 sightings occurred in the first four months of the year, with just eleven in the three summer months. Garden records from **Thick Hollins** epitomised this pattern, with a single bird present daily for much of January, and again in late December. A single at

Blackmoorfoot was seen sporadically during the first winter period, and four pairs then held territories during the summer months, but the species vacated the area during the second winter.

Birds sang at 27 sites around **Marsden**, and although there were probably only 13 territories these figures reflect a welcome resurgence after last year's 12 sites and just two territories. In contrast, a **New Mill** observer described the species as "just about hanging on", with only two records of singing and two garden sightings, although broken snail shells may have been proof of their presence in May. The only hard evidence of breeding came from **Dewsbury SW**, and **Langsett**. Several other contributors sent records of one or two birds in local parks and gardens. Migration counters at **Harden Quarries** and **Pule Hill, Marsden** recorded mostly singles, although five passed over the former site on 1st and 2nd November, when 12 were counted flying W over **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Two thirds of the 150 records were for the second winter period, and the annual tally was much higher than last year's 87. The only first winter three-figure counts were of c. 100 near **Broadstone Res.** on 1st January, c. 100 at **Birkby** on 8th January, and 100 and 120 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, on 4th January and 14th March. Up to 70 were present at the latter site during the first three months, and the last here were four on 1st April, which was well after the last sighting elsewhere.

In contrast with what one observer at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** described as a disappointing first winter, the main autumn arrival began with an impressive count of 350 (a flock of c. 200 + 150 flying S) at **Hartcliff Hill** on 11th October. A single also flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on this date, only to be followed by 15 flying NW the next day, and 24 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the day after, peaking at 200 here on 16th October, and reaching 110 on 1st November. Thereafter birds were at this site on just two days in November and seven in December, but numbers never exceeded 40. A marked passage was noted at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** with 252 on 13th October, 278 the following day, and 804 on 15th October, all heading west. This figure was surpassed on the last mentioned date when at least 2000 flew SE in a half-hour period over **Rastrick**, with many more thought to have been flying above the low cloud cover. For the rest of the month further, albeit less dramatic, counts came from a variety of sites on an almost daily basis. November began with another huge passage at **Harden Quarries**, where 414 flew SW on 1st, only to be followed by 2,979 flying S or SE the following day. Meanwhile, at **Pule Hill, Marsden**, during what local observers felt to be an unimpressive autumn, only 263 were counted passing SW on six dates between 10th October and 4th November, with a maximum of 172 on 1st November. Except for three-figure counts on two days in mid-December at **Wards End Farm** the remaining counts from a variety of venues were of modest proportions.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

The number of records was roughly the same as for Song Thrush, albeit with a more even spread across the seasons.

The only large-number counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where two pairs bred, involved flocks of 20+ on 17th and 26th August, 15 on 17th September and 23 on 20th September. Curiously, few sites

matched these numbers, with the exception of a post-breeding season flock of 32 together with c.30 Linnets at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th August and 12 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 30th September.

Although migration at **Pule Hill, Marsden** reached a total of 41 flying SW on eight dates between 5th October and 9th November, no more than 17 were seen on any single day (25th October). Elsewhere the highest migration counts were of eight flying W at **Wards End Farm** on 1st October with eight flying N there on 14th October, and eight flying SW over **Harden Quarries** on 11th October. There were few specific mentions of successful breeding, referring either to the presence of juveniles or to adults carrying food, but the species is clearly well established in a range of habitats across the area as several singing males were reported.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

There were records of reeling males from five localities, one less than last year.

Scammonden Water – reeling birds were heard between the two reservoirs as follows: singles on 21st and 23rd April, two the following day, a single on 28th, three on 29th, and a single on 2nd May.
Red Lane, Meltham – a single on several dates between 26th April and early May and again on 7th June.

Tunnel End – a single on four dates between 18th May and 21st June was presumably the same bird.

Back Clough, Marsden – one on 12th July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reported from nine localities (7 in 2013), but no proof of breeding was forthcoming. Birds were reported between 20th April and 10th September.

Dewsbury SW – a singing male on 20th April was the first. Six singing males were then present throughout the summer months and the last, a single, was seen on 10th September.

Wessenden Lodge – a singing male on 5th May.

Horbury – a single was singing from along the River Calder on 7th May.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singing males were present on 15th May, from 22nd until 28th June, and 6th July.

Tunnel End – a male held a territory between 18th May and 8th June.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – three on 18th May and a single on 1st June.

Gunthwaite Dam – a single on 10th June.

Red Lane, Meltham – a single in Bracken on 23rd August.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 3rd September.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

Recorded from four sites (the same as 2009-2012 but two less than 2013), although breeding was noted at two of these. Birds were recorded between 6th May and 12th September, although a single in a Linthwaite garden in early November may have been this species (see below).

Colne Bridge SP – three on 6th May had increased to four (all singing males) later in the month and at least one pair raised young, juveniles being seen from mid-June. The last record involved an adult feeding a juvenile on 2nd September.

Cooper Bridge SW – two singing males on 15th May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a singling male on 18th May.

Dewsbury SW – four singing males on 18th May had increased to seven two days later and by mid-July at least one pair were feeding fledged young. The last record concerned a single on 12th September.

A single in a **Linthwaite** garden between 5th and 11th November only revealed itself by singing (SP). The song, although not typical of the species, was recorded and posted on the Xeno-canto website. Based on the song structure, Henk Krajenbrink, a respected ornithologist, was of the opinion that it was this species.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Recorded from 54 widely scattered sites (slightly more than last year) but the only wintering record involved a female in an **Almondbury** garden on 19th January. An unsexed bird at **Colne Bridge SP** on 24th March may also have been a wintering individual.

The first singing males were all on 9th April when singles were heard at **Little Hey, Marsden, Crosland Hill, Golcar** and **Fixby**. Within days, however, singing males had been recorded from numerous localities across the Club area. Proof of breeding only came from four sites, but with 19 territories in the **Colne Valley** between **Hey Green** and **Netherwood** breeding was obviously under recorded.

Despite being widely distributed, most records were in low single figures, the only exceptions being 10 at **Elland GP** on 14th April, nine at **Langsett** on 19th May and about 10 at **Margaret Wood** on 2nd June.

The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 14th/15th April. Thereafter, two singing males took up territories, but this had increased to four by mid-May and from 17th May to late June six males sang. The amount of breeding activity is unknown, but birds had departed the area by 12th July and the only records thereafter involved singles on 23rd and 31st August, two on 1st and 9th September and singles on 13th and 27th September and 1st October.

By August birds were less widely distributed, but a single female-type in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 8th was a first record for the site. With the exceptions of the September records at Blackmoorfoot (see above) the only other September records involved singles in the **Marsden** area on 5th and 11th and two at **New Dam, Netherthong** on 15th.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

The decrease in records during the past three years was reversed, and birds were recorded from 26 localities. Most records were of one or two singing males but the only proof of breeding came from **Blackmoorfoot** (see below).

The first records involved singing males at **Ladywood Lakes** on 1st May and **Cheesegate Nab** the following day. By mid-May one or two singing males had been recorded from a further nine localities, but these were all day-only individuals.

Other records were as follows:

Thurstonland Bank – two on 6th and 26th May.

Langsett – four singing males on 19th May.

Little Don Valley – one singing on 21st May.

Ingbirchworth Res – a singing male on 22nd May.

Blackmoorfoot – a male sang in Jubilee Quarries between 25th May and 7th July and a pair in Orange Wood had fledged young in mid-June. The secretiveness of this species can be judged from the fact that there was no indication of breeding by the Orange Wood pair until fledged young appeared.

Butterley Res – one singing on 26th May.

Deffer Wood – a singing male on 27th May.

Clough Lee, Marsden – at least one singing male between 30th May and 20th June.

Overton – two, including a singing male, near the National Coal Mining Museum on 6th June.

Margaret Wood – one, perhaps two, on 2nd June.

Gunthwaite Dam – two singing males on 10th June.

Marsden – a singing male at Warehouse Mill on 10th June.

Broadstone Res – a single on 26th June.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – one on 23rd July.

Longwood – a single at Nettleton Hill on 30th July.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records of singles were received from seven sites. This continues the steady decline of the past few years, but as only the first site below was common to last year's nine sites there could be some under recording.

Colne Bridge SP – a singing male on 23rd and 29th April.

Margaret Wood – a single on 14th May.

Thurstonland Bank – singing males on 31st May and 21st June were thought to have been different birds.

Gunthwaite Dam – a singing male on 10th June.

Royd Moor Res – one singing on 9th July.

Ringstone Edge – one on 29th July.

Hepworth – a single along Bedding Edge Road on 15th September had been grounded by early morning mist.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*
Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Birds were recorded at 46 sites, which is nine more than last year although still fewer than in 2012. Breeding was only confirmed at **Blackmoorfoot** (5 pairs) and single pairs at **Colne Bridge SP**, **Helme** and **Crosland Edge**, but it probably also occurred at **Marsden**, where five males held territories, and **Honley Moor**.

The first records involved a singing male at **Langsett Res.** on 11th April, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th April and singles at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on the 20th/21st April and **Scammonden Water** on 23rd April. By the following week birds had been recorded from several widely scattered localities but most involved less than three individuals. The only exceptions were six singing males at **Horbury SW** on 4th May, four nearby on the **River Calder** on 7th May, c.5 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 8th July and up to 10 at **Royd Moor Res.** during July.

By late August birds were becoming scarce and the only September records, apart from that at Blackmoorfoot (see below) involved a single at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 2nd and 4th.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a singing male between 29th April and 3rd May. The number of singing males increased throughout May and five pairs attempted to nest. Although the family parties remained until late July, the only records thereafter involved two on 19th August and singles on 23rd August and 11th September.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

Participants in the Club patch outing to **Langsett** on 24th May heard a partial song in Langsett Banks on the outward journey and were rewarded with good views on the return. The same bird was seen the following day and one was seen there on 9th June.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Records were received from over 60 sites, a similar number to last year.

A bird showing characteristics of the Siberian race *P.c. tristis* was present at **Horbury SW** on 1st, 19th and 25th January, 2nd and 6th February and 2nd March (DT, JW *et al.*). The bird was heard to give a *tristis*-type song on 6th February but, without a voice recording, sub-specific identification must remain tentative. Interestingly, this is the third year that birds with such characteristics have been recorded in this area. The bird was joined by two individuals of the nominate race on 19th January and on 9th March at least six were present, some of which were in typical *collybita* song (DHP).

The only other February records involved singles at **Thurlstone** on 17th and **Tunnel End** on 22nd. There was then a lapse in occurrences until a single was present at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 11th March. Thereafter, birds became far more widely distributed and by the month end had been recorded from a further 28 localities. Numbers generally remained in low single figures but 15-20

singing males were present between **Marsden** and **Golcar** on 24th March and five days later eight males were singing between **Brighouse** and **Elland**.

The first records at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 13th and from 23rd to 26th March. Thereafter, two singing males took up territories, but this had increased to three by mid-April and a pair nested in Orange Wood. These birds remained until 20th July, but there were then no records until a single on eight days in late August. Up to three were present throughout September with the last (2) on 30th.

During the summer months maximum counts involved nine at **Elland GP** on 14th April, eight singing at **Langsett** on 19th May, about eight at **Margaret Wood** on 24th June, and singing males at 28 locations in the **Marsden** area. Despite records from over 60 localities proof of breeding only came from a handful.

Birds were still widely distributed throughout August/September but numbers rarely exceeded four, the exceptions being a fall of c.25 amongst other species at **Colne Bridge SP** on 28th August, five at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 12th September, 11 in the **Marsden** area on 19th September

The last records of the year were all in October, with one or two being recorded from six locations, the latest involved two at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 12th with a single at **Harden Quarries** the same day, and two in the **Marsden** area on 17th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

Records were received from 54 sites and spanned the period 5th April and 30th September.

The first records involved three singing males at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 5th April, a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the following day (see below) and two at **Colne Bridge SP** on 8th April. There was then a sharp increase in records and by the month end most of the 54 sites from which the species was recorded held birds. Numbers only reached double figures at the following localities: a total of 75 were present in the **Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor/Scout Dike** area on 15th April; at least 11 were in the **Marsden** area on 19th April; c.30 singing males were at **Scammonden Water** on 24th April, the same day that 23 were in the **Little Don Valley** (most of which remained throughout the summer); 34 were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th April; of the 39 singing males between **Hey Green** and **Netherwood** in late April, only 25 remained by late May; 16 were singing at **Langsett** on 19th May; and 15 singing males were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 26th May.

The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male from 6th to 10th April. Six males then took up territories and remained throughout the summer months. Autumn passage peaked at 10+ on 7th/8th July and 14th August, and the last of the year (2) were seen on 7th September.

Although there were fewer records in June and July birds were still very widely distributed, but proof of breeding only came from a handful of localities. There was an upsurge of records in August as birds passed through the area on migration, but no large assemblages were reported. By September most birds had dispersed and were only recorded at nine locations, with never more than three birds putting in an appearance. The last of the year involved singles at **Hey Green** on 29th September and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 29th/30th September.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 23 sites, reflecting the continued decrease in the species (29 sites in 2013, 36 in 2012 and 47 in 2011). The only records between June and August relate to individuals in a **Fixby** garden, where they were seen regularly throughout the year, and a breeding pair at **Colne Bridge SP** (see below).

Records during the first five months of the year, although widely scattered, were only of one or two birds at several locations for no more than a few day's duration, the only exception being **Deffer Wood** which held six on 28th February.

Singing males were recorded from five localities but confirmed breeding was only obtained from **Colne Bridge SP** where three juveniles were being fed by adults on 20th May. Two adults taking food into a pine at this site on 12th July strongly suggested a second brood but no young were seen; also on this date the male landed within five feet of the observer, bent forward, called, and spread its crest to reveal the orange base – the throat display lasted for 30 seconds.

There was a further drop in the number of records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with one or two birds being seen on 11 days (16 in 2013). Records in the first half of the year only involved a single on 13th March. There were then no records until a single was seen on 7th September. Thereafter two were present on 27th September, one or two (usually only 1) were seen on eight days in October, and a single was present on 13th December.

Birds were again widely distributed between mid-September and the year end but, as earlier in the year, records referred to no more than two individuals.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from 12 sites (12 in 2013 and 18 in 2012). The first, a single, was in the **Little Don Valley** on the rather early date of 23rd April (DBu). There were then no records until mid-May when a single was present at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 16th, two were in the **Little Don Valley** on 17th and 19th, and two were also at **Langsett** on this latter date.

The only breeding record was from **The Dean, Marsden** where a very young bird was begging for food from an adult on 7th August.

Other records were as follows:

Marsden – two were at Hey Green on 17th June.

Langsett Banks – two on 21st June.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles on 6th July and 15th August.

Langsett Barn – one on 8th July.

Nettleton Hill, Longwood – a single on 18th and three on 23rd August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – four on 18th August were followed by up to six (usually 1 – 3) on a further 13 days until the last (2) on 14th September.

Elland GP – one on 28th August.

Digley Res – a single in the quarry on 1st September.

Hartcliff Hill – one on 14th September.

Langsett Res – a single on 26th September.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 1-5 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

Records were received from six locations, which is a far better showing than the past few years. The prime area remains **Cliff Wood**, where one or two males were seen on a number of dates between 12th and 28th April, and two males and a female were visiting a probable nest site on 24th May.

Others were recorded as follows:

Netherwood, Marsden – a singing male on 23rd April.

Holme – one or two males were present for about three weeks in a garden where they had bred some years ago but no female arrived.

Little Don Valley – a singing male on 19th May.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single on 28th July.

Colne Bridge SP – one on 28th August.

Blackmoorfoot – a single near the inflow on 31st August was the ninth record for the reservoir and the first since 2011.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Although recorded throughout the year, records were only received from 30 locations, considerably less than last year, and breeding was only reported from six sites. As usual most groups were in single figures, the exceptions being outlined below. Two chasing a female Sparrowhawk at **Royd Moor Res.** on 17th March must have been an interesting sight.

The only double-figure flocks were as follows:

Colne Bridge SP – present throughout the year with the largest winter party consisting of 23+.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded throughout the year but there were no August or December occurrences. Numbers were always small, only reaching very low double figures in January, September and October. Two pairs bred, but there was no evidence that they were successful.

Clayton West – c.10 on 3rd January.

Crimble Clough – 10 on 5th January.

Thick Hollins – double figures on several dates in January/February with a maximum of 18 on 28th January and 13th February.

Deffer Wood – c.10 on 28th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.15 on 3rd September.

Horbury – c.20 on 22nd October.

Lockwood – 12 on 24th October.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – 18 on feeders on 27th October.

Bretton Park – 12 on 17th December.

Dewsbury SW – 12 on 26th December.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Very common and widely distributed, although records were only received from just over 40 sites, a great reduction on the 64 reported from last year. This surely represents a decline in recording, rather than the species itself. There were many garden records throughout but the number of breeding records, most of which were from boxes, was low.

Most sightings were of less than 10 and the only counts in excess were as follows:

Crimble Clough – c.20 in a garden on 5th January.

Bretton Park – in January there were c.15 on 5th, 22 on 14th and c.25 on 30th.

Deffer Wood – c.20 on 28th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.30 (with Great Tits) on 6th August and 20 on 4th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 12 on 7th and 26th August, 20 on 28th September and, in November, 12 on 17th, 25 on 25th and 45 the following day.

Head Clough, Marsden – 25 on 5th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a maximum of 45+ on 21st December.

Visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** produced seven S on 21st September, two S on 11th October and five ESE the following day.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Records were received from 40 sites, 10 fewer than in 2013 but, as for Blue Tit, this is most likely due to under recording rather than a true decrease. There were a small number of garden breeding records and five boxes were used at **Colne Bridge SP**.

Most records were of single figures but double figures were reported from the following locations:

Bretton Park – in January there were c.14 on 5th, 12 on 14th and 21 on 30th.

Deffer Wood – c.20 on 28th February.

Ingbirchworth Res - c.40 on 4th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden - 18 on 17th and 10 on 26th November.

Blackmoorfoot Res – at least three pairs bred and there was a maximum of 15+ on 21st December.

Visible migration watches at **Harden** saw two fly S on 11th, four flew ESE and one NE on 12th October and one flew S on 1st November. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** five flew SW on 25th October

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records were received from 34 sites, two more than last year, and as then most were from gardens and spanned all months. Breeding was noted in the **Little Don Valley**, **Langsett Banks**, **Margaret Wood**, **New Mill**, **Helme Wood**, and probably in the allotments in **Cowcliffe**. The presence of juveniles at **Thick Hollins**, **Almondbury** and at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** strongly suggested that they had bred nearby. Most records involved one or two birds, those in excess being as follows:

Cowcliffe - four during both winter periods.

Bretton Park – four on 5th and 14th January, five on 9th November and 10 on 7th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were sporadic records throughout the year. Usually only one or two, occasionally three, were present but there were four on 27th January and six on 10th June.

Langsett Res – at least five on 16th February.

Deffer Wood – 10 on 28th February.

Colne Bridge SP – four on 28th July were considered noteworthy as the species is infrequently recorded.

Harden – four on 12th October.

Rather unusually, two flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 21st September and four did likewise on 11th October.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This declining species was recorded at eleven sites, three more than last year. Although a family party was seen at **Scout Dike Res.** on 28th July and two adults and a juvenile were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th August, the paucity of records prior to this time suggests they may not have originated from these sites.

Other records were of single birds unless shown otherwise:

Horbury SW - 1st and 19th January.

Bretton Park – 14th January, 5th March, 15th November and 17th December.

Cannon Hall CP – 18th January.

Ingbirchworth Res – 21st January, 17th March (2), 6th and 27th August (2 adults and a juvenile), 3rd September, 10th and 30th November, and two on 24th and 30th December.

Royd Moor Res – 21st January, 16th February, 17th March, 24th March (2) and 29th March.

Broadstone Res – 25th January.

Deffer Wood – 28th February.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – 12th March.

Scout Dike Res – 17th March and a family party of about four on 28th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single flew along the S embankment into the garden of Reservoir House on 22nd June. This is the first record for the reservoir since a single on 21st June 2009.

A single Willow/Marsh Tit which arrived from the NE and flew into a copse at **Harden Quarries** on 27th September, although not identified to species, was considered most likely to be a Willow Tit.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

This is a widely distributed species which is increasing in numbers in the Club area. Although records were received from 44 sites, breeding was only confirmed at three of these. There were many garden records, most of which involved one or two birds, some of which were present throughout the year. One flew into a window and was killed in **Skelmanthorpe** on 1st June, an unfortunate first record for the garden. A garden at **Thick Hollins** had three on 20th and four on 27th June; five on 17th August and three on 25th September and a garden in **Almondbury** had three on 9th September.

Other records of more than two birds came from the following locations:

Bretton Park – three on 14th and 24th January, six on 5th March, four on 17th September, six on 9th November and up to nine in December.

Deffer Wood – four on 28th February.

Langsett Res – four on 11th April.

Cliff Wood – four on 16th April.

Margaret Wood – three on 24th June.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year and a pair raised young in the same nest hole in Orange Wood that they had used for the previous four years.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

There was a further decline in records to 19 locations (25 in 2013 and 34 in 2012) but it is difficult to know whether this is a real decline as the species is unobtrusive. Breeding was confirmed at six sites: **Margaret Wood**, **Blackmoorfoot** (see below), **Helme Wood**, **Helme**, **Langsett** and the **Little Don Valley** and two pairs probably bred at **Bretton**.

As is usual, sightings were mainly from the southern half of the recording area. There were a limited number of garden records, all involving single birds: **Thick Hollins** in January and November/December, **Brockholes** in October, and **New Mill** in December.

With the exception of the resulting family parties, the only records in excess of two involved the following:

Bretton Park – three on 14th January and five on 5th March.

Deffer Wood – c.5 on 28th February.

Cliff Wood – three on 21st May.

Langsett Banks three on 21st May.

As in 2012 records from **Blackmoorfoot** were very sporadic. There were very occasional appearances of one or two birds (3 on 24th February) between January and mid-March. A pair then took up residence and bred in Orange Wood, fledging young by mid-May. The family party were not seen after 20th May and records thereafter amounted to no more than two birds on a maximum of six days per month between June and October.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Although widely distributed in the Club area, there was no evidence of breeding and there were no double-figure counts until September. As is usual, birds were present throughout the year in a number of gardens.

The majority of records until mid-September related to no more than four birds with the exceptions of six at **Fixby** on 16th February and six at **Almondbury** on 3rd March. Birds were present on a near daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** although there were only two July records and there were no signs of breeding. The majority of records involved one to three birds, only occasionally four, but six were present on 21st and 24th September. Up to five were regularly seen throughout

September/October and up to six were present in November, but no more than four remained throughout December.

The numbers of birds in the Club area increased from mid-September and heavy passage was noted at a few locations. This increase coincided with a widespread influx of presumably continental birds along the east coast. The largest flocks, other than the migrating individuals noted below, were at **Marsden GC** where 36 were present on 22nd September, 16 two days later and up to nine then remained until early October.

Visible migration was noted at the following sites:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – there was a total of 146 which flew over on 15 dates between 10th September and 12th October. Most birds flew in a SW or southerly direction and maxima, in September, involved 31 on 24th; 41 SW (including a flock of 36) on 27th; and 12 W on 30th. Numbers in October were much reduced but did include 14 (12 W + 2 SE) on 5th.

Harden Quarries – c.17 flew through on 21st September; c.38 (several of which flew high to the E) on 27th September; c.21 flew through on 28th September; and a single flew SW on 12th October.

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

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

Although still common and widely distributed throughout the Club area, the days of large aggregations are evidently a thing of the past.

The only double-figures counts were as follows:

Wooldale – 10 on 1st January.

Cheesegate Nab – 10 on 19th February.

Horbury – c.12 by the River Calder on 19th March.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 10 on 12th October.

Castle Hill – 18 on 31st December.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

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

There were very few breeding records, presumably due to under recording, but there were some large flocks, especially after the breeding season and the number observed on visible migration watches was noteworthy.

The largest flocks reported were as follows:

Netherthong and **Deanhouse** – up to 60 were present throughout most of the year at both localities.

Holmfirth – 80 on 1st January.

Bretton Park – 75 on 14th January, 200 on 24th January, c.90 on 30th January and 150 on 15th November.

Scout Dike Res – c.100 on 12th January.

Dewsbury SW – 85 on 27th February and c.120 on 16th August.

Margaret Wood – c.60 on 24th June.

Whitley Edge – c.70 on 8th July, c.200 on 3rd September and c.300 on 31st October.

Roughbircworth – c.300 on 31st July.

Royd Moor Res – c.250 on 12th August and c.400 on 31st August.

Castle Dam – c.100 on 29th August.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – in October, 85 on 5th, 98 on 10th and 100 on 20th and 25th.

Marsden – c.120 on 9th December.

Slaithwaite – c.80 on 9th December.

Ingbirchworth – c.100 on 23rd December.

Visible migration was noted at the following locations:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 144 flew SW on six dates between 5th October and 4th November, with a maximum of 45 on 10th October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 598 flew W on six dates between 8th and 22nd October, with maxima of 165 on 11th, 123 on 12th and 153 on 15th.

Harden Quarries – 89 (74 flew SW and 14 N) on 8th October, 47 (33 flew SE and 14 N) on 12th October and 59 flew SW on 2nd November.

Marsden – 50 flew S on 17th October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

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

Although common in rural areas, there were very few large aggregations noted and only a limited number of nest counts from known rookeries.

The only flocks in excess of 100 were as follows:

Low Common – c.160 on 21st February.

Gunthwaite – c.250 on 24th February.

Fullshaw – c.300 on 27th October.

Clayton West – c.150 on 22nd December.

The following rookeries were reported:

Clayton West – nest building was reported but no numbers were forthcoming.

Crosland Moor – three nests.

Bath Wood, Bretton Park – nine nests.

Shelley – five nests at the junction of Far Bank and Penistone Road.

Mount Road, Marsden – nine nests.

Cannon Hall CP – 12 nests near the cricket ground entrance.

Visible migration was noted at **Pule Hill, Marsden** where 23 flew SW on 10th October, six did likewise the following day and six flew W on 12th October.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

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

Records of this very adaptable species were received from numerous localities throughout the Club area, but only two localities held assemblages of more than 20 birds. There were regular sightings of up to four birds in several widely distributed gardens.

Whitley Edge – up to 50 birds were present between January and July with 110 on 16th February. Numbers then remained low until October when c.75 were present on 15th, c.70 on 22nd, and c.150 on 31st.

Dewsbury SW – held 75 on 27th February, 59 in early March and 38 on 16th August.

A total of 27 flew N at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 29th October.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

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

Recorded from 39 localities (24 in 2013) especially in the uplands in the south and west of the Club recording area. The largest proportion of sightings were during the winter months, there being very few in June and July. There were no breeding reports, although birds were seen displaying at three localities.

Most records involved no more than a couple of birds, the following being the exceptions:

Windleden Edge – three on 24th March.

Little Don Valley – eight on 30th March.

Wards End Farm – three flew high to the E on 3rd May. Between 1st September and 18th December there were 27 sightings with a maximum of six on 15th September and 1st October, five on 2nd October and six on 2nd November. The majority of these birds were seen in flight but, as they were flying in all compass directions, this was unlikely to represent true migration.

Far Owlers, Marsden – three on 6th June.

Langsett Res – four on 27th August.

Scapegoat Hill – three on 25th September.

Harden Quarries – five on 27th September and five flew SW on 2nd November.

There were seven records from **Blackmoorfoot**, three in January, two in August and singles in September and October. In January, a single was over Meltham Cop on 10th, two flew E on 18th, and two were over Meltham Cop on 21st; in August, two were over Meltham Cop on 8th and two flew NW on 18th; a single flew WNW on 5th September and one was over Meltham Cop on 3rd October.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from 39 widely distributed localities. The U.K. breeding population has declined by over 80% during the past 30 years (hence the red listing of what at one time was a common breeding species). Numbers are vastly increased in winter due to incoming migrants. The largest flocks were reported as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – a maximum of 350 fed in fields to the east of the reservoir during January; in March, 400 flew E on 3rd and 600 W on 5th; at least 250, mainly juveniles, were present from 8th – 11th June; in October 950 flew W on 28th and 600 did likewise on 31st; and 350 flew W on 1st November.

Whitley Edge – c.3500 on 27th January, 200 on 3rd September, 1200 on 2nd October and 3200 on 31st October.

Barnside, Hepworth – c.600 on 16th February and 300 the following week.

Fullshaw – c.500 on 16th February.

Ingbirchworth Area – c.1000 on 19th February.

Maythorn Slack – 300 on 24th February.

Broadstone – c.300 on 11th June (of which 95% were juveniles).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – there was a roost of up to 100 juveniles in August, 186 on 17th October but only 120 three days later.

Upper Maythorn – c.4000 on 8th November.

Ingbirchworth, Low Moor – c.4000 on 1st December

Pole Moor – 200 on 9th December.

Visible migration was reported from three sites:

Harden Quarries – in October, 35 flew SW on 11th, 2 SW and 33 NW on 12th and 156 mostly NNW on 25th; and 258 WNW and 68 NE on 2nd November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 1870 flew SW on 15 dates between late August and early November with a maximum of 891 on 31st October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – in October, 48 flew W and 13 N on 22nd, 105 W on 25th, 62 W on 26th, 53 W on 27th, 785 W and 43 NE on 28th, 405 W on 29th and 2500 W on 30th. In November there were 248 W and 68 NE on 1st, 158 N, 21 W and 19 S on 2nd, 235 W, 6 N and 2 NE on 4th and 404 W, 258 NW, 20 N and 8 S on 6th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Records came from 30 sites, the majority from gardens. The favoured locations where the largest assemblages of birds were seen in previous years have gone unreported, and the counts we have are very low. Although this may indicate a genuine decline, there were more breeding records reported this year.

The largest flock was at **South Crosland** in mid-January when 60 were noted. Other double figure counts came from gardens in **Lockwood** where up to 30 birds visited throughout the year, an **Almondbury** garden held a maximum of 20 on a few dates in July and August, and c.40 were coming to seed in a **Dalton** garden on 30th August. The only other double figure counts involved ten in **Greenhead Park** on 19th October and c.10 at **Brockholes** on 29th October.

Breeding was confirmed at 12 widely scattered locations. Three small colonies were in **Honley** at Seventy Acre Farm, Chandler Lane and Pontey Wood (where birds were using nest boxes). Adults were seen feeding juveniles at **Lindley**, **Skelmanthorpe**, **Lockwood**, **New Mill**, **Crosland Moor** and **Meltham**. Two pairs nested in boxes in a **Dalton** garden, there were three successful broods at **Fixby**, and at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** a maximum of 13 juveniles were seen in mid-July.

There were a number of records from **Blackmoorfoot**: a female was near the inflow on 20th January; a male sang from the cottages adjacent to Orange Wood from 25th – 31st March and 15th May; a male was along the south embankment on 27th May; a male was collecting food on Potato Lane and flying off towards Meltham on 23rd June and 11th July; and a male collecting food near the inflow flew off towards Helme on 6th July.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*
Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Reported from 15 localities, a slight increase on last year.

A small colony was discovered in January in the Bradshaw Road area at **Wilshaw**. In late February six nest boxes were erected, of which three were used and produced young while another pair nested nearby in the gable end of a house. After the breeding season the only record involved three on 10th November. Two nest boxes were used at Butterley Lane, **New Mill** and juveniles were noted from mid-May. Ten birds were then present at this site from early June until the year end. A pair nested in a box on a barn in **Margaret Wood** and several birds were noted in the area on 3rd December.

Elsewhere, birds were reported from the following locations:

Bretton Park – six on 30th January.

Castle Dam – two on 2nd February, 10 on 16th February, and 11 on 27th December.

Kirkheaton – a single was in Gawthorpe Lane on 18th February.

Dalton – four were in Long Lane on 22nd February.

Royd Moor Res – four on 17th March and two on 28th July.

Gate Foot Lane – a single on 2nd April.

Deffer Wood – two on both 15th April and 15th May.

Maythorn Slack – one on 3rd July.

Upper Maythorn – 15 on 19th July.

Kirkheaton – one in Thurgory Lane on 20th July.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – four on 13th October and two the following day.

Wood Nook – a single on 16th October.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Once again no large flocks were reported. Records came from 38 widely scattered sites compared with 57 last year. Is this species being under recorded or are numbers falling?

During the first winter period all counts were very low and never involved more than six individuals. Singing males were heard as early as 2nd January, but by April/May birds were singing at many localities, although confirmed breeding was only recorded at three of these.

In September the highest count came again from **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where 10 birds were observed on 20th September. The only large assemblage at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved a maximum of 30+ from 20th – 27th October. The only other large assemblages involved 20 feeding on beech mast at Blake Lea Lane, **Marsden** on 21st October, 20 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4th November, 10 at **Head Clough, Marsden** on 12th November, and 10 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 4th December.

The number of birds seen on migration appeared high in comparison to those noted above, but figures are very much reduced on previous years.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 1787 flew S or SW on 18 dates between 7th September and 9th November, with maxima of 331 on 11th October and 308 on 25th October.

Harden Quarries – 1248 flew S or SW on eight dates between 21st September and 9th November heading S or SW, with a maximum of 371 on 11th October.

Hartcliff Hill – c.30 flew S on 26th September.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 484, most of which flew W, on 20 dates between 12th October and 27th November, with a maximum of 109 on 24th October.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This winter visitor was recorded from 23 sites, a slight increase from last year. Assemblages were significantly higher, with gardens supporting a varied number of birds, especially in the first winter period.

During the first winter period birds were reported from 15 sites but most counts were of fewer than five individuals. The only exceptions involved seven in a **Linthwaite** garden on 11th January which had increased to over 40 by mid-March and where they remained until well into April, eight were at **Windy Bank Res.** on 22nd February and c.30 were present on 27th March. Most birds had departed by mid-April but two were present at **Dove Stone Res.** on 18th, two were in a **Netherthong** garden on 22nd, and a single was at **Marsden** on 25th. The last bird of the year involved a rather late individual in the same **Netherthong** garden on 7th May.

The first returning bird flew SW over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 22nd September, but it was not until mid-October that birds were encountered with any regularity. The only double figure counts were of 15 at **Thick Hollins Wood** on 2nd November, the same day that 15 dropped into Head Clough **Marsden**. This latter mentioned site attracted 57 on 6th November and 15 on 17th November. The only other double figure counts involved between 10 and 20 birds at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on six dates between 10th November and 2nd December (with single figure counts on a further five occasions), 12 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th October (where up to seven were present on 14 dates between 20th October and 10th November), and 10 at **Whitley Common** on 6th December.

By contrast the numbers at migration watch points were low:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 43 (compared to 117 last year) flew SW on five dates between 22nd September and 3rd November.

Harden Quarries – only 12 birds were reported, all flying S or SE: four 11th October, two on 25th October, five on 1st November, and one the following day.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – in November, 16 flew NW on 4th, 29 W on 5th, 15 N on 14th, and three W on 25th.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

Records were received from 23 widely distributed localities and as usual birds were regularly recorded from gardens, always in single figures. Some observers commented that there were not as many around this year, indeed, with the exception of migrating birds (see below), there were no double figure counts.

In the first winter period the only flocks in excess of five involved a garden at **Crimble Clough** which held six on 5th January, a **Lockwood** garden which held seven on 8th January and nine on 11th January, and eight were on feeders at **Healey Mills/Kerry Food NR** on 28th February.

Singing and flight displays were reported from a number of widely distributed localities but proof of breeding was only reported from **Colne Bridge SP; Wards End Farm, Marsden**, North Street and Meltham Road, **Lockwood**; Thick Hollins, **Meltham**, and Butterley Lane, **New Mill**.

Post breeding records rarely exceeded two, with the exceptions of six at **Healey Mills/Kerry Food NR** on 19th August, and six at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on both 21st and 30th September.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 142 flew S or SW on 10 dates between 22nd September and 3rd November, with a maximum of 79 on 5th October. Note the large decrease from last year's total of 394.

Harden Quarries – 199 flew S or SE on nine dates between 27th September and 9th November, with a maximum of 87 on 12th October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 20 flew W on six dates between 11th October and 4th November, with a maximum of 10 on 11th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a flock of 17 flew N on 11th October.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This attractive finch has once again been well reported but from only 45 sites, about a third down from the previous year. Males were heard singing from April and juveniles were in abundance from late summer until early autumn. Gardens with feeding stations attracted birds, in many cases throughout the year.

During the first three months of the year double figure counts came from **Crimble Clough** where c.20 were observed in a garden on 5th January. **Huddersfield Civic Centre** hosted a flock of 10 birds on several dates in January, c.20 on 4th February and c.100 on 22nd February, but this had reduced to 10 by 13th March. A flock of ten at **Taylor Hill** on 10th January had increased to 20 by 20th March. There were 11 at **Wooldale** on 10th January, 10 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th January, 11 were in a **Lindley** garden on this latter date and also on 29th January. Flocks of 10 were counted at **Clayton West** on 28th February and **Broadstone Res.** on 17th March.

Birds were widely scattered during the breeding and confirmed breeding was proved at a good number of locations. Interestingly, 12 birds were noted leaving an area of gorse at **Hall Ing Lane LNR, Thurstonland** some of which were singing males. Low numbers of juveniles were seen at the following sites from late May: **Langsett Banks**; Nettleton Hill, **Longwood**; North Street, **Lockwood**; **Ingbirchworth**; Holly Bank Road, **Lindley**; **Royd Moor**; Butterley Lane, **New Mill**; and Thick Hollins, **Meltham**. At **Wards End Farm, Marsden** juveniles were first seen in late June and there were notable counts of 18 on 18th July, 23 on 18th August and 31 on 20th August. The only other double figure count came from **Horbury** where 12 were present on 30th July.

Post breeding flocks were noted in August and September. Flocks of between 20 and 80 were present for varying lengths of time at **Ingbirchworth**; **Broadstone**; **Wards End Farm, Marsden**; **Royd Moor**; **Hartcliff Hill**; **Dewsbury SF**; **Blackmoorfoot**; and **Winscar Res.** The only flock later in the year involved 14 in an **Almondbury** garden on 2nd November.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 241 flew SW on 13 dates between 22nd September and 25th October, with a maximum of 50 on 27th September.

Harden Quarries – 415 flew S or SE on nine dates between 22nd September and 9th November, with a maximum of 40 on 27th September.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Spinus spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

Birds were reported from 30 sites and followed the similar trend of previous years, being seen in most months, with the highest counts during the winter periods. The large flocks seen in gardens in previous years, however, did not materialise and on the whole numbers were much reduced.

Although nine gardens attracted birds, numbers were very low with the exceptions of a **Cowcliffe** garden which had a flock of 15 on 2nd January and a garden in **Meltham** which hosted up to eight between January and May.

Flocks during the first winter period were greatly reduced on previous years and only amounted to a maximum of 10 in Thorpe Lane, **Almondbury** between 1st January and 24th April, 30 at **Bretton Park** on 5th January with 20 there on 30th January, 11 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th February, and eight at **Gunthwaite** on 3rd March.

Two birds were recorded at the following sites during the breeding season, but there was no proof of breeding: **Dove Stone Res.**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, and the **Langsett** area (where it was noted that birds were in probable breeding habitat). Up to three juveniles visited a garden bird table at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** between July and September, but the origin of these birds remains a mystery.

Noteworthy assemblages in the latter part of the year came from **Riding Wood Res.** where 12 were recorded on 30th September, **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where a maximum of 17 were present on 11th October and **Bretton Park** which held a feeding flock of 20 on 15th November.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 32 flew SW on four dates between 22nd September and 25th October, with a maximum of 10 on 11th October (these numbers are well down on last year's figures and reflect the situation with other finch species).

Harden Quarries – 135 flew S or SE on eight dates between 21st September and 9th November, with a maximum of 36 on 28th September.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Linaria cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Birds were reported from 27 rural sites a decrease of about 15% on last year, with concentrations being seen mainly in late summer and autumn.

In the first winter period two sites held significant numbers, c.30 were in a field on Botany Lane, **Lepton** on 2nd January and 19 were present at **Oldfield** on 24th February. The first record from

Blackmoorfoot concerned a single on 12th March with four records of up to five birds by 14th April. Birds began to return in earnest from 4th April when 15 were noted at **Oldfield**, 20 at **Honley Moor** on 11th April, 15 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 11th April, and 10 at **Broadstone Res.** on 24th April. The feeding station at **Deer Hill** attracted 20+ birds in April, and regularly outnumbered the Twite.

During the breeding season singing males were heard at **Hall Ing Lane LNR**, **Cheesegate Nab** (where birds subsequently bred on the heather and bracken slopes), **Broadstone Res.**, **Margaret Wood**, and four pairs bred in the re-grown gorse at Edge Moor, **Blackmoorfoot**. The largest assemblage at this time concerned a flock of 12 at **Oldfield** on 9th May and eight at **Broadstone Res.** on 21st May, but there was a flock of 30+ at **Deer Hill** on 23rd June, most of which were juveniles.

The largest gatherings were in late summer and autumn. A flock of 14 were by the canal at **Horbury** on 30th July but no more flocks were reported until 27th August when 30 were present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** At **Blackmoorfoot** autumn numbers began to build from early August, when 20+ were present on 3rd and 13th. In September up to 50+ were seen with a maximum of 90 on 16th and 60 the following day. The last record of the year involved a flock of 40+ on 1st October. The only other large assemblages in September involved 30 at Lucy Lane, **Lepton** on 8th, 30 at **Brow Grains** on 9th and 80 at **Crosland Heath Airfield** on 10th. By October flocks had started to disperse, but there was a gathering of 63 at **Oldfield** on 1st, c.50 at Lucy Lane, **Lepton** on 5th and 32 at **Dewsbury Sewage Works** on 7th. The only record latter in the year concerned four at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 25th November.

At **Harden Quarries** a total of 266 flew S or SE on six dates between 27th September and 2nd November, with a maximum of 168 on 27th September.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This moorland finch, although still very low in number has increased significantly at our three feeding stations which remain a stronghold and provide the majority of records in the Club area. There was only a single record of confirmed breeding, however.

At **Deer Hill** two birds arrived on 9th March and had increased to six the following week. Numbers then built slowly and 30 were present by 6th April, the maximum count being 34 on 18th April. Thereafter numbers fluctuated between 20 and 30 until the end of the month, but numbers fell during May when birds moved away to breed, although breeding was strongly suspected near **Deer Hill** firing range (DMP *et al.*).

Wards End Farm, Marsden had between two and six birds from 30th April to 13th June and adults were feeding juveniles by late June. In early July birds were observed daily in single figures and it was noted that juveniles were still being fed. Numbers built up to 47 by 13th July and then fluctuated between 15 and 35 during the rest of the month. In August between four and 13 were noted on eight dates, and numbers then built slowly until about 40+ were regularly observed coming to the feeding station and wires. In September numbers built from 89 on 4th to 106 on 16th, after which between 60 and 80 were seen regularly until well into October. Thereafter there was a slow decrease in numbers and by 20th November, the last record of the year, just eight were seen on the house roof (DWS).

The feeding station at **Booth Dam Quarry** regularly held 100+ birds in early October, and up to 20 then remained to the year end.

Records away from these areas were scarce, but included the following:

Scammonden – two on 28th April.

Colne Bridge SP – a single on 30th April was unusual.

Marsden Moor Estate – seven presumed pairs were found on a survey in May (2 pairs at Buckstones and single pairs at Cupwith Moor, Slaithwaite Moor, Haigh Clough, Eastergate and Redbrook Clough).

Butterley Res – seven on 6th May.

Pule Hill, Marsden – between one and 14 were noted on 13 dates from 31st May to 28th September.

Wessenden Head Res – a female with four recently fledged young on 22nd June, 13 on 1st July, two on 4th August and 40 on 14th September were feeding on thistles and taking grit.

Holme Moss – 10 on 4th November.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Records came from 20 locations, which is about average, but a drastic decrease from the 37 sites last year, however. In addition, the number of birds seen was also drastically down. Interestingly, these finches were only reported from three gardens compared with 12 gardens last year.

From early January through to 7th May a garden at **Thick Hollins** held up to three birds on a regular basis. A garden in **Fixby** had nine birds on 15th January and six on 12th April and a single visited a garden in North Street, **Lockwood** on 14th April. These were the only garden records, as there were none during the second winter period.

Seven rural sites held up to three birds from January until the end of May, there being frequent sightings from **Bretton Park**, **Cannon Hall CP**, **Almondbury**, **Elland GP**, **Bin Green**, **Yeoman Hey** and the **Marsden** area. The highest assemblage was of five at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th April and birds which were present at **Carlecotes Ponds** in mid-May were said to be a healthy breeding population.

The only juveniles reported were at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** where three occurred on 7th July, four on 25th July, eight on 26th July, four on 28th July, two on 1st August and six on 8th August, with a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd September.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, there were one or two birds on 20 days between 17th March and 1st August. The only records thereafter concerned singles on 3rd and 23rd September.

There was no build-up of post breeding flocks and birds were only present in very low figures. With the exception migrating birds (see below) the only other records involved a single at **Hartcliff Hill** on 16th October, six at **Wards Hill Farm, Marsden** on 25th October with four there on 20th November, a small flock heard at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 4th November and at least eight in **Beaumont Park** on 12th December.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Harden Quarries – 33 flew S or SE on seven dates between 28th September and 2nd November, with a maximum of eight on 2nd November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 23 flew SW on seven dates between 11th October and 4th November, with a maximum of five on 4th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 22 flew W on 24th October, seven flew W on 28th October and a single did likewise on 1st November.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

A poor year for this specialist feeder, with records coming from only nine sites, mainly in the Langsett and Yateholme areas.

Langsett Banks – c.20 on 17th January (MCW).

Yateholme – 10 on 16th February (MC).

Riding Wood Res – after 11 on 22nd February there were regular sightings throughout March and a male was observed courtship feeding a female on 22nd March (DMP).

Langsett Cliff Wood – two birds rested here briefly on 22nd February (MCW).

Blackmoorfoot Res – five flew W at 10.35hrs. on 21st March (MLD, CH *et al.*).

Binn Green – four were seen from the car park on 5th April (DMP *et al.*) and three were present on 18th April (MC).

Skelmanthorpe – a male was seen at rest in a conifer at Ponker Hill on 15th April (DBu).

Harden Quarries – 33 flew SE in two flocks on 27th September (MC, DHP).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single in the observer's garden on 12th October (DWS).

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*

Rare visitor.

A male was present in the **Dove Stone** area (mainly at Binn Green) between 30th March and 18th April. Although seen by a good number of Club members, it was originally found by J. Parker and last reported by J. Spalding (both non-members).

Photographs of the bird, which was an addition to the Huddersfield List, were posted on the Club website by DHP.

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

This colourful finch was recorded throughout the year from 40 widely spread sites which, unusually, included only nine gardens. Most records were in low single figures with only the following sites holding more than four birds.

At **Bretton Park** six birds were present on 24th January and five on 22nd November, 12 were in a **Linthwaite** garden on 25th January, five were seen at **Elland GP** on 13th April, six at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th March, and seven at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th December. At **Harden Quarries** an impressive total of 15 were present on 9th November, 12 of which kept setting off south but chickened out and came back.

Breeding was confirmed at **Blackmoorfoot** (2 pairs), **Longwood, Netherthong, Colne Bridge SP** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden**. A singing male was heard at **Langsett Banks** on 24th May and breeding was presumed to have taken place at **Cowcliffe**.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Harden Quarries – two flew S on 27th September, six ESE on 12th October, four S on both 25th October and 1st November, seven S or SE on 2nd November, and eight S on 9th November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two U-turned from the NE on 7th September, two flew SW on both 1st and 11th October, and four U-turned on 9th November.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare to scarce visitor. Former breeder.

At **Thurstonland Bank** on 31st May, a single was observed in flight and then at the top of a ‘weeping’ beech tree, where it showed well for around 15 seconds before flying out of view (DHP). This constitutes the first record of this charismatic finch since 2010.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

A single flew S over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 31st October (JMP, DS).

A single was heard calling as it flew SW over the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 4th November and what may have been a second individual was photographed in the quarry shortly afterwards (DHP). It, or another, was photographed in the same place by the same observer on 9th November but, despite two sets of good photographs, it was inconclusive as to whether or not it was the same bird.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Observations were received from 23 sites but the downturn in numbers is very disturbing with only one to five birds being seen in most places. The only exceptions were of 10 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 28th July and 12 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 16th October.

The only breeding confirmation came from **Thurgory Lane** where an adult was observed carrying food/faecal sac on 2nd June. As the distribution of this species is now very restricted in the Club area it is worth publishing all localities which held singing males, although it must be remembered that no further breeding evidence was acquired from any of these sites: **Ingbirchworth Res., Scout Dike, Royd Moor, Broadstone Res., Hall Ing Lane LNR, Horbury Strands/Wyke, Healey Mills/Kerry’s NR, Horbury** (along the canal and river), **Clayton West, Farnley Tyas, Thurstonland Bank, and Hullock Bank.**

At **Harden Quarries** a single flew S on 27th September (it is thought that this constitutes only the second record for the site).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Records came from 28 rural sites this year – the number of locations this bird has been recorded from has decreased year by year – from 42 in 2012 and 40 in 2013. The milder winters may have had something to do with this, as birds tend not to frequent gardens in more moderate weather.

During the winter period 13 sites held up to three birds, and the highest count was of six at **Dewsbury SW** from 13th March until the month end. Early singing males were noted on 9th March at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and **Healey Mills/Kerry's Food NR**, and another at **Ossett Spa SW** on 26th March.

As usual there was a return to breeding territories in April, with c.20 singing males in the **Marsden** area. Singing males were also heard at **Healey Mills/Kerry's Food NR**, **Black Moss Res.**, **Horbury** (along the River Calder), **Royd Moor Res.**, **Ladywood Lakes** and **Broadstone Res.** Other birds on territory were a pair at **Harden**, two pairs at **Winscar**, and two pairs at **Ingbirchworth Res. Colne Bridge SP** had two nesting pairs, both of which raised young. Juveniles were observed on many dates throughout the month of July at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** but the origin of these remains unknown.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a male, first recorded on 2nd March, had attracted a female by mid-month. The pair then went on to fledge two broods. A second male, which never attracted a female, was occasionally seen between April and June. All birds had departed the area by 7th August and the only records thereafter involved one or two birds on 4th and 30th September and 17th/18th October.

Birds were still widely distributed after the breeding season but, as in the first half of the year, numbers rarely exceeded five, the only exceptions being seven at **Royd Moor Res.** on 9th July with c.15 there on 28th July; seven at **Dewsbury SW** on 3rd and 28th October and eight on 26th December; 20 at **Harden** on 12th October and nine at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 3rd December with 12 the following day, and six in the **White Hull** area on 16th December.

Visible migration was witnessed at three sites:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 51 flew SW on 13 dates between 21st September and 9th November, with a maximum of 10 on 10th October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 35 flew W on seven dates between 8th October and 3rd November, with a maximum of 14 on 24th October.

Harden Quarries – in October 14 flew SW on 11th and six the following day, and a single did likewise on 2nd November.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Introduced.

The only record concerned a male at the species' stronghold at **Hagg Wood** on 2nd May (per. HQ).

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Introduced.

There were records from three localities, but how many birds were involved is open to conjecture. A single was at **Netherton** on 30th September (MJS), the same date that two were photographed in a **Fixby** garden (JD identified by MLD). What may have been the same two flew NW over a **Fixby** garden on 20th October (DT) and two flew over the Fire Station at Spring Wood on 24th October (SWJ).

ADDITION TO THE 2013 REPORT

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

The following interesting breeding record was omitted from the 2013 report.

A total of 12 birds were noted on wires at the back of the Casino at **Folly Hall** in front of Highfield Gears on 6th July. Birds then remained unnoticed until August when a single was seen entering a broken pipe protruding from the car repair shop at the back of the Casino. This pipe was about 10 centimetres in diameter and about 3 meters from ground level. By mid-August it was obvious that a pair were feeding young in the pipe and towards the end of the month, at least two young were seen at the entrance to the pipe being fed by their parents. At least two young were still being fed at the pipe entrance on 5th September and they almost certainly fledged within the next couple of days (DMP).

Not only was the actual nest site somewhat unusual, but the area was subject to much disturbance from near-by industry and, at times, heavy vehicles.

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2014		EVER		2014	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	11/4	Site A	29/9	1969	20/8	Wessenden
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	10/4	Elland GP	21/11	1959	23/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	31/3	2010	26/4	Blackmoorfoot	16/10	2001	16/8	Langsett
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	21/4	Harden & Royd Edge Clough	27/10	1977	28/9	Harden
Swift	13/4	2013	25/4	Blackmoorfoot	8/11	2001	2/9	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	21/3	Blackmoorfoot	23/10	1971	30/9	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	10/3	1959	2/4	Dewsbury SW	5/12	1995	12/10	Harden
House Martin	20/3	2005	11/4	Penistone	27/11	1959	15/10	Meltham
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	4/5	Carlecotes	5/10	2000	13/9	Healey Mills
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	10/4	Deer Hill	24/10	1952	5/10	Marsden
Redstart	21/3	1942	11/4	Langsett	24/10	1976	20/9	Helme
Whinchat	11/4	1949	18/4	Whitley Common	9/11	1999	28/9	Harden
Wheatear	1/3	1997	19/3	Blackmoorfoot	4/12	1997	19/10	Meltham
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	30/3	Little Don Valley	25/12	1855	19/11	Marsden
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	22/4	Scammonden Water	29/8	2000	12/7	Marsden
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	20/4	Dewsbury SW	26/9	1999	10/9	Dewsbury SW
Reed Warbler	20/4	2011	6/5	Colne Bridge SP	29/9	2001	12/9	Dewsbury SW
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	1/5	Ladywood Lakes	24/11	1984	30/7	Longwood
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	23/4	Colne Bridge SP	27/9	1973	15/9	Hepworth
Whitethroat	1/4	2011	11/4	Langsett	12/10	1999	11/9	Blackmoorfoot
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	24/5	Langsett	4/9	1956	9/6	Langsett
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	5/4	Ingbirchworth	27/10	1987	30/9	Marsden
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	23/4	Little Don Valley	16/10	1985	26/9	Langsett
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	12/4	Langsett	19/9	1969	31/8	Blackmoorfoot

 Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

Note: Blackcap and Chiffchaff dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2014		EVER		2014	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	24/3	Cooper Bridge SP	28/9	2011	11/10	Ringstone Edge Res
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	31/3	Hepworth	11/9	2007	21/9	Marsden
Redwing	7/5	1975	1/4	Blackmoorfoot	27/8	1941	11/10	Hartcliff Hill
Brambling	13/5	1976	7/5	Netherthong	13/9	1983	22/9	Marsden



Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: in view of the fact that Fieldfare previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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(with apologies for any omissions)

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(HBC)

NATURE RED IN BEAK AND CLAW

On 4th February 2014, I was birdwatching in the Tunnel End/Hey Green area of Marsden. As I usually do, I stopped at the western end of the row of cottages at Lower Hey Green to scan the length of stream running behind them, where I have often seen Dippers. I had just turned away when I heard a very distressed Great Spotted Woodpecker approaching, followed by the loud ‘plop’ of something dropping into the stream. I looked back over the wall, to see an adult male Sparrowhawk in the shallow water against the opposite bank about 10 metres away, standing on top of the still protesting woodpecker. The Sparrowhawk ‘mantled’ over its victim and looked around as if thinking “what do I do now?”. After about 30 seconds, the bird flew a short distance with its prey and landed in deeper water. Its belly, primaries and most of its tail were now in the water, and the unfortunate woodpecker was fully immersed. The Sparrowhawk remained in this position for perhaps 90 seconds, presumably until the woodpecker had stopped struggling and drowned. It then returned to the edge of the stream for a few seconds before flying off upstream and out of sight, carrying its prey.

There were a couple of surprising things here. Firstly, the drowning seemed to be a very calculated act, as though the Sparrowhawk knew exactly what it was doing. Secondly, I was impressed that the hawk could fly off carrying such a large prey item, albeit with some effort. *The Handbook of the Birds of the Western Palearctic* gives the average weight of male Sparrowhawk as 144 gm, and of Great Spotted Woodpecker as about 97 gm, which means the Sparrowhawk could fly while carrying about two-thirds of its own body weight.

I could find no reference to this behaviour in any of the books available to me, including Ian Newton’s *The Sparrowhawk*, but Roger Riddington, editor of *British Birds* magazine, kindly informed me that they have published notes on Sparrowhawks drowning Lapwing, corvids, Starling and Corn Bunting. It would appear that I witnessed a rarely observed but normal part of the species’ behaviour.

I didn’t see any Dippers that morning.

Mike Pinder

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all Club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the Club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the Club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the Club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from Mike Denton. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the Club area. It is by leaving

these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014

The following is a list of the 272 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2014. Thirteen additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s).

The above includes three species new to the list in 2014:

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* – one at Ingbirchworth on 8th May.

Purple Heron *Area purpurea* – one at Dewsbury Sewage Works on 28th May

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* – one at Binn Green, Dovestones from 30th March to 18th April.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBTC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 135).

Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	YNU
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>	YNU
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	YNU
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhyncus</i>	
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	HBC
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>	HBC
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	HBC
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	HBC
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicula</i>	HBC
	Pale-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	HBC
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	YNU
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	HBC
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	HBC
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	YNU
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	YNU
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
26	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	
27	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	BBRC
28	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	
29	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	HBC
30	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
31	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	HBC
32	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
33	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	
34	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
35	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
36	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
37	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	
38	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	
39	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	
40	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	
41	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
42	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	
43	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	HBC
44	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	HBC
45	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	HBC
46	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
47	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
48	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	HBC
49	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	HBC
50	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	HBC
51	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	HBC
52	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	HBC
53	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	HBC
54	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	HBC
55	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	HBC
56	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
57	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	HBC
58	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	HBC
59	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	YNU
60	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
61	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	YNU
62	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
63	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	YNU
64	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	HBC
65	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	HBC
66	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	HBC
67	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	HBC
68	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	YNU
69	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	
70	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	YNU
71	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	HBC
72	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	HBC
73	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	YNU
74	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	HBC
75	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
76	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
77	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	YNU
78	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	YNU
79	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	HBC
80	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
81	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	YNU
82	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
83	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
84	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
85	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
86	Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	HBC
87	Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
88	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	HBC
89	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
90	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
91	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	HBC
92	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
93	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	HBC
94	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedecnemus</i>	HBC
95	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
96	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
97	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	HBC
98	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	
99	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
100	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
101	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
102	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
103	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	HBC
104	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	HBC
105	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	YNU
106	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	YNU
107	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	HBC
108	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	HBC
109	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
110	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	YNU
111	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
112	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	
113	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
114	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
115	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	
116	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
117	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
118	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
119	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
120	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	YNU
121	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
122	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
123	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
124	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
125	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
126	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	HBC
127	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
128	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
129	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	YNU
130	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	YNU
131	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	HBC
132	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	HBC
133	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	HBC
134	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	HBC
135	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	HBC
136	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	HBC
137	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
138	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	
139	Little Gull	<i>Hyrdocoloeus minutus</i>	
140	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	HBC
141	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
142	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	YNU
143	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	HBC
144	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>	
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>	HBC
145	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	HBC
146	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	YNU
147	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	YNU
148	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	HBC
149	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	
150	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	HBC
151	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
152	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	YNU
153	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	HBC
154	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
155	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	HBC
156	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	HBC
157	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	HBC
158	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	HBC
159	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	HBC
160	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
161	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)	
162	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
163	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
164	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
165	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	
166	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
167	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	HBC
168	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
169	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	
170	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	
171	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
172	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	
173	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
174	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	YNU
175	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
176	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
177	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	HBC
178	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	HBC
179	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
180	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
181	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	
182	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	HBC
183	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
184	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	HBC
185	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
186	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
187	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
188	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	YNU
189	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
190	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	
191	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	HBC
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>	HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>	HBC
192	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	HBC
193	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	HBC
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	HBC
194	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
195	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	HBC
196	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
197	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	
198	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	
199	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
200	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
201	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	HBC
202	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	HBC
203	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
204	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
205	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
206	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	HBC
207	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	
208	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
209	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	
210	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
211	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
212	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
213	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
214	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
215	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
216	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
217	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
218	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
219	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
220	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	HBC
221	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	HBC
222	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	HBC
223	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	HBC
224	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
225	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
226	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	HBC
227	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
228	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	
229	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
230	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
231	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	
232	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	
233	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	
234	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	HBC
235	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
236	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
237	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	HBC
238	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	HBC
239	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	HBC
240	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
241	Maggpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
242	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
243	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
244	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
245	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
246	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
247	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
248	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	HBC
249	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
250	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
251	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
252	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
253	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	
254	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
255	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	
256	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
257	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	
258	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	HBC
259	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	
260	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
261	Two-barred Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
262	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	BBRC
263	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2014			
No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
264	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
265	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	HBC
266	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	HBC
267	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
268	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	YNU
269	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	YNU
270	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	
271	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
272	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	

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NOTES

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The bird recording area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Works.

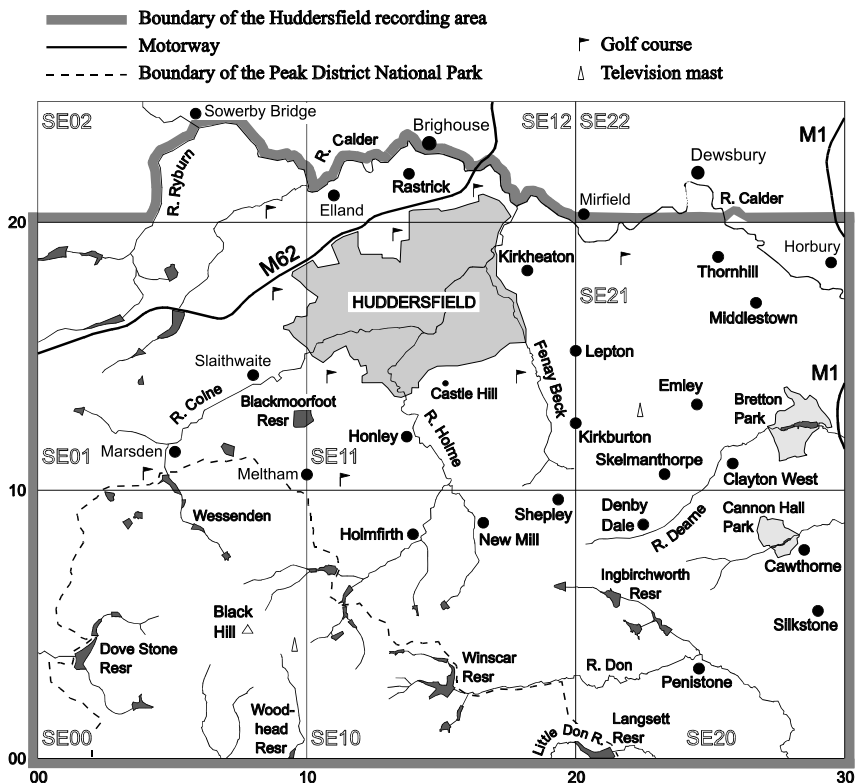


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



**One of three species new to Huddersfield in 2014,
this adult male Lesser Scaup was at
Ingbirchworth on 8th May.**



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