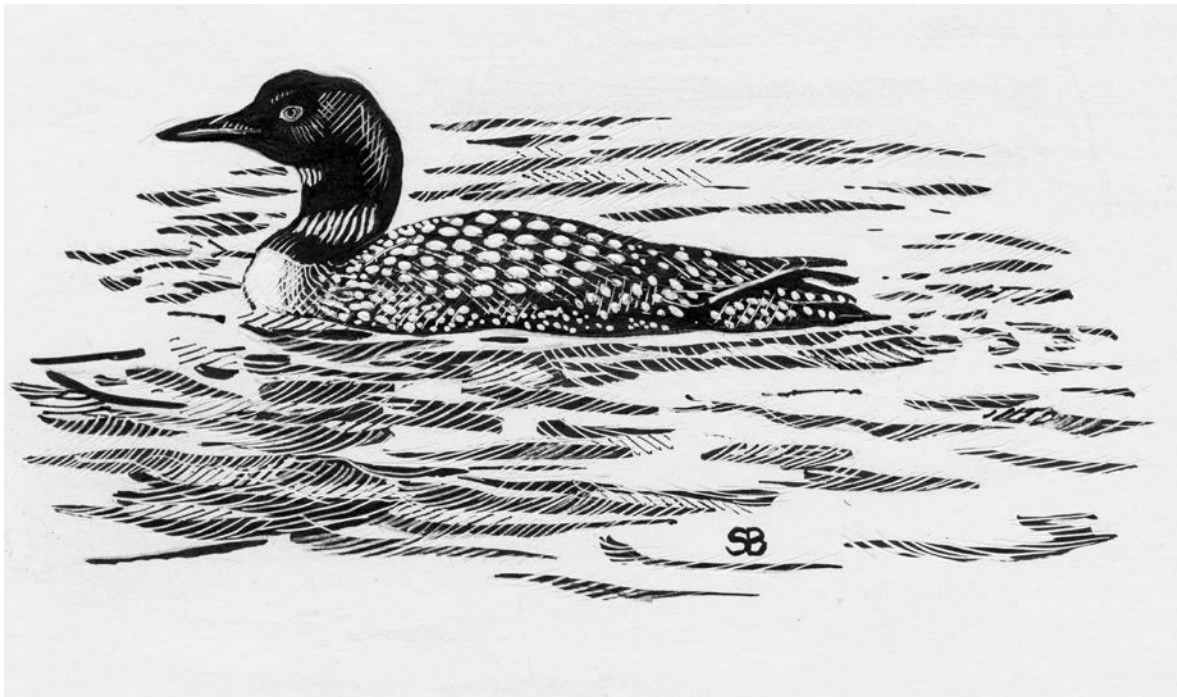




Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 2002



‘Birds in Huddersfield 2002’ is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers’ Club and the latest in a series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club is a registered charity (no 1098296).

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Front cover: Great Northern Diver by Stuart Brocklehurst.

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Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2002

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compiled by Brian Armitage

ILLUSTRATIONS by Stuart Brocklehurst

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ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 36 years, an invaluable source for showing the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking this kind of ornithological research and *Birds in Huddersfield 2002* is the latest in an unbroken series of such reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off work, including in 2001 an Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area.

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

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

We run a lecture and meeting programme 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 footage.

Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:

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

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust, English Nature, Peak District National Park and Kirklees Metropolitan Council. We also advise Kirklees Council on bird life issues through our representation on two of its conservation committees.

All our research is undertaken by un-paid volunteers and the Club relies entirely upon the generosity of its members and upon voluntary donations to continue its work.

Members of the public are welcome to all of our meetings, 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 twitcher or beginner, why not come along and try us ?

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see inside rear cover) for more information.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Rayner

It gives me much pleasure to write this President's Report in "Birds in Huddersfield 2002". This Annual Report, compiled by Brian Armitage, who generously gives much time and expertise to the undertaking, makes fascinating reading and shows how the club contributes to research data on birds in our area. We have a right to be proud of this work.

Nationally, bird surveys are the basis for pleasure and concern. We are pleased when we hear that some species have been threatened but are now slowly on the increase. Corncrakes, red kites, bitterns, and circl buntings (in Devon) are well-known instances of success stories, but only because these species' revival has been brought about either by action to provide habitat which had been declining or to restock. It is habitat change that is often the cause of concern. Agricultural policies adopted by the EU, based on the false premise that we are liable to war-time-like food shortages, have been responsible for the widespread cultivation of winter wheat and the consequent decline in stubble. I have seen fields being ploughed even in early August ready for planting, leaving no hope for those birds that rely on stubble to be a source of food throughout the lean months. There has been some recognition of the overproduction that subsidies can bring with the encouragement of set-aside and this must be welcome to birdwatchers. However we now hear that the amount of set-aside is likely to be reduced.

Another CAP initiative, which has favoured some birds even if it produces garish fields, has been the cultivation of oilseed rape. It will have surprised many people, including me, to learn that this crop favours linnetts, turtle doves and reed buntings. But even this good news is tempered by the possibility that GM oilseed rape will replace the non-GM. The modifications to plants, as in this case, will make them resistant to stronger herbicides, which can then be used and thus reduce the quantity of weed seeds.

There are reasons, then, to be pleased and to worry. Research and action can give grounds for optimism. Some farmers are taking part in schemes to provide a friendlier environment and bird organisations are able to lobby governments, give advice and experiment with habitat. We members cannot individually save the bittern but we can do our bit for birds in our gardens by providing food and water, planting the right plants and not cutting back seed-bearing plants as soon as they die.

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club continues to thrive. Its programme of indoor meetings has an excellent mix of lectures. Some focus on a region of the world, including our own country and locality, some on a specific bird, and others on aspects of birdwatching, like birdsong and migration. We have set up a number of local patch outings. We were recently commissioned to undertake a survey on Marsden Moor, looking mainly at twite, but also at ring ouzel, whinchat, stonechat, reed bunting and common sandpiper. We are represented on local bodies. We have provided the Club with a more favourable financial habitat by becoming a registered charity.

Such buoyancy does not come without effort. We are served by a devoted committee which deserves the gratitude of the Club. It isn't always apparent how much work is involved in keeping the show on the road, so let me assure you that considerable time and energy have been given to just that. No club can exist, let alone flourish, without the loyal support of its members. We are fortunate that we have the loyal support and enthusiasm of our members, who range from those with a developing interest to the expert. My thanks to them all.

SOME FEATURES OF THE BIRDING YEAR

After the limitations imposed last year owing to the outbreak of F&M Disease it was anticipated that 2002 would see a surge in records. This did not happen however, fewer records were received than in 2001 and the numbers of some species, which were considered to have been depressed by denial of access to certain sites were in fact further reduced this year. The number of species was also down, from 176 in 2001 to 169.

Nevertheless, two species were added to the area's avifauna, Little Egret and Green-winged Teal, the latter seen by just one observer, the former by perhaps as many as twenty. A full account of the discovery of the egret appears at the end of the report on page 88. A further claim, of American Wigeon, is still under consideration by the YNU Rarities Committee but a submission of a fourth potential new species, Richard's Pipit, was rejected by the authorities. In contrast to the additions, Smew, Red-breasted Merganser and Waxwing were conspicuous by their absence.

A significant event was the emptying of Winscar Res, producing a spectacular sight, which at times of bad weather created a daunting vista, in order to locate and plug a leak in the dam. Numbers of breeding Common Sandpipers, in particular, suffered.

The year began well with all three white-winged gull species appearing at Blackmoorfoot, a heavy passage of Pinkfeet in January and both Whooper and Bewick's Swans put in brief appearances during the month, but rumours of a Bittern at Bretton Lakes could not be confirmed.

In March, a Green-winged Teal spent part of a day at Ravensthorpe GPs and Common Cranes, part of a large national influx, were seen at four sites, but only two birds may have been involved. There were early reports of Little Ringed Plover, Sand Martin, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler, but a spell of cold northerly weather put a brake on migration until mid to late April, although the earliest ever Whitethroat managed to get through on 5th April. The highlight of the month was a superb summer-plumaged Great Northern Diver on 23rd.

May began well with a trip of three Dotterel near Blackmoorfoot on 2nd, but their four-hour stay was not long enough for many people to get to grips with them. A Goldeneye lingered to 10th and a Nightjar was flushed from the back of the Recorder's garden on 30th. Another (or the same) took up brief residency in the area of clearfell at Holme Styes in the first week of June.

The breeding season produced conflicting results; over 400 pairs of Lapwings were discovered in a survey of the parts of the Peak District that are within our area. Long-eared Owl, Stonechat and Twite all did well, Oystercatcher and Little Ringed Plover bred again, Willow Tit bred at two sites at least and Reed Warbler at a new site. A pair of Yellow Wagtails raised young at Dewsbury SF, Ravens were successful and Buzzard sightings continued to increase giving rise to optimism for the first breeding in the area in the not too distant future. In contrast, however, Tree Sparrows continued to decline and several summer visitors were down in numbers.

Amongst the raptors, two Marsh and five Hen Harriers, eight Ospreys and three Hobbies showed themselves, but wader passage was generally poor, although Knot, Sanderling, Black-tailed Godwit and Spotted Redshank put in brief appearances and a Garganey stayed

all too briefly in late August. A Marbled Duck bearing a red plastic ring at Horbury Wyke from 31st July to 3rd August failed to set pulses racing.

A Black Redstart made its home for almost a month in a quarry above Holmfirth from late September, but could prove frustratingly elusive and at least two Firecrests were discovered late in the year, one in November adjacent to Longley Park Golf Club, the other on Christmas Day in Birkby. The same observer found both and was thus amply rewarded for his persistence.

In December large numbers of Bramblings arrived and there were four flocks of over a hundred birds, including one of more than 500 in Storthes Hall Woods. Also in December large numbers of Crossbills were present in the Yateholme area. The year closed with a report of a Caspian Gull in the roost at Langsett Res, another first record for the area if accepted.

My thanks go, once again, to all those who submitted records, especially those who provided comprehensive notes from their local patch observations. Blackmoorfoot logsheets were completed for 355 days during the year and a big thankyou is due to Mike Denton for providing monthly summaries of sightings there.

Co-operation with representatives of Halifax Birdwatchers' Club and Greater Manchester Ornithological Society was much appreciated, but unfortunately failure to liaise with Barnsley Bird Study Group created a huge gap in records from our area of overlap, particularly for sites in the Langsett area, which is our main stronghold for some species. Hopefully the situation will be remedied in future years.

Stuart Brocklehurst is again to be congratulated on the quality of the illustrations that provide much needed relief in what would otherwise be a much less interesting publication.

A special vote of thanks goes to Mike Wainman who has provided a great deal of help throughout the report writing and production processes and has made the Recorder's job so much simpler with his contribution particularly in the word processing field.

Brian Armitage
(Recorder)

THE WEATHER IN 2002

A cold spell in the first week of January produced frozen waters with 80% of Blackmoorfoot Res. iced over on 2nd before becoming ice free on 6th; the rest of the month was mild but windy. February was very mild, but in the first half of the month heavy rain and strong winds created some localized flooding. In the second half of the month, days were clear and sunny and nights frosty, while strong westerly gales arrived on 25th. The first half of March was cold with light snow, but milder conditions prevailed in the second half with southerly winds and resulted in some early arrivals of summer visitors.

April began with easterly and southerly winds until a cold northerly airstream set in which lasted to 17th, creating an effective barrier to spring migration. Winds then returned to southerly and westerly, allowing spring passage to recommence. The month was notably dry. Cold northerly winds returned in mid May, followed by light south to easterlies with a few days of rain. June was generally warm with occasional stormy weather and ending in unsettled conditions.

Light westerlies dominated July, which was generally dry and sunny until the month end, when three inches of rain fell overnight causing some flash flooding. This continued into early August. Variable light east to northeast winds gave way to westerlies and a strong northwesterly towards the end of the month. Westerlies prevailed in early September before high pressure over Scandinavia created easterlies and a few days of rain, after which drier conditions arrived.

October began warm with light westerlies, which later gave way to easterlies, before strong westerlies returned accompanied by frost. Wet and windy conditions dominated November and through most of December with a spell of frost on 18th/19th causing local waters to be partially frozen over.

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.

The list mostly follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Prof. K. H. Voous (1977. List of Holartic Bird Species), although, in the light of recent findings, some previously considered races have been given specific status.

The status of each species has been indicated by one of the following classifications:

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

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

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

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

Precise locations for records of Schedule I 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.

A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1993 appeared in the Annual Report for that year, compiled by the then Recorder, Stephen Hey.

Abbreviations: the following have been used in order to keep the text as short as possible:

c.	-approximately	N	-North
F	-female	S	-South
M	-male	E	-East
ad.	-adult	W	-West
imm.	-immature	CP	-Country Park
Juv.	-juvenile	F&M	-Foot & Mouth
1 st W.	-first winter	GP	-Gravel Pit
1 st S.	-first summer	NR	-Nature Reserve
2 nd W.	-second winter	SF	-Sewage Farm
2 nd S.	-second summer	SP	-Sludge Plant
3 rd W.	-third winter	Res.	-Reservoir
max.	-maximum/maxima	r.h.	-redhead
min.	-minimum	v.m.w.	-visible migration watch/ing

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2002

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor

A superb adult in full summer plumage was at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 23rd April (MLD et al), the first record for that month, the great majority of previous records occurring between November and February. The 8th record for the site and the 16th for the club area. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Partial migrant breeder (1)

Birds were reported from 16 sites, but breeding occurred at only three of them; there were more winter records than usual.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a continuous presence of up to two individuals from 1st January to 21st April, then on three dates in May, two in June, four imms. for most of September, up to three in October to 19th and a single in November on 4th.

Ingbirchworth Res – one or two regularly from January to March, increasing to four in April, five in May and seven in June. At least one pair bred, two large young being fed on the early date of 12th May and a juv. still present with an adult on 6th July. Post-breeding max. was nine on 24th October.

Elland GPs – eight present on 1st January and three pairs on 3rd May, of which two pairs bred raising one young each. Five still present on 4th October.

Meal Hill Lakes, Jackson Bridge – a pair present all year and bred successfully.

Horbury Wyke – present on the R.Calder in the early months, with two ads and two juvs on 8th September which may have been bred locally, and two on 10th November.

Dewsbury SF – on the R.Calder one on 16th January, then a max of two regularly from 4th September to the year end.

Tunnel End Res – one or two all year but no breeding took place.

Scout Dike Res – present from 17th February to 15th September at least, with a max of seven reported on 7th May and three territories occupied. Fluctuating water levels were thought to have prevented successful breeding.

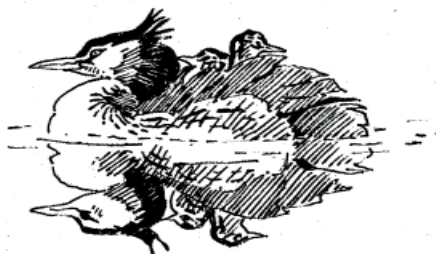
Boshaw Whams – up to three regularly at this traditional breeding site, but no indication of nesting reported.

Birds also occurred at **Denby Dale**, one from 11th April to 15th August and on 4th October, with two on 5th November and 31st December, **Coxley Dam**, one on 16th June, **Broadstones Res**, one between 14th July and 11th August, three on 15th September, two on 3rd December, **Sparth Res**, one on 20th October, **Bretton Lakes**, three on 3rd and one on 31st December, with up to two occasionally at both **Ringstone Edge** and **Ryburn Reservoirs**.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1)

This proved to be one of the least productive years on record for the species, with only two young reared at just one site; eight pairs were



present in the breeding season. As usual, birds were scarce in the early and late months, returning to the majority of normal breeding sites in mid February and departing in October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three pairs collectively made seven nesting attempts, of which one was successful and resulted in two young being hatched on 10th August and both present to 24th October, one remaining to 31st. Fluctuating water levels, predation and human activity contributed to the failures. Up to three birds were present almost daily to 16th March, after which numbers built to seven on 22nd March, 11 on 12th May, 20 on 24th and 25 on 27th June. A max of 27 was achieved from 2nd July to 5th August, followed by a gradual decrease to 19 from 19th August to 6th September, ten from 19th September to 1st October, then single figures to the last on 21st and 28th November.

Elland GPs – After the first on 11th February up to three were present. Nest-building was observed on 2nd June but no young were reared. Three were present on 3rd October, then one or two to the year-end.

Scout Dike Res – the first bird returned on 16th February and there was an increase to a max of five on 16th April. Two pairs displayed to early summer but fluctuating water levels inhibited successful breeding. Last reported was an adult on 25th August.

Hill Top Res, Slaithwaite – a pair displayed in March/April but no young were seen.

Windybank Res – a pair present on 28th May, with one on 31st.

Bretton Lakes – very few records received and none during the breeding season. Singles in January, two on 14th April, then in December 20 on 3rd and eight on 19th in largely frozen conditions.

Ingbirchworth Res – a max of three reported (in May) during the year at this formerly productive site and none after October.

Ringstone Edge Res – regular sightings of up to three birds from mid March to mid May and again in August with an increase in September to a max of seven on 24th and six on 8th October; one on 9th December.

Other sites from which birds were reported were **Scammonden Water** (singles on 13th January, 17th March and 3rd November), **Oak Scar Res** (two on 25th March), **Broadstones Res** (ad on 6th May, juv on 19th July), **Boshaw Whams** (ad on 11th May), **Digley Res** (ad on 4th June), **Royd Moor Res** (one on 20th October) and one or two occasionally at **Boothwood Dam, Ryburn** and **Baitings Reservoirs**.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor

All records were from **Blackmoorfoot** and **Deer Hill Reservoirs** and how many different birds were involved is problematical, but with a min of three and a max of six.

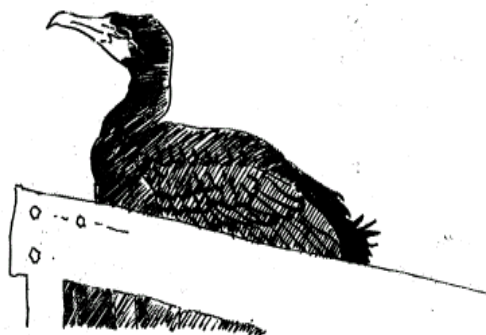
Blackmoorfoot Res – two in full summer plumage on 3rd June (DMO et al) and on 23rd June (MLD,PB), with one on 20th July (MLD); an imm on 15th September (PDB).

Deer Hill Res – one in summer plumage from 19th-26th July (DMP,KW), presumed same as Blackmoorfoot individual on 20th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Passage and winter visitor

Birds were recorded again in all months, but the high counts of some recent years were not repeated. Birds were most frequent at Blackmoorfoot and the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs and especially in the Calder Valley.



Monthly numbers of Cormorants (excluding Elland GPs and Dewsbury SF)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	?	12	5	7	4	3	14	14	10	8	15

Sightings at **Elland GPs**, where birds were reported in all months except April and September, with max of three in January, February and October, four in March, six in November and nine in December and at **Dewsbury SF**, which had birds in all months with a max of 13 birds present on the R.Calder on 19th December, are not included in the above table, as only max. monthly counts were available from these sites. Taken together, these show the predominance of birds in March and from August to December.

Birds were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21 dates in eight months of the year, all singles apart from three flying NE on 14th October. At the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs birds occurred in at least eight months with a max of three on 23rd March. Up to two were seen regularly in the **Horbury** area.

Smaller numbers, mainly singles, were also recorded at **Deer Hill Res, Baitings Res, Marsden, Ramsden Res, Boshaw Whams, Yateholme, Lepton, Bretton Lakes, Ringstone Edge Res** (including four on 8th August), **Broadstones Res, Penistone, Ryburn Res, Colnebridge SP, Harden Res, Thornhill Millbank, Dalton** and the **Wessenden Valley**, where a total of six birds were recorded on v.m.w. on three dates from late September to late October. In the whole club area a total of 37 flyover birds were included in 26 reports.

An adult bird of the race "*sinensis*" was at **Royd Moor/Scout Dike** on 23rd March (RJB,MC) and an adult with white head plumes was with Canada Geese at **Deer Hill** on 29th March (DMP).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor

One was present in trees at the NW corner of **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 1st November (MLD,PB et al). First seen at 0740hrs., it departed to the NW at 1225hrs., when it was observed from Deer Hill flying towards Marsden (TG).

A first record for the club area, long anticipated, but the locality was a surprise. For a full account see page 88.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Birds were reported from 25 sites, fewer than normal, and many are probably going unrecorded. Most records were of one to three birds, with larger counts of six sheltering from a gale on 2nd February at **Scout Dike Res**, five at **Elland GPs** on 12th January and 8th December, nine at **Horbury Wyke** on 9th June and max of eight in June and seven in July at **Blackmoorfoot Res**, where birds occurred in every month. **Saddleworth Moor** was an unusual location for a bird on 4th January.



At **Bretton Lakes** there were 16 occupied nests on the lower lake and six on the upper lake by 16th February; these numbers had increased respectively to 38 and 18 by 6th April but success rates are not available.

Ten nests were located at **Scammonden**, one of them at a new site near the head of the reservoir and young were probably reared from at least five. Six young were visible on 8th June.

Probable breeding was also reported yet again from near **Lepton Great Wood**, but remains unconfirmed.

Flyover birds were noted at **Crosland Moor**, **Dalton**, **Fenay Bridge**, **Lepton**, **New Mill** and **Shelley**.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder (1)

Birds were present throughout the year and breeding occurred in two localities at least. Most records again came from the Calder Valley.



Horbury – on 17th February two adults were at the Wyke and two adults and an imm on the R.Calder. One pair remained to breed, one bird sitting on a nest at the Wyke on 11th May when the pool had been completely drained, and three cygnets were present on 11th June and 11th August. Two ads and an imm were on the canal on 28th December.

Colnebridge SP – a pair was nestbuilding on 16th March and hatched two young on 8th June.

Elland GPs – two were present from 1st January to 11th May and again from 5th August to the year end, with four on 19th February and three from 1st to 3rd March.

Thornhill Millbank – five (2ads, 3subads) on 17th March.

Bretton Lakes – a pair and five cygnets were present on 11th May, an ad and two young on 13th October and two 1st years from at least 19th to 31st December.

Ingbirchworth Res – two adults on 4th/5th January and 3rd March.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce winter visitor

Three adults were on **Ingbirchworth Res** on 4th/5th January (RD&SEH,TM,BA,DB).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce winter visitor

A good year for the species with records from six sites.

Ingbirchworth Res – five on 2nd January (RD&SEH).

Dewsbury SF – an adult on 28th/29th March (JH,DHP).

Elland GPs – one on 30th March (perhaps same as above) and 22 flew east on 17th November (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – one flew high to the NE on 16th October (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – in October seven ads on 23rd (DHP et al), three ads arrived at 0840hrs and departed east at 1715hrs on 26th (PB,CH); an adult arrived at 1600hrs on 5th December (PB,PDB,MLD).

Meal Hill – an adult flew towards Broadstones at 1145hrs on 28th November (MC).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor

In the first winter period a total of 5255 birds of this species was counted flying over the area, with observations occurring on 17 dates. Numbers peaked on 1st-3rd January with 772 birds, 27th-31st January with 2230 and in February there were isolated peaks of 660 on 4th, 700 on 8th and 535 on 13th. Following the established pattern, most movements were between west and north, predominantly NW, and of those records where times were stated, occurred between 1000hrs and noon, with none after 1300hrs except on 2nd January and 12th/13th February.

1st Jan – skeins of 150 and 50 west at Shepley, 140 NE at Ingbirchworth at 1250hrs, four over Elland GPs and a skein heard only west over Scammonden.

2nd Jan – at Blackmoorfoot 122 west at 1020hrs and 150 NW at 1600hrs.

3rd Jan – 150 over Blackmoorfoot.

8th Jan – six came in to Blackmoorfoot from the north at 1135hrs and departed back north at 1230hrs.

18th Jan – 66 flew SE over Crosland Moor at 0920hrs.

23rd Jan – c.50 flew west at Birkby at 1140hrs.

27th Jan – at Scammonden 100 west at 1120hrs and 300 west at 1130hrs; 230 WSW at Scout Dike and later at Harden, followed by a further skein of 95 at the latter site.

29th Jan – 35 west over Lindley at 0805hrs, c.40 SW over Trinity Street at 1010hrs, 300+ west over Emley at 1050hrs, 300 NW over Bradley Park GC at 1015hrs, 100 NW at Highburton at 1110hrs, 100 west over Pole Moor at 1240hrs and 200 over Elland GPs.

30th Jan – 80 west over Leeds Road at 1100hrs, 100+ NW at Bradley Park GC at 1100hrs and 150 west at Shepley.

31st Jan – c.100 over Cowcliffe in the morning.

1st Feb – 50+ NW at Bradley Park GC at 1300hrs.

4th Feb – 250 SW at Lockwood at 1010hrs, 190 west at Horbury Bridge also at 1010hrs and c.220 west at Denby Dale at 1030hrs.

8th Feb – at Bradley Park GC 300+ NW at 1115hrs and 200+ NW at 1125hrs, 150 WNW at Lindley Moor at 1120hrs and 50 west over Rastrick.

12th Feb – 36 NW over Bradley Park GC at 1315hrs.

13th Feb – 395 WNW at Harden at 1520hrs and 140 WNW over Lindley Moor at 1630hrs.

Passage was noted on only two dates in **March**. On 1st a skein was heard passing NW over Harden at 2240hrs and 20 “grey” geese, probably this species, flew west at Royd Moor. On 28th two flew NW over Dewsbury SF.

Grounded birds were few, four at Ingbirchworth on 1st January, two at Scout Dike on 17th February and from 1st to 16th March; in March four were in fields to the west of Blackmoorfoot Res on 15th, singles at Scammonden and Oak Scar Res on 17th and 25th respectively, and two at Horbury Wyke from 10th March to at least 11th May.

In autumn, the first returning birds appeared almost four weeks earlier than in 2001, with reports on four dates in September. Movements were reported on 15 dates, with five each in October and November and just one in December. Most skeins moved in an arc between east and south and mainly much earlier in the day than in the early months. Compared with previous years passage was light with only c.1080 birds involved.

Sept – on 17th c.75 east at Harden at 1835hrs, with the remaining sightings all in the Wessenden Valley – 62 east at 0915hrs on 21st, four SE at 0950hrs on 24th and 25 SE at 0900hrs on 28th.

4th Oct – c.35 east at Oldfield at 0830hrs.

5th Oct – 13 at Ringstone Edge.

19th Oct – two east at Shepley.

24th Oct – 160 “grey” geese east over Marsden at 0910hrs.

27th Oct – 13 west at Langsett.

29th Oct – two south at Wessenden at 0910hrs.

8th Nov – 19 east over Marsden at 1015hrs.

9th Nov – c.50 west at Scout Dike.

17th Nov – 330 east at 0910hrs over Marsden and 150 east over Elland GPs.

18th Nov – c.40 SE over Shelley at 0900hrs.

30th Nov – 153 east over Outlane at 1015hrs and one south at Blackmoorfoot at 1530hrs.

3rd Dec - at Ingbirchworth c.120 flew SW at 1315hrs, preceded a few minutes earlier by the calls of an unseen flock. One of these skeins was presumably the same as the 109 which flew west at Harden Edge at 1330hrs.

Five grounded birds fed with Canadas at Scout Dike on 10th December.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage and feral visitor

Fewer reports received than in some recent years.

Dewsbury SF – one flew east on 2nd March and seven west on 17th April.

Horbury Wyke – one on 24th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 24th March.

Scout Dike Res – one on 29th March, two on 4th May and one on 10th December.

Wessenden Valley – two flew up the valley on 9th April and nine west on 11th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – seven on 2nd May.

Hade Edge – two flew over Longley Farm on 10th June.

Langsett Res – nine on 9th December had pinkish, rather than orange, bills (RDH).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2)

Despite the lack of restrictions on access, fewer reports were received from breeding sites than in 2001, when F&M restrictions prevented some areas from being visited.

Breeding was reported as follows:- **Butterley Res** eight juvs on 16th June, **Deer Hill Res** a pair and three young on 28th May, **Dewsbury SF** a pair raised five young on the R.Calder, **Digley Res** a pair with six young on 9th May, **Harden Res** two broods on 12th May, one pair raising four young, **Royd Moor Res** one pair raised three young, **Snailsden Res** one pair, six young, **Yateholme** four broods totalling 19 young on 4th June. Further pairs were located at **Colnebridge SP**, **Dovestones Res** and **Bretton Lakes**.

Max counts from favoured waters were:-

Blackmoorfoot Res – 93 in Jan, 23 in Feb, 53 in July, 75 in Aug, 64 in Sept, 61 in Oct, 106 in Nov and 90 in Dec.

Boothwood Dam – 60 on 30th May.

Butterley Res – 59 on 6th June, 84 on 10th July.

Digley Res – 37 on 4th June.

Elland GPs – 40 on 19th November.

Horbury Wyke – c.30 on 24th March.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.340 on 26th Jan, 143 on 5th Feb, 110 in November.

Oak Scar Res – 22 on 25th March, 54 on 1st Sept.

Ringstone Edge Res – 152 on 25th Aug, 150 on 2nd Sept, 100 on 5th Oct.

Royd Moor/Scout Dike Res – c.200 on 6th Jan, 188 on 2nd Feb, 215 on 1st March, 295 on 28th Sept, 325 on 5th Dec.

Scammonden – 97 on 1st Jan, 94 on 10th Feb, 66 on 17th Nov.

Slaithwaite/Marsden canal – 54 on 21st Feb.

Sparth Res – 88 on 28th Feb.

Smaller numbers were reported from a further ten waters.

The only flyover birds recorded were a singleton over Shelley on 16th April, followed by two there on 31st May.

A leucistic bird was at **Elland GPs** on 7th December and hybrids at **Ingbirchworth** (x Greylag) on 1st, 4th and 26th January, **Digley** on 4th June and **Bretton Lakes** (x Barnacle) on 31st December.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder

Fewer records than usual and all refer to presumed feral birds.

Bretton Lakes – one on 13th and three on 22nd Jan, one on 14th April and in December two on 28th and three on 31st.

Ingbirchworth Res – one on four dates in January.

Scout Dike Res – one on 17th Feb and from 9th to 17th March, probably same as above.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

Birds occurred in all months except June, August, November and December. There was a small but obvious movement in late January/early February.

Butterley Res – one on 6th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two on 29th Jan, one on 2nd, four on 4th and ten on 5th Feb and two flew south on 11th Sept.

Boshaw Whams – one on 31st Jan.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 31st Jan.

Elland GPs – two on 3rd Feb.

Horbury Wyke – male and female on 24th March and in April two on 1st, one on 4th and two on 7th at the Strands, then the Wyke before leaving towards Pugneys NR.

Dewsbury SF – two on 25th April, two on 9th July and one on 11th Sept.

Scout Dike Res – two on 30th April and 5th Oct.

Boothwood Dam – two on 9th May.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare feral visitor

The regular male was seen throughout the year at Elland, with reports in all months except May. In eclipse plumage from 1st July to 22nd August, reverting to full plumage by 4th September, it was joined by a second male on 24th November, both remaining through December.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Birds were present in the early months between 1st January and 24th March and later from late August to mid December, with an isolated record in July. Few counts reached double figures, with a max of only 19. Presence at three waters on 1st November indicated a small but definite arrival.

Elland GPs – a male from 1st to 20th Jan.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in the first half of the year present on only four dates in January, with 14 on 4th as max; after one on 30th August present on ten dates in September with ten on 4th, 19 on 10th and ten on 16th the only counts in double figures, in October on seven dates, max 12 on 31st, on 13 dates in November including nine on 1st, followed by up to two on three days in December.

Royd Moor Res – in January 12 on 6th and 18 on 27th, eight on 16th and two on 17th February and ten on 15th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – one on 4th and two on 6th January, max of four in October, three in November and up to c.20 on 10th December.

Bretton Lakes – six on 13th January, 11 on 9th October.

Scout Dike Res – two on 17th Feb, seven on 5th Oct.

Horbury Wyke – all records were in March, five on 4th, 12 on 10th, nine on 17th and 24th.

Dewsbury SF – six flew east on the unusual date of 5th July, three from 28th to 30th August and nine from 4th to 19th December (accompanied by the American Wigeon below).

Ringstone Edge Res – up to three regularly in late September, with six on 8th October.

Deer Hill Res – four on 17th and one on 26th Sept, two males on 20th Nov.

Butterley Res – five on 19th Oct.

Boshaw Whams – 15 on 1st Nov.

Digley Res – 17 on 1st Nov, unusual here.

In addition, up to a dozen birds were seen regularly on the artificially created lake in a large garden at **Meal Hill, Jackson Bridge**, particularly in the late months.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Rare visitor

A female showing characters of this species was observed at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th December (JH). A full description was submitted to the YNU Rarities Committee and has been accepted. An addition to the area's avifauna.

(What was presumably the same individual was present at Redlands Quarry, Pugney's CP on 26th/27th November).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A very good year for this species, birds being reported from eight sites.

Horbury Wyke – male and female on the R.Calder on 1st Jan (DHP).

Ingbirchworth Res – male and female on 6th and 20th Jan, singles on 16th March and 16th Oct (RT,TG,RD&SEH,RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – male and female on 7th and 14th Jan (MLD), male on 24th July (JKP), in Nov male and female on 4th and three (one male) on 18th (MLD et al).

Royd Moor Res – a pair flew east on 4th May (RJB).

Tunnel End Res – a pair on 20th July (JMP).

Boshaw Whams – male and female on 1st Nov (MC), the day of the Wigeon influx.

Broadstones Res – male on 15th Nov (MC).

Bretton Lakes – two males from 3rd December to the year end (SRG,DSI,BA,DM).

Teal *Anas crecca*

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

Reports were received from 16 sites, but no evidence of breeding was obtained. The favoured wintering sites in the Calder Valley only received partial coverage. Numbers were again reduced.

Counts from regular sites were as follows:-

Blackmoorfoot Res – present on 11 dates between 5th Jan and 29th March and 3rd Aug and 11th Dec, with monthly max of three in Jan and March, 21 in Aug, ten in Sept, eight in Oct, seven in Nov and one in Dec.

Bretton Lakes – up to four in Jan, one on 4th April and 20 on 3rd Dec.

Dewsbury SF – max were 85 in Jan, 14 in April, 30 in Aug, 18 in Sept, 95 on 20th Nov increasing to 165 by 27th, then falling to 75 on 17th Dec.

Elland GPs – max of 15 in Jan/Feb, five in March, two in April, two in October and four in Nov/Dec.

Horbury Wyke/Strands – max 60+ in March, 30+ in April, a high count of c.150 on 8th Sept, c.15 in Nov and 33 in Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res – only small numbers, max being four in Jan, two in April, five in Oct and seven in Nov.

Ravensthorpe GPs – up to six in the early months and c.40 on 21st Dec.

Ringstone Edge Res – max of seven in Jan, two in March, 11 in Sept, 46 in Oct.

Royd Moor Res – max in the early months were 56 on 6th Jan, 53 on 10th Feb, 19 on 12th March, 14 on 13th April. No counts (no birds ?) at the year end.

Sites where birds were noted occasionally were **Scammonden Dam** (three on 1st Jan, two on 11th March), **Thornhill Millbank** (six on 17th March, nine on 13th April), **Oak Scar Res** (pair on 25th March), **Broadstones Res** (male on 1st Aug), **Deer Hill Res** (one on 16th Sept), **Deanhead Res** (one on 6th Oct) and **Boshaw Whams** (seven on 1st Nov).

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Rare visitor

A drake was with a party of Teal (*A. crecca*) at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 16th March (JRS). Accepted by YNU Rarities Committee. First record for the club area.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3) and common winter visitor

In a very protracted season breeding was reported from the following sites:-

Blackmoorfoot Res, 13 out of 98 ducklings hatched reached the flying stage, a success rate of 13%; (this may seem very low, but was encouraging compared with equivalent rates in 1998 and 1999 of 7.7%, in 2000 of only 3.1% and in 2001 of 10.5%). Newly hatched ducklings appeared on the late date of 21st July.

Colnebridge SP – one brood.

Deer Hill – a nest with 14 eggs on 17th April and young nearby later and another brood of newly hatched young on 9th Aug.

Harden Res – a brood of nine young.

Horbury – a brood of 12 young on the early date of 4th April, which would indicate a laying date in late Feb/early March and a second brood of eight on 16th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – at least two broods.

Oak Scar Res – brood of three on 1st Sept.

Royd Moor Res – brood of seven.

Scammonden – two pairs bred.

Scout Dike Res – 21 young in five broods, the first (seven) being seen on 20th April.

TP Wood – broods of eight (on 8th April) and six..

Winscar Res – one brood.

Monthly max at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	26	25	14	15	12	13	27	28	36	31	18	16
Bretton	85	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	120
Dewsbury SF	36	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	47	129	200	n/c	4	n/c
Elland GPs	68	n/c	24	26	4	34	54	36	17	60	65	75
Ingbirchworth	120	3	4	5	13	34	42	18	43	143	36	30
Royd Moor	125	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	46	82	57	56	65
Scammonden	32	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	26	61	82	n/c

The more significant counts at other waters were c.100 on the **Fenay Beck** at **Waterloo** on 3rd Jan, 39 at **Hill Top Res** on 15th Jan, 25 at **Scout Dike Res** on 2nd Feb, 110 on the canal between **Milnsbridge** and **Marsden** on 5th March, 45 in the centre of **Marsden** on 16th March, c.50 at **Horbury Wyke** on 8th Sept, 35 at **Sparth Res** on 27th Oct, when high water levels on the R.Colne displaced birds, and c.40 at **Broadstones Res** on 3rd Dec.

Smaller numbers were reported from a further dozen locations.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Reported from six sites and again mainly in autumn. All occurrences were on single dates.

Bretton Lakes – one flew over to the west on 26th Jan.

Elland GPs – a female on 3rd Feb.

Dewsbury SF – male and female on 14th March; imm on 5th Sept.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three on 23rd Aug, four flew west on 10th Sept and one on 12th Oct.

Broadstones Res – two, probably female and eclipse male, on 15th Sept.

Royd Moor Res – two female/imms on 28th Sept and six female/imms which left to the north on 5th Oct.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer migrant

A female at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th August was the only record (JH).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Scarce this year, apart from a good series of records from Blackmoorfoot.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three males on 7th Jan, five on 25th Aug, two on 3rd Sept and in November a male on 4th, three (2 males) on 18th and a male and a female on 26th and on 29th.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 3rd April.

Elland GPs – two on 20th April.

Wessenden Valley – one flew west on 31st December.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor

The species was recorded in all months except May and August, with the majority of records in January, November and December.

Elland GPs – max of two on 19 dates in Jan, up to five on four dates in Nov and on five dates in Dec, max three on 31st.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to 12 on several dates in Jan, four on 17th Feb, one in March and two in Nov.

Blackmoorfoot Res – present on ten dates in Jan up to 17th with max of ten on 8th and 11th, singles on 16th/17th and three on 25th Feb, two on 11th April and eight on 20th June. In the later months present on seven dates in Oct with peaks of 18 on 12th and seven on 22nd, 18 again on 1st Nov down to four next day, seven on 12th and four on 22nd and in Dec six on 10th and seven on 12th.

Scout Dike Res – three on 5th Jan, four on 17th Feb and two on the unusual date of 3rd June.

Baitings Res – five on 6th Jan, one on 24th Feb.

Bretton Lakes – four on 22nd and 12 on 30th Jan, three on 15th Feb and in Dec six on 3rd and five on 31st.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 17th Feb.

Butterley Res – two males on 14th Sept.

Ringstone Edge Res – five (3 males) on 2nd Nov.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1) and common passage and winter visitor

Breeding was confirmed at two sites with territorial behaviour observed at a further three localities.

At **Scout Dike Res**, from a total of 17 ducklings hatched in three broods, nine were reared successfully and at **Ingbirchworth Res** two young were present on 24th July. Nearby at **Broadstones Res** two juvs were present from 4th to 28th July but no adults were visible. Could these have been the same two birds that were at Ingbirchworth?

Birds behaving territorially were also reported at **Bilberry Res**, **Dewsbury SF** and **Wessenden Res**, with further pairs in the breeding season in the **Coxley Valley** and at **Wilderness Plantation**.

Birds were recorded at a total of 24 sites, with double figure counts from just five.

Monthly max at regularly counted sites:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	8	6	5	7	4	9	14	12	11	9	4	4
Ingbirchworth	12	14	9	19	10	21	58	11	5	8	2	5
Elland GPs	11	17	4	4	-	2	-	2	-	9	10	20

Most of these counts were considerably lower than in 2001. The only other double figure counts were made at **Bretton Lakes** which held 14 on 22nd Jan and c.20 on 31st Dec and at **Scout Dike Res**, which had ten on 17th Feb and a max of 25 on 17th March.

Smaller numbers were present on one or more dates at **Butterley Res, Blakeley Res** (six on 15th Nov), **Deer Hill Res, Scammonden** (a low max of only seven on 14th July), **Woodhead Res** (nine on 5th March), **Bilberry Res, Digley Res, Meal Hill Lake (Jackson Bridge), Thornhill Millbank, Denby Dale, Baitings Res** (max six in Jan/Feb, five in Aug), **Ringstone Edge Res, Gunthwaite Dam and Hill Top Res**

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There were just two records both of females, the first at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 19th Oct (PB), the second at **Elland GPs** on 19th Dec (HBC).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

This species showed a return to form with birds at eight sites, mainly on typical dates in the summer months. Most were males.

Broadstones Res – seven (4 males) on 8th July from 1400hrs to 1745hrs at least (MC et al).

Deer Hill Res – three (2 males) on 11th July and a different male on 16th (TG).

Baitings Res – four males on 4th Aug (HBC).

Dewsbury SF – one on the R.Calder on 8th Aug (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res – a male on 11th Aug (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – 13 (12 males) on 20th Aug (MLD,DMO), a male on 31st Oct (PB,DHP) and single females on 3rd and 14th Nov (PB,MLD).

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult male from 2nd to 5th Nov (RJB,MC,DS et al).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Regular, but uncommon, winter visitor

Birds were recorded at 16 waters mainly in the early months between 1st January and 10th May and between 19th October and 31st December. Numbers continued to decline and no double figure counts were achieved at any site, max being eight at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd November.

Blackmoorfoot Res – after two on 7th Jan there was an almost continuous presence from 13th Jan to 24th April, with monthly max of three in Jan, six on 18th Feb and 19th/23rd March and two in the first half of April. The first returning birds were four on 19th Oct, up to two on a further four dates during the month, increasing to four again on 31st. Present daily in Nov with eight on 3rd and on nine dates in Dec, max three on 23rd.

Ingbirchworth Res – max were Jan two, March three, Nov two, Dec one.

Deanhead Res – in March one on 17th, five on 26th, two on 7th April and a female on 27th April and 10th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – max were Jan one, Feb two, March four, April two, Oct two (on 19th), Nov one.

Elland GPs – max Jan five, Feb, Nov and Dec one.

Elsewhere birds occurred at **Horbury** one on 1st Jan, **Sparth Res** redhead on 1st and 31st Jan, **Scammonden** one on 27th Jan, **Baitings Res** three in March, **Harden Res** redhead on 13th March, **Bilberry Res** two on 26th March, **Digley Res** male on 26th March and redhead on 20th Oct, **Boshaw Whams** different redheads on 30th Oct and 1st Nov, **Bretton Lakes** redhead on 31st Oct, **Deer Hill Res** four (2 males) on 31st Oct and on the R.Calder at **Dewsbury SF** where, after one on 20th Nov, five were present on 3rd Dec, increasing to six by 11th and remaining to the year end.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Regular passage and winter visitor



The species was recorded in all months except July and August with the largest numbers in January to March and October to December. A total of 23 sites hosted birds and included sightings on all the major rivers.

Maximum numbers reported at the principal sites were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	19	15	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	21	18
Elland GPs	40+	20	23	4	2	2	-	-	-	9	15	22
Bretton	30	36	n/c	n/c	-	-	-	-	-	-	n/c	43
Scammonden	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-

Blackmoorfoot Res had birds between 1st Jan and 27th April and from 24th Oct to 31st Dec, with the number of days on which birds were present during the first period increasing from 37 in 2001 to 68 in 2002 and in the second winter period from 24 in 2001 to 50 in 2002. There was also a significant increase in numbers. At this site birds generally tend to arrive at dusk and have departed by the following morning, presumably dispersing to feed.

In contrast, numbers at both **Elland GPs** and **Bretton Lakes** were reduced.

In the Colne valley at **Aspley** a male flew upriver on 2nd Jan, a male on 20th Nov, male and redhead on 5th and a redhead on 8th Dec, two at **Hill Top Res** on 15th Jan, a pair on a mill pond at **West Slaithwaite** on 6th Feb, two SW over Dalton on 17th Sept and four (1 male) near the **McAlpine Stadium** on 10th Oct.

Single males were in the Holme Valley at **Armitage Bridge** on 1st Jan and at **Lockwood** on 25th Nov.

Apart from birds at Elland, the R.Calder had birds near **Colnebridge SP** on 13th Jan (pair), 22nd Dec (pair) and 28th Dec (r.h.), at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th Jan, 1st Feb, 4th March (3), 22nd March, 5th April (3), 3rd Sept (6), 11th Dec (5) and 21st Dec (6), at **Horbury** on 17th Feb (6), in March on 2nd (4), 4th (2) and 17th (3) and on 28th Dec (4) and at **Thornhill Millbank** on 17th March (male).

The remaining records came from **Digley Res** on 9th (6) and 10th (2) March, **Ringstone Edge Res** on 28th Sept (2), **Butterley Res** on 28th Oct, **Deer Hill Res** one high to the west on 2nd Nov, **Winscar Res** three south on 28th Nov, **Langsett Res** a male in late Nov and **Baitings Res** (no dates).

For some reason, the species seems to avoid the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs, the sole report coming from **Scout Dike**, where a male flew over on 17th Feb.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Irregular breeder (1) and infrequent visitor

Reported again from just three sites, but no evidence of breeding beyond display.

Ingbirchworth Res – a pair was present from 26th March to at least 5th July. On 22nd April three males and two females were present, with two males also from 29th June to 8th July.

Scout Dike Res – one or two pairs were observed from 29th March to 16th April, display taking place on the latter date. A male was still in residence on 7th May, but there were no further sightings.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three female types on 28th Sept.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor

One was feeding on a (rabbit?) carcass in fields off **Jebb Lane**, between **Haigh** and **High Hoyland** on 15th April (JMD).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare visitor

There were two records both from **Blackmoorfoot** of birds moving west, a cream-crown at 1350hrs on 8th June (CH) and one at 1440hrs on 1st Sept (TD,CH).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor



A more normal year after the excesses of 2001.

A ringtail was observed “skydancing” in the **Little Don Valley** on 20th April (JHod) and again a few days later (SD). At **Deer Hill** a juv quartered the ground and landed briefly by the reservoir before flying towards Wessenden on 2nd Oct (DMP) and a female was present here between 1100 and 1115hrs on 11th Dec (CH). A juv was present on **Thurlstone Moor** on 3rd Nov (MC).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and uncommon visitor

There was a big reduction in the number of reports received this year from a very small number of localities and only two records in the second half of the year.

At one traditional site birds were seen displaying on 16th and 30th March and 5th and 23rd April and singles on several other dates, but there were no sightings after 11th May. One was “sat out” in territorial posture on 26th March.

A female was well seen near **Wessenden Head Res** on 29th March (DMP) and a male was displaying near **Langsett** on 30th March (SRG). One flew across **Balk Lane, Netherton** on 16th April (BA) and a male circled over **Windybank Wood, Meltham** on 7th May (PDB). One was seen in the **Yateholme** area on 6th Sept (TG) and one was at **Bretton Lakes** on 24th Dec (AK).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2)

The number of localities from which the species was reported was slightly down on the previous year from 70 to just over 60. Analysis of those records for which dates were given, totalling 227 (compared with 191 in 2001), gave the following monthly distribution:-



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	12	34	33	10	7	9	31	30	10	20	10

The lower numbers in May to July probably are accounted for by females sitting and males hunting and behaving unobtrusively.

Most reports were of one or two birds but up to five were seen in the **Yateholme** area and three on several occasions in autumn at **Dewsbury SF**. A serious decrease in sightings was reported from the **Salendine Nook** area (JED).

Breeding was confirmed only at **Blacker Beck**, where two males fledged successfully, near **Meltham**, where a nest had three young near the fledging stage on 26th July and an adult was carrying food into woodland at **Horbury** on 9th June.

Displaying birds were also present at **Butterley Res**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Langsett**, **Slaithwaite**, near **Winscar** and in the **Yateholme** area.

Gardens were visited at **Fixby**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Lindley**, **New Mill** and **Salendine Nook**, but the only prey items notified were Feral Pigeon and House Sparrow. What were possibly migrants were noted over **Dalton** on 17th Sept (3), 23rd Sept and 6th Oct and south over **Harden** on 31st Oct (2).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Rare to uncommon visitor, increasing.

The species was seen at the same number of localities (17) as in 2001 but numbers increased slightly from 19 to 24 and it is predicted to become the next new breeding species for the area.

Most sightings were in April and August/September with just one winter record.

Harden/Winscar – an adult/near adult flew over on 21st March (MC), one NE on 8th April (CH), one on 3rd May (MC) and one SE on 4th Sept (BA).

Lindley Moor – one flew east on 23rd March (JED).

Wessenden Lodge – one NE on 8th April (TG).

Yateholme – one rose from Ramsden Rocks, mobbed by a Merlin, on 9th April (BA,MJW), one on 16th April (PDB) and one SE over Crossley's Plantation on 4th Sept towards Winscar, where one flew over almost an hour later.

Haigh/High Hoyland – two on 15th April (JMD) and one the following day (BA).

Cheesegate Nab – two over on 20th April (HQ).

Blackmoorfoot – one drifted east on 23rd April (TG).

Holme Moss – a 1st S/ 2nd calendar yr bird in moult flew over Woodhead Road on 16th June (MC).

Deer Hill – one over on 21st July (KW) and one SW on 26th Aug (TG).

Langsett – one near the Dog & Partridge on 12th Aug (MC).

Little Don Valley – one on 27th Aug (TM).

Emley Moor – two buzzards, probably this species, flew SW over the TV mast on 21st Sept (SRG).

Scout Dike Res – one flew west on 25th Sept (RJB).

Bretton Park – one flew over towards Denby Dale on 23rd Dec (JMD).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

After a blank year in 2001 there was an excellent showing by this very attractive visitor, with seven individuals sighted.

Shelley – one drifted NW at 1500hrs on 21st March and was mobbed by Rooks (SRG).

Deer Hill – one NW at 0950hrs on 30th March (TG).

Lepton – one flew east at 0825hrs on 13th April (CH).

Lower Hopton – one flew east following the R.Calder on 27th April (DS).

Bradley Mills – one flew south over the McAlpine Stadium at 1640hrs on 7th May (DS).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew over the reservoir in a southeasterly direction at 1145hrs on 17th Aug (MLD,DHP).

Dalton – one flew south at 1705hrs on 7th Sept (BA) and appeared c.25 minutes later at Midhope Res (MC). It was an adult in heavy moult.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

There was a further worrying decline in the number of sites from which this species was reported to only 40 compared with over 50 in 2001. Only 14 observers submitted records and of these a mere seven contributed about 90% of the sightings. Most reports were from January to April and in July.

Breeding was confirmed at **Blackmoorfoot** but no young were reared, **Meltham** (four young), **Helme** (successful), **Wessenden**, near **Deer Hill Res**, **Colnebridge**, **Scammonden** (at least one young raised), **Dewsbury SF** (three young), **Winscar** and presumably occurred at several other sites including **Yateholme**, **Bretton Park**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Emley Moor**, **Woodsome**, **New Mill**, **Jackson Bridge** and near **Horbury Wyke**.

The largest gatherings were of six at **Harden** on 13th July and up to eight birds in the air together in the **Wessenden Valley** also in July. Probable migrants flew high to the south at **Deer Hill** on 18th and 27th Sept.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Partial migrant breeder (1) and scarce visitor

About 40 sightings were reported from over 20 localities and covered all months except December.

One pair certainly bred and raised four or five young and pairs were also present in the breeding season at a further three sites. At another traditional site there were several sightings of a female in May/June but no male was seen, except on 18th March when it took a Meadow Pipit and then departed to the west.

Elsewhere an imm female was present at **Ingbirchworth** on 4th Jan, one was at **Denby Dale** on 7th Feb, singles at **Cop Hill** (male) and **Ringstone Edge** on 19th March, one near **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th March, one mobbing a Common Buzzard near **Yateholme** on 9th April, singles in the **Little Don Valley** on 20th April and at **Scammonden** on 27th April and two at **Windleden** on 5th May.

After the breeding season, single birds were reported at **Badger Hey** on 12th July, **Scammonden** on 4th Aug, **Deer Hill** on 11th Aug and 2nd Sept, **Dewsbury SF** on 27th Aug, near **Meltham** attempting to catch Swallows on 6th Sept, **Harden** on 17th Sept and 16th Oct, **Millhouse Green** attacking a finch flock on 2nd Oct, **Pule Hill** on 4th and 24th Oct, **Baitings** on 8th Oct, **Scout Dike** and **Hartcliff Hill** (considered same bird) on 20th Oct, **Kirkheaton** on 31st Oct and **Royd Moor** on 3rd Nov, this last thought to be the same as the Scout Dike/Hartcliff Hill individual.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor

After last year's successful breeding, 2002 was a disappointing year, with only three sightings probably involving just two birds.

One flew south over **Dewsbury SF** at 0930hrs on 18th May (JH) and in the **Meltham** area one took a Swallow near the Will's o' Nat's on 21st July (TD,SP) and one was over Panna Mill Dam just over a kilometre away on 26th July (DMP).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Rare breeder (1), increasing

At least six pairs were located and attempted to breed and an additional two pairs were on territory in spring. Of the breeding pairs, one pair successfully reared one young at **Dovestones**, a second pair here failing. At the second site one pair reared two young, at a third one young was raised, while a fourth pair had two chicks stolen and at the remaining (new) site only one egg was laid and abandoned after prolonged incubation. This last pair was seen on 20th June at a new location nearby where breeding has taken place in the past.

At the sites where territorial behaviour was observed, adults were present from 12th March and regularly until May with singles on 16th July and 18th Sept. Birds at the second site were present from January into April, on 13th and 20th July and a juv was observed on 3rd Aug, followed by three individuals on 31st Aug.

The remaining records were as follows:-

Lindley Moor – one spent a couple of minutes on the telecom tower before flying south on 4th Jan.

Holme Moss – an imm on 19th Jan.

Winscar – singles on 27th Jan, 15th Nov and 17th Dec, with two on 26th Nov.

Wessenden Valley – an ad on 17th Feb, one on 13th April, two on 16th July, 1stW on 30th Sept and ad male on 3rd Nov.

Underbank – one over the rugby ground on 7th March.

Dewsbury SF – one over on 30th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res - singles on 7th April, 20th June and 21st Dec.

Digley – male and female on 28th May.

Langsett – one on 4th June.

Marsden – singles on 23rd June, 9th Oct (ad) and 11th and 30th Oct.

Cheesegate Nab – a juv created havoc in a House Martin flock on 6th Aug.

Jackson Bridge – one over on 8th Aug.

Royd Moor Res – a juv south on 11th Aug and one chasing Feral Pigeons on 28th Sept.

Horbury Wyke – imm on 22nd Sept.

Greenfield Road, Holmfirth – female on 7th Oct, then regular sightings from 17th Oct to 31st Dec, with two on 22nd Nov.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

Reported from only ten sites in small numbers. Breeding was proven at **Magdalen Springs**, which had two ads and c.10 juvs on 7th June and c.20 birds in a relatively small area here on 28th Sept and near **Dunford Bridge**, where two ads and c.13 juvs were at **Bance Edge** on 24th June.

Elsewhere the largest gatherings recorded were 12 in the **Winscar/Harden** area near the year end. Birds were also reported from **Issues Road/Good Bent, Wessenden, Featherbed Moss, West Nab, Deer Hill, Dovestones** and **Dean Clough** in low single figures.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1)

There were only four reports, all of single birds – near **Digley** on 4th April (HQ), **Law Slack** on 15th April (possibly seen a few days earlier at Harden) (MC), near **Denby Dale** on 15th May (SRG) and at **Elland GPs** on 25th Sept (WB).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

There was a welcome increase to 22 in the number of sites from which the species was reported and breeding was confirmed in at least three localities. Some of the records could refer though to birds released by shooting interests.

Bred successfully at **Flockton, Dewsbury SF** (five chicks with two adults on 20th Aug) and **Ringstone Edge**, where on 28th June a party of five birds included three young, and probably at **Shepley** where a juv was seen on 2nd Nov.

Shepley – three on 5th Jan, two on 23rd Feb and 16th April, nine on 13th Nov.

Deer Hill – two on 23rd Jan, four on 1st April, calling on several evenings in May/June, three on 6th Oct and six on 15th Nov.

Scout Dike Res – two on 16th Feb and 27th March, 15 on 28th Sept and 13 on 17th Nov.

Scammonden – a pair on 24th March and 10th May.

Bilberry Res – two on 1st April.

Meltham Cop – a pair on 8th April and one to the SW on 27th Nov.

Annat Royd Lane – two on 9th April.

Denby Dale – two on 12th April and eight on 18th Sept.

Holme Moor – two males calling on 17th April and present in three different areas on 1st June.

Honley Moor/Honley Wood – regular sightings of usually 2/3 birds, but 8-10 at **Wood Nook** on 18th July.

Royd Moor Res – two on 5th May, five on 3rd and 9th Nov.

Ingbirchworth Res – one on 20th May.

Carlecotes – a pair on **Flight Hill** on 21st May.

Cheesegate Nab – two on 17th Aug.

Snowgate Head – two on 19th Oct.

Emley – six in fields to the east on 18th Nov.

Undated records came from **Litherop Lane** (two birds), near the **Will's o' Nat's** (12) and from beside the A635 above **Digley** (13).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (2-3)



There was a slight increase to 21 in the number of localities from which this common and widespread species was recorded. The situation is complicated by birds raised for shooting.

The only breeding evidence came from **Cliff Wood**, where a female was accompanied by c.10 young on 30th May.

The largest gathering notified was of six birds at **Carlecotes** on 21st May. A male between Charlie Brown's and the old railway sidings at **Thornton Lodge** was in an unexpected location.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Feral introduction

Four very tame immature males and two immature females on an unspecified date at **Bretton Lakes** (SRG) and two males and four females, all 1st years, were feeding on the footpath above the upper lake hide on 7th December (DMP,SP,KW).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

A poor year for the species locally.

Bretton Lakes – a single by the old boathouse on 5th, 11th and 22nd Jan (DMP,SP,KW,CDA,JED) and one by the phragmites bed on the lower lake on 3rd Dec (SRG).

Elland GPs – singles on 9th March and 8th Dec (HBC).

Broadstones Res – a juv/1stW in a drainage ditch on 6th/8th Aug (MC).

Horbury Wyke – one calling on 10th Nov.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reported from a similar number of sites to last year with breeding proven at ten of them. Few counts were submitted outside the breeding season.

One observer reports smaller and declining clutch sizes in recent years, averaging only about four eggs, although some occasionally reach ten or eleven. Another interesting phenomenon is the apparently very late breeding at some localities (see dates for Dewsbury SF and Horbury).

Almondbury – three broods were raised on a garden pond in Lumb Lane.

Blacker Beck – two nests were successful, one clutch hatching on 27th April, the second recently hatched on 6th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – present in all months except Feb and Dec, with an empty nest located on 28th May, but no young were seen at this time. Two juvs were present throughout Sept with two ads on 9th/10th. In view of the observations at Dewsbury SF, could late breeding have gone undetected?

Dewsbury SF – the first chicks did not appear until 20th Aug, when seven were seen. By 29th Aug 15 chicks were present and on 17th Sept 19 newly hatched chicks in four broods had appeared, with an additional brood of three newly hatched on 18th Sept. On 3rd Oct 36 birds were present and included three more newly hatched young.

Elland GPs – bred, present all year with max counts of six in Jan and 12 in Dec.

Hey Green, Marsden – bred, adult and half grown juv on 20th July.

Horbury – a pair and three small young on a small pond on 8th Sept, two juvs still present on 22nd Sept.

Ingbirchworth Res – present all year, but with a low max of only five birds reported; bred.

Law Head – an adult and three juvs on a roadside pond on 11th May.

Stockmoor Common – a clutch of two eggs on 29th June had hatched by 8th July.

TP Wood – one pair raised young.

Probable breeding was also reported from **Lepton Great Wood**, **Bretton Lakes** and **Shelley** and birds were also sighted at **Scammonden**, **Tunnel End**, **Golcar** (nine on the canal on 26th Nov), **Colnebridge SP**, **Sparth Res**, **Oak Scar Res**, **Hill Top Res** and at **Harden Res**, where the species is unusual.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2)

Reported from 15 sites, but breeding evidence was only submitted from five (compared with ten in 2001).

Monthly max counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	4	1	-	6	6	7	6	6	3	1	-	-
Elland	15	4	11	7	4	4	3	4	2	-	1	10
Ingbirchworth	9	5	12	11	9	24	27	12	8	3	3	4

The highest numbers were at **Bretton Lakes**, but only three counts were received, all in January – 93 on 1st, 40 on 13th and 56 on 22nd.

Two nests were found at **Blackmoorfoot Res**, but no young were reared, one nest being predated at the egg stage. An adult was on a nest at **Scout Dike Res** on 19th May, a pair and four young at **Windybank Res** on 28th May and an ad and three young at **Colnebridge SP** on 22nd June. Breeding was also proven at **Ingbirchworth Res**.

The only other reports came from **Scammonden** (singles on 17th Feb and 14th March, two on 14th Apr), **Oak Scar Res** (four on 25th March), **Sparth Res** (max of two on five dates in April), **Baitings Res** (two on 19th May), **Ringstone Edge Res** (singles on 22nd May and 18th and 31st Aug), **Deer Hill Res** (one on 17th and 20th Oct) and **Dovestones Res**.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Rare visitor

In the largest influx to the country for many years, birds occurred in the area on three dates in March.

The first were two which drifted slowly north over **Elland GPs** on 16th and were in view for five minutes (HBC). These were followed by one which flew west up the Calder Valley over **Horbury Wyke** at 1145hrs on 17th (BA, MJW). A few minutes later this bird appeared over **Dewsbury SF**, where it spent c.15 minutes flying amongst model aeroplanes over Sands Lane Playing Fields before continuing west towards Huddersfield (JH). Finally one flew south over **Lindley Moor** at 0955hrs on 19th March (JED). All were adults. As many as four or as few as two birds could have been involved in these sightings.

These constitute the 4th to 6th records for the area.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Rare breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

For the fourth year running a pair returned to breed in the **Winscar** area. A bird appeared in squally snow showers on 9th March, but was not seen subsequently until 25th, with a second individual arriving on 26th. The pair was present throughout April and May, observed sitting in the early part of the latter month and anxiety calls were heard on 12th May. Adults were seen loafing in early June and were present well into July, when anxiety calls were heard again from 17th to 20th. It was not until 28th July however that a three-quarter grown juv was seen (MC).



Birds were noted at a further 19 localities, some of which probably hosted the pair from Winscar.

Ringstone Edge Res – in March a singleton on 19th and 22nd, two on 25th, 26th and 29th and three on 21st April.

Flight Hill – two on 31st March, probably the Winscar pair.

Elland GPs – singles on 14th April and 20th Aug.

Deanhead Res – one calling on 14th April.

Horbury Wyke – one on 14th April.

Tinker Hill – two on 21st April, probably the Winscar birds.

Shepley – three flew west on 21st April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three on 21st April (Shepley birds?), four on 10th and one on 23rd May, three west on 5th July, one SE on 9th July, one on 12th Aug, one on 7th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – one west on 26th April, two on 30th May, one on 3rd July.

Lower Windleden Res – a pair on 4th May (Winscar birds?).

Dunford Bridge – one over on 12th May (Winscar bird?).

Shelley – two over calling on 12th March and 19th July – first site records.

Broadstones Res – singles on 18th and 28th May and 4th and 6th July could have been one of the Winscar birds. Three on 8th July were possibly passage birds, then two on 10th and 12th

July and a single on 19th/20th July (Winscar bird?). One flew up Dearne Dike Lane at **Broadstones Lodge** on 6th July.

Scout Dike Res – one on 18th May (same as Broadstones bird?), two on 1st June.

Penistone – one flew over on a date in May.

Digley Res – one over on 4th June.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 18th June (Winscar birds?).

Royd Moor Res – one with Curlews on 30th June.

Marsden – one flew west on 4th July.

Harden Res – two ads on 20th July (Winscar birds?).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and irregular breeder

Bred at at least one site and probably at another, but no evidence was achieved beyond display and copulation.

Dewsbury SF – an early arrival on 17th March, with one also on 25th; two on 4th/5th and three on 9th April and 25th April to 5th May. Seven adults were present on 5th July, five on 7th and four on 11th, three adults on 3rd and one ad and one juv on 6th Aug.

Shepley – one in flight at the quarries near the Sovereign on 5th April.

Elland GPs – two on 7th April.

Winscar Res – one on 8th April.

Thornhill Millbank – two on 13th April.

Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor/Scout Dike – present in the area from 20th April, with territorial behaviour and copulation observed to 12th July, but no further breeding evidence.

Ravensthorpe GPs – one on 23rd June and two ads and a juv on 28th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult flew west on 1st July.

Broadstones Res – one on 4th, 5th and 8th July.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

Recorded at six sites.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 17th March, 4th and 9th April, 10th May, 19th June, then six (2ads, 4juvs) on 4th July and five ads on 2nd Aug (JH).

Millbank Thornhill – one west at 0900hrs on 17th March (BA,JRS,MJW), same as Dewsbury SF bird.

Broadstones Res – an adult on 29th June flew off at 1130hrs (MC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one over calling at 0920hrs on 11th Aug (MLD), one on 15th Nov (PB).

Winscar Res – three flew west on a v.m.w. on 31st Aug (MC).

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 8th and 10th Sept (HBC).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor

A male and two females were found in a sheepfield to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res** at 1500hrs on 2nd May (DHP). They departed to the NW at 1915 hrs, having been seen by a good number of local observers.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Few birds were about in the first two months of the year with the exception of a max of 80 at **Ringstone Edge** in February and 400 near **Dewsbury SF** on 21st Feb. Five sites recorded the species in January, four over **Wilshaw** on 1st, c.50 west at **Ingbirchworth** on 3rd after hard weather, c.40 west over **Windmill Lane** on 6th, four at **Ringstone Edge** on 8th and a max of 21 at **Blackmoorfoot** where birds were present on four dates. The only other records in February came from **Dearne Head**, 26 on 13th, **Buckstones** three on 15th and **Blackmoorfoot** 22 on 28th.

Many more sites had birds in March, when both passage and early return to breeding grounds were noted. Numbers increased near **Dewsbury SF** to reach a peak of 700 on 17th before reducing to 450 on 22nd and a slight increase to 480 on 30th. Maxima elsewhere were c.120 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 17th, 27 “Northern” birds at **Ringstone Edge** on 19th, 86 at **Whitley Common** and 45 at **Townhead** on 37th and 93 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st. Smaller numbers, up to 20, were noted at five other sites and included singing/displaying individuals at **Harden**, **Harden Edge** and **Townhead** from 10th.

Birds were reported at 16 sites in April and included display at additional sites – **Broadstones**, **Binn Moor** and at the top of the **Wessenden Valley**. **Dewsbury SF** still had 280 on 18th and numbers increased at the traditional “stopping off” site at **Lower Maythorn/Whitley Common**, where there were 265 on 3rd, 216 (mostly “N” birds) on 5th, 112 on 9th and 220 on 12th. **Ringstone Edge** had a max of 118, 153 were near the **Flouch** on 13th, 30+ above **Digley** on 21st and **Blackmoorfoot** had its highest numbers of the year, 78 on 11th and a peak of 157 on 21st. The remaining nine sites held a max of 26 birds.

In the breeding season birds were on territory at two sites in the **Wessenden Valley**, near **Deer Hill**, in the **Tinker Hill/Harden Edge** area and breeding was proven at two sites, **Black Moss** and **Featherbed Moss**. At the former a pair with week old young was discovered on 12th May, indicating a very early nest, while at **Featherbed Moss** the population was estimated to be at least six pairs on 4th May. Two nests contained eggs on 12th, but four clutches had failed by 16th with another three clutches hatched by 9th June.

There were few June records apart from the **Blackmoorfoot** area, where birds occurred daily with max of 42 on 9th, 36 on 21st and 20 on 27th and most waders had left the moorlands by the end of the month.

From July onwards the species was very scarce with only seven sites having birds to the year end. The **Blackmoorfoot** area had birds in every month with, in July, up to 17 daily to 22nd and a peak of 26 on 2nd, max of six in August, in September on only two dates with no more than two, and similarly a max of only four on two dates in October, then four on 4th

November and in December birds were present on six dates from 10th with a peak of 21 on 22nd.

Elsewhere the **Broadstones** area held a max of 9+ on five dates in July, one was to the west of **Winscar Res** on 3rd July, **Ringstone Edge** had max of 40 in September, 150 in October, 21 in November and 67 in December; two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 28th September and two flew east there on 20th November, while in October fields near the airfield at **Crosland Hill** had a regular flock from mid month peaking at 186 on 26th. **Annat Royd Lane** was the only other occupied site with a single 1stW bird on 25th October.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident breeder (3). Numerous passage and winter visitor

The census of breeding Lapwings in the Peak District, limited in 2001 owing to restrictions imposed to counteract the spread of the F&M outbreak, was repeated this year and provided very encouraging results. A huge increase of 83%, to just over 400 pairs, was apparent, numbers at some sites more than doubling, though some of this increase must be put down to areas being surveyed which were to some extent out of bounds in 2001.

The following numbers of pairs were located with totals for 2001 given in brackets:- **Cartworth Moor** 31 (21), **Cubley** 33 (34), **Broadstones** 27 (16), **Castle Shaw/Diggle** 13 (not surveyed in 2001), **Deer Hill** 23 (10), **Digley** 30 (15), **Flouch** 131 (50), **Longside Edge** 23 (not surveyed in 2001 and not all of this site is in the club recording area), **Pob Green** 27 (12), **Royd Moor/ Ingbirchworth** 29 and **Tinker Hill** 35 (42). Changes in land use accounted for the decline at the last site. Three other sites had fewer than ten pairs each. Elsewhere in the club area and outside the survey area pairs were located at **Elland** (five pairs on the old tip), **Horbury** (two pairs), **Dewsbury SF** (two pairs), **Dovestones**, **Lepton** and **Featherbed Moss**. Judging by the number of young observed, the species appears to have had a good success rate.

The first displaying birds were reported at **Deer Hill** on 11th March, followed on 12th at **Harden**, where none were present on 7th April, having moved out presumably in response to severe weather.

Few counts were received for the early months and numbers were relatively low, particularly in March when many birds would have returned to breeding quarters, but there were some high counts in the late months, particularly in October.

Counts at the most frequented sites are given below.

Annat Royd Lane/Ingbirchworth – in January 400 flew west on 3rd and 130 on 16th, 80+ on 24th Feb, 92 on 12th March, max of c.80 in June and July, c.240 in August, c.500 on 24th Oct increasing to 1020 on 25th, comfortably the highest count of the year anywhere in the club area and the largest count for some years, c.170 in November down to 80 in December.

Blackmoorfoot – max. 250 on 26th Jan, 75 on 5th Feb, 43 on 8th June, 70 on 4th July, 295 on 3rd and 293 on 27th Aug, 243 on 11th and 254 on 27th Sept, 250 on 7th Oct, 200 on 15th Nov and 260 on 21st Dec.

Broadstones – 285 roosting on 10th July, 330+ present on 18th July, 80+ from 1st to 8th Aug.

Colnebridge SP – in Feb 183 on 17th and 140 on 23rd.

Cop Hill – c.100 on 3rd Aug.

Crosland Hill – in Oct c.50 on 9th, increasing to 325 on 16th and 300 on 26th and c.200 on 1st Nov.

Dearne Head – c.200 on 13th Feb.

Deer Hill – max c.50 on 11th March, 69 on 13th July, 57 on 16th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – 55 on 16th Jan, 68 on 4th March, max in July of 160 on 12th, 168 on 15th Aug, 68 on 7th Sept, 145 on 27th Nov and 100+ in Dec.

Ringstone Edge – max Feb 33, March 16, June 20, July 75, Sept 280, Oct 250, Nov 180, Dec 145.

Scout Dike/Royd Moor – c.100 on 27th Jan, 57 on 16th Feb, c.120 on 1st March, 115 on 28th Sept, c.250 on 10th Nov and c.20 on 8th Dec.

Victoria/Maythorn – 215 with Curlews in newly cut fields on 22nd June.

Smaller numbers were reported from a further ten sites.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare visitor

A juvenile at **Dewsbury SF** on 11th September was the only record (JH).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare visitor

One at **Scout Dike Res** on 18th May was assuming summer plumage (RJB,MC).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2). Uncommon passage visitor

Reported this year from ten sites, including two breeding areas. Recorded between 3rd March and 9th December.

At least three pairs were at **Black Moss** on 12th May and at least six and possibly ten males/pairs were on territory at **Featherbed Moss** in May. At this latter site display was noted at 0600hrs but had ceased entirely by 1100hrs, by which time birds were very inconspicuous. A nest found here on 12th was successful later and a clutch of four eggs in a second nest discovered on 1st June had hatched by 9th June.

Passage birds occurred as follows:-

Blackmoorfoot Res – in March singles NW on 3rd, west on 5th and 24th, followed by further singles in spring on 27th April and 4th May. In autumn, singles west on 23rd Aug, 10th Sept and 1st Nov, six west on 3rd Nov and one west on 21st Nov.

Royd Moor Res – two on 22nd April.

Deer Hill – one calling on 2nd July and one SW on 23rd Sept.

Broadstones – an adult in summer plumage on 19th July, with the same or another on 20th.

Wessenden Valley – two flew west on 30th Oct.

Holmfirth – one flew south over Greenfield Road on 5th Nov.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

Birds were reported from three sites in autumn.

Five (four males) flew west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd Aug (TG), a juv was at **Dewsbury SF** on 30th/31st Aug (JH,BA) and one at **Ringstone Edge Res** on 3rd Sept (HBC).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There was a welcome increase in records of this species, from six sites.

Deer Hill – singles in a rushy field on 20th March (BA) and 11th Dec (CH).

Colnebridge SP – one on 1st April (DS).

Dewsbury SF – in October singles from 7th to 10th and on 22nd (JH).

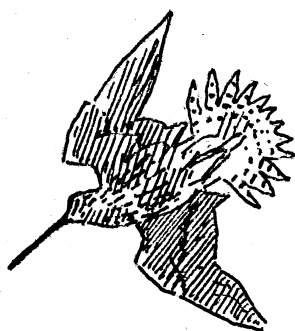
Scout Dike Res – two on 20th Oct, one on 5th Dec (RJB,MC).

Broadstones Res – up to four on five dates from 20th Oct to 8th Dec (MC,JMcL,BA).

Honley Wood – singles on 26th and 31st Oct (DHP).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident breeder (1-2). Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing



In the early months birds were reported from only eight sites, with the highest counts being five at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th Jan, 12 at **Golcar** on 19th Jan and 13 there on 16th March and 15 on 19th Feb at **Elland GPs**. At **Scout Dike** on 3rd Jan three flew up from a tarmac road in freezing conditions. Four were at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 1st Jan, three at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 3rd Jan and singles were at **Clayton West**, **Digley**, **New Mill** and **Royd Moor**.

During the breeding season a total of approximately 35 displaying birds was recorded, the first being at **Royd Moor** on 16th March, followed by two at **Harden Edge** on 17th and one at **Deer Hill** on 18th. Later in the season seven pairs were in the **Flouch** area, six in the **Tinker Hill/Dunford Bridge** area, four at **Cubley**, three each at **Deer Hill** and **Digley**, with single drumming/chirping individuals at **Scammonden**, **March Haigh**, **Lower Green Owlers**, **Dean Clough**, **Netherwood Heys**, **Featherbed Moss** and **Wessenden Head**.

After the breeding season, 14 sites held birds with totals in single figures at all but five localities. At **Dewsbury SF** the first birds (five) reappeared on 2nd August, increasing to 15 by 17th Sept, 57 on 25th, 60 by 3rd Oct, then declining gradually to 55 on 7th Oct and 13 from 28th Oct to 24th Dec. **Ringstone Edge** had 20 on 24th Sept, **Scout Dike** 12+ on 20th Oct, **Golcar** 12 on 21st Dec, on which date the highest count of the year was achieved at **Ravensthorpe GPs** which held 80+.

Elsewhere max counts were eight at **Horbury Wyke** on 8th Sept, eight at **Broadstones** on 26th Oct and 2nd Nov, seven at **Blackmoorfoot** from 2nd to 9th Oct and five on a small pool at

Tinker Hill on 2nd Nov. Up to two were also reported from **Marsden, Bradley Park GC, Ingbirchworth** and **Deer Hill**.

Flyovers were noted at **Blackmoorfoot**, two west on 10th Sept and at **Harden Edge**, where two flew high to the south on 31st Oct.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) and uncommon winter visitor

Few records were received, both with regard to roding and to wintering/passage birds.

One was at **Denby Dale** on 11th Feb and one was flushed from a boggy area near **Langsett** on 17th March. A bird flushed at **New Hall Wood** on 16th March and 13th April repeated events of 2001 and could again have been a wintering or nesting individual.

Roding birds were observed in May/June at **Woodsome Lees** (two or three), **Langsett** (five), **Red Hill, Kirkburton** and **Yateholme** (at least three). At this last site a bird flushed by a Sparrowhawk in daylight on 11th May had a large gap in the left wing leading to speculation that it might have been a victim of shooting (MC).

Towards the year end birds were flushed in the **Grimescar Valley** on 11th October, at **Hartcliff Hill** (two) on 3rd Nov and **Lower Stones Wood** on 4th Nov and were probably continental migrants.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor

There were two reports of this species. At **Dewsbury SF** on 1st August two flew in from the north and circled for about five minutes before leaving to the southeast (JH). On the same date one was found just before dusk approximately four kilometers away at **Horbury Wyke**, where it remained until the following day and was identified on plumage as belonging to the “*islandica*” race (DHP,JMcL,BA). The circumstances suggest that it could have been one of the Dewsbury SF birds.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

A poor year with just three records.

Two fed on the airfield at **Brown's Edge** on 3rd May (MC,RJB,JMcL) and in autumn singles flew WSW at **Brodstones Res** on 6th Aug (MC) and west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th Sept (MLD).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and common passage visitor

The earliest returning birds were two at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th Feb, with one flying west there on 4th March, one at **Buckstones** on 15th Feb and at **Blackmoorfoot** singles moving west on 18th and 24th Feb. The first of the year at **Harden** appeared on 1st March and the next were singles at **Horbury Wyke** on 4th and at **Deer Hill** on 5th March. There was then a gap to 11th when a flock of 14 birds was at **Deer Hill**, at **Blackmoorfoot** two flew south on 12th and a flock of 20 also moved south there on 13th.

One was in full song at **Harden** on 15th March, a day of snow, sleet and fog. Large numbers occurred in the second half of March, with up to 19 in the **Ingbirchworth** area, at **Scammonden** 28 on 19th and 25 on 21st, on which latter date a total of 85 birds included c.30 in pairs at **Harden**, and 10+ were at **Digley** on 24th. In late March several pairs remained at **Harden** but by 7th April all had vanished, presumably in response to bad weather.

More than 40 pairs/displaying birds were located at over 20 sites, with the largest numbers in the **Harden/Winscar**, **Digley**, **Castleshaw/Diggle** and **Longdendale** areas, with smaller numbers at **Pob Green**, **Saddleworth Moor**, **Carlecotes**, **Turton's Edge**, **Scammonden**, **Featherbed Moss**, **Holme Moss**, **Dovestones**, **Wessenden**, **Dean Clough** and at lower altitudes at **Flockton** and **Stockmoor Common**.

The only large gathering after the spring influx was of 90 birds in the **Victoria/Maythorn** area on 22nd June in newly cut fields with Lapwings.

Most birds had left breeding grounds by the end of June, late records coming from **Broadstones Res** where seven moulting adults left to the east on 12th July and two appeared there in late August. Three flew NE at **Dewsbury SF** on 31st Aug, singles were at **Ringstone Edge** on 24th Sept and 7th Oct, one flew south at **Wessenden** on 9th Oct and in November one flew south at **Royd Moor** on 10th and one west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Rare passage visitor

The only record was of a single bird at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th September (JH), the first in the area since 1998.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1)

The first returning bird appeared at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd March, with the same or another on 4th. One was at **Thornhill Millbank** on 17th March and two arrived back at last year's breeding site at **Harden Edge** on the same date. Three pairs eventually settled in the **Harden/Flight Hill/Winscar** area and two of these are known to have produced young, chicks being seen at different sites on 21st May and 8th June. A pair was also present at **Black Moss** on 12th May.

Elsewhere one flew west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th April, two were at **Deer Hill Res** at the end of April/early May but not subsequently. At **Broadstones Res** one flew west on 23rd

June, two were present on 8th July and a single on 1st August. One was heard over **Sparth Res** on 3rd Sept and one was at a pool in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** off Greenfield Road on 30th Sept.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor

Occurred at just three sites with a single record in spring.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew west on 3rd May; in autumn one west on 2nd August and one arrived at 1830hrs on 30th September (MLD).

Broadstones Res – an adult on 2nd/3rd August (MC).

Dewsbury SF – one on 16th August, one from 13th to 17th September then two to 24th, one remaining to 26th (JH,DHP).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

An excellent year for this species at Dewsbury SF, where there were wintering birds at both ends of the year, but otherwise very thin on the ground.

Dewsbury SF – one from 22nd to 27th Jan, two from 18th to 23rd Feb, daily in March from 3rd to 16th (two) and in April singles on 13th, 19th and 24th with the last of the spring on 11th May. Returning birds appeared in July with singles on 4th, 5th, 15th and 31st, then in August three from 1st to 3rd, five on 5th, three on 6th, two from 13th to 16th then three to 21st, one on 25th, two from 31st to 2nd September, followed by three on 11th, one on 18th/19th; in October two from 3rd to 26th, four from 27th to 2nd November, then two from 3rd November to the year end (JH).

Thornhill Millbank – one on 13th April, two on 28th September.

Broadstones Res – one on 6th July from 0700 to 0730hrs only.

Ravensthorpe GPs – one on 28th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one on 3rd August.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first sighting of the year was at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 17th April with another there from 21st to 30th. By the end of the month single birds had occurred at a further nine sites, which included some breeding localities, viz. on 19th at **Elland GPs**, on 20th at **Wessenden Head Res**, 22nd at **Dewsbury SF**, 23rd on the R.Calder at **Horbury**, 24th at **Winscar Res**, a pair at **Deer Hill Res** on 25th, on 27th at **Ingbirchworth** and **Royd Moor Res's** and on 29th at **Langsett Res**.

Breeding occurred at **Deer Hill**, where there were two well grown young on 6th June and further pairs were located at **Langsett** (five), **Wessenden Valley** (four) with agitated birds at **Blakeley** and **Butterley Res's** indicating the presence of young on 16th June, **Booth Dam** where two pairs were thought to have failed owing to the activities of Mink, **Winscar** where at least one pair bred with an adult and a juv together on 25th and 27th June. One was on

territory in the **Little Don Valley** on 30th May and a pair displayed at **Sparth Res** on just one date, 11th May. Birds were also present in the breeding season at **Ramsden Res, Yateholme**.

Few birds remained after the end of June; in July three were at **Elland GPs** on 1st, three at **Winscar** on 3rd, two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th with one on 8th, two at **Broadstones** on 6th, two at **Butterley** on 7th, with three on the same date at **Ingbirchworth** where also there was at least one on 8th and one on 29th, one at **Deer Hill** on 13th and one at **Scout Dike** on 20th. **Broadstones** also hosted a single bird on 3rd August.

Dewsbury SF had another excellent series of autumn records. The species was present on 18 dates in July, max four on 8th and five on 10th and numbers increased in August, when birds occurred on 17 dates, with max of seven on 4th, six on 6th and seven on 13th. One remained from 1st to 11th September.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

All records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res** and involved a minimum of five different birds. An adult on 8th Jan (BA,MC,DHP) and a different adult on 21st/22nd Jan (MLD,DHP), an adult on 1st Feb (JKP), two adults on 9th Feb (MC), an adult from 16th to 18th Feb and an adult on 22nd and 28th Feb (JKP); finally in the early months an adult in full summer plumage was present from 8th to 11th March (MLD,DHP,JKP). At the end of the year a 2ndW on 3rd November (PB) and an adult from 27th to 30th December (PB).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor

The only record was an adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 5th March (MLD).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor and former breeder (1)

Present throughout the year, with largest numbers occurring in the winter months.

Birds continued to roost in large numbers at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Langsett Reservoirs**, but only one count was received from the latter site and there were no counts at the former in January/February and only combined counts for this species and Common Gull from October onwards.

Max monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	n/c	n/c	3150	n/c	n/c	n/c	52	207	500+	3600	5200	5700
Bretton	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	200
Elland GPs	600	200	21	-	-	-	2	23	-	60	48	350
Ingbirchworth	600	80	90	7	3	-	-	-	1	23	27	55
Royd Moor	210	n/c	186	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	140	n/c
Scout Dike	n/c	350	n/c	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	200	n/c
Ringstone Edge	n/c	181	n/c	-	-	-	-	-	400	100	200	200

Numbers elsewhere included c.150 on **Lindley Rec** on 12th June, up to 100 over **Shelley** on several dates, up to 30 at **Scammonden** from January to March and September to December, c.150 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 9th November, c.1350 at **Langsett Res** on 23rd November and a max at **Dewsbury SF** of c.1800 on 18th December, with smaller numbers at several other sites.

In the very cold spell in early January, four were frozen into ice at **Panna Mill Dam, Meltham** on 5th, one still alive but very weak (DMP).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Birds were reported from 14 sites but with just single figure counts at five of them.

No counts were received from the **Langsett Res** roost.

Max counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res** were as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
n/c	n/c	316	n/c	nil	2	2	3	22	832	1360	5700*

*= combined count with Black-headed Gull.

Other counts were received from **Ingbirchworth Res**, max 23 in January, 11 in February, four in November, five in December, **Shelley** c.200 over on 30th January, **Ringstone Edge Res** eight on 2nd February and 100 on 27th December, **Sparth Res** 80 on 8th February, up to 50 at **Woodsome** in November/December, c.250 in fields at **Dearne Dike Lane** on 8th December and a max of c.1000 at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th December.

Birds were very scarce everywhere from May to September inclusive with reports only from **Harden**, one SW on 22nd June, four west on 28th July and eight west between 4th and 8th August, an adult at **Deer Hill** on 28th July, a 2ndS at **Broadstones** on 30th July and two at **Horbury Strands** on 8th September.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor

The species was recorded in all months, but single figures only in January, February and December, maximum numbers building up from August to peak in October.

Max at **Blackmoorfoot** were eight in Jan, seven in Feb, ten in March, 122 in April, 11 in May, five in June, eight in July, 67 in Aug, 83 in Sept, 107 in Oct, 41 in Nov and four in Dec, a huge reduction on numbers present in 2001 when the Honley refuse tip was still operative. Only three counts were received from the **Langsett Res** roost, all in October, producing 800+ on 12th and 700+ on 26th/27th.

Small numbers appeared on passage in the **Harden/Ingbirchworth** areas on 16th March, followed at **Harden** by 20+ on 27th April moving WSW/SW, 80-100 west on 18th May, 50 west in two hours on 4th July and c.40 east on 23rd September and a small passage involving 100+ birds, usually in a westerly direction, was observed at **Broadstones** in early August

and included the first juveniles of the year. Thirty were feeding in fields at **Windleden Edge** on 17th July and included one individual considered to be dark enough to be of the race *L.f.intermedius* (MC). Smaller numbers were also noted on passage in March/April flying over **Shelley, Hade Edge** and **Scout Dike**. Fifty moved north at **Elland GPs** on 5th August, otherwise a max of only six at this site in December.

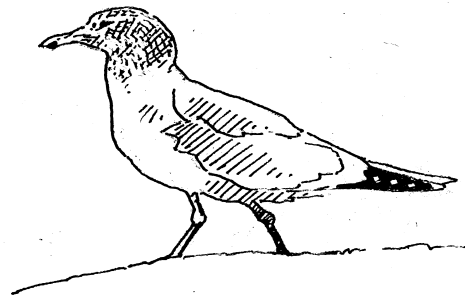
At **Royd Moor Res** the usual build-up in August/September failed to occur, probably a result of high water levels and max numbers were 182 on 19th October and 230 on 9th November. Nearby at **Hartcliff Hill** c.440 were in fields on 27th September, 250 on 17th October and 230 on 9th November; 113 moved south here towards the **Langsett Res** roost on 1st October.

The only numbers of any significance elsewhere were 53 at **Horbury Strands** on 8th and a max of 30 at **Ringstone Edge** on 24th September. Single figures were reported from **Dalton, Ingbirchworth** and **Upper Denby**.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Very few records were received for this species and **Blackmoorfoot** was the only site where regular double figure counts were achieved. Max counts here were:-



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
542	165	29	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	103	316

Elsewhere a max of 54 occurred at **Ingbirchworth** in January (otherwise no more than five here), singles over **Ringstone Edge** on 19th February and over **Harden** on 23rd September, eight roosting at **Langsett Res** on 26th October and a max of nine at **Elland GPs** on 10th December. Small numbers were noted passing over **Shelley** in January/February and November/December.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus (cachinnans) michahellis*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Birds were reported from seven sites, although interestingly it was a blank year at **Blackmoorfoot**, which recently has been one of the two main locations for the species. Most records were in the period August to October.

Blackley Tip – an adult on 31st Jan (HBC).

Ringstone Edge Res – an adult on 26th March (JED); in August three adults on 29th and one on 31st and in September two adults on 2nd and one adult on 28th (HBC,DHP).

Langsett Res – an adult in fields nearby on 2nd June (TG), two adults roosting on 27th October and one on 10th November (RJB,MC).

Lindley Moor – one over on 25th July (JED).

Broadstones Res – a 3rd year bird in fields with Lesser Blackbacks on 2nd and 10th August (MC).

Upper Denby – an adult in fields with Lesser Blackbacks on 12th September (TM).

Royd Moor Res - an adult on 9th November (RJB).

Caspian Gull *Larus (argentatus) cachinnans*

Rare visitor

A first-year example was in the gull roost at **Langsett Res** from 24th to 30th December (KC,MC,RH,RJB). The first record of this subspecies of Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* in the club area.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor

Birds were recorded on ten dates at **Blackmoorfoot Res** in the early months as follows:- in January a 2nd W from 2nd to 4th (MC,SP,JKP), a 3rd W on 5th to 7th and 11th/12th (MC,MLD et al), an adult on 15th (TG) and a 2nd W on 3rd February (MLD). An unaged bird at **Honley Tip** on 6th January (DMP) was presumably the same as the Blackmoorfoot individual.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor

At **Blackmoorfoot Res** the 1st W bird from 2001 remained to 5th January (MLD,JKP et al). A different 1st W appeared on 13th January and remained to 28th February; this bird fed on **Honley Tip** and was present at the reservoir during the day as well as roosting there (MC,MLD et al). Additional 1st W birds also occurred on 26th January (MC) and 24th February (MC), giving a total of four individual first winters.

A probable 1st W was seen between **Meltham** and **Meltham Cop** drifting towards Castle Hill on 1st January and was presumably the Blackmoorfoot bird (DMP).

Birds were reported from **Honley Wood Tip** and nearby fields on 9th, 14th, 18th and 19th January (MC,DHP,CH) and the bird of 19th was considered to be different from the one at Blackmoorfoot on 16th. A 1st W was at **Baitings Res** on 24th February (HBC).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor

Birds were reported from eight sites but only with regularity from **Blackmoorfoot Res**, where max monthly counts were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
177	n/c	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	216

Apart from **Elland GPs**, which had one on 19th Jan and 30 on 19th and ten on 28th Dec, all other reports involved only low single figures, i.e. at **Ingbirchworth** singles in January and November, at **Shelley** in January three on 6th and one on 30th, seven on 2nd October and then occasional singles, **Deer Hill** four west on 18th March, **Harden** one on passage with Lesser Blackbacks and Herring Gulls on 23rd Sept, **Castle Hill** two over on 11th Dec and **Bretton Lakes** two east on 31st Dec.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor

There were just two records this year, both involving single adults, at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 26th Oct (PB) and roosting at **Langsett Res** on 28th Dec (RJB,KC,MC,RH).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce passage migrant

Two adults moved through **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 6th August (MLD).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage and summer visitor, increasing

There were fewer records than in most recent years, with the majority occurring as usual in the Calder Valley. Extreme dates were 23rd April and 5th September.

Horbury Wyke – two on 23rd April, up to four on 11th May and singles on 9th June and 2nd August.

Dewsbury SF – two on 26th April, three on 5th May then recorded daily to the end of July.

Elland GPs – recorded on 22 dates between 4th May and 10th August, with two on 4th then three on 5th May, in June max of four on 29th/30th and four on 6th/7th July. On 3rd August an adult was feeding two recently fledged young, perhaps indicating the possibility of breeding somewhere nearby. The last at this site were two on 8th and 10th August. “Commic” Terns were also present on 11th May (2) and 13th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult on 19th June, two adults on 6th August.

Broadstones Res – two on 3rd August.

Crosland Moor – an adult flew north on 5th September.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3)

The only count received was of 350 in the Town Centre on 27th February (DMO).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Records were received from more than 25 sites well spread throughout the area but few flocks of any size were reported.

A pair again raised young in an old building in **Orange Wood** in August, 2/3 pairs bred in the **Winscar** area with a similar number in a farm building in the **Emley Moor/Shelley** area. Displaying birds were at **Horbury** on 23rd April and copulation was observed near **Penny Spring Wood** on 3rd February and further pairs were located at **Bartin, Bretton Lakes**, the Lumb Lane area of **Almondbury, Elysium, Haigh, Lepton** and **Wessenden**.

Double figure counts were obtained at **Royd Moor**, 14 on 12th March with good numbers also present here on 29th May, 20 were at **Digley** on 24th March, 15 in **Annat Royd Lane** on 17th April and 70 there on 25th October, 12 at **Honley Moor** on 16th October, but easily the highest numbers were in the **Flouch** area, with up to 110 between 13th and 17th March.

Smaller numbers were at **Dean Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Thurgory**, **Elland GPs**, **Lindley**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Hade Edge** and near the **Ford Inn**, mainly in the early months. **Blackmoorfoot** recorded birds on 70+ dates with max of seven on two days each in March and July.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** between 2nd September and 3rd November produced a total of 63 birds on 12 dates, with a max of nine on 2nd Nov.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4) and numerous winter visitor

More records were submitted than usual, possibly on account of the large numbers of birds encountered towards the end of the year, but although the species is a very common and widespread breeder, very few records referred to breeding, the only sites mentioned being **TP Wood** where two pairs nested, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Stockmoor Common** where an attempt failed at the young stage.

The only reports in the early months concerned 300 near **Penistone** on 6th January, 55 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th January, 40+ moving WSW at **Harden** on the evening of 27th March and c.60 at **High Wood**, **High Hoyland** on 16th April.

The situation was very different at the end of the year however. At **Harden** 855 moved ESE on 31st October, followed in November by 1200 west on 2nd, 400 south and 1000 north on 3rd and 450 south, 1120 north and 65 east in post dawn v.m.ws. Whether these birds were actually moving on migration or exiting roost sites is not certain. At **Cheesegate Nab/Meal Hill** 380 flew ESE on 1st November and at **Hartcliff Hill** c.1200 flew SE in 4/5 flocks on 3rd November.

These numbers paled almost into insignificance later in the month, when on 11th November an estimated 13,000 were gathered in woodlands on the western flank of the **Fenay Beck** in a traditional roosting area. On 22nd 188 passed over **Dewsbury SF**, whilst on 27th a single flock of 12,000+ birds took ten minutes to pass over there to the east, with a further 385 moving over high in the same direction at this site on 24th December. Large numbers were also on the move in the **Colne Valley**, v.m.ws between 16th September and 5th November producing a total of 12,483 birds on 17 dates, mainly after mid October, with a peak of 3,330 on 2nd November.

At **Blackmoorfoot** flocks of c.3000 flying north on 5th December and 350 east on 7th may well have been moving through the area, but 1500 on 9th and 1680 on 11th were on their way to roost about a mile to the southeast in **Honley Wood**, where at least 1300 were roosting on 19th. 400 over **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st December was the only other significant count there.

Elsewhere a flock of c.1000 flew north over **Standedge** on 5th December, at **Lindley Moor** 600 flew west at 1355hrs on 8th December and up to 100 regularly in the late afternoon later in the month. **Elland GPs** had large numbers in December, 2000 on 8th and an estimated

3000 on 9th and 500 were in **Elland Park Wood** on 28th. 600 passed over **Ringstone Edge** on 27th December, c.250 were in **Longley Woods** on 30th and large numbers at **Bretton** on 31st, whilst throughout the month hundreds flew over **Shelley** towards the huge roost in **Storthes Hall Woods**.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

Even fewer records were received than in 2001; breeding was noted at **Shelley, TPWood**, in the **Marsh/Oakes/Lindley/Salendine Nook** area and at **Stockmoor Common**, where two young were raised. No significant counts were reported.

A total of 23 individuals were reported on v.m.ws. in the **Colne Valley** between 23rd September and 5th November.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (1)

There was a slight increase to fifteen in the number of localities from which this species was reported, but arrivals were even later than last year, with no April records. The last report was on 12th August.



The first dated reports came from the **Langsett** area, where five birds were calling on 3rd May, with later records in this area being three males in the **Little Don Valley** on 26th and one at **Cliff Wood** on 30th May. The first of the year at **Winscar** appeared on 4th May, with perhaps the same at **Harden** on 6th and nearby at **Dunford Bridge** on 12th and 21st May.

One called for a month in the **Shelley Park** area from 5th May and a male was heard regularly in the **Deer Hill** area from early May to 4th June and a juvenile was seen in this area on 13th and 17th July and 8th August. Also during May single males were heard at **Dovestones, Stockmoor** on 19th, **Shepley** on 25th (and 8th June), **Royd Edge Clough** on 26th, **Cheesegate Nab** on 30th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st, this last being the first record at the site since 1998. A male was seen and heard at **Marsden Clough** on 20th June. The last record for the year was of a juvenile in the willow plantation at **Windmill Lane, Broadstones** on 12th August.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

Reported from fewer localities than the previous year when F&M restrictions were in place.

Breeding was confirmed near **Blackmoorfoot** (2 young), **Hepworth** (one recently fledged juv on 14th August), **Wooldale** (young raised), **Meltham, Royd Edge** (adult and 2 juvs on 20th June) and in a relatively small area to the west of **Meltham**, where there were at least three breeding pairs. Unfortunately no information was received from some wellknown sites

in the overlap area with Barnsley BSG, where the **Cubley/Roughbircworth** area holds one of the highest densities of the species.

Further pairs were located at **Brown's Edge, Castle Hill, Crosland Hill, Denby Dale (3+), Digley, Emley Moor, Farnley Tyas, Highburton, Holme Styas, Linthwaite, Lumb Lane, Marsden Clough, Merrydale, Ravensthorpe GPs, Royd Moor, Scammonden, Shelley Woodhouse, Shepley (2), Townhead and Whitley Common** and probably bred at many of these.

Single birds were also found at **Dewsbury SF, Elland GPs, Greenfield Road, Holme, Holt Head, Horn Lane, New Mill, Scout Dike, Skelmanthorpe, Thurstonland and Wessenden.**

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2-3)

There was a small increase to almost 40 in the number of sites from which reports were received and breeding was confirmed at **Holme Styas (2 pairs), Honley Wood, Linthwaite, TP Wood and Windybank Wood**, with territorial birds also at **Bretton, Digley, Farnley Tyas, Langsett, Lepton Great Wood, Molly Carr Wood, Storthes Hall Woods and Yateholme**, and a very pale bird, probably a juvenile was flushed from the road at 2200hrs on 16th July at **Ellen Springs, Fulstone.**

Birds were also present at a further 17 sites mainly outside the breeding season. Road traffic accident casualties were found at **Crosland Heath** on 31st January and **Upper Cumberworth** on 24th December.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

In the regular breeding areas birds were first located on 16th March when a male was giving the territorial hoot at 1950hrs. Subsequently at least two pairs, probably three, were present and two juveniles were present in each of two localities in June and July. A regular site nearby, however, was unoccupied in June. Towards the end of the year at least one bird was roosting in hawthorns at **Denby Delph** on 28th October, one was at **Winscar** on 10th December and one hunted in daylight at **Harden** in hard weather in late December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage visitor

A very different picture emerged from 2001, when most sightings in a poor year were in the late months.

One pair, which were first seen together on 8th April, then briefly on 11th, bred successfully, the adults taking food to three well separated areas in early June and at least one well grown young was seen. None could be found after 20th June, having probably



dispersed. It was reported that the adults were incredibly secretive during the day throughout the breeding cycle.

In the **Winscar/Harden** area the first of the year appeared on 23rd March and display occurred on 27th and at least one bird remained to late June; a hunting bird was attacked by a Peregrine at **Winscar** on 8th April.

Elsewhere singles occurred regularly in the **Deer Hill/Holt Head** area in the early months, at **March Haigh Res** on 8th June, near **Marsden GC** on 15th June, to the south of **Holme Moss** on 23rd June, **Marsden Moor** on 11th July, **Harden Edge** on 7th August.

The only reports later in the year were of two which dropped out of the sky and were probably migrants at **Townhead** on 26th October and one in November at **Deer Hill**.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare summer visitor

On 30th May at **Almondbury** a male was flushed at 2050hrs by the observer from the field just behind his back garden. It flew around the field twice, calling continuously, before departing to the southeast. It had been roosting either on a garden fence or on some newly cut conifer branches (BA).

In an area of clearfell at **Holme Styes** one began churring at 2205hrs on 4th June, continuing to do so and displaying, then glide-hunting, until 2300hrs (MC,DHP). It was heard and seen again at 2140hrs and 2200hrs on 6th (BA,MJW et al) and on 7th (MJW). MC had been checking this area for the species for the previous four years and obtained due reward for his persistence and effort.

I suppose there is a remote, though unlikely, possibility that the same bird was involved in both these occurrences.

These are the first sightings in the club area since 1993.

Swift *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (2-3)

There were many fewer April arrivals this year with only singles on 27th at **Dewsbury SF** and **Elland GPs** and at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 28th; it was not until mid May that many sites received their first birds.

Early May produced one at **Dewsbury SF** and four at **Elland GPs** on 1st, five at **Blackmoorfoot** and 4+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 2nd and singles in the **Longwood Valley** on 6th and at **Crosland Moor** and **Blackmoorfoot** again on 8th. First records for the year were obtained at **Shelley** on 10th, **Colnebridge SP** on 12th, **Aspley** (2) on 14th, **Lindley** (6) on 16th, **New Mill** on 20th and **Jackson Bridge** and **Lindley Moor** on 26th.

The largest numbers reported at this time of the year were up to 18 at **Blackmoorfoot** in May, 37 at **Elland GPs** on 27th May, 80+ at **Cooper Bridge** on 29th May, when c.15 were at **Ingbirchworth** with a similar number at **Royd Moor**.

Highest numbers reported in June were 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 9th, 25+ at **Horbury Wyke** on 11th, 40 at **Ringstone Edge** on 24th and an isolated peak of 63 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th.

Birds were more in evidence in July, with 260 passing through **Elland GPs** in 15 minutes on 1st, a max of 47 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th, 20 (mainly juveniles) at **Lindley Moor** on 9th, passage at **Dewsbury SF** of 300 on 15th and 270 on 16th all moving west, and 40+ on the evening of 18th over **Moldgreen**.

In August **Blackmoorfoot** had a max of only eight on 10th, **Dewsbury SF** had 280 west on 1st and 360 west on 15th, 25 were hawking over fields at **Lepton** and a single flock of 150+ moved through **Horbury Wyke** on 11th. Last site records came from **Jackson Bridge** on 7th, **Lindley** on 8th, **Shelley** and **Lindley Moor** on 11th, **Dalton** and **Rastrick** on 14th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st. Few remained in September, with just one at **Crosland Moor** on 2nd, three east on 3rd and 6th at **Dewsbury SF** with one west there on 7th and three on 12th and one on 13th at **Marsden**.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1)

Reported from 23 localities, almost the same as in 2001, but no reports were received from some known sites in the Barnsley area. Once again birds were very scarce in the Holme Valley.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Elland GPs** (2 pairs), where a family party of four birds was present in the same bush at the edge of one of the lagoons on 17th August and at **Penistone** (4 juvs reared), but probably occurred at several other sites where the species was present in the breeding season, e.g. **Bretton Lakes**, **Horbury**, **Fenay Beck near Dogley**, **Gunthwaite**, on the R.Calder near **Colnebridge SP** and **Dewsbury SF** and on the R.Colne near **Aspley**.

Outside the breeding season birds were sighted at **Blackmoorfoot Res** (Aug-Dec only), **Black Brook**, **Denby Dale**, **Lockwood**, **Mirfield**, **Ryburn**, **Scammonden**, **Scout Dike**, **Shelley/Shepley**, **Sparth Res**, **Tunnel End**, **Wooldale** (one visited an old mill pond on 3rd July) and near the **McAlpine Stadium**.

An unusual sighting at **Dewsbury SF** was of a bird which was attacked by c.80 Swallows on 3rd September and forced to ditch three times in one of the watery sewage lagoons (JH) and one flying across the main road calling at **Upper Cumberworth** on 4th October was unexpected (TM).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (1-2)

Although the species is widespread throughout the area from the lowlands to the moorland fringes where there is suitable habitat and was reported from 40 sites, no breeding proof was forthcoming from anywhere in the area. The great majority of reports involved single birds, in many cases being identified by calls. At several sites birds were heard on only one occasion.

Most occurrences were reported outside the breeding season, but between April and July birds were near **Elland GPs** and at **Windybank Wood, Denby Dale** (4 on 15th April), **Lumb Lane, Waterhall Park (Penistone), Wessenden, Carr Wood, Golcar Appleyards, Stonycliffe Wood, Blacker Beck, Horbury, Deighton, Hepworth, Woodsome, Bretton Lakes and Hagg Wood.**

The species was a regular garden visitor at **Jackson Bridge** in late summer and to a **Fixby** garden on 26th December.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Resident breeder (2-3)

Records were received from 55 localities, considerably down on the previous year.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Lakes**, two pairs feeding young in nest holes on 28th May, near **Elland GPs**, a juv with an adult also on 28th May, **Hagg Wood**, a juv on 20th June, **Hollins Clough** – one young fledged, **Jackson Bridge** young being fed by adults, **New House Wood** adult feeding at least two fledged young on 9th June, **New Mill** juvs in June/July, **Orange Wood, Shelley** a family party on 14th June, **TP Wood and Windybank Wood**, where young were being fed in a nest hole on 31st May.



Other sites which had birds in the breeding season and at many of which birds probably bred were **Penny Spring Wood, Molly Carr Wood, Royd House Wood, Healey Greave Wood, Lower Stones Wood, Deffer Wood, Lepton Great Wood, Sparth, Butterley, New Delight, Marsden Church, Tunnel End, Gunthwaite, Longley Woods, Stoneycliff Wood, New Hall Wood, Jenkinson Wood, Dean Wood, Ravensthorpe, Horbury and Cliff Wood.**

Garden feeders were favoured at **Fixby, Jackson Bridge, Lockwood and New Mill.**

At **Deer Hill** one flew east high on 11th September and one dropped from a height into the plantation on 18th September.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*
Resident breeder (1)

A very poor year compared with 2001, with fewer sites having birds and only one report in the breeding season.

Deffer Wood – one on 5th Jan.

Shepley – a female on 5th Jan.

Royd House Wood – a female on 12th Feb.

Molly Carr Wood – one on 18th March.

Elland Park Wood – one on 31st March.

Bretton Lakes – a male on 11th May was the only record at this normally reliable site.

Lumb Lane – one calling on 29th July.

Flockton – a female on 24th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – a female on feeders for c.20 minutes on 23rd Oct.

Longley Woods – one calling on 9th Nov.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder (3)

A much underreported species, especially in the breeding season, with a total of 40+ singing males reported from only 13 areas, including 10+ in the **Deer Hill** area, 5+ at **Moor Top Grange**, 3 at **Balk Lane**, 3 in the **Crosland Road** area, 5 at **Scammonden**, 5 at **Wessenden**, 2+ at **Horbury** as well as a healthy breeding population reported on grass moor near **Rishworth** and good numbers in the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstones/Royd Moor** area.

The earliest report of song was on 12th March and the last on 12th July.

Single birds were reported in January over **Bretton Park** on 5th and moving west at **Deer Hill** on 18th and in February over **Kirkheaton** on 5th and **Harden** on 13th, while two were at **Elland GPs** on 3rd, 15 at **Shepley** on 23rd and 22 in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th.

In the later months of the year a steady passage was noted over **Shelley** in late September, 12 flew west at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th September and 40 east there on 19th December and a total of 83 birds was counted on v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** between 9th September and 5th November with a peak of 28 on 31st October. Also in October two flew over the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 6th, a flock of 12 went south at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th and seven over **New Mill** on 26th. There were several reports of grounded birds at this time too – at **Hartcliff Hill** 19 on stubble on 5th October and c.60 there on 17th, c.40 at **Scout Dike** on 20th and at **Blackmoorfoot** one in November to 15th and in December up to 35 in two kale stubble fields to the east between 11th and 31st.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder (2)

Birds were reported between 17th March and 10th September but sightings were down on recent years and information was received from only one breeding colony.

Elland GPs – two on 17th and one on 23rd March; in April on only three dates with a max of three on 8th, two birds on two dates in May and up to three in the first week of June.

Dewsbury SF – one on 17th and two on 25th March. No more counts until 7th September when 50 were present. Numbers were much down on previous years.

Scout Dike Res – two on 23rd March.

Horbury – three at the Wyke on 4th April and five at the Strands on 16th increasing to 35+ on 11th June and 60+ on 2nd August, with 20+ on 11th August and at least one on 8th September.

Ravensthorpe GPs – c.40 were present on 7th April with some birds visiting nest holes. A count on 28th July revealed 96 nest holes of which 46 were still in use and included 24 with chicks at their entrance.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in April two on 17th, one on 22nd, two on 23rd and one on 30th, then singles on 20th June, 1st and 10th July, 13th, 23rd and 31st August and the last on 10th September – a very poor showing.

Boshaw Whams – two on 21st April.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 22nd April and 2nd May.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 26th April, 30 on 9th and 12 on 31st July.

Dalton – one over on 27th August.

Colne Valley – 16 on seven dates between 20th September and 6th October, max. five on 13th September.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4)

The first birds to arrive were one at **Upper Cumberworth** on 5th April, four at **Elland GPs** and two at **Wood Nook** on 7th, singles at **Lindley Moor** on 8th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th, two at **Scout Dike** and one at **Dewsbury SF** on 10th and singles at **Oldfield** on 11th and **Colnebridge SP** on 13th. On 14th April a minimum of 17 birds appeared suddenly at **Bretton Lakes** when heavy storm clouds came over, feeding for a short time before passing on.

A more general arrival occurred from 16th April and by the end of the month birds had been noted at a further 20 sites, but only in relatively low numbers with the only double figure counts reported being 30 at **Clayton West SF** and 12 at **Gunthwaite** on 18th and c.25 at **Ingbirchworth** on 25th. Birds continued to arrive into May, when an arrival of 10+ occurred at **Harden** on 9th and an obvious easterly movement was recorded at **Colnebridge SP** on 18th and **Blackmoorfoot** had a max. of 25+ on 25th.

Breeding was reported only at **New Mill, Pob Green, Shelley, Emley Moor, Crosland Road** (c.5 pairs), **Elysium** and **Colnebridge** but doubtless was widespread.

Few post-breeding counts of any significance were made in July and August, max. being at **Blackmoorfoot** 100+ on 29th July and in August 50+ on 5th, 54 on 13th and 110 moving south on 17th. A roost developed at **Elland GPs** in August and held 400+ on 5th, 500 on 7th, 2000 on 22nd and 1000 on 4th September. No information was received for the roost at Healey Mills.

Birds remained at many sites into September, **Blackmoorfoot** having 37 on 3rd and 50+ on 17th, 200+ were over **Lumb Lane** on 7th, when 500 were also at **Dewsbury SF**, which had c.700 on 16th reducing to 16 on 29th. **Ringstone Edge** hosted 205 on 8th, **Langsett** 30 on 11th, **Scout Dike** 30+ on 15th, **Blackley** 15 on 16th and four other sites reported single figures up to 29th.

In October birds were still present at eight sites, with singles south at **Dalton** and above **Holmfirth** and several over **Shelley** all on 1st, singles east at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th, at **Scout Dike** on 15th, at **Blackmoorfoot** on six dates to 16th with a max. of five on the last date, singles south at **Hartcliff Hill** on 17th and 20th, when one was also at **Digley**.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** between 2nd September and 20th October produced a total of 1497 birds with a max. of 252 on 2nd September.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3)

Ten birds appeared at **Elland GPs** on the relatively early date of 8th April but no more were reported until one at **Shelley** on 15th, the observer's earliest ever in the locality. After two at **Gunthwaite** on 18th, the next were four at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st, one at the regular breeding site at **Holly Bank Road, Lindley** on 23rd, four north at **Dalton** on 25th, 20+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th and one at **Sparth Res** and a further 12 at **Elland GPs** on 28th. **Jackson Bridge** did not receive its first of the year until 5th May and the first sighting of the year in the **Longwood Valley** was not until 19th. **Elland GPs** highest numbers during May were 30 on both 5th and 22nd, but **Blackmoorfoot's** max. was a mere eight on 25th. First records were even later at **New Mill** on 3rd June and the first birds were not seen at a traditional breeding site at **Dalton** until 4th June, but c.70 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 9th.

Breeding colonies were reported at **Shelley, Shelley Park**, on the Black Horse Hotel at **Dalton**, on the waterworks cottages at **Digley**, in **Lumb Lane, Almondbury** where eight nests were located on one house and still being visited on 27th September and others on a second house nearby, and in **Holly Bank Road, Lindley** where many young fledged from six nests in July/August.

There were no significant gatherings or movements in July, but in August **Elland GPs** had 30 on 5th and 70 on 6th, at **Colnebridge SP** 30+ moved east on 10th, at **Blackmoorfoot** 40 flew south on 17th and 48 were present on 23rd; 100+ were at **Dewsbury SF** on 31st.

Several sites reported birds in September, with **Blackmoorfoot** having the species almost daily with an isolated peak of 73 on 3rd and last records at **Dalton** and **Baitings** (4) on 29th, but the highest numbers were at **Dewsbury SF** with 480 on 3rd, 620 on 6th, c.800 in three hours on 7th and 300 on 13th all moving west, followed by 63 east on 29th.

In October the last bird left the breeding site at **Lindley** on 4th, 14 flew east at **Linthwaite** on 11th and three were over **Marsden** and seven over **Shelley** on 14th.

During v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley**, a total of 457 birds were counted on 18 dates between 2nd September and 14th October, with a max. of 241 passing on 13th September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (1)

Recorded between 17th April and 1st October from 13 sites. Only eight singing males were located but some areas were poorly covered.

Dewsbury SF – one on 17th April.

Royd Moor Res – two briefly on 21st April and two on 10th May.

Little Don Valley – three singing males on 21st April.

Holme Styes – a pair and at least one, probably two, additional singing males on 2nd and 12th May.

Langsett – singing male on 3rd May.

Royd Edge – singing male on 19th May.

Langsett Banks – singing male on 1st June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles on 22nd Aug and 14th Sept.

Deer Hill – migrants on 22nd Aug (2) and on 2nd (2), 16th (1), 17th (1) and 18th (2) Sept.

Winscar Res – one below the dam on 29th Aug.

Almondbury – one flew south on 12th Sept.

Harden – one on a v.m.w. on 23rd Sept.

Wessenden – one on 1st Oct.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (4-5)

Seven sites had birds in December 2001 in the continuing trend for small numbers of the species to overwinter and birds were reported at eleven sites in January/February 2002.

Blackmoorfoot had one or two daily in January and four on 24th, with one on 9th February, **Emley Moor** and **Castle Hill** had small numbers throughout, **Horbury SF** 35+ on 1st January (but none on 17th February), one was at **Skelmanthorpe** on 2nd Jan, two were in snow at **Birds' Edge** on 4th Jan, four in fields at **Golcar** on 5th Jan, two on 19th Jan and 13 on 9th Feb, 20 at **Kirkheaton CC** on 11th Jan, seven at **Colnebridge SP** on 23rd Jan, about 30 were on **Honley Moor** from 3rd to 28th Feb and the first of the year appeared at **Harden** on 16th Feb.

More obvious arrivals began at **Dewsbury SF** with 24 on 2nd and 52 on 11th March, 229 flew north at **Blackmoorfoot** on 22nd March, at **Wessenden** several were on territory plus a party of 12 on 23rd March, passage was noted at **Shelley** from 30th March into early April with up to 50 birds per day, 50+ showing considerable variation in plumage colouration were at **Cartworth Moor** on 1st April and c.100 were in the **Issues Road** area of **Digley** on 5th April.

Few reports were received for the breeding season but this remains easily the commonest species in the uplands of the south and west. 42 birds, mostly juvs, were present at **Buckstones** on 21st July.

c.100 passed over the **Harden/Broadstones** area in the evening of 6th August, 60+ were in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 27th August, 20+ were at **Scout Dike** on 28th August and were the first indications of autumn passage. There was a steady movement over **Shelley** from 4th September to early October. Movements became much more evident through September and October, with at **Harden** 70+ south on the evening of 4th Sept, 179 east in an hour on 17th Sept, 48 on 22nd and 75 south and west on 23rd and 96 on 24th Sept. Easterlies throughout much of the autumn reduced passage here to a trickle, but 206 moved south in two hours on 8th Oct, 30+ west or WNW on 16th, 70 SSW on 24th and 38 SSE on 31st Oct. Many of the birds moving had grey backs, warm buff flanks and tan ear coverts typical of the race "*whistlerii*".

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** between 2nd Sept and 5th Nov produced a total of 5,552 birds on 40 days with a max. of 881 on 18th Sept.

Smaller numbers were noted elsewhere – c.50 at **Scout Dike** on 15th Sept, 22 at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd Sept with 16 on 29th; in October at **Digley** 20+ were in the quarry on 7th and 25 on the dam wall on 24th and 26 flew west at **Pule Hill** on 14th.

In November one or two occurred at **Blackmoorfoot** to 12th, seven were at **Scammonden** on 3rd, when eight were also at **Colnebridge SP** with the same number there on 9th. Presumed

wintering birds were located in December at **Broadstones** on 3rd (1), **Meltham SF** on 10th (2), **Slaithwaite** on 21st (10), **Blackmoorfoot** on 25th (11) and 28th (1) and finally at **Blakeley Res** on 31st (1).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor

Dewsbury SF provided the only definite record on 4th October (JH), but single birds seen on visible migration watches at **Deer Hill** on 25th September and 2nd October, **Butterley Res** on 9th October and over **Marsden GC** on 22nd October were either this species or Water Pipit *A. spinoletta*, specific identification proving impossible (TG).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage migrant

A male arrived at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th May and was joined by a female on 30th. Courtship was observed on 17th June, followed by alarm calls when the territory was approached. Both birds were carrying nesting material to a clump on one of the beds on 19th June and two young were being fed out of the nest on 10th July. The four birds remained to 30th August when they were seen to leave to the southeast (JH). An additional bird flew over on 8th July and a female was present on 31st August (BA).

Elsewhere in spring a male was at **Shepley** on 20th April (TM), one flew NW at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th April (MLD) and one was at **Emley Woodhouse** on 2nd May (CH).

Birds were seen at seven localities in autumn, with singles at **Deer Hill** on 12th July, 11th and 18th September (TG), **Ringstone Edge** on 16th August (HBC), **Cartworth Moor** on 26th August (CH), **Winscar** moving south on a v.m.w. on 31st August (MC), **Scout Dike Res** south on 15th September (RJB) and west over **Dalton** on 21st September (BA), when one was also recorded on a v.m.w. at **Wessenden** (TG).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

A widespread species throughout the area wherever there is suitable habitat and reported from 40 sites, a 20% reduction on 2001.

Breeding was proven at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Dogley**, **Holme Styes**, **Little Don Valley**, **Royd Moor Res**, **Scout Dike Res**, **Thornton Lodge** and **TP Wood** and additional pairs were reported in the **Almondbury** area, **Bargate**, **Cliff Wood**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Elland GPs**, **Holmfirth** (2), **Horbury Wyke**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Longwood Valley** and **Sparth Res** and doubtless breeding occurred at some of these sites. Single birds in the breeding season were also noted at **Colnebridge SP**, **Eastergate**, **R.Holme** at **Lockwood** and at **Yateholme**, most of which are established breeding areas.

Highest counts were 6+ at **Horbury SF** on 1st January and nine at **Dewsbury SF** on 21st and 27th August, these last counts probably involving two family parties.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** produced a total of 44 birds on 20 dates between 2nd September and 20th October, with a max. of ten birds on 20th September.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Resident breeder and passage migrant/winter visitor (3)

Remains under-recorded with breeding season reports being particularly sparse.

In the early months the highest numbers were 12+ at **Kirkheaton CC** on 11th January, 30+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 3rd February and 27 in fields at **Annat Royd Lane** on 5th, then 34 there on 13th March and 26+ in fields by the canal at **Bargate** on the same date. At least 70 were roosting in trees lining the main entrance to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary at **Lindley** on 11th and 16th January. Single migrants flew north at **Harden** on 16th February and 8th March.

Breeding was reported from **Booth Dean quarry** (a pair reared two broods), **Jagger Lane Emley, Emley Tx**, between **Emley** and **Skelmanthorpe** (up to six pairs), **Digley, Elland GPs, New Mill** and **Scout Dike Res.**

After the breeding season numbers built up at **Dewsbury SF** in August from 28 on 1st to 42 on 13th, 46 on 27th, 55 on 31st and peaked at 65 on 2nd September before reducing gradually to 15 on 24th September. 21 were feeding at **Hartcliff Hill** on 8th September, 40 roosted at **Ringstone Edge** on 24th September and 50+ had gathered at dusk in trees by **Shore Head** roundabout before going to roost on the **Kingsgate Shopping Centre**.

At **Shelley** 6+ were noted passing over on several dates in late September and early October and v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** produced a total of 250 birds on 32 days with a peak of 38 on 3rd October. At **Harden** 45 flew south between 1930 and 2130hrs on 8th October at the same time as the heaviest Meadow Pipit passage of the year there and 12 flew mostly west or WNW on 16th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant

A better than average year with reports from five sites, all in April.

Singles at **Wessenden Head Res** on 8th (TG), **Snittle Road** on 21st (BA), **Whitley Edge** on 27th for 25 minutes only (MC) and at **Winscar** on 29th when a male appeared following heavy rain and 60 m.p.h. westerly winds (MC). Two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th (JH).

It is possible that some of the individuals seen on v.m.w. and listed under Pied Wagtail could belong to this race, but specific determination was not possible.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2)

For the second year running ten pairs were proved to breed, but the total is without doubt in excess of this as no information was forthcoming from several established sites in the south of the area.

A pair was feeding young in a culvert at **Brow Grains** in late April/early May, at least one fledged young accompanied a pair at **Hey Green, Marsden** on 8th June, a juv was present on the R.Holme at **Lockwood** on 20th/21st May, three pairs bred in the upper **Little Don Valley**, a pair nested at **Oxygrains Beck**, breeding occurred at **Ripponden** in May and also at **Dovestones** and **Thunderbridge**.

Pairs were also located and probably bred on the R.Calder at **Elland GPs**, at **Holmfirth**, above **Hill Top Res**, in the **Wessenden Valley** (five adults present on 9th April), on the R.Colne below **Marsden** and at a second site near **Lockwood**. Birds were also present at **March Haigh Res** on 6th June and during the summer at **Waterhall Park, Penistone**.

Winter records came from **Armitage Bridge, Blackmoorfoot Res** and its catchment (up to three birds), **Bretton Lakes, Hagg Wood, Milnsbridge, Yateholme, Winscar** where one flew in to the north end of the reservoir from the NE on 16th March and unexpectedly at **Norman Park, Birkby** on 25th February.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Resident breeder (4)

What little information was received indicates a fairly healthy picture. For example up to 12 territories were reported in **Lepton Great Wood** and **Penny Spring Wood**, seven males held territories in **TP Wood**, three pairs were at **The Whins, Shelley**, a pair nested successfully at **Stockmoor Common** and at **Dewsbury SF** a pair fledged six young from a nest in earth moving equipment.

Good numbers were reported in the **Salendine Nook** area and counts at **Elland GPs** produced eight on 22nd March, 12 on 7th April and seven on 23rd December.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder (4)

Reports came from eleven localities and included five males holding territories in **TP Wood**, 2/3 pairs at **The Whins, Shelley** and at **Emley Moor Tx**. The first song of the year was heard at **Harden** on 13th February and at **New Mill** on 23rd February continuing to 6th July and young were present in the observer's garden from 22nd June to 7th September. A nest at **New Hall Woods** was predated. Good numbers were reported in the **Salendine Nook** area.



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

Song was first recorded at **New Mill** on 2nd February and young were present from 18th May to 14th September, indicating a successful season.

Seven males had territories in **TP Wood** and six singing males were in the vicinity of **Sparth Res** on 24th April. There were two pairs each at **Shelley Whins** and **Emley Moor Tx**. The

species bred at **Winscar** and at **Dewsbury SF** a pair nested in a bulldozer and reared four young. Good numbers were reported from **Salendine Nook** and regular presence noted at **Scammonden**. Counts of seven on 22nd March and ten on 7th April were made at **Elland GPs** and at least 12 were in **Longley Woods** on 18th November.

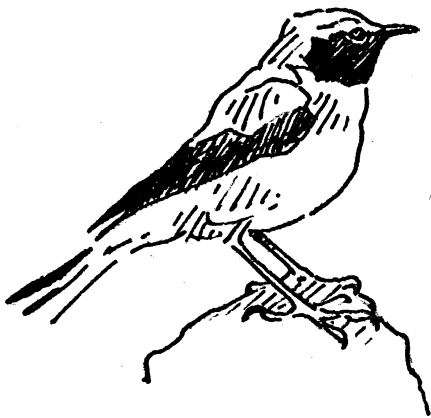
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor

One was located in the **Isle of Skye quarry** above Holmfirth on 26th September (DHP). It was seen subsequently on 4th, 7th, 8th, 12th and finally on 20th October by several observers and identified as a 1st W (JED,PDB,DMP,MC,BA,DM). It could prove extremely elusive. Apart from the year 1997/1998 this species has occurred annually in the club area since 1986.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (1-2)



Undoubtedly this was the worst year on record for this species, although information from the Langsett area was incomplete. Only eight singing males were recorded and two pairs bred at one site.

Little Don Valley – two present on 21st April and two singing males on 5th May.

Holme Styes – singing males were present at Elysium on 2nd and 12th May, near the reservoir on 4th May and in Fox Clough on 4th June.

Crossley's Plantation – after a singing male on 2nd May two pairs were discovered nesting in the boundary wall and at least one was feeding young.

Cliff Wood – singing male on 3rd, 21st and 30th May.

Lepton – a passage bird in Rowley Lane on 15th May.

Scammonden – one on 8th September.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor

It was a good year for this species with at least 25 singing males/pairs located and breeding by a minimum of nine pairs confirmed. Present between 21st April and 15th September.

Digley – a male nearby on 21st April was the year's first; one on 16th June.

Deer Hill/Meltham – a male from 23rd April. At least ten singing males later in the season and a good breeding season reported. Three nests with eggs were located, one with six eggs destroyed by YW workings in mid June but the pair re-nested successfully close by. An adult with two young present on 6th July and a family party of at least four on 28th July in Brow Grains Road. One on 2nd and two on 6th September.

Winscar – a male on 25th April; bred, a pair with four very newly fledged young on 22nd June and five birds present on 3rd July. Two below the dam on 29th August.

Brown's Edge Road – a male on 27th/28th April and 2nd May in a heavy fall of Wheatears.

Dewsbury SF – a passage male on 1st May and one on 4th September.

Scammonden – one on 5th May, a pair on 8th June and singletons on 1st and 8th September.

Harden Res – one on 9th May and a male on territory from 11th May. One with two Stonechats on 31st August.

Booth Dam/Rishworth – one on 9th May and at least three pairs breeding in June, one of which was successful by 28th.

Wessenden Valley – seven singing males above Wessenden Res on 12th May with an additional two at Blakeley Res; four pairs between Wessenden and Wessenden Head Reservoirs on 4th June.

Oxygrains Beck – one on 26th May.

Buckstones – a pair on 4th June.

Cupwith – present on 4th June.

Redbrook Clough – an adult and two juvs on 15th July.

Hey Green, Marsden – adults with young on 15th July (same as above?).

Broadstones – three in Broadstones Road on 6th August, two in Bird's Nest Lane on 1st September and two juvs at Broadstones Res on 15th September.

Royd Moor Res – a juv on 11th August.

Crossley's Plantation – one on 27th August.

Blackmoorfoot – two on 27th August and singles on 4th and 11th September all in fields to the west of the reservoir.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Occasional breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, increasing

Present throughout the year and several pairs were proved to breed. After the breeding season max. numbers were in October but there was no influx to compare with the large numbers of the previous two years.

Breeding was proven at the following sites:-

Broadstones Lodge – a pair with two young, perhaps from a second brood, on 11th September; birds were present here from 17th February (2) to 5th November (4).

Winscar – a male appeared on 9th March, the same day as the first Oystercatcher; by 4th May male and female were taking food to a nest, an adult was feeding newly fledged young birds on 5th May and a juv was present on 18th May.

Deer Hill – a nest with eggs was discovered in mid April. Later in the year in September one on 22nd, three on 23rd, then 6+ on 20th October, four on 28th October and at least seven on 10th December and several regularly to the year end.

Booth Dam – a pair bred, young fledged mid June.

West Nab/Wesenden Head – a male and female with “spotty” young near the road on 30th June and four juvs in two groups of two in early July.

Redbrook Clough – two juvs on 15th July.

Hey Green, Marsden – adults and young present on 15th July (same as above?).

Further evidence of likely breeding came from **Little Don Valley** where there was a pair on 20th April, **Buckstones** a pair on 5th June and **Dovestones**, where there was a pair and a second male on 8th April.

Elsewhere, birds were present at **Whitley Common**, one on 3rd January, **Dewsbury SF** a male on 9th and male and female on 16th January, **Scammonden** male on 10th, 15th and 17th March, with a pair on 11th, and in October four on 3rd, six on 6th, two on 7th and one on 19th

plus a pair on 3rd November, **Digley** one near **Blackpool Bridge** on 17th March, **Wessenden Lodge** a female on 23rd March, **Ingbirchworth** male on 24th March and 1st May, **Harden** male on 28th March the only one of the spring, but male and female on 31st August, four (one male) on 23rd September (a day of vis. mig.), a 1st W on 28th October, one on 5th November and a male on 17th December, **Royd Edge** a pair on 21st September, **Hullock Bank** a 1st W in bracken on 6th October, **Marsden GC** five on 7th and two on 8th October, **Royd Moor Res** two female/imms on 2nd November and at **Blackmoorfoot** a female on 18th December.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

In contrast to 2001 when there was only a single record in March, birds appeared at eleven sites during the month. As is expected, the great majority of those where the sex was given were males.

The first was at **Moor Top Grange** on 18th, five days before the next, a singing bird near **Wessenden Lodge** on 23rd. Birds (males unless otherwise stated) then appeared at **Digley** and **Ingbirchworth** (pair) on 24th, **Baitings** and **Greystones Farm** on 25th, **Dearne Dike Lane** on 27th, **Deer Hill** on 28th, **Adam's Pasture Wessenden** (same as 23rd?) and in the **Little Don Valley** on 29th, **Ingbirchworth** (2 males, 2 females) on 30th and again at **Digley** and at **Nont Sarah's** and **Scammonden** (male and female) on 31st.

Birds continued to arrive slowly in the first half of April with several days without new arrivals, but there was then a particularly conspicuous influx in the last week of the month, reminiscent of the high numbers experienced in the 1980s. A female was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd April, but the next did not arrive at this site until 23rd, three/four pairs were at **Dovestones** on 8th, a male at **Mount Road, Marsden** on 9th, females at **Whitley Edge** on 12th, **Wessenden** on 13th and **Whitley Common** on 15th, five (3 males) at **Digley** on 16th and a female in **Annat Royd Lane** on 17th. On 21st April two females were at **Hade Edge**, two females at **Hinchliffe Mill** and four (2 males) at **Boshaw Whams**, on 22nd three were at **Broadstones** and on 23rd a female at **Snittlegate** and three at **Royd Moor**, followed on 24th by a male at **Winscar** and two males at **Dewsbury SF**.

The largest influx experienced in recent years then took place on 27th/28th April in the **Ingbirchworth/Whitley Common/Broadstones** area. At least 45 were discovered on 27th and included 19 on the airfield at **Brown's Edge** and a further six in fields adjacent. Associated with this movement were an additional six birds at **Windmill Lane**, eight at **Scout Dike** and three at **Royd Moor Hill**, giving a total of 60+ individuals. By 28th the birds had dispersed into groups of up to seven and were squatting low in turf in a strong southerly wind. Many were of the Greenland race, *O.o.leucorrhoa*, the timing of the arrival and the weather conditions (moderate to strong westerlies) providing the classic scenario as confirmed by the BTO. 28 birds (17 males) in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 29th April, with 13 on 30th, and 5+ on the same date at **Snape Res** were probably part of the same influx, which also was evident at Thornton Moor Res in the Bradford area on 25th.

Apart from four on 4th at **Hartcliff Hill**, most recorded in May were probably local birds and, although breeding was only proved at **Deer Hill**, where three fledged young were present for much of July, pairs or individuals at **Dean Clough**, **Winscar**, **Dovestones**, near **Castleshaw**, **Wessenden**, **West Nab**, **Flight Hill** **Carlecotes**, **Harden**, **Townhead**, **Law Road** and **Elysium** were all in suitable breeding habitat.

After the breeding season, a juv was at **Broadstones** on 3rd August, five near **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th August and 1st to 6th September and one on a further four dates in September, one at **Winscar** on 31st August; in September one was in **Bird's Nest Lane** on 1st, at **Deer Hill** three on 6th, one on 16th and two on 18th, three at **Cheesegate Nab** on 7th, eight at **Broadstones** on 15th, one at **Honley Moor** on 20th and one at **Digley** on 30th. Single birds were recorded in October at **Ringstone Edge** on 4th, beside the **Pennine Way** on 5th and at **Digley** on 7th, when four were at **Scammonden**.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage migrant

The slight improvement in this species' fortunes noted in 2001 continued, with breeding occurring at three sites and singing males at two others. There was a "mass" arrival on 24th March, when six males appeared at three locations.



Digley – a male on 24th March and a very vocal female on 5th April.

Wessenden Valley – three males on 24th March, increasing to four males, two females on 8th April; two males and a female together at Wessenden Lodge on 9th April. A nest with young was located in late May.

Winscar – two males, one with solid white on the innermost tertials and secondaries on one side, on 24th March; two on 4th April.

West Nab – bred between here and Deer Hill, fledged young present on 21st June.

Little Don Valley – data incomplete but one on 27th and two males on 29th March; an occupied nest found on 5th May and six birds present on 26th May.

Scammonden – a female on 31st March.

Royd Edge Clough – a singing male from 1st April and on several dates in April/May but no proof of breeding.

Magdalen Springs/Isle of Skye quarry – a male feeding on turf on 16th May and a female on 6th/7th June.

Buckstones – one in tall bracken on 21st July.

There were several autumn records of presumed migrants. A 1st W was in the southern car park at **Winscar** with many Blackbirds and phylloscopus warblers on 1st September, at **Wessenden** singles flew south on 30th September and 3rd October, two flew south and one was grounded on 11th and one flew south on 15th October. At **Harden** a 1st W was in the observer's garden during a winter thrush arrival on 16th/17th October, on which latter date two flew south at **Deer Hill**.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

The only reports in the early months were of a loose party of 12+ birds feeding in a field at **Lumb Lane** on 12th February and from **Harden**, where a male on 16th February was a spring migrant as was a party of eight (6 males) in a loose flock there on 25th March.

Breeding was reported from six sites as well as counts of males holding territory – nine at **TP Wood**, ten each at **Penny Spring** and **Lower Stones Woods** and five near **Sparth**.

The remaining records referred to the autumn/second winter period. Falls occurred of 12+ in the southern car park at **Winscar** and eight at **Digley** on 12th October, 10+ at **Colnebridge SP** on 19th October, 16 at **Harden** on 2nd November, 75+ continental birds in the **Winscar/Harden/Ingbirchworth** area in loose flocks of up to 15 birds on 3rd November and up to 20 birds regularly moved through **Shelley Whins** in November, when c.20 were in **Longley Woods** on 8th. In December 18+ were at **Elland GPs** on 23rd and 19 on 28th, with 10+ at **Colnebridge SP** on the latter date.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred

Scarcely any birds remained in the area at two sites only at the end of 2001 and numbers stayed low throughout January and February and into the last week of March, when some large flocks appeared and continued into the first half of April, with the last record on 18th.

January – apart from 300+ at Hade Edge on 12th and 150/200 near Ingbirchworth on 13th numbers failed to reach 40. Highest counts were 37 at Scout Dike on 19th and near the Wills o' Nats on 25th, 35 at Royd Moor on 6th, 33 near Snape Res on 18th and 21 at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd, otherwise no more than 12 at seven sites.

February – the only three figure count was 100+ at Royd Moor on 17th, with 80+ near Ingbirchworth on 3rd, 70+ in the Marsden area on 9th, c.60 at Scout Dike on 17th and a max. at Scammonden of 37 on 10th.

March – up to 22nd, the highest counts were 250 at Underbank on 6th (with a singing male there on 7th), 128 at Moor Top Grange on 18th, 125 at Deer Hill and 100+ at Royd Moor on 12th, 55 at Scammonden on 3rd and 70 there on 17th, 45 at Scout Dike on 21st, otherwise no more than 40 at three sites. Larger numbers appeared from 22nd, on which date 109 flew NW in two parties at Blackmoorfoot and 320+ were grounded nearby at Black Moor. The 23rd saw c.300 at Hartcliff Hill, at Whitley Common there were c.435 on 24th increasing to 500 on 25th and 600 on 26th, but the highest count was of at least 1200 feeding in fields near Ingbirchworth Res on 25th. 200 were at Denby Dale on 28th and high double figures near the Ford Inn late in the month.

April – a count of 3150 feeding in fields at Whitley Edge (MC) on the evening of 5th eclipsed all other numbers of this species in the early months; 550 were still in the area on 9th and 300 on 12th. Highest numbers elsewhere were c.200 at Black Moor on 8th and 500+ on 18th (last record of the season), 410 at Blackmoorfoot on 7th, 200 near the Flouch on 13th and 90/100 at Royd Moor on 2nd. Several other sites reported up to 80 birds and included 30 at Harden on 6th and 60 at Winscar on 12th probably going to an evening roost.

In autumn, birds arrived from mid October, numbers increasing at the end of the month and in early November. These birds were obviously moving through as there were no reports after 15th November until 3rd December, after which the species occurred at eight sites before the year end.

October – the first report was of two birds at Digley on 12th, followed closely by c.35 at Scammonden on 13th, one at Wood Top on 14th, eight at Harden on 16th, 37 at Blackmoorfoot on 17th, eight west at Lindley on 18th, 100 at Meltham Cop on 19th and 200 in the Little Don Valley on 20th. 35 were at Dewsbury SF on 23rd and 85 flew SSW on 24th at Harden, but it

was not until 30th that larger numbers appeared, including 165 at Blackmoorfoot and 500+ at Deer Hill. On 31st, 65 were at Blackmoorfoot, c.60 at Snape Res fields, c.70 flew over the Isle of Skye quarry and 180 SSE at Harden (and see below for Colne Valley v.m.w. totals).

November – the late October movement continued into early November, with on 1st, 45 at Blackmoorfoot, two flocks of 50 south at Golcar, 50 over Shelley and 150 NW over the Isle of Skye quarry. Ninety moved WNW on 2nd at Harden, where a movement lasting all day saw 3000+ fly west on 3rd and on 4th there were 75 at Blackmoorfoot, 130+ at Stockmoor, 50 south at Golcar, 100 at Digley, 170 south at Harden and c.500 over Shelley, while 1000 were at Denby Dale on 5th. Smaller numbers were present thereafter, max. counts being 250+ at Scout Dike on 9th, 90 at Honley on 10th, c.50 at Lindley on 11th and 35 at Blackmoorfoot on 15th.

December – birds were reported on just six dates. On 3rd c.250 were at Ingbirchworth and 38 at Dewsbury SF, on 5th 65 at Scout Dike and 13 at Blackmoorfoot, on 8th c.20 at Ingbirchworth and ten at Royd Moor, 860 over Dewsbury SF on 21st, 200+ at Bradley Park GC on 26th and the year ended with 80+ near Helme, ten at Bretton and eight at Blackmoorfoot on 31st.

V.m.w. in the Colne Valley in October to 5th November produced a total of 5456 birds on 14 dates with a max. of 1015 on 31st Oct.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (3)

Birds were reported from 55 sites during the year, about 40 of these in the breeding season. A total of nearly 60 pairs/singing males was located, well down on last year, but counts were not received from some of the sites which held the greatest concentrations in 2001.

Breeding was proved only at **Lascelles Hall, Blackmoorfoot** (4 pairs), **Shelley Whins, Scammonden** (several pairs), **Lockwood** and **Digley Bottom**. Three nests being monitored by one observer at **New Hall Woods, Ossett** and **Stockmoor Common** all failed, two of them having the young predated.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** revealed a total of 74 birds on 13 dates between 9th September and 27th October with a peak of 35 on 9th October and other migrants were noted at **Denby Dale**, 10+ on 8th October, **Colnebridge SP** 2+ on 19th October, at the end of October over **Shelley** and at **Harden**, where there were four on 2nd November.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Birds remained in only three localities in the last week of 2001 and continued to be scarce in the early months, with a dozen sites having the species in January, mainly in the second half. They were even scarcer in February, occurring at just three sites, at five sites in March and two in April.

January – apart from 40 at Elland GPs on 1st only single figures were recorded at five sites to 17th, when c.40 were in Lumb Lane; these were followed by c.50 at Lower Stones Wood on 23rd, 16 near the Wills o' Nats on 25th, “good numbers” in the Birkby/Grimescar area and single figures at five other sites.

February – at least four in Ravensknowle Park on 2nd, four on 17th at Scout Dike and a small number at Shelley Whins throughout and into March were the only records.

March – six in a garden at Hinchliffe Mill on 3rd, c.250 in a mixed flock with Fieldfares at Underbank on 6th, 23 at Lindley on 12th, 20 at Bretton on 13th and c.6 at Ravensthorpe GPs on 17th.

April – one at Crosland Moor on 5th and 12 at Blackmoorfoot on 7th were the last in the early months.

Returning birds began arriving from 6th October and were much more numerous and widespread than in the previous year, with many still present in November. The heaviest passage took place in mid October.

October – after four at Scammonden on 6th and seven NW at Dewsbury SF on 7th there was a large arrival on 8th/9th; on 8th 50 were at Denby Dale, 30+ over Shelley, 60+ over the Isle of Skye quarry, 45 at Linthwaite and on 9th 40 at Harden, one SW over Dalton, 100+ at Denby Dale, c.30 grounded at Shelley and c.50 over Isle of Skye quarry again. Small arrivals in the next few days increased greatly on 15th when c.500 were grounded in heavy rain in the Scout Dike/Royd Moor area and on 16th when c.100 were grounded and c.120 flew east there and a further 521 flew mainly west or WNW at Harden. On 17th there were c.200 at Hartcliff Hill, 142 flew south at Dewsbury SF and Blackmoorfoot had its max. for the year of 43. Smaller numbers of birds were reported from an additional dozen sites until the month end, but few remained into November.

November – birds present at just seven sites, max. being 125 at Dewsbury SF on 1st, 19 south at Harden on 4th and c.35 feeding at Dalton on 7th, otherwise no more than 12 anywhere.

December – apart from two at Blackmoorfoot from 3rd to 5th, single figures at Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth on 8th, a mixed flock with Fieldfares totalling c.500 in Lumb Lane on 11th and one in a Wooldale garden on 12th, all reports were from 17th onwards. The largest numbers were at Dewsbury SF which had 120 on 19th, 180 on 21st and 72 on 24th. Double figures were reported from seven sites, with 40 at Elland GPs on 20th, c.30 at Dalton for a week up to 25th, 26 at Blackmoorfoot and 40 west over Lindley Moor on 25th, c.20 at Birkby on 27th, 50+ at Colnebridge SP, 27 at Elland GPs and 18 at Blackmoorfoot on 28th, c.20 at Longley on 30th and c.30 at Bretton Lakes on 31st.

V.m.w. counts in the Colne Valley totalled 8704 birds on 15 dates from early October to 5th November with max. of 2471 on 9th October.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3)

Reported from fewer sites than last year but remains generally common and widespread.

Breeding was confirmed at **Crossley's Plantation, Horbury Wyke, Ossett, TP Wood, Emley Tx** and **Elland GPs** and nest building was observed at **Harden** on 25th March. Three to four pairs were located at both **Lindley** and **Scammonden**.

Double figure counts after the breeding season were made at **Marsden Clough** of 10+ on 20th June, **Millmoor Meltham** 30+ in late July/August, **Lindley Rec** 21 feeding on 9th August, **Millhouse Green** 30 on 2nd October and 30 at **Thurgory, Lepton** on 6th October.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** gave a total of 195 birds passing over on 20 dates between 9th September and 5th November, max. 44 on 29th September.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder (1)

A reeling bird was found at **Winscar** on 25th June and remained on territory until at least 10th August. On 3rd July it was reeling in full view at 1350hrs (MC,DHP).

A second individual was reeling at **Rusby Wood** on 20th July (TM).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1)

A very poor year with reports from five sites, although the species did breed at a new site. Present between 20th April and 2nd September.

Colnebridge SP – a single bird on 20th April, 4th and 12th May, then two from 2nd June. A pair was feeding young on 14th July and still present on 4th August. A first breeding record for the site.

Horbury Strands – at least two, probably three, on 23rd April.

Dewsbury SF – one on 25th April, four on 2nd September were the only reports.

Elland GPs – the first singing male was noted on 28th April, with two on 4th/5th May and into June. Breeding was proved when an adult was observed feeding young on 17th June and one was carrying food on 1st July, probably indicating a second nest. Two juvs were still present on 2nd August, one remaining to 11th.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a singing male on passage on 15th May.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare breeder (1) and passage migrant

Elland GPs – the first on 22nd April was early, but there were no further reports until 4th May; then up to two singing males to 9th July with three on 8th May. Two birds carrying food on 30th June indicated breeding. The last report was on 6th August.

Dewsbury SF – one on the riverbank on 3rd May.

Colnebridge SP – a singing male appeared on the late date of 19th July; it was present again on 4th and 10th August. Three birds present on 17th August.



Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

Fewer records than in most recent years and from fewer sites, with breeding confirmed at just one. Present in the area between 20th April and 11th September.

Shelley – a male on 20th April was the earliest record for the site. A pair bred and the last record was on 6th September (SRG).

Thornhill Millbank – two singing males on 24th April (JH).

Dewsbury SF – two on 3rd May (JH).

Royd Moor Res – one on 5th May (RJB), two on 11th August (MC).

Elland GPs – two singing males on 4th May, one on 5th/6th (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – a singing male on 6th May increasing to two on 7th, then singles on 16th June, 20th and 27th July, two on 11th August and a 1st W on 25th/26th August (RJB,MC,BA).

Flockton – a singing male at a “traditional site” but no further details (SRG).

Denby Dale – a passage bird on 11th September (TM).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

A very good year for the species, breeding confirmed by eleven pairs at seven sites and an additional 55+ pairs/singing males located, even though some previously known sites were not covered.

The first of the year was a singing male well watched at **Healey Mills** on 5th April (PH,DW) and represented the earliest ever occurrence in the club area. Birds appeared later in the month at three sites on 22nd, singing males at **Elland GPs** and **Broadstones Res** and a female at **Shelley**, at **Horbury Wyke** two males on 23rd, **Dewsbury SF** (3) on 24th with five there on 25th and a singing male was at **Cowcliffe Hill** on 28th.

A more widespread arrival then took place from early May, with highest counts of ten singing males at **Elland GPs** on 4th, when nine were also at **Scout Dike** and six at **Royd Moor** the following day; 13 were counted between **Cooper Bridge** and **Brighouse** on 19th.

Breeding occurred at **Blackmoorfoot** (2 pairs, 10 young), **Broadstones** (1 pair, 2 young), **Dewsbury SF** (4 pairs, 16 young), **Elland GPs** (20 birds including many juvs on 7th July), **Horbury Wyke** (at least 1 pair, 5 young), **Shelley** (at least 2 juvs) and **Shelley Woodhouse**. Additional pairs/singing males were also found at **Bretton Lakes** (1), **Colnebridge SP** (pair + second singing male), **Cowcliffe**, **Crosland Hill**, **Dalton** (2), **Dunford Bridge**, **Flockton** (2/3), **Horn Lane**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Netherwood** and **Sparth Res** in the Colne Valley where the species is very uncommon, **Ravensthorpe GPs**, **Shelley/Emley Moor** (4), **TP Wood** and **Upper Dearne Woods** (2).

Dewsbury SF once again had high post-breeding numbers with 42 on 8th and 30 on 27th August and in September 35 on 2nd down to the last two on 12th, the latest sightings of the year, but birds were scarce elsewhere with reports only of singles at **Colnebridge SP** on 10th August, **Ringstone Edge** on 5th September and **Horbury Wyke** (2) on 8th September.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2)

There was a welcome increase to c.60 in the number of singing males reported from 25 sites, although some were obviously passage birds which moved on. Birds were generally late in arriving, with no confirmed sightings in April, extreme dates being 3rd May and 8th September.

First reported was a singing male on 3rd May at **Elland GPs** where numbers increased to seven on 4th and eight on 6th, but only four remained into June and the last sighting was of two birds on 1st July. One was at **Shelley** and seven at **Royd Moor** on 5th, increasing at the latter site to eight on 19th. Next were singles at **New Mill** on 10th, **Ramsden Clough** and a

remarkable 15+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 11th, but only c.6 pairs were considered to be on territory here later. Three singing males were at **Scout Dike** early in the month; **Cliff Wood**, **Gunthwaite Dam** and **Stockmoor Common** also played host to three singing males each during May. This last site also provided the only confirmed breeding attempt, four young having hatched by 29th June but later predated.

Other sites holding birds were **Colnebridge**, **Digley**, **Dogley NR**, **Golcar**, **Holme Styes**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Langsett**, **Netherton**, **Netherwood** and **Windybank Wood**.

Autumn reports were virtually nonexistent, one at **Horbury Wyke** on 8th September being the only record after two at **Royd Moor** on 6th July.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3) and scarce winter visitor

None of the wintering birds from the end of 2001 remained into 2002 but “new” individuals were a female in a **Fixby** garden feeding on fat and sunflower seeds from 1st January to 6th April and singles at **Greetland** on 3rd January, **Brookfoot** on 25th/26th January, 8th and 14th February, a male on nut feeders at **Lumb Lane** from 2nd February, a male at **Scholes** from mid January to 12th February and another male in a garden at Taylor Hill on 21st Mar.

A total of c.75 singing males were located at approx. 40 sites, with the first arrivals at **Bretton Lakes** on 2nd April where three males were perched together in the same tree. By 4th the number of males here had increased to five, two of them accompanied by females and eight were counted on 14th. One was at **Golcar Tip** on 3rd April, followed on 7th by males at **Horbury** and **Shepley**, on 8th at **Tunnel End**, on 9th at **Shaw Wood** and **Almondbury** and on 10th at **Elland GPs** (3), where numbers had increased to a max. of eight on 4th May. Arrivals continued throughout April and into May, with highest numbers reported of up to six at **Dogley**, 5+ in **Deffer Wood** and at **Scammonden** four singing males on the late date of 14th July.

Breeding doubtless took place at many sites but was proven only at **Elland GPs** (ad + juvs on 30th June), in the **Longwood Valley**, **Orange Wood**, **Shelley Whins** (2 pairs, family of four in June), **Stockmoor Common** (nest with young on 18th June) and **Upper Dearne Woods**. After the breeding season most birds had left the area by the end of July, with later records from **New Mill** on 10th August, male and female at **Maze Brook** on 11th and 25th August, a male at **Winscar** on 5th September and male and female at **Shelley** on 21st September.

Wintering birds were found at five sites at the year end, a male in the **Longwood Valley** on 24th November, in December females at **Linthwaite** up to 25th and at **Lockwood** and **Aspley** on 30th, and from 2nd to 6th Dec a male with a female at the same Taylor Hill garden as attracted the over-wintering bird in March.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Migrant breeder (1)

It was another discouraging year with no reports of breeding, though there was little information from the Langsett area, which appears to be the last stronghold of the species in our area.

Singing males were located at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 28th April (BA,DM), **Netherwood** on 15th May (TG), **Langsett** on 19th May (TM), at **Windybank Wood** (a former reliable breeding site) on 26th to 31st May (DMP,PDB,DHP) and in woodland in the **Upper Dearne Valley** on 9th June (HQ).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (3) and passage visitor

Overwintering birds were reported in January at **Horbury SF** (2) on 1st and at **Colnebridge SP** on 13th.

Approximately 80 singing males were located at just over 40 sites, a very similar situation to the previous year, but in contrast to 2001, birds arrived earlier and the species had reached 13 sites by the end of March (six in 2001).

The first was at **Dogley NR** on 10th March, followed on 16th by one at **New Hall Woods**, on 17th at **Thornhill Millbank** (2), **Scout Dike**, **Elland GPs** (2 increasing to 7 on 23rd), on 18th at **Blackmoorfoot**, on 24th in the **Horbury** area (2, with 5+ on 29th), on 25th in the **Longwood Valley**, on 27th at **Shepley**, on 29th at **Hinchliffe Mill** and **Beaumont Park** and on 30th at **Woodsome**. Arrivals were then widespread in April and peak counts of singing males reached 15+ at **Bretton Lakes** on 2nd and nine at **Elland GPs** on 7th, 4+ at **Carr Wood** on 16th and five at **New Hall Wood** on 31st May.

Positive evidence of attempted breeding was achieved at **Shelley Whins** (a first record for the site) and at **New Hall Wood**, where unfortunately the young were predated.

More birds remained into September and October than in 2001 and “movers” occurred at **Winscar**, where there were at least five in the southern car park on 1st/2nd September, down to two on 5th/6th and one on 17th September. The last at **Elland GPs** was reported on 10th September and birds were also at **Colnebridge SP** on 15th, **Ringstone Edge** on 18th (3) and 20th (2), **Marsden** on 21st (singing male) and 29th, **Horbury Strands** on 22nd (singing male), **Marsden Station** on 24th and **Dewsbury SF** on 29th/30th.

Seven sites reported the species in October as follows :- at **Scammonden** on 3rd (2) and 6th, **Colnebridge SP** on 5th, **Shelley** and **Tunnel End** on 8th, **Winscar** on 8th to 12th, **Butterley** on 11th and **Penistone** on 19th; birds presumed to be wintering were at **Longley Woods** on 8th November and at **Bretton Lakes** on 28th December.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4-5)

After an early bird at **Elland GPs** on 27th March it was more than a week before the next appeared on 4th April at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Dewsbury SF** and in the **Longwood Valley** (2). Thereafter, **Lepton**, **Healey Mills** and **Hinchliffe Mill** had their first on 5th, **Hartcliff Hill** (3) on 6th, **Sparth Res**, **Horbury Wyke** and **Elland GPs** again (2) on 7th, **Ingbirchworth**, **Tunnel End** and **New Delight** on 8th and **Shaw Wood** (2) on 9th. Birds did not arrive at **Denby Dale** (4) until 17th, **Colnebridge SP** 20th, **Shelley** and **Winscar** 21st and **Dalton** 22nd.

Later in the season, the highest counts of singing males achieved were at least 38 in the **Holme Styes** area in a three hour visit on 8th June, max. of 25 at **Scout Dike** on 4th and 23 at **Royd Moor** on 5th May, ten at **Elland GPs** also on 5th May and eight at **Bretton Lakes** on 11th May. The counts at **Royd Moor** and **Scout Dike** reflect a severe decline in numbers over recent years, the former site having 48 in 1999 and 36+ in 2000, the latter 53 in 1999 and 32 in 2000, no counts being possible in 2001 owing to F&M restrictions.

From some other sites where high numbers of singing males have been reported recently no information was received, e.g. **Cliff Wood**, **Dunford Bridge**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Lepton Great Wood** and **Stockmoor Common**. However, the species is still widespread and the commonest of our migrant warblers.

Successful breeding was recorded at **Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Ringstone Edge**, **Scammonden**, **Stockmoor Common**, **TP Wood** and **Winscar**, where young were being fed in a nest in bracken on 25th June.

At the end of the summer many were in the **Royd Moor/Scout Dike** area on 25th August, six still in the **Wessenden Valley** on 27th and many below the dam on 29th at **Winscar**, with 20 to 30 there on 1st/2nd September and numbers still in the teens on 5th. Numbers in the **Lindley Moor** area were reported as fewer than usual.

The last at **Shelley** was on 1st September and at **Elland GPs** on 4th (2), two remained at **Dewsbury SF** from 2nd to 7th, 2+ were at **Scammonden** on 8th and in the **Wessenden Valley** two were in bracken above Wessenden Res and one at Blakeley Res on 11th and the last of the year were at **Colnebridge SP** on 15th and at **Ingbirchworth** on 18th September.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (2-3). Common passage and winter visitor

Reported from 30 sites mainly January/March and October/December but in only small numbers, with few double figure counts.

Breeding was reported at **Deffer Wood**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Orange Wood** and **Ripponden**, while singing males were present at **Beaumont Park**, **Blacker Beck**, **Little Don Valley** and **Yateholme**.

A large fall was reported at **Marsden** on 3rd September, when 15+ were around the football field. About 20 were at **Squirrel Ditch** on 8th November, with good numbers on other dates, and 20+ at **Denby Dale** on 29th October.

The only garden reports came from **Dalton**, **Jackson Bridge** and **Shelley**.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Rare visitor

The patience and sustained effort put in by one observer was rewarded by his finding two examples of this splendid species. The first, probably a male, was found in **Squirrel Ditch** lurking low in a holly bush on 6th November (DHP) and it remained in this area until at least 11th and was seen by three other observers (DM,PDB,MC) although it could be very elusive. The same or another individual was on **Snow Island, Aspley**, about 400 metres from the above, briefly on the morning of 26th November (SP), but could not be relocated later.

A probable female discovered in hollies at **Birkby** on 25th December was an unexpected but very welcome Christmas present and it remained on Boxing Day (DHP).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

Birds were present in a dozen sites during the breeding season although confirmation was only obtained at four of them. The first report was not until 28th May and the last was reported on 8th September.

Blackmoorfoot – a pair made three nesting attempts between May and August but all failed. However, a second pair succeeded in raising young nearby in **Orange Wood**.

Windybank Wood – one on 28th/29th May.

Wellhouse, Golcar – a pair was present in the same garden where a successful breeding attempt was made in 2001, but there was no breeding evidence this year.

Bretton Lakes – two pairs present on 28th May.

Hazelhead – a pair nested at Little Rannah Farm.

Little Don Valley – one on 30th May; five on 27th August were probably a family party.

Langsett – at least one in the village car park on 30th May and a pair at Langsett Banks on 1st June, both breeding sites recently.

Hey Green – a pair on 8th June.

Lower Hopton – one on 7th July.

Shepley – a pair feeding two young near Lower Stones Wood on 19th July probably indicated local breeding.

Longwood Valley – one on 28th July.

Scout Dike/Royd Moor – at least one 1st W on 11th August.

Merrydale Clough – a family party of two ads and four juvs on 23rd August.

Winscar – three 1st W birds below the dam from 29th August to 2nd September in a mixed warbler/tit flock and one still present on 5th September.

Scammonden – five on 8th September – a family party?

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder (1)

Another disappointing year with breeding probable at just one site.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – two males present from 28th April and a pair at a nestbox on 30th May. (Five pairs have bred at this site in each of the previous two years, but data incomplete in 2002).

Riding Wood, Yateholme – a singing male on territory on 6th May.

Little Don Valley – one on 15th May.

Hagg Wood – a female on 16th May. (This site hosted two singing males for a month in 2001 without attracting a female).

Upper Cumberworth – a male sang close to a nestbox in a village garden from 20th to 24th May.

Sparth Res – a migrant in a large fall of Goldcrests on 3rd September.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudata*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Records were received from over 50 sites, with breeding attempts reported from 13 and probably taking place in at least another 14.

In the early months double figure counts were only achieved at **Bretton Lakes** max. 15 on 13th January, **Elland GPs** eleven on 16th January and **Lepton Great Wood** 30 on 23rd February.

Successful breeding occurred at **Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke** (3 pairs), **Dalton**, **Dogley NR**, **Elland GPs**, **Lascelles Hall**, **Orange Wood**, **Ossett**, **Shelley Whins** and **TP Wood**, nest building was observed at **Colnebridge SP** on 24th March and parties of 16 in a **Fixby** garden on 31st May, 6+ at **Netherwood** on 29th May, 30+ at **Crosland Moor** on 16th June and 20 at **Lockwood** on 22nd August were probably indicative of breeding success. Pairs were also present at **Bretton Lakes**, **Carr Wood** (2+), **Deffer Wood**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Molly Carr Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood** (3), **Ravensthorpe GPs**, **Royd Moor Res** and **Stockmoor Common**.

One observer who monitored eleven nests reported that seven of them failed – at **Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke** (3), **New Hall Wood** (2), **Ossett** and **Stoneycliffe Wood** (one each).

The largest post-breeding flock contained 36 birds on 12th October at **Scout Dike Res**, a site record count; other double figure counts were 28 at **Thornton Lodge** on 19th September, at **Dewsbury SF** 15 on 20th July and 23 on 20th August, at **Blackmoorfoot** 15 on 20th July, 11 on 28th August and 17 on 26th November, ten each at **Dalton** on 30th July and at **Scammonden** on 6th October, at **Elland GPs** 20 on 19th and 26th October, 16 on 9th November and a max. of 18 in December, 18 at **Stockmoor** on 4th November, 10+ at **Squirrel Ditch** on 7th November, 12 at **Wooldale** on 28th November, 15 at **Ingbirchworth** on 8th December and 12+ at **New Mill** on 22nd December.

Gardens were frequented at **Almondbury**, **Dalton**, **Fixby**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Lascelles Hall**, **Lockwood**, **Longley**, **New Mill**, **Salendine Nook**, **Thongsbridge** and **Wooldale**.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

There was a significant increase in the number of localities from which this species, which is in severe decline nationally, was reported and breeding was confirmed at two sites.

Ingbirchworth Res – sightings between 17th February and 12th December; a pair was feeding young on 20th May and a family party of four birds seen on 5th July.

Stocks Moor Common – seen on 3rd March and agitated behaviour noted on 19th May before a family party was found on 3rd and 8th June.

Bretton Lakes – one on 11th and two on 26th January; at least two pairs reported in the breeding season and at least three birds seen on 23rd November.

Royd Moor Res – reports of up to two birds in February, May, August and September.

Scout Dike Res – recorded in February, March, June, August, September and October with max. of three on 3rd June and 28th August; probably bred.

Horbury Wyke – birds were calling in two different areas on 10th March and present in April, August and September (2); probably bred.

Blacker Wood – one on 2nd January.

Horbury SF – one on 17th February.

Broadstones – singles on 17th February, 23rd June and 15th August.

Hartley Bank Wood – singing male on 2nd March.

Blacker Beck – one calling on 2nd, 10th and 17th March.

Longwood Valley – two at Hirst's Mill on 7th March.

Linthwaite – one at Slant Gate on 1st April.

Shelley – two feeding on sunflower seeds and peanuts from 14th July to the year end.

Denby Delf – one on 10th and 17th September.

Skelmanthorpe – one on 28th November.

Shepley/Shelley – one on the border on 5th December.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

Reported from 21 sites with breeding recorded at **TP Wood** (2 pairs), **Salendine Nook** (2+ pairs), **Scammonden** (10+ pairs) and **Elland GPs** and holding territory at **Waterhall Park Penistone**, **Shelley**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Deffer Wood** and **Lower Stones Wood**.

It is a regular garden visitor in **Almondbury**, **Dalton**, **New Mill**, **Shelley** and **Salendine Nook**, but the largest number notified was only six at the last site on 2nd September.

In January, two came to a feeder at **Dewsbury SF** where the species is uncommon, and **Blackmoorfoot**, where it is also unusual, had one from 18th to 22nd March, one or two daily through September and October to 22nd November and on 31st December.

Five birds were recorded on a v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** on 6th October.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

There was a slight increase in records from last year but still very few.

Breeding was reported from **Colnebridge SP**, **Hagg Wood**, **Holme Stykes**, **New Mill**, **Salendine Nook**, **Scammonden**, **Shelley** and **TP Wood** (5 pairs).

Parties/flocks notified were at **Elland GPs** 20 on 22nd March, 24 on 7th April and in December 25 on 23rd and 22 on 28th, **Sparth** 15 on 25th March, **Salendine Nook** in August 50 on 26th, 30 on 28th and 46 on 29th, 40 on 2nd and 30+ on 13th September, 30+ on 17th October, and 20+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 8th December.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4)

Less numerous than the previous species but still very common and widespread; bred at **Hagg Wood, New Mill, TP Wood** (4 pairs) and at **Shelley** for the first time in a nestbox in the observer's garden.

The highest numbers reported were at **Elland GPs** with 13 on 22nd March, 17 on 7th April, 14 on 23rd and 15 on 28th December, 22 at **Sparth** on 25th March and a max. of six at **Salendine Nook**.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Slightly fewer pairs/singing males were reported than in the previous year, largely due to the lack of information from some sites such as the Shepley and Denby Dale areas and Cannon Hall, where the species is known to be flourishing. Nesting was only confirmed at **Dogley NR, Windybank Wood, Woodsome** and **TP Wood**, the last a new site, but doubtless occurred at many others.

Several areas had first site records and the species appears to be gaining a foothold in the **Colne Valley**, with sightings at **Golcar Tip** and a singing male at **Netherwood**. **Ainley Top**, where a bird was at a garden feeder on 5th/6th August, **Lascelles Hall**, where breeding took place, **Jackson Bridge, Shelley** and **Waterhall Park Penistone** also had first records and singles were at **Elland GPs**, where the species is uncommon, on 23rd March and 4th May. Large numbers were again reported from **Bretton Lakes**, up to ten in the early months and 12 at the year end with at least five singing males in the breeding season and the **Almondbury/Woodsome** area held as many as 16 singing males.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3)

A further increase in records was submitted of this unobtrusive species from almost 40 sites.

Breeding was confirmed at **Horbury Wyke, Orange Wood** and **TP Wood** and the species was also present in the breeding season at **Beaumont Park, Blacker Beck, Bretton Lakes, Bullcliff Wood, Deffer Wood, Dogley NR, Elland Park Wood, Grimescar Wood, Hagg Wood, Lepton Great Wood, Lockwood Cemetery, Netherwood, Penny Spring Wood, Silkstone SF, Stocksmoor Common, Storthes Hall Woods, Wilderness Plantation** and **Windybank Wood**.

Birds were reported from a further 17 sites outside the breeding season and included sightings in gardens at **Hinchliffe Mill, Jackson Bridge, New Mill** and **Shelley**, which had

its first for four years. Most reports were of one or two birds but up to seven were located at **Bretton Lakes** in January.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2)

Reports were received from 35 localities; unusually though, there was no concentration of records in autumn when the species normally becomes more conspicuous as it collects and stores food for the winter.

Breeding was only proven at **Brighthouse** and **TP Wood** but birds were also seen at this time of the year at **Almondbury, Beaumont Park, Blackmoorfoot, Bretton Lakes, Carr Wood, Cawthorne, Colnebridge SP, Dalton, Deffer Wood, Dogley NR, Elland GPs, Hagg Wood, High Hoyland, Holme Stykes, Lepton Great Wood, Lower Stones Wood, New Mill, Penny Spring Wood, Scammonden, Sparth and Winscar.**

Most reports were of up to three individuals, with higher counts of seven at **Elland GPs** on 7th April and six there on 19th October and 21st December, five together in **Beaumont Park** also on 7th April, four at **Scammonden** on 10th May, six at **Winscar** on 11th May, at least four at **Longley Park** on 8th November and five at **Bretton** on 31st December.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** recorded 12 between 16th September and 13th October on five dates, max. four on 4th October.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4-5)

Very common and widespread throughout most of the area but only rarely reported.

Bred at **New Mill** where a juv was seen in June, but numbers here are reported probably to be kept down by Carrion Crows, and at **Shelley Whins** and **TP Wood** (two pairs).

One occurred on 26th March at **Harden** where the species is very rare.

25 were counted going to roost in **Shaw Wood** in the Longwood Valley on 12th January. A sickly looking bird with a large growth on one of its legs was a daily garden visitor at **Jackson Bridge.**

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

Very few reports were received, the only breeding records being of a pair which nested in **TP Wood** and four juvs at **Victoria** on 16th June.

In winter, flight lines of birds going to roost were reported over **Dalton** (hundreds), **Lindley Moor** (up to 200 SE in Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec), **Holmfirth** (155 at 1800hrs on 16th March) and **Shelley** (up to 500 mixed corvids).

Regular counts of birds feeding near **Sparth** early in the year produced max. of 30 on 8th February and in March 20 on 2nd, 60 on 3rd, 80 on 6th, 120 on 10th down to ten on 13th.
At **Harden** three flying SE on 26th March and ten east on 27th May indicated a small movement.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5)

Nest counts at rookeries revealed eleven at **Crosland Moor**, c.50 at **Lower Stones Wood**, c.6 at **Tunnel End** (a new site), c.30 at **Meal Hill, Jackson Bridge** in Sycamores and 87 at **Greetland**. A count of 168 birds at **Ringstone Edge** on 9th June included many juvs and up to 30 on 15th June at **Law Head** included at least ten newly fledged young.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Resident breeder (4)

Just eight reports were received and included breeding at **Shelley Whins** (1 pair) and at **TP Wood** (3 pairs).

Flocks of 26 were at **Deer Hill** on 18th March, 50 on the moorland edge at **Running Hill, Pob Green** on 2nd April and at **Cromwell Bottom** there were 24 on 7th April and 27 on 27th December. Large numbers frequented **Blackley Tip** but no counts were made. The spring flocks are believed by Keith Clarkson (RSPB, Denby Dale) to be made up of 2nd year non-breeding birds.

Raven *Corvus corax*
Resident breeder (1)

There were no records in January or February but the species was reported in every month subsequently. Most sightings were in the expected upland areas of the west and south but two sites at lower altitudes provided records.

Dovestones area – one pair bred successfully; in winter one on 26th Nov and two on 31st Dec (PB,SD,JED,SRG,DHP).

Hade Edge – two on 12th March (TM).

Marsden – one over Binn Road on 16th March and one over the golf course on 4th Sept.

Harden - in March singles on 16th and 27th, two on 17th and 28th, three on 11th May and singles on 18th and 31st Oct (MC).

Deer Hill – two on 18th March and 12th July (TG).

Langsett – four were circling high on 23rd March (RJB) and one over the Res on 3rd May (SRG).

Wessenden Valley – one over the moor to the north on 23rd March (BA), one, possibly two, on 24th and 26th Aug and at least two, possibly three, on 2nd Nov (SLF,TG).

Yateholme/Ramsden Clough – one on 26th March, two on 9th April (mobbing/being mobbed by Sparrowhawk), two on 23rd and one on 24th April, two on 22nd June and two on 17th Oct (BA,PDB,MC,DHP).

Winscar/Snailsden – singles at Snailsden (different from the Harden individual) on 27th March and at Winscar on 8th April, 4th Sept, 8th Oct and 26th Nov and in December two on 17th and 25th (MC,PB,JHod).

Royd Edge Clough – a pair flew over, mobbed by a Peregrine, into the valley at Digley on 7th April (DMP).

Little Don Valley – a pair attacked a Hen Harrier on 20th April; two on 27th Aug (TM).

Booth Dam – a pair flew down the valley on 2nd June (JHod); one on 2nd Nov (DHP).

Dewsbury SF – one flew slowly west at 09:20hrs on 19th Aug (JH).

Blackley Tip – one feeding on 21st Aug (HBC).

Isle of Skye Quarry – two flew over on 8th Oct (BA).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5) and numerous winter visitor

Most of the few records received related to the winter months with little reference to breeding. One observer reported no evidence of decline at **Shelley** and breeding was confirmed at **TP Wood, New Mill**, where 20+ were feeding in a garden during the summer and at **Lindley**, where an adult was carrying feathers to a nest site on the very early date of 4th February.

In the early winter months the only count recorded c.150 at **Royd Moor** on 17th February. A flock of 200 was at **Ringstone Edge** on 9th June, but more were reported towards the end of the year – at **Dewsbury SF** 350 on 11th and 550 on 13th October, a “large flock” was at **Brown’s Edge** on 20th October, 400 at **Scammonden** on 3rd November and c.1500 in fields at **Scout Dike** on 10th November.

Movements totalling 1931 birds occurred in the **Colne Valley** on eight dates from 23rd September to 5th November with a peak of 715 on 1st November; 104 flew SSE at **Harden** on 31st October and 120 ESE at **Cheesegate Nab** on 1st November.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

The welcome increase in records in 2001 was not sustained this year and breeding was reported only from **Lindley** (3 pairs at one site) and **Elland**. At least two birds were at **Townhead**, where the species is scarce, on 5th May.

Several flocks to a max. of c.30 were reported. In a **Lockwood** garden, where only a single bird was recorded in 2001, there was a max. of eleven, perhaps a sign of recovery and in a garden at **Lindley** 18 were present on 11th January (max. 13 in 2001). In the observer’s garden at **Salendine Nook** a slight recovery was noted in both numbers and more regular presence though the max. count was only 15. In a garden at **Longwood** most days were birdless but a max. of nine occurred.

Two sites in **Almondbury** held c.30 and c.20 birds in February and up to 20 were also reported from **Longley** and **Shelley** (2 sites); **Lumb Lane** had a resident flock of 20 to 30 birds and there was no sign of a decline at **New Mill**, with at least ten daily and a max. of 30 in June. A winter flock of up to 17 frequented **Waterhall Park, Penistone** and 20 to 30 roosted in the centre of **Marsden** in the second winter period.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

The signs of decline continued, with no specific reports from the **Coxley Valley**, **Emley** or the **Horbury** area, although birds were recorded at four non-regular sites including one in the breeding season.

Cawthorne – two at Jowett House Farm on 12th January (RT).

Lumb Lane, Almondbury – one on 12th February, two on 22nd March, one carrying nesting material on 4th May, one on 9th June and five feeding on seeds on 9th November were the only records (DSI,BA). One was nearby in Sharp Lane on 13th April (DSI).

Dewsbury SF – one on 24th March (BA), then in autumn one on 4th, 2 on 5th August and in September nine on 4th, one on 11th, eight on 12th and 16th (JH). These numbers are probably indicative of breeding nearby.

Denby Dale – a breeding pair on 4th April and one on 17th June (RT,TM).

Scout Dike Res – four on 27th March, one on 22nd June and 7th July, two on 11th and 6+ on 28th August (RJB,MC).

Belle Royd Farm – six (3 pairs?) on 5th May, eleven on 25th December – appears to be declining here (RJB).

Royd Moor – 3 or 4 on 11th August (MC).

Thurgory, Lepton – 6+ on 10th/11th August (DS).

Shelley – 4+ near the Three Acres on 3rd November (SRG).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

This remains an under-recorded species particularly in the breeding season for which the only reports concerned five males holding territory in **TP Wood**, nests predated at the young stage at **Ossett** and **Stockmoor Common** and up to six pairs each at **Lepton Great** and **Penny Spring Woods**. A male was singing at **Harden** on 1st March after several days of snow and rain and song was reported at **New Mill** from 9th March to 8th June.

In the early months flocks were very scarce with 30 in the **Ingbirchworth** area in February/March and a max. of 70 on stubble near the **Flouch Inn** on 16th March. Three birds which appeared at **Harden** in rain and snow squalls on 9th March may have been migrants.

Larger numbers occurred at the year end with a max. at **Blackmoorfoot** of 65 on 30th October, 50 at **Shepley** on 8th December, 200 near **Ingbirchworth** on 22nd and 300 on oil seed rape stubble near the **Flouch Inn** on 24th December.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** produce a total of 2708 birds on 34 dates between 9th September and 5th November, peaking at 336 on 24th October.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor

Few remained at the end of 2001 and this situation was reflected in the early months of 2002 apart from a site not visited at the end of the previous year.

In January up to 17 fed on sunflower seeds in a **Fixby** garden from 1st, some remaining to 24th April, at **Wooldale** there were two on 4th and 30 on 29th, three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th, three near **Sparth Res** on 23rd, four in the **Grimescar Valley** on 13th, with up to five there in Feb/March and two to 6th April and at **Linthwaite** up to 14 remained in a garden from November 2001 and were last seen on 24th April. Ten were near **Penny Spring Wood** on 7th February, two in a **Shelley** garden on 26th February, three in another site at **Fixby** to 5th March, singles on 29th March in **Beaumont Park** and at **Golcar**, up to three in a **Longwood** garden during the month and a singing male was at **Digley** on 16th April. By far the largest numbers however were on stubble near the **Flouch Inn**, where 300 on 12th March reduced to 200 on 16th and to 90 on 17th.

In contrast to the low numbers at the start of the year, one of the biggest influxes in recent years occurred during the second winter period with four sites having three figure counts and large numbers recorded on v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley**, where the first arrivals (12) were logged during the week beginning 30th September. Observations here totalled 612 birds on 13 dates between 30th September and 5th November with a max. of 142 on 28th October. These high numbers were not reflected at **Harden** however, where only singles flew south on 31st October and 2nd November with one grounded in fog on 19th December.

Aside from birds recorded on v.m.w., the first arrivals were 30 at **Denby Dale** and c.30 over **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 8th October, followed on 9th by three with Redwings at **Shelley Whins** where they remained to the year end, singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th, 16th and 24th then a big increase to 60+ on 30th, singles at **Wood Top** and over **Pule Hill** on 14th and at **Tunnel End** on 20th, five at **Denby Dale** on 28th and 50 there on 29th.

New arrivals in November included three to eight daily at **Blackmoorfoot** and a peak of 30+ there on 3rd, c.75 at **Scammonden** on 4th with 45 there on 9th, at **Ingbirchworth** five on 13th, c.25 on 28th and 50 on 29th, three at **Honley Moor** and one at **Birkby** on 12th and “many” at **Bretton** on 23rd.

December saw a large influx and began with 300 at **Ingbirchworth** on 2nd and remaining to at least 21st and 100 still on 22nd. At least 50 were at **Wareham Wood, Broadstones** on 3rd; and there were up to eleven daily at **Blackmoorfoot**, with numbers there increasing to 45+ on 11th and 65+ on 12th. A hundred were at **Shepley** on 8th, c.20 at **Almondbury** on 11th and a similar number at **Bretton** on 19th, then on 30th 500+ were in **Storthes Hall Woods** and 100+ in **Longley Woods**.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*
Resident breeder (4)

Little information was received and breeding only reported from **Colnebridge SP, New Mill, Oakes, Outlane** and **Shelley** and two males held territories in **TP Wood**.

The largest numbers reported were c.20 at **Penny Spring** on 9th February, 200 on setaside near **Dewsbury SF** on 5th/6th August with 220 on 15th August and 80 on 30th October, many in a mixed finch flock of 300 birds at **Thurgory, Lepton** on 10th/11th August, many remaining to 15th September, 38 at **Scammonden** on 6th October and up to 50 feeding in a **Shelley** garden to the year end.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** registered a total of 320 birds on ten dates between 30th September and 5th November, max. 70 on 3rd October.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (2-3)

The species was reported from c.35 sites, mostly after the breeding season when many flocks were in evidence. Although little direct proof of breeding was submitted, these post-breeding flocks suggested that breeding was widespread and good numbers of young were reared.

The only numbers of any significance in the early months were all in January, with 30 at **Elland GPs** on 4th, eleven at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th, 30 at **Golcar** on 19th and a max. of 25 in a garden at **Shelley**.

Breeding was confirmed at **Langsett**, **Orange Wood** and **Salendine Nook**, with additional singing males located at **Almondbury** (2+), **Bretton** (3+) and **Ravensknowle Park**, with other records at this time of year at **Dalton**, **Dogley NR**, **Gunthwaite**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **New Mill**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Townhead**.

Post-breeding flocks began with 50+ feeding on thistles at **Deer Hill** on 28th July with c.40 still there on 10th September. In August 32 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 4th, c.50 at **Broadstones** on 6th, 25 at **Colnebridge SP** on 10th, 21 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25th/26th and 27 at **Crosland Heath** on 28th. There was a very significant increase in numbers in Sept, especially from mid month, with at **Blackmoorfoot** 30 on 7th and 40 on 13th, 250+ at **Denby Dale** on 12th and still 150 there on 17th, 50+ at **Wolfstones** on 15th, 40+ in the **Longwood Valley** on 16th, c.200 near **Millhouse Green** on 21st and c.50 at **Scout Dike** on 25th.

Numbers declined from October onwards and apart from c.15 at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 6th and 13 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st October, the only double figure counts were recorded at **Elland GPs** with max. of 20 on 4th and 25 on 20th October, 20+ on 24th November and in December 25 on 7th and 40 on 19th.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** produced birds on 26 days between 2nd September and 5th November. In a total of 572 counted, 402 occurred in the period 30th September to 13th October with a peak of 125 on 10th October. Elsewhere 13 flew west over **Fixby** on 14th September, 27 south at **Harden** between 0730 and 0930hrs on 8th October and eleven west over **Pule Hill** on 14th October.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor

Few birds were reported in the early months apart from at **Elland GPs** where 60 on 17th and 75 on 21st January decreased to 50 on 1st February and only two on 17th March and at **Bretton Lakes** where there were 30+ on 30th January. Parties of 18 and 25 were at **Skelmanthorpe** on 2nd January and a small flock was on alders in the town centre on 6th January. Small numbers, up to eight, frequented feeding stations in gardens at **Hinchliffe Mill** and **Shelley** in Feb/March, at **Fixby** to 5th March and at **New Mill** from 9th March to 12th April. Elsewhere eight were in the **Grimescar Valley** in January, **Blackmoorfoot** had a

single bird on three dates to 22nd March, two flew north at **Harden** on 26th March and two were at **Golcar** on 29th March.

There was a lack of breeding season records, singing males being reported from three sites in the **Langsett** area and at **Yateholme** only, but a juv in a garden at **Shelley** on 7th July and an adult with three juvs in a **Penistone** garden may suggest breeding nearby.

Movements of small numbers of birds, mainly west or SW, were noted at **Castle Hill**, **Dalton**, **Pule Hill**, **Scammonden**, **Shelley**, **Tunnel End** and **Blackmoorfoot** from July onwards, with the largest number a flock of eleven birds moving south at the last site on 24th October, but much larger numbers were counted on v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley**. These totaled 432 individuals on 22 dates, mainly in early and late October, peaking at 86 on 28th.

At the end of the year birds were much more frequent, particularly in November and December, and three figure counts were achieved at two sites. At least 25 were at **Yateholme** on 17th September, 12 at **Scout Dike** on 19th October and 17 there on 5th December, then in November flocks appeared at many sites – **Elland GPs** 30 on 8th November increasing to 60 on 19th December, **Winscar** c.12 on 15th, **Sainsbury's** car park in the town centre 50+ on 19th/20th November increasing to 100+ on 21st, **Gunthwaite** 50+ and **Bretton Lakes**, where there had been 50 on 9th October, 150 on 23rd, **Fenay Bridge** c.25 on 24th November, **Dovestones** c.20 on 25th/26th November and 20+ on 5th December and also in November up to 40 in **Waterhall Park**, **Penistone** and 20 in the **Grimescar Valley**. In December 30+ were at **Aspley** on 8th, 18 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th, 20 by the canal at **Golcar** on 13th and c.20 in **Holmfirth** on 31st. Single figures also occurred at **Dewsbury SF**, **Marsden**, **Shelley**, **Tunnel End** and in gardens at **Fixby** and **Lockwood**.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3)

The species was absent in the first two months of the year and there was just a single record after the end of October.

The first of the year was a flock of 50 birds near the **Flouch Inn** on 12th March, which had increased to 150 on 13th April, a flock of ten appeared at **New Mill** on 21st March, c.15 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th March and on the same date 24 at **Elland Lowfields**, with 36 here on 3rd April. Passage birds were reported at **Shelley** from 13th March, the first singing male of the year was between **Almondbury** and **Castle Hill** on 16th March, eight arrived at **Harden** on 27th, four were at **Greystones Farm**, **Bradshaw** on 28th and six had returned to the **Broadstones** breeding site on 29th March.

Later in the breeding season birds were present at almost twenty sites, mainly on the moorland fringe, but numbers appear to be in decline. Breeding was only proven at **Deer Hill** (a nest in heather on 12th May), **Harden** (young being fed on 6th July) and **Shelley** (c.6 pairs in gorse), but doubtless occurred at many of the other sites listed – **Broadstones**, **Castle Hill**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Crosland Road/Lindley Moor** (4 pairs), **Crossley's Plantation**, **Green Hill Clough**, **High Hoyland**, **Horbury**, **Issues Road**, **Kirkheaton** (2 pairs), **Lepton**, **Meltham Cop**, **Millmoor**, **Ravensthorpe GPs** and **Scammonden**.

Post-breeding numbers seem to indicate reasonable success. On setaside near **Dewsbury SF** a flock of 28 on 22nd July increased to 400 on 5th August and remained at this level until 15th, then 300 on 31st August, 400 again on 2nd Sept gradually reducing to 150 on 5th and to 68 on 28th Sept. 60+ were by the waterworks in the **Longwood Valley** on 28th July, many were in a mixed finch flock of 300+ at **Lepton** on 10th/11th August and 40 at **Denby Dale** on 15th August. In Sept c.20 were at **Horbury** on 8th, 40+ at **Kirkheaton** on 18th, c.110 at **Scout Dike** on 25th (reducing to c.50 by 5th October), c.25 at **Thornhill Millbank** on 28th and c.50 at **Upper Maythorn** on 29th. After this the only flocks found were c.50 at **Millhouse Green** on 2nd October and 25 in **Annat Royd Lane** on 22nd December.

Apart from 35 birds passing south at **Harden** between 0730 and 0930hrs on 8th October, the only records of birds moving came from v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley**, where between 2nd September and 3rd November 626 birds were logged on 30 dates, with a max. of 80 on 4th October. 62% of the passage took place between 23rd Sept and 6th October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*
Partial migrant breeder (1-2)

There were records in all months except January and February and breeding was confirmed at several sites as well as birds being present at this time in a few others without evidence of breeding. This is without doubt the most important breeding species in our area and strenuous efforts are being made to monitor its numbers and to put in place the necessary requirements for its continued survival.

The main sites of occupation are the **Booth Dam/ Oxygrains, Buckstones, Wessenden and Deer Hill/Meltham Moor** areas with smaller concentrations near **Pob Green, Pule Hill** and **Redbrook Clough/Green Owlers**.

Birds began to appear from mid March with a flock of 30 near the **Flouch Inn** on 12th, followed by one flying west over **Harden** on 19th. Parties of 35 and nine were located near **Pob Green** on 22nd and two birds had returned to the **Wessenden Valley** on 27th with two near **Cop Hill** on 28th. In April at least two were with Linnets at **Issues Road, Digley** on 5th, birds were present on several dates in fields to the east of **Blackmoorfoot** with max. of 36 on 7th, 23 on 10th and 36 on 17th and in fields to the west on 26th (2) and 28th (4). Also in April a flock of 24 was just to the west of **Rishworth Quarry** on 10th, three were near **Holme** on 16th, two on **Holme Moor** on 17th and on **Meltham Moor** from mid month.

Concentrated efforts by one observer in the **Booth Dam/Oxygrains Beck** area from the beginning of June resulted in the discovery of eight nests (with a ninth strongly suspected), three with first broods, five with second broods. Success rates were high, all nests hatching eggs (40) and 25 young were reared; three nests failed at the young stage in the first week. All the nests were in bracken. Seventy birds near Oxygrains Beck on 2nd October could presumably have been adults and young from the area – or birds passing through?

At **Meltham Moor** breeding occurred and up to 15 birds were seen from the end of June and throughout July and included fledged young being fed by adults. Similarly up to seven birds were seen in mid July west of **Deer Hill Res** and included young being fed on the banking of the catchment. 36 birds were present in the area on 12th July and 35 on 18th August, 28 on 2nd September. In the **Wessenden Valley** a minimum of five pairs were breeding in a

bracken bed on 4th June and later in the year a flock of 20+ was present on 6th August and 27 including juvs on 27th August.

A male and female at **Cartworth Moor** on 5th May and feeding at the roadside near **Crossley's Plantation** on 11th were presumably breeding nearby, two adults were collecting food at **Pob Green** on 8th May, birds were present on **Holme Moor** on 1st June, four were at **Lower Green Owers** on 8th June and seven near **Buckstones** on the same date with 15, mainly juvs at the latter site on 21st July. Seven birds at **Pule Hill** on 11th June included two fledged young and two were in **Redbrook Clough** on 15th July.

Later in the year up to 28 were in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res** from 29th August to 3rd October, at least one still in the **Wessenden Valley** on 16th September, four in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 26th September, 16 at **Rishworth** on 29th September, four on **Marsden Cricket Field** on 4th/5th October, c.6 at **Pule Hill** on 14th October and one on 3rd November and finally three on kale stubble to the east of **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th and 31st December.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** between 16th September and 3rd November produced a total of 64 birds on seven days, max. 13 on 23rd October.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder (1-2) and winter visitor

Birds were reported in all months except August, but were very scarce at the beginning of the year, with Jan/Feb records only from **Grimescar Valley** with up to five in January and three in February, **Elland GPs** three on 4th, ten on 16th and 19th January and 12 on 21st February, **Colnebridge SP** where there were three on 13th January and a few were at **Golcar** in February. One was at **Blackmoorfoot** on a single date in March and on two in April, a max. of four were at **Shelley** on 27th March, three at **Elland GPs** on 1st April, three at **Horbury Wyke** on 4th April and ten at **Shepley** on 14th April.

There was no direct evidence of breeding but calling birds at **Winscar** in April/May and a juv feeding nearby in early June and two juvs in a **Shelley** garden may suggest breeding in these areas. Elsewhere singing males were located at **Yateholme** on 23rd April and at **Hades Green Clough** (2) on 4th June. Birds were also at **Crosland Heath** in late April and at **Tunnel End** and **Holme Styes** in early June.

Towards the end of the year, birds were present at more sites but in only very small numbers. The only double figure counts were 14 at **Elland GPs** on 9th November with 40 there on 23rd and in December 14 on 8th and ten on 24th, ten at **Scout Dike** on 10th November, ten at **Langsett** in late November and at **Shepley** a flock of 35 on 13th November increasing to 50 by the year end. Single figures occurred at **Denby Dale**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Shelley**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Marsden GC**, **Meltham**, **Grimescar**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Crosland Moor**, **New Mill** and **Bretton Lakes**.

V.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** produced a total of 148 on 12 dates between 23rd September and 5th November, 68% of them in the period 30th September to 13th October, with max. of 48 on 11th October. At other sites one flew west over **Marsden** on 28th July, seven south at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th September, over **Meltham** one on 21st September and two on 30th October when one also flew south at **Harden**, with another south there on 2nd November and eight south at **Hartcliff Hill** on 9th November.

Mealy (Common) Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor

The only record was of an individual with Lesser Redpolls at **Appleyards, Golcar** on 14th February (JKP).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) and uncommon passage visitor



This was the best year for some time for this species with very high counts at the year end. Although there was no evidence of breeding, the sites and numbers involved suggest the possibility. Reported from 14 locations.

Yateholme – after a single bird on 26th March 14 were found on 28th, 16+ on 29th, 22 on 30th and 20+ on 31st and included several red males. In April there were 20+ on 3rd, 15+ on 6th, male and female on 14th and 12+ on 24th; eleven (6 males) were still present on 6th May. None were seen then until 4th September when parties of seven and ten were located and eight on 17th September. There was then

a further large gap in sightings until 12th December when 171 birds were counted in six parties of 22, 26, 28, 40, 23 and 32 (DMP). The observer considers there may have been some duplication but this was compensated by other flocks which were only heard. 45 remained on 17th December, with 20+ still on 28th (HQ,DHP,PB,PDB,M&SC,MC,BA).

Deer Hill – 13 flew NE on 15th July, gaining height until lost to view (DMP).

Marsden – two flew north on 15th July; on 10th October one, plus a party which was only heard, flew south (TG).

Crosland Moor – a flock of 34 flew west at 0810hrs on 27th August (MLD).

Winscar – two on 31st August, three on 1st and one on 14th September (MC).

Flouch area – two flew over on 2nd September and a few uncounted small parties were present on 8th September (DHP).

Langsett Res – 12 on 15th September (TM); a flock of c.15 in late November (NEP), five on 31st December (RT).

Harden – singles over on 16th and 31st October (MC).

Scammonden – one on 19th October (JB via JED).

Little Don Valley – 45 on 20th October (TM).

Hartcliff Hill – four flew west on 2nd November (RJB).

Yeoman Hey – parties of 17 and 20 on 22nd November, 12 in the car park on 26th November, eight on 5th December and a small party on 31st (PB,DHP).

Bretton Lakes – a party of 12 dropped into conifers near the observer on 24th December (AK).

Colne Valley – v.m.w. revealed eight on 16th September, two in mid and three in late October (TG).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3)

The increase in the number of records received for this species in 2001 was sustained in 2002, with reports from just over 50 sites.

Breeding was reported from **Denby Dale** (c.5 pairs), **Lockwood** (nest site found), **Shepley**, **Stoneycliffe Wood** (brood left nest on 8th June), **Penistone** (family party including 4 juvs in early August), **Grimescar** (3 juvs together on 4th August), **Longwood** (ads + juvs) and **Elland GPs** (adult feeding young on 11th August); pairs were also present at **Bretton Lakes**, **Dalton**, **Holme Styes**, **Lumb Lane**, **Scammonden** (2+), **Shelley Whins** and **TP Wood**.

Other localities where birds were seen in the spring/summer were **Bargate**, **Beaumont Park**, **Colnebridge**, **Digley**, **Dunford Bridge**, **Fixby** (2 sites), **Hagg Wood**, **Hinchliffe Mill**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **New Hall Wood**, **Orange Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Sparth**, **Stockmoor Common** and **Windybank Wood**. Owing to the largely sedentary nature of this species breeding probably occurred at several of these sites.

Outside the breeding season birds were also reported from **Almondbury**, **Birkby**, **Black Brook**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Emroyd Common**, **Fixby** (at a third site), **Gunthwaite**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Near Bank** (Shelley), **Royd Moor Res**, **Scout Dike Res**, **Skelmanthorpe** and **Stockmoor**. Most records were of one to three birds but parties of four occurred at **Dalton** and **Shelley**, five at **Bare Bones Road**, **Bretton**, **Clayton Fields** and in the **Grimescar Valley**, six at **Near Bank** (Shelley) and **Elland GPs**. Double figure counts were achieved at **Dunford Cycle Track** which had a party of 14 on 24th December and at **Denby Dale**, where on 29th October 20 were present, the highest count recorded for several years.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Resident, probable breeder (1)

A very poor year for this species with just two records.

One was seen in flight in **Menagerie Wood**, **Bretton Lakes** on 1st January (DB) and one flew over **Marsden GC** during a Redwing movement on 24th October (TG).



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

One female/1st W was flushed from a rushy field near **Deer Hill** on 23rd January (BA) and a male flew south at the same site on 26th September (TG). One flew SW over **Marsden GC** on 3rd October (TG).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant

In 2001 it was suggested that restrictions imposed in response to the outbreak of F&M disease had resulted in fewer reports being submitted of singing males/pairs than normal with a total of only 22 compared with 74 in 2000. However, there was a further decrease in 2002 with only 18 singing males reported. Does this reflect a dramatic decline in the species' numbers or is it merely that records are not being submitted??

Singing males were located at **Blackmoorfoot** (1), **Broadstones** (2), **Horbury** (3+), **New Mill** (1), **Ravensthorpe GPs** (1), **Royd Moor Res** (3), **Thornhill Millbank** (6) and **Upper Cumberworth** (1).

In the early months a flock of 18 was in **Annat Royd Lane** on 6th January and increased to 60 on 16th and 65 on 3rd February before reducing to 35 on 3rd March, 13 were at **Royd Moor** also on 6th January and c.20 there on 17th February and there were 13 together at **Honley Moor** on 3rd February.

The only double figure counts towards the end of the year were 20 at **Royd Moor** on 28th September, 19 at **Scout Dike** on 20th October and 40 in **Annat Royd Lane** on 22nd December. **Lower Stones Wood** had a roost of c.30 birds in both winter periods. A further ten sites had small numbers at various times of the year.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoenobaenus*

Resident breeder (2) and partial migrant

The species was reported from a total of 35 sites with a minimum of 47 pairs/singing males located at 22 of them.

At the beginning of the year the highest numbers reported were at least nine at **Horbury SF** and 4+ at **Broadstones** on 17th February, five at **Colnebridge SP** on 9th March, six in a **Shepley** garden on 14th March and eight at **Royd Moor Res** on 16th March.

Breeding was proven only at **Booth Dam** (in dry bracken beds), **Colnebridge SP**, **Harden** and **Scout Dike Res** (8 singing males in late May/June), but probably occurred at many of the other sites where birds were present in spring/summer – **Blackmoorfoot**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Broadstones**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley**, **Dovestones**, **Elland GPs**, **Hade Edge**, **Holme Styes**, **Horbury area** (9+), **Ingbirchworth** (3), **Issues Road**, **Meltham**, **Royd Moor**, **Scammonden** (3), **Snittle Road**, **Tunnel End** and **Wessenden** (6+).

After the breeding season, 10+ were in willows at **Dearne Dike Lane** on 19th July, 6+ at **Winscar** in the first two weeks of September and a high count of 18, almost certainly migrants, in the southern car park there on 12th and 16th October, a max. of five at **Dewsbury SF** on 19th September and five in stubble near **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 21st December.

A total of 167 birds was counted on 21 dates during v.m.w. in the **Colne Valley** between 9th September and 5th November with a max. of 35 on 4th October. At **Harden** seven flew over on both 8th and 16th October and there was a small fall of four birds there on 2nd November.

CORRECTION TO 1998 REPORT

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*

The party of nine birds at Blackmoorfoot Res occurred on 29th March, not September as stated. The statement that they represented the highest number recorded at an inland site in Yorkshire is also incorrect.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

2002

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

A male of this South American species was at Elland GPs on 12th and 16th February, 22nd August, 4th September and 20th and 28th December (HBC).

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

One bearing a red ring was at Horbury Wyke and Horbury Strands from 31st July to 3rd August (JMcL,BA et al).

Falco sp.

An escaped Saker type falcon, probably crossed with a Gyrfalcon, was at Winscar on 1st September (MC).

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Details in Classified List.

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF SUMMER/WINTER MIGRANTS 2002

SUMMER	FIRST	LOCALITY	LAST	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	17 Mar	Dewsbury SF	6 Aug	Dewsbury SF
Common Sandpiper	17 Apr	Blackmoorfoot Res	11 Sept	Dewsbury SF
Common Tern	23 Apr	Horbury Wyke	5 Sept	Crosland Moor
Cuckoo	3 May	Langsett	12 Aug	Windmill Lane
Swift	27 Apr	DSF/Elland GPs	13 Sep	Marsden
Sand Martin	17 Mar	DSF/Elland GPs	30 Sep	Colne Valley
Swallow	5 Apr	Upper Cumberworth	20 Oct	Digley/Hartcliff Hill
House Martin	8 Apr	Elland GPs	14 Oct	Shelley
Tree Pipit	17 Apr	Dewsbury SF	1 Oct	Wessenden
Yellow Wagtail	20 Apr	Shepley	21 Sep	Dalton/Wessenden
Common Redstart	21 Apr	Little Don Valley	8 Sept	Scammonden
Whinchat	21 Apr	Digley	15 Sep	Broadstones
Northern Wheatear	18 Mar	Black Moor	7 Oct	Digley/Scammonden
Ring Ouzel	24 Mar	Digley/Wess/Winscar	17 Oct	Deer Hill/Harden
Grasshopper Warbler	25 Jun	Winscar	10 Aug	Winscar
Sedge Warbler	20 Apr	Colnebridge SP	2 Sept	Dewsbury SF
Reed Warbler	22 Apr	Elland GPs	17 Aug	Colnebridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	20 Apr	Shelley	11 Sept	Denby Dale
Common Whitethroat	5 Apr+	Healey Mills	12 Sept	Dewsbury SF
Garden Warbler	3 May	Elland GPs	8 Sept	Horbury Wyke
Blackcap	2 Apr	Bretton Lakes	21 Sep	Shelley
Wood Warbler	28 Apr	Ingbirchworth	9 June	Upper Dearne V.
Chiffchaff	10 Mar	Dogley NR	19 Oct	Penistone
Willow Warbler	27 Mar	Elland GPs	18 Sep	Ingbirchworth
Spotted Flycatcher	n/a	Blackmoorfoot	8 Sept	Scammonden
Pied Flycatcher	28 Apr	Cliff Wood	3 Sept	Sparth Res
Pink-footed Goose	11 May	Horbury Wyke	17 Sept	Harden
Goldeneye	10 May	Deanhead Res	19 Oct	Blackmoorfoot/Ringstone Edge
Waxwing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fieldfare	18 Apr	Black Moor	12 Oct	Digley
Redwing	7 Apr	Blackmoorfoot	6 Oct	Scammonden
Brambling	24 Apr	Fixby/Linthwaite	6 Oct	Wessenden V.

+denotes earliest ever record

AN IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM

At 0740 hours on 1st November 2002, as I rounded the southeast corner of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, I noticed a flock of ducks sitting in the centre of the reservoir. Having identified them I looked along the west bank to see what was lurking. Perched on the top of a bush was a Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* and, nearby, an all white heron-like bird. Even at this distance (ca. 700 yards), and even though the bird appeared neck-less and I was not able to see the legs or bill (even with a telescope), I was of the opinion that it was probably a Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. The major problem was proving it!

So as to get a view from a nearer vantage point I cycled along the south bank of the reservoir to observe the bird from the inlet. Having arrived, however, a non-birdwatching friend appeared and we talked for well over half an hour. Although I tried to keep an eye on the bird as we talked, it had moved its position when my friend departed (thereby ruling out the possibility of a white paper bag). The bird was now perched in a tree near Lake House (again at ca. 700 yards range!) and was again sitting in a position that made it appear neck-less. For the next thirty minutes it remained motionless.

After so long an observation without the bird showing any signs of having a neck, I was beginning to doubt my original identification and thoughts of an escaped Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* (a similarly shaped species and one that I had seen in Australia) began to creep into my mind. Eventually, as if by magic, the bird decided to prove it had a long neck and I was now in a position to say that it was a heron - but I had to rule out the possibility of an albino Grey Heron and other heron/egret species. I now had a dilemma; had I entered the west bank to look for the bird it would almost certainly have flushed, and all chances of identifying it would probably have disappeared when it flew. Alternatively, if I had continued to watch the bird from this distance, even if it did eventually fly, it may have flown even further away, and could have left the reservoir without being identified. I chose to sit tight.

After watching the bird for a further thirty minutes it was mobbed by a Magpie *Pica pica* and, at long last, something had persuaded it to fly. At the same time the Grey Heron (which was now feeding in the northwest corner by Lake House) took flight and the two flew together for a while. It was noticed that the bird was smaller than the heron and the wing beats were faster. The possibility of the bird being an albino Grey Heron or even a Great White Egret *E. alba* were dispelled. Fortunately the bird flew towards me and I was able to see the all black dagger-like bill and yellow feet on black legs. My original suspicion was correct, the bird was indeed a Little Egret, the first to be recorded in the Club area. The bird stayed until 1225 hours when, apparently disturbed by a helicopter, it flew off to the northwest.

Prior to 1958 there had only been 12 British records of Little Egret and up until the end of 1990 records were scrutinized by *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC) but, due to a massive increase in records (122 in 1989 and 113 in 1990), this task was passed to the county recorders. Up to the dropping of this species by BBRC there had been 15 Yorkshire records, all but two since 1967. In line with the national increase, a further 59 records had accumulated by the end of 2000. Of the 23 Yorkshire records during 2000, however, it was considered that the number of birds involved was perhaps as few as ten (Yorkshire Rare and Scarce Bird Report 2000: Yorkshire Naturalist's Union).

Little Egrets are now very common in southern Britain and the first breeding attempt occurred in Dorset during 1996. The species will almost certainly become a much commoner sight in Yorkshire - watch out for white plastic bags, they may be more than they appear!

Mike Denton

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(with apologies for any omissions)

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Barnsley Bird Study Group (BBSG)
Bird Line NorthEast (BLNE)
Greater Manchester Ornithological Society (GMOS)
Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)
In Focus, Denby Dale
RSPB Denby Dale Office

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES NAMED IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST
(Use O.S.Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Almondbury	170155	Choppards	142064
Annat Royd Lane	211053	Cinderhills	147075
Appleyards,Golcar	101152	Clayton West	260110
Armitage Bridge	130135	Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Aspley	151163	Clock Face Quarry	044173
Bank Wood,Emley	263138	Clough Wood	175114
Banks Hall	282066	Colne Valley	070140
Bare Bones Road	144043	Cooper Bridge	166206
Bargate	096147	Cowcliffe	139187
Bartin	091072	Coxley Bank	275168
Beaumont Park	130147	Coxley Valley	271165
Berry Brow	141138	Cranberry	247008
Big Valley	130136	Crosland Heath GC	110142
Bilberry Res.	102070	Crosland Hill	115145
Bird's Edge	202077	Crosland Moor	120150
Birkby	140183	Crossley's Plantation	125050
Birks Moss	056078	Crow Edge	188046
Black Moss	040085	Cubley	245023
Blacker Wood	240111	Cupwith Res.	038141
Blackley Tip	102195	Dalton	163162
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127	Deanhead Res.	038152
Booth Dam Quarry	018161	Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Boothroyd Wood	183118	Deer Hill Res.	070115
Boshaw Whams	151057	Deffer Wood	260090
Bradley	165205	Deighton	167191
Bradley Park GC	157207	Denby Dale	225084
Bretton Lakes	280127	Dewsbury SF	260198
Broadstones Lodge	200065	Digley Bottom	115068
Broadstones Res.	195065	Digley Res.	107070
Brookhouse Bridge	198007	Dogley NR	187137
Brownhill Res.	114050	Dovestones Res.	018040
Brown's Edge	195058	Drop Clough	048133
Buckstones	010140	Dunford Bridge	158024
Bullcliff Wood	292152	Eastergate, Marsden	029121
Bunny Wood,Golcar	095173	Edge Hill	235016
Butterley Res.	050103	Elland GPs	125222
Cannon Hall	275085	Elysium Fields	133055
Carlecotes	178034	Emley Moor	225135
Carr Wood	180133	Emley Tx	223130
Cartworth Moor	138060	Farnley Tyas	166128
Castle Dam, P'stone	255022	Farnley Wood	164134
Castle Hill	152141	Featherbed Moss	044067
Cawthorne	285080	Fenay Beck	183152
Cheesegate Nab	175065	Flight Hill	153042

Flockton	245151	Hullock Bank	172075
Flouch Inn	198016	Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Folly Hall	142159	Isle of Skye quarry	088079
Ford Inn	114084	Jackson Bridge	165075
Fox Clough	136057	Jenkinson Wood	184116
Fox Clough, Langsett	190006	Kaye Lane	160147
Fox House Moss	165042	King's Mill Lane	150161
Fullshaw	210012	Kirkburton	198128
Gawthorpe Green	193168	Kirkheaton	185185
Gilbert Hill	210007	Krumlin	056183
Golcar	096160	Langsett	212005
Golcar Tip	104156	Langsett Banks	205003
Grain's Moss	125025	Langsett Res.	210001
Grange Moor	220160	Law	158047
Greenfield Road	103080	Lepton	193157
Green Gate Road	113080	Lepton Great Wood	195145
Grimescar Valley	130190	Lindley	120182
Gunthwaite Dam	246062	Lindley Moor	095185
Hade Edge	146053	Linthwaite	095145
Hades Green Clough	141052	Liphill Brook	129078
Haigh	294120	Litherop Lane	273123
Hall Bower	145140	Little Don Valley	195005
Harden	153037	Lockwood	135152
Harden Clough	144039	Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Harden Edge	158038	Longwood	108167
Harden Res.	150037	Lower Cumberworth	223095
Hartcliff Hill	221017	Lower Stones Wood	187106
Hazlehead	195028	Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Healey Greave Wood	198116	Lowfields, Elland	117219
Healey House	115124	Lumb Lane	160140
Healey Mills	268193	Magdale Dam	135124
Helme	101118	March Haigh Res.	015130
Hepworth	164066	Margery Wood	275096
Hey Green	032122	Marsden	045115
Highburton	193133	Marsh	125171
Hill Top Res.	074141	Maythorn	196057
Hinchliffe Mill	127072	McAlpine Stadium	155176
Hingcliff Common	194001	Mellor Wood	158144
Holmbridge	120068	Meltham Moor	080093
Holme	108060	Meltham SF	112115
Holme Styas	136054	Middlestown	267172
Holme Styas Res.	141055	Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Holmfirth	143082	Millhouse Green	218032
Honley	138118	Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Horbury Strands	288177	Milnsbridge	113158
Horbury Wyke	297172	Molly Carr Wood	160137
Hoylandswaine	265047	Mytholm Bridge	154102
Huddersfield	145165	Netherthong	139097

Netherton, Wakefield	283170	Spicer House Lane	205055
Nettleton Hill	094170	Spring Wood	130124
New House Wood	210082	Squirrel Ditch	152154
New Mill	164088	Stainland	077194
Nont Sarah's	048152	Stockmoor Common	275152
Nopper Road	107135	Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Oakes	120174	Storthes Hall Woods	183118
Oldfield	136103	Stubbin Clough	124072
Orange Wood	102123	Swinden Plantation	190002
Ossett	280200	Taylor Hill	135145
Outlane	085180	Thornton Lodge	135161
Oxygrains Beck	003159	Thorpes	235095
Penistone	245033	Thunderbridge	188115
Penny Spring Wood	160155	Thurstonland	165104
Pole Moor	067158	Tinker Hill	163048
Pule Hill	033104	Townhead	166028
Ramsden Res.	115055	Underbank	144076
Ravensthorpe	222202	Upper Cumberworth	210087
Ravensthorpe GPs	233202	Upper Denby	238072
Reynard Clough	136050	Upper Longdendale	095005
Riding Wood Res.	117050	Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182	Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Roughbircworth	264016	Waterloo	177166
Round Wood	157101	Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Royd Edge	095097	Wessenden Valley	055088
Royd House Wood	162133	West Nab	077088
Royd Moor Res.	222048	West Slaithwaite	060132
Salendine Nook	105178	West Wood, Honley	151123
Sand Ridge Moss	158032	Wetshaw Edge	147032
Scammonden	050160	Whitegate Lane	128055
Scout Dike Res.	233049	Whitley Common	192056
Shelley	204113	Whitley Willows	196166
Shepley	193098	Windle Edge	152017
Shore Head	148166	Windleden Edge	142010
Silkstone	290059	Windmill Lane	195072
Silkstone SF	295065	Windybank Wood	112104
Skelmanthorpe	233105	Winscar Res.	150025
Slaithwaite	080140	Wolfstones	124092
Smith Wood	179115	Wood Nook	122106
Snafe Res.	117088	Woodsome Lees	186134
Snailsden Moor	135035	Woodsome Road	185146
Snailsden Res.	135040	Wood Top	046113
Snittle Road	149050	Wooldale	155090
South Crosland	115126	Yateholme	115050
Sparth Res.	055125		

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION OR ACCOUNT

Divers - all	Phalaropes - all
Red-necked Grebe	Skuas - all
Black-necked Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Slavonian Grebe	Yellow-legged Gull
Fulmar	Iceland Gull
Shearwaters and Petrels - all	Glaucous Gull
Gannet	Terns - all except Common
Shag	Auks – all
Bittern	Barn Owl
White-fronted Goose	Hoopoe
Brent Goose	Wryneck
Garganey	Woodlark
Red-crested Pochard	Shorelark
Eider Duck	Rock Pipit
Long-tailed Duck	Water Pipit
Velvet Scoter	Nightingale
Harriers - all	Bluethroat
Goshawk	Black Redstart
Osprey	Yellow-browed Warbler
Hobby	Firecrest
Avocet	Marsh Tit
Dotterel	Shrikes – all
Little Stint	Hooded Crow
Curlew Sandpiper	Raven (lowlands)
Purple Sandpiper	Lapland Bunting
Wood Sandpiper	Snow Bunting

Reports of the above species, in addition to all British Birds Rarities and YNU species (see opposite page) requiring a description, must be supported by a description or account and should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation. For some of the more frequently occurring species an account of the occurrence will be sufficient.

Inexperienced observers may like to contact one of the Records Sub-committee at the time of the sighting to obtain help if they are confronted with a “mystery” bird:

Brian Armitage	Tel. 01484 305054
Mick Cunninham	Tel. 01484 680409
John Dale	Tel. 01844 652453

Details may also be requested of unseasonal records and well-defined races.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION

Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Great Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Balearic Shearwater	Black Guillemot
Storm Petrel	Bee-Eater
Leach's Petrel	Short-toed Lark
Little Egret	Richard's Pipit
Purple Heron	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose (including race)	Cetti's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Savi's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Surf Scoter	Marsh Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Spotted Crake	Pallas's Warbler
Corncrake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Common Crane	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Serin
Temminck's Stint	Common Rosefinch
Pectoral Sandpiper	Cirl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Little Bunting

Plus all *British Birds* Rarities and all Escapes

NOTES

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Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club : Boundaries of Club Area

