



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield

2010



Birds in Huddersfield 2010 is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover illustration: **Raven at Wessenden (Stuart Brocklehurst).**

Rear cover photograph: **Ring-billed Gull, Sands Lane 21st November 2010 (David Tattersley).**

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Birds in Huddersfield

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Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and you can see more of his work on his web site:
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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

The 2010 Birds in Huddersfield represents the achievement of the objective that we set for ourselves some time ago of once more producing our annual bird report in good time within the year following the collection of the data. As has been said before but worth reiterating, this is thanks to the efforts of many members of the club diligently led by Mike Wainman. As you read this whilst tucked up in front of a warm fire sipping your cocoa have a thought for those who each wore at least two fingers to the bone in producing it.

Overall the picture that we report was mixed, as excellently summarised by Russ Boland, with the year's total of 173 species being most impressive and yet, within that, a number of species are finding times very difficult, reflecting the picture reported throughout the country. We can only watch and monitor and, by doing so, add our own efforts to those of the whole. How much we can contribute depends entirely upon the efforts of all of the members of the club; without their contributions of records and observations we would have no data and, hence, no report. Every bit of data helps and we must all strive to continue to make our own individual contributions whenever we can. Keep sending your records in to the Recorder on a regular basis throughout the year and help us in continuing to achieve our objective of timely publication. As I have stated before, the club is only the sum part of each of its members' activities.

Once again the report is suitably enhanced by the pictures and illustrations that grace it. Stuart Brocklehurst has produced another stunning colour illustration for our front cover, as well as a number of black and white studies, and Russ Boland continues to impress us with the development of his own artistic skills. Complementing these are some outstanding photographs taken by members, all taken within the club area, showing that hard work and dedication really does produce exceptional results thanks to the digital camera. Many more examples of our members' photographic skills are to be found on the web site and the forum and can also be seen occasionally by those who attend our regular club meetings.

This will be the last report which I have had the honour of presenting as Club President and I have enjoyed the opportunity to play my small part in its delivery as well as the pleasure of serving in the role.

Alf King

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 46 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2010* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

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

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

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

The whole of the club archive, including all of our publications since 1966, will shortly be made available in digital format via our new web site (see below) for viewing by the public. This will be an invaluable database for everyone interested in the history of the birds of the area.

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

Our lecture and meeting programme runs between September and May each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography. There are also club nights, with, for instance, members showing photos of their own birding trips, local and further afield or quiz nights using video footage of birds in the field to test your identification skills – an excellent way of improving them!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see page 150) or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

2010: THE BIRDING YEAR

An impressive total of 173 species was reliably recorded in the Club area. Two new species were added to the area list and, once again, several others made very welcome appearances after many a year's absence.

January opened with Scammonden's two Great Northern Divers - part of the remarkable influx of 2009 - remaining in situ to 8th, a Scaup at Elland Gravel Pits and an impressive 350 Linnets fed on game crop at Upper Cumberworth. With the year barely a week old, severe weather took hold and the River Calder soon became something of winter wonderland for local birders. Following a Mediterranean Gull at Sands Lane, the first ever Ring-necked Duck briefly graced the Club area. This one-day wonder drake at Horbury, which had been frozen-out from its favoured haunts upriver in Wakefield, was also joined by near-record numbers of Goldeneye, the returning male Smew, Red-breasted Merganser and a host of other wildfowl. Meanwhile, Dewsbury Sewage Farm held impressive numbers of Teal, whilst a Goshawk seen carrying off a Little Owl at nearby Ravensthorpe was doubtless enjoying easy pickings.

February began with Whooper Swans at Digley, a fly-through Bar-tailed Godwit at Meltham and a single Waxwing at Lindley - the only early winter record. Several skeins of Pink-footed Geese passed over, but early year numbers of these evocative birds were generally well down. Two of the year's best finds occurred this month; firstly a stunning Great White Egret - only the 2nd ever - chose Bretton Lakes as its catwalk of choice, then a Ring-billed Gull put Sands Lane firmly on the Yorkshire birding map three days later. This understated Yankee Larid remained a star attraction until late March. Other quality birds included a *littoralis* Rock Pipit at Dewsbury Sewage Farm, up to three Mealy Redpolls at Meltham and a fly-over Whooper Swan at Shepley.

After such a hard winter, for the birds at least, spring would be especially welcome. Two Marsh Tits at Bretton Lakes early month were an excellent find and the first here for over 20 years, whilst a Mediterranean Gull at Blackmoorfoot was rather more expected. The much-anticipated Whooper Swan passage was something of a disappointment, up to four at Blackmoorfoot and two at Digley on three days each constituted the only records with the exception of the aforementioned. The first Twite reappeared at Deer Hill mid-month, just as our first summer visitors arrived, with Sand Martin leading the way. A flurry of activity in the last week included the earliest-ever Common Tern, the first Swallow, Wheatear, Willow Warbler and White Wagtail, and there was an upsurge in Crossbill sightings from the upland conifer plantations.

Migration came to the fore in the first two weeks of April with several rather notable sightings, including the year's only Osprey over Brighouse, Black Redstarts at Digley and Deer Hill and a spring Rock Pipit at Ingbirchworth. The Horbury area continued its fine run of wildfowl with a male Garganey and a Red Kite at Blackmoorfoot was the precursor for yet another record-breaking year for this most elegant raptor. Once again, Oystercatchers seemed to be everywhere on our uplands, with an impressive 17 of these piebald, charismatic birds counted at Boshaw Whams. Perhaps of greater significance was the four -figure Golden Plover count from the nearby Broadstones area. A very welcome and tuneful Wood Warbler visited Denby Dale late month, providing a nice bonus to anyone wanting to try out some new optics!

With migration reaching a peak, the first half of May brought further Garganey to the Calder, passage Marsh Harriers through Wessenden and Whitley, and the first Hobby to the moorland sites in the west. A fine Grey-headed Wagtail was a sensational find at Deer Hill, but as migration then began to tail off, it was eclipsed by a touch of the exotic in the form of the Club area's first ever Golden Oriole, alas a bird witnessed only by its dedicated patch worker at the new Healey

Mills Nature Reserve. Back on the moors, Turtle Doves made a very welcome return and had many birders wondering if last year's celebrities had indeed evaded those guns down in the Mediterranean.

June was typically generally quiet, although it is usually the best month for Quail, and one of these furtive migrants duly took up residence in the Whitley Common area. Away from the norm, a splendid male Hen Harrier passed through Deer Hill early month and a Little Egret visited Ringstone Edge Reservoir. The four more Red Kite sightings were no doubt a welcome distraction from England's World Cup disaster!

Once again, there appeared to be little change in the status of our breeding birds. Of our raptors, Common Buzzard is now the most widely reported species; it was another indifferent year for Merlin but the successes of Peregrine this year bode well for the future. It is pleasing to report the first breeding record of Hobby in the Club area after some 'near misses' in the past. Long-eared Owl did very well too, but it is important that people continue to heed the Club's requests when seeking out species like this. One of our resident species, Stonechat, appears to have suffered badly from the two recent spells of severe weather. With Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover and Curlew seemingly doing well, there were also encouraging reports for Dunlin. Both Golden Plover and Redshank retained their toe-hold as breeders. Of our migrant breeders, there were signs that Cuckoo, Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Common and Lesser Whitethroats are increasing. Alas, this does not apply to Ring Ouzel, Tree Pipit and Common Redstart, with Spotted Flycatcher and Whinchat faring not much better. It is now generally accepted that these birds are facing severe hardships on their wintering grounds south of the Sahara and, indeed, the 2011 *Birdfair* will target birds using the African-Eurasian flyways for its conservation appeal.

Back on home territory, the opening up of sites and less-than-sympathetic management with regards to biodiversity does not help. Conversely, down at sea-level, the appreciative efforts of those parties involved with the new Healey Mills Nature Reserve is already beginning to pay dividends.

Through July, the Harden area continued to intermittently host the Turtle Doves, and further Little Egrets graced Blackmoorfoot and Horbury Wyke.

Three Whimbrel at Oldfield and an influx of Green Sandpipers to the Calder and the Ingbirchworth reservoirs heralded a reasonable wader migration. The summer Common Scoter passage commenced at Broadstones Reservoir late month, with Blackmoorfoot and Scout Dike also getting in on the act.

The first half of August was relatively quiet migration-wise. Things picked up significantly thereafter, with an influx of Greenshank taking advantage of the low water levels at several reservoirs; up to three birds remained remarkably faithful, with admirable canine-tolerance, to the Ingbirchworth area. Ruff visited Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth, with an Arctic Tern pausing at the former site. Elsewhere a fine ringtail Hen Harrier was seen at Langsett, and down by the Calder a dapper Little Egret visited Ravensthorpe and Sands Lane, and a late Quail was flushed at Dewsbury Sewage Farm.

Not surprisingly the migratory urge of our avian friends made for some excellent birding in September. Early month brought further Hen Harriers to Marsden and, remarkably, over Middlestown, by the Calder, followed by the area's second ever Avocet which chose Sands Lane for an overnighter after some rather autumnal weather. A fly-through Grey Plover at Dewsbury Sewage Farm continued a superb run of records from the haunts along the Calder. On the uplands

Blackmoorfoot hosted a Bar-tailed Godwit and three Black Redstarts found a Langsett barn to their fancy, staying put right into the next month. After a lull mid-month the uplands again began to produce; a splendid flock of 46 Black Terns which paused at Blackmoorfoot must have been a fabulous sight for the lone birder present and the fine run continued here with a Mediterranean Gull the next day and six Red-breasted Mergansers a few days later. Meanwhile, the first autumn skeins of Pink-footed Geese were an evocative reminder of another winter just around the corner, though a very early Snow Bunting at Harden perhaps a more fitting portent of what was coming!

The excellent spell continued into October. Early month brought a double delight to the regular 'vis-migger' at Pule Hill with a Snow Bunting and a much-more highly prized Lapland Bunting passing through, the same day as a Marsh Harrier was seen at Winscar. The Ring-billed Gull returned for a fleeting visit to Sands Lane, and another Lapland Bunting, this time a grounded bird, was a super find at Wholestone Moor a week later. A Rock Pipit was another excellent, although more slightly more predictable, find at Deer Hill. Hot on the heels of this came a stunning Great Grey Shrike at Healey Mills, with, incredibly, this or another one causing hearts to race at Isle of Skye Quarry later in the day. Frustratingly, only their dedicated finders were able to enjoy them. A Black Redstart at the latter site did offer some compensation the next day. Ten Waxwings at Harden late month heralded a major late year influx, the same day 1760 Fieldfare were logged, and the Pule Hill 'vis-migger' enjoyed a second Snow Bunting. The excitement wasn't over, however, as the month ended in spectacular fashion with the first Rough-legged Buzzard for several years making a brief foray over Snailsden Moor.

November began with a Mediterranean Gull at Butterley Reservoir, another Snow Bunting over Harden, with some truly staggering numbers of Woodpigeons logged here by the 'vis-miggers'. The big Waxwing influx commenced mid-month with the subsequent purple patch bringing a Knot to the diminutive Boshaw Whams Reservoir, a red-head Smew to Blackmoorfoot and the Ring-billed Gull back to Sands Lane, where it continued to entertain and educate in equal measure to the year end. As winter began to take hold, Whooper Swans visited Ingbirchworth, a Scaup did likewise at Elland Gravel Pits and an impressive 180 Teal were counted at Dewsbury Sewage Farm.

Severe weather came back with a vengeance in December, with some of the coldest temperatures experienced in years, and local waters were frozen-up for several weeks. Once again the River Calder came into its own, providing a haven for wildfowl, with the drake Smew naturally the star attraction. An intriguing report of Bittern here early month remained unfounded; perhaps we were asking for too much! Later, an influx of Curlew into the Club area was highly unexpected, with a heavy gull passage down the Colne Valley similarly unusual. Flocks of Waxwings continued to delight and distract those duty-bound to Christmas shopping, yet another Snow Bunting thrilled observers on the moors, and a four figure count of Redwings roosted in the Thornhill area. A fine herd of Whooper Swans passing over Digley Reservoir and over 100 Wigeon loafing on ice at Ingbirchworth brought an exceptional year to a close.

Russ Boland

THE WEATHER IN 2010

January: The very cold, snowy conditions of the second half of December 2009 continued until the middle of January. The month was mostly unsettled, the first half being very cold with widespread snowfalls and some sharp frosts. After mid-month, temperatures rose to around normal before a return to colder conditions at month end. Overall, it was a very cold month with mean temperatures 2.5 to 3.0C below the 1971-2000 norm over England and Wales.

Provisionally, it was the coldest January over the UK since 1987 and equal eighth coldest in a series from 1914. No one will forget the freezing rain which fell overnight on the 12th January and left just about every road and pavement like a skating ring, the following day. Fortunately, this is quite a rare occurrence, meteorologically speaking.

February: High pressure during the second week of February brought plenty of fine weather but the remainder of the month was generally unsettled. Overall, it was cold with mean temperatures 1-2C below the 1971-2000 average across England and Wales. Provisionally it was the coldest February in the UK since 1991. As spring approached, the very cold winter and a cold first half of March resulted in a late start to the growth of plants and trees with spring flowering, in most areas, beginning several weeks later than in recent years.

March: March was a month of two halves. The first two weeks were generally dry and fine, although it was cold with some night frosts. The second half saw more changeable weather with rain at times, culminating in strong winds and snowfall in the north. From mid-month temperatures rose so that, overall, mean temperatures were close to the 1971-2000 average. Rainfall was above average in most parts of England and sunshine despite the cold weather was well above average for March.

April: April was a largely quiet month, with little in the way of adverse weather conditions. Temperatures were above average and rainfall was only around half the average for April.

May: May was a relatively quiet month with regards to weather with few dramatic events. The major atmospheric event was the volcanic ash cloud from Iceland which closed several UK airports for a number of days at the beginning and middle of the month. The first half of May was generally cool, with a north-easterly or northerly air stream. Mean temperatures for the month were close to normal. May saw below average rainfall for the time of year across almost all of the UK. It was the driest May across the UK since 1998.

June: June was certainly a memorable month but July and August were unsettled yet again. There was very warm, sunny weather over much of the UK during the last 10 days of June. However, the ongoing dry conditions raised concerns over water restrictions in areas reliant on reservoir supplies, such as north-west England. A hose pipe ban was introduced into NW England for a number of weeks during the summer.

The showers, often thundery, that fell at various times in the month resulted in some surface water flooding but this was very localised. High pressure dominated much of June, producing plenty of dry and sunny weather. Mean temperatures were above the seasonal average in all areas. Daytime maximum temperatures were above normal by about 2.5C in many western and central areas. June saw below-average rainfall across most of the UK, with less than 50% of seasonal average in many areas. Sunshine totals ranged from about 25% below normal for the time of year across much of northern and eastern Scotland to about 50% above in south Wales and south-west England. It was the third sunniest June in a series from 1929 in these areas.

The heat wave that began in late June lasted for the first few days of July, with temperatures widely approaching 30C. The high temperatures soon became confined to eastern areas as thundery downpours broke out elsewhere causing some localised flooding and disruption to transport. Mean temperatures were close to the 1971-2000 average across the UK.

July: The month was similar to July 2008, but somewhat warmer than July 2007. Provisionally, it was the wettest July on record over England and Wales (in a series from 1914), being slightly wetter than July 2007 and much wetter than July 2008. Sunshine was close to the 1971-2000 average across the UK.

August: With areas of low pressure over or near to the UK for most of the month, August was characterised by cloudy and rather cool weather with showers or longer spells of rain at times. As a consequence, it was the coolest August since 1993. Rainfall was well above normal over much of the south and east of England and south-east Wales. In contrast, the month was drier than average over northern UK.

September: September was another changeable month with a few settled spells but plenty of rain too, especially across the northern half of the UK. Although temperatures overall were close to or above normal, there were significant variations with several warm days but also some cold nights and localised frost. Mean temperatures were about 1 °C above normal across much of northern England. Rainfall was over 150% of the normal amount in much of northern England. Sunshine duration was generally close to, or somewhat above, average.

October: The first few days of October were unsettled over most of the UK with copious amounts of rainfall. Overall, temperatures were close to normal. Rainfall was also close to normal in many areas, but it was drier than average in the west. It was a sunny month, especially in the west.

November: The first three weeks of November were characterised by areas of low pressure moving across the UK from the Atlantic, bringing plenty of rain and some strong winds. Despite a generally mild first half, mean temperatures for the month as a whole were typically 1.5 to 2.0 °C below the 1971-2000 average and it was the coldest November across the UK since 1993. Rainfall was close to normal in most areas.

December: It was the coldest December in over 100 years with mean temperatures some 5 °C below the 1971-2000 average. Temperatures quite widely fell to very low values on several nights and remained below freezing during the day. The number of days with air frost was the highest for December for over 50 years. It was briefly less cold around mid-month and temperatures rose to near normal in the last few days. Snowfalls occurred in almost all areas, especially in the first week and from mid-month until Christmas.

December was, however, generally drier and sunnier than normal. Provisionally, it was the driest December over the UK since 1963 and the third driest in the 100-year series. It was a very sunny month in the north, with over twice the normal amount.

This is an edited version of a weather review provided by Steve Graham.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On page 141 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 269 species and eleven additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2010. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

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

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2010

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Records came from a similar number of sites as in the previous year, mainly from the east of the area. A minimum of four pairs bred or attempted to breed this year.

Sands Lane GP - a pair present throughout the year raised three young on the River Calder, two of which remained on 26th November. Maxima outside the breeding season were seven (5 adults and 2 immatures) on 17th January and 5th February (4 adults and 3 immatures), with seven again (4 adults and 3 immatures) on 1st October.

Horbury area - birds were recorded throughout the year from about six sites, mainly in pairs. Breeding occurred at **Horbury Bridge** (6 adults and 5 young on 30th May) and **Horbury Strands/Wyke** (5 juveniles raised).

Colne Bridge - two were present on the River Calder on 3rd January, with one remaining until 13th February.

Elland GP - two adults from 3rd January to 13th February, a single adult on 6th May, and two on 29th September and 28th November.

Healey Mills - six on 8th and four on 10th January, and two on 6th and 20th May and two adults on 2nd June.

Mirfield - two on the canal on 10th January.

Dewsbury SF - an adult and two immatures on the River Calder on 17th January.

Elland - an immature on the canal on 23rd and 26th January.

Bretton Lakes - two adults and an immature were present between 25th January and 5th March, with the two adults remaining until the end of the year. This pair hatched four young in June, all of which fledged. Two of the immatures had disappeared by 27th December.

Heaton Lodge SF - a pair nested unsuccessfully.

Ravensthorpe GPs - two adults and a juvenile on the canal on 9th June.

Battleyford - a single on the River Calder on 28th September.

Scammonden Res - five (2 adults and 3 immatures) on 9th December.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Not such a good year as 2009 with birds only recorded in small numbers, the only exception being of 22 at Digley in December.

The first records were not until February and involved two adults that were present at **Digley Res.** on 2nd (KH), and a single flew low NW over **Shepley** on 21st (NWM). March saw two adults which arrived from the E at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.10hrs. on 23rd (MLD, NWM *et al.*) and four (2 adults + 2 juveniles) were present at the same site on 26th (MLD, NWM, DHP *et al.*). Two adults were seen at **Digley Res.** on 3rd/4th April (DHP, PAB), and on the latter date two adults arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** from the S at 08.00hrs., and continued W up the Colne Valley (MLD, SWJ).

The first bird noted in autumn was an adult at **Digley Res.** on 19th October (CH) with another at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21st (DT), while at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** six adults at 10.50hrs. on 22nd came in from the W and then turned S (MLD, DMO) and three adults, which were later seen at **Deer Hill Res.** flew SW at 09.38hrs. on 24th (MLD, DT). A single adult was at the latter site the

following day (DHP). A similar scatter of records came in November: two flew S over **Almondbury** at 11.30hrs. on 1st (DH), an adult arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** from the NE at 15.30hrs. on 14th and departed S at 16.17hrs. (MLD, JL, DMO), one flew NNE over **Oldfield** on 20th (DHP), a single flew over **Scholes** at 07.55hrs. on 23rd (NWM) and on the same date five landed at **Ingbirchworth Res.** before departing E after 15 minutes (NWM). The last of the year and the only December record, was of a herd of 22 which flew low NW over the 80% frozen **Digley Res.** on 26th (PAB).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

A slightly poorer year than 2009, with a minimum of 6594 birds passing over the area. In contrast to last year, the vast majority (at least 5093) occurred in the second winter period, mainly in the first half of October. The largest single count, however, was a splendid 1070 over Harden on 13th November.

8th January - 250 NW at **Bretton Park**.

17th January - 15 SE at 10.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

20th January - 17 S at 09.40hrs. + 4 SE at 10.35hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which may have involved the birds heard passing over **Oldfield** mid-morning.

2nd February - 125 went WNW over **Oldfield** in the early afternoon.

3rd February - 70 NW over **Bretton Park** at 11.00hrs, c.70 NW over **Wooldale** and 45 NW over **Holmfirth**.

6th February - four W over **Skelmanthorpe** at roof-top height in fog at 08.30hrs.

12th February - 80 NW over **Skelmanthorpe** at 11.15hrs.

13th February - 30-40 NE over **Golcar** at 10.50hrs.

15th February - 150 NW over **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 11.30hrs. and a skein was heard over **Oldfield** at 17.20hrs.

25th February - 250 which flew W over **Sands Lane GP** may have been the same 250 birds which went W over **Horbury Strands/Wyke** at 14.15hrs.

28th February - 110 W over **Oldfield** at 10.50hrs.

1st March - 207 N at 09.05hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and 80 W over **Shelley** at 10.10hrs.

2nd March - 62 NW at 10.05hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

20th March - 100 flew W over **Shelley** at 10.30hrs, followed by another 52 at 11.05hrs. and 50 went W at **Langsett Res.**

21st April - six W over **Dewsbury SF**.

Grounded birds during this period were recorded at two sites: a single was present at **Horbury Wyke** on 17th January; another single was with Canada Geese at **Royd Moor Res.** on 7th March.

18th September - 63 SE over **Langsett Res.** at 10.00hrs.

22nd September - 169 NE over **Scammonden Res.** at 09.20hrs.

26th September - 140 E at 08.15hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and 115 were seen distantly from **Harden**, flying E mid-morning.

28th September - 100 SW over **Fixby** at 17.00hrs and 200 flew E over **Meltham Golf Course**.

29th September - 11 arrived from the SW at 16.15hrs. and departed NW three minutes later at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

2nd October - 75 N over Meltham at 08.00hrs, and 80 N over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.30hrs.

7th October - 68 NE over **Scammonden Res.** at 09.15hrs and c.270 E over **Scout Dyke Res.** in two skeins of c.170 and c.100 between 09.40 and 09.45hrs.

10th October - 150 SSW over **Ingbirchworth Res.** between 11.00 and 12.30hrs., 60 NW over **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 11.45hrs. and a skein was heard from **Isle of Skye Quarry**.

11th October - 170 NW over **Dewsbury SF**.

12th October - 200 seen from **Isle of Skye Quarry**, going W over Meltham in two skeins at 15.20hrs. 300 were seen going over **Meltham Mills Res.** in two skeins on the same day, which might have involved the same birds, but time and direction of flight were unfortunately not noted.

15th October - c.230 SE over **Oldfield** at 11.14hrs. with another c.120 following 20 minutes later. 25 flew over **Honley Wood** at 13.00hrs.

17th October – at **Dewsbury SF**, skeins of 180, 62 and 65 flew NW between 08.35 and 10.55hrs., 34 SE at **Ringstone Edge Res.** at 08.37hrs., 80 E at 16.30hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 250 NW at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 16.30hrs. and 450 went SW over **Harden**.

1st November - 150 NW over **Shelley**.

5th November - 62 SE over **Almondbury** at 10.30hrs. and 75 W over **Meltham Mills** at 13.10hrs.

6th November – 150 over **Harden** between 07.00 and 15.30hrs., 110 E at 08.30hrs. and 40 E at 08.55hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** A skein heard going NE from **Blakeley Reservoir** at 08.40hrs. and 130 ESE over **Isle of Skye Quarry** at the same time seem likely to have been the same birds. Skeins of 120 at 09.20hrs. and 260 at 09.35hrs. flew E over **Cooper Bridge SP**, 328 SE over **Elland GP** at 09.30hrs. and two skeins were noted over the **Holme Valley**.

7th November - 200 SE over **Thongsbridge** at 09.20hrs. and 40 N over **Golcar** at 13.00hrs.

9th November – 60 NW at 13.30hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

13th November - 50 SE at 09.30hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and 1070 passed SW over **Harden**.

22nd November - 32 W over **Lepton**.

23rd November - 138 W over **Dewsbury SF**.

3rd December - one flew W over **Dewsbury SF**.

20th December – 42 SW at 11.50 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

30th December - a skein heard going N or NW over **Harden** at 18.45hrs.

During the second winter period, grounded birds were as follows: a single was with Canada and Greylag Geese at **Sands Lane GP** from 2nd to 26th October, a single, perhaps the same, was at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 11th October, and finally, 26 departed E from **Horbury Wyke** on 24th November.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

As was noted last year, the main site for this species is the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** itself, singles were present on 5th March and 3rd April, after which none were seen until July. From then on, a flock was present in varying numbers until the year end. Maxima were 47 on 30th July, 49 on 16th August, 60 on 30th September and 25 on 30th October. No counts were made in November, but the flock numbered 50 on 28th December. At nearby **Royd Moor Res.** three were seen on 23rd April, nine on 19th July and 29 on 3rd September.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the increase in records noted last year has continued although, with the exception of overflying birds, it is possible that the single, which was only seen with Canada Geese, involved the same individual. A single was present on six days in January; 20 days in February (with two on 11th); 10 days in March (on 23rd an additional two flew S at 08.50hrs. and a single flew S at 09.10hrs.); 1st April (two flew N at 08.05hrs. three days later) and five dates between 20th May and 7th June. There were then no records until what was presumably the same

bird returned on 24th October; it was then present on most dates until the year-end. The single seen at **Sparth Reservoir** on 14th March and 18th May, at **Deer Hill Res.** on 2nd April and 22nd May, always accompanying Canada Geese, was probably the Blackmoorfoot individual, as was that in the **Wessenden Valley** on 24th April, 10th and 12th June and 24th July.

In the Calder valley, the **Horbury area** had between one and three present between 7th January and 2nd June, with maxima of eight on 26th April and nine on 7th May. Two birds returned from 20th November to the end of the year. Two flew E over **Healey Mills** on 10th March, nine were at **Dewsbury SF** on 21st March, three were at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 27th August, 20th September and 11th December, four were at **Millbank/Thornhill** on 11th December, while at **Sands Lane GP**, a single was present all year, with two on 14th May, and then up to three regularly from 21st August to 6th November, with four on 13th October.

Elsewhere, **Scammonden Res.** had a single on 1st and 4th January, and two on 4th May, 20 flew S at **Cannon Hall** on 10th February, **Bretton Lakes** held a single on 22nd February, two on 21st May and one on 4th October, while **Ringstone Edge Res.** attracted two on 4th March and 10 on 12th and 16th December. Birds that were present among the feral wildfowl at **Winscar Res.** showed signs of being partial hybrids with Swan Goose

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

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

Recorded from 41 sites this year, but this does not include all the sites known to be frequented by this species.

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	107	67	37	28	20	18	26	72	92	102	112	82
Bretton Park	nc	130	106	65	36	50	nc	nc	nc	nc	64	nc
Elland GP	43	44	nc	nc	11	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	73	104
Horbury Stands/Wyke	147	115	95	19	11	nc	nc	nc	nc	52	32	140
Ingbirchworth	80	nc	140	4	nc	14	15	381	500	280	360	nc
Sands Lane GP	nc	66	nc	nc	17	nc	nc	nc	160	180	60	nc

It should be noted that the tables given for wildfowl species do not give an entirely accurate impression of the actual situation; some species are very mobile and the maximum monthly figures may be exceptions to an otherwise small number of resident birds.

Away from the above sites, counts of over 20 birds were made at the following locations: **Scammonden Res.** - 70 on 1st January and 92 on 28th August; **Ravensthorpe GP** - 100 on 29th January, 264 on 13th October and 60 on 29th November; **Broadstones Res.** - 44 on 1st February and 36 on 10th November; **Royd Moor Res.** - 180 on 1st March, 38 on 19th July, 67 on 22nd August and 140 on 3rd September; **Boshaw Whams** - 20 on 7th March; **Cannon Hall CP** - 200 on 10th March and 60 on 14th July; **Sparth Res.** - 36 on 14th March; **Langsett Res.** - 35 on 16th March, 50 on 22nd May and 55 on 28th June; **Ringstone Edge Res.** - 24 on 2nd April; **March Haigh Res.** - 22 on 22nd May; **Butterley Res.** - 45 on 12th June and 39 on 10th July; **Booth Wood Res.** - 57 on 10th July; **Winscar Res.** - 30 on 18th July; **Scout Dyke Res.** - 53 on 8th August; **Deanhead Res.** - 83 on 14th October.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bradley Hall Farm** (6 goslings), **Bretton Park** (no details submitted), **Cooper Bridge SP** (6 goslings), **Coxley Valley** (6 goslings), **Dewsbury SF** (4 goslings), **Elland GP** (7 goslings), **Horbury Strands** (probably 6 goslings), **Little Don Valley** (6 goslings), **Langsett Res.** (8 goslings), **March Haigh Res.** (5 goslings), **Meal Hill** (adult on nest), **Sands Lane GP** (9 goslings), **Scammonden Res.** (3 goslings), **Wessenden Valley** (14 goslings), **Winscar Res.** (no details submitted). The information here probably misrepresents the true situation.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

A single feral bird was present throughout the year at **Bretton Lakes**, and another lone bird (or perhaps the same?) was present at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 27th, 29th and 31st December.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

The comment by the **Blackmoorfoot** observers that, as in 2008 and 2009, there was only a small number of records can equally apply to the whole Club area, although a flock of 12 at Blackmoorfoot in August was encouraging.

The first record was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where there was a single on 14th February, and at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** where a single, first seen on 18th February was then seen regularly until 6th May. The largest number of records came in March, starting with one which flew W over **Huddersfield** town centre at 08.50hrs. on 2nd, followed by two at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** which stayed from 12th to 31st, two at **Royd Moor Res.** on 21st and lastly a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 31st. There was a small movement of juveniles in late summer, with a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 17th July, then in August, one was at **Langsett Res.** on 13th, eight (plus an adult) were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 19th and seven (plus 5 adults) flew SW there at 08.35hrs. the following day and two remained at **Ingbirchworth Res.** from 27th through to 8th September. The last records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where there were singles on 23rd September and 18th October.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Slightly more records this year, with successful breeding at one site.

Fenay Beck - as last year, a male, apparently paired with a female Mallard, was present throughout the year.

Holmfirth - one to three birds were seen on the River Holme in the town centre in every month except March, April, June and July.

Longwood Reservoir - a female on 2nd January.

Healey Mills - birds were seen from 8th January (3) until at least 27th September. A pair took up residence, sitting on one of the nest-boxes put up for Goosanders (JRS). A pair with two juveniles was seen on the River Calder on 6th June. Two females were present throughout July.

Brighouse - a male seen regularly on the River Calder between 21st March and 6th May, and again on 14th November, with a male and female there on 21st December.

Ingbirchworth Res - a male on 6th April.

Elland GP - a male on 11th April and 19th September.

Dewsbury (River Calder) - a pair with two juveniles on 8th June, a female-type on 18th August and three female-types on 14th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single eclipse male on 17th July.

Ravensthorpe GP - a female-type on 20th August.

Scammonden Res - a male and female on 7th November.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 22 sites, with a marked movement on 29th September involving a total of 154 birds seen at five locations. The exceptional flock of 110 on the largely frozen **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 31st December was the third largest ever recorded in the Huddersfield area and was a reflection of the severe weather at the time.

During January, two were at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 3rd, three at **Healey Mills** and 13 on the Calder in the **Horbury area** on 7th with four at the same site on 10th and 12th, two were at **Winscar Res.** on 9th, a single was at **Horbury** on 20th, two at **Scammonden Res.** on 21st, six at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23rd, two on the same day at **Broadstones Res.**, five on **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th, two at **Horbury** on 29th, 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th and finally eight at **Broadstones Res.** on 31st. 14 remained at the same site on 1st February, one was heard calling at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9th, 15 at **Meal Hill** on 13th, a male was on the River Calder at **Horbury SF** on 20th, a male and female at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** 22nd, with one there on 24th, two males and a female on 27th and two on 28th.

Slightly more records in March began with nine at **Royd Moor Res.** on 1st and five (3 males) at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on the same day, with a male at the latter site on 2nd and a male and female on 3rd, **Broadstones Res.** held 20 on 2nd, three were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 3rd, 20 at **Jackson Bridge** on 7th, a female at **Cannon Hall CP** on 10th, three (2 males) from 12th to 24th at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, 16 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th, one at **Royd Moor Res.** and a male and female at **Langsett Res.** both on 16th, a female at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th, and six at **Meal Hill** on 28th. In April, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had two males on 4th, with a male and female at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** the same day. The month ended with records from **Langsett Res.** where there was a male on 15th, and three males on 22nd and 27th.

There were then no more records until August, when **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 19th, five arrived from the E on 28th and nine were present on 31st.

September began with six at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 1st, followed by two at **Deer Hill Res.** on 2nd and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th. There was then a gap until five were seen at **Sands Lane GP** on 14th and then eight at **Meal Hill** on 25th. The 29th revealed a marked movement, with 32 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 28 at **Broadstones Res.**, 25 at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, 68 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** and a male at **Sands Lane GP**. These birds soon departed and the following day the only records involved 14 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and six at **Boshaw Whams**.

Records continued in October with **Blackmoorfoot Res.** producing between one and three birds on nine dates between 5th and 22nd, with maxima of 18 on 17th and 11 on 18th. Elsewhere, two were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 2nd, 36 were on **Broadstones Res.** on 4th with eight at **Meal Hill** the same day, one at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 6th, **Ingbirchworth Res.** held six on 10th, 10 on

11th and seven on 12th and 13th, and **Ringstone Edge Res.** attracted a single on 17th.

During November, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** observers recorded birds on nine dates between 1st and 18th, numbers being usually between one and four birds, but with six (3 males) on 5th, 9th and 18th. Elsewhere, there was one at **Boshaw Whams** on 10th, three (1 male) at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th, a male at **Sands Lane GP** on 20th, with another at **Ravensthorpe GP** the same day, 41 were on **Broadstones Res.** on 27th, three were on **Ravensthorpe GP** and five at **Healey Mills**, both on 28th, and the following day one was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and eight were at **Elland GP**.

The cold weather towards the end of December produced larger numbers than usual. Records began with a female at **Elland GP** which stayed from 3rd to 18th, three (2 males) were at **Scammonden Res.** on 9th, a male and female at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th with 14 at **Broadstones Res.** and two females at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on the same day, a male at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13th, three at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 19th, 26 (10 males) sitting on the ice at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20th, 30 at **Millbank/Thornhill** on 21st, with two females at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the same day, two females remained at the latter site the following day, when two were also at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, and 13 at **Dewsbury SF**, two were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27th when two were also at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**. Finally, at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, two were present on 28th, and a splendid flock of 110 on the 90% frozen reservoir on 31st. This was the third largest flock ever seen in the Huddersfield area.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A below average year, with six sites producing only nine records with no more than three birds being involved on any occasion.

Horbury Wyke - a male and two females on January 12th, a male on 9th April, a male and female on 2nd May (all DHP) and two on 22nd October (JRS).

Tunnel End Res - a male and female-type on 16th August (JMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 6th September (MLD, MS).

Ringstone Edge Res - a male on 4th October (DT).

Sands Lane GP - two on 24th December (GLB).

Ravensthorpe GP - one on the River Calder on 26th December (JRS).

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

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

2010 was an above average year for this species, partly due to the cold weather during the first winter period, and partly to a good autumn passage. Records came from 27 sites, with a number of them seeing flocks in double figures. **Dewsbury SF** made a welcome return to form in 2010, with four records of 100+, the largest of which, 180 on November 23rd, was the third-largest recorded for the site, and for the Huddersfield area. No proof of breeding was forthcoming this year, although it possibly occurred at one site.

January's freezing weather brought concentrations onto the River Calder at various sites, where open water was still available. **Elland GP** had six on 1st and 3rd, two on 7th, five on 21st, eight on 27th and 14 on 31st. **Dewsbury SF** was particularly favoured, and held 30 on 4th, 70 on 14th, 150 on 17th, 100 on 19th and 80 on 25th. 16 were at **Healey Mills** on 6th, 50 on 8th and 10th and 15 on

15th. At **Horbury SF**, 10 were present all month and at nearby **Horbury Strands/Wyke** seven were present on 6th, nine on 7th, 12 on 12th, four on 15th, seven on 20th, 15 on 22nd and 14 on 29th. Elsewhere in January, **Bretton Park** had a single on the ice-free River Dearne on 4th, eight on 22nd and four on 25th. **Langsett Res.** had 11 on 18th and 10 were at **Royd Moor Res.** the same day.

Birds continued to frequent the Calder in February with **Elland GP** having five on 5th and 13th, **Horbury Strands/Wyke** held 17 on 11th, 23 on 20th, 29 on 25th, 33 on 27th and a single on 28th and **Healey Mills** had 40 on 22nd. Away from the Calder Valley, **Bretton Park** had four on 1st, 20 on 9th, four on 20th, two on the River Dearne on 22nd and eight on 23rd, the only record from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved three on 7th. Eight were on **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th and **Langsett Res.** had five on 14th.

Above average numbers continued to be seen in March on the Calder; **Dewsbury SF** returning to favour after a blank in February with 140 on 2nd, 34 on 16th, 26 on 26th and 14 on 27th and there was a series of records from **Horbury Strands/Wyke**: 16 were present on 3rd, 12 on 8th, 24 on 12th, 19 on 17th, 52 on 24th and 28 on 31st. Elsewhere, there were two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 1st and three at **Royd Moor Res.** on the same day, **Bretton Park** had four on 5th, six on 9th, 14 on 10th, 18 on 11th, six on 18th and 25th and one on 26th, 12 were at **Cannon Hall CP** on 10th, a single was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14th, six were at **Langsett Res.** on 16th and five were at **Elland GP** on 19th and 24th. As a precursor of spring, a male and female were at last year's breeding site at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27th.

Records in April showed a more normal pattern, although the Calder Valley still dominated. **Horbury Strands/Wyke** had nine on 4th, 12 on 9th, 10 on 12th, 12 on 15th, 10 on 17th and two on 20th while **Dewsbury SF** had 15 on 5th and four on 14th, there were seven at **Elland GP** on 7th and a small pond at **Horbury Balk Lane** held a male on 9th. At other sites, four were at **Bretton Park** on 9th, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th and six in 22nd, the male and female again at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 11th with just the male on 24th, three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th, and six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22nd.

During the breeding season, there was no repeat of last year's breeding at **Isle of Skye Quarry**, despite the presence of an apparent pair in late March and April. However, a male was seen at **Little Black Moss Res.** on 22nd May, and again in the area around there and **Swellands Res.** on 12th June, giving rise to suspicions of breeding. Other than this, four were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 15th June and a male at **Cannon Hall CP** on 14th July.

A better than average autumn began in August with three at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th, followed by 15 at **Digley Res.** on 9th, three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th, and again on 17th and singles at **Deer Hill Res.** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th with two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on the same day. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had three on 21st. **Sands Lane GP** held one on 24th and another single was at **Scout Dyke Res.** on 25th. There were 12 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th, a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30th and six there on 31st.

The good run of records continued through September, starting on 1st with six remaining at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, seven at **Dewsbury SF**, two at **Ravensthorpe GP** and 10 at **Isle of Skye Quarry**. The following day saw 11 at the latter site and five at **Ingbirchworth Res.** On 3rd, there were 15 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** These were followed by 19 at **Cupwith Res.** on 5th, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th, a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th and a flock of 53 at **Langsett Res.** on 16th. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued its run of rather

small numbers with two on 21st, eight were at **Little Black Moss Res.** on 22nd, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26th with four there on 29th. At the month end, there were singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29th, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 30th and **Bradley** on 30th, and a group of six at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th.

October records began with two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th and three at the same site on 9th, 10 at **Wessenden Res.** on 9th, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th, two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th, 17 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13th, a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 13th, 16 at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 13th, five at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 15th, and a flock of 21 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th. On 17th, three were at **Isle of Skye Quarry** and four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with a single at the latter site the next day, when there were also four on **Butterley Res.** Six were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 19th and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the same day. On 20th, four were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and a fine flock of 65 was at **Dewsbury SF**. Singles were at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 21st and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd and three were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 29th.

A similar number of records in November began with a single at **Bretton Park** on 7th, followed by three at **Boshaw Whams** on 14th, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th, and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th. 17th produced a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, six at **Boshaw Whams** and 11 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had 23, the site's largest flock of the year, on 18th, there were six at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** and seven at **Langsett Res.** on 20th, eight at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd, and this year's largest gathering of 180 at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd, when there was also a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** On 24th, 19 were at **Healey Mills**, 32 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** and a single at **Ossett SF**. 40 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th and three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27th.

Numbers in December were a little lower, with birds more concentrated on the Calder Valley sites. **Horbury Strands/Wyke** had four on 3rd, 15 on 9th, 20 on 17th and five on 20th, **Dewsbury SF** held 30 on 7th, and 26 on 21st; **Elland GP** had two on 13th and 18th and a single on 24th, with eight at **Elland/Lowlands** on the latter date. Elsewhere, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a single on 5th, six on 6th, a male on 11th and another single on 31st, **Bretton Park**, had a single on 27th, a single was at **Heaton Lodge SF** on 26th and **Ingbirchworth Res.** had eight on 28th and six on 31st.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Better coverage of this species resulted in records from 56 sites, 16 more than last year, with breeding proved at 17 of them. The large numbers at sites along the Calder during January and December are a reflection of the paucity of other open water during freezing conditions.

Maximum numbers at the few regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	47	49	47	17	19	37	46	67	64	48	43	48
Ingbirchworth	65	65	45	30	38	73	100	72	175	95	100	nc

Away from the two sites above, maxima of more than 20 birds were:

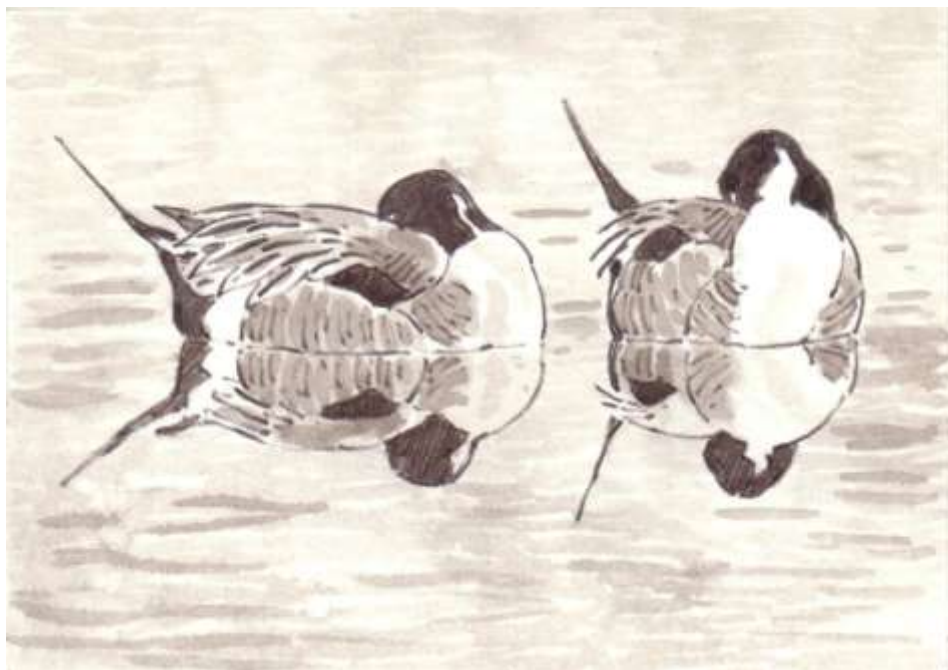
Bradley Hall Farm - 43 on 3rd January; **Healey Mills** - 23 on 6th January and 17 on 15th July; **Ravensthorpe GPs** - 20 on 6th January, 40 on 24th February, 66 on 26th August, 146 on 1st

September, 179 on 6th September and 116 on 19th December; **Royd Moor Res** - 73 on 18th January and 23 on 19th July; **Scammonden Res** - 37 on 18th January and 31 on 3rd February; **Langsett Res** - 67 on 18th January, 34 on 18th February, 27 on 20th March, 71 on 31st August and 36 on September 6th; **Broadstones Res** - 50 on 1st February and 22 on 27th August; **Holmfirth** - 63 on 3rd February and 100 on 17th December; **Lindley, Plover Road Pond** - 45 on 20th February; **Horbury area** - 57 on 30th May, 45 on 6th July, 62 on 8th August, 24 on 13th September and 80 on 19th December; **Meltham Mills Res** - 26 on 11th July and 41 on 11th October; **Scout Dyke Res** - 36 on 26th July, 39 on 23rd August and 70 on 27th November; **Sands Lane GP** - 100 on 20th August, 80 on 16th September, 50 on 30th October and 23 on two dates in November; **Boshaw Whams** - 68 on 30th September; **Dovestones Res** - 30 on 6th November; **Bretton Park** - 39 on 15th November; **Winscar Res** - 150 largely feral birds on 15th November; **Folly Hall** - 40 on 24th December.

Breeding was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (83 ducklings, of which 14 fledged), **Bradley Hall Farm** (brood of 3), **Bretton Park** (breeding confirmed, but no details submitted), **Brighthouse** (1 young fledged), **Cooper Bridge SP** (broods of 7 and 10), **Dewsbury SF** (broods of 11, 11, 10, 10 and 8 hatched), **Elland GP** (brood of 8), **Harden** (2 juveniles), **Horbury area** (36 juveniles), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (6 broods totalling 38 ducklings), **Isle of Skye Quarry** (brood of 6, probably did not fledge), **Dogley NR** (brood of 6), **Langsett Res.** (broods of 12, 9, 7 and 5), **Longwood Valley** (brood of 4), **Marsden area** (5 broods totalling 30 ducklings, of which 14 were known to have fledged), **Royd Moor Res.** (brood of 9), **Scout Dyke Reservoir** (broods of 3 and 8).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.



In what is nowadays a typical year, there were just five records from three sites.

Horbury Wyke - two females flew up-river on 4th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in September two departed S at 15.15hrs. on 23rd and a single was present on 30th. The only other records involved a single on 17th October and a female on 13th December.

Ingbirchworth Res - two on 29th September.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage visitor.

One fortunate observer (DT) was responsible for both records of this less than annual migrant duck.

Horbury Wyke - a male was found at 08.25hrs on 9th April, before departing W five minutes later.

Brighouse - a male and female were found on the River Calder at 10.00hrs. on 2nd May, eventually departing high to the W at 11.05hrs.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from eight sites, one fewer than last year. The **Horbury** area is clearly the most favoured site for this species. A small wintering population was once again present at sites along the Calder.

In January, up to three were present at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** between 10th and 24th and two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th. At least three birds remained at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** throughout February, with a maximum of eight (all males) on 19th. March saw a continued presence there until 17th, with a maximum of five males on 8th, while **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held three males and a female on 10th. Four males and two females were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 19th April, and in May, there was an unusual sighting of a male on **Swellands Res.** on 3rd, and five males were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 6th.

There were then no more records until October 17th, when a female-type was at **Ringstone Edge Res.** More birds were observed in November, with a male and female at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, four females at **Deer Hill Res.** on 16th, two males and five females at **Horbury Strand/Wyke** on 20th and a female there on 24th, with two males at **Ossett SF** the same day. The final records both came on 22nd December, when there were four males at **Horbury**, and a male and two females at **Healey Mills**.

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

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Another thin year for this now rather scarce diving duck. The species' requirements are clearly being provided by other sites outside our area.

Elland GP had one or two males on seven dates between 1st January and 15th February, and between one and three males on five dates between 8th November and 18th December, with four

males between 11th and 16th December. At **Bretton Park**, a male was present on 9th January and four (3 males) on 20th February, in March, eight (5 males) remained from 1st to 8th, 10 (5 males) on 11th, five (2 males) on 18th and two females on 26th and two males on 19th October. **Sands Lane GP** had one on 25th February, two on 27th March and one on 3rd December. **Royd Moor Res.** had five on 1st and two on 16th March.

Ingbirchworth Res. had three (2 males) on 2nd and two on 8th September. The first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was not until 30th September, when a female was present, and the only other records involved a male on 1st October, nine (5 males) on 18th October, a male on 1st and 18th November, a female on 22nd/23rd November and five (4 males) on 13th December. On the Calder in the **Horbury area** two males were present on 19th November, then up to four were present from 19th to 27th December, with seven (4 males) on 22nd. **Boshaw Whams** held a male on 27th November. At **Healey Mills**, three (1 male) were on the Calder on 22nd December and **Ravensthorpe GP** held two males on 25th December.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Rare vagrant.



An adult male was found on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 12th January (DT). This constitutes the first record for the Huddersfield area of this Nearctic duck, which is now classed as a rare migrant by the BOU. It was found at a time when severe weather had driven many ducks onto the river, which was one of the few remaining stretches of open water. It was in company with 12 Tufted Ducks and c.100 Mallard. This bird had previously been present at a number of locations in the Wakefield area but had moved away when open water had become frozen over.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Records were received from 29 sites, slightly better than last year. Between May and July, small numbers were seen at 13 waters, but there was no suspicion of breeding this year. As usual, Elland GP attracted the largest flocks, but the concentrations along the Calder in January were noteworthy.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	1	1	2	3	7	7	14	9	8	2	3	5
Bretton Park	5	19	30	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1
Elland GP	51	13	6	8	nc	nc	nc	nc	8	10	20	30
Horbury (R. Calder)	44	9	4	2	15	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	20
Ingbirchworth	nc	4	1	12	3	7	14	10	10	nc	nc	nc

Away from these sites, counts of five or more were as follows:

Scout Dyke Res - nine on 2nd January; in July, five on 3rd, eight on 8th and 15 on 26th; in August, 14 on 1st and 8th, 19 males on 18th, 12 on 23rd and nine on 26th.

Dewsbury SF - 10 on the River Calder on 4th and 22 there on 12th January.

Healey Mills - 25 on the River Calder on 6th, 40 on 10th and 18 on 17th January.

Boshaw Whams - nine on 7th February and 12 (8 males and 4 females) on 2nd March.

Cupwith Res - six on 10th April.

Meal Hill - six on 14th and eight on 15th April.

Meltham Mills Res - five on 16th April and five on 11th July.

Langsett Res - five to eight present between 5th July and 21st September.

Ravensthorpe GP - five on 4th November and 1st December.

Sands Lane GP - six on 3rd December.

From one to three birds were also recorded outside the breeding season at the following reservoirs, usually only on single dates: **Broadstones, Brownhill, Deanhead, Digley/Bilberry, Ringstone Edge, Royd Moor, Wessenden, Whitley and Winscar.**

(GREATER) SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

In a typical year, three birds were seen, none of which lingered.

Elland GP - a first-winter male on 1st January, and a female/immature on 28th November (DT).

Butterley Res - an adult male on 4th April (JMP).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As usual, the bulk of the records came from Blackmoorfoot, in what was a rather thin showing by this species.

The main run of records commenced in late July, as is normal, starting with five males at **Broadstones Res.** on 20th (AK) and then on 21st, six (3 males) were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (DHP) and a female was at **Scout Dyke Res.** (RJB). A female was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26th (MLD, SWJ, DHP) with three (2 males) there on 27th (MLD, SWJ). In August, five (3 males) were seen at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th (MLD, CH) and a male was at **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th (RJB). The final records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where there was a male on 26th September (CH, DT) and a female on 9th November (DT).

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Reports came from 24 sites, with the gatherings on the River Calder in the Horbury area being an impressive feature of the arctic spells which occurred in both winter periods. The count of 37 there on 12th January was the second largest ever seen in the Club area and comparable numbers generally have not been seen in our area for many years.

The first winter period was marked by a very cold spell in January which brought more birds than normal into our area. At **Horbury**, a flock built up on the River Calder between the Strands/Wyke and the Sewage Farm, as birds were denied other open water by the freezing conditions. The picture was confused by the fact that the birds paid no attention to the Club boundary; some of the following counts may include birds just outside our area. The fluctuations probably reflect the movement of birds in and out of the recording area. There were 15 on 1st, 20 (4 males) on 6th, 30 (14 males) on 7th, 10 (4 males) on 9th, 10 (5 males) on 10th, 37 (16 males) on 12th, 20 (6 males) on 15th, eight (4 males) on 17th, 12 (5 males) on 20th, 10 (3 males) on 22nd, 27 on 25th, two (1 male) on 29th and six on 31st. At **Healey Mills**, birds were also frequenting the Calder, with two males on 6th, seven (3 males) on 8th, 10 (5 males) on 10th and 13 on 17th. Elsewhere, at **Elland GP**, four (3 males) were present on 1st, a single immature on 4th, a male on 26th and two on 27th. Two or three males were present at **Langsett Res.** throughout the month, two were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd, with one remaining on 4th; a female-type was on **Winscar Res.** on 9th, one was at **Digley Res.** on 16th, with a female-type at **Scammonden Res.** the same day, where two similar birds were present on 18th. A female-type was at **Boshaw Whams** on 23rd, while the only record from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was of two males on 26th.

In February, the flock on the Calder in the **Horbury** area continued, with 10 on 3rd, six (3 males) on 11th, four (2 males) on 20th, eight (2 males) on 24th and 25th, and finally two (1 male) on 27th. **Boshaw Whams** had six (2 males) on 9th and five (2 males) on 10th with two there on 16th. At **Elland GP**, two males were present on 2nd, one of which remained on 3rd, four (2 males) on 9th with one male remaining on 10th, three (1 male) on 16th, three (2 males) on 19th and four (2 males) on 26th. Other sites with occasional records of between one and three birds were: **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Digley Res.**, **Healey Mills**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Scout Dyke Res.**, and **Sparth Res.**

March brought the usual records of small numbers from a wide scatter of sites. The only site which produced regular records was **Ingbirchworth Res.** where there were one or two on ten dates between 1st and 30th. At **Horbury**, up to three were on the Calder on five dates during the month. There were five (1 male) at **Cupwith Res.** on 13th and six at **Boshaw Whams** on 14th. Otherwise, between one and three were recorded, usually on single dates, at the last mentioned site, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Deanhead Res.**, **Deer Hill Res.**, **Digley Res.**, **Elland GP**, **Harden Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.** and **Wessenden Head Res.**

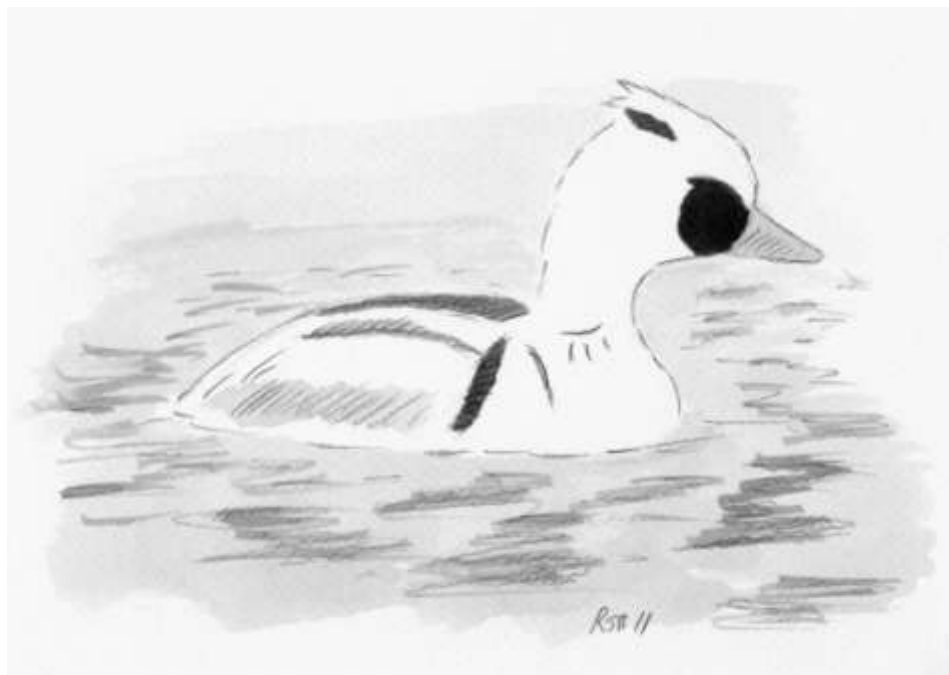
Even smaller numbers were present in April, with **Ingbirchworth Res.** holding various singles on

11 dates. Potential pairs were at **Deer Hill Res.** on 2nd, at **Digley/Bilberry Res.** on 4th and 7th and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18th. In addition, there were singles on single dates at **Bilberry Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Deanhead Res.** The last bird of the spring was a female at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd May.

The first returning bird was a female at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13th October, followed by two (1 male) on 17th, a female-type on 18th and two female-types on 23rd. **Ingbirchworth Res.** had a female-type on 16th and there was an eclipse male at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25th. Birds were more widespread and numerous in November, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** holding between one and four on seven dates, with seven (3 males) on 9th. **Elland GP** had one or two on four dates. **Horbury** had up to three on four dates. There were also single records of up to three at **Bretton Park**, **Cupwith Res.** and **Elland GP** (2 dates).

During December freezing conditions returned and numbers once again built up on the River Calder. At **Horbury**, there were three (1 male) on 3rd, eight (5 males) on 6th, 17 on 7th, six on 15th, nine on 17th, 12 (6 males) on 19th, 22 (13 males) on 20th, 22 again (this time only 9 males) on 22nd, 27 (11 males) on 27th and 14 (5 males) on 31st. Elsewhere on the Calder, there were 12 at **Dewsbury** on 8th, and seven (4 males) at **Healey Mills** on 11th. **Elland GP** held five (3 males) on 8th, two (1 male) on 11th, two female-types on 13th, six (3 males) on 16th, two (1 male) on 18th and a male on 24th. A male and female were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 5th and a female-type flew around the frozen reservoir and departed W on 8th, while two female-types were there on 13th. The only other record was of a male at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 11th.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*
Rare winter visitor.



An adult male, first noted in late December 2009, remained on the River Calder at **Horbury SF** until 17th January (JRS *et. al.*). What may have been the same bird was present again from 3rd to 22nd December (DT *et. al.*); Smew are known to be faithful to wintering sites, as was exemplified by the male which returned to Ingbirchworth Res. for eight successive winters in the 1980's.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a redhead departed E at 12.20hrs. on 18th November (MLD, NWM, DHP *et al.*). This is the sixteenth record for the reservoir and the first since December 2003.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

A good year for this scarce visitor to the area, the records at Blackmoorfoot Res. coming from the autumn migration period, while those elsewhere were associated with severe winter weather. The group of six at Blackmoorfoot in September is noteworthy, being the second largest ever recorded in the Club area.

Early in the year, a female was on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 12th January, with presumably the same bird present on 20th (DT, DHP) and a male and female were at **Meltham Mills Res.** on 2nd February (MW). The final record in the first part of the year was a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4th April (DB).

There were more records in the second half of the year; **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held an eclipse male on 23rd September (MLD, DMO, DHP) which was followed six days later by a group of six (4 eclipse males) (DT). A female remained between 18th and 24th November (MLD, DHP, DT *et al.*). At **Ingbirchworth Res.**, two males were present on 9th November (DB, NWM) and on 15th December, a male and two females fed on the River Calder at **Horbury**, associating with the male Smew (JRS).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor, and occasional breeder.

With 32 sites reporting birds, this was a similar year to 2009, although the numbers on the River Calder in the Horbury area during January were unusual, and had built up from the previous December. It may be that there is some duplication in the numbers of birds at each individual site in that area. Bretton as usual had the highest single count.

Maximum numbers from regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	6	12	13	1	2	0	0	0	8	12	14	11
Bretton Park	40	38	30	4	0	0	0	0	nc	nc	27	nc
Elland GP	24	17	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	23
Horbury Strands /Wyke	12	8	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	20
Ravensthorpe GP	9	4	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5
Sands Lane GP	7	16	8	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	4

With this species in particular, the above table should be viewed bearing in mind that Goosander

are highly mobile, so the maximum figures given may be isolated peaks. For example, although there was a peak of 12 on 14th February at Blackmoorfoot Res., the normal population that month varied between two and seven birds.

In addition to the above sites, records came from a further 25 locations:

In January, the only record away from the regular sites was at **Meltham Mills Res.**, where there was a male and female on 24th. February saw perhaps the same two birds at the latter location on 2nd, while in the **Marsden** area, **Sparth Res.** held nine (5 males) on 11th, 17 (9 males) on 13th and seven (5 males) on 27th, with six (4 males) at **Clough Lea** on 25th. Also in February, three (2 males) were on the Colne at **East Slaithwaite** on 4th and three (1 male) on the Calder at **Copley** on 16th.

There was a wider scatter of records during March, starting on 12th with four (2 males) on the Colne at **Dalton**, and eight (4 males) at **Sparth Res.**, where there was a lone female on 14th. These were followed by a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th, a redhead at **Brownhill Res.** on 20th, eight (2 males) at **March Haigh Res.** on 23rd and 10 (3 males) at **Deanhead Res.** on 30th. A male was at **Brighouse** on 6th April and a female on the Calder at **Lower Hopton** on 19th was joined by a male on 20th.

During the late spring and summer months, sightings were mainly in May: with **Blackmoorfoot Res.** recording a male on 1st and 9th, and a male and female on 11th. There was a female at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 4th and again on 25th, a male and female at **Sands Lane GP** on 5th and 7th with a male and three females at **Healey Mills** on 11th. Breeding was confirmed again at **Lower Hopton**, when a female with seven ducklings about two or three days old was seen on 26th May. No further sightings were made until 22nd July when 12 juveniles were seen at **Healey Mills**, suggesting that more than one pair bred locally. There was then a single record in August, of four female-types on the Colne at **Leeds Road, Huddersfield** on 6th.

Perhaps the first true autumn migrants were the two birds at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st September, where there were three on 7th, eight on 14th and two on 18th. At the same site in October, numbers varied from one to 11 on nine dates, mainly after 21st. Also in October, two birds were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 8th, a female-type was present at **Meltham Mills Res.** from 11th to 14th, with 11 female-types on 22nd, two were on the Calder at **Colne Bridge** on 12th, five flew SW over **Wholestone Moor** on 15th, and singles were at **Elland GP** on 27th and **Sands Lane GP** on 29th.

Numbers began to build at the regular sites in November, and birds were also noted at **Meltham Mills Res.** where there were two redheads on 2nd and two again (1 male) on 18th, one flew E over **Harden Quarries** on 6th, **Ingbirchworth Res.** had four redheads on 20th, with four similar birds at **Langsett Res.** the same day. In **Huddersfield Town Centre**, four flew N on 21st and finally two (1 male) were at **Sparth Res.** on 24th. In December, reports only came from four sites away from the regular ones, with a male on the Colne at **Folly Hall** on 3rd and 24th, a redhead at **Brighouse** on 9th and again on 21st, two (1 male) at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th and a redhead on the Calder at **Mirfield** on 16th.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Reports came from 21 sites with records spanning every month except July.

In the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** area 22, included six brightly wattled males, were seen on 15th April. At the **Isle of Skye Quarry** 14 fed together in the bottom of the quarry on 8th September. At **Digley/Good Bent Moor** 50 were present on 17th September and many birds were seen to be put up by beaters during a big shoot on 28th October. As in 2009, the highest count by a long way came from **Harden** where 350 were recorded standing about in the snow on 30th November. At **Cook's Study Hill** birds were described as numerous on 28th December. Elsewhere counts were of 12 or fewer birds.

Confirmation of breeding came from **Digley** where recently fledged young were seen on 22nd May, **Meltham Moor/West Nab** where an adult was flushed from eggs on 30th May, **Black Hill** which had several family parties, each with up to 10 chicks on 3rd June, **Deer Hill** had an adult with small young in mid June, at **Winscar** three juveniles were seen with adults on 16th June and at **Redbrook Res.** five young with adults were seen on 26th June. Also reported to have bred at **Langsett** but there were no further details.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

A similar picture to last year, with **High Hoyland** the easiest place to see this species in the Club area where large numbers are released for shooting. 30+ birds were encountered here during both winter periods.

Elsewhere no more than two birds were recorded together at any time, as follows.

Bretton Park - one on 1st March.

Cheesegate Nab - one or two recorded on several dates between 17th March (on which date 2 were in association with 3 Grey Partridge) and 27th June.

Shelley - a freshly dead bird on 19th March.

Wholestone Moor - two on 11th and 18th April.

Oxlee - two in association with a Grey Partridge on 15th April.

Dovestones Res - two on 21st April.

Shepley/Jos Lane - one on 18th May.

Deanhead Res - one on 1st June.

Ingbirchworth/Annat Royd Lane - two in fields to the north of the reservoir on 3rd June and singles on 3rd and 13th July.

Scammonden Res - one on 6th June.

Crow Edge - a single on 12th June.

Outlane Moor - two (an adult and a juvenile) on 13th July.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

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

Reports came from 35 sites - up by some margin on 2009, but like the last species shooting interests could cloud the picture somewhat. Although birds were recorded in every month the only reports of breeding came from **Meltham/Red Lane** where two adults with 12 half grown young

were seen on 5th September, and at **Brunclough Res.** where a female and five juveniles were recorded on 12th September.

In the early part of the year the only double figure counts were of 20 at **High Hoyland** on 25th January and 10 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 29th January (where birds were recorded throughout the year). Seven were seen at **Ingbirchworth** on 2nd January, six at **Millbank/Thornhill** on 6th January, and six at **Healey Mills** on 17th March. The only record from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned a single on Meltham Cop on 4th March. No more than four birds were seen together at any other site until September.

In the second part of the year the highest counts were of 11 at **Carlecotes Pond** on 27th September, 21 near the **Isle of Skye Road** on 2nd October and 12 there on 13th October and what were probably the same 12 birds recorded in the Quarry on 20th October and 6th November, 10 at **Oldfield** on 19th October, a covey of 40 near **Deer Hill** on 23rd October included one with white primaries in both wings and 20 at **Horbury Strands** in two separate groups (12 and 8) in a snowbound field on 9th December..

The species was also noted at **Bradshaw** with six on 17th September, four at **Shelley-Woodhouse** on 12th October, eight at **Dick Edge Lane** on 20th October, eight at **Maythorne Slack** on 20th November and seven at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 16th December.

Elsewhere reports were of between one and three birds.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Whitley Common - a singing male was heard at 05.30hrs. on 12th June (MC) and what was probably the same bird was heard to call twice from the model airfield before falling silent on 13th June (D.Butt), then reported here again on 16th June (SRG).

Spicer House Lane - one calling from fields on 20th June may also refer to the Whitley bird (HQ).

Dewsbury SF - a bird called from long grass on 24th August before flushing away across the river showing distinctive facial features as it flew across in front of the observer (JH).

In addition, a juvenile was brought in by a cat in Moorside Road, Kirkheaton on 19th July but it is known that a local person keeps Quail for their eggs (DS).

(COMMON) PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Reports came from over 40 sites this year and, as might be expected, many birds were reared for shooting purposes.

Although the species undoubtedly bred in many of these areas it was only reported at **Blackmoorfoot** where a total of four females were successful in raising young. At **Cheesegate Nab** four juveniles were seen on 28th August.

Birds were reported mainly in single figures only, the exception being 20 in **Haigh Woods** on 1st February and 12 at **Meltham/Brow Grains** on 9th December. The next highest counts were of

seven at **Skelmanthorpe**, on 9th May, including a melanistic male, eight at **High Hoyland** on 24th November which included a melanistic female, eight at **Choppards** (2 males and 6 females) on 25th November and seven at **Blackmoorfoot/Orange Wood** on 11th December. All other counts were of six birds or less.

Birds visited gardens at **Almondbury/Fenay Crescent** where one or two were seen on several dates throughout the year, several fed on split seed on a number of dates during both winter periods at **Hepworth/Larks House**, up to four were seen on several dates in **Marsden**, a male during the early month in **New Mill** was joined by a female in March and at **Thongsbridge** a male perched on the observers window-sill and stared in through the kitchen window on 2nd November.

A male perched on telegraph wires near the observers house at **Harden** on 24th October was considered most unusual.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Scarce to rare winter visitor.

Scammonden Res – the two juveniles from the 2009 mini influx remained at this site until the 8th January (DT).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Reports came from 26 sites. Breeding was confirmed at only three of these but suspected at several others.

Scammonden Res - a single on 1st and 23rd January and one on 4th March.

Bretton Lakes - present throughout and probably attempted breeding with display noted on 7th July but no young were seen. Anecdotal evidence suggests that they were predated by Mink.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – the only records during the first half of the year involved singles from 18th March to 9th April, 28th to 31st May and 1st and 25th June. In the second half of the year birds were more numerous: singles were seen on 7th/8th and from 27th to 31st August, two took up residence between 1st September and 13th October and one to four were then seen daily until 28th November, the only exception involved a group of seven on 16th November.

Elland GP - recorded throughout the year with a maximum of 22 on 11th December but no evidence of breeding here.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - regular here in the first and last winter periods with a maximum count of eight on 12th January and 20th February on the River Calder.

Ingbirchworth Res - present here in all months and probably bred with three birds (2 adults and a juvenile) on 26th August.

Royd Moor Res - a single on 6th March and five (3 adults and 2 juveniles) on 26th July then two adults and a juvenile to the year end.

Winscar Res - a single on 7th March.

Dewsbury - two adults on the River Calder on 10th March. A pair bred at the sewage farm rearing two young.

Meal Hill - an adult trilling on 15th April.

Carlecotes Ponds - a single on 24th April and 12th May.

Coxley Valley - confirmed breeding on the small pond, with three birds (an adult and 2 juveniles) present on 5th May.

Scout Dike Res - a single on 31st May.

Gunthwaite Dam - confirmed breeding, a pair raised two young.

Marsden/Tunnel End - a trilling adult on 3rd and 10th June.

Ravensthorpe GP - three (2 adults and a juvenile) on 15th August, then present to the year end.

Broadstones Res - an adult trilling on 17th August.

Sands Lane GP - an adult on 21st August and 20th October then two on 26th November.

Deanhead Res - an adult on 22nd and 30th September and again on 7th October.

Ringstone Edge Res - an adult on 12th and 14th October.

Boshaw Whams - three adults recorded on five dates between 25th October and 17th November.

Brighouse - two on the River Calder at Anchor Pit Lock on 21st December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Records came from 14 sites, the same as in 2009. Breeding was confirmed at four waters and suspected at least one other.

Scout Dike Res - a single on 1st January and a maximum count of seven on 21st March. Proof of breeding was obtained when a bird was seen on a nest on 3rd July. Birds were reported here to the year end.

Healey Mills - a single on the River Calder on 6th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res - had up to two (generally only a single) on 19 days between 23rd January and 14th March. From 17th March until 23rd November up to 16 were present on a daily basis, peaking between mid June and mid August (see table). A single pair nested, producing three young: the young hatched on 11th June and departed during the last week of August. The only records thereafter concerned singles on 4th and 12th December. Rather unusually, this latter mentioned bird departed N from the reservoir at 10.10hrs.

Monthly maxima at Blackmoorfoot Res:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	4	4	6	13	14	16	9	8	5	1

Bretton Lakes - present throughout year with confirmation of breeding when two birds were seen on separate nests on 17th May. The largest count at this site was of 17 (adults plus juveniles) on 4th October.

Elland GP - no reports during the summer months but regular in both winter periods. The first were of four birds on 4th January then one or two regularly up to 29th April. The next report was of a single on 19th September, then recorded up to the year end with a maximum of six on 18th December.

Ingbirchworth Res - birds were recorded in most months with a maximum of seven on 30th August. Breeding may have occurred at this site when two adults and a juvenile were reported on 4th June.

Horbury - one or two were reported throughout January on the River Calder. Then in the second winter period there was a maximum of six on 31st December.

Ravensthorpe GPs - a single on 25th February. Then an adult and a juvenile were seen on several dates in August and were thought to have bred nearby.

Longwood Valley - two on 2nd and 10th April.
Royd Moor Res - two on 17th May and 19th July.
Broadstones Res - a single on 17th June to 20th July.
Scammonden Res - one on 29th June and two on 9th December.
Sands Lane GP - a single was present between 17th July and 20th August.
Ringstone Edge Res - one to three were recorded between 25th July and 17th October.

(GREAT) **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
 Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Records came from over 30 sites this year covering all months and with several double figure counts.

Elland GP - regular at this site with notable increases, particularly in the first and last three months of the year. Maximum counts were of 19 on 31st January and 24 on 1st December.

Horbury - records cover all months except October with seven reported on the River Calder on 6th May and a maximum count of 17(adults and juveniles) in flight between 09.40-12.30hrs. at **Strands/Wyke** on the same day.

Healey Mills - four adults in breeding plumage on the River Calder on 8th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – there were no records in January or February, the first being an adult on 12th March. Thereafter one to five (generally 1 or 2) were recorded on a further 31 dates between 14th March and 8th December, although there were no November sightings. Birds over flew (or departed) the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 75% of birds flew between west and north.

Brighouse - there was a maximum of 10 on River Calder on 21st March.

Sands Lane GP - records were spread fairly evenly throughout the year usually involving between one and seven birds the exception being 14 which flew east along the River Calder on 4th October.

Ingbirchworth Res – present throughout most of the year, usually involving one to three birds with a maximum of 10 on 6th August and six on 23rd November.

Scout Dike Res - one or two birds reported on several dates with 18 on 14th August and a remarkable party of 30 reported by anglers to be present early in the day on 27th November.

Scammonden Res - recorded on 18 dates between May and December with a maximum count of six on 5th and 12th October.

Boshaw Whams - one to three birds on several dates was the usual count at this site but seven adults were reported on 7th March.

Bretton Lakes - several reports particularly in the second half of the year, the maximum being six on 4th October.

Dewsbury/town centre - seven on the River Calder on 8th September.

Langsett Res - six birds departed NE on 16th September.

Brownhill Res - six on 6th November.

Elsewhere one to four were recorded from other sites including: **Booth Wood Res, Bradley Hall Farm, Broadstones Res., Colne Bridge SP, Cooper Bridge SP** (frequently overflying), **Deanhead Res., Deer Hill Res., Haigh, Harden Quarries, Huddersfield/Aspley, Ringstone Edge Res., Shelley/Far Bank and Winscar Res.**

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor

There were five records of this delicate heron, the same as in 2008.

Ringstone Edge - one present during morning for three hours on 30th June (TM).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single arrived from the N at 07.55hrs. and departed S at 08.10hrs. on 17th July (MLD). This was the fourth record for the reservoir, the first being in November 2002

Horbury Strands/Wyke - one on 24th July (DM).

Ravensthorpe GPs - one feeding on the water's edge on 20th August (BA, DHP, JRS).

Sands Lane GP - an adult on 20th August (BA).

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

Rare vagrant

Only the second record for the Club area. The first was at the same site on 10th May 1989.

Bretton Lakes - an adult in winter plumage added a touch of the exotic on 20th February. There were no reports of this bird subsequently (BA *et al*).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

This species can be encountered almost anywhere in the Club area and records came from about 50 sites with confirmation of breeding at four of these and possible breeding at another. Birds were encountered throughout the year.

At **Bretton Park** many birds were back at nest sites by January and 40 were recorded here on the 30th. There were at least 14 occupied nests by 1st March, 12 nests on 1st June each held two well grown young on the lower lake and a pair were feeding two young out of the nest on the upper lake. Numbers of breeding pairs would seem to be well down at this site compared with previous years. At **Meltham/Wood Bank Farm** seven nests were counted on 7th March of which at least five were occupied. At **Cannon Hall CP** two occupied nests were reported on 10th March but no further details were forthcoming. At **Scammonden Res.** three young were reared from two nests. At **Kirkburton/Storthes Hall Wood** a small heronry was established, but no details were received. Probable breeding was reported from a site on private land near **Lepton Great Wood**.

Away from heronries four were at **Elland GP** on 28th March, **Horbury Strands** had birds throughout the year with a maximum of 13 on both 24th July and 28th September, 11 were at **Scout Dike Res.** (5 over and 6 down) on 4th September, six were present at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 11th July and a maximum of seven seen at **Sands Lane GP** on 20th August.

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a very quiet year. In the past this lack of occupancy has been attributed to the very high water level but, due to repair work, the water level was lowered appreciably during autumn. One or two (generally only 1) were seen on 89 dates between 24th January and 28th November. The only exceptions concerned three juveniles which flew NW at 07.50hrs. on 25th June and three present on 25th July and 21st August.

Elsewhere no more than three birds were reported.



Great White Egret

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor, increasing.

With the great success that this iconic raptor has had throughout the country, it comes as no surprise that the increase in the number of sightings in our recording area continues apace.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single flew W on 4th April (PB), one flew W over Meltham Cop at 13.30hrs. on 6th April (MLD, DMO) and a single circled Edge Moor at 13.30hrs. on 29th June (DMO). These were the sixth to eighth records for the reservoir, the first being in April 2006.

Horbury Wyke - a bird heard calling from near-by woodland flew low N over the canal and River Calder at 09.15hrs. on 12th April. (DT).

Dewsbury SF - one came in low from the SE at 10.30hrs. and spent a few minutes quartering the lagoons before gaining height and departing to the N on 12th April. No wing tags were noted (JRS).

Yateholme - a rather tatty-looking individual with very ragged wings dropped into larches on 25th April (SP, DMP, KW).

Lindley - one flew SW at 10.45hrs. on 24th May (JMN).

Langsett/Little Don Valley - two (an adult and a juvenile) on 6th June (D Butt, CA).

Cook's Study Hill - an immature briefly over Kirk's Plantation before disappearing from sight, presumably having settled on 14th June (D Butt).

Harden - one cruised low over the observers house and was mobbed by Curlews on 20th June (MC), another or the same was reported at this site six days later (DH) and a bird was harassed to the ground here by Ravens before continuing south on 7th November (MC).

Scout Dike Res - one flew S at 12.00hrs. on 31st July (RJB).

Hingcliffe Common - an adult reported on 4th September (M. Wells).

Holme Moss - one seen from Wessenden Head Road flew towards this site on 26th September (DMP).

Kirkheaton - one flew NE on 3rd December (GLB).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
5	3	8	10	17

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

There were four reports this year as follows:

Wessenden Valley - a 'cream-crown' flew W on 1st May (DMP, KW).

Whitely - a 'cream-crown', probably an adult female, which flew S along Whitely Ridge at 11.15hrs. on 13th May was seen off by a female Peregrine (DS).

Healey Mills - a 'cream-crown' over on 22nd September (JH).

Winscar Res - one seen from the dam wall (another 'cream-crown') flew towards Thurlstone Moor on 2nd October (SP, DMP).

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	3	4

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Five reports make this the best year since the seven in 2001.

Deer Hill - a superb adult male flew N on 6th June (DMP).

Langsett Res - a ring-tail on 15th August (JKP).

Marsden/Pule Hill – two ring-tails above Old Mount Road on 5th September (H.Owen).

Middlestown - a ring-tail flew S at 10.30hrs. on 5th September (JG).

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
7	4	1	4	4	4	1	4	1	5

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

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

In view of the virtual disappearance of this species as a breeding bird in the Peak District, all records must now be supported by a full description if they are to be included in the annual report (Records Committee).

Despite suitable habitat, this powerful raptor seems to be struggling to maintain a toe-hold in our recording area.

Ravensthorpe - an interesting report of an adult in flight over the Ship Inn carrying a Little Owl into woodland on 8th January (JH, JRS).

Scout Dike Res - one on 24th August (KH).

Dewsbury SF - a bird was harassed by up to four Buzzards high over the SF on 22nd September (JH).

Snailsden - one seen hunting over the moorland on 24th October (J. Lunn).

The only reports during the breeding season concerns a pair seen displaying at one site occasionally from late February to mid April (M. Wells) and probably one of the same birds (male) reported at this site on 16th March (SRG).

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Reports came from over 60 sites this year, including the town centre, a welcome improvement on 2009 and spanning every month. Records involved mainly one or two birds, the exceptions being four at **Woodhead Res.** including one displaying on 7th March, six at **Harden Quarries** (2 moving and 4 present) on 6th November with five here the following day, three (2 adults and a juvenile) at **Horbury SF** on 19th December where birds were often seen hunting Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails over the filter beds and three at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 22nd December, where one bird was observed taking a female Chaffinch.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey Mills** where a pair built on an old Woodpigeon nest and reared two young during July, and at **Meltham/Windy Bank Wood** where mating was witnessed near

the nest site on 16th May. Pairs and displaying birds were seen at several other sites where breeding almost certainly took place, these included: **Almondbury/Penny Spring Wood, Bretton Park, Dalton, Dewsbury SF, Langsett** where two pairs were displaying on 16th March, **Lepton Great Wood, Scammonden Res., Skelmanthorpe/Blacker Wood, Stockmoor/Lowerstones Wood, Woodhead Res. and Yateholme.**

One was harassed by two Ravens at **Cheesegate Nab** on 25th September, an adult female joined company with three Common Buzzards over **Meltham GC** on 4th October and a bird in the air over a flock of 38 Lapwings was harried by gulls at **Sands Lane GP** on 30th October.

Birds visited and hunted in gardens at **Almondbury** on several dates during both winter periods, **Dalton** where a male was seen to take a Dunnock on 17th September, **Fixby** where one was a regular visitor to a feeding station, **Golcar** which sometimes had two birds together throughout the summer, **Marsh** where again two birds were sometimes present, **Meltham, Netherton, Shelley** where prey items included Woodpigeon and Collared Dove, and **Skelmanthorpe.**

Singles were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot** with the exceptions of February. The number of sightings from this locality continues to fall, however, and the highest monthly bird/days was 11 in September, although it was generally less than five.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	13	14	19	10	9	9	13	18	15	7	19

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

Resident breeder since 2004 (1), 1-2 pairs. Scarce but increasing visitor.

Always exciting to see, this fine raptor would seem to be now well established in our recording area and has become our most widely reported bird of prey, with records coming from over 70 sites and spanning all months. Many reports were of several birds together.

One pair successfully raised three young and probable breeding occurred in at least one other site.

Cheesegate Nab - frequent sightings here throughout the year.

Yateholme/Ramsden Clough - records came from this area on several dates particularly during the first four months of the year with five reported on 3rd April which probably included some of the Winscar birds seen on the same day. One was harried by a Peregrine on 1st May.

Whitely Beaumont - seen throughout the year. Five were in the air together on 31st August, one, an immature with a white tail marked with ginger banding landed in the pines.

Bulcliff Wood - four over on 30th January.

Blackmoorfoot - recorded on 17 occasions, and in increasing numbers: in March three which flew NE on 1st had been seen previously at Deer Hill, singles were present on 5th and 27th and four drifted S on 21st; in April one drifted S on 3rd, a single was present on 17th and singles circled Edge Moor on 25th and Meltham Cop on 27th; June records involved a single flying E on 16th and singles which flew NE on 21st and SW on 23rd, five circled together on 31st (4 departed SW and the other N); in September a single was present on 9th and two on 25th; in October one drifted N on 7th and a single flew W on 22nd, the final record of the year involved a single on 3rd November.

Bradley Park GC - three on both 8th and 11th March and again on 15th April.

Bretton Park - recorded on several dates particularly throughout the spring with a maximum of five on 25th March on which date birds were seen displaying, and five on 4th October.

Winscar Res - as many as eight were seen from the dam wall to all points of the compass on 3rd April. Six were seen on 25th April, three of which were seen to mob a Stoat which was in ermine. The Stoat stood its ground but kept leaping up at the birds so it was difficult to figure out who was after whom! This amusing scene went on for a few minutes, the Stoat finally making it into a wall.

Horbury Strands - recorded on seven dates with a maximum of three on 9th April.

Holme Moss - three on 4th September.

Swinden Walls - three on 21st September.

Dewsbury SF - four in the air together for at least two hours before slowly moving S on 22nd September, and probably the same four seen circling over Millbank/Thornhill the same day.

Harden Quarries - nine flew SW on a visible migration watch on 25th September.

Meltham GC - three calling and circling birds, drifted towards Thick Hollins and were joined in the air by a female Sparrowhawk on 4th October.

New Mill - four wheeling over, high with much calling on 16th October.

Elsewhere one or two were reported from several other sites including: **High Hoyland** two on both 13th February and 6th March and a single on 4th October; **Heckmondwike** a single on 15th February; **Woodhead Res.** displaying birds in March and April; **Deer Hill** three on 1st March and a single on 10th October; **Pole Moor** a single on 16th and two on 21st March; **Shelly/Far Bank** singles over the observers house on 17th March and 18th May; **Deanhead Res** one flew S on 23rd March; **Scammonden Res.** a single flew S on 23rd March and one flew S on 23rd August; **Longwood/Pighill Wood** singles on 25th March and 2nd April; **Kirkburton/Storthes Hall Woodland** two on 26th March and three on 1st August; **Holm Styes** one or two regular between 1st April and 31st May; **Grimescar Valley** two on 4th and 11th April, one on 16th and two on 24th October, a single on 7th and two on 28th November and singles on 19th and 31st December; **Carlecotes Ponds** singles on 10th April, 12th May and 30th September; **Wessenden Head Res.** a tatty looking bird with missing primaries and tail feathers on 18th April; **Crossley's Plantation** one on 1st May and 2nd September; **Waterloo** one soaring on 4th May; **Netherthong** a single on 31st May; **Hepworth/Larks House** two mewing and displaying overhead on 21st July; **Scout Dike Res.** singles on 7th and 21st August and 4th September; **Healey Mills** a single on 11th August, two (1 light and 1 dark) on 1st September and two on 17th/18th October; **Meltham Moor/West Nab** one seen off by two Ravens on 15th August; **Golcar** a single on 21st August; **Langsett** had birds on eight dates, usually singles but two on 5th and 12th September; **Kirklees Park/Nun Bank Wood** two on both 13th September and 30th October; **Wilshaw** two flew E on 12th and a single on 28th September and **Lockwood** one circling on 12th October.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	5	19	18	9	14	4	9	17	12	7	5

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor

A bird was seen well over **Snailsden Moor** during the late morning of 30th October from the dam wall at Winscar Res. It was watched for well over five minutes before being lost to view as it flew and hovered into the stiff breeze (SP, DMP).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
Rare passage visitor, increasing

A very disappointing year for this charismatic raptor with just one record.

At **Brighouse** a single circled over the River Calder before drifting off NE over Clifton on 6th April (DT).

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0	7	5	1	9	2	2	8	3	1

(COMMON) **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*
Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs

Although reported from over 60 sites and in all months, this species almost certainly remains under recorded. Most reports were of between one and three birds, the exceptions being four at **Laddow Moss** on 30th June and five near **Winscar Res.** on 3rd August.

Confirmation of breeding came from: **Blackmoorfoot** where a pair raised three young in the YW tower; **Brighouse** a pair seen taking food to young at a nest site near Anchor Pit lock in May and June; **Butterley Res.** at least two young reared; **Deer Hill** a pair raised four young at the same nest site used in the last three years; **Horbury Strands** seen taking food to a nest site in June; **New Mill** bred on nearby Mount Scar, but no further details were received; **Scammondens Res.** a bird observed carrying food to a nest site in early July; **Wholestone Moor** a bird feeding young at a nest on 9th July and at **Winscar Res.** where a bird was seen carrying a juvenile Great Tit to a nest site on 16th June.

Birds were suspected of breeding at **Bretton Park**, **Emley Moor** and **Ingbirchworth** and undoubtedly did so elsewhere.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*
Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-4 pairs. Scarce visitor.

Another poor showing for our smallest bird of prey, with records coming from just 14 sites, although this was slightly up on last year. Again there were no reports of breeding activity and most records were during the second half of the year.

Dewsbury SF - a male, presumably attracted by the number of Meadow Pipits present, was reported on 7th January.

Bretton Park - one on 29th January.

Flight Hill - a male on 31st January when it was seen sparring with two Carrion Crows, and probably the same bird on 17th March.

Ingbirchworth Res - a juvenile on 17th July.

Isle of Skye Quarry - two just to the N of this site on 24th July, and a single, distantly to the E on 16th October.

Royd Edge Clough - a juvenile harried by two Kestrels took refuge in a Rowan Tree on 8th August.

Deer Hill - a female seen eating a Meadow Pipit on a rock on 9th August, and a male was seen pursuing Starlings there on 7th November.

Windleden - a bird described by the observer as a superb, very fresh juvenile was present on 21st August.

Scout Dike Res - one flew NW on 25th August.

Wholestone Moor - a juvenile male was seen chasing Meadow Pipits on 23rd September.

Harden Quarries - during visible migration watches birds were seen to fly SW on the 25th and 26th September and 6th November, and a juvenile, probably a female flew W on 25th October.

Buckstones - a male flew W on 15th October.

Boshaw Whams - a single (female/immature) on 15th November.

Meltham Cop - the last record of the year, a single on 24th November.

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

This slim-line falcon was recorded on 14 dates, but it is difficult to assess whether some of them were the same individuals and it is possible that only 11 or 12 birds were involved. It is pleasing to report the first confirmed breeding record in the club area.

At one site, a pair raised at least one young (BBSG).

Black Moss - one flew W at 07.00hrs. on 3rd May (DT).

Helme - one departed W at 07.45hrs. on 16th May (TD).

Cheesegate Nab - one flew N in the evening, harassed by Carrion Crows on 31st May (HQ).

Winscar - a probable adult on 20th June (MC).

Windleden - a single hunting Eggar moths on 26th June (MC).

Meltham - four reports in this area which could possibly refer to the same individual. The first sighting was a bird over Golcar Brow Road on 3rd July, then one over Mill Moor Road on 8th July, then one caused panic amongst hirundines near Red Lane on 10th July, and a bird flew E over Thick Hollins Road on 8th August (all DMP, SP).

Scout Dike Res - an immature flew SW at 10.28hrs. on 18th August (MLD, DT), the same or another flew E at 09.58hrs. on 25th August (RJB) and a single was present on 8th September (KH).

New Mill - one flew N over Butterley Lane on 21st August (CA).

Upper Windleden Res/Bance Edge - one powered SW on 22nd August (MC).

Langsett Banks - a bird mobbed by Jackdaws left to the NW on 31st August (M. Wells).

Wholestone Moor - a bird observed on the ground before it flew off SW at 14.40hrs. on 10th October (DT).

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
8	3	12	9	13	7	8	8	11	12

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

Reports of this superb falcon came from 30 sites including the town centre. Records spanned all months.

Breeding was confirmed at three sites this year. Amazingly a pair raised one young at an active landfill site and at another site a pair raised a single young in almost identical circumstances on the same tiny moorland cliff as in 2009 - like then, given the late date and small brood size this was almost certainly a replacement from a recently robbed site nearby. This young wasn't flying strongly until 15th July, which is about a month later than the usual fledging date. At a third well watched site four young were reared. A pair was seen displaying near another known breeding site in early April.

Elsewhere records were as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 18th January and one chasing a Greenshank on 18th August.

Deer Hill - a male and female caused mayhem amongst a Starling flock on the 30th January and one scattered the 150 plus Lapwing/Starling flock on 7th March.

Penistone/Hartcliff Hill - one buzzing gulls on 13th February.

Blackmoorfoot - a male flew N at 13.15hrs. on 12th March, one flew S on 19th April and a single was present on 4th August.

Harden - two on 13th March, two flew SW during a visible migration watch on 26th September and a single flew W on 6th November.

Cook's Study Hill – a single on 20th March.

Wessenden Lodge - one on 27th March.

Booth Dam Quarry - a female on 30th March.

Winscar Res - a single on 3rd April and a second-calendar year bird on 3rd July.

Dewsbury SF - two flew S on 14th April.

Brighouse - a female over the River Calder was hunting Feral Pigeons on 30th May.

Chew Valley – an adult male on 5th June.

Ringstone Edge Res - a single on 7th July and two juveniles play-fighting for 15 minutes on the morning of 9th July.

Booth Wood Res - one flew S on 8th July.

Emley Moor/Transmitting Station - a pair and a juvenile took up residence on the mast, the male was seen to bring a pigeon in and pass it over to the juvenile on 11th July.

Cheesegate Nab - a bird was observed stooping on a Woodpigeon on 17th July and a juvenile was seen at close quarters on 5th December.

Holmfirth - a juvenile perched on top of the windmill opposite Longley's Dairy on 15th August.

Salter's Brook - a single on 4th September.

Langsett/Little Don Valley - an immature female on 21st September.

Scammonden Res - a juvenile on 22nd September.

Butterley Res - one on 26th September.

Dovestones Res – a single on 4th October.

Holme Moss - one on 7th October.

Huddersfield/town centre – a single overflying St George's Square just above roof top height at 08.30hrs. on 27th October.

Brun Clough Res - one flew N on 27th October.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - one flew NW on 29th October.

Marsden/Hey Green - one mobbing a Raven then hunting on 30th October.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Records were received from five locations on 13 dates; these ranging from 1st January to 29th May and then from 15th November to 31st December. Again there was no proof of breeding, but the May record involved two birds at a previous breeding site.

Elland GP – one was flushed from vegetation below the weir on the River Calder on 1st January (DT).

Horbury – singles along the River Calder in January on 7th (DT) and 15th (DHa) and in December on 22nd (DT) and 31st (DHa).

Scout Dike Res – one on 10th January (DHa).

Healey Mills NR – recorded on 18th January (1), 2nd March (2 feeding in the open), 29th May (2 very vocal birds calling from reed mace), 24th November (2), 5th December (2, one of which was a pale juvenile-type), and 23rd December (1) (JRS, JH).

Bretton Park – a single heard calling on 15th November (SG).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Reports were received from over 30 sites, with breeding confirmed or suspected at around half of them, but the species is still considered to be under-recorded. Breeding locations included the following:

Blackmoorfoot Res – two pairs were resident between April and late August. Both bred, but only two young (singles from broods of 5 and 3+) reached the flying stage.

Wilshaw – a pair with three young on small pond between here and Netherthong on 8th May.

Bradley Hall Farm – one adult with two young on the River Calder on 25th May.

Broadstone Res – adults and juveniles present during July.

Meltham Mills (Windy Bank) Res – two adults with a single juvenile on 13th June. What was perhaps the same juvenile was still present on 11th October.

Ringstone Edge Res – two adults and four juveniles on 25th June.

Cannon Hall CP – adults and juveniles present during July.

Shepley – an adult with four young on a pond off Carr Lane on 6th July.

Horbury area – many reports during spring and early summer included counts of up five juveniles. On 6th July at total of six adults and thirteen juveniles were counted between Horbury Bridge and Navigation Inn but it is likely that some of these were outside the club area.

Langsett Res – a pair with one young seen on an unspecified date.

Cooper Bridge SP – a pair and two juveniles on 7th July

Scout Dike Res – three juveniles present between at least 8th July and 23rd August.

Ingbirchworth Res – at least one juvenile during August and September.

Meltham SF – one adult and one juvenile on 27th August.

Royd Moor Res – one adult and two young on September 3rd.

Bretton Park – five adults and at least two juveniles on 15th November.

Outside the breeding season, numbers failed to approach the triple-figure maximum count of 2009 and were no doubt affected in both winter periods by the same severe weather conditions which led to reports of birds feeding in gardens in **Hepworth** and **Marsden**. Indeed, only two locations managed to muster more than ten. These were **Horbury**, where monthly maxima included 32 in

January, 26 in February, 45 in November, and 25 in December, and **Elland GP**, which held 20 on 5th February and 30 on 18th December.

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

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

Maximum monthly counts at some regularly monitored sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Elland GP	28	20	11	nc	4	nc	nc	5	nc	4	nc	24
Horbury area	12	8	9	8	6	nc	22	10	8	nc	5	32
Ingbirchworth	4	7	14	16	13	10	8	4	2	nc	1	nc
Sands Lane GP	6	6	4	4	2	nc	3	6	nc	nc	5	6

Birds were reported from 19 locations including six in the Calder Valley. Breeding was confirmed at seven of these, and almost certainly took place at two others. These were as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – at least four pairs were believed to be on territory in early spring but no further details were obtained.

Gunthwaite Dam - a pair was present with two small young on the early date of 8th April.

Cooper Bridge SP – two pairs were sitting on eggs on 17th April. Each pair hatched two young, with all eight birds still present on 24th June, but one pair and its young had disappeared by 7th July.

Horbury – two were on nests on 14th May and three young were present on 1st July.

Elland GP – two adults and two young on 29th May.

Bretton Park – three were on nests on the upper lake on 2nd June. The maximum count at this site was 14 on 7th November.

Scout Dike Res – high counts included 15 adults and two young on 31st May and eight adults and five young on 8th July.

Cannon Hall CP – two adults and one well-grown young on 14th July.

Royd Moor Res – two adults and two juveniles (which were thought to have originated from this site) on 3rd September.

Elsewhere, apart from those tabulated above, results from outside the breeding season were disappointing, although in some cases this was again no doubt due to under-reporting. One notable record concerned a single at **Tunnel End, Marsden** on 25th February, where the species is very scarce. As usual, birds were present at **Boshaw Whams** for much of the year, but harsh conditions during both winter periods led to fewer reports, none of which referred to any more than three. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** produced only seven records: singles on 24th January, 10th/11th and 22nd March, two adults on both 5th June and 8th August and a single adult on 5th September. **Ringstone Edge Res.** held three on July 10th, but five other sites: **Bradley Hall Farm, Broadstone Res., Dewsbury SF, Longwood Valley, and Scammonden Res.**, each failed to exceed a maximum of just one.

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

Migrant breeder since 1999 (1), 1-2 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor, increasing.

Records were received from 31 sites, down from 39 in 2009. However, anecdotal indications suggest that the species is probably still increasing in the area, and that familiarity is perhaps resulting in reduced interest from some observers. The first report was on 26th January and the last on 31st August but, as usual, the vast majority appeared between March and July. The maximum count was of 17.

Breeding was confirmed at **Winscar Res.**, where up to 11 birds were noted in March. Numbers were fewer during April and May, but on 12th June a pair was present with one half-grown young and another bird appeared to be incubating. At **Carlecotes Ponds** a pair was seen copulating on 20th May and the same or another pair was alarming vociferously on 2nd June. Otherwise there was little in the way of proof of breeding. Up to three were in the **Marsden** area between 3rd April and 12th June, with display noted at **Butterley Res.** on 20th May, but further evidence was not forthcoming. At least five more sites also hosted two or three birds for extended periods during the spring and summer. These ranged from **Digley Res.**, **Broadstone Res.**, and **Whitley Common**, where breeding was suspected to have occurred, to **Dewsbury SF** and **Deer Hill Res.**, where it probably didn't.

As in some previous years, the highest numbers were recorded at **Boshaw Whams**, which held 14 on 3rd April, 17 on 17th April, and five on 9th May. Other counts of five or more were made in March at **Winscar** (9 on 5th, 11 on 10th, 9 on 24th, and 11 on 27th), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (5 on 16th), **Royd Moor Res.** (5 on 16th – these were presumably the Ingbirchworth birds), and **Maythorn Slack** (8 on 28th), and in April at **Broadstone Res.** (5 on 6th, 6 on 7th, 9 on 8th, 12 on 9th, and 5 on 17th). In June, five were present at **Dewsbury SF** from 18th until the end of the month. Other sites holding maxima for the year of one to four included **Bretton Park**, **Cannon Hall CP**, **Harden**, **Healey Mills**, **Holmbridge**, **Horbury**, **Linthwaite**, **Sands Lane GP**, and the reservoirs at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Hill Top**, **Langsett**, **Meltham Mills (Windy Bank)**, **Ramsden**, **Ringstone Edge**, **Scammonden**, **Scout Dike**, **Swellands**, and **Wessenden Head**.

(PIED) AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare visitor.

A single was present at **Sands Lane GP** from at least 08.20hrs. on 6th September until 08.25hrs. on 7th, when it was seen to fly off E along the River Calder (DT, JRS, DHP, BA). This represents only the second confirmed occurrence in the Club area, the first being in 2005.



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

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

Another fairly good year, with breeding confirmed at three sites, although it probably occurred or was attempted at a minimum of four others. The first report was on 18th March and the last on 23rd August. Note that the alphabetical notation of sites in the following list does not correspond with that used in previous years.

Site A – in April two adults were present from 2nd, increasing to three on 18th, and four on 23rd. One pair bred, with a nest containing four eggs being discovered on 30th May. In June the pair was alarming during every visit and at least three birds were present on 28th but there were no further reports from the site after the end of that month.

Site B – an adult in suitable breeding habitat on 2nd April led to intermittent reports of one or two adults during the rest of spring and a juvenile on 3rd July.

Site C – three adults were on urban waste ground on 3rd April, with two of them displaying on this date and the next. The only other report from this site concerned an adult on May 2nd.

Site D – two displaying adults on 12th April were joined by a third the following day and a fourth which remained from 25th to 27th. One pair stayed to breed, with distraction display noted on 2nd June and two chicks observed being brooded on 16th of that month. Both reached the flying stage.

Site E – an obvious pair was displaying on 18th April, with what were presumably the same two birds still present on 27th May and 25th June.

Site F – at least one adult was present from 8th May, with two occasionally suspected. However, there was no evidence of breeding until the discovery of a single chick in mid August. This was ringed on 18th, on which date it was estimated to be around seven days old. Given the species' 24-26 day incubation period the egg must have been laid in mid July. The chick and at least one adult were present the following day, and an adult was still alarming on 23rd, but neither was seen after this date and it was thought that the chick may have died during stormy weather.

Site G – a pair was present in suitable habitat during the breeding season but it is unknown whether or not breeding took place.

Other records were received from:

Sands Lane GP – an adult on 18th March, with two adults present on 21st. Later, a single was seen on 8th July.

Horbury Strands – single adults on 15th and 21st April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single heard, but not seen, as it flew S on 3rd June.

Ingbirchworth Res – present in July on 1st (4), 3rd (1), 4th (2 adults and at least 2 juveniles), 5th (3), 6th (2 adults and 4 juveniles), 8th (8), 18th/19th (3 juveniles), and 24th (a single).

Butterley Res – two on 10th July.

Scout Dike Res – single juveniles on 6th/7th and 17th/18th August.

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

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

Birds appeared at just four sites, with the majority of sightings emanating from the reservoirs at Ingbirchworth and Scout Dike during August. There were only two spring records, and for the first time in 12 years no reports at all were received from Dewsbury SF; this presumably due to ongoing work activity and the resulting changes in habitat. In contrast, the lack of reports from Ringstone Edge Res., another favoured location, might well be explained by this year's poor communications with regular observers at that site.

Deer Hill Res – two adults fed on the shore on 25th and 30th May (DHP). Later, two adults were present on 18th August (MLD) and a single juvenile on 1st September (DHP).

Ingbirchworth Res – on 6th August two arrived from the E in the company of a Little Ringed Plover and stayed for at least a few days (MC). The expansive shoreline then continued to attract birds for the rest of the month, although it was difficult to determine how many individuals were involved (possibly as few as three). These included a single on 12th, two adults and a juvenile on 16th, two adults on 17th/18th, and 21st, and a lone adult on 27th (NWM, DT *et al.*). The last at this site was a single on 5th September (DB, JL).

Scout Dike Res – one on 11th August (NWM) was followed by single juveniles on 18th (DT, MLD), and 29th August (RJB), and 4th September (RJB). As at Ingbirchworth, it is unclear how many birds were involved in these reports and it is possible that all four records refer to the same individual.

Blackmoorfoot Res - two adults arrived at 14.20hrs. on 28th August (MLD, DMO), three (2 S at 09.05hrs. and a juvenile present) on 6th September (MLD) and two from the E departed NW at 09.00hrs. on 13th November (DT, SWJ).

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

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



There were just two sightings in January; 23 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 16th and 16 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th. February fared little better, with eight at **Wholestone Moor** on 7th being the only record until the month end when there was a spate of occurrences around the **Broadstone** area

which included 50 off **Broadstone Lane** on 26th, 300 over the reservoir on 27th, and 90 at **Maythorn** on 28th. Birds gradually became more widespread from early March, with reports (monthly maxima in brackets) received from **Snape Res.** (132 on 1st), **Whitley Common** (61 on 2nd), **Ringstone Edge Res.** (82 on 4th), **Black Hill** (100 on 5th), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (77 on 6th/7th) and the **Digley** area (33 on 7th). Maxima elsewhere during the second half of the month included 26 at **Cupwith Res.** on 23rd, 200 at **Broadstone Res.** on 23rd, 200 at **Deer Hill** on 24th, and 42 at **Wholestone Moor** on 26th. In April, single and low-double-figures were noted on many dates at around 10 locations. Peak counts included 120 at both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Deer Hill** on 21st (the same birds?) but these were dwarfed by the numbers at **Broadstone Res.** Here, c.1000 were reported on 7th and a different observer made a 'conservative estimate' of 500 on 17th. April also saw the first signs of breeding activity, with several displaying at **Harden** as early as 8th and one in song at **Ramsden Res.** on 28th.

Passage birds, including the expected 'Northern' types, continued to be reported until well into May but, as ever, the situation was complicated by the often concomitant occurrence of presumed off-duty local breeders. At **Blackmoorfoot**, up to 37 (but usually fewer than 20) were noted throughout the month. Daily sightings at this site then continued throughout the whole of June, although numbers during this month were lower than in most recent years (usually just 2 to 4).

Breeding was confirmed at **Featherbed Moss**, where four nests with eggs were found on 5th May. By 24th May one nest had three chicks and in another the eggs were hatching. It almost certainly also occurred at **Chew Res.** (two agitated pairs on 5th June), **Swellands/Black Moss Res.** (two agitated pairs on 12th and 26th June), and **Black Hill** (one pair), but positive evidence was otherwise hard to come by.

Elsewhere, midsummer records were very sparse, with just three records in July involving 14 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th, and 35 at **Broadstone Res.** on 18th. Apart from one at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th August there were then none until 12th September, when two were in a small field near **Holmfirith**. These were followed by a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th, 26 at **Wholestone Moor** on 25th, and one at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the last day of the month. Things then gradually picked up from early October. At **Wholestone Moor** birds were seen very regularly from 5th; usually just single figures but 40 were present on 7th, 17 on 28th, and 255 on 30th. Other reports came from **Scammonden Res.** (40 SW on 7th), **Deer Hill** (2 W on 10th), **Hey Slack** (20 on 17th), **Ringstone Edge Res.** (23 on 17th, increasing to a maximum of 220 on 25th), **Broadstone Res.** (80 on 20th), and **Blackmoorfoot** (one W on 24th). Early November continued in a similar vein, with further records from **Ringstone Edge Res.** (40 on 1st, 60 on 9th, and 100 on 10th), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (36 on 3rd), **Wholestone Moor** (18 on 1st, 124 on 15th, and 3 on 19th), **Broadstone Res.** (40 on 17th), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (2 on 17th), **Upper Cumberworth** (100 W on 27th), and **Deer Hill** (15 on 28th). However, sightings came to an abrupt end in early December; the last report of the year referring to a single which dropped into **Sands Lane GP** at dusk on 2nd.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare visitor.

As in 2009, the sole record came from **Dewsbury SF** where a single flew E, calling constantly, on 8th September (JH).

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

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

Maxima at the most regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	2	31	23	20	0	80	150	203	310	80	150	14
Ingbirchworth	nc	26	50	8	12	14	10	31	320	350	80	nc

In January, the only record from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned two which flew W on 23rd; this area being otherwise devoid of birds since deep snow cover on 17th December 2009. Other upland locations suffered similar conditions so it is perhaps unsurprising that virtually every double and triple-figure count that month referred to sites in the Calder Valley lowlands. Peak counts included 200 at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th, 212 at **Sands Lane GP** on 7th, 70 at **Elland GP** on 7th, 50 at **Healey Mills** on 10th, and 37 at **Horbury** on 29th. Most of February was rather quiet throughout the area; the only counts in excess of 40 coming towards the end of the month when 55 were at **Horbury** on 25th, 120 off **Broadstone Lane** on 26th, 140 at **Maythorn** on 28th, and 190 flying N at **Cheesegate Nab**, also on 28th. March saw birds becoming much more widespread, with many reports referring to small numbers displaying, but peak counts were lower; the maximum being 70 at **Broadstone Res.** on 7th.

Records of birds on territory came from a wide range of sites but breeding was confirmed at just a fraction of them. These included:

Isle of Skye Quarry – three pairs were on territory from at least 16th March and were joined by a fourth in mid-May. From 17th May into early June all eight birds were alarming continuously. Things quietened from mid-June with just the odd one or two over and no alarming but at least one pair was again showing agitation on 25th/26th of that month.

Horbury – a report of one on eggs in an unspecified part of the area on 20th April was followed by a similar sighting of an incubating bird at the Strands on 6th May. Two pairs bred at the Strands, producing at least four young.

Langsett – six out of 28 birds at Ranah Stones Field on 26th April were incubating eggs.

Digley Res – an unspecified number of recently fledged young on 22nd May.

Wood Nook – two adults and two chicks on 28th May.

Ingbirchworth – after a minimum of six pairs on territory on 31st May at least two appeared to be incubating on 3rd June. A pair and four very small young were present the following day and then on 16th an adult and two young were on exposed mud at the reservoir edge.

Ringstone Edge Res – 20 adults and two juveniles on 25th June.

Barmings – at least two pairs produced at least three young.

Crosland Heath Airfield – four pairs nested.

Deer Hill – many early attempts suffered from the attention of Carrion Crows. Later attempts fared better, with several broods seen in June. Two attempts were made on top of the covered water tank, one of which hatched successfully. Of interest, a female had the habit of using a pile of rocks as a look-out post in the manner of a Redshank.

As is often the case, peak counts later in the year were generally higher than in the early months. 150 at **Blackmoorfoot** (see the table above) was the maximum for July, but subsequently the greatest numbers tended to be concentrated around the **Ingbirchworth** area. Examples included 400 near **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th August, 350 to the south of **Annat Royd Lane** on 5th October, and 480 at **Broadstone Res.** on 23rd November. On this latter date there were also 280 different birds at nearby **Spicer Hill**. Away from this area, **Ringstone Edge Res.** hosted 241 on 20th

October, 270 on 1st November, and 250 on 6th November. Counts then became much lower in December, when a repeat of January's harsh weather conditions led to similar results. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** up to 14 were present daily until 27th but, apart from one on the ice at **Boshaw Whams** on 30th, all other reports referred to sites in the Calder Valley, where the largest gathering involved 60 at **Elland GP** on 1st.

(RED) **KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

Rare passage visitor.

After a blank in 2009 there was one confirmed record; a single seen in wet and windy conditions on the dam wall at **Boshaw Whams** in the mid morning of 17th November (HQ). It could not be relocated an hour later.

In addition, a wader seen very briefly at **Winscar Res.** on 10th March was thought highly likely to be this species (MW).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Following last year's lack of evidence of breeding, the value of wider observer coverage was demonstrated in 2010 by the finding of 'good numbers' at a high moorland site in the SW of the area on 5th May. Subsequent visits that month led to the discovery of a nest containing three eggs on both 24th and 30th (JHod). Elsewhere, birds were reported from six sites on a total of 14 dates from 25th April to 23rd September, half of them falling between 22nd July and the end of August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only records involved a single W on 25th April, three S on 22nd July, three on 11th August, a single on 31st August, two on 15th September and a single on 23rd September.

Deer Hill Res – single adults on 10th, 22nd, and 25th May.

Sparth Res – one on 7th June departed SW.

Scout Dike Res – brief sightings of singles on 24th July (adult) and 23rd August (flushed by a dog).

Wessenden Res – one on 24th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – two juveniles on 28th August.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Rare to scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

There were two reports of this species, both typically falling in the second half of August. The fact that three of the previous four years had failed to produce any records at all makes the following occurrences all the more welcome.

Ingbirchworth Res – following a report on *BirdGuides* of one on the evening of 16th August, a single was present for most of the following day (NWM, PMcG, KH, DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res - one on 30th August (MLD, DMO) was the first record for the reservoir since August 2002.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from eight locations and were again evenly split between upland and lowland in terms of both number of sites and number of records. There did appear to be a (weather-related?) bias towards the lowlands in the first winter period and the uplands in the second, although two sites, one upland and one lowland, hosted birds in both periods. The last of the spring was on 11th April and the first of the autumn on 23rd September. Only one of the eight sites held more than a single bird at any one time.

Cooper Bridge SP – singles on 4th and 10th January and 18th September (DS).

Dewsbury SF – singles on 6th (JRS) and 25th January (JH).

Horbury area – recorded in January on 6th (1), 22nd (2) and 29th (1) and in March on 12th (3) and 24th (2). The final report of the year from this location was of one on 4th April (DT).

Cupwith Res – one nearby on 13th March (DT).

Wholestone Moor – singles on 30th March, 11th April, 23rd September (DHP), 14th October, and 5th and 19th November (all DT unless otherwise noted).

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles on 23rd and 30th September and 6th and 18th October (DHP).

Broadstone Res – one on 27th November (HQ).

Healey Mills NR – a single on 12th December (JRS).

(COMMON) **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

As is often the case, the most productive sites during the early months were along the Calder Valley. Counts from **Healey Mills NR** included six on 1st January and 14 on 17th February. **Dewsbury SF** held 10 on 19th January, 18 on 2nd March, 16 on 24th March, and 20 on 5th April. At **Horbury**, numbers never approached the heights of the previous year but were consistently in excess of 20; the maximum being 33 on 29th January, with 30 still present on 12th March. Other locations hosting one to three around this time included **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Red Lane** (Meltham), **Royd Moor Res.**, **Bretton Park**, **Black Hill**, the **Wessenden Valley**, and **Wholestone Moor**. Four near **Cupwith Res.** on 13th March were possibly on territory.

Breeding activity was noted from 17th March, when one was displaying at **Flight Hill**. This site continued to produce reports of chipping and drumming throughout spring, with a maximum count of eight on 7th April. Nearby, six pairs held territories at **Harden**. Reports of one to three chipping and/or drumming birds were also received from **Bradshaw**, **Cupwith Res.**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley Res.**, **Whitley Common**, **Barmings**, **Langsett Res.**, near **Crossley's Plantation**, **Hassocks Lane** (Honley), and **Tinker Hill**. Additionally, one or two were recorded on occasional dates in April, May, and June at **Bartin**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Snailsden**, and the **Isle of Skye Quarry**.

Typically, July proved to be the quietest month of the year, with just three reports involving singles at **Winscar Res.** on 6th, **Black Moss Res.** on 10th, and **Scout Dike Res.** on 16th. In August, this latter site held two on 6th and one on 8th but, apart from one in flight at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th, there were then none until towards the end of the month, when birds were recorded at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** (3 on 21st and 4 on 27th) and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (2 on 28th and 4 on 31st). These two sites then produced the majority of September sightings, with records on four dates (maximum 3) at the former, and nine dates (maximum 6) at the latter. Single date records of up to three birds were also received from six other sites during the month. October was similar, with

reports on many dates but from only four locations, the maximum being eight at **Wholestone Moor** on 4th. Birds then became much more widespread during the final two months, appearing at 13 sites in November and eight in December. One notable record involved nine flying together, N, at **Harden Quarries** on 7th November but, with the exception of an impressive 50 at **Horbury** on 20th November, all counts remained in single figures.

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

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

A fairly productive year, at least in the two winter periods, although reports from the breeding season were again rather sketchy and included none at all from the favoured Holme Styes/Copthurst area.

Records from the first part of year were as follows:

Bretton Park – singles on 22nd and 29th January and 1st March.

Grimescar Valley – two on 23rd January followed by singles on 31st January, 7th and 27th February and 6th and 20th March.

Meltham – one in a Birmingham Lane garden in snowy conditions on 6th February.

Wolfstones – one on 6th February.

Holmbridge – two on 8th March were thought to be on territory (see below).

Sands Lane GP – one flew N on 12th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one on 21st March.

Whitley Beaumont – one flushed from the area around Black Dick's Tower on 23rd April was possibly on territory.

Roding was noted at **Holmbridge Wood** (one on 2nd April, with a presumed female on the woodland floor below), and **Woodsome Lees** (two on 24th April), but the bulk of breeding season records again came from the **Langsett/Swinden Plantation/Little Don Valley** area, where up to five were roding on many dates in June, with several more just outside the boundary of the Club area. The only other report from this period concerned a single flushed from suitable habitat near **Riding Wood Res.** on 1st May.

Things became much quieter after the end of June, with one in flight near **Healey Mills NR** on 8th September being the sole report between then and the final two months of the year, when there was a marked influx involving birds at 13 sites. These were as follows:

Whitley Beaumont – one on 1st November.

Healey Mills NR – in November a single on 2nd and five on 29th; these appearing after severe weather the previous day. Later, one was pursued by a juvenile Peregrine on 21st December.

Meltham GC – a single disturbed by a Weasel on 4th November.

Sands Lane GP – two on 6th November and three on 12th, 17th and 21st December.

Blackmoorfoot Res/Orange Wood – singles on 10th, 24th and 28th November.

Bradley Hall Farm – one on 14th November.

Grimescar Valley – singles on 28th November and 11th December. Two on 22nd December.

Choppards – one flew E on 6th December.

Horbury SF – two flushed on 6th December.

Millbank, Thornhill – five flushed on 7th December.

Elland GP – one on 9th December.

Bradley Park GC – a single on 23rd December.

Penny Spring Wood – a single on 30th December.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

No records.

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	2	2	47	25	68	3	3	0	0

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Meltham Mills (Windy Bank) Res – one flew low, W, on 6th February (DMP). A report on *BirdGuides* of one flying W at **Meltham** at 13.24hrs. on 7th February presumably related to the same individual and was perhaps even a misdated reference to the same actual record, but at the time of writing this has not been possible to clarify.

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single arrived at 15.20hrs. on 10th September (MLD, DMO).

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	18	2

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A typical showing, with a total of 12 birds appearing on single dates at each of five sites, two of them in spring and three in autumn. The maximum count was four.

Dewsbury SF – three flew W, calling continuously, on 20th April (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res – one flew W, calling, at 09.00hrs. on 27th April (DT).

Oldfield – four in a small field on 21st July flew off low SW at 12.30hrs. but were soon relocated in another field c.600m away and remained there until 13.00hrs, when they departed S (DHP).

Cowcliffe – one flew W, calling, on 4th August (GS).

Millmoor, Meltham - three flew W at around 06.30hrs. on 17th August (DMP).

(EURASIAN) CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

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

This species is usually absent during the winter months, so four records in January and an unprecedented run of widespread occurrences in December made this a quite remarkable year. Three of the January records came on 8th, when three were on the River Calder near **Dewsbury SF**, two at **Scammonden Res.**, and eight standing on the frozen reservoir at **Blackmoorfoot**. After a single at **Digley Res.** on 12th, there were then none until the more typical first-arrival date of 28th February, when one flew N at **Harden** and another single was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** This latter site then produced birds on 14 dates in March; usually just one or two, but 10 were in a

field to the west, a single flew S on 7th and nine were in a field to the west on 14th. March also saw birds appearing at a further 11 sites, all of them in the uplands except for **Horbury**, which held two on 12th (and two again in April on 4th). Most reports involved single figures but at **Broadstones Res.** numbers had reached 25 by 13th and 12 to 15 were on territory on 14th at **Harden**, where none had been present the previous day.

Records of breeding activity were again rather vague but seemed to suggest a fairly healthy state of affairs, with 'good numbers' present in the **Digley Res./Issues Road/Bradshaw** area and, on 10th April, around 20 displaying on and near **Flight Hill**. Similarly, 'several pairs' were noted at both **Deer Hill** and around **Dunford Bridge** and, although no specific counts were undertaken, birds were present in nine locations in the **Marsden** area during the breeding season. Other reports from around this time included six displaying at **Langsett Res./Little Don Valley** on 15th April, 12 at **Cook's Study Hill** on 25th April, and two pairs each at **Elysium Fields** and **Bullecliffe**. Firmer evidence of breeding success was then noted around the reservoirs at **Swellands** (2 alarming on 22nd May followed by 4 pairs alarming between here and **Black Moss Res.** on 3rd June), **Broadstone** (1 defending against a Carrion Crow on 30th May), **Deanhead** (2 agitated adults with an undetermined number of young hiding in tall vegetation on 3rd June), and **Chew** (2 pairs alarming on 5th June). The final reference to alarming birds involved one at **Magdalen Clough** on 22nd July.

Most recent years have seen a significant drop-off in numbers during midsummer, with little evidence of post-breeding dispersal and passage. However, after 14 adults together in a newly mown field near **Snake Res.** on 23rd June there followed a steady stream of reports of up to five birds at various upland locations until early August. Occurrences then became more sporadic, the most notable being three flying NW at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27th August and four which arrived from the SSW at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th August. September then produced four records, the last of which involved a single flying W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd.

As anticipated, there were no reports at all during October and for most of November. Two SW over **Marsden** after heavy overnight snow on 30th November would have been noteworthy in themselves, but, as it turned out, these were just the vanguard of a wholly unexpected influx in December. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two flew E on 5th and then, in the fields to the west, eight were present on 13th, two on 14th, a single between 22nd and 26th, three on 27th, two on 28th/29th and six on 31st. On 6th, nine flew W at **Meltham Mills (Windy Bank) Res.** Four were at **Elland GP** on 11th, on which date one also arrived at **Dewsbury SF**; this staying until 21st. On 12th, eight (possibly some of the Windy Bank birds) fed in a field to the north-west of **Meltham**. On 21st, a single was at **Helme** and on 24th two flew low over **Cook's Study Hill**. Finally, two were present at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on the last day of the year.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Birds were in the area between 9th April and 23rd September and appeared at over 30 sites, making this another good year for the species.

The first appeared at **Royd Moor Res.** on the former date and was followed by singles at **Langsett Res.** on 11th April and **Winscar Res.** on 15th. The next reports came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (1 on 18th), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (2 on 19th) and **Langsett Res.** again, where numbers had increased to three by 20th. However, the main arrival began on 21st, when two were at both **Harden Res.** and **Healey Mills NR** and a single was at **Scout Dike Res.** By the end of the

month one or two (unless otherwise stated) had been recorded at a further nine widespread sites; **Sands Lane GP**, **Scammonden Res.** (3 on 22nd), **Dewsbury SF**, **Ringstone Edge Res.**, **Black Moss Res.**, **Wessenden Res.**, **Deer Hill Res.**, **Bretton Park**, and **Horbury**. Early May continued in a similar vein, except that nearly all reports referred to upland locations; the only exception in this period being a single at **Sands Lane GP** on 11th.

Breeding (by single pairs unless otherwise noted) was confirmed at **Digley Res.**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Langsett Res.** (probably five pairs on territory), **Little Don Valley**, **Swellands Res.**, and **Winscar Res.**, and was strongly suspected at the reservoirs at **Black Moss**, **Brownhill**, **Broadstone**, **Deer Hill** and **Ramsden** and all four reservoirs in the **Wessenden Valley**. As ever, there is little doubt that it also took place at several other suitable upland sites, many of which are seldom watched. For example, two birds were in the **Chew Valley** on 5th June, with at least one at nearby **Chew Res.** on the same date.

After a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23rd June, post-breeding dispersal and autumn passage began in earnest in early July. At **Scout Dike Res.** up to three were noted on several dates throughout the month. Three were also at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 5th, with singles on several subsequent dates. Back at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, one or two occurred on 36 dates between 3rd July and 30th August, with five present on 30th July. Other July reports included singles at **Sands Lane GP** on 8th and 29th, **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13th, **Boshaw Whams** on 17th and four at **Scammonden Res.** (another likely breeding location) on 13th. Many of these sites continued to produce records throughout August; mostly of ones and twos, although four were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th. Towards the end of the month birds became more widespread, with singles appearing at **Booth Wood Res.** on 22nd, **Healey Mills NR** on 24th and two at **Sands Lane GP** on 27th. As is often the case, numbers then dwindled in early September, when lingerers were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd and 8th, **Healey Mills NR** on 3rd, **Sands Lane GP** on 6th and 7th, **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9th and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th. The last of the year was a single at the latter site on 23

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from all months other than May. Once again the majority came from the Calder Valley, but autumn brought an excellent series of records from the Ingbirchworth area as well as one-day singles, all in the space of a week, at three other upland locations.

Dewsbury SF – birds were present almost daily throughout the year, apart from in May, and were found to be spending most of their time on the circular holding tanks on the new workings, rather than on the river. Maxima in the early months were two in January, one in February, five in March and six in April. Post-breeding reports were rather vague but included another count of six on 14th July. A week later this had dropped to two, which remained the maximum for the rest of the year (JH, JRS, DT).

Healey Mills NR – singles on the adjacent River Calder on 8th and 22nd January (DT). Later, two noted regularly, again on the riverbank, between 15th July and 5th September (JRS).

Horbury Wyke/SF – singles on the River Calder on February 19th, and 21st/22nd (P & BB, JRS), and again on 3rd December (DT).

Scout Dike Res – after a single on 24th July up to three were present on many dates between the last day of that month and 25th August (RJB, NWM, KH *et al.*). As with Greenshank, it seems highly likely that there was a regular exchange of birds between this and the following site.

Ingbirchworth Res – one or two on many dates between 3rd and 24th August, with three on both 12th and 18th (NWM, DT, DHP *et al.*).

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single on 31st August (DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one on 2nd September (MLD, DMO) was the first record for the reservoir since August 2002.

Langsett Res – a single on 6th September (MW).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Following two years with just a single record apiece it is pleasing to report a return to form for this species, albeit one confined to four upland reservoirs. There were no spring records, but birds were present more or less daily between 14th August and 18th September and, despite near-constant disturbance by dogs and walkers, included what appeared to be at least two long-stayers in the Ingbirchworth area.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two on 14th (MLD, GK, MS) and one on 16th August (MLD). A further single remained from 7th to 8th September (MLD, CH, DHP).

Ingbirchworth Res – in August two were present from 15th to 17th. This increased to three on 18th, after which one to three were recorded on virtually every date to 30th. Reports became less frequent in September, with one on 5th, two on 8th and 12th and one again on 17th (NWM, KH, DHa *et al.*).

Scout Dike Res – reports of one or two on many dates between 18th August and 18th September were believed to involve the same birds as those at Ingbirchworth. The last, a single, looked unwell and was thought to have ingested fishing tackle – a rather depressing finale to what had been an encouraging run of occurrences at these two reservoirs (RJB, DT, MLD *et al.*).

Deer Hill Res – a single on 18th August (DT, MLD).

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

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

By recent standards this proved to be a very good year, with birds appearing in all months apart from January and September and evidence of probable breeding coming from two sites.

Elland GP – one flew W along the River Calder on 13th February.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a slight increase in records, to five: one flew S on 3rd March, singles were present on 23rd April and 24th June, one departed S on 28th June and a single was present on 11th August.

Wholestone Moor – one flew W on 16th March.

Broadstone Res – a single present on 28th March.

Deanhead Res – two on 18th April.

Black Moss Res/Swellands Res – this area, known to be favoured, again produced evidence of probable breeding, possibly by more than one pair. After single adults on 24th April and 3rd May, three singing and displaying males were found on 22nd May. Agitated and alarming pairs were then present in June at Black Moss on 3rd and Swellands on 12th. Two birds were still at Black Moss on 10th July.

Deer Hill Res – a single on 22nd May.

Hartcliff Hill – an undated report of one in spring.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles in July on 6th and 24th/25th were followed in August by one on 18th and two on 19th.

Ringstone Edge Res – unfortunately, few reports (of any species) were received from this usually productive wader site this year. The only one regarding this species referred to an agitated and alarming pair on 12th July.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 8th October and 26th December; the latter feeding on filter beds below sprinklers.

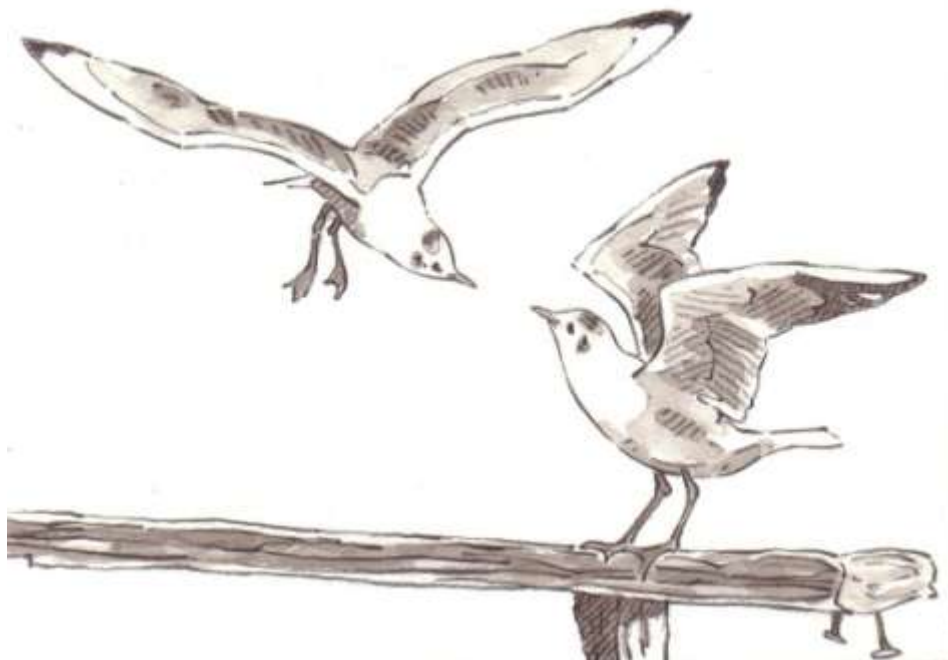
Sands Lane GP – two seen on 23rd and 26th November and 2nd December could well have been present on the intervening dates and beyond.

Horbury – one on 17th December.

Healey Mills NR – a single on the adjacent riverbank on 21st December.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1), 0-5 pairs. Numerous passage and winter visitor.



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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7000	7000	6400	nc	nc	nc	58	650	800	nc	4500	nc

The number of counts from the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area was somewhat depleted in number and the only treble figure counts involved 100 at Royd Moor on 20th January, 800 on farmland to the north of Ingbirchworth on 16th March and up to 185 at Ingbirchworth in late October.

During the evening of 31st January 2000 birds were seen to fly from **Elland GP** in the direction of Blackmoorfoot Res., presumably to roost there. An adult at **Sands Lane GP** on 11th February had been ringed as a nestling at the Cotswold Water Park, Wiltshire on 13th June 2008. On 15th August groups of birds were seen to be feeding on flying ants over Almondbury (30 birds) and Crosland Moor (50).

A number of widely scattered localities held small groups throughout the year, but the only treble figure counts were as follows:

Scammonden Res – up to 3500 roosted during January and up to 1600 in December.

Longwood Valley – 170 on 10th January, 134 on 6th February, 134 on 28th August, 120 on 2nd October and 160 on 15th December.

Broadstones Res – 150 on 18th January.

Honley – 150 on 20th January and 100 on 5th November.

Dewsbury SF – up to 200 during the first three months and up to 250 during the last three months of the year.

Sands Lane GP - up to 200 during the first three months and up to 250 during the last four months of the year.

Butterley Res – 117 on 6th November.

Ringstone Edge Res – 1000 roosting on 6th November.

Bretton Lakes – up to 400 in mid November.

Horbury Wyke – 120 on 27th December.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

There were six records, one of which revealed the origins of this formerly rare visitor.

A colour-ringed first-winter at **Sands Lane GP** on 3rd January (JRS) and again four days later (DT) had been ringed as a nestling on the Elbe estuary at Pionierinsel, Hamburg, Germany on 23rd June 2009. This is the first indication of the origin of birds recorded in the Club area.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a first-winter departed NW at 08.30hrs. on 1st March, a first-winter flew W at 08.25hrs. on 28th March and a second-winter was present on 23rd September (all MLD). An adult was present at **Butterley Res.** on 6th November (JMP).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1000	1000	900	3	2	0	2	14	60	13	1300	nc

During the evening of 31st January 400 birds were seen to fly from **Elland GP** in the direction of Blackmoorfoot Res., presumably to roost there. A colour-ringed second-winter at **Sands Lane GP** on 25th March had been ringed as a first-winter at Prestvannet, Tromso, Norway on 27th September 2009. What was almost certainly the same bird was present on 31st March.

Although records were received from a number of widely scattered localities during the first winter period these rarely exceeded 60, the following being the exceptions:

Honley – 233 on 16th January.

Scammonden Res – up to 700 roosted during January but, although 300 roosted on 21st, none were present on 23rd.

Cheesegate Nab – 315 flew N on 28th February.

The only records during the summer months, with the exception of those enumerated in the table above, concerned two in the **Longwood Valley** on 4th and 12th July, with eight there on 15th August and 12 on 28th August, an adult at **Crosland Moor** on 12th July which, rather unusually, perched on a roof top for several minutes, up to six at **Ringstone Edge Res.** during July and a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th August,

From late September the species became more widespread and small groups of anything up to 40 were regularly encountered, the exceptions being as follows:

Ringstone Edge Res – 100 on 6th November.

Broadstones Res – up to 120 during November.

Scammonden Res – 400 roosted on 9th December and 200 two days later.

A group of 14 at **Butterley Res.** on 6th November was an unusually large number for the site (JMP).

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Rare vagrant.



An adult at **Sands Lane GP** between 23rd February and 31st March (DHP, DT, DS *et al.*) was the fifth record of this North American vagrant in the Club area. What was presumably the same individual returned to **Sands Lane GP** on 10th October (BA) and then on an almost daily basis between 21st November and 26th December (DT, JRS *et al.*).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	8	11	7	18	23	6	18	21	19	8	4

With the exception of those enumerated above, the only other records during the first winter period were as follows:

Skelmanthorpe – a single flew SSW on 15th January.

Scammonden Res – five roosting on 18th January and two roosting on 21st January.

Elland GP – up to four were present on a near daily basis.

Longwood Res – two on 6th February.

Sands Lane GP – up to six during February and March.

Between April and mid November birds became more widely distributed, but numbers rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – see table above.

Fixby – 17 flew NE on 6th June.

Standedge – 80 (flocks of 50 and 30) departed E on 26th June.

Elland/Low Field – 58 flew WNW on 27th June.

Dewsbury SF – 18 flew W on 3rd August and 54 flew W on 17th August.

Ingbirchworth Res – 32 in fields on 22nd August and up to 29 on the reservoir between August and October with 70 on 12th October.

Langsett – 12 flew S on 6th September.

Broadstones Res – 60 on 8th September, 105 on 11th October and 110 on 16th November.

Wholestone Moor – 10 flew W on 24th October.

Royd Moor Res – 15 on 11th October.

Thereafter, all records were in low single figures, the only exceptions being 170 (in 3 groups) which flew W over **Healey Mills** on 3rd December.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	11	8	4	0	0	0	1	1	56	4	39

Although records were received from a further 21 locations, these were mainly flyover birds in low single figures, the only exceptions being:

At **Elland GP** 24 flew SW on 1st January, 14 flew NE over **Marsden** on 25th January, 23 departed W with 34 Great Black-backed Gulls from **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.30hrs. on 27th January, 320 flew E down the **Colne Valley** between 11.30hrs. and 13.00hrs. on 14th February (PB), 30 flew W over **Wholestone Moor** on 24th October, 10 flew SW over **Pule Hill** on 25th October, 13 flew SW over **Marsden** on 15th November and an unprecedented total of 4320 flew ENE down the **Colne**

Valley between 10.00hrs. and 13.00hrs. on 12th December (PB) (see Great Black-backed Gull below).

All records were during the two winter periods with the following exceptions:

Elland GP – a single E on 2nd May.

Black Moss Res – a single on 3rd May.

Grimescar Valley – two on 20th June, 11th July and 1st August.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 10th July.

Longwood Valley – a single on 31st July.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

There were only three records, all in autumn.

An adult was present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th July (MW), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had an adult on 15th August and an adult departed W at 14.45hrs. on 2nd October (both MLD).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

Maximum monthly counts of birds roosting at Blackmoorfoot Res. were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
62	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1

In addition to the above, 34 departed W with 23 Herring Gulls from **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.30hrs. on 27th January.

With the exception of those outlined above, records of this species continued to show a marked downward trend and the following were the only additional records:

Two roosted at **Scammonden Res.** on 18th January, two were at **Sands Lane GP** on 29th March and an unprecedented total of 450 flew ENE down the **Colne Valley** between 10.00hrs. and 13.00hrs. on 12th December (PB) (see Herring Gull above).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce migrant.

There were no spring records this year. The five occurrences were all in autumn, between 7th and 22nd September.

A moulting adult was seen at **Elland GP** on 7th September (DT) and on the same date a first-winter was present at **Sands Lane GP** (JRS). At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** an immature was present on 9th September (DMO), on 22nd September a flock of 46 arrived from the E at 08.00hrs. and departed high to the W some 30 minutes later and a single was present at 09.20hrs. (MLD). Although variable numbers can occur as passage migrants in both spring and autumn, this is the largest autumn flock ever reported in the Club area.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from six localities (9 in 2009). Despite breeding just outside the Club area at Millfield Lagoons, there were few records from the nearby area of Horbury Strands/Wyke, probably on account of the dry conditions. Birds were noted between 31st March and 14th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – unlike the last three years, there were very few records. A single which flew W into a snow storm at 14.10hrs. on 31st March (MLD), however, was the earliest in the Club area by 13 days. There were only three further records: one flew W at 09.55hrs. on 23rd May, three adults departed W at 09.05hrs. on 22nd June and an immature departed NE at 17.35hrs. on 14th September.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – singles on 18th and 30th April, two on 2nd, 6th and 31st May and singles on 7th June and 24th July.

Horbury – birds were present on the River Calder as follows: four on 26th April, two on 6th May and singles on 30th May, 2nd and 15th June and 6th July.

Sands Lane GP – two on 14th June and 28th July.

Bretton Lakes – a single on 17th July.

Ingbirchworth – a single on 22nd August.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Ten distant birds which flew NE over **Whitley Beaumont** on 8th May were considered most likely to be this species as there was a strong overland passage at the time (DS). A juvenile was present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14th August (MLD).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

The only breeding record came from Alfred Street Car Park in **Huddersfield**, where a nest with eggs was located on a ledge on 11th February. At **Blackmoorfoot** a recently cut cereal field to the NE of the reservoir attracted between 40 and 70 birds between 14th and 28th July and c.120 between 29th July and 10th August. The largest flock (150) was recorded at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th July.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

The spread of this species continues with records from 59 sites (as opposed to 37 in 2009 and 27 in 2008) across the whole Club area and throughout the year. The largest flocks in the first part of the year were from **Botany Lane, Lepton** (25 on 29th January) and at **Annat Royd Lane Ingbirchworth** (38 on 6th April).

Although present throughout most of the year at **Blackmoorfoot**, birds were very sporadic in appearance and were totally absent between 19th January and 21st March. Up to eight (generally only 2 or 3) were present on no more than six days per month with the exception of April and early May when two or three (5 on 27th April) were seen on a daily basis. A young bird visited a

New Mill garden with two adults on 7th May but the only breeding record came from **Cooper Bridge SP** where a pair was seen with two fledged young on 4th July.

In the latter part of the year, birds were seen in small numbers (maximum 17 at **Healey Mills** on 20th July) until November when c.220 were seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th and 200 at **Thurgory Lane** on 10th. The observer considered this latter figure to be conservative as they were part of a mixed flock with Feral Pigeon and Woodpigeon.

(COMMON) **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4), 2,000-2,500 pairs. Numerous but irregular winter visitor.

In the first winter period flocks greater than 100 were only recorded from **Stockmoor Common** (c.200 on 30th January) and **Bradley Hall Farm** (300 on 10th February).

Breeding was confirmed at four sites: **Langsett, Cliff Wood Langsett** (2 pairs), **Blackmoorfoot** (4 or 5 pairs) and **Shelley Whins** (1 or 2 pairs).

Large counts during the remainder of the year came from **Whitley Beaumont** (200 on 5th May), at **Blackmoorfoot** c.120 fed in a recently cut cereal field to the NE of the reservoir between 14th and 22nd July and 450 flew S on 6th November, **Horbury Strands** had 250 on 24th July and 100 on 8th August, in the **Grimescar Valley** 200 were present on 29th August, 240 on 25th September, 113 on 16th October, 200 on 11th December and 110 on 31st December, **Dewsbury SF** had 450 on 16th October and 200 were present at **Healey Mills** on 11th December.

Visible migration watches revealed spectacular numbers at **Harden Quarries**: 52 SW on 16th October, 501 SW on 17th October, 43 NE on 23rd October, 5009 SW on 24th October, 4243 SW and 332 NE on 25th October, 11204 SW on 6th November and 21560 SW on 7th November. Other visible migration watches took place at **Pule Hill Marsden** on 30th October where 783 birds were recorded flying in various directions between SW and WNW and at **Scammonden** on 7th November where 3500 were seen flying S or SE between 08.00hrs. and 09.00hrs.

(EURASIAN) **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.



Again most of the records came from gardens with breeding recorded in a conifer at **Crosland Moor**. In a **New Mill** garden a nest was found on 20th March, followed by display in mid April and copulation on 1st May. Breeding was also evident in gardens in **Shelley**, **Skelmanthorpe** and **Thornhill**. This species breeds all year round with observers at **New Mill** and **Shelley** both recording this.

Away from gardens breeding was confirmed at **Langsett** (2 pairs) and five pairs were present at **Horbury Strands** all year.

Numbers greater than 10 were recorded at **Lockwood** (up to 16), **Skelmanthorpe** (15 on October 18th), **Meltham** (13 and 16 on 1st and 23rd November respectively) and **Victoria** (22 on 20th November).

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Rare passage visitor. Former migrant breeder.

With records from four sites all within one kilometre of each other, it must be assumed that they refer to the same individuals. The species was first seen in a garden at **Harden** on 9th May, where two birds remained until mid July and thereafter one was present until 22nd July (MC, NM, DHP, DMP). At **Bare Bones Road** one or possibly two birds were heard from conifers on 15th May

(HQ). One was observed on a roof at **Hade Edge** on 29th May (PM) while on 12th June a single was purring from pine trees at **Winscar Reservoir** (MC, DMP). Despite the presence of the birds throughout the breeding season there was no proof of breeding.

RING NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

With two sightings and a possible third bird calling, these are the first records of this species in the \club area since 2004. On 1st September two were calling noisily at **Scammonden Res.** and flew off NW at 08.55hrs. (DT) and the following day two flew SE over **Shelley Whins** (SRG). On 26th November what was believed to be this species was heard calling from the wooded garden adjacent to **St Aiden's Church, Skelmanthorpe**, but they fell silent before they could be positively identified (DButt).

(COMMON) **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Red listed.

First heard at **Horbury Wyke** on 21st April, the species was then recorded from a further 34 sites, the final being at **Langsett, Little Don Valley** on 30th June. This again represents an increase in sites, furthering the hope that the species is recovering from the crash recorded in 2007 when it was reported from only six locations.

The only positive evidence of breeding came from the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** area where two adults and a juvenile were seen on 30th June (SRG). The **Winscar/Harden/Holme Styes** area had a minimum of seven birds during the breeding season (MC). At **Deer Hill** and **Brow Grains** a single male remained between 11th May and the third week of June and it is possible that there were two territories in this area.

The majority of the remaining records were from upland areas, with the eastern part of the Club area having only four sightings.

The table shows the number of sites where singing has been recorded over the last five years:

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
28	6	18	27	34

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

With four records this was an improvement on 2009 when no live birds were reported.

The first record concerned a single hunting over farmland near **Ossett** on 25th April (JRS). Two records came from the northern part of the Club area where a bird was seen leaving a roost at 21.40hrs. on 6th August and at 21.25hrs. on 16th August (DS). The final record was from the lower reaches of the River Calder where a single was seen hunting along the river bank on 17th December (JRS).

Large amounts of Barn Owl pellets were found near the nest of a Little Owl in SE21.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Recorded from 50 sites located across the whole of the Club area. Reports spanned every month, with some localities holding birds throughout the year.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were seen on the walls to the west of the reservoir between 21st January and 20th December, but there were only four occurrences between 1st June and 2nd August. A single in the NE corner of the reservoir on 25th June was unusual. The absence of birds at the two extremes of the year can be attributed to the inclement weather conditions at the time.

Confirmed breeding took place at four sites: in the **Dob Dyke** area at least one young was raised but one of the adults was killed by a car on 11th April, at **Helme**, in SE21 where a nest with three eggs was found in a barn on 8th May and at a new site at **Shepley**.

Probable breeding took place at 12 further sites (at least 15 pairs). In **Skelmanthorpe** a bird returned to a former traditional territory that had remained unoccupied for a number of years.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded from 38 sites across the whole of the Club area with records during every month of the year.

An emaciated bird was found dead near Morrison's at **Waterloo** on 16th January.

Breeding was confirmed from six sites: **Almondbury**, **Cliff Wood**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Healey Mills** (2 young), **Langsett Res.** (4 pairs) and **Meltham**. Six pairs probably bred at a further five sites.

On 20th March in the **Grimescar Valley** two dead chicks (1 newly hatched which retained an egg tooth and the other about 7 days old) were found dead under an old Carrion Crow nest. Given 28-30 days for incubation (which starts with the first egg) the oldest must have emerged from an egg laid about 13th February. This occurred during one of the coldest winters for many years, the temperature at the time was sub-zero and several inches of snow covered the ground. The question is why had the birds started laying so early? (DM, specimens identified by MLD).

At **Healey Mills** a single juvenile was seen on 29th May and two on 2nd June, but one was found eaten apart from the wings on 1st June and one of the adults was found dead in mid June.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

An excellent year with a minimum of nine sites with territory holding birds, with probable breeding at eight of these. A minimum of 13 young were recorded which was considered to be an under estimate. One pair is thought to have nested on the ground. Another observer reported that on 7th May there were four pairs at four of these sites, one with five young about 12 days old, another with four young about 10 days old.

Records were received from three other sites: a single in the **Longwood Valley** on 31st July (DM), one at **Cook's Study Hill** on 9th September (JenH) and a single at **Blackmoorfoot** seen sitting in a bush along the catchment near the inflow on 5th December (SWJ). This was the fifth record for the reservoir and the first since August 1999.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 0-13 pairs. Scarce passage and winter visitor.

An increase in the number of sightings this year with records from 20 sites spread across every month except February and March. All were in upland areas mainly to the west of the area with a bird in the **Ingbirchworth** area on 31st May being the most easterly record.

Breeding was confirmed at four locations with young recorded at three of these (7 and 6 young on 27th May). Breeding was considered likely at a further two sites.

(COMMON) **SWIFT** *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20th April was the first record of the year. Thereafter birds were seen almost daily until the last (a single) on 2nd September. As has become the norm, numbers present were generally low, usually less than 20, the only exceptions being 50+ on 19th June. In the **Healey Mills/Dewsbury SF** area this species was recorded between 1st May and 28th August with 120 flying NW on 26th May, 220 E in two hours on 1st June and 160 E on 17th July. These numbers contrast with **Ingbirchworth Res.** which, although well watched with records between 23rd April and 18th August, the maximum seen was 60 on 31st May. At **New Mill** c.30 were seen hawking insects low over a newly cut field on 24th and 26th July.

In **Marsden** two or three birds returned on 20th May, the numbers remaining low (6 to 8) but increased in July, leading the observer to conclude that successful breeding took place. A pair was confirmed breeding at a site in **Thornhill Edge** estate and at least four pairs bred in **St Luke's Hospital, Crosland Moor**.

The final record of the year concerned a single at **Shelley** on 30th September.

(COMMON) **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.

Although reported from a similar number of sites (25) as last year, and in every month of the year, breeding was only confirmed at four of these (7 in 2009): in the lower part of the Calder Valley at **Healey Mills, Horbury Strands, Horbury Wyke** and **Ravensthorpe GP** where a pair bred in a stone wall.

Despite regular sightings at **Bretton Lakes** and **Dewsbury SF** no evidence of successful breeding was forthcoming, but it was suspected along **Fenay Beck** in the Kirkburton area and a bird was seen visiting a prospective nest site on 8th April at **Elland GP**.

The downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued, reflecting the decline noted elsewhere. In the first half of the year singles were recorded very sporadically; on only one day in

January, three in February and one in May. Between 27th July and 28th November singles were present on 54 days (with 2 on 10th August and 6th November). This figure was inflated, however, by a single which took up residence between 14th October and 28th November (46 days).

(EUROPEAN) **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Although widely reported from 33 sites and during every month of the year, breeding was confirmed at only three of these. A juvenile was seen with an adult at **Butterley Reservoir** on 10th July, breeding was confirmed at Hollin Wood, **Langsett** and at **Marsden**.

Breeding probably took place at **Bretton Park**, **Healey House** (where a pair were seen in the proximity of a newly excavated nest hole), **Millbank/Thornhill**, **Shelley** and **Whitley Beaumont**.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Widely reported from over 70 sites and during each month of the year.

Sightings at **Blackmoorfoot** were very sporadic. Birds were absent until April (a single on 13 days from 2nd) and none were seen in May. Records became more frequent between 11th June and 17th December and included a number of log-staying individuals: singles remained between 11th June and 9th July, 1st and 12th August (with 2 on 1st) and 16th August and 8th September.

Breeding was confirmed at 11 locations: **Bretton Park** (4 pairs, each with 4 juveniles), **Chew Valley**, **Digley Bottom**, **Golcar**, **Healey Mills**, **Ingbirchworth** (where parents were seen encouraging a young bird to leave the nest on 4th June), **Langsett** (2 pairs, one raising 4 young), **Lockwood**, **Meltham Mills**, **Sands Lane** and **Whitley**.

Probable breeding was reported from five other sites and drumming was heard at a further 15. Juveniles were seen in gardens at **Almondbury**, **Meal Hill** (2 broods), **Meltham**, **New Mill** (where a dead adult was found on 12th June but a juvenile was seen on 19th June and 14th August) and **Shelley**.

A single drumming at **Meal Hill** during freezing conditions in December was rather unusual.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs. Red listed.

There was no confirmed breeding this year and only 11 records were submitted from eight sites, nine of which were between 8th March and 11th May.

The first record of the year was at **Shelley** on 14th January where a single was seen in flight low over the observers house (SRG). Three records came from **Bretton Park** where on 8th March a male was heard drumming and a female was heard calling before flying NE over the Lower Lake (DT), drumming was also heard there on 18th March (DT) and a bird was photographed on 8th November (WF). Singles were seen at **Blacker Wood**, **Skelmanthorpe** on 11th March (DButt),

Denby Dale on 30th March (DButt), **West Wood, Honley** on 2nd April (SC), **Little Don Valley, Langsett** on 27th April (MWells) and **Margery Wood** on 9th May (JH).

The only records from **Healey House**, a former breeding locality, concerned a male and female on 25th April (DMP) and a female on 11th May (MW).

(COMMON) **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (4), 500-2,500 pairs. Red listed.

This species was widely reported and with records for every month except December. Only four records were received between 4th June and 31st August.

In the first winter period the majority of records were from lower elevation sites to the north and east of the Club area with a maximum of 70 at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th January. At **Wood Nook** the numbers were impossible to count in an abandoned barley crop on 27th January but 60 were there on 6th March.

The first returning bird at **Broadstones** was on 23rd January and the species was recorded here until 11th October. A singing male was heard at **Ingbirchworth** on 1st February but the main influx did not begin until March at **Blackmoorfoot** where three males were singing in the fields to the east between 1st and 3rd.

Breeding was confirmed at **Whitley Beaumont** where a pair was present from 6th April to 24th June with young being fed on 17th and 24th June (JRS). A nest was found at **Wholestone Moor** (DT). Singing was heard at 14 sites (at least 27 birds) between 1st February (**Ingbirchworth**) and early August (**Blackmoorfoot**).

Unusually, the species vacated the **Blackmoorfoot** area between early August and mid September, but six then put in an appearance and remained to the month end. Westerly or south-westerly migration was noted on a number of days between 2nd October and 16th November and involved a maximum of eight SW on 2nd October, 16 W on 19th October and 11 W on 16th November. This latter being the final record for the year in the Club area.

Visible migration counts at **Harden Quarries** revealed the following movements:

4 SW on 16th October.

15 SW on 17th October.

55 SW and 3 NE on 24th October.

18 SW on 6th November.

2 SW and 14 NE on 7th November.

The only other sites with more than 10 birds recorded in the latter part of the year were **Scout Dyke** where 18 flew S on 18th September; **Healey Mills** which had 13 on 21st September, and **Thurgory Lane** where 200 were flushed from a stubble field on 10th November.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder, increased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Uncommon passage visitor.

The first record was of a single flying NW at **Sands Lane GP** on 17th March. On 21st March six flew NW at **Blackmoorfoot** and at **Healey Mills** 74 were recorded moving in the same direction on the same day between 13.30hrs. and 16.00hrs. 200 had assembled on River Calder between **Horbury SF** and **Horbury Bridge** on 4th April (D&BB).

In addition to those mentioned above, **Blackmoorfoot** had up to 11 (generally less than 4) on nine dates in April and between 2nd May and 19th July up to four were present on 13 dates, the only exception being 18+ on 9th July. The only records thereafter involved singles on 3rd, 10th and 15th August and 12 S on 2nd September.

Breeding was confirmed at four locations: **Brighthouse Anchor Pit Lock** (2 active nest holes), **Healey Mills, Horbury Strands** (17 active nest holes at two sites with at least 50 juveniles present on 24th June) and 30 pairs at **Ravensthorpe Power Station**.

120 were seen at **Horbury Bridge** on 6th July, the largest total in the second half of the year. A visible migration watch at **Harden Quarries** on 12th September revealed five birds flying SW, this being the penultimate record for the year, the final being one at **Elland GP** on 24th September.

(BARN) **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4), 500-600 pairs. Numerous passage visitor.



The first record concerned two at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th March. Reports became widespread by early April and numbers then built up and reached a maximum of 200 at **Meltham SF** (30th April), **Dewsbury SF** (6th May) and **Horbury SF** the following day. The location of these large

numbers reflects the importance of Sewage Treatment Works as feeding sites for this and many other species.

Breeding was only confirmed at six sites: **Cooper Bridge Sludge Plant** (nest building on 28th April and 4 recently fledged young on 6th August), **Blackmoorfoot** (2 pairs in a barn), two separate sites in **Honley** (one with two pairs), **Ingbirchworth** and **Oldfield** (several pairs). Birds were present at four other traditional sites throughout the breeding season.

As in recent years, numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** were unusually low, rarely exceeding 30 (usually less than 20), the only exceptions being 50+ on 9th and 16th July, 40+ on 18th July and 26th/27th August, 60+ on 30th August and 40 S on 30th September. The only October occurrences involved six on 1st and 11 on 2nd.

As can be expected, numbers built up in autumn with 80 at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th August and 110 there on 8th September. Other totals exceeding 100 in September included 100 flying over a house in **Shelley** on 1st, 100 flying S at **Langsett** in 30 minutes on 6th, 100 at **Ingbirchworth** on 17th and 120 at **Elland GP** on 19th with 100 the following day.

Migration watches recorded 491 flying SW at **Harden Quarries** on 12th September, 26 flying S at **Deanhead Reservoir** on 30th September, and 27 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** flying SSW on 4th October. The single at **Harden Quarries** on 17th October was the final record for the year.

(COMMON) **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs. Common passage visitor.

The first record involved a single at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 5th April. There were then single figure sightings from 20 widely scattered sites but it was not until late April that double figure counts occurred, the largest of these included 30 at **Horbury SF** on 26th April. The largest numbers thereafter concerned 100 at **Brighouse** and **Elland GP** on 25th and 28th May respectively.

At **Blackmoorfoot** numbers throughout the summer months, as has now become the norm, were unusually low and never exceeded six, except for the following: 15 on 29th May and, in August 65+ on 3rd, 13 on 7th, 40+ S on 11th, 11 on 17th, 20 on 18th and 20+ on 30th. The number of days of occupancy also reduced with birds only present on 10 days in both May and June, 14 in July, 20 in August and seven in September.

Breeding took place at eight locations: **Bradley Hall Farm** (2 juveniles raised), **Crosland Moor** (6 pairs), **Dalton** (5 nests at the traditional site at Black Horse Public House), **Thornhill Edge** (20 pairs at the traditional site), and several pairs at traditional sites at **Shelley Park Estate**, **Shelley Roydhouse** and **Shelley Woodhouse**. A pair which bred against a boarded up farmhouse window at **Oldfield** is thought to be the first ever breeding record for that area.

In August numbers in excess of 100 were recorded from **Dewsbury SF** (140 on 17th and 300 on 24th) and **Ingbirchworth Res.** (300 also on 24th).

During September 100 were recorded flying S at **Langsett** in 30 minutes on 6th, 71 flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 12th. The 80 recorded at **Horbury Strands** on 28th September was the largest number seen at that location during the month. A single seen at **Honley** on 30th September was the final record of the year.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Goodbent Lodge welcomed this year's first arrival, a single on 17th April (DH). This was followed two days later by one at **Ingbirchworth**, then by a singing male at **Swinden** and two at **Langsett** on several occasions after 24th. There were no further sightings until 12th May, when two were recorded at **Carlecotes Ponds**, although singing was not reported until eight days later they were visiting a nest at the month end. Meanwhile a single bird appeared at the regular **Elysium** site on 15th May, with another fortnight elapsing before a second sighting at **Ingbirchworth**, on Fox Hill.

No records came in for July and the sole August sighting was of a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th. There were two September records, a single flew over **Sands Lane** on 20th and a rather late individual was at **Carlecotes** on 30th (DHP).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

Although several counts at **Horbury** and **Dewsbury SF** in January and February exceeded 100, which is well above the highest figure (40) for any site in the equivalent period in 2009, no other birds were recorded in the first two months except for two in the **Longwood Valley** on 28th. Ones and twos then began to appear at a wide range of sites across the area, with up to 20 passing through at **Blackmoorfoot** on a daily basis, and by late March several counts elsewhere were in double figures, with 45 reported from **Digley** on 4th April. Just two reports of confirmed breeding, both from **Ingbirchworth** on 24th May and 10th August, are clearly not any reflection of the current status of this species!

Passage counts in September included 100 at **Buckstones** on 3rd, 300 at **Langsett** on 6th and the remarkable tally of 634 heading SW at **Harden Quarries** on 12th, followed by a series of further counts decreasing from 132 on 26th September to 17 on 7th November. Among other substantial groups were 107 flying SE over **Dewsbury SF** on 15th September, 115 over **Deanhead Res.** on 30th and a total of 350 from seven migration watches at **Pule Hill, Marsden** between the end of September and 25th October. Also in October 50 were at **Wholestone Moor** on 12th and **Dewsbury SF** on 29th. Numbers at the latter site reached 250 in early December, with two local Sparrowhawks taking full advantage of the copious food supply, picking off the weak individuals at will. Meanwhile, two juvenile Sparrowhawks were enjoying a similar bonanza at **Horbury SF**, where 100 were present during the same period. Indeed, by late November, except for eight seen in fields on **Cheesgate Nab** on 20th, no birds were recorded at any other sites in the area until 27th December, when two were found at **Meltham SF**.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

As in 2009, there were two records, singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 8th April, seen at rest on a dry stone wall in company with about ten Meadow Pipits (DButt), and **Deer Hill Res.** from 10th to 12th October, where it was seen by several observers (DMP, DHP, DT *et al.*).

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Rare passage visitor.

One was at **Dewsbury SF** on 21st February, with Meadow Pipits (JRS). The observer commented that it called when flushed, flying off for some distance. On 17th December the same observer also recorded a single grey upright pipit with a pale whitish supercilium, which may also have been this race.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Former migrant breeder.

It is indeed a pleasure to report a substantial increase in sightings relative to last year, when a small upturn was already a cause for cautious optimism. The first arrivals were two at **Horbury** on 20th and 22nd April (DT, JRS), which was one of several sites where no birds were recorded in 2009. A series of spring records included one or two birds at **Millbank/Thornhill**, **Blackmoorfoot** (a male of the British race *flavissima* in the large field to the west of the reservoir on 28th April), **Dewsbury SF**, **Oxspring**, and lastly **Harden** on 21st June.

Six weeks later, up to seven juveniles were counted at **Scout Dike Res.** between 6th and 8th August, with four present on 21st, and nine on 4th September. Other sightings came from **Tunnel End**, **Marsden**, on 21st August, **Dewsbury SF** between 24th August and 1st September, and **Langsett** on 6th September. On 4th September, one flew S over **Harden** with a Grey Wagtail and ten Pied Wagtails, and another flew S on 12th with Wheatear, Swallows and Pied Wagtails. The final sighting featured two birds which overflew the observer's house in **Shelley** on 16th September, these being his first record for the site (SRG).

Grey-headed wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

A male was photographed on the shore of **Deer Hill Res.** on 10th May (DHP). This is the second record of this race in the Club area, the first being at **Elland GP** in June 1990.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

A very well observed species, as is shown by no fewer than 185 records from many contributors, present at over fifty sites across the Club area. The vast majority of records referred to ones and twos, with four present in the **Little Don Valley** at Langsett on New Year's Day (six were here on 11th May). Five were at **Dewsbury SF** on 12th January and near **Holme Styres Res.** on 2nd September. Venues with four, usually comprising two adults with two juveniles, included **Bradley Hall Farm** on 25th May, **Lowfields**, **Elland** on 31st May, **Ravensthorpe GP** on 2nd June, **Chew Valley** on 5th June, **Colnebridge SP** on 10th June, **Longwood Valley** on 19th June, **Brighouse** on 30th June, **Ringstone Edge** on 7th July, **Scout Dike** on 15th August, **Ingbirchworth** on 18th August and **Sands Lane GP** on 10th September. Breeding was confirmed at eight sites, with several further reports of adults nest-building, or carrying food, and of the presence of juveniles. The **Marsden** area held twelve pairs, two of which were known to have bred. Elsewhere, one of the successful breeding pairs raised young in a hole in the riverside wall upstream from the Coop car park in **Holmfirth** town centre, while another pair nested under a bridge spanning the overflow linking **Harden Res.** to **Winscar Res.** Garden records included a single in **Lockwood** on 13th October, and another at **Wellhouse**, in snow under feeders on 30th

November, while also in November another bird was perched on wires by the main Sheffield Road near **Hepworth** in the company of two Pied Wagtails.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

245 records from many observers throughout the year across the whole area reflect the currently very secure status of this species, although breeding was formally confirmed at only seven venues. The largest flock was 250 at **Horbury** on both 6th January and 25th February, with counts in three figures at this venue on several other dates in the first winter period. At the end of the year the only count in excess of 100 was 180 at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th December. In contrast to these huge gatherings, various individuals were reported from gardens and rooftops, with a number of contributors commenting on the arrival of birds in their gardens during the two spells of extremely cold weather at the start and end of 2010. Away from sewage farms, which were the source of the majority of records, ten were found in a field with Skylarks and Meadow Pipits on **Whitley Common** in March, while pairs bred at **Emley Moor** transmitter and in ivy on a pub in **Rastrick**. One autumn count yielded 38 birds at **Marsden** cricket club on 22nd September, while a visual migration watch also in **Marsden** counted 31 on passage on seven dates between 30th September and 25th October: this was judged to be a disappointing figure.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Seven records all referred to spring sightings of single birds, in two instances associating with other wagtails. A male was seen in **Shepley** on 26th March (SRG), followed a few weeks later by birds at Penistone, on **Hartcliff Hill** on 17th April (RJB), at **Horbury SF** with Yellow Wagtails on 22nd April (JRS), on **Cheesegate Nab** with three Pied Wagtails on 23rd April (GLB), at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th April (JH) and a single May record on 7th at **Horbury** (DT).



Whooper Swans, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 26th March 2010



Gadwall, Horbury 12th January 2010



Smew, Horbury 7th January 2010



Little Grebe, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 28th October 2010



Great Crested Grebes, Ingbirchworth Reservoir 23 April 2010



Great White Egret, Bretton 20th February 2010



Common Buzzard, Bretton 5th March 2010



Avocet, Sands Lane 6th September 2010



Ruff, Ingbirchworth Reservoir 17th August 2010



Curlew, Black Moss 3rd June 2010



Redshank, Deer Hill 22nd May 2010



Little Owl, Oldfield 31st January 2010



Rock Pipit, Deer Hill 10th October 2010



Waxwing, Marsh 15th November 2010



Black Redstart, Langsett 7th October 2010



Northern Wheatear, Winscar 9th May 2010



Sedge Warbler, Horbury 26th April 2010



Spotted Flycatcher, Langsett 9th September 2010



Starling, Thurgory 10th November 2010



Yellowhammer, Horbury 12th April 2010

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*
Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.



Although the only first winter record was of a solitary two-day visitor to **Lindley** in the first week of February (DB, JMN), the later stages of 2010 brought us a truly impressive influx of these spectacular birds, even if they proved to be the heralds of a remorselessly bitter cold spell in December. Ten in the **Harden** observer's garden on 24th October (MC) were the vanguard of the

subsequent invasion, which began in earnest on 13th November with 75 birds in **Paddock** (JKP), with a flurry of sightings in the next days, culminating in an estimated 150 early on 21st, putting on a thrilling display for the local RSPB members about to board a coach in **Springwood** car park for a day's birding on the East coast! From then on groups of varying sizes were reported on an almost daily basis, from numerous venues in and around Huddersfield. In most cases flocks rarely exceeded thirty birds, although 100 were seen in **Rastrick** on 3rd December, 70 visited a **Lockwood** garden on 7th, 42 were feeding on berried bushes outside **Dewsbury** courthouse on 13th, 40 were counted in the course of the next few days in **Marsh**, **Newsome**, **Fixby**, and **Birkby** and groups of up to 30 remained in and around **Huddersfield** town centre until the last day of the year. Most records featured birds in urban settings, occasionally in gardens, although one observer (RJB) watched a party of about 20 flying over an area of clearfell at **Langsett** on 27th November, possibly heading for their roost site.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*
Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Over 70 records were submitted, covering 35 venues over the course of the year. In the vast majority of cases observers mentioned single birds, or occasionally two, although four were counted on the river between **Holmbridge** and **Holmfirth** on 27th March and a count of four on 30th May at Blake Lee in **Marsden** referred to a pair with two young in the nest. Four pairs were recorded in the **Little Don Valley**, one of the few sites along with **Oxspring** and **Thunderbridge** where breeding was formally confirmed. Evidence of probable breeding, in the form of pairs holding territory at regular sites, came from **Denby Dale** and **Dovestones** and birds were thought to have bred on **Fenay Beck**. Two males were watched singing and posturing on the River Calder at **Brighouse** on 2nd May and birds were present at another regular site in **Honley**, although there was no evidence of successful breeding. Other venues where birds were regularly seen include **Digley**, along the **River Colne** and **Meltham Mills**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were seen by the inflow on 11th and 19th May, 11th August and 4th October.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Almost sixty sites for this species is double last year's tally. Evidence of breeding was forthcoming from several locations, including the **Little Don Valley** at **Langsett**, **Cooper Bridge SP**, resident pairs at **Emley Moor** transmitter and **Clayton West**, eight juveniles with eight adults in the **Grimescar Valley**, juveniles being fed on the wing at **Healey Mills**, three young at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, two males holding territory in **Cliff Wood**, **Langsett**, up to six juveniles in the **Longwood Valley**, three resident pairs at **Shelley Whins**, four pairs at **Blackmoorfoot** and an adult carrying food at **West Bretton**. A total of 18 were in the **Longwood Valley** on 18th April, ten were counted on 13th May in a two hour visit to **Bretton Park**, fifteen were present at **Horbury** on 6th July and 13 were seen at **Horbury Stands** on 8th August. In **Marsden** the observer noticed that the freezing conditions in January had reduced numbers to zero in the **Wessenden Valley** by 14th February, yet on 5th April five males were singing and numbers were back to normal by mid-month. Ironically hard weather seemed to increase numbers in some gardens while apparently wiping out garden regulars elsewhere and December's freezing weather drove 22 to roost in a nest box at **Healey Mills**.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As with Wren, site records were well up on 2009, back to around the forty mark, with breeding confirmed at six locations: **Cooper Bridge SP**, **Broadstones Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Horbury SF**, **Longwood Res.** and **New Mill**. Several people commented that this species seems to have emerged relatively well from the two recent very cold spells. The highest counts were of nine during a two-hour count for the BTO Atlas in the **Skelmanthorpe/Clayton West** area on 9th May and 11 in the **Longwood Valley** on 12th June. Our diligent garden Dunnock recorder in **Almondbury** has once again kept a close eye on this species' fortunes, with a constant presence of one or two birds, reaching a peak of four in early September. Other garden counts came from **Choppards**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Hepworth** (peaking at six), **Lockwood**, **Marsh**, and **Skelmanthorpe**.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Another well-watched garden resident, this species has been carefully monitored by a number of observers and, although very few have formally confirmed breeding, there were several mentions of juveniles. Nine adults were present in the **Upper Dearne Valley** woodlands on 4th March, ten were seen in the **Longwood Valley** during April/May, a two-hour count for the BTO Atlas in the **Skelmanthorpe/Clayton West** area on 9th May yielded 12 individuals, 12 were present at **Ingbirchworth** on 5th October and up to eight were found at **Bretton Park** throughout the year. At **Cooper Bridge SP** four pairs were present, while frequent counts in the **Grimescar Valley** peaked at ten on 28th November. Several observers commented on the birds' response to the freezing conditions in the two winter periods, with one at **Harden** describing how a bird clung to the house wall to drink from melting icicles, while four at **Meal Hill** competed with Blackbirds for every scrap. Happily, the **Marsden** birds seemed to cope well in the January cold spell.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

The area had several very welcome visitors after a complete absence of this species in 2009 and only one in 2008. The first, either a female or a first-summer male, was found on the track between **Digley Res.** and **Issues Road** on 4th April (PAB). Six days later a female was found on **Deer Hill End Road** near the Will's O' Nat's (TD, CH).

Happily, the autumn arrivals stayed long enough to be seen by numerous observers. Three birds, including one male, were first found by Sheffield birders in the vicinity of farm buildings off the Swinden track at **Langsett** on 8th September and remained in the area for a month, the last sighting being on 7th October. Just six days later, at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, a single was present (SC, WDH, HQ), which eventually gave good enough views to be recorded as an immature male (DHP). This bird was present from 13th to 18th October.

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Reported from fewer venues than last year and, with again no evidence of breeding, this beautiful bird seems to be gradually disappearing from this area.

The first arrival was a singing male at **Holme Styes**, one of the regular sites, on 12th April (PAB), where it was still present five days later. On 18th April another male was singing in the **Little Don Valley** at **Langsett** and by 27th April another observer reported five males on territory here. On 28th April a male was singing at **Ramsden Res.**, followed by another at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 1st May and then another in a small beech wood near **Meltham** between 11th and 21st May, where it sang daily from first light but never attracted a mate. A singing male was at a ruined farm at **Oxlee** on 31st May. The **Chew Valley** hosted a singing male which was first heard on 5th June, while another record came from **Ramsden Res.** on 12th. Meanwhile, at **Langsett**, a probable pair were watched on 6th June. A male and female appeared at **Winscar** on 24th July and a single was at **Ingbirchworth** on 12th and 25th August. Three September records featured single males at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd, a final sighting at **Langsett** on 12th and on 18th at **Elland GP**

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.

After an undated report of a bird in April in the **Little Don Valley** (MW), the next migrants arrived on 1st May, with four males at **Pule Hill**, **Marsden**, and two others in the **Wessenden Valley**. The same observer found a male and female at **Deer Hill** the following day, and this pair were probably the parents of a family party seen here in early June. Different females at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th and 12th May were followed by singles at **Meltham/Brow Grains** on 16th, **Buckstones** on 22nd, **Crowden** on 3rd June, and three on **Wholestone Moor** the following day. Meanwhile, **Marsden's** first returning birds had arrived on 13th May, and the observer reported four males on territory in the **Wessenden/Blakeley** area, a male being seen carrying food on 17th June.

Autumn records featured a single at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6th, 7th and 21st August, while two were seen at **Wessenden Res.** on 18th August. One was with a Stonechat and a Redstart at **Windleden** on 21st August and another was with four Wheatears at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th August. Venues which hosted one or two birds included **Wessenden Lodge**, **Broadstones Res.**, **Langsett**, **Winscar**, and **Dewsbury SF**. A single at **Broadstones** on 18th September was the year's last sighting.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus* Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Sadly, this is one of several species to have been badly hit by the two freezing spells at the start and end of 2010, which is reflected in the sharp fall in the number of sites where it was found relative to previous years, with just 18 compared with 32 in 2009.

A **Broadstones** observer commented in early March that it looked as if the male and female seen previously by several local birders had been victims of the harsh weather and indeed the only sighting here was of a female on 10th September. There were no records from **Blackmoorfoot**, an area that has been well favoured in the past, both for wintering and breeding.

Not surprisingly, evidence of breeding emerged from only one site, in the **Wessenden Valley**, where a male was seen with four juveniles on 22nd August, although there were a few records of a male, female and first-winter bird together, as at **Buckstones** on 25th September and **Deanhead Res.** on 16th October.

Elsewhere, male and female birds were seen at **Hullock Bank** on 26th June and there were three records from **Deer Hill**, in mid-May, 10th October and 26th November. Four reports from **Harden** in June and November included two of single juveniles and five records from **Winscar** between April and November included two juveniles in late July together with passage Wheatears, a first-winter with Whinchats on 11th September and two or three birds on 15th November. Records of singles came from **Booth Wood Res.**, **Haigh Clough**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Isle of Skye**, **Langsett**, **Pule Hill** and **Windleden**. It will be very interesting to see how these attractive birds fare in 2011.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

Records were submitted from about fifty venues, with two females at **Cupwith Res.** on 23rd March being the first (DT), quickly followed the next day by five (2 males and 3 females) in fields at **Blackmoorfoot** and one at **Holme Moss**; these first arrivals were six days later than those in 2009. Five, of which three were males, were seen at **Maythorn Slack** on 28th March, and two of each gender were on **Wholestone Moor** the following day. The influx continued, with almost daily reports submitted throughout April and most of May from a wide range of sites, the highest totals in April being nine in the **Bilberry** area, ten at **Blackmoorfoot** on a number of days, fifteen in fields along **Brown's Edge Lane**, eight on **Whitley Common**, ten from the Greenfield Road above **Digley**, eleven at **Harden**, nine at **Ingbirchworth**, ten at **Deer Hill** and no fewer than thirty between **Deanhead Clough** and **Deanhead Res.**, all being traditional places to see good numbers of this species in spring. The highest May counts were eight at **Winscar**, where some of the group were described as large and striking, and seven at **Blackmoorfoot**. The **Pule Hill** observer was disappointed to find just one here in late May when there would normally have been at least six.

The only firm evidence of breeding came from **Langsett**, where two pairs were on breeding territories by late April, and one of these raised three young near **Upper Hordron**. A recently fledged juvenile was found dead on the road at **Pule Hill** on 10th July and a juvenile was seen at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th July. From early August until late September the autumn passage brought small groups or individuals to the area almost daily, with the last stragglers (up to 3) at **Blackmoorfoot** and the **Isle of Skye** between 2nd and 14th October.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce spring passage visitor.

The first, unusually early, sighting involved a male in the **Digley/Bilberry** area on 9th April, which was seen alongside nine Wheatears (P&BB). A single at **Ingbirchworth** on 1st May (NM) was the only other definite record, although one at **Deer Hill** on 17th May was thought to have some of the features of this race, looking large, with a pronounced apricot breast fading only on the lower belly (DMP).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Two at **Digley** on 4th April (S&HC) was the first record. These were then followed by a flurry of reports from the well-known field on **Cheesegate Nab**, where up to five were present between 9th and 24th April. Also in April was a single male at **Bartin** on 13th, one at **Wessenden Lodge** on 17th, five (2 males and 3 females) near the **Greenfield Road** on 21st and 23rd, five at **Hartcliff Hill** on 24th, four (2 males and 2 females) on **Meltham Cop, Blackmoorfoot** on 24th with a single male the following day, a single male at **Winscar** on 24th (which seems to have been present until 11th May) and four males were on breeding territory at **Langsett** by 27th. The only May records concerned a female at **Greenfield Road** on 1st and a female on **Wholestone Moor** on 5th. In June a female was found in the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 25th and a singing male was twice seen on scree at **Crowden**, where Manchester birders reported up to 20 in small trees in late August. None were reported in September and the year's final visitors were a single at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 10th October (DHP) and ten days later, on the track up **Cheesegate Nab**, a single female and possibly a second bird, glimpsed as it disappeared in dense vegetation (HQ).

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As in recent years, many reports were received, including detailed garden and local patch records for the whole year, some of which reflected a substantial local presence of this species, with counts in the high teens at varying times, mostly in the earlier and later months. Breeding was confirmed by nine observers.

A total of 26 were present in **Bretton Park** on 4th January. Garden counts of 17 in **Almondbury** in January are perhaps a reflection of the importance of gardens for birds in general in severe weather, although similar numbers were still present in early March, before dropping to a peak of four by the month's end.

The **Almondbury** garden mentioned above only had a single adult between September and late October, but ten put in an appearance on 12th December. No other garden records showed such a range of numbers, even if there was a general tendency for counts to follow a similar seasonal pattern.

The largest gatherings were observed in the second winter period, the most notable being an estimate of 100 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 14th November. A total of 33 were counted at various sites in the vicinity of **Skelmanthorpe** on 28th November, while a December count from **Shelley Whins** estimated up to 20 in the area and approximately 40 were present at **Millbank, Thornhill** on 23rd December.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

Few flocks of more than 100 were recorded in the first winter period and overall figures suggest that more birds were present in the Club area from October onwards. The last spring sightings were all on **Cheesegate Nab**, where one or two lingered until 26th April (GLB), and the first autumn arrivals appeared on 6th October, at **Millbank, Thornhill**, in a 120-strong flock (JRS).

Hard weather in January drove birds into gardens, where groups of varying sizes fed on apples and berries. Seven were in beet fields at **Lower Cumberworth**, eight in an abandoned barley crop at **Wood Nook** and 15 ground feeders in **Denby Dale** allowed a very close approach. Easily the biggest assemblage in the first winter period was a flock of approximately 500 in **Dewsbury** town centre on 4th January; other noteworthy counts included 250 at **Ingbirchworth** on 15th February, where 200 were seen on 6th April and 150 heading north on 16th March over **Broadstones Res.**, where 100 were also recorded on 9th April. Several other substantial flocks were in the area until mid-April, when a sudden sharp drop in numbers left just a few stragglers.

October counts at **Blackmoorfoot** included 130+ in a single flock on 20th, 32 on 22nd and 380 on 24th, all heading west, and then 47 and 62 on 29th and 30th respectively, both flocks flying south. Flocks of up to 50 in number were observed in numerous places across the area throughout October, with increasingly frequent passages and arrivals of particularly large groups from 20th onwards. 180 at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** and 500 in two parties passing over the reserve at **Healey Mills NR** on 20th were followed by several big flocks on 24th, when 190 flew west over **Deer Hill**, 145 passed over **Grimescar Valley**, 100 were seen at **Shelley** and the truly remarkable count of 1706 birds visited the **Harden** quarries (JL). Further big movements continued on 25th, including 450 heading south or south-west over **Pule Hill**, **Marsden**, 200 at **Maythorn** and 70/80 over **Scammonden** and **Wholestone Moor**. 300 were feeding in fields at **Oxlee** on 28th, 100 were at **Scholes** on 29th, 300 at **Hade Edge** and at least 100 at **Ingbirchworth** on 30th.

Notable flocks in November included several counts of up to 200 at **Blackmoorfoot**, 120 at **Healey Mills NR** on 1st, 400 over **Scammonden** on 7th, at least 150 at **Sparth Res.**, **Marsden** on 15th, 200 with a few Redwings on **Cheesegate Nab** on 20th, as well as smaller gatherings elsewhere. Most of the December records referred to fewer birds, except for 300 and 350 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 20th and 22nd respectively, 170 at **Healey Mills NR**, 100 in allotments at **Cowcliffe** and an impressive garden record of 120 feasting on windfall apples in **Almondbury** on 28th. Indeed, several other observers mentioned birds feeding on apples in orchards and gardens during the hard weather. The year closed with one final three-figure count (150) at **Blackmoorfoot**.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Records came in from about fifty sites, which is a marked increase on 2009. Breeding was confirmed in eight instances and described as probable in another two. In the **Marsden** area males sang at 25 sites, representing at least 15 territories, which was five fewer than in 2009, while between six and ten pairs were counted in **Bretton Park**. Three pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot** and several pairs were present in **Kirkburton** and **Stockmoor**.

Males were singing in **Fixby** and **Bradley Hall Farm** in late January and in numerous sites across the area throughout February and March, with a few further reports scattered across the next three months, with one final songster on 7th July at **Stoneycliffe Wood**. While the vast majority of records referred to one, two, or three birds, there were reports of four at **Cooper Bridge SP** and **Healey Mill NR**, rising to eight, including juveniles in October, five at **Horbury Strands**, six, including three juveniles at **Langsett**, ten at **Bradley Hall Farm** in mid-November was the year's largest gathering. Cold weather drove two birds into a **New Mill** garden at the end of the year, and the observer here was one of a number of diligent observers who kept records of garden thrushes throughout the year.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from a wide range of sites for both winter periods across the Club area, but unlike last year, there were no three-figure counts during the first winter period, perhaps a reflection of the severe weather. Thus, two gatherings of 60 birds, at **Ravensthorpe GPs** on 6th January and **Elland GP** on 5th February, were the largest flocks reported. Slightly smaller groups included 50 in **Fixby** and in **Bretton Park**, 43 in the **Grimescar Valley**, 42 in the **Longwood Valley**; there were also 35 in **Honley** and 30 at **Lockwood. Blackmoorfoot Res.** only had very sporadic appearances during this period with no more than 19 birds on six days between 1st January and 28th February. Several observers mentioned small numbers visiting gardens, especially during the very cold spell in January. 20 were still present in **Shepley** on 26th March and the last (5) were seen four days later in **Denby Dale**.

Four heading west over **Bare Bones Road** on 26th September (HQ) heralded the autumn influx, with singles in **Marsden** and **Shelley** on 30th being the only other arrivals during that month. At **Hepworth** nocturnal passage was heard on most nights in early October and numbers rapidly increased with 100 flying S over **Shelley** on 9th, followed two days later by 300 heading WSW over **Deanhead Res.** and 225 at **Healey Mills NR**, where 150 were counted the next day. Flocks of up to 50 were found at a wide range of other sites across the area in the course of October, in some cases in mixed gatherings with Fieldfares, with 200 heading W over **Bolster Moor** on 28th.

In November, two more large counts of 150 and 200 featured birds flying south over **Healey Mills NR** on 7th and 25th respectively, when 100 also passed over **Kirkburton**. Numerous other flocks of up to 60 were reported from around the area, including 25 in Huddersfield town centre on 13th. The last day of the month produced a flock of 103 at **Thornhill**. Small numbers of birds were visiting gardens, in one case eating cotoneaster berries.

Prominent among the December counts were the year's biggest flocks, of 800, 500 and 250 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 17th, 20th and 22nd respectively, a remarkable roost gathering of 1000 was witnessed on 23rd, again in the **Thornhill** area. At **Blackmoorfoot** appearances were sporadic and in low figures, the exception being 130+ on 11th. Several observers assiduously kept monthly garden records, mostly featuring one, two or three individuals, with one observer in **Golcar** pleased to see as many as 50 feeding on his neighbour's unwanted windfall apples. Once again, a spell of viciously cold weather at the end of 2010 has shown the importance of our surplus fruits and berries for our winter visitors.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Sixty venues were a source of records, which is twenty more than last year, with half of all sightings occurring in the first four months of the year. All the counts exceeding ten referred to early autumn gatherings, including one amazing gathering of 78 birds in fields between **Lane** village and **Yateholme Res.** on 2nd October (DMP, SP). There were ten instances of confirmed breeding and five of probable breeding. A **Marsden** observer found singing males at 13 sites, representing at least six territories, which is fewer than the average figure of 12 territories for the past three years. Five males held breeding territories in the **Langsett** area.

The many early sightings, usually of fewer than four birds, came from a wide variety of sites across the Club area, including several garden visitors. Males were singing as early as late January at a number of locations. As in previous years one or two were seen on **Cheesegate Nab** in April in the field frequented by spring passage Ring Ouzels. A pair found nesting in a garden sycamore near **Hepworth** on 8th May, remaining until mid-June.

In August 12 were present at **Healey Mills NR** on 12th, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a maximum of 30 on 15th and 25 on 23rd and 14 were feeding together in the **Wessenden Valley** on 22nd.

The highest counts in September were of 46 at **Wilshaw** on 8th, with 25 at **Langsett** on the next day, a flock of 20 was in a confrontation with a Sparrowhawk near **Hepworth** on 10th, 18 were near **Brow Grains** on 18th and 15 were seen at **Scammonden Res.** on 22nd. In October 14 were at **Scammonden Res.** on 12th, 10 were feeding on berries on **Hullock Bank** with Redwings and Fieldfares on 16th and 13 flew SW over **Marsden** on 25th. Almost all the remaining counts for the year were of one or two birds scattered across the area, although five were found at **Elland GP** in late November.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

Records of at least 16 singing males from 12 sites represent a notable increase on previous years in line with increasing observations of this species countrywide. One positive record of breeding was received.

The earliest record came from **Healey Mills NR** where a singing male was first noted on 20th April. This bird was heard and seen regularly throughout the month and was joined by another on 29th. Two birds were seen carrying food to a nest in July and a newly fledged youngster was noted on 3rd August. **Scammonden** held a single reeling male on 22nd April. Numerous records of possibly the same bird were received from the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area from 26th April to 8th August, this latter being the latest record of the year.

At **Broadstones Lodge** a single was reeling on 22nd May whilst another was seen here on 3rd July and one was seen and heard alongside **Broadstones Res.** the following day. At **Blackmoorfoot** a singing male was along the bottom edge of Orange Wood on 29th May and a singing male took up residence near the overflow channel between 26th June and 5th July. Single reeling males were present at **Deanhead Res.** on 1st June, **Yateholme** on 22nd June and **Clayton West** on 30th June. In July singles were at **Wholestone Moor** on 25th and 29th, a singing male was alongside **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th and **Scout Dike** had a singing male on 31st July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

At least 22 birds, and probably many more, were recorded from 10 sites with at least six pairs fledging young. This represents an improvement on recent years.

At **Healey Mills NR** two males were seen and heard on 20th April, our earliest record, and were present throughout the summer. A pair were first observed feeding young on 16th June and fully grown juveniles (2) were seen on 14th July and 3rd August (3). The last sighting here was on 1st September.

In the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area, a stronghold for this species in the past, the earliest was on 26th April and the last on 8th August. Ten adults (at least 8 of which were singing males) were observed on 7th July and 13 on 1st July included three juveniles with adults carrying food to nest sites, evidence that at least four pairs had bred successfully. A single record of a singing male came from **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29th April. **Dewsbury SF** held two singing males on 28th April and these remained throughout the summer months. At **Cooper Bridge SP** a singing male was chased away by a Reed Warbler on 30th April and a singing male was present on 2nd May.

On the River Calder at **Brighouse** a single was first heard singing on 25th May, it was then present throughout May and June and a pair were feeding two young on 30th June. A male was heard singing here on 10th July. In the Lowfields area near **Elland** a single was heard singing on 31st May and 6th June.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single was on the west bank on 6th August. One which passed through a **Golcar** garden on 6th September was the last sighting of the year.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

At least 12 birds were reported from four sites with breeding confirmed at only one.

The first record of the year concerned two at **Colne Bridge SP** on 30th April which, interestingly, chased away a male Sedge Warbler as soon as it started singing. Thereafter, four birds took up residence and formed two pairs, each fledging young. A third singing male was present in June and was strongly suspected of breeding (DS).

The only record from **Elland GP** concerned a singing male on 29th May and the only record from **Dewsbury SF** involved two singing males on 2nd June. At **Horbury** up to two singing males were recorded along the canal between the Strands and the Wyke between 7th June and 6th July.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Records of numerous individuals were received from 29 sites where much evidence of nest building and probable breeding was accumulated but no firm data on successful breeding was received. Some early winter sightings were noted but only a very few were recorded in late winter.

In a **Fixby** garden two males overwintered to at least 27th March and were heard performing sub-songs during the later part of this period. Males, which may have been on passage, also sang here on 12th and 21st April. Single males were present at Far Bank, **Shelley** on 14th January and **Horbury SF** on 24th January.

The **Langsett** region (including Cliffe Wood and the Little Don Valley) has usually been a stronghold for this species and this year was no exception. From 1st April through to 30th September there were numerous sightings with up to five singing males and probable breeding territories being held. No positive outcomes were recorded however. **Colnebridge SP** had a singing male on 7th April which had increased to four by 19th with a female also observed on this date. Birds were subsequently seen carrying food to a nest site on 19th May but no further

developments were recorded beyond this date. **Bretton Park** held its usual array with eight singing males on 8th April and 15 on both 15th and 21st May, but there were no further records beyond this date. At **Clough Lee** the first sighting on 9th April was regarded as a late arrival by the regular observer. The **Strands** and **Wyke** similarly held up to five singing males with records stretching from 9th April to 29th August. There were sightings of singles at **Shelley Whins** on 16th April and 1st May. At **Birchcliffe** a singing male entertained visitors to Armitage's Garden Centre on 16th April. At **Thunderbridge LNR** two singing males were reported on 16th April and 1st May. In the **Longwood Valley** up to three were recorded regularly between 18th April and 19th June. **Cheesgate Nab** hosted singing males on 21st April (2) and 21st July (1). A single male was at **Jackson Bridge** on 23rd April and a male was singing in the woodland behind the In Focus shop at **Denby Dale** the following day. **Horbury SF** held up to four singing males between 24th April and 15th August and a pair with three juveniles on this latter date may have bred locally. The **Healey Mills NR** held a number of birds, with up to three being seen at any one time between 25th April and 21st September. The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male between 27th April and 1st May. From 7th May until mid July three singing males took up territories and one was building a cock nest on 10th May. There were no records of females, consequently no breeding attempt occurred. A remarkable 11 singing males were at **Shepley** on 29th April.

On **Crosland Hill** a singing male was first heard on 1st May and remained all summer with breeding being regarded as probable. At **Bradley Hall Farm** seven singing males were noted on 4th May and the following day four males were singing in **Coxley Valley**. At **Blacker Beck** a pair was observed on territory on 7th May and there were possibly four active nests here during the season. At **Meltham Mills** birds were reported on 8th May (2) and 9th June (1) and **Meal Hill** held a single on 8th May. Areas around **Longwood Res.** held up to three between 9th May and 19th June. **Deffer Wood** held at least four singing males and a female on 10th May. A number of records from **Scammonden Res.** involved one or two singing males between 10th May and 22nd September. At **Sands Lane GP** single males were singing on 11th and 14th May, and 28th June. On 12th May Sparth Res. at **Marsden** held two singing males whilst Tunnel End hosted a single. **Ingbirchworth Res.** held one or two singing males from 13th May to 8th July. At Temple Quarry, **Grange Moor** a single was noted on 22nd May and **Black Brook** had two singing males on 27th May. **Stocks Moor Common** held a lone male on 29th May. The only record from the **Grimescar Valley** involved a single on 13th June. Two were seen in **Jenkinson Wood** on 14th June. **Royd Moor Res.** had nine males holding breeding territories, but no confirmation of breeding was forthcoming.

A singing male was present at **Stoneycliffe Wood NR** on 7th July. At **Scout Dike Res.** birds were recorded from 8th July through to 22nd October with a maximum of six on 2nd September. **Cannon Hall** was home to two singing males on 14th July and a single was reported from **Fulstone** on 20th July. At **Wessenden Lodge** a single was present on 18th August and **Cowcliffe** had a singing male on 29th August. At **Netherthong** a dead bird found below a window on 3rd September was the only record. At Far Bank, **Shelley** a male was seen on 3rd September and a **Harden** garden held a single male, singing on occasion, between 4th and 7th September. **Tunnel End Res.** had a single on 22nd October, a very late date for this area.

A male was in a **Fixby** garden on 19th December and a female was in a garden on Thorpe Lane, **Almondbury** on 19th/20th December.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Records were received from 30 sites and were mostly of singing males, often the first intimation of their presence, with the great majority being during the breeding season. An August record and two in September were unusual for this typically non-confiding species. There were no positive records of breeding success, another indicator of their secretive behaviour.

Birds were observed in the **Horbury Wyke/Strands** area between 21st April and 7th July with two on the former date, all of the others being singles. At **Meal Hill** a male heard on 21st April remained for about a week but was not recorded thereafter. The **Colnebridge SP** was home to singles on 28th April, 9th May and 7th July whilst at **Deer Hill** there was one on 28th April. **Shelley Whins** had a single on 29th April, where breeding was suspected. **Bretton Park** was home to a number of these birds between 30th April and 17th June with nine singing males there on the earlier date and five on 7th May. From **Langsett** and the **Little Don Valley** records spanned the period 30th April to 6th June with a maximum of six on this latter date.

On 2nd May **Elland GP** hosted four and both **Linthwaite** and **Bradley Hall Farm** had a single. **Coxley Valley** held a single on 5th May. The **Healey Mills NR** held singles on 6th May and 3rd September and four were heard singing on the river close by on 20th May. Two singing males were near the dam at Royd Edge, **Meltham** on 9th May. Two were in the **Skelmanthorpe/Clayton West** area on 9th May and **Scammonden Res.** had two singing males on 10th May. At Tunnel End in **Marsden** there were records of singles on 12th May and 22nd June. At **Netherwood** a single was present on 13th May and two on 30th June. Records were received from **Ingbirchworth Res.** between 13th May and 5th July with a peak of three on 1st July. A single was heard at **Royd Moor Res.** between 13th May and 3rd July. **Thurstonland Bank** had three on 15th May. At **Scout Dike** singles were recorded between 18th May and 8th September. On 22nd May Temple Quarry at **Grange Moor** hosted two singing males and a single was heard in **Screamer Wood**, Bradley.

One was at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd June. The **Dunford Bridge Trans-Pennine Trail** hosted 13 singing males on 3rd June. Singles were at **Whitley** on 12th June, **Bullcliff Wood** and **Tinker Hill** on 16th June, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th July and Far Bank, **Shelley** on 18th July.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

There were reports of at least 15 birds from 12 sites this year which is a small increase on the previous year and an encouraging sign for this relatively scarce species. No records of confirmed breeding were received despite some indications of territories being occupied.

At **Ingbirchworth Res.** a singing male once again held a territory in the Hawthorns along the dam wall with the first record on 20th April and the last on 18th May. A single was at a traditional breeding site near **Flockton** on 24th April.

At **Scout Dike Res.** singing males were recorded on 1st May and 4th September with a juvenile being present there on 18th August. On 2nd May a male was singing at **Colnebridge SP**. In the **Horbury** area, a previous stronghold of this species, males were singing at both the SF and the Wyke on 7th May. In the **Skelmanthorpe/Clayton West** area close by the dismantled sewage works a single was observed on 9th May. Sightings were recorded regularly around here through

to 5th September. In the Millbank area of **Thornhill** a singing male was present on 11th May and **Sands Lane GP** held a singing male on 14th and 18th May. At **Broadstones Res.** a bird was observed uncharacteristically perched up on a wire on 17th May.



At **Dewsbury SF** a bird was singing on the river bank on 15th June. At **Healey Mills NR** there were a number of sightings between 15th June and 5th September including two singing males on the first of these dates. On **Shelley Whins** a single was recorded between 10th and 20th June, this being the first sighting here for three years at what had been a traditional breeding site. At **Royd Moor Res.** on an unrecorded date males were seen to be holding territories with the only other record from this area being on 4th September.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*
Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Records from 45 sites confirm the widespread distribution of this species and its healthy status throughout the Club area. 24 records of successful breeding was also very encouraging.

The first record of the year involved a single along the canal at **Horbury** on 17th April, subsequently 11 birds, including three juveniles, were noted on 6th July. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a singing male was present on Edge Moor between 24th April and 3rd May. Four males then took up territories in the Edge Moor/South waterworks area and attracted females, each pair raising young, the family parties remaining until at least 24th July. The only record thereafter involved a single in Orange Wood on 1st August.

At **Bradley Hall Farm** nine birds were present on 4th May and two broods with a total of six juveniles were fledged here by 30th June. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** six were present on 6th May and two adults were feeding two juveniles on 24th July. Four singing males were at Temple Quarry in **Grange Moor** on 22nd May. **Broadstones Res.**, with sightings from 23rd May onwards, held at least one pair and an adult with two juveniles was seen on 20th June.

Five singing males were on the **Dunford Bridge** cycle track on 3rd June. At **Longwood Res.** adults were feeding at least one young on 9th July. At **Scammonden Res.** two juveniles were present with two adults on 12th July. A single juvenile was reported from **Cannon Hall** on 14th July. At **Sands Lane GP** a pair was seen to be feeding young during July.

At **Healey Mills NR** five pairs bred and three pairs were observed feeding fledged young with broods of four, three and three. On the adjacent **Dewsbury SF** a remarkable 40 birds were present on 3rd August with many of these being juveniles, and 32 were still present on two days later. A juvenile was in a **Dalton** garden on 6th August and a juvenile was present at **Shelley Whins** on 18th August. The last sighting of the year came from **Healey Mills NR** on 5th October.

Other sightings were received from Booth Wood in **Slaithwaite, Brighouse, Bullcliffe Top Wood, Skelmanthorpe/Clayton West, Cheesegate Nab, Colnebridge SP, Coxley Valley, Crosland Hill, Elland Lowfields and GP, Flockton, Grimescar Valley, Hullock Bank, Langsett/Little Don Valley, Linthwaite, Longwood Valley, Meal Hill, Meltham, Ossett, Pole Moor, Royd Moor Res., Scout Dike Res., Shepley and Stoneycliffe Wood.**

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

This was a slightly better year than last with singing males reported from four sites but with no breeding records.

On 23rd April a male was singing from the woodland behind the In Focus shop in **Denby Dale (MC)**. On 8th May a male was singing at **Netherwood (DT)** where it remained until at least the 22nd the latest recorded date in the Club area this year. On 9th May a bird was located at **Margery Wood/Cawthorne Park (JH)** and on 12th May a singing male was at Cliffe Wood, **Langsett (MW)**.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Records from more than 70 sites with most holding multiple territories indicate an excellent year from this fairly common warbler. Despite this successful breeding was only reported from two sites with nest building confirmed at a few others. Other than isolated individuals in February, November and December there was very little evidence of overwintering birds this year no doubt heavily influenced by the severe weather.

The record during the first winter period involved a single at **Horbury SF** on 6th/7th January.

The first migrant involved a single at **Bretton Park** on 18th March. Thereafter, despite the extensive work undertaken in the woodlands, the usual healthy numbers were recorded; a maximum of 18 singing males being present on 8th April. A single was at **Bullcliffe Top Wood**

on 23rd March. **Elland GP** held good numbers as usual with six on 24th March rising to 14 by late March/early April, all of these being singing males. Also on 24th March two were present at **Healey Mills NR** and a week later three were singing. Two pairs remained and were seen nest-building on 4th May but there was no sign of successful breeding. Ten birds were on the western end of the reserve on 17th August. Numbers peaked on 31st August when there was an estimated 20 feeding around the fence between the reserve and Dewsbury SF. There were at least 20 here on 8th September and five remained on 21st with two still present on 13th October. Two were singing in **Shelley Woods** on 26th March. In **Birchcliffe** a singing male was heard near the garden centre on 27th March and 8th April. **Blacker Beck** held a single on 28th March and eight active nests were reported on 8th May. **Golcar** held a single on 30th March, four on 2nd and three on 4th April. The last record here was on 25th September. **Ingbirchworth Res.**, which has never been a stronghold for this species, hosted a male from 30th March to 18th August except for 31st May when two were present.

One singing at Morrison's at **Waterloo** on 1st April didn't fool the observer. Between 2nd April and 26th August birds were frequently seen and heard at **Scout Dike Res.** with three noted on 8th July. **Bradley Hall Farm** hosted birds on 3rd April with seven in total and five singing. By 4th May only three singing birds were present. As in 2009, the species was rather scarce in spring at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the only records concerned singing males: in April a single remained between 3rd and 8th, two were present on 9th and a single on 25th, in May singles were heard on 20th and 30th and one sang on 7th June. Passage birds in autumn were equally scarce here; in August a single sang on 6th and between 24th and 27th and singles were present on 31st August, 4th, 18th, 26th, and 30th September and 18th October. At **Sands Lane GP** a single bird was heard frequently between 4th April and 28th June. Many birds were around the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area: a single was singing between 4th and 9th April; six were present on 6th May; and on 28th September a maximum count of 15 was recorded with many still in song; three pairs in total were reported but no breeding successes were observed. At **Longwood Res.** and surrounding woodlands up to three males were heard on 4th April and 9th May and in **Lindley** single males were singing on 9th April at the recreation ground and 17th September at Holly Bank.

A single male was singing in **Holmfirth** town centre on 10th and 12th April. A male sang in the churchyard at **Salendine Nook** on 11th April, which appropriately was a Sunday. **Grimescar Valley** held birds throughout the breeding season with two on 11th April being the first and a single on 20th June being the latest. Larks House at **Hepworth** held single birds on 23rd April, 19th to 26th August and 18th September. In the **Longwood Valley** singles were heard regularly between 24th April and 31st July. Birds were reported on the Calder/Hebble Navigation near **Healey** with three on 21st April and two on 6th May. **Colnebridge SP** held breeding birds with sightings from 26th April culminating with juveniles being fed on 28th May. A single male sang in the woodland behind In Focus in **Denby Dale** on 24th April.

At **Thunderbridge** two males were singing on Dam Hill with two more at the Meadowlands NR on 1st May. Birds were first seen at **Shelley Whins** on 1st May and recently fledged juveniles on 1st August suggested that this was a second brood. **Coxley Valley** held a single on 5th May and two on 9th June. In **Deffer Wood** just one singing male was recorded on 10th May. **Langsett** and the **Little Don Valley** hosted 10 singing males on 11th May, but much lower numbers persisted throughout the rest of the summer, and the latest sighting here involved a single on 21st September. In **Almondbury** a single was present in May with no further reports until sightings were made of four singing males on 2nd September and a single in a garden on 7th October. At **Scammonden Res.** males were heard between 10th May and 23rd September and on 22nd September at least 10 were reported with many of them singing. A single was in **Beaumont Park** on 18th May. At **Meltham Mills** a single male was heard regularly from 12th May through to the

end of September and at **Royd Moor Res.** four males held territories and were heard between 17th May and 3rd September. A male held territory in **Dalton** for a week between 22nd and 28th May and two males were singing at **Black Brook** on 27th May.

Four singing males were on the **Dunford Bridge** cycle track on 3rd June. Two birds were at **Cannon Hall** on 14th June, two were at **Broadstone Res.** on 20th June and four were heard in **Stoneycliffe Woods** on 7th July. The reservoir plantation at **West Bretton** held three singing males on 19th July and a single was at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25th July.

Two birds were at Anchor Pit Lock in **Brighouse** on 4th September and three were on **Cheesegate Nab** the following day. Five singing males were on **Thurstonland Bank** on 12th September. At **Barmins** a single was seen associating with Linnets on 21st September and a single was in **Fixby** on 28th September. Far Bank, **Shelley**, held up to three between 30th September and 6th October. The last record from **Bretton Park** involved three on 4th October and on the same day a single was at **High Hoyland**.

The two records during the second winter period involved singles at **Healey Mills NR** on 29th November and 8th December.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

Our commonest warbler was once more well represented at sites throughout the Club area with records from more than 70 locations. The earliest records involved a single at Meltham Mills on 25th March and three males at Healey Mills NR on 28th March but it was to be another two weeks before the species became widespread. The latest record was at Scammonden on 22nd September. Evidence of breeding was recorded at a number of sites and parties containing juveniles were frequently observed.

Two were in a **Golcar** garden on 3rd April. Three singing males were at **Digley Res.** on 7th April and five were at **Elland GP** the following day. The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned four singing males on 8th April. The following day six males held territories and remained throughout the summer months. From mid July to the end of August six to ten were present on a daily basis. The only records thereafter involved two on 5th and singles on 6th and 10th September. **Carlecotes Ponds** had three singing males on 10th April. On **Cheesegate Nab** birds were seen and heard from 10th April to 5th September with 10 singing on 17th April. **Ingbirchworth Res.** is something of a stronghold for this species and birds were present from 10th April till the end of August at least. Eighteen, including four juveniles, were recorded on 16th June. In **Horbury** along the canal and around the Wyke and Strands birds were common yet not numerous with a maximum of five on 12th April. Twelve were noted singing at **Dovestones** on 21st April. **Royd Moor Res.** has always been a populous place for the species and 30 singing males were present on 23rd April with numerous juveniles seen on 3rd July; the last sighting here was of a single on 3rd September.

Scammonden is another hot spot, holding 30 singing males on 22nd April and 36 on 10th May. The **Calder/Hebble** navigation had six singing males on 21st April. Two were at Cliff Wood, **Clayton West** on 22nd April and **Deanhead Res.** had two singing on the same date. **Colnebridge SP** held three on 25th April. Although birds were noted in the **Grimescar Valley** the maximum count was of four on 25th April. **Scout Dike Res.** was a favoured area with good numbers from 26th April onwards and a peak count of 30 juveniles on 18th August. Birds were heard regularly

around **Deer Hill** with up to four between late 23rd April and 25th August. **Holme Styes** had eight on 27th April. In **Langsett**, including the **Little Don Valley**, birds were widespread and there was a notable count of 59 singing males on 27th April (MW). At **Dewsbury SF** four males were present on 30th April and a peak count was recorded here on 31st August when an estimated 80+ were feeding on the small flies emanating from the filter beds (JH).

Riding Woods Res. and surrounds had eight singing males on 1st May. Sixteen were singing in **Netherwood** on 13th May. At **Bretton Park** birds were widespread with ten singing males by 17th May. Around **Broadstones Res.** birds were present during the breeding season with seven heard on 20th June. Along the **Dunford Bridge** trans-Pennine trail a total of 59 singing males were counted on 3rd June, although not all of this is within the Club area. **Booth Wood Res.** held six birds, including four juveniles, on 10th July.

The final birds of the year, all in September, involved two at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13th, three singing males at **Healey Mills NR**, four at **Langsett** and a single at **Blakeley Res.** on 21st and two at **Scammonden** on 22nd.

Small numbers were also reported from a further 32 widely distributed localities, some of them being gardens.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 74 sites which is a notable improvement on the previous year. The numbers of birds seen at each site was generally unremarkable, however, possibly reflecting the impact of the previous cold winter. Whilst indications of breeding were noted at a number of sites only one positive record of a group which included juveniles was received.

The **Langsett** area (including the Little Don Valley) is generally renowned for holding reasonable numbers at most times of the year but, although reported throughout the year, the largest number never exceeded six which were present on 11th May. **Scammonden Res.** seemed to hold good numbers throughout the year with a maximum of at least five on 5th September and ten on 12th October. The **Grimescar Valley** held two on 7th February then sightings in October, November and December with a peak count of five on 22nd December. **Deffer Wood** held at least 20 on 10th March. **Bretton Park** has traditionally been a stronghold for this species but numbers were down considerably this year with birds seen in March (2 singing males on 18th) and November with no more than two at any one time. The downward trend in occurrences at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued, although there were more records than in 2009. One or two were seen on single days in April, July and August, three days in October and two days in November. Ten were present at **Holme Styes** on 17th April and **Scout Dike** had five both on 8th July and 7th August. Around the **Shepley** area (including the Whins) it was postulated that at least six pairs breed.

On **Thurstonland Bank NR** four were seen on 12th September and a single on 1st December. The only records from **Healey Mills NR** involved two on 17th October and three on 7th November. At Far Bank, **Shelley** two were present in a garden during most of the late winter period where they were observed feeding on fat balls, behaviour that the observer had never recorded previously.

Occasional sightings, mainly of singles, were also reported from a further 22 widely scattered locations.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

With records received from 16 sites this was a slight increase on the previous year. Although breeding was confirmed from only three of these the number of birds fledged was encouraging.

The first returning birds, both singles, were seen at **Langsett**; in the Little Don Valley on 1st May and Cliff Wood on 12th May. By the month end birds had been recorded from a further three localities; singles were present at Jos Lane, **Shepley** on 18th, **Bretton Park** on 21st and **Meal Hill** on 31st.

A pair bred at **Helme**, fledging four young in late June; in the **Little Don Valley** two pairs raised at least nine young; at **Langsett Banks** two pairs probably bred, one of these raising young and, although breeding was suspected at **Bretton Park**, no confirmation was forthcoming.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a single in Orange Wood on 12th June was the only record until an adult and four juveniles were seen near the inflow on 25th July (these birds were thought to have been those fledged in Helme). Thereafter up to four (generally 1 or 2) remained in the same area until the last, a single, on 26th August.

Two were seen at **Oxspring** on 6th June, Hall Hill at **Whitley** held a single on 12th June and at **Winscar Res.** a family party of five was watched on 24th June. At **Cannon Hall** two juveniles were present at two separate sites on 14th July. A single was seen on a number of occasions at **Scout Dike Res.** between 18th August and 2nd September and one was at **Cowcliffe** on 29th August.

Two were present at **Royd Moor Res.** on 3rd September; a single was in a garden at **Harden** the following day and three were on **Cheesegate Nab** on 5th September. The last birds of the year were recorded from **Langsett** in September, with eight adults on 9th and two immatures on 21st.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

Reported from just two sites but a pair bred at one of them.

At Cliff Wood, **Langsett**, a male was present on 22nd and 24th April, with two males and a female the following day. By 12th May a pair had six eggs in a nest box (MW) but the outcome was unknown. On 18th May two male and two females were present and birds (male and female) were last seen here on 5th June.

The only other record concerned two at **Winscar Res.** on 24th July (DMP).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Concern was expressed about the effect that the previous harsh winter may have had on this traditionally vulnerable species. Reports from 61 sites were a big increase on the previous year with birds being found in virtually all areas of suitable habitat. Although only three confirmed

nesting records were received the presence of numerous juveniles following the breeding season suggested that pairs had bred undetected.



Regular records were received from the **Grimescar Valley** throughout the year with notable counts of 18 on 1st January and 23 on 31st December. Birds were present in small numbers throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** although there were no records in May, August or December. A pair bred in the NE corner (8 young fledged on 5th June). With the exception of the family party, numbers rarely exceeded seven, the exceptions being nine on 9th February, 15+ on 28th July, 18 on 18th September and 12 on 18th November. At **Bretton Park** this species was ubiquitous with reports from the majority of visitors to the site. The maximum number recorded was 18 on 22nd February. Birds were present in the **Longwood Valley** throughout the year with peak counts of 20 near the reservoir on 10th January and 14 on 19th June which were associating with a Robin. In a garden on Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** birds were present throughout the year except for June and July, passing through in feeding flocks typically in single figures with a peak count of 12 on 24th January. Elsewhere in **Almondbury** birds were present in Penny Spring Wood and at gardens on Somers Road and Thorpe Lane. Large groups of birds, always in double figures, were regularly recorded at **Healey Mills NR** with peaks of 23 on 24th January and 25 on 3rd August. **Longwood Brook** had 18 on 6th February.

Two nests were located at **Elland GP** in March and May. Birds were regularly sighted at **Ingbirchworth Res.** with the largest flock consisting of 20 on 6th July. A garden on Forest Road, **Dalton** had a flock of 28 birds pass through on 6th July as well as other sightings through the year. At **Horbury**, along the canal and around the Wyke and Strands, groups were recorded frequently but there were no exceptional numbers, 20 on 8th August being the largest flock seen. At **Meltham Mills/Windy Bank Wood** 21 were seen on 10th September. During a visible migration watch at **Harden Quarries** on 30th September a group of around 35 birds was observed regularly

flying between the trees and a patch of heather. Thirteen were on **Lindley Moor** on 2nd October. **Cheesegate Nab** held 15 on 16th October and **Dewsbury SF** had 16 on the same date. Eight were feeding on fat balls at **Choppards** on 19th December and **Folly Hall** had 11 on 24th December.

Records were also received from a further 32 widely scattered locations.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This most ubiquitous of birds was reported from all suitable habitat in the Club area throughout the year together with numerous records of breeding success, many in garden nest boxes. This data is of major use in maintaining the Club records and only exceptional details are included in this section.

The **Grimescar Valley** held good number throughout the year with a peak of 41 on 7th February. The peak count in the **Longwood Valley** was 35 on both 28th February and 21st March. At **Horbury Strands/Wyke** there were 38, which included 15 juveniles, on 8th August. Twenty were present at **Bretton Park** on 7th November; large numbers of juveniles were also seen here during the early summer.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

This species is common and widespread throughout the Club area as reflected in the records received. Mostly it is found in relatively small groups but on occasions larger gatherings were observed. Breeding appeared to have been highly successful once again.

Twenty were present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28th January and 28 were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 13th February.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

This species was seen regularly throughout the year in suitable habitat, normally in small numbers. Garden records seem to be increasing steadily, possibly attracted by the number of coniferous trees that now abound. Reports were received from 42 sites which is an increase on previous years, possibly as a reflection of the hard winter which drove them to feeding stations. Only one confirmed breeding record was submitted although sightings of a number of juveniles clearly reflected breeding successes.

Birds were commonly seen in **Almondbury** where one well watched garden on Fenay Crescent had sightings throughout the year; no more than five birds were ever seen at one time. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** occurrences were very sporadic and never involved more than two birds: in the first half of the year singles were only seen on two dates in both January and March and 27th June. There were more records later in the year: on nine days in July, three in August, two in October and a single which remained from 1st to 26th November.

At **Langsett** 20 were present on 14th February whilst the Little Don Valley held 50 on 2nd March and flocks of 30 were reported at Langsett Banks on both 31st August and 6th September. The **Grimescar Valley** held birds throughout the year with a peak of seven on 1st August. Twelve were seen at **Scout Dyke Res.** on 6th September and 10 at Hades Plantation, **Holmfirth** on 19th September. Movements of possible migrants were observed at **Deanhead Res.** with 12 on 22nd September and 10 on 7th October.

Numbers elsewhere were unremarkable.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing. Red listed.

Records from 16 sites with breeding confirmed at two of these shows that this species continues to hang on in the Club area despite the recent hard winter. Sightings have generally been confined to the east of the area but one from Scammonden stands out.

The **Horbury** area consistently held small numbers throughout the year with three on 25th February being the maximum. At **Bretton Park** a single was present on 22nd January, two on 29th January, and singles on 6th March and 22nd December. Blacker wood, **Skelmanthorpe** held a single on 8th and 11th March and two were present at **Healey Mills NR** on both 4th May and 18th August and a single was present on 22nd December. A single was calling from Wogden Foot on the **Trans-Pennine Trail** on 30th June.

Single pairs bred at **Horbury Wyke** but the outcome was unknown and **Royd Moor Res.**, a traditional site, where four juveniles were seen on 3rd July. Breeding probably occurred at **Ingbirchworth Res.** where one or two were present for most of the year, but six were seen on 8th July.

Scout Dike Res. held birds throughout the year with a maximum of three on 8th and 23rd August. A **Shelley** garden held a single on 19th August (the first record here since October 2005) and another garden record came from **Wilshaw** on 21st August. An unusual record involved two at **Scammonden Res.** on 23rd August (DT). A single was at Mag Dale, **Honley** on 28th September and two were calling from a **Crow Edge** garden on 7th November.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

Rare visitor.

A report of two birds within a roving tit flock in Menagerie Wood, **Bretton Park** on 5th March (DT) constitutes the first record in the Club area since 1989.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

Anecdotal impressions are that this species is getting much more numerous and common in the area and records from 49 sites bears this out. Breeding was confirmed at eight of these sites, a notable increase on last year.

Birds were present in many parts of **Almondbury** including regular garden records throughout the year, although numbers never exceeded three, but these did include a juvenile. A single was present in Orange Wood, **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st January and 15th February. A single in Orange Wood from 3rd March attracted a mate by 13th and the pair eventually raised young in a previously unused hole. The family party then frequented Orange Wood until 6th August. Occurrences thereafter involved one or two in Orange Wood or the south bank wood on six days in August, five in September, five in October and 22 in November. (An additional 2 pairs nested in the immediate vicinity: 1 in Helme Wood and 1 in a large tree 200 yards S of Orange Wood).

At **Bretton Park** a high count of 20 was made on 1st March with other large counts on a number of dates. Breeding was confirmed here on 2nd June when a bird was seen carrying food to a nest site. Breeding was also confirmed at Cliff Wood, **Langsett** and a pair bred in the Hey Green area of **Marsden**, rearing at least two young. This is the first known breeding attempt by this species in the Marsden area, and extends the known range in the Club area. A bird was observed entering a nest hole at Windy bank Wood, **Meltham Mills** on 1st May and a pair were observed taking food to an occupied nest in Stones Wood, **Shepley** on the same date.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*
Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Records were received from 42 sites with confirmed breeding at five of these, both of which are a notable improvement on last year.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a single in Orange Wood from 3rd March attracted a mate by early April, the pair eventually raising two young. The family party departed the area by late May and then there were no records until a family party (thought to have originated from a pair which bred in Helme Wood) took up residence between 8th and 25th July. The only records thereafter involved singles on 1st August, 25th October and 18th November. At Windy Bank Wood, **Meltham Mills** breeding was confirmed, with an adult seen carrying food to a nest on 16th and 20th May. In **Slaithwaite**, a garden adjoining Hill Top Res. had a pair occupying a nest box where they were seen to be feeding young on 19th May.

Birds were seen in the **Grimescar Valley** throughout the year with a peak of four on both 27th February and 11th April. The only record from **Deffer Wood** concerned three on 10th March. Birds were seen frequently at **Bretton Park** with a maximum of four on 18th and 26th March and it was a similar situation in the **Little Don Valley** which had a maximum of four on 30th June. Three were present in **Stoneycliffe Wood** on 7th July. Two together in an **Almondbury** garden on 17th October were unusual, this being the only sighting there during the year.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*
Rare passage visitor.

A male singing from the top of a Birch at **Healey Mills NR** on 20th May was eventually seen as it flew off (JH). This is a new species for the Club area.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

Two birds were seen on the same date in the Club area.

On 12th October at **Healey Mills NR** a single arrived during a very significant movement of thrushes at 08.50hrs. and departed SE some 12 minutes later. The bird was seen to take a number of large grubs as it fed at the top of one of the taller trees on the reserve. Despite much effort the bird was not relocated. A number of photographs were taken, albeit under poor light conditions (JH).

On the same day at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** a bird flew in from the NE at 15.55hrs. being mobbed by Meadow Pipits. After initially landing on a small willow at the base of the quarry it relocated to a post at the S end where it remained for just 30 seconds before flying W into the sun along the S end of the quarry and was lost from view. There was no further sighting of the bird (DHP).

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

This species was widespread throughout the area but no large congregations were noted. Despite sightings of numerous juvenile birds, along with accompanying adults, evidence of breeding for this highly secretive bird was limited to an old nest discovered in autumn.

Present on a near daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** although there were no records in February. A pair bred near the inflow but, due to the secretiveness of the species when breeding, evidence was only forthcoming after leaf-fall. The majority of records involved between one to four birds but in October six were present on 24th/25th, and six again on 7th/8th December.

The largest concentrations involved eight at Chaucer Close in **Honley** on 17th January, nine at **Bretton Park** on 15th November and eight in Wither wood at **Denby Dale** on 26th December.

All other records were of singles or small groups.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

Once again this species was widespread, notably in suburban areas and especially in gardens, with some quite large gatherings particularly in the autumn and winter months. Evidence of nest building and subsequent breeding is generally easy to find and the presence of numerous young birds demonstrates successful outcomes in many cases.

A flock of 20 were at **Shelley Woodhouse** on 1st January. The **Longwood Valley** held birds throughout the year with 18 there on both 24th January and 28th February. **Meltham SW** proved attractive with 23 there on 28th March and 20 on 2nd April. At **Netherthong** 21 were in garden trees on 11th October. A gathering of at least 45 in a roost at **Elland GP** on 16th December was exceptional by today's standards.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

Records of this ubiquitous species were widespread throughout the area, often making use of house roofs and chimney pots for nesting and being seen in large flocks in the autumn and winter months moving from roosting to feeding sites.

At **Almondbury** regular movements of up to 70 birds to and from their Woodsome roosting site were seen at dawn and dusk. At **Whitley Common** there were regularly upwards of 50 birds present on a derelict barn, which is presumed to be a nesting site, and large numbers were also present in ruined farm buildings at **Crow Edge**.

Large numbers were regularly reported from **Bretton Park** with at least 200 there on 1st March. A group of over 210 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th July along with other corvids and from a flock of 350 corvids on 5th August at least 200 were this species. A total of 103 flew SW over Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 25th October. There were regular counts of 60+ “resident” birds at **Netherthong** and 200 were present on 29th October. Fifty were seen in the **Grimescar Valley** on 7th November and 220 were around **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th November.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

This species is relatively common, particularly in rural areas, and this year was reported extensively. No really large congregations were recorded although, unusually, one or two reports were received of birds visiting suburban gardens in the harsh winter weather.

Rookeries were reported from:

Bretton Park - birds were very active around the stable block rookery but there were only two occupied nests.

Crosland Moor - eight nests.

Grange Moor – there were seven nests at Temple Quarry.

Hepworth - two rookeries were noted at Meal Hill, one close to the observer’s house with 19 active nests and one along the main road with nine active nests.

Marsden – there were nine occupied nests in Mount Road.

New Mill – two sites held five and 12 nests respectively.

Shepley – the Stretch Gate rookery held, by today’s standards, a remarkable 60 nests.

Thornhill Lees – no more than six active nests.

The largest counts concerned 100 in **Honley** on 20th January and a similar number in flight at **Skelmanthorpe** on 3rd February. This is seemingly an unusual feature nowadays in this rapidly urbanising area.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

Records were received from all around the Club area of this opportunistic and adaptable species. Whilst undoubtedly being a successful breeder nest records were very few.

A total of 46 roosted on the west bank at **Scammonden Res.** on 21st January. **Dewsbury SF** regularly hosted large numbers with 110 there on 25th January and 150 on 5th August. **Longwood Valley** was also a popular haunt for this species and produced a maximum of 71 on 28th February. Significant numbers were seen in **Honley**, 70 on 6th September being the largest gathering. The **Grimescar Valley** regularly held good numbers with 140 there on 16th October.

One was sitting on a nest in **Golcar** as early as 15th February and a pair nested in an oak in **New Mill** where an adult and three juveniles were present in the observer's garden on 28th August.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

Records were received from numerous, mainly upland, sites with positive evidence of nesting from two of these, in addition a pair bred at a site away from the moorland.

A bird flying SW over **Fixby** on 24th January was the first record for the site. There were four records from **Blackmoorfoot**: a single flew W on 8th February, one flew S on 30th March, two were over **Meltham Cop** on both 2nd May and 29th September. The **Langsett** area produced a number of records, four on 16th March being the largest number recorded. Birds were seen regularly flying around **Cheesegate Nab** where two were noted harassing a Sparrowhawk on 25th September. A single was observed tussling with a Peregrine over **Marsden** on 30th October. At **Harden Quarries** on 6th November at least five were present, including a group of four of which flew W, and the following day four flew S and one W.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Records from over 50 sites were a welcome increase on previous years and garden records were very common. A number of breeding records were also received of this confiding and confident species together with reports of numerous juveniles in feeding flocks.

A flock of 100 were at **Brighouse** on 31st January and 130 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th February. In March a flock of 500 were at **Broadstones Res.** on 7th, **Horbury SF** hosted 100 on 12th whilst 600 were present on **Pole Moor** on 26th. A flock of 100+ at **Broadstones Res.** on 3rd/4th June contained a large number of juveniles. The largest gathering at **Dewsbury SF** concerned 130 on 9th June. A flock of 150 were at Victoria, **Hepworth** on 21st September, 155 flew W at Millbank, **Thornhill** on 17th October and 200 were in the **Longwood Valley** on 23rd October. Over 1000 were present at **Whitley Common** on a number of occasions during the autumn/winter period and at Thorpe Lane, **Almondbury** a flock 300+ roosted in a garden during December.

Visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** produced some large counts, the maxima being 392 NE on 17th October, 388 SW on 25th October, 839 NE and 259 SW on 6th November and 1156 SW the following day.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species. Red listed.

Recorded from over 30 sites, with the vast majority of records coming from gardens.

A thriving colony of up to 50 birds was present throughout the year at the riding stables in the **Meltham Millmoor** area. Up to 30 were recorded in the observer's garden at Winton Street, **Lockwood**, and up to 35 were present in the **New Mill** area.

The highest counts received for the early months was up to 45 coming to seed in a garden at White Rose Avenue, **Dalton** from 1st January to 28th February, up to 14 visited a garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury**, 14 were at **Horbury SF** on 6th January and 12 at **Colnebridge SP** on 10th February.

During spring several sites hosted up to nine birds, but the only double figure counts received were of 16 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 25th April and 12 at Hollin Avenue, **Marsh** on 1st May.

The only documented breeding record came from **Fixby** where food was observed being taken to a nest, but this attempt is believed to have failed. However, another attempt was made nearby but the outcome was unknown. Breeding was also reported from **New Mill** where young were first recorded on 29th May, **Crosland Moor** where juveniles were seen in June/July, **Linthwaite** and from the **Shelley/Far Bank** area. Successful breeding undoubtedly occurred elsewhere.

Significant post-breeding counts were of 30 at **Shelley/Far Bank** in late June, 19 at Hollin Avenue, **Marsh** throughout June, 23 at **Horbury Bridge** on 6th July, 20 in the **Longwood Valley** on 12th July and up to 20 visited Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** during late August.

Autumn/late winter counts were extremely low. The **Almondbury** area hosted a maximum of 21 at Lumb Lane on 5th September, a maximum of 15 at Fenay Crescent on 25th September, 14 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 14th November and 11 at **Skelmanthorpe** on 28th November constituted the only double figure counts.

A male at **Broadstones Res.** on 8th April was considered unusual.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Recorded from 15 sites, which is consistent with recent years. It is rare W of the Ingbirchworth area, although records of singles from Harden, Helme and Whitley Willows may indicate a possible spread. There was no confirmation of breeding, but juveniles were recorded from two sites.

High Hoyland/Litherop Lane - usually six to 10 birds were resident at the kennels where they are fed all year round.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR - early year counts at the feeding station were, in January, 40 on 2nd and 32 on 6th, in February, 20 on 20th, 17 on 24th and 26 on 25th and, in March, 10 on 7th and 15 on 16th (JRS). Nest boxes had been placed at this site to encourage the species.

Stocksmoor area - a daily visitor to a Stocksmoor garden - no more details are available.

Dewsbury SF - 33 on 17th January (JH).

Bretton Park/Lakes - two on 25th January, a single on 20th February, up to six from 1st to 18th March and one on 16th November.

New Mill - singles in the observer's garden on 23rd and 27th March with two the following day and a single on 30th November and 18th December.

Cheesegate Nab - two on 10th April, singles on 1st June, 25th July and two on 28th August.

Whitley Willows - a single calling from a garden between here and Houses Hill on 22nd May.

Oxspring - five were found here during BTO Atlas survey work.

Scout Dike Res - in August six on 1st, a single juvenile on 7th, another single on 21st and 10 on both 2nd and 8th September.

Shelley/Far Bank - a juvenile in the observer's garden on 14th August, with a single plus four which flew over on 10th October.

Harden - one in the observer's garden on an unspecified date in October was considered unusual here.

Helme - one found dying in a garden on 9th November was the first in this area since two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd March 1987.

Thurgory Lane - 30 on 13th November.

Skelmanthorpe/Ponker Hill - eight on 28th November.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Few observers record this very common species.

During the early months, as in 2009, by far the highest counts were made at **High Hoyland** where game crop provided a valuable food source. Fifty were present on 5th February, increasing to 120 on 14th February. Double-figure counts elsewhere were 20 at **Dewsbury SF** on 17th February, 11 at **Ingbirchworth** on 4th March and 13 at **Grimescar Valley** on 20th March. Up to 11 visited the observer's garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury**.

In spring there were counts of 16 at **Longwood Valley** on 10th April, 22 at **Grimescar Valley** on 25th April and 27 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 31st May. The only significant count of singing males received was 18 in the **Little Don Valley** on 28th June.

During autumn, 80 at **Farnley Tyas** on 28th September (DM) and 100 at **Langsett** on 2nd October (NWM) were good counts. Visible migration counts included 15 S at **Langsett** on 15th September, plus 42 S/SE/SW and 132 S/SE at **Deanhead Res.** on 30th September and 2nd October respectively (DT). At **Marsden/Pule Hill** a total of 570 were logged moving SW between 30th September and 25th October, with maximums of 246 on 30th September and 130+ on 2nd October (JMP). At **Harden Quarries** 493 were logged moving mainly SW between 26th September and 7th November, with a maximum of 111 on the former date and 99 on 10th October (JL, MC).

In the latter months numbers were unremarkable. By far the highest total was 100 at **High Hoyland** on 15th November. Up to 20 visited a garden at **Marsden** and 12 at Fenay Crescent

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

A big improvement on 2009, with records from 25 sites. Early year flocks were few and low in number, however, which was almost certainly due to the hard weather at the time.

Reported from 11 sites during the first winter period but most records involved just one to three individuals. Garden records included a single from 3rd to 9th January at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury**, two regularly at Winton Street, **Lockwood**, singles at **Marsden** and Birmingham Lane, **Meltham** on 6th February and two at **Meltham/Millmoor** on 20th March. The game crop at **High Hoyland** continued to be a major food source and attracted counts of 15 on 5th and 25 on 14th February. The last spring record involved two at **Bullcliff Wood** on 23rd March.

The first autumn migrants were two which flew SW at **Pule Hill/Marsden** on 30th September (JMP). These were followed on 2nd October by six at **Langsett**, five which flew SW again at **Pule Hill/Marsden** and five at **Yateholme Res.** Further October records were singles SE over **Deanhead Res.** on 4th, singles at **Shepley** on 8th and **Marsden** on 10th, two at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 13th, singles at **Deanhead** and **Dewsbury SF** on 16th, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd and two SW again at **Pule Hill/Marsden** on 25th.

At **Harden Quarries** a total of 16 passed over between 16th October and 7th November with a maximum of 11 SW on 24th October (MC, JL). In November singles were noted occasionally at **Marsden** to 14th, the year's highest count of 50 was at **High Hoyland** on 15th (SRG) followed by one to three birds recorded at eight sites to the year end. Five of these were in the observer's gardens: one at **Marsden** hosted three on 27th/28th November, 11 on 6th December and 15 on 28th/29th December; three were at Somerset Road, **Almondbury** from 27th November to 6th December; one to two at **New Mill** on 27th/28th November and one at **Netherthong** on 17th December.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

A common and widespread species, which is under-recorded.

There were no significant flocks during the early months; the largest number was a maximum of 12 birds visiting the observer's garden at North Street, **Lockwood** on 19th January.

During spring displaying and singing birds were recorded from **Bradley Hall Farm, Cliffe Wood, Langsett, Blackmoorfoot Res., Little Don Valley** and **Upper Cumberworth**. Breeding evidence was obtained from **Shelley Whins** where the species was reported to have had a 'good season' with some pairs raising three broods, **Fixby** with nest building recorded on 20th April and from the **Coxley Valley** where two young were being fed on 9th June.

Autumn post-breeding flocks were low; the only double-figure counts involved 11 and 15 at **Longwood Valley** on 15th August and 4th September respectively and 40 at **Gunthwaite** on 12th September.

Visible migration counts at **Harden Quarries** from 1st October to 30th November totalled 35 birds with a maximum of 17 flying SW on 17th October. At **Deanhead Res.** 55 which flew S or SE on 2nd October was a particularly notable record. In the late months double-figure counts were restricted to 50 at **High Hoyland** on 15th November and 12 at **Boshaw Whams** on 20th November.

Birds were recorded regularly from observer's gardens at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** (up to six), Meltham Road and North Street, **Lockwood** and **Meltham/Thick Hollins**. Observers at

Netherthong and **New Mill** reported a reduction in numbers and frequency of visits compared to previous years.

The regular observer at **Dewsbury SF** reported that records have become 'rather few and far between' with a maximum of just six and four on 14th and 17th October respectively.

Rather disconcertingly, after a seemingly case-free 2009, the Trichomonosis virus claimed several birds at **Shelley** (SRG).

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Despite the severe weather in the early part of the year there were several double-figure counts from various sites. Fifteen were at **Broadstones Res.** on 2nd January, 17 at Chaucer Close, **Honley** on 20th January, 40 at **Elland GP** on 30th January, 3rd and 8th February, 12 at **Meltham** on 6th February and 20 at **Winscar Res.** on 10th March.

During the breeding season several small family parties were noted at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury**, **Broadstones Res.**, **Harden**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke** and in the **Longwood Valley** in June. A pair fledged young for the third consecutive year at **Blackmoorfoot**.

In July 19 (including 7 juveniles) were at **Horbury** on 6th and smaller family parties of up to 10 were noted at **Ingbirchworth** and **Scout Dike Res.**, 30 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd and a party of 20 adults were at **Slaithwaite** on 26th.

Autumn flocks began to build up from early August: 22 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th; 27 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 8th; 30 at **Broadstones Res.** on 15th; 40 at **Royd Moor Res.**, 50 at **Deer Hill** on 25th and 60 at **Ingbirchworth** on 30th. Between 25+ and 80+ were at **Blackmoorfoot** on six days in August.

In September 30 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd, 25 at **Fixby** on 3rd, 42 at **Longwood Valley** on 4th, 77 in the **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** area on 9th, 36 moved SW over **Harden Quarries** on 12th, 25 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 28th and 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 30th. Similar numbers continued to be seen in October with 25 at **Deanhead Res.** on 2nd, 20 at **Wholestone Moor** on 12th and 20 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13th increased to 80 on 29th.

During visible migration watches from **Harden Quarries** between 26th September and 7th November a total of 90 were recorded passing over with the highest daily counts involving 19 NE on 26th September and 17 SW on 24th October (MC). At **Marsden/Pule Hill** a total of 90 moved SW between 30th September and 25th October with a maximum of 38 on 30th September (JMP).

Flock sizes began to decrease significantly from November with only **Ingbirchworth Res.** hosting a double-figure count of 20 on 23rd November. This trend continued into December with a maximum of 12 in the observer's garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** on 15th and 16 in a **New Mill** garden on 29th. Apart from the aforementioned gardens at Almondbury and New Mill, birds were occasionally recorded in gardens at North Street and Winton Street, **Lockwood**, Larks House, **Hepworth**, **Thick Hollins/Meltham** and **Netherthong**.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.



A similar showing to 2009 numbers wise, but there was a big increase at the number of sites from which it was recorded to over 50.

Significant counts in the early months were a maximum of 30 at **Meal Hill** from 1st January to 28th February, 34 at **Grimescar Valley** on 21st January, a maximum of 70 at **Bretton Lakes** on 25th January, 70 at **Haigh Woods** on 1st February and 40 at **Langsett** on 14th February decreasing to 30 by 16th March.

The only evidence of confirmed breeding in the area was a juvenile being fed in the **Little Don Valley** on 22nd April. During the breeding season up to 10 birds were recorded at several sites, with singing and displaying noted at **Bare Bones Road** on dates in May and June, three juveniles were in a garden at **Hade Edge** on 7th June and a particularly notable flock of 50 were at **Langsett** on 30th June (SRG). Singles visited a garden at **Meltham/Thick Hollins** on 26th June and 2nd July, with a singles visiting a **New Mill** garden on 3rd July with three on 28th August.

Numbers and frequency of sightings increased from September. Eight were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, 27 flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 12th and seven flew S over the **Wessenden Valley** on 21st. A total of 86 were logged passing over at **Harden Quarries** between 26th September and 7th November - with maximums of 29 SW on 26th September and 23 SW on 17th October. A total of

37 were logged passing over **Pule Hill/Marsden** between 30th September and 25th October, with a maximum of 24 SW on 2nd October.

Birds were recorded passing over several sites in the first half of October. Highest counts were 16 W over the **Colne Valley** on 2nd, **Scammonden Res.** recorded 30 on 3rd, 15 on 5th and 11th and 10 on 16th - all flying S. Elsewhere 15 were at **Marsden GC** on 30th October.

Several sites hosted up to eight in the second winter period, but the only double-figure counts received came from **Elland GP** with 20 on 6th and 16th November, 5th and 11th December and 30 on 16th December, with further totals of 13 at **Shelley Whins** on 13th December and 18 at Sands Recreation Ground, **Holmfirth** on 18th December.

In December two visited a garden at **Cowcliffe** on 12th and a single likewise at North Street.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs. Red listed.

Regularly recorded from the farmland that it favours, mainly during spring and autumn. A similar situation to 2009, although the autumn build-up appeared to peak a few weeks earlier than normal.

The year's largest flock of c.350 were feeding in game crop at **Lower Cumberworth** on New Year's Day (MC). Further significant winter counts were 15 at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th January and 20 on 22nd February, 70 at **Botany Bay**, Lepton from 28th January had risen to c.150 by mid-April, c.200 at **Thurgory Lane** and 40 at **Hullock Bank** on 31st January and 50 at **High Hoyland** on 5th February.

In April c.70 were at 70 Acre Farm, **Honley** on 2nd with 20 at **Scout Dike** on 26th April. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the first returning birds (2) were seen on 11th April. Thereafter up to 10 were present throughout the summer months. As birds began to move through the area to breeding habitat parties of up to 12 were recorded at several sites.

During the breeding season three or four pairs bred in the **Shelley** area, and two adults were observed feeding young at the **Coxley Valley** on 9th June and at **Castle Hill** on 23rd June. Elsewhere family parties were noted at **Broadstones Res.**, **Cupwith Res.**, **Ringstone Edge Res.** and **Deer Hill Res.** in August. Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Longwood Valley**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Pole Moor**, **Ravensthorpe GP**, **Upper Oldfield** and nine sites in the **Marsden** area.

Predictably, post-breeding flocks began to form in July with 20 at **Snowgate Head** on 20th and 27 at **Longwood Valley** on 31st. In August 70 were at **Emley Moor** on 3rd, 120 at **Scout Dike/Folly Lane** on 7th, 50 at **Honley Moor** on 18th, an autumn maximum of 25+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st and 122 at **Longwood Valley** on 28th were the highest counts. There were markedly fewer flocks in September, with 200 at **Gunthwaite** on 12th and **Honley Moor** on 14th and 22 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 22nd the only significant counts. Birds were recorded from only five sites in October - the only double figure totals being 15 at **Lindley Moor** on 2nd, 28 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 4th and 24 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 28th. In November, away from **High Hoyland**, where a maximum of 75 were counted on 15th, the only late year reports concerned three which visited a garden at **Shelley** on 17th and a single which flew S over **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 20th.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Red listed.

This red-listed and UKBAP (United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan) species continues to be well-monitored in the Club area, which holds a significant proportion of the English breeding population.

Unfortunately there were few records from the key site in the Calderdale area, whilst at Deer Hill the ringing programme no longer took place. The feeding programme at Deer Hill has been sustained thanks to the efforts of one local observer. There were only a small number of large flocks in the late summer/early autumn, but on a slightly more positive note birds were recorded at Blackmoorfoot after a blank 2009.

During the breeding season a singing male was located at one site on 23rd May, and a female was feeding three juveniles here on 25th July. Two family parties were seen at a second site on 10th July.

Deer Hill - at what remains the favoured locality up to 20 birds were coming to seed provided by the observer by mid-March (DMP). Many birds sported pink Deer Hill rings and were regularly seen here to the end of April. Birds became very scarce thereafter and, disappointingly, there was no sign of the usual summer build up despite the abundance of natural food. Records from other observers involved three on 21st April, three on 23rd May, four on 27th May and four on 10th July.
Cartworth Moor - a single on 17th March.

Rishworth - in March, Booth Dam Quarry hosted 29 on 20th and 16 on 30th, whilst 25 were present on 17th August and an amazing total of 88 on 3rd October (HBC).

Redbrook Res - 2 on 8th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res - there were three records, all from the fields to the W: 22 on 11th April (the date the first returning Linnets were seen), two on 22nd April and a single from 12th to 14th May.

Blakeley Res - two on 11th April.

Wessenden area - two on 11th April, a single on 23rd May and 18th August.

Baitings Res - 50 on 17th August.

Booth Wood Res - 19 on 22nd August included three with pink rings.

Deanhead Res - six flew S on 30th September and two flew S on 7th October.

Windle Edge - a single feeding on seed heads at the junction of Windle Edge Road and Woodhead Road on 1st November.

Winscar Res - one in the yacht club area on 1st November.

Harden Quarries - one flew NE during a visible migration watch on 6th November.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

Another good year for a species which can be difficult to identify, with birds recorded at four sites.

Meltham/Millmoor - at least three were regular visitors to a garden amongst a flock of up to 20 Lesser Redpolls from 1st January to 30th April (DMP, SP).

Linthwaite - two on feeders in the observer's garden on 6th February (SP).

Fixby - a single on 3rd March (DT).

Shelley/Far Bank - a single on 21st April (SRG).

Elland GP - one with Lesser Redpolls on 11th and 13th December (DT).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

In the early months numbers were much lower than early 2009. Several sites hosted between one and eight birds, but double figure counts were made at only four sites: up to 20 visited a garden at **Meltham/Millmoor** from 1st January to 30th April, one to eight were regular at **Fixby** from 2nd January to 7th April with a maximum of 20 on 19th January; 16 were at **Elland GP** on 31st January with 40 here on 13th February and 24 were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 4th April.

In spring, displaying/singing birds were noted at **Copthurst, Holme Styes/Elysium Fields** area, **Langsett** and in the **Little Don Valley**. Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Carlecotes Ponds, Dovestones Res.** (10 on 5th June), **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Ramsden Res.**

There were only five records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**: singles on 3rd and 30th June, four on 30th September and singles on 7th and 12th December.

Birds began moving through the area from late September, with 21 SW over **Harden Quarries** on 26th, four SW over **Pule Hill/Marsden** on 30th and a single SE over **Deanhead Res.** on the same date. In October further flyover records involved a single S over the **Colne Valley** and eight SW over **Marsden/Pule Hill** on 2nd, a single S over **Deanhead** on 7th, six S over **Healey Mills** on 13th, singles S or SE over **Wholestone Moor** on 16th and 25th and six SW at **Harden Quarries** on 16th. Twelve grounded birds were also seen at **Horbury Strands** on 13th.

November opened with counts of 17 passing SE over **Harden Quarries** on both 1st and 6th, which preceded a much more productive period. The highest counts being 23 at **Healey Mills** on 4th, 12 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 7th, 19 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 14th, 60 at **Langsett** on 17th (NWM) and 12 at **Horbury** on 24th. Numbers began to drop in December with the onset of very cold weather. Birds were recorded at only four sites with **Elland GP** hosting the largest flocks of 50 on 11th and 70 on 13th December (DT), and **Horbury Strands** hosting a notable 26 on 9th. Up to 10 birds visited a garden at **Netherthong** regularly throughout the month.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

An excellent year for this charismatic finch with records from 16 named sites, plus a further undisclosed one. Breeding was confirmed at one site and suspected at three more. The Langsett area was particularly productive and there is likely to be a fair degree of overlap with records here. The majority of records occurred in the first half of the year, and birds were recorded in every month bar January.

Site A - three nests were located under licence, two of which were c.60 feet from the ground in the top of a spruce. One pair fledged two young from three eggs while the other two raised two and three young respectively (JHod).

Ramsden Res - no specific counts were made but courtship activity and territorial song was noted from 1st February to 31st March and breeding was strongly suspected (PAB).

Langsett - 22 on 13th February, five in March, up to six in April, eight on 18th May, 20 on 18th September and five on 12th December (MC, NWM, DT).

Langsett Res - seven on both 2nd March and 11th April (DH, MCW).

Langsett Banks - 12 on 20th March, 11 on 12th May, 20 on 26th May, a single on 31st August and 12 on 13th October (SRG, KH, MCW).

Swinden Walls - a male and female were observed drinking from a puddle on the woodland edge on 26th March (CDA).

Riding Wood Res - 15 on 27th March (DMP) and 14 on 1st May (PAB).

Yateholme - 10 on 3rd April (SP, KW).

Little Don Valley - two calling agitatedly on 18th April was indicative of probable breeding (JL), a single on 30th April (GLB) and six on 25th May (KH).

Swinden Plantation - three on 11th May (DB, AK).

Crossley's Plantation - 13 on 15th May (HQ).

Butterley Res - four flew SW on 20th June (JMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res - 19 flew NE at 10.00hrs. on 28th June (MLD).

Holme Styes - 10 on 1st September (HQ).

Scout Dike Res - a single flew out of the dam wall conifers on 7th October (RJB).

Harden Quarries - visible migration watches produced three on 17th October, four on 24th October and a single on 6th November - all flying SW (MC, JL).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

As usual, the vast majority of records involved between one and four birds, occasionally up to seven. Exceptions were counts of eight at **Elland GP** on 21st January, **Meltham** on 6th February, **Bretton Lakes** on 6th March and in the observer's garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** on 27th March with 11 (including 7 juveniles) on 17th July and 10 on 24th July, nine at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 29th September with eight on 24th November, and 10 at **Bretton Lakes** on 15th November.

A particularly notable record was of 18 moving SW at **Harden Quarries** during a visible migration watch on 24th October (JL).

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the only records in the first winter period concerned two from 20th January to 5th February, two between 3rd and 27th March and two from 8th to 30th April. In May, two pairs took up residence, the April pair along the east bank, the other along the west. The pair along the west bank probably bred and the east bank pair raised young. These birds remained until late August. Thereafter, with the exception of five on 17th December two were seen on a daily basis until 27th December.

Apart from Blackmoorfoot, the only breeding details submitted were from **Hade Edge** (2 juveniles in a garden on 26th June), **Fixby** (2 juveniles on 8th July), **Brighouse**, where a pair was collecting nesting material on 10th July, and **Stoneycliffe Wood NR** (4 juveniles on 17th July).

Birds were also noted during the breeding season at **Almondbury**, **Broadstones Res.**, **Cannon Hall CP**, **Dearne Dike Lane**, **Digley**, **Elland**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**,

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare to scarce visitor



This enigmatic and declining species was recorded on two occasions, the first records since 2005.

One was seen briefly as it moved E over Menagerie Wood at **Bretton Lakes** - a former favoured location - in freezing conditions on 4th January (DButt). On 10th November one stayed at **Healey Mills/Kerry NR** for 10 minutes after arriving with thrushes. It called continuously before leaving S with a party of Redwings (JH).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare passage and winter visitor



A single called on a number of occasions as it flew SW over **Marsden/Pule Hill** on 2nd October (JMP) and at least one bird was at **Wholestone Moor** from 18.00 to 18.30 hrs. on 8th October (DT).

These two records constitute only the ninth and tenth for the Club area, and the first since one at Wessenden Head on 10th January 2000.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare Winter Visitor

Five records represent an excellent year for this much sought-after local bird.

At **Harden Quarries** - one flew SW on 25th September (JL), which is the earliest ever in the Club area, and one flew NE on 6th November (MC). In the **Marsden/Pule Hill** area a single flew SW calling at 08:17 hrs. on 2nd October (JMP) and one was heard and seen flying SW at 10.07 hrs. on 25th October (JMP, DS, DT). On 18th December one was seen briefly on the top path at the **Wessenden Valley** associating with two Reed Buntings before disappearing, calling, into freezing fog.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs. Red listed.

A similar picture to 2009 with birds recorded from 36 sites.

As in the early months of last year, several sites hosted between one and six birds but there were only two double figure counts - almost certainly due to the severe weather at the time: 25 at **Shepley** on 14th January and 10 at **High Hoyland** on 22nd January.

During spring and summer singing males were recorded at **Bretton Park, Broadstones Res., Calder Navigation, Cheesegate Nab, the Horbury area, Ingbirchworth Res., Kirkheaton Bricks, Millbank/Thornhill, Ravensthorpe GP, Royd Moor Res., Shepley and Skelmanthorpe.**

Breeding evidence was obtained from only three sites. Two adults were taking food to a nest site at **Calder Navigation** on 8th June, and food carrying was also noted at **Scout Dike Res.** on 3rd July and **Fulstone** on 20th July. Juveniles were noted at **Horbury Bridge** on 6th July and **Broadstones Res.** on 20th July.

During the autumn/early winter period far fewer sites held birds - usually only between one and six - the more significant counts were 50 at **Shepley** on 8th October and **High Hoyland** on 15th November (both SRG), with 10 at **Thurgory Lane** on 10th November and 20 at **Lepton** on 23rd November.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Recorded from 51 widespread sites. There was an encouraging number of singing males noted during the spring and summer. Although breeding was confirmed at only three sites, other breeding successes must have gone undetected at the less well-watched areas.

As in early 2009 several sites hosted small numbers - usually one to three birds but occasionally up to eight. Again, the Calder Valley and the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs were the favoured localities.

During the first winter period **Dewsbury SF** held the only double figure counts, with 18 on 4th January and 14 on 22nd February, there was a notable count of nine at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 22nd March. The importance of feeding birds during severely cold conditions was highlighted when up to 10 came to nyjer seed in the observer's garden at **Meltham Millmoor** between early January and early May, the majority of them being males (DMP). Other early year garden records involved singles at **Fenay Crescent, Almondbury** on 16th January, up to five at **Marsden** on 6th and 28th February, and 7th and 20th March and a single at **Taylor Hill** on 7th March.

The first spring bird at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** appeared on 2nd March, and the first singing male of the spring was noted at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th March. Thereafter singing males were noted at the following localities: **Blackmoorfoot Res., Black Moss, Bretton Lakes, Broadstones Res., Brown's Edge Road, Colne Bridge SP, Crow Edge, Digley (2), Langsett, Scout Dike Res. (2), Skelmanthorpe, Swellands Res., Royd Moor Res. (3), Wessenden Head Res. (2) and Wholestone Moor.** Up to 14 singing males were located in the **Marsden** area (JMP), five pairs were present in the **Horbury** area and three pairs at **Dewsbury SF.**

Breeding was confirmed at three sites: a female was observed feeding 'several' young at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 16th June; two pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot** with young fledged by 20th June; three pairs were present at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and a pair were feeding three young on 25th July. Small family parties were noted at **Cupwith Res.**, **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Scout Dike Res.** in July.

Significantly fewer records were received from September onwards. Visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** logged the following flying SW: a single on 17th, three on 22nd and one on 24th October, plus two flew NE on 6th November. Elsewhere birds were recorded from only eight sites. The **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** area held 12 on 7th November, 16 on 28th November and 22 on 3rd December (JRS), and a maximum of 20 came to game crop at **High Hoyland** on 15th November. Up to six visited the observer's garden at **Marsden** on 4th and 28th November and 29th December

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

RINGED TEAL *Colonetta leucophrys*

A male was present on the River Calder in the Horbury Strands/Wyke area on 6th and 17th December at least (AK, DHa, DT).

BRAZILIAN TEAL *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

A male at **Scout Dike Res.** on or around 17th April (RJB).

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Two were on the River Calder near Sands Lane GP on 19th January, with three on 24th February. Two were again on the gravel pit on 18th May (DT).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Still managing to hang on at Bretton Lakes. After a blank year in 2009, a male was seen on 13th May (DB).

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

A male at **Upperthong** on 17th/18th August was identified by Phil Bone from photographs taken by an unknown observer.

ADDITION TO 2009 REPORT


(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

A single was calling in the churchyard at Marsden on 7th May (JMP).

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS


	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2010		EVER		2010	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	18/3	Sands Lane GP	29/9	1969	23/8	Withheld
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	9/4	Royd Moor Res.	21/11	1959	23/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	31/3	2010	31/3	Blackmoorfoot	16/10	2001	14/9	Blackmoorfoot
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	21/4	Horbury Wyke	27/10	1977	30/6	Langsett
Swift	16/4	2000	20/4	Blackmoorfoot	8/11	2001	30/9	Horbury
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	17/3	Sands Lane GP	23/10	1971	24/9	Elland GP
Swallow	10/3	1959	24/3	Dewsbury SF	5/12	1995	17/10	Harden Quarries
House Martin	20/3	2005	5/4	Cooper Bridge	27/11	1959	30/9	Honley
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	17/4	Goodbent Lodge	5/10	2000	30/9	Carlecotes
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	20/4	Horbury	24/10	1952	16/9	Shelley
Common Redstart	21/3	1942	12/4	Holme Styes	24/10	1976	18/9	Elland GP
Whinchat	11/4	1949	1/5	Pule Hill	9/11	1999	18/9	Broadstones
Northern Wheatear	1/3	1997	23/3	Cupwith Res.	4/12	1997	14/10	Isle of Skye
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	4/4	Digley	25/12	1855	20/10	Cheesegate Nab
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	20/4	Healey Mills NR	29/8	2000	31/7	Scout Dike
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	20/4	Healey Mills NR	26/9	1999	6/9	Golcar
Reed Warbler	22/4	2002	30/4	Colne Bridge SP	29/9	2001	6/7	Horbury
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	21/4	Horbury Wyke	24/11	1984	18/7	Shelley
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	20/4	Ingbirchworth	27/9	1973	4/9	Royd Moor Res.
Common Whitethroat	3/4	1901	17/4	Horbury	12/10	1999	5/10	Healey Mills NR
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	23/4	Denby Dale	4/9	1956	12/5	Langsett
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	25/3	Meltham Mills	27/10	1987	22/9	Scammonden
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	1/5	Langsett	16/10	1985	21/9	Langsett
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	22/4	Langsett	19/9	1969	24/7	Winscar Res.

 Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

Note: **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2010		EVER		2010	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	4/4	Digley Res. & Blackmoorfoot	4/10	2005	19/10	Digley Res.
Pink-footed Goose	21/4	2010	21/4	Dewsbury SF	11/9	2007	18/9	Langsett Res.
Goldeneye	mid-May	?	2/5	Ingbirchworth	mid-Sept	?	13/10	Blackmoorfoot
Waxwing	29/4	1991	early Feb	Lindley	24/10	1965	24/10	Harden
Redwing	7/5	1975	30/3	Denby Dale	27/8	1941	26/9	Bare Bones Rd.
Brambling	13/5	1976	23/3	Bullcliff Wood	13/9	1983	30/9	Pule Hill

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: **Fieldfare** - in view of the fact that this species previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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Organisations:

Barnsley Bird Study Group

Bird Forum

Bird Guides

Greater Manchester Bird Recording Group (GMBRG)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

Marsden Moor NT Estate

RSPB Denby Dale Office

RSPB Halifax/Huddersfield Local Group

RING-BILLED GULL AT SANDS LANE GP

On February 20th, whilst with Mick Cunningham and Nick Mallinson trying to relocate the Great White Egret at Bretton, talk turned briefly and seemingly out of nowhere to Ring-billed Gull and its rare status in Yorkshire. MC alluded to the pitfalls involved in identifying the species and I remembered with slight shame how I'd once entertained high hopes of finding one locally, even up to the point of habitually keeping an eye out for them when out and about. Such optimism now seemed ridiculous.

Three days later – Tuesday, February 23rd – and all thoughts of rare gulls had gone from my head. That afternoon, with an hour or so to spare, I found myself heading towards Sands Lane, Mirfield. It isn't a place I visit very often; in fact this was going to be my first time there this year. I'd just dropped off some records with Brian Armitage, and he'd happened to mention the site in passing. As I left his house I realised it wasn't too far away and might well be worth a quick check for Redshank or Green Sandpiper, either of which I'd have been more than happy with.

Arriving there around ten minutes later I was fairly surprised to see how much of the water was frozen over and after a quick scan of the edges it soon became clear that there were no waders to be found. So, mildly deflated, I turned my attention to the hundred or so small gulls. I'd heard that a first-winter Mediterranean had been here a few weeks ago but to be honest it was a bit of a half-hearted search and I never really relaxed into the gull-finding 'zone'. One eye was always on the clock because I knew I'd soon have to be in Birkby to pick up my daughter from her after-school club and straight after that I was due back at work. Then something happened that made me jump. Up to now I'd been blithely ignoring adult Common Gulls but suddenly one was in view, walking around on the ice, and with obviously paler upperparts than any of the others it passed. Thinking about it now, it no doubt helped that there was a nice flat grey light at the time. If the sun had been shining I might never have picked up on the relative paleness.

Switching back to the scope, slight panic set in as I realised the gull had moved from where it had been. Ironically though, the fact that it was moving around so much made it fairly easy to relocate. Most of the other gulls were quite still. The bird was now on the water and had come closer, less than 100m away, and now with much better views three things immediately stood out. One was a thick, clearly defined bill band; another was an easily visible pale iris. I knew that Common Gulls could sometimes show pale-looking eyes but I also knew I'd never seen any anywhere near as pale as this. Thirdly, and crucially, was the tertial crescent. It was narrow and faint and quite unlike any of the Commons'. Whoaah! This was looking good!

At this point I did start scribbling some notes, but reading these now they appear to consist entirely of the words 'TC!!', 'pale ups', 'thick band', and 'eyes'. I suspect there was also quite a bit of incoherent muttering going on. After that I took a few digiscoped photos and then realised somebody had better be told about this. The first person I tried to ring was BA but his phone was engaged. When I looked up, the bird had again disappeared and I began to wonder if I'd been hallucinating but no, there it was, back out of the water and still showing all the features noted earlier. I then sent a text to the other five or six local birders whose numbers were in my mobile – 'Think I've got an ad Ring-billed Gull at Sands Lane GP!'

Once you've actually committed yourself to something you immediately start having doubts about it. Well, I do anyway. The conversation at Bretton the other day was now playing in my mind, as was a half-remembered quote from the introduction to the Macmillan Guide – something like 'How can you expect to identify a Ring-billed Gull if you've never bothered to take a close look at a Common Gull?' Looking at it again, there were a number of features which didn't seem

to fit exactly right with my mental image of the species. These included general size and leg colour, both uncomfortably similar to Common, and maybe even bill structure. The bill was fairly long and deep; maybe just not quite as long and deep as I'd have liked. Not once did I think the bird could be a Herring Gull, but this in itself caused some concern because I knew that Herring was sometimes posited as a confusion species. I was wavering rapidly between doubt and near certainty but then real life butted in as I remembered where I was supposed to be. So, after hastily making a few more notes I called it a day, and for the time being that was that.

That evening was spent looking at hundreds of gulls on the internet and deep in the pages of Grant and Klaus Malling Olsen. Gradually I became more and more confident that none of the problems perceived earlier were actually problems at all. Reactions to photos I'd emailed to a few local birders were understandably non-committal but generally positive, and by the time I went to bed the pressure felt to be easing.

Snow fell during the night and when I opened the door at six on Wednesday morning the air was thick with fog. Abandoning any thoughts of being able to look for the gull again that day I set off for work and forgot about it. As the morning wore on though, the fog began to clear, work went by without any hitches, and things started to look more hopeful. Early in the afternoon I posted a message about the gull on the HBW forum and soon after that I was back at Sands Lane. Within seconds it appeared in view, this time picked out by the indistinct tertial crescents, and I was relieved to find that all the characteristics noted yesterday still applied today. After a while I was joined by David Tattersley who not only gave a welcome positive second opinion but also took the bird out of the uneasy 'single observer sighting' category. Feeling somewhat more relaxed now, other features of the jizz became apparent. Despite not really looking any bigger than the biggest Common Gulls it was now obviously a heftier bird, especially when seen in flight. The shape of the head was also consistently different to that of any Common Gull. Leaving the site a good hour later I wondered why I'd been so cautious yesterday. Then again, maybe that was the right approach to take with what for me was an entirely new species.

Later that afternoon the news appeared on the bird information services and over the next few days the Ring-billed Gull showed well, on and off, for a great number of observers. During March its appearances became increasingly sporadic; the last reported sighting coming on the final day of that month. However, as predicted by some, what was presumed to be the same individual reappeared in autumn and was then again seen regularly to the end of the year and beyond.

David Pennington

A version of this article first appeared in *Yorkshire Birding* and it is included here by kind permission of the Editor.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE AT THE ISLE OF SKYE QUARRY

Fairly early in the morning of 12th October, 2010, I received a call from Brian Armitage about a Great Grey Shrike which had just been found by John Hamilton at Healey Mills NR. The species has long been one of my favourites and was also one I'd yet to see in the Huddersfield area, so it didn't take much consideration to postpone what I was doing and jump in the car. Unfortunately the bird had gone by the time I arrived and so, after a half hour check of the surrounding area, looking on the wires, I set off back to work.

That same day, around 15.15hrs., I was due a 'tea-break' and decided to spend it at the Isle of Skye quarry. As usual it was very quiet there and not for the first time I wondered if it was a very good idea to have a bird-free zone for a local patch. Things got slightly better as I walked up the track along the southern rim and heard some Pink-footed Geese calling, way to the north. I couldn't find them for a while but when I did there were about 200 in two skeins, going west. Then at the top corner a Little Owl flew onto the rock face. Apart from that there were just the usual few Meadow Pipits and Red Grouse but even so, it felt quite pleasant just to be there on such a calm sunny afternoon.

A few minutes later I'd reached the northern edge of the quarry and turned for a final scan of the pools in case anything had been missed, but the scene remained as quiet as before. At 15.55hrs. I was just about to call it a day when a bird appeared in my peripheral vision from behind, low and to my left, accompanied by a sudden rise in the volume of Meadow Pipit calls. It was strikingly black, grey, and white, and for a split second all I could think of was a gigantic super-vivid spring male Wheatear with a strangely erratic style of flight. After another split second the bird was properly in view, the long rounded tail and broad, short-looking wings now leaving no doubt as to its true identity. As luck would have it the bird then swerved up, perching near the top of one of the young willows in the dip by the east pool. By now I was transfixed. Needless to say, this kind of response is rarely warranted at the quarry. The last time was as long ago as 2002, when a first-winter Black Redstart stayed for just short of a month, but that was nothing when compared to a Great Grey Shrike.

The only problem now was that the willow was nowhere near sturdy enough to support the bird's weight, causing it to lurch up and down with constant waving of the tail. Its stability might also have been affected by the close attention of a growing number of Meadow Pipits. Despite this, views through 10x42 binoculars at around 50 metres were breathtaking. Essentially, the bird looked clean grey above and pure white below, with a black mask through the eyes, black wings, and a black tail. I also managed to note the narrow white supercilium and white tail edges, but didn't have time to check the extent and pattern of white in the wing before it again took flight, continuing low and south-west. It was then possible to confirm that this white was mostly concentrated at the base of the primaries and formed a curved patch. Another striking feature at this point was that the white in the tail edges broadened at the tip, producing a wedge-shaped effect when seen against the sandy-coloured quarry bottom.

A combination of excitement and the brevity of events meant that I'd barely even started thinking about getting any photographs. It was only when the shrike landed again on one of the posts up the southern rim that I grabbed my camera. Unfortunately though, as well as being quite distant, it was now directly in line with the sun. I tried to get a record shot but it was hopeless - all that was visible through the camera was glare. So, I decided to move towards the quarry entrance in order to get a better view from there. Whilst walking I caught sight of a shrike-sized bird flying west up the track. This prompted me to break into a run, but by the time I'd got to a place where the sun wasn't in my eyes the bird had predictably disappeared. I then spent about 20 minutes scanning

fences and bushes but had no luck. Subsequent checks over the next few days were widened to include surrounding areas such as Bradshaw and Magdalen Spring but were similarly fruitless. However, one consolation came with the discovery during one of these searches of the site's second Black Redstart, another first-winter male. It was found on 14th by Steve Cook and others on walls to the east, and on the following day appeared in the quarry itself, staying to at least 18th.

Although arriving from the right direction, it will never be known for sure if the Great Grey Shrike was the same one which had been at Healey Mills. What struck me later though was that if I hadn't gone looking for that one then it's highly unlikely that I'd have been at the quarry at the exact time the bird appeared there.

David Pennington

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from Mike Denton. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the club area. It is by leaving

these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

CO-ORDINATES OF COMMON LOCALITIES

(Use Ordnance Survey map Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid Ref.
Ainley Top	117193
Almondbury	170155
Annat Royd Lane	211053
Appleyards, Golcar	101152
Armitage Bridge	130135
Ashway Gap	023043
Aspley	151163
Baitings Res.	006188
Bank Wood, Emley	263138
Banks Hall	282066
Bare Bones Road	144043
Bargate	096147
Barkisland	055197
Bartin	091072
Beaumont Park	130147
Bell Royd Farm	228048
Berry Brow	141138
Big Valley	130136
Bilberry Res.	102070
Binn Edge	053105
Bird's Edge	202077
Bird's Nest Lane	187066
Birkby	137181
Birks Moss	056078
Black Brook	060177
Black Hill	078047
Black Moss	040085
Blacker Beck	297161
Blacker Pit	299164
Blacker Wood	240111
Blackley Tip	102195
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127
Blake Lee, Marsden	029121
Blakeley Res.	054096
Booth Dam Quarry	018161
Booth Wood Res.	026163
Boothroyd Wood	183118
Boshaw Whams	151057
Bradley	165205
Bradley Park GC	159207
Bradshaw	052144
Bretton Lakes	280127
Broadstones Lodge	203064
Broadstones Res.	195065

Location	Grid Ref.
Brookhouse Bridge	198007
Brown's Edge	195058
Brownhill Res.	114060
Buckstones	010140
Bullcliff Farm	290156
Bullcliff Wood	292152
Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Butterley Res.	050103
Butternab Wood	122138
Cannon Hall	275085
Carlecotes	178034
Carr Wood	180133
Cartworth Moor	138060
Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Castle Hill	152141
Cawthorne	285080
Cawthorne Dike	295089
Cheesegate Nab	175065
Chew Hills	023030
Chew Valley	025025
Choppards	142064
Cinderhills	147075
Clayton West	260110
Clayton West S.F.	266118
Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Clock Face Quarry	044173
Clough Lee	046116
Clough Wood	175114
Cockley Hill	188179
Colne Valley	070140
Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Cooper Bridge	175206
Cowcliffe	139187
Coxley Bank	275168
Coxley Valley	271165
Cranberry	247008
Crimble	085145
Crosland Heath GC	110142
Crosland Hill	115145
Crosland Moor	120150
Crossley's Plantation	125050
Crow Edge	188046
Cubley	245023

Location	Grid Ref.
Cupwith Res.	038141
Dalton	165168
Dean Clough	080067
Dean Rocks	025038
Dean Wood	119134
Deanhead Res.	038152
Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Dearne Head	185076
Deer Hill Res.	070115
Deffer Wood	260090
Deighton	167191
Denby Dale	225084
Dewsbury SF	260198
Digley Bottom	115068
Digley Res.	107070
Dogley NR	187137
Dovestones Res.	018040
Drop Clough	048133
Dunford Bridge	158024
Edge Hill	235016
Edge Moor	104125
Elland GP	125222
Ellentree Brow	142045
Elysium Fields	133055
Emley Moor	225135
Emley Tx	223130
Farnley Tyas	166128
Farnley Wood	164134
Featherbed Moss	044010
Fenay Beck	183152
Fixby	139196
Flight Hill	153042
Flockton	245151
Flouch Inn	198016
Folly Hall	142159
Ford Inn	114084
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027
Fox Clough	136057
Fox Holes, Langsett	190006
Fox House Moss	165042
Fullshaw	210012
Fulstone	175095
Garside Hey	032133
Gawthorpe Green	193168
Gilbert Hill	210007
Gledholt	133170
Golcar	096160

Location	Grid Ref.
Golcar Tip	104156
Grain's Moss	125025
Grange Moor	220160
Green Gate	204060
Green Gate Road	113080
Greenfield Res.	030054
Greenfield Road	103080
Greetland	085215
Grimescar Valley	130190
Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Hade Edge	146053
Hades Green Clough	141052
Haigh	294120
Haigh Clough	023127
Hall Bower	145140
Hall Dike	115118
Hall Ing Road	162115
Hard Hill	056111
Harden	153037
Harden Clough	144039
Harden Edge	158038
Harden Moss	100083
Harden Res.	150037
Hartcliff Hill	221017
Hazlehead	195028
Healey Greave Wood	194116
Healey House	115124
Healey Mills	268193
Helme	101118
Hepworth	164066
Hey Green, Marsden	032122
Heyden Moor	092024
High Hoyland	273102
High Wood	290106
Highburton	193133
Hill Top Res.	074141
Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Hingcliffe Common	194001
Holmbridge	120068
Holme	108060
Holme Moor West	062114
Holme Styas	136054
Holme Styas Res.	141055
Holme Woods	105045
Holmfirth	143082
Holt Head	080123
Honley	138118

Location	Grid Ref.
Honley Moor	116113
Horbury Strands	288177
Horbury Wyke	297172
Houses Hill	199169
Hoylandswaine	265047
Huddersfield	145165
Hullen Edge	100208
Hullock Bank	172075
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Isle of Skye Quarry	093080
Issues Clough	082053
Issues Road	095061
Jackson Bridge	165075
Jebb Lane	280112
Jenkinson Wood	184116
Jubilee Quarries	103128
Kaye Lane	160147
King's Mill Lane	150161
Kirkburton	198128
Kirkheaton	185185
Kirkroyds	156091
Krumlin	056183
Langsett	212005
Langsett Banks	205003
Langsett Res.	210001
Law	158047
Law Slack Ponds	156047
Lepton	203152
Lepton Great Wood	195145
Lindley	120182
Lindley Moor	095185
Lingards	060132
Linthwaite	095145
Liphill Brook	129078
Litherop Lane	273123
Little Black Moss Res.	032087
Little Don Valley	195005
Lockwood	135152
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Longwood	108167
Lower Cumberworth	223095
Lower Hopton	202191
Lower Maythorn	187056
Lower Stones Wood	187106
Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Lowfields, Elland	117219
Lumb Lane	160140

Location	Grid Ref.
Magdale Dam	135124
Magdalen Clough	090082
March Haigh Res.	015130
Margery Wood	275096
Marsden	045115
Marsden Clough	094072
Marsh	125171
Mathewman Wood	182098
Maythorn	186057
McAlpine Stadium	155176
Meal Hill	168070
Mellor Wood	158144
Meltham Cop	093120
Meltham Moor	080093
Meltham SF	112115
Middlestown	267172
Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Millhouse Green	218032
Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Milnsbridge	113158
Molly Carr Wood	160137
Morton Wood	158067
Myers Wood	188125
Mytholm Bridge	154102
Nether End	124081
Nether Moor	117133
Netherthong	139097
Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Netherwood	054127
Nettleton Hill	094170
New Hall Wood	265155
New House Wood	210082
New Mill	164088
Nont Sarah's	048152
Nopper Road	107135
Oakes	120174
Oldfield	136103
Orange Wood	102123
Ossett	290200
Outlane	085180
Ox Lee	168055
Oxygrains Beck	003159
Paddock	125161
Park Mill	260114
Paul Lane	184203
Penistone	245033
Penny Spring Wood	160155

Location	Grid Ref.
Pole Moor	067158
Potato Lane	089125
Pule Hill	033104
Ramsden Res.	115055
Ravensthorpe	222202
Ravensthorpe GP	233202
Redbrook Res.	027098
Reynard Clough	136050
Riding Wood Res.	117050
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182
Ripponden	040197
Rishworth	032182
Roughbitchworth	264016
Round Wood	157101
Royd Edge	095097
Royd House Wood	162133
Royd Moor Res.	222048
Ryburn Res.	020188
Salendine Nook	105178
Salters Brook	137002
Sand Ridge Moss	158032
Sands Lane GP.	217196
Sands House	116145
Scammonden	050160
Scissett	248104
Scout Dike Res.	233049
Shelley	204113
Shelley Woodhouse	218110
Shepley	193098
Shore Head	148166
Silkstone	290059
Silkstone SF	295065
Skelmanthorpe	233105
Slaithwaite	080140
Slaithwaite Moor	040143
Smith Wood	179115
Snailsden Moor	135035
Snailsden Res.	135040
Snape Res.	117088
Snittle Road	149050
Snowgate Head	179085
South Crosland	113130
Sparth Res.	055125
Spicer House Lane	205055
Spring Wood	130124
Square Wood Res.	217078
Squirrel Ditch	152154

Location	Grid Ref.
Stainland	077194
Standedge	016098
Stocksmoor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storthes Hall Moor	175112
Storthes Hall Woods	183125
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Swinny Knoll	125097
T. P. Wood	132166
Taylor Hill	135145
Thongsbridge	151097
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorpes	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurgory	191158
Thurlestone Moor	175020
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163038
Totties	157082
Townhead	166028
Tunnel End Res.	039120
Tup Stones	096018
Underbank	144076
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	230072
Upper Greotland	075212
Upper Longendale	095005
Upper Royd	095095
Upper Stones Wood	185104
Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Waring Bridge	065131
Waterloo	177166
Way Stones Edge	004142
Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Wessenden Valley	055088
West Nab	077088
West Wood, Honley	151123
Wetshaw Edge	147032
Whitegate Lane	128055
Whitley Common	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Wholestone Moor	077167
Will's o' Nats's	090121
Wilshaw	118100
Windle Edge	152017

Location	Grid Ref.
Windleden Edge	142010
Windmill Lane	195072
Windybank Wood	112104
Winscar Res.	150025
Wolfstones	124092
Wood Nook	122106
Wood Top	046113
Woodhead Res.	095002

Location	Grid Ref.
Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146
Wooldale	155090
Yateholme	115050
Yeoman Hey	033050

More information about localities within the club area can be found on our web site www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2010

The following is a list of the 269 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2010. Eleven additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the years in which the birds appeared are also listed.

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

Two species new to Huddersfield were recorded in 2010:

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* – an adult male on the River Calder at Horbury on 12th January.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* – one seen and heard singing near Healey Mills Nature Reserve on 20th May.

In addition, the following registered only their second ever records for the area:

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* – an adult in winter plumage at Bretton Lakes on 20th February.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* – one on the shore of Deer Hill Reservoir on 10th May.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 150).

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Huddersfield area. Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2010

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>				
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996	YNU		
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		HBC		
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		HBC		
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		HBC		
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>				
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		HBC		
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>				
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU		
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002	HBC		
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2010	YNU		
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU		
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
26	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				
27	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985			
28	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>				
29	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				
30	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC		
31	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
32	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>				
33	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				
34	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				
35	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				
36	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>				
37	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>				
38	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
39	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
40	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				
41	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				
42	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC		
43	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC		
44	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC		
45	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				
46	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
47	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC		
48	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC		
49	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC		
50	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC		
51	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC		
52	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC		
53	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
54	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		HBC		
55	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
56	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC		
57	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC		
58	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU		
59	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		HBC		
60	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1989, 2010	YNU		
61	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
62	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC		
63	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC		
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC		
65	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC		
66	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		YNU		
67	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				
68	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU		
69	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC		
70	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC		
71	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU		
72	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC		
73	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				
74	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
75	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU		
76	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU		
77	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC		
78	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				
79	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU		
80	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				

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81	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
82	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
83	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
84	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC		
85	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	BBRC		
86	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC		
87	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				
88	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				
89	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC		
90	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
91	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005, 2010	HBC		
92	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedinenus</i>		HBC		
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC		
96	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
97	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
98	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				
99	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
100	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
101	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC		
102	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC		
103	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU		
104	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU		
105	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC		
106	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC		
107	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
108	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU		
109	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
110	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>				
111	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
112	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		BBRC		
113	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
114	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				
115	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
116	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				
117	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				
118	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	YNU		
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
120	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990			
121	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
122	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
123	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
124	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC		
125	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
126	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
127	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	YNU		
128	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU		
129	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC		
130	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC		
131	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC		
132	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC		
133	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC		
134	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC		
135	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
136	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
137	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
138	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC		
139	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				
140	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU		
141	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>				
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>		HBC		
142	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>				
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC		
143	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC		
144	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU		
145	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	2008	YNU		
146	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC		
147	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
148	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		HBC		
149	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC		
150	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU		
151	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC		
152	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				
153	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC		
154	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC		
155	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC		
156	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC		
157	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC		
158	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888	BBRC		

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
159	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)				
160	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				
161	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				
162	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				
163	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
164	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
165	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC		
166	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
167	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
168	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				
169	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
170	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
171	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
172	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU		
173	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
174	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968	BBRC		
175	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC		
176	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC		
177	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
178	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
179	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				
180	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC		
181	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				
182	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC		
183	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
184	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
185	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
186	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU		
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
188	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
189	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>		HBC		
190	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC		
191	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>				
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		HBC		
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990, 2010	HBC		
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				
193	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>				
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC		

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
194	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>				
195	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				
196	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
197	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
198	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
199	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC		
200	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC		
201	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
202	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
203	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				
204	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
205	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
206	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				
207	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				
208	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				
209	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				
210	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				
211	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				
212	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				
213	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				
214	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
215	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
216	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				
217	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
218	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC		
219	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC		
220	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC		
221	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>				
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC		
222	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
223	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
224	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		HBC		
225	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				
226	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
227	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				
228	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				
229	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				
230	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>				
231	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>				

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
232	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC		
233	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				
234	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				
235	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	2010	HBC		
236	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC		
237	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC		
238	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
239	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				
240	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				
241	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				
242	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				
243	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>				
244	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		HBC		
245	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				
246	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC		
247	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
248	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
249	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				
250	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
251	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				
252	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
253	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				
254	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				
255	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>				
256	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>				
257	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>				
258	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				
259	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	BBRC		
260	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
261	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
262	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC		
263	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC		
264	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
265	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		YNU		
266	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU		
267	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
268	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	HBC		
269	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				

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	Whooper	12
Swift	Common	69
Teal	Common	18
Tern	Arctic	64
	Black	63
	Common	64
Thrush	Mistle	94
	Song	93
Tit	Blue	106
	Coal	106
	Great	106
	Long-tailed	104
	Marsh	107
	Willow	107

Common English name		Page
Treecreeper		108
Twite		118
Wagtail	Grey	75
	Grey-headed	75
	Pied	76
	White	76
	Yellow	75
Warbler	Garden	98
	Grasshopper	95
	Reed	96
	Sedge	95
	Willow	102
	Wood	100
Waxwing		87
Wheatear	Greenland	91
	Northern	91
Whimbrel		54
Whinchat		90
Whitethroat	Common	99
	Lesser	98
Wigeon	Eurasian	17
Woodcock		53
Woodpecker	Great Spotted	70
	Green	70
	Lesser Spotted	70
Woodpigeon		65
Wren		88
Yellowhammer		123

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HUDDERSFIELD RECORDING AREA

The bird recording area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Farm.

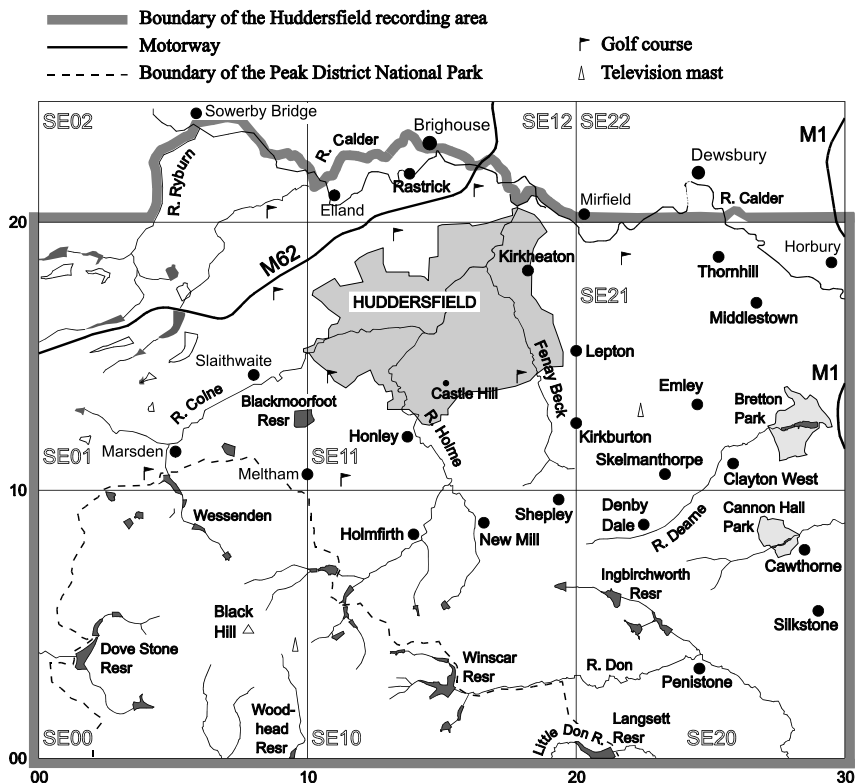


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



Ring-billed Gull, Sands Lane Gravel Pit, 21st November 2010

This superb Ring-billed Gull, a rare vagrant from North America and a real 'birders bird', was one of 173 species of birds seen around the area in 2010, including two new to Huddersfield and two more making only their second ever appearance.



www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

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