



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

Birds in Huddersfield

2015



Birds in Huddersfield 2015 is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports produced by the Club since our formation in 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: **Curlew (Stuart Brocklehurst)**.

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

Rear cover photograph: **Great Grey Shrike (David Pennington)**.

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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

It is an honour and a privilege in this, the fiftieth year of the Club, to be invited to serve as your President. Mike Wainman, my predecessor, steered the Club through the last few years and also did a commendable job as honorary Treasurer for a number of years. From a personal point of view, one of Mike's greatest attributes has been his ability to steer the publication of annual reports and other publications through to their completion. This is Mike's fourteenth annual report and, although he has retired from Club duties other than Committee member, his publication skills will not be lost as, very fortunately, he has agreed to continue in this capacity.

In 1966 the Club broke away from the then Huddersfield Naturalists, Photographic and Antiquarian Society and the two founders, T. Douglas Bisiker and Clifford Disbrey, would have been enormously proud of the Club's achievements had they still been alive today. These two people had the foresight to appreciate that to work efficiently the Club needed a cast iron constitution. The constitution makes clear objectives regarding its stance on educating the people of Huddersfield and the research/conservation necessary to make the Club a worthwhile organisation. In the original constitution the two main objectives were as follows:

1. To study and record the wild birds of the area and to publish an annual report.
2. To promote education of the public in wild birds and their habitats by organising talks/lectures on differing aspects of ornithology by invited speakers.

The Club has worked to this constitution ever since, although it was updated to accommodate our transformation to charitable status in July 2003. In studying the birds of the area, the Club has played a major role by contributing to surveys of regional and local importance, including in excess of 50 surveys for the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Trust, Natural England (formerly English Nature), Peak District National Park, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and The Friends of Beaumont Park.

Since my involvement as a Committee member (in 1967) the Committee has always consisted of strongly committed and motivated members. This is still the case today and, due to much new blood over the last couple of years, the enthusiasm is as strong as ever. The Committee has always worked tirelessly in organising the day-to-day running of the Club and, because it works more or less seamlessly, much of this work goes unnoticed by members. This is obviously a good thing, and the Committee has been described as "a swimming duck – very serene above the surface, but pedalling like mad underneath it". We are not infallible, however, and any member can contribute their thoughts by speaking to a present member or, better still, putting their name forward for election. Please remember, it is your Club, and your thoughts count.

When it comes to publications, the Club has not only fulfilled its obligation to produce an annual report, but additional reports and two books have been published. There have been three reports on the birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, covering the years 1959-1973, 1974-1984 and 1985-2003; a booklet on the results from bird ringing (published in 1998); an atlas of the breeding birds of the Club area during 1987-1992 (published in 2000); and two books: *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area* (published in 2008) and *The Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir* (published in 2016).

In addition, the Club also publishes the Huddersfield List – a checklist of all the bird species, along with races, of wild birds that have been officially accepted as having been recorded in the area. This list is updated annually as a "tick list", thereby enabling members to record their own sightings of birds they have seen around the area.

The annual reports, along with the additional publications and varied talks by a large number of speakers over these fifty years bear witness to our forefathers' initial foresight. In years to come these reports and books will assist the ornithologists of the day to better understand the bird populations of the time. The writing of the annual report, as you are aware, is now a team effort. Several years ago, before we commenced computerising records, writing the report was mainly carried out by the then recorder. The number of records now generated (16,381 in 2015) means that the old system of maintaining the database on 8" x 5" cards became completely unworkable. David Butterfield is to be thanked for maintaining the database and Chris Abell, Heather & Steve Chippendale, Stephen Cook, Roger Mitchell, Dave Pennington, Hugh Quarterman and Dave Sill for contributing annotations for their chosen species for editing.

As a consequence of the above achievements, all members should be very proud of the Club's achievements and give themselves a resounding pat on the back, for without your records publications of this nature would never have seen the light of day and, most importantly, the historical continuity of the area would have been lost.

There is no better way of learning about birds than to gain experience in the field with local specialists. With this in mind the Club has offered 'patch outings' for a numbers of years. These outings, led by people who know the area well, although perhaps not as well frequented as we would like, do offer first-hand experience to those taking part. The Club also has representatives on a Kirklees Council forum who offer advice on conservation matters.

We will have to wait and see whether the Club continues to flourish for a further fifty years but, whatever the outcome, the Club has stamped its authority on the ornithological history of the area and any further publications will continue this tremendous achievement.

Here's to the next fifty years.

Mike Denton

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 49 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2015* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk



2015: THE BIRDING YEAR

Although no species new to our area were recorded and the total number seen was a little down on the previous year, 2015 can be seen as a successful year nonetheless. Some rarely seen species were encountered and breeding-wise there would appear to be just a little source for optimism around one or two of our scarcer breeding species.

January opened with two days of gale force W and SW winds with heavy wintry showers, so it was no surprise that the first records of note didn't come until the 4th, which was also helped by it being a Sunday, by which time it was cold and clear. A Black Redstart appeared at Horbury SW and stayed for ten days with three Chiffchaff at the same location and a Mediterranean Gull appeared at Blackmoorfoot. Some 20 Wigeon were at Meal Hill Lake and 27 Gadwall at Bretton which also held the months' maximum of 34 Goosander. Other top counts for the month were from Dewsbury SW with 225 Teal, and Horbury Strands/Wyke held up to six Shoveler and 12 Goldeneye.

Flyover Pink-footed Geese were less in evidence than the January of the previous year with only 18 skeins over as opposed to 29 in 2014. The total number of individuals was around 1,600 with 463 over Blackmoorfoot the maximum. Only the occasional Whooper Swan was seen in the area. Another short spell of gale force wet Westerlies began on the 9th and another Mediterranean Gull was at Ingbirchworth, as was a Caspian Gull, and the 10th brought a nice male Hen Harrier flying towards Dunford Bridge with the first Peregrine of the year over Marsden Moor.

The highlight of the month however was surely the flock of seven Little Egrets (the largest ever seen in our area), which followed the Calder in an Easterly direction at Dewsbury SW, with at the same place the months' maximum of 48 Snipe, a Green Sandpiper and up to 300 Pied Wagtail. By this time there was much colder weather bringing the first snowfalls with a Barnacle Goose and two Jack Snipe showing at Horbury Strands. A garden watch at Cowcliffe produced nine Brambling, and eight Reed Bunting visited a Marsden garden on the 24th. A flock of ten Bullfinch were a welcome sight at Cooper Bridge SW, and the month ended with very 'mixed' weather, but overall it was generally mild.

The first week of **February** saw temperatures at just below freezing and this period produced little of note. One or two Willow Tit showed around the Ingbirchworth area and 24 Stock Dove were at Cartworth Moor, however. A number of Magpie roosts were also noted, the largest being of 24 individuals in the Grimescar Valley. By the 9th the temperature had risen somewhat which brought milder Westerlies. A flock of 60 Teal were at Bretton and 100 Golden Plover at Maythorn on 10th with again a single Green Sandpiper visiting Dewsbury SW. Very welcome visitors to the Blackmoorfoot area were three White-fronted Geese, probably these same birds that were later around Ingbirchworth and Scout Dyke. The occasional Chiffchaff was seen and the only Snow Bunting of the year flew west over Marsden Moor.

The gull roost at Blackmoorfoot gave us the winter maximum of 6,800 Black-headed and 1,200 Common and a monthly high of 140 Lapwing with two Little Egret flying NW on 12th. It was good to see that two Rough-legged Buzzard were seen over Holme Moss, another of which flew north at Blackmoorfoot later in the month. The predominantly milder Westerly weather continued and on the whole sightings were pretty modest apart from the one or two days mentioned above. Horbury attracted 12 Long-tailed Tits with the same number at Deffer Wood on the same day and 22 Wigeon were at Ossett Spa. At the end of the month the first of many Curlews started to arrive, as did Oystercatchers, with up to six at Ingbirchworth, and four Shelduck were at Ringstone Edge.

Apart from these just a few three figure Fieldfare counts and the odd Raven over the high ground brought the month to a mild wettish close.

Last months' weather continued into the first day of **March** but then the 2nd brought in temporary wintery showers on the same wind, along with hail and some snow. A very early Dunlin appeared and things began to pick up somewhat, three Golderest were at Horbury SW and 250 Redwing were on Meltham Cop, and two single Redshank also put in an appearance. Mid-month, with much the same weather conditions persisting, saw 11 Skylark feeding at Marsden, where 13 Reed Bunting were also observed in a garden there. Apart from the first real snow on the 13th things continued much the same. A maximum of 400 Golden Plover were at Ringstone Edge and 300 Lapwing at Broadstone Res. where a yearly high of 16 Oystercatcher were seen. A Jack Snipe was at the Isle of Skye Quarry and this venue also saw the first Wheatear of the year on 16th. Sightings continued apace during this period, a Mediterranean Gull roosted at Blackmoorfoot with a Kittiwake visiting Elland GP and an Iceland Gull flew west low over Marsden Moor.

The first real views of Whooper Swans for the year took place over two days (21st/22nd) with a herd of 96 flying north over Blackmoorfoot on 22nd, the same date that 22 Shoveler were at Dewsbury SW. The only March sightings of Sand Martin and Ring Ouzel occurred on 21st and 25th respectively, and the last Redwings made an early departure with 20 at Bradshaw on 27th. Red Kite were seen over Featherbed Moss and Elland GP whilst two Merlin and a Peregrine were observed over Marsden Moor, with six Chiffchaff singing at Bretton and the similar weather conditions persisting, spring was felt to have arrived.

Though the nights were cold, the first week of **April** saw warm sunny weather which augured well for spring migration. In fact the first day saw four White Wagtail at Whitley Edge, quickly followed by a Yellow-legged Gull at Ingbirchworth and the first Swallow on 6th. The following day saw an Osprey over Buckstones and, as the mild weather continued, the first Little Ringed Plover arrived and two Common Scoter were seen at Blackmoorfoot. Things were moving apace, a total of 27 Willow Warbler were singing in the Wessenden Valley on the same day as the highlight of the month appeared at Deanhead Res., a Great Grey Shrike. On the 10th the first Blackcap was seen, as were 11 Ring Ouzel at Marsden followed by an impressive 28 at Pots and Pans shortly after.

A Barnacle Goose visited Elland GP on 11th, an Arctic Tern was seen at Ingbirchworth and the first House Martins arrived. Five Red Kite were seen during the month and a Green Sandpiper stayed almost to the month end at Dewsbury SW. The 13th brought the first Common Sandpiper and Cuckoo, this bird being over a week ahead of the following one. A few Crossbill were also seen at this time and a day later the years' first Pied Flycatcher appeared. Another bird a week ahead of the next was a male Redstart on the 15th, when a Tree Pipit and an impressive 46 Wheatear were at Lower Maythorn, with this species being seen in some good numbers over the period. The wind then changed to a light Easterly for a few days, but things kept moving with both Goldeneye and Brambling having their last records on 16th, the day before another new arrival, Yellow Wagtail appeared, with the following day bringing a singing Whitethroat and a Hen Harrier at Buckstones with an early Garden Warbler in an Almondbury garden.

Conditions into the last week were again hot and sunny and things continued to arrive, with the first Whinchat, two Common Tern, three single Whimbrel over and one or two Redshank on the uplands. A Jack Snipe was still with us as was a late Fieldfare on the 22nd. The last five days saw some wintery showers and low temperatures but the month ended in a flourish with a reeling Grasshopper Warbler, and four singing of both Sedge and Reed Warbler, and last but not least the first Swift.

May opened with the last freezing day of the spell from the previous month. Three Ringed Plover were engaged in courtship display and more Little Ringed Plover had arrived. There then began two weeks of milder strong SW winds, albeit with some very heavy rain, and this spell saw a Mediterranean Gull over Marsden Moor, a Marsh Harrier at Blackmoorfoot and the first Lesser Whitethroat, with another three flyover Red Kite continuing a productive spell for the species.

A male Goldeneye hung on at Blackmoorfoot until the 10th and other ducks of note were up to 24 Tufted on the river at Dewsbury, nine Gadwall at Dewsbury SW and a single Garganey at Blackmoorfoot. Very pleasing too were two Whimbrel feeding by the roadside at Harden Moss. The 13th brought the first Spotted Flycatcher (never early to arrive), six Goldcrest at Dove Stones, the first noted breeding of Whinchat and still some fair numbers of passage Wheatear with 17 at Blackmoorfoot.

The 14th was a day of cold Easterlies and the only birds of note on that day were c.100 Stock Dove at Hepworth, though many sizeable flocks were about throughout the month. Conditions were then back to more or less normal though a bit cooler with some foggy starts. During this period Cuckoo were becoming more frequent, one or two Arctic Tern were seen and more Common Sandpiper were around. Swift quickly built up in number and reached a maximum of 500 at Dewsbury SW. The first Hobby was over Blackmoorfoot and the first chirring Nightjar was heard, which left just a Little Stint at Butterley on the 25th as the last bird of note.

Apart from a howling gale force westerly on the 7th, **June** saw mixed and mostly benign conditions with temperatures naturally rising. The 1st saw a Mediterranean Gull fly NW over Marsden then an Arctic Tern flew W over Blackmoorfoot the following day, and the day after that a nice Sanderling flew W and five Bar-tailed Godwit did likewise. A total of three Yellow-legged Gull were found at Ingbirchworth and the months' maximum of 220+ Swift were at Blackmoorfoot, with a Common Tern at Dewsbury SW on the 22nd, the same day as a very welcome singing Quail, and Lesser Whitethroat. Hobby sightings were less than the previous year, but nevertheless there were still four sighted during the month.

Again June gives us the chance to cast an eye over some of our rarer breeders and try and make a comparison with the year before. On the whole things looked a little more optimistic than this time last year. However, not a single Wood Warbler was recorded, fewer chirring Nightjars were heard and Redstart were an estimated 50% down, with Kingfisher also seeming much reduced. Lesser Whitethroat continue on a downward trend and Garden Warbler too were just a little down. However, the following species were about the same as last year; Pied Flycatcher, Tree Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat and Tree Pipit, though the latter still precarious. Seven pairs of Reed Warbler were recorded as breeding, though from fewer sites, whereas none were noted the previous year. On the plus side, though starting from a lower point, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker saw an increase of more than 100%, though it is early days yet. Barn Owl also saw a noticeable increase which is very welcome and long overdue. Cuckoo too were recorded from a total of 28 scattered locations. Sand Martin bred at four colonies of varying sizes and though Ring Ouzel sightings were well up, this is, of course, mainly due to passage birds and isn't necessarily reflecting an increase in breeding birds. Goosander were again confirmed breeding and, although Little Ringed Plover were well recorded from suitable sites, only a single pair was confirmed as having bred.

The same hot temperatures, around 30°C, continued throughout the first week of **July** (but did include the odd thunderstorm). Rather a quiet period but some good birds nonetheless, Merlin were recorded in some higher locations as were Peregrine and the occasional Hobby lower down. A Little Egret was seen at Horbury on the 17th, 16 Cormorant at Blackmoorfoot, and on the same day a flock of 14 Long-tailed Tit were at Bradley Mills. A Grasshopper Warbler was reeling briefly at

Marsden and juvenile finches, including Twite were beginning to be recorded. On the 27th a Common Scoter was at Blackmoorfoot where the months' maximum of 310 Lapwing were also present and a welcome Honey-buzzard visited Marsden. The action continued with a flourish to the end of the month, a Caspian Gull was present at Ingbirchworth as was a Kittiwake, Scout Dike Res. held 23 Coot and finally a Black-tailed Godwit at Ringstone Edge brought the month to an end.

August opened with very mixed weather conditions which in fact continued throughout most of the month. Finch flocks now began to appear, 63 Goldfinch being at Lindley Moor at the start of the month and Elland GP held a Little Egret over four days. Two nice Black Tern flew E over Blackmoorfoot on the 3rd, the same day as a male Common Scoter was at Upper Windleden Res. Deer Hill Res. had both Greenshank and Redshank on the same day as a Sedge Warbler was seen at Redbrook Res. Moving towards the middle of the month cool, misty mornings dominated, with light winds from most directions and the odd thunderstorm. Ingbirchworth had an impressive six Avocet on the 12th and a Red Kite passed S over Brighouse. By this period Swift numbers were decreasing rapidly, in fact from mid-month till the end only two occurrences were noted. Around this time three Yellow-legged Gull were seen at Langsett. Over March Haigh Res. on the 16th a mild and windless day, there was a gathering of 500 feeding Swallows.

The following day, ten Great Crested Grebe were counted at Royd Moor Res. and a Common Tern visited Bretton. Impressive counts too come from Healey Mills - 15 Chiffchaff, ten Willow Warbler and six Whitethroat followed the next day by 15 Long-tailed Tit at Lindley Moor and a Hen Harrier at Deanhead Res. A couple of days later a Montagu's Harrier went high S over Buckstones and a few Crossbill were seen, notably ten flying S at Harden on the 22nd. Scammonden Water held up to eight Spotted Flycatcher and a Pied Flycatcher on the 23rd and as birds began to gather 11 Whinchat were seen above Marsden and 45 Siskin were feeding with Goldfinch on thistle heads. Up to six Wheatear were seen at Bradshaw Moor and the last Little Ringed Plover of the year was at Blackmoorfoot on the same day. There were four sightings of Hobby over the month in this much quieter year and with 29 Twite feeding on sorrel and thistle heads at Marsden this eventful month came to a close.

September opened to cool and showery weather with 200 Lesser Black-backed Gull at Ingbirchworth Res., two Ringed Plover at Scout Dike the following day and the last Lesser Whitethroat at Meltham. On the 3rd we continued to say our farewells for the year to both Pied Flycatcher and Garden Warbler, both at Scammonden Water. Three Green Sandpiper were at Dewsbury SW before the 7th brought another good day at Scammonden with one of the highlights of the year, a Wryneck, offering good views to the single lucky observer. Also here were up to 15 Spotted Flycatcher and three Tree Pipit (again the last), continuing a great year for this excellent venue. Also on the 7th we had the last Swift sighting, three at Blackmoorfoot. A Honey-buzzard flew high S over March Haigh and three Pink-footed Geese flew W up the Colne Valley. In all there were 11 very welcome Yellow Wagtail records up until the 14th and the day before that a late Cuckoo flew SW over Harden Quarries. Amongst the interesting sightings, almost too many to mention, four Yellow-legged Gull were at Langsett and the only Ruff record of the year involved three at Ringstone Edge on the 11th.

Black Redstart were recorded from four different locations during the month, one which was good too for raptors, with a Goshawk, an Osprey, a Marsh Harrier, three Hobby and no less than five Hen Harrier putting in an appearance. Also Blackmoorfoot had the month's highest count of Lapwing, at 550. We continued to say our goodbyes for the year, to Common Sandpiper and Spotted Flycatcher on the 18th and Sand Martin and Whitethroat on the 20th. On the 22nd an even later Cuckoo was at Isle of Sky Quarry and three Black-tailed Godwit flew over Blackmoorfoot.

The last Whinchat (2) were at Marsden with the day after bringing the last Willow Warbler of the summer and the first Redwing of the winter. The following day a Mediterranean Gull was seen at Ringstone Edge and on the 26th the last Redstart at Marsden. There were some strong SW winds for a lot of the last week (with one or two foggy starts) and visible migration turned up some nice morning counts particularly from Harden Quarries, with, amongst others, 10 Raven, 95 Siskin, 40 Greenfinch, 10 Buzzard and just short of 1,000 Meadow Pipit.

There was fog over high ground on most mornings during the first week of **October**, and it was relatively quiet though one or two Wheatear were still about. Some shuffling of Lapwing flocks saw 350 appear at Ringstone Edge and a Rock Pipit flew SW with 500 Meadow Pipits at Harden Quarries. Incredibly the same Linthwaite garden held what was presumably the same Reed Warbler from the previous year for nearly a month from 7th. The day after that brought the first Brambling of the winter during a watch at Pule Hill. This was followed the day after by a Rock Pipit at Ringstone Edge and 17 Crossbill SW over Harden where 10 Ring Ouzel departed W on the 10th and 13 Jay went NE the following day. There was also some Coal Tit movement noted around the vis-mig sites at this time with a total of 55 birds over with a maximum of 17 on the 10th. The much awaited first Whooper Swans (4) were at Boshaw Whams on the 13th and there was a good number of skeins of Pink-footed Geese over the area. The first Goldeneye arrived at Blackmoorfoot rather later than usual on the 17th, and well over 3,000 Redwing were counted over the area on that same day. With any wind, although light, coming from an Easterly direction the mornings were foggy, resulting in a flock of 78 Lesser Redpoll flew WNW over Marsden. Then a couple of days of strong WNW winds with some rain saw 11 Ring Ouzel and a Hen Harrier fly S at Marsden and a Kittiwake flew NE over Blackmoorfoot with the first Jack Snipe seen the day after at Crossley's Plantation.

The last Swallows of the year (40) were at Push Dam, Shelley on the 23rd, the same day as a Hawfinch was seen over Pule Hill on an early morning watch, and the 26th saw the last House Martin. There was a good gathering of 40 Pied Wagtail at Holmfirth and over 5,000 Fieldfare were counted over by the vis. miggers. One or two wintering Long-eared Owl were being seen by now and towards the end of the month gulls were a highlight, with two Mediterranean and two Yellow-legged Gull in the Whitley area and another Mediterranean at Broadstone Res. The month was then brought to a close when 14 Bullfinch flew SW at Harden Quarries on the last day.

Whilst the opening day of **November** was very warm and sunny it was short-lived, as by the next day most of the country was covered by a blanket of fog resulting in airport closures, so not good for flying. However, 280 Lapwing were at Blackmoorfoot on the 1st. Unsurprisingly nothing of note was seen until a spell of Westerlies with some heavy rain brought a very late Wheatear on the 7th. The following day both 23 Brambling and 825 Pink-footed Geese flew SW over Harden Quarries. Over the month a total of 30 Whooper Swans were recorded from a number of locations, a few Woodcock arrived and Blackmoorfoot had a monthly maximum count of 4,000 Black-headed Gull. The 12th saw over 4,000 Woodpigeon SW over the two Marsden watch points whilst over 200 Golden Plover were at Ringstone Edge and 16 Mistle Thrush flew SW at Pule Hill. Another spell of wet Westerlies with some torrential rain coincided with little of note being recorded, but on the 21st a good covering of snow fell with below freezing temperatures, and this saw 47 Wigeon at Broadstone Res., a Jack Snipe at Ossett Spa and, as weather conditions turned to a bit of everything, a Chiffchaff put in an appearance at Blackmoorfoot. A flock of 29 Long-tailed Tit were feeding at Dewsbury SW and, last but not least, a Goshawk was seen in the Holmfirth area on the final day.

December opened with the same mixed conditions when there was little of note, except for the years' only Waxwing record at Rastrick on 3rd. Then 'Storm Donald' brought gale-force winds,

causing much damage and flooding. A Greenland White-fronted Goose was a welcome visitor to Ingbirchworth and stayed until the end of the year. Also on this date 25 Teal found shelter at Gunthwaite Dam and 60 Siskin were at Bretton. Unusually, a flock of 40 Twite roosted in a Bracken bed on March Flats at Marsden and there was still the occasional Stonechat sighting from the same area. A Willow Tit was no doubt a surprising visitor for the owners of a Cowcliffe garden on the 14th and surprising too was a lone Curlew in a field at Broadstone Res. Another unusual record was of three Redshank at Blackmoorfoot, where the roosting gull count produced a maximum of 5,500 Black-headed Gull. On the 23rd three Chiffchaff were found at Horbury SW and one at Healey Mills. With yet more storms and flooding at the month end, respite was brought in the form of a Dark-bellied Brent Goose at Ingbirchworth and a total of over 1,100 Pink-footed Geese in eight skeins over Blackmoorfoot on the 28th. Apart from a Long-eared Owl roosting at Marsden and a couple of Peregrine records over higher ground the month and year ended on a quiet note.

David Sill.

THE WEATHER IN 2015

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

Huddersfield experienced the wettest year since our records began in 1990! A total of 1071.8mm of rainfall was recorded compared to the average figure of 841.5mm. The wettest month was November with a staggering 216.2mm of rainfall (20.2% of the year's total), it was the third wettest month since our records began. It was by far the wettest October to December period since 1990 with a rainfall total of 469.8mm (43.8% of the year's total) compared to the average figure of 258.6mm! The wettest day of the year was Saturday 14th November when 42.8mm of rainfall was recorded (the 8th wettest day since our records began). The driest month of the year was February with 31.4mm of rainfall. The driest spell of the year was between Wednesday 3rd June and Thursday 11th June, 9 days in total. The wettest spell was between Friday 27th November and Wednesday 16th December, twenty days in total, during which a total of 155.2mm was recorded (14.5% of the year's total).

The warmest month of the year was August with an average temperature of 16.61°C. The warmest day of the year and 3rd warmest day since our records began was Wednesday 1st July when an average temperature of 25.1°C was recorded. The highest temperature during the year and again 3rd highest since 1990 was 33.4°C recorded on Wednesday 1st July. The coldest month of the year was February with an average temperature of 4.9°C. The coldest day of the year was Monday 2nd February with an average temperature of 0.92°C. The lowest temperature recorded during the year was -2.4°C on Thursday 5th February.

The windiest month of the year was December with a mean wind speed of 17.17km/hr; this is the 5th windiest month of all months since our records began. The windiest day of the year was Friday 9th January with a substantial mean wind speed of 50.4km/hr, one of the highest recorded figures since our records began. The highest gust of wind for the year and indeed since our records began was 136.44km/hr recorded on Saturday 11th January.

Monthly Overview

All average figures are those recorded by the Applied Sciences weather station since 1990.

January – It was the wettest January since 2008 with just three days escaping rainfall. Temperatures were average for the time of year. It was the windiest month since December 2011 and the third windiest month since the most recent weather station was installed in 2005.

February – Temperatures and rainfall were both below average for the time of year. It was the fifth driest February since our records began.

March – The monthly mean temperature was 0.5°C below average and it was the equal eighth wettest March since our record began.

April – It was warmer and drier than average with 19 days of the month escaping rainfall.

May – It was the coolest May since 1994 and second coolest since our records began and the third wettest since our records began.

June – Temperatures gradually increased throughout the month which ended in a heat wave, however monthly temperatures were slightly below average. The month was much drier than average with 19 days with no rainfall. There were some particularly high wind speeds recorded during the first week of the month.

July – The heat wave continued into July but was short lived and temperatures for the whole month were lower than average making it the sixth coolest since our records began. Wednesday 1st was the warmest July day since our records began with an average temperature of 25.1°C. The 1st also saw the third highest recorded temperature, for all months, since our records began reaching a figure of 33.4°C. It was the sixth wettest July since our records began.

August - Temperatures and rainfall figures were around average for the time of year.

September – It was the third coolest since our records began. Rainfall was below average and wind speeds for the month were amongst the lowest recorded for September since our records began.

October – It was a very mild month with average rainfall and very low wind speeds.

November – It was a record breaking month in terms of extreme weather. It was the warmest November since 2011 and the third warmest since our records began. Tuesday 10th recorded a staggering 15.7°C average temperature, by far the warmest November day since our records began. A record breaking figure of 19°C was recorded on Sunday 1st. It was the wettest month since January 2008. It was by far the windiest November since 2005 when our newest weather station was installed. A gust of wind 122.04km/hr was recorded on the 9th, the ninth highest of all months since 2005.

December – Another record breaking month! With average temperatures 4.4°C higher than average it was by far the warmest December since our records began. December was warmer than November. Second wettest December since our records began (1993 wettest). Just one day with no rainfall. The combined rainfall from November and December (394.6mm) made them the wettest two months of all months since our records began. It was the windiest month of all months since December 2011.

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 systematic list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of the British Ornithologists' Union's (BOU) *The British List* (eighth edition, 2013), as described in detail in *Ibis* 155: 635-676.

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

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

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

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

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

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2015 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

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

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

On page 132 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 273 species and 13 additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2015. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

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

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

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2015

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Two pairs bred: a pair at **Bretton Lakes** produced five young and a pair on the canal at **Horbury**, but no other details were forthcoming.

There was a maximum of eight at **Bretton Lakes** (which included a dead individual on 4th January) but the only other locality to hold more than four was **Ladywood Lakes**, where a maximum of six were present between January and March and, later in the year, three or four took up residence between late October and late December.

Other birds were recorded as follows:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – up to four were present throughout the year and were regularly seen on the River Calder.

Elland GP – an adult and two first-winters were present on 4th January, a first-winter on 19th January, and two unaged birds on 12th February.

Ravensthorpe GP – two adults on 22nd January.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – two adults on the River Calder on 22nd March.

Ossett Spa – an adult was present between 29th March and 3rd May.

Castle Dam – an adult on 15th June and 6th July. This species is very scarce at this site.

Oldfield – a rather surprising sight was a single which flew NW at 07.50hrs. on 14th July.

Thornhill Lees – four on 21st December.

Aspley – an immature on the canal on 28th December.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Birds were seen during the first winter period as follows:

Bretton Park - two flew SE on 19th January and an adult was on the Lower Lake on 7th February.

Ringstone Edge Res – two adults on 27th January. Then, on 22nd March, seven unaged birds were present and a herd of 70 flew NW at 09.15hrs.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult departed S at 15.40hrs. on 9th February and a herd of 96 flew N at 09.05hrs. on 22nd March.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 22 flew NW at 09.50hrs. on 21st March.

Ingbirchworth – three (2 adult + a juvenile) were present on 21st/22nd March.

Broadstone Res – six adults on 22nd March.

Elland GP – 36 flew NW at 10.40hrs. on 22nd March.

Note the northerly movement of birds on 21st/22nd March.

Birds were seen during the second winter period as follows:

Wards End Farm – three flew W on 12th September.

Boshaw Whams – four (3 adults + a juvenile) flew W on 13th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – six (4 adults + two juveniles) were present on 30th October and, in November, six adults were seen on 2nd/3rd, four adults flew NW at 11.25hrs. on 14th and four adults (2 arrived at 09.05hrs. + two arrived at 09.25hrs.) on 20th.

Ingbirchworth Res – six unaged birds were present on 2nd November.

Harden Quarries – three distant birds flew SE on 8th November.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

The number of sites, along with the number of birds, was generally reduced compared to 2014.

- 8th January** – 30 W at 08.40hrs. over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and 150 NW at 12.10hrs over **Bradley**.
15th January – 50 NW at 11.30hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.
16th January – 340 (120 NW at 10.35hrs. + 220 W at 10.55hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**, 150 NW at 12.00hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.100 W at 13.00hrs. over **Norland**.
17th January – c.45 WSW then WNW at 11.52hrs. over **Thongsbridge**.
18th January – c.75 N at 11.30hrs. over **Bretton Park**.
20th January – 463 (43 NW at 10.50hrs. + 220 NW at 11.05hrs. + 200 NW at 12.15hrs.) over **Blackmoorfoot** and 250 NW at 11.03hrs over **Wards End Farm**.
26th January – 17 NW at 09.30hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.
4th February – 70 W at 12.00hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.
7th February – c.50 E over **Almondbury**.
20th February – 23 E over **Millhouse Green**.
9th March – seven W over **Wards End Farm**.

Grounded birds were reported as follows: a single at **Scammonden Water** on 13th January, at **Ingbirchworth Res.** four were present on 26th January, two on 22nd, 25th and 27th February, and a single on 3rd March; one was near **Royd Moor Wind Farm** on 14th March and one associated with Canada Geese at **March Haigh Res.** on 2nd, 5th and 25th April.

In the second winter period the same number of reports were received (58) as in 2014 but the numbers involved were much reduced.

- 19th September** – 52 E at 09.20hrs. over **Harden Quarries**.
26th September – 185 flew NW (65 at 08.05hrs. + 30 & 90 at 08.30hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**.
26th September – c.200, some flying E and others W, over **Harden Quarries**, 461 (78 and 70 W at 08.00hrs. + 161 W at 08.25hrs. + 76 E at 08.30hrs. + 76 W at 09.00hrs.) over **Pule Hill, Marsden**; 201 W (c.60 at 08.00hrs. + 16 at 08.25hrs. + c.65 at 08.40hrs. + c.60 at 08.45hrs.) over **Hartcliff Hill**.
27th September – 25 S over **Hepworth**.
2nd October – c.40 SE over **Hepworth**.
3rd October – number unknown overflying **Scapegoat Hill** at 11.37hrs. in thick fog.
8th October – 50 SE at 07.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**; 100 SE at 08.45hrs. over **Bradley**; c.100 E at 08.53hrs. over **Digley Res.**; c.80 NE at 11.05hrs. over **Scout Dike Res.**; skeins were heard as they flew E in thick mist at 08.15hrs., 08.35hrs. and 09.10hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden**; c.50 SE at 07.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot** and 66 E at 08.52hrs. over **Ringstone Edge Res**.
9th October – 286 (60 SW at 08.30hrs. + 226 NE at 11.30hrs.) over **Harden Quarries** and 112 (59 SE at 09.15hrs. + 53 W at 10.55hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**.
10th October – 111 E (76 + 35) over **Harden Quarries**.
12th October – 134 (80 E at 09.15hrs. + 54 W at 09.45hrs.) over **Wards End Farm** and 80 E at 09.22hrs. over the **Isle of Skye Quarry**.
13th October – 148 (45 E at 10.00hrs. + 53 E at 10.05hrs. + 50 W at 17.15hrs.) over **Wards End Farm** and a ‘small flock’ W at 17.30 hrs. over **Netherthong**.
14th October – 30 E at 09.20hrs. over **Wards End Farm** and c.300 W at 16.30hrs. over **Netherthong**.

- 17th October** – 170 E (120 at 09.50hrs. + 50 at 11.15hrs.) over **Wards End Farm**; c.100 W then N at 10.00hrs. over **Netherthong**; c.100 W at 13.20hrs. over **Hartcliff Hill**; 12 E at 15.45hrs. over **Fixby** and c.120 over **Winscar Res.**
- 23rd October** – 30 E at 09.30hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
- 25th October** – 126 E (70 at 07.45hrs. + 45 at 08.15hrs. + 11 at 08.17hrs.) over **Wards End Farm** and 140 E at 08.20hrs. over **Pule, Hill, Marsden.**
- 29th October** – 40+ W at 10.30hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot.**
- 1st November** – c.250 (c.200 in the morning + 50 in the afternoon) over **Hepworth**; c.100 N in the late morning over **Cliff, Holmfirth** and 30 W at 09.00hrs. over **Wards End Farm.**
- 2nd November** – 120 E at 10.00hrs. over **Wards End Farm.**
- 5th November** – c.150 SE over **Hepworth.**
- 6th November** – 150 E at 08.25hrs. over **Wards End Farm**; 50 SE at 08.30hrs. over **Honley** and 52 ESE at 10.07hrs. over **Oldfield.**
- 7th November** – c.70 E over **Crossley's Plantation.**
- 8th November** – 825 SW (in six flocks between 07.30 and 11.00hrs.) over **Harden Quarries** and 110 E at 08.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot.**
- 10th November** – c.150 (70 E at 08.25hrs. + c.80 at 09.28hrs.) over **Wards End Farm.**
- 11th November** – 14 E at 09.25hrs. over **Wards End Farm.**
- 12th November** – 100 NW at 08.15hrs. over **Bradley Park** and 30 NE at 08.37hrs. over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
- 17th November** – 140 E (60 at 08.45hrs. + 80 at 08.47hrs. + 2 other skeins heard) over **Pule Hill, Marsden.**
- 20th November** – 380+ NW (skeins of 110, 85, 65, 70 and 80+ between 09.18hrs. and 09.25hrs.) over **Wards End Farm** and a small flock heard at 09.00hrs. over **Oldfield.**
- 26th November** – 263 (140 S then W at 11.25hrs. + 43 W at 11.45hrs. + 80 W at 12.00hrs.); 64 W at 11.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot** and 85 W over **Crossley's Plantation.**
- 27th November** – 41 W at 09.15hrs. over **Wards End Farm.**
- 7th December** – 146 (63 W at 10.50hrs. + 83 W at 10.55hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot** and 70 NW over **Wholestone Moor.**
- 9th December** – 50 SW at 12.10 hrs. over **Fixby.**
- 10th December** – 9 W at 12.00hrs. over **Fixby.**
- 17th December** – 138 W at 11.50hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot.**
- 28th December** – 741 (145 W at 09.10hrs. + 40 W at 09.15hrs. + 18 N at 09.20hrs. + 28 W at 09.30hrs. + 80 W at 09.35hrs. + 100 W at 09.40hrs. + 130 NW at 10.00hrs. + 200 NW at 10.25hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**; 50 NW at 09.45hrs. over **Honley**; 100 W at 09.25hrs. over **Wards End Farm** and c.210 W (50 + 100 + 60) over **Crimble Clough.**
- 29th December** – c.70 W at dusk over **Hepworth.**

The only grounded birds, all in November, involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between 7th and 14th, one at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 14th, four at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 23rd and two at **March Haigh Res.** on 26th.

(GREATER) **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser abifrons*

Rare visitor.

Three (2 adults + 1 immature) on Edge Moor at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the morning of 11th February were lost from sight as they flew around the area (CH). This is the fourth record for the reservoir and the first since 17th February 1993.

What were almost certainly the same birds (2 adults + 1 immature) were located near

Ingbirchworth Res. on 20th February (IM, NWM, DHP *et al.*) where they remained faithful to the **Scout Dike** area until 19th March, being associated with the large Canada and Greylag Goose flock (MC, DHP, MCW *et al.*). The only record after this date involved an adult on 20th March (MCW).

An adult of the Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris* was present with the Canada and Greylag Goose flock in the Spicer House Lane area at **Ingbirchworth** between 5th December and the year end (NWM, DHP *et al.*).

Although belonging to the Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris*, the three Ingbirchworth birds provided excellent lessons in how bare parts colours can be perceived differently owing to light conditions, different optics and subjective interpretation by different people. In addition, photographic effects delivered the same problems and clearly showed how hard it can be to confirm supposed plumage and structural features without direct comparison with the other race (MC).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

As in previous years the **Ingbirchworth** area remains the stronghold for this introduced species, with the reservoirs at **Ingbirchworth** and **Royd Moor** being the favoured locations. Although birds were scarce in this area during the summer months, the flock during the first winter period peaked at c.160 in mid-January and during the second winter period at 268 in December.

Birds were reported from a further 15 sites but these tended to be for short durations and, except for 17 at **Bretton Lakes** in April and 32 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 10th September, never exceeded single figures.

Despite the large numbers in the Ingbirchworth area, the only proof of breeding involved a pair with six small goslings on **Bretton Lakes** in mid-April.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the downward turn in records reported for the last three years continued and like those years, this was probably due to the lack of a Canada Goose flock (see below) which in the past has attracted long-staying individuals. In the first half of the year a single flew S on 7th February, nine were present on 11th February, two on 4th April and four flew N on 8th June. The only other records involved a single which flew S on 30th September and singles on 1st and 18th October and 29th December.

Overflying birds were reported as follows:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 65 flew W at 11.00hrs. on 20th January and two S on 17th October.

Crosland Moor – a single flew N at 09.00hrs. on 24th January.

Longroyd Bridge – six flew N at 08.00hrs. on 11th February.

Harden Quarries – two flew NE on 26th September.

A leucistic individual was with 227 normal plumaged birds at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th November.

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

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

Monthly maxima at regularly occupied sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	1	8	13	6	10	57	11	7	8	1	16	36
Bretton Park	144	160	nc	60	nc	nc	nc	76	nc	nc	nc	nc
Horbury Strands/Wyke	147	160	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth Res	82	267	195	16	31	12	100	162	234	73	74	65
Ladywood Lakes	38	66	nc									
Langsett Res	nc	32	nc	23	6	36	18	20	6	nc	nc	nc
Royd Moor Res	nc	nc	32	nc	nc	nc	nc	265	22	190	nc	nc
Scout Dike Res	45	300	153	nc	4	nc						

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were very sporadic in appearance, with occurrences on a maximum of seven days per month with the exceptions of 23 in March, 13 in April and 10 in May, and no flocks remained for more than seven days duration. The largest flocks were present for a single day: 57 on 1st June and 36 on 29th December.

Breeding was reported from four sites (8 in both 2013 and 2014):

Black Moss (3 goslings on 28th May), **March Haigh Res.** (5 goslings on 13th June), **Wessenden Head Res.** (5 goslings on 13th June and 13 on 25th July) and **Gunthwaite Dam** (4 goslings on 17th June).

In total birds were reported from 44 sites and the following had counts of 25+ on at least one occasion (maxima shown):

Castle Dam – 218 on 20th January.

Sparth Res – 41 on 7th January.

Wooldale – 40 on 17th January.

Horbury – 56 on the River Calder on 18th February.

March Haigh Res – 30 on 9th March.

Dove Stone Res – 79 on 18th March.

Upper Windleden Res – 26 on 11th April.

Chew Res – 57 on 13th May.

Winscar Res – 63 on 2nd July.

Booth Wood Res – 52 on 12th July.

Wessenden Valley – 51 on 20th August.

Scammonden Water – 164 on 27th August.

Broadstone Res – 73 on 28th September.

Ringstone Edge Res – 180 on 23rd November.

Spicer House Lane – c.80 on 30th December.

What may have been the same Canada x Greylag hybrid was present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 22nd and 28th February, **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th February and **Langsett Res.** on 31st July.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

There were two sightings of singletons, both within the Calder Valley: **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 20th January and **Elland GP** on 11th April (both DT).

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

Rare visitor.

An adult of the dark-bellied race *B. b. bernicla* was present amongst the Canada Geese at Horn Lane, **Ingbirchworth** on 28th December (PG, DG).

This is the eighth occurrence of this race in the Club area and the first since a single was seen in the same area on 1st March 2009.

Goose sp.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a flock of 23 which flew E at 09.15hrs. on 17th October were too distant for positive identification. The small size, short necks and overall darkness with much white at the rear end, however, strongly suggested Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* (DMP, SP, GBS).

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

This species is becoming increasingly rare inland in Yorkshire and, as last year, records only came from three locations, a marked drop on the eight during 2013.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 10th February and 1st March.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 12th February and four on 28th February.

Blackmoorfoot Res – as in the previous six years, there were only a small number of records, with most being in the first half of the year. Three were present on 28th February, a single on 2nd March and one flew W on 30th April. The only record thereafter involved a single which flew W 28th December.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from five locations (7 in 2014 and 6 in 2013).

Holmfirth – a male and female were present on the river throughout the year. What were described as two “pairs” were reported in early February.

Langsett Res – a male on 1st May.

Dewsbury – a male on the River Calder on 26th June,

Windy Bank Res – a male on 23rd November.

Thornhill Lees – two males and a female on 21st December.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

There were records from 19 sites, an increase on the 16 in 2014 and 15 in 2013.

Reports during the first half of the year were as follows:

Meal Hill Lake – regularly encountered until the last (2) on 18th March. Numbers usually remained low, but c.20 were present on 4th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in January four were present on 6th and three on 15th. The only other records concerned singles on 10th/11th and 26th February, two on 9th March and a single on 19th March.

Castle Dam – in January three were present on 2nd, 15 on 18th, and 16 on 19th/20th. A single was seen on 11th February and 10 on 3rd March.

Ossett Spa SW – three on 8th January were followed by 22 on 17th February and then up to 17 on seven dates between 5th March and 3rd April.

Bretton Lakes – two on 11th and 30th January and a single on 7th and 11th February.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – one on 20th January.

Broadstone Res – two on 9th February and three on 18th and 21st March.

Dewsbury SW – four on 11th February and 16 on 22nd March.

Holme Styes – seven on 15th February.

Windy Bank Res – two on 19th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 20th March.

Langsett Res – a single on 6th April.

Records after the breeding season were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – in August, three on 21st and five on 23rd were followed by up to 21 (usually 4 or less) on 25 dates between 12th September and the year end.

March Haigh Res – six on 9th September.

Meal Hill Lake – the first record involved four on 16th September. There were good numbers thereafter, with maxima of 20 on 5th November, c.25 on 6th December and possibly as many as 40 on 17th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 28th September, three on 4th November and six two days later and 10 on 22nd November.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 25th September, nine on 29th September, an impressive 68 on 4th October, two on 8th October and seven on 22nd October.

Swellands Res – a single on 8th October.

Royd Moor Res – two on 13th October, eight on 23rd November and two on 14th December.

Upper Windleden Res – three on 13th October.

Ossett Spa SW – 24 on 25th October.

Harden Quarries – a flock of 14 flew SW on 31st October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a male on 3rd November was totally unexpected and was the first record for the locality. The bird was in the company of a female Shoveler, again the first record for the site.

Broadstone Res – 47 on 21st November and 20 the following day.

Castle Dam – a single on 10th December.

Horbury Strand/Wyke – one on 28th December.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from 11 sites (10 in 2014 and 14 in 2013). As in 2014, there was no proof of breeding.

The following sites held birds:

Gunthwaite Dam – two unsexed birds on 2nd January.

Bretton Lakes – the good run of records reported last year continued, with some healthy assemblages being reported, but no birds were noted after 3rd April. In January, some 27 were present on 4th, 13 on 11th, and then up to eight were recorded on a number of occasions until 3rd April.

Ossett Spa SW – up to five, but usually one or two, were seen on 11 dates between 8th January and 26th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – up to eight, but usually less than five, were recorded on 14 dates between 12th January and 7th May.

Horbury – 10 on a small pond along Balk Lane on 14th January and three on the River Calder on 18th February.

Dewsbury – two males on the River Calder on 5th February.

Elland GP – a female on 10th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – three (2 males) on 28th February.

Deanhead Res – a male on 18th March.

Dewsbury SW – two (1 male) on 22nd March, four (2 males) on 5th and 8th April, nine (6 males) on 26th April, nine unsexed birds on 8th May, and five unsexed birds on 15th May.

As in 2014, birds became scarce in the second half of the year, and only four records were received.

Ingbirchworth Res – an unsexed bird on 10th September and a male 7th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a female on 5th November.

Dewsbury SW – two unsexed birds on 23rd December.

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

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

There were records from 26 widely scattered localities, about the same as the previous two years. Breeding, as in 2014, was only confirmed at one site.

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

Gunthwaite Dam – up to 60 were regularly encountered during January and the first half of February. There were then no records until April when five were present on 1st and four on 2nd and 8th.

Ingbirchworth Res. - one on 2nd January.

Bretton Lakes – in January up to 48 were recorded on six dates and c.60 were present between 7th and 11th February and again on 23rd March. The only other records involved 30 on 26th March and 26 on 3rd April.

Horbury SW – six on 4th January.

Elland GP – 16 on the River Calder on 5th January and two on 25th March.

Horbury – recorded as present on the River Calder on 7th January with six there on 18th February.

Ossett Spa SW – seven on 8th January and two on 17th February. In March four were present on five dates and two were seen on 8th April.

Horbury Strand/Wyke – recorded on four dates in January, with maxima of 37 on 14th and 15 on 22nd. There were then no records until April when up to 23 were present on five dates.

Royd Moor Res – four on 14th January and 16 on 9th February.

Dewsbury SW – as in 2014, high numbers were recorded, but they did not exceed the 300 in January of that year. All counts in January/February were in treble-figures: with maxima of 225 on 22nd January and 180+ on three dates in February. Birds then remained until 20th April, but numbers never exceeded the 60 on 22nd March.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 19th March.
Healey Mills/Kerry’s NR – two on 22nd March.
Scout Dike Res – two on 27th March.
Bradshaw – a single on 2nd April.
Harden Edge – one on 5th April.
Langsett Res – 12 on 6th April, six on 13th April, two on 1st May, a single on 16th May, and two on 24th June.
March Haigh Res – one on 9th April.
Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 19th April.
Butterley Res – two on 27th April.
Isle of Skye Quarry – a pair first seen in early May bred, the female and three ducklings being present by late May. A second male was also present on 26th May.
Little Black Moss Res – two on 7th June.

Records after the breeding season were as follows:

March Haigh Res – two were present on 3rd and 30th July, three on 8th August, six on 9th September and eight on 14th December.
Langsett Res – two on 21st July and 11th August.
Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were present on 28 dates between 12th August and the year end. Most of these occurrences were in low single-figures, the maxima being, in September, 14 on 10th, 21 on 27th, 39 on 28th and 23 the following day; in October, 15 on 4th and 17th, 27 on 28th and 28 on 31st; and 56 on 22nd November.
Royd Moor Res – 14 on 17th August.
Redbrook Res – one on 20th August.
Dewsbury SW – up to 28 were present between 23rd August and late November. Thereafter numbers increased and were mainly in treble-figures, with a maximum of 190 on 23rd December.
Deer Hill Res – seven on 31st August.
Ingbirchworth Res – 17 on 31st August, five on 10th September, 38 on 28th September, singles on 30th October and 4th November, eight on 22nd November, and one on 7th December.
Cupwith Res – two on 5th September.
Ringstone Edge Res – eight on 14th September and five on 19th September, 14 on 8th October and a single on 22nd October.
Ossett Spa SW – 12 were present on 25th October.
Isle of Skye Quarry – 12 on 28th September and two on 5th November.
Swellands Res – seven on 8th October.
Meal Hill Lake – three on 25th November and a single three days later.
Gunthwaite Dam – c.25 on 5th December and 15 on 30th December.
Horbury SW – six on 23rd December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Birds were reported from 49 widely scattered locations (55 in 2014) with maximum numbers at regularly counted sites as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	38	36	32	28	23	34	52	57	58	56	44	38
Bretton Park	80	100	nc	nc	nc	nc	40	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth Res	53	41	44	28	40	58	69	68	86	74	40	42
Langsett Res	104	24	nc	11	11	55	31	nc	18	nc	nc	nc

Elsewhere notable counts (40+) were as follows:

Gunthwaite Dam – 43 on 2nd January.

Winscar Res – 95 on 16th January, 99 on 17th February, c.80 on 11th April and 15th July, 85 on 3rd August, and 99 on 2nd November.

Holmfirth – c.150 on the River Holme on 19th January and c.70 on 4th March.

Dewsbury SW – 48 on 30th January, 44 on 7th May and 68 on 15th May.

Dove Stone Res – 47 on 18th March.

Royd Moor Res – 71 on 17th August and 49 on 30th September.

Bradley Mills – 54 on 26th September.

Colne Road – 63 on the River Colne on 27th September and 53 on 28th November.

Aspley – 53 on the River Colne on 28th December.

Breeding (ducklings) was recorded from the following locations: **Blackmoorfoot Res** – 133 with only 16 reaching the flying stage; **Marsden** – five broods of which 12 fledged; **Holmfirth** – 10; **Colne Road** – eight; **Ingbirchworth Fishing Pond** – three; **Dewsbury SW** – five; **Ingbirchworth Res** – ‘several’ broods; **Bradley Mills** – seven; **Isle of Skye Quarry** – three; **Digley Res** – one; **Aspley** – six; **Winscar Res** – two; and **Broadstone Heath/Broadstone Res** - 18.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

This species is becoming increasingly rare in the Club area, and was only recorded from three locations (5 in 2014). Blackmoorfoot, as is usual, commanded the lion’s share.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only records in the first half of the year were in January and involved a male on 6th and two females on 15th. The only other occurrences were a single which departed S on 14th July, and, in September, one on 12th and two on 20th.

Winscar Res – a female on 4th November.

Dewsbury SW – a male on 9th December.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Rare passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. hosted the species for the third year in succession: a single male being present on 25th May (TD, CH).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

There were reports from 12 locations, one more than last year, with **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Dewsbury SW** and **Horbury Strands/Wyke** being the usual strongholds. There were far more double figure assemblages than last year.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – up to six were present on five dates between 12th and 22nd January. Eight (5 males) were then seen on 17th February, with 15 (7 males) the following day, seven (five males) on 5th March and four males on 20th March. There were then no records until four (2 males) were present on 28th December.

Dewsbury SW – five (4 males) on 24th January were followed by seven unsexed birds on 11th

February and nine unsexed birds on 18th February. Later there were seven unsexed birds on 7th March, 22 (17 males) on 22nd March and 18 (11 males) on 5th April. There were then no records until seven were seen on 23rd August, a female on 13th September and two females on 20th September. Thereafter, six unsexed birds were present on 6th and 25th October, two (1 male) on 22nd November and seven unsexed birds on 27th October and 23rd December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the six records were all during the autumn period: two on 10th and four on 24th August and, in November, a two (1 male) on 1st, a female on 2nd, six (1 male) on 22nd and eight (1 male) on 24th.

Other birds were reported as follows:

Bretton Lakes – up to four were seen on five dates in January and two (1 male) on 3rd April.

Ossett Spa SW – four (3 males) on 8th January and two males on 17th February. In March a male and a female seen on four dates between 5th and 22nd had presumably been present throughout this period. Later in the year there were six unsexed birds on 25th October and a female on 24th November.

Ringstone Edge Res – a male and female on 6th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – two unsexed birds on 2nd May.

Blakeley Res – two on 3rd July and a single on 10th July.

Deer Hill Res – a female on 28th September.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a female on 3rd November was totally unexpected and was the first ever record for the locality. The bird was in the company of a male Wigeon, again the first record for the site.

Winscar Res – a female on 4th November.

Gunthwaite Dam – a male was present between 5th December and the year end.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

The scarcity of this once common passage and winter visitor is evidenced by records being received from three sites only (4 in 2014 and 6 in 2013).

Bretton Lakes – one or two were seen on five dates between 4th and 30th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were fewer occurrences than last year, with all records falling in the second half of the year: a male on 21st August; in October a party of four (1 male) departed E on 10th, a male and female were present on 26th and a male from 27th – 29th; in November an immature male was seen on 1st, 3rd and 5th, a female was present on 16th/17th, and two females on 27th.

Ingbirchworth Res – six on 4th November were followed by one or two on four dates between 22nd and 27th November.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Records were received from 34 sites, seven more than 2014. The only proof of breeding involved a female with seven ducklings at **Brun Clough** in early July.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	2	3	2	9	2	5	8	5	12	6	14	5
Ingbirchworth Res	12	14	16	11	14	2	6	8	5	4	9	12
Bretton Park	23	7	1	14	nc	nc	8	4	nc	nc	nc	nc
Windy Bank Res	3	7	5	3	1	nc	8	8	4	6	6	2

Once again, the numbers in the table above give a false impression of occupancy at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** During the first half of the year birds were only recorded on 56 days (41 in 2014) but birds were then present on a daily basis between 2nd July and 22nd November.

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

Ladywood Lakes – 12 on 19th and 26th January and eight on 17th February and 29th March. Later in the year seven were recorded on 13th September and 14 on 25th October.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – seven on 20th January and six on 8th April.

Dewsbury – 10 were on the River Calder on 7th February with 24 there on 8th May.

Elland GP – eight on 28th March.

Royd Moor Res – 11 on 7th April, eight on 20th July and 11 on 17th August.

Deanhead Res – nine on 23rd April.

Dewsbury SW – 20 on 26th April.

Redbrook Res – six on 9th July.

Scout Dike Res – 18 were present on 11th July and 14 on 29th July and 1st/2nd August.

Langsett Res – eight were present on 21st July and 11th August.

Gunthwaite Dam – eight on 4th November.

Other sites which hosted one to five birds on occasional dates were: **Castle Dam, Ossett Spa SW, Cupwith Res., March Haigh Res., Isle of Skye Quarry, Scammonden Water, Wessenden Res., Harden Res., Winscar Res., Little Black Moss Res., Swellands Res., Carlecotes Ponds, Digley Res., Butterley Res., Broadstone Res., Ringstone Edge Res., and Lower Windleden Res.**

Aythya hybrid

A male Scaup x Tufted Duck was present at **Royd Moor Res.** on 7th April (MCW).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were records from two localities (3 in 2014 and 11 in 2013).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were seven records (10 in 2014). A female was present on 29th March (DHP) and a male and female on 8th April (MLD, GBS *et al.*). There were then no records until June when were 19 males were present on 20th (MLD, GBS *et al.*) and a female on 25th (MLD, GK, GBS). July produced 27 on 27th (9, of which 8 were males, which departed W at 09.55hrs. + 18 unsexed birds flew N at 10.05hrs.) (MLD, GBS) and a male on 28th (DHP). The only other record involved a female on 22nd November (MLD *et al.*).

Upper Windleden Res – a male was present on 3rd August (MCW).

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Records were received from 16 localities, about the same as the previous three years.

Good numbers were again recorded at a number of locations along the **River Calder**, especially at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** where up to 12 were present on eight dates between 12th January and 17th February. Other large assemblages reported from the river involved eight at **Dewsbury** on 30th January and 12 there on 7th February, whilst 14 were at **Horbury** on 18th February.

Records from other sites during the first winter period were as follows:

Royd Moor Res – a female on 14th January, two males and a female on 25th February and a male on 9th March and 12th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 16th January, a male and female on several dates between 17th February and 3rd March, a male on 7th March, a male and female on 21st March and 7th April and a male on 17th and 20th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only January records involved a male and female from 18th to 20th and a male from 27th to 31st. From 3rd February until 10th March up to three, but usually only one or two, were present on a total of 22 dates. Thereafter the only records involved single males on 6th April and 10th May.

March Haigh Res – a male and a female were seen on several dates between 7th February and 23rd March and an additional male present on 20th. Thereafter a male was seen on 27th March and 4th April.

Langsett Res – a male on 11th February.

Winscar Res – a male on 22nd February.

Little Black Moss Res – a male and female on 5th March.

Deanhead Res – a male on 24th March.

Redbrook Res – different males and females on 26th March and on 16th April. (The male on 26th March showed an extensive white patch on its nape).

Brun Clough Res – the male with an extensive white patch on its nape, and presumably the same female as seen at Redbrook Res. (see above) were present on 29th March and 4th April.

Birds were rather late in arriving during the second winter period and were only reported from six localities, most of which only held birds for no more than a day.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the first returning birds were, as usual, during October: a female-type on 17th and between 23rd and 26th and three (2 adult females + a female-type) on 31st. Thereafter, up to seven, but usually less than four, were present on a total of 39 dates between 1st November and the year end. Interestingly, most birds were immature or female-types until December.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 4th November.

Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR – four on the River Calder 22nd November.

Redbrook Res – a male and female on 22nd November and a female on 30th December.

Winscar Res – a male on 22nd November.

Elland GP – four males on 8th December.

Harden Res – three juveniles/females on 27th December.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a male on 28th December.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred in small numbers since 2007.

Reports were received from 31 sites compared to 21 in 2014 and 30 in 2013. Breeding was

confirmed at two locations, both on the River Colne.

Maximum numbers from regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res	4	6	6	2	1	3	0	0	2	8	9	7
Bretton Park	34	3	2	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	7	5
Horbury (R. Calder)	1	6	7	7	5	nc						
Windy Bank Res	4	2	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1	2	2

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present on 37 dates between 4th January and 23rd March (77 bird/days) with two on 8th April, a single on 10th/11th and 30th May and three on 29th June. There were then no records until two were present on 20th September. Thereafter, up to nine, but usually less than five, were present on a further 40 dates between 1st October and the year end. The number of bird/days totalled 222 (108 in 2014).

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

Horbury Strands/Wyke – in January up to five were recorded on several dates between 4th and 22nd. There were then no records until 1st April when up to seven (but usually less than 4) occurred on several dates until 21st. The only record thereafter involved five (3 males) on 7th May.

Sparth Res – four on 7th January and a single on 25th January. In February there were 12 on 11th, four on 22nd and five on 27th. The only other record involved six on 10th March.

Clough Lee, Marsden – four on 13th January.

Elland GP – two on 15th January and singles on 25th March and 29th April.

Ravensthorpe GP – three on the River Calder on 22nd January.

Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR – four on the River Calder on 24th January, a single on 22nd March and four on 5th April.

Ladywood Lakes – four on the River Calder on 26th January and 5th March and a single on 26th April.

Dewsbury – eight on the River Calder on 30th January two on 19th May.

Horbury SW – seven (5 males) on the River Calder on 17th February and 5th March.

Whitley Res – five on 17th February, three on 29th March and two on 5th April.

Scout Dike Res – two on 21st/22nd February.

Royd Moor Res – two on 25th February.

Deanhead Res – two on 27th February, five on 17th, 19th and 24th March and two on 2nd and 10th April.

Booth, Slaithwaite – seven on 5th March.

Bradley Mills – up to four were present in March and by late May a female and six ducklings were seen on the River Colne.

Coxley Valley – two males on a pond on 10th March.

Brun Clough Res – single males on 29th March and 3rd April.

Scammonden Water – three on 2nd April and a single on 8th May.

March Haigh Res – up to three on four dates between 4th and 18th April.

King's Mill Lane – a female with eight ducklings on the River Colne on 19th May.

After the breeding season (additional to those sightings in the table above) records were as follows:

Langsett Res – three juveniles on 5th August.

Harden Quarries – a single flew S on 13th September and four did likewise on 4th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two flew W on 12th November.

March Haigh Res – two on 12th and 22nd November.
Huddersfield Canal – nine (3 males) on the Broad Canal on 15th November.
Dewsbury SW – a single on the River Calder on 22nd November.
Ladywood Lakes – a single on 24th November and two on 2nd December.
Horbury SW – four on the River Calder on 24th November.
Wards End Farm, Marsden – one flew W on 2nd December.
Cooper Bridge SW – three on 7th December.
Thornhill Lees – four on the canal on 21st December.
Horbury Strands/Wyke – four on the River Calder on 28th December.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Despite there being up to three singing males at two localities in both 2013 and 2014, only a single was found in 2015. One was singing at **Miry Lane, Netherthong** on 22nd May (DHP). The bird was not heard on subsequent visits.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from 10 localities, as was the case in 2014, but as usual the distribution was governed by birds introduced by shoots, and the vast variation in localities from year to year bears this out.

There were no double figure counts and records were as follows:

Upperwood House – four on 11th January.
Hepworth – four on 29th January.
Gunthwaite - eight on 11th February.
Derby Delph Quarry – two on 17th March.
Dove Stone Res – two on 4th June.
Yeoman Hey Res – a single on 10th June.
High Hoyland – two on 2nd October.
Blackmoorfoot – a single in a field to the west of the reservoir on 3rd October. This is only the third record for the reservoir and the first since 8th August 2000.
Slaithwaite – seven at Moorside Edge on 18th October and a single at Merrydale on 6th November.
Scammonden Water – a single on 19th October.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Records were received from 22 localities, two more than the previous year and seven more than 2013. This was probably helped by the survey carried out by members in the SW of our area. Proof of breeding only reported from five locations: **Black Moss, Wessenden Head, Featherbed Moss, Saddleworth Moor** and **Alphin Pike** near Dove Stones.

Birds were seen throughout the year but again in no great numbers. The only double figure counts involved 20 territorial males on **Featherbed Moss** on 22nd February, c.10 at **Upper Windleden Res.** on 11th April and 13 at **Wessenden Head** on 8th May.

The above figures must surely be an underestimate of the true numbers. If any member is in a position to obtain bag numbers from local shoots a much better understanding of local populations could be gained.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

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

There were records from 23 localities (33 in 2014 and 40 in 2013).

During the early part of the year all records were of one or two birds with the exception of 11 at **Maythorn** on 11th January and 10 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 31st July. Adults were seen with young in the **Denby Dale** area and on **Crosland Heath Airfield** and two pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot** (see below) though up to ten other areas held presumed pairs during the breeding season.

Later in the year, eight were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th September and 22nd November, seven were in the **Isle of Skye** area on 22nd September, and also 2nd and 5th November. The highest count of the year however, was of 13 in the **Wards End Farm, Marsden** area which were seen regularly between 13th October and the year end, though it is quite possible that these were birds released by a local shoot.

At **Blackmoorfoot** up to seven (generally only 1 or 2) were recorded from **Meltham Cop/fields** to the west of the reservoir on a number of dates between mid-February and early October. Two pairs bred on Meltham Cop, but the secretiveness of this species becomes apparent when you consider that there were very few sightings during this period.

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Records were received from 42 widespread localities covering the whole of the area and again ranging from the lowland in the east to high moorland in the south-west.

Garden records of one or two birds were not unusual, even quite near to the town centre. Breeding was obviously under recorded and only confirmed from eight localities. Counts rarely reached double figures, the 31 at **Hepworth** on the 11th January being far and away the highest. Other double figure counts involved 10 at **Dove Stone Res.** on 4th June, 10 at **Horbury SW** on 24th November, up to 10 regularly throughout the latter part of the year in the **Wards End, Marsden** area and 12 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 14th December.

Although up to four were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there was no evidence of breeding.

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

Common passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Some 138 records were received from 38 localities (30 in 2014) and again sighting spanned all months. Many records were of flyover individuals and these included one E over the **Town Centre** on 20th January, two W over **Marsh** on 9th July, a single W over **Crosland Moor** on 25th October, two S over **Golcar** on 17th November, and one SW at **Cowcliffe** on 14th December.

Boshaw Whams – up to five were present throughout the year.

Horbury – birds were regularly seen on the River Calder throughout the year with the exception of between July and September. Up to three individuals were usually involved but five were present on 7th January, 10 on 24th November and eight were at Horbury Strands/Wyke on 28th December.

Scout Dike Res – up to six were seen on six dates during the winter periods. In addition, 18 were present on 22nd November with 20 (the highest ever count here) the following day.

Elland GP – 14 were present on 15th January, five on 25th March, nine on 31st March, and, in April, a single on 11th, three on 12th and two on 29th.

Ladywood Lakes – two adults were present on 19th January, five on 22nd January, and two adults on 25th October and 24th November.

Ringstone Edge – there were 17 records, all of one or two birds, between 20th January and 26th October. In addition, two adults and an immature were present on 23rd June, six on 12th July and five on 1st September.

Scammonden Water – singles on 20th January, 2nd April and 30th August.

Dewsbury SW – the River Calder attracted 14 on 24th January, 18 on 7th February, six on 5th and 26th April, seven on 30th September.

Cooper Bridge SW – seven were seen on 25th January and a single on 7th December.

Longwood Res – a single on 26th January, four on 15th April and three on 19th April.

Royd Moor Res – in February a single was present on 3rd and two on 11th. There were then no records until two juveniles were seen on 20th July, after which up to six birds (but usually 1 or 2) were seen on a further eight days between 17th August and the year end.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded on a total of 123 dates (69 in 2014 and 64 in 2013) between 7th February and the year end. There was an unexpected peak in April (14 dates, with no birds staying for more than three days) and a further extended peak which lasted from early August through to the year end. Numbers involved were usually low (1 or 2, only occasionally up to 6) but 16 were present during the afternoon on 20th July, 13 (flocks of 11 and 2) flew W on 1st August, 11 flew NW on 11th August and nine were present on 24th September. Birds over flew (or departed) the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 67% of birds flew between west and north (the normal direction) and the other 33% flew south. The total number of bird/days reached an all-time high of 266.

Holme Styes – four on 15th February.

Wards End Marsden – birds were recorded on 12 dates between 3rd March and the year end. Most records involved singles which flew W or SW, the only exceptions being five W on 27th July, nine which did likewise on 8th October, five SW on 21st November and three E on 29th December.

Wooldale – two on 15th March.

Bretton Park – despite 11 records in 2014 with a maximum of 40 birds in October, only a single record was received this year: a single on 23rd March.

Whitley Res – two flew E on 5th April.

Wessenden Res – a single on 6th April.

Yateholme – two on 21st April.

Broadstone Res – singles on 4th May, 2nd October and 31st December.

Langsett Res – singles on 16th May, 24th June and two on 4th December.

Dove Stone Res – one on 4th June.

Gunthwaite Dam – two (1 flew S and 1 SW) on 17th June.

Redbrook Res – nine arrived from the N on 11th August; seven of which continued W but the remaining two settled on the water.

Harden Quarries – two flew SW on 19th September.

Riding Wood Res – one on 17th October

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

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

Dewsbury – a flock of seven (the largest party ever recorded in the Club area) flew E following the River Calder on 22nd January (DT).

Blackmoorfoot Res – two from the E which turned and continued NW at 13.55hrs. on 12th February (CH, MJS) constituted the sixth record for the reservoir.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 17th July (KWt).

Elland GP – a juvenile was on the River Calder from 4th to 8th August (NCD, DJS, MS).

Egret sp.

A bird seen flying NW over **Flight Hill** at approximately 16.30hrs. on 10th February showed some characteristics of Great White Egret *Ardea alba* but owing to distance and the fact that it was flying away against the sun the observer felt it better if it was recorded as Egret sp. (MC).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

Records were received from over 46 widely distributed locations and covered all months of the year.

Breeding was confirmed at the same four sites as in 2014: there were 10 nests at **Healey House** (same as last year), five at **Bretton Park** (13 last year and 32 in 2013), five at **Scammonden Water** (same as last year), and six at **Cromwell Bottom** (same as last year).

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a quiet year, but it was better than the two previous years. One to three were seen on 188 dates (162 in 2014 and 121 in 2013) between 4th February and the year end. The only exceptions involved five on both 13th May and 18th July.

Although birds were present throughout the year at several localities numbers rarely exceeded five, the only exceptions being as follows: six at **Elland GP** on 31st March, c.10 at **Bretton Park** on 7th February and c.20 throughout April, 12 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 17th July and six on 28th December, six on the River Calder at **Dewsbury** on 30th September, six at **Windy Bank Res.** on 6th October, and nine at **Dewsbury SW** on 29th December.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

As in 2014, records were received from 20 waters and covered all months. Breeding was only confirmed at one of these however, but with birds present at many more sites throughout the breeding season some breeding was probably overlooked.

Meal Hill Lake – up to two were present throughout the year but there was no proof of breeding. **Ingbirchworth Res** – birds were present throughout the year in small numbers but nine on 17th and 25th August were the largest assemblages recorded in the Club area. At least one pair bred and

were seen with two juveniles on 20th July. Later in the year there was a maximum of six on 13th October.

Bretton Park – though present throughout the year the maximum was down a little on previous years; five on 11th and 30th January being the maximum. Pairs were present on both lakes in July but no proof of breeding was forthcoming.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – up to six were present on a number of days in January but the only records thereafter involved a single on 20th March and two on 4th and 8th April.

Gunthwaite Dam – singles were recorded on 2nd and 18th January. In April, two were present on 1st and a single on 2nd and 8th. The only other records involved three on 8th July and 4th November, two on 20th November, and a single on 30th December.

Elland GP – two on the River Calder on 15th January.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a single on the River Calder on 24th January.

Broadstone Res – a single on 9th February was followed by two on 16th February, 29th July and 3rd August, and three on 17th August and 20th September. Thereafter a single was recorded on numerous occasions.

Rastrict – a single was on a small farm pond just off the M62 on 25th March.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 27th March and two on 11th April.

Redbrook Res – although two were present from early 4th April until mid-June there was no proof of breeding this year. The two adults and a juvenile present on 24th June had obviously originated from elsewhere.

March Haigh Res – a single was present on four dates in April and 3rd and 8th May. Later in the year two were seen on 20th July, 8th August and 9th and 16th September.

Dewsbury SW – two were present on 5th and 26th April and a single on 23rd August.

Carlecotes Ponds – singles on 9th April and 23rd May.

Langsett Res – two on 13th April and a single on 16th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 20th April and 10th May and singles on 18th August and 6th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – as in the previous two years, there were only a small number of records, with no birds remaining for more than two day's duration. All records were during the second half of the year and involved singles on eight dates between 29th July and 2nd November.

Castle Dam – a single on 17th August.

Deanhead Res – two were present on 1st and 7th September.

Dewsbury – three were present on the River Calder on 30th September.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Birds were recorded from a total of 12 waters with breeding confirmed at two of these.

Ladywood Lakes – two birds were present throughout the year but no proof of breeding was forthcoming.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had two on 25th January, a single from 26th January to 6th February, two on 28th February and three on 2nd March. There was then a single on 6th March, after which birds became 'resident' until 9th October. As can be seen from the table below, the usual autumn build-up never materialised, and the July record of seven relates to birds present for one day only (all other occurrences were of 6 or less). A pair attempted to nest in the NW corner, but the lowering water table left the nest high and dry by early July. Following the exodus by birds on 9th October, singles were recorded on a further two dates in October and November and four dates in December.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

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

Bretton Lake – there were occasional records of up to five during the first winter period. Two pairs bred, one of which fledging two young. The only record after the breeding season involved eight on 17th August.

Scout Dike Res – in February, two were present on 22nd, five on 25th and two on 28th; three were present on 3rd March and two on 27th March and 20th April. There were no further records until six well-grown juveniles were present on 11th July, five on 29th July and three on 2nd August.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to four were present between early February and late November. Although two ‘pairs’ were noted throughout the summer months, there was no evidence of breeding.

Langsett Res – one on 6th April.

Whitley Res – two on 8th April.

Broadstone Res – singles were seen on 20th April and 7th/8th July, three on 9th July and singles on 16th and 29th July with two on the last day of the month.

Elland GP – two on 29th April.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 27th May was followed by two adults and two juveniles on 20th July, an impressive 10 birds were present on 17th August with nine on 25th August.

Swellands Res – a single on 28th May.

Ringstone Edge – four were present on 23rd June, two on 12th July and 1st August, and a single on 1st September.

Deer Hill Res – rather unusually a juvenile was present throughout the whole of July.

(EUROPEAN) **HONEY-BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were three records:

Ingbirchworth Res – excellent views were had of a bird low over the dam wall which, when mobbed by Carrion Crows, departing slowly NNW towards Shepley on 4th June (MCW).

Wards End Marsden, Marsden – an adult male flew in low from the E into Head Clough on 27th July, and was seen again very briefly on 28th and 30th (DWS).

March Haigh Res – a single over Buckstones car park flew S after being mobbed by Carrion Crows on 9th September (DWS).

These records are still being assessed by the YNU Adjudication Panel.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare to scarce visitor. Increasing.

The number of sightings was much reduced by previous year’s standards, there being only 11 records.

Featherbed Moss – a single flew W towards Dove Stone Res. on 22nd March (SMS).

Elland GP – one on 24th March (PG).

Boshaw Whams – one flew ESE on 5th April (MC).

Winscar – a single flew S over Flight Hill on 5th April (MC).

Digley Res – one over the moorland drifted towards Holme Moss at 12.55hrs. on 9th April (MR).
Marsden – a single at Smithy Holme on 16th April (JM via JMP).
Diggle – one flew S on 29th April (TMa).
Blackmoorfoot Res – one which flew E over the reservoir at 12.40hrs. on 8th May (MLD, GK) was the nineteenth record for the reservoir, the first being in April 2006.
Norland Moor – a single drifted E on 21st May (HBC).
Hartcliff Hill – a single drifted NW on 23rd May (RJB).
Brighouse – one flew S on 14th August (DMo).

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

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
10	19	12	19	11

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

There were only two records, a marked reduction on the previous three years.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a ‘cream-crown’ which flew W over the reservoir at 12.20hrs. on 10th May (MLD, GK) was the sixteenth record for the reservoir, the first being in May 1999.

Harden Quarries - a ‘cream-crown’ flew WSW on 26th September (MC, NWM, DHP).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	1	5	3	4	4	10	10	7	2

Harrier sp. *Circus sp.*

A single at **Blackmoorfoot**, seen as it flew E over Meltham Cop at 10.20hrs. on 17th September, could not be identified to species, but was thought most likely to have been a Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (GK, GBS).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

With nine records this was the best ever showing in the Club area.

Salter’s Brook – an adult male flew towards Dunford Bridge on 10th January (MCW).

Wards End Marsden – This daily watched site provided six records, all of ringtails: a single low to the W at 11.20hrs. on 18th April; one quartering the moor between March Hill and Buckstones, flew towards Deanhead Valley on 2nd September; a single low under Buckstones Hill flew in direction of Deanhead Valley (with KWr) on 5th September; one flew N at 17.50hrs. on 16th September; a single hunting low flew E towards Cupwith Moor at 07.30hrs. on 17th September; one hunting near Higher Green Owlers flew SW across the valley and was lost in the mist on Pule Hill on 20th October (all DWS).

Deanhead Res – a ringtail on 18th August (DT).

Harden Quarries – a ringtail was seen in the distance to the W on 26th September (MC, NWM, DHP).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2014	2014	2015
4	1	4	1	5	5	3	8	7	9

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Rare passage bird.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a ringtail high from the N continued S at 18.30hrs. on 20th August (DWS).

This record is still being assessed by the YNU Adjudication Panel. If accepted it would be the first record in the Club area since an adult male at Deanhead Res. on 11th April 2009.

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

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

There were two records: at **Blackmoorfoot** an adult flew NE along the catchment at 09.20hrs. on 16th September (GBS) and a juvenile male was in the **Holmfirth** area on 30th November (TMe).

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Records were received from around 50 sites, the same as last year. Displaying or signs of breeding came from **Ramsden Res., Winscar, Yateholme, Wessenden, Almondbury** and **Holme Styes**, but there was no direct proof of breeding.

Birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot** with the exception of June. Generally only a single was present and the only records in excess concerned two on both 30th August and 19th September. The number of sightings from this locality continues to fall, however, and the months with the highest bird/days were October (9) and November (11), although the yearly total only amounted to 60.

Most records were of singles, occasionally two individuals. At **Harden Quarries** however, a good number of birds were observed as they passed over the area on migration. It started with a single SW on 13th September and an impressive seven SW on 19th September. In October there were three present on 9th and two SW plus two present on 11th, with a further 3 SW on 31st.

Once again garden sightings came from across the area: **Lockwood, Almondbury, Marsden, Meltham, Penistone, Netherthong** and **New Mill** all attracted singles on numerous occasions, but for the second year running a male and female were seen regularly in a **Rastrick** garden.

A great variety of prey species was again reported: Pied Wagtail, Redwing, Starling, Jackdaw and Collared Dove. In a **Penistone** garden a female killed a Collared Dove on 11th August and ate it two yards from the observer's kitchen window!

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	4	14	30	11	8	12	16	19	26	16	12

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

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

Yet again there was a marked increase in records received this year, these coming from over 80 sites. Breeding was successful at five locations with signs of breeding at four others, but some could have been overlooked.

Of course with such a visible and mobile species, duplication of birds is inevitable but again, as can be seen from the table below, the number of sightings continues to increase dramatically.

Wards End Marsden, Marsden – there were well over 100 dated records from this daily watched area. There were single records of one bird during January and February, then three on 22nd March. Thereafter, although records became more frequent, never more than two birds were involved, the following being the exceptions: three on 10th April, five on 7th May, three on 1st and 5th June and four days in August, six on 30th August, five flew W on 6th October and 4 flew W on 21st November.

Ingbirchworth Res – one or two (usually only 1) were seen on 12 dates between 3rd January and 28th September.

Horbury – regularly recorded from this area, especially from the Strands/Wyke. Most records involved singles, only occasionally two, but three were present on 17th February, 21st April and 23rd December.

Cheesegate Nab – seen regularly throughout the year, with up to five on numerous occasions.

Yateholme – recorded regularly throughout the year, but no numbers were forthcoming.

Gunthwaite Dam – seen regularly throughout the year with a maximum of five seen on 18th September.

Harden – recorded regularly throughout the year, but no numbers were forthcoming.

Blackmoorfoot – recorded on 38 occasions (29 in 2014 and 20 in 2013), with birds putting in appearances between mid-February and mid-October. All records related to one or two individuals, only occasionally three, with the exception of four circling over the S bank on 16th February.

Isle of Skye Quarry/Bradshaw Moor – there were 36 records which spanned the period 6th March and 30th October. All records were of singles, with the exceptions of two on 18th March, 10th April and 30th October.

Meltham/Honley – one or two were seen regularly in this area, four were present on 20th February and three on 7th April.

Grimescar Valley – one or two were seen on 11 dates between 8th April and 19th September.

Winscar – recorded regularly throughout the year with a maximum of eight on 18th April and on several dates in August.

Dewsbury SW – singles on 5th and 26th April and 23rd August, three on 13th September and four on 27th November.

Heyden Moor – 12 on 8th May.

Withens Clough – three on 13th May.

Holme Moss – four on 8th June.

Saddleworth Moor – five on 25th June.

New Mill – three on 9th August and five on 15th August.

Harden Quarries – in September, six flew SW on 13th as did ten on 19th, two flew NE on 26th, and four were present on 28th. In October, two were seen on 4th, five on 9th, singles flew SW on 10th/11th and two did likewise on 31st.

All the other localities, which are far too numerous to list, had one or two birds on no more than five occasions.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	13	26	57	36	28	37	52	49	37	12	4

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

It is rather surprising that after last year's tremendous influx during the second winter period, there were only three records, and one of those was a long-dead corpse.

Holme Moss – two juveniles on 17th February, one of which flew off towards Saddleworth (MR).

Blackmoorfoot – a single which flew N along the east bank at 10.55hrs. on 25th February (MLD, GK, TW) was the second record for the reservoir, the other being on 22nd April 2013.

Butterley Res – a long-dead bird was found on 30th May (PH, JMP).

These records are still being assessed by the YNU Adjudication Panel.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

Disappointingly there were only two records, singles during both passage periods.

Buckstones Moss – one flew NW at 10.50hrs. on 7th April (HBC).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – one flew W at 08.50hrs. on 17th September (DWS).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
2	2	8	3	1	2	5	5	8	2

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

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

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – one or two were present throughout the year (JH, DT).

Dewsbury SW – first recorded on 8th January, after which singles were regularly noted in two areas until near the end of the year. At least one pair was engaged in courtship and display during

June, with later sightings involving an adult and two recently hatched young on 21st July and an adult and juvenile together on 1st October (JH, DT).

Ramsden Mill Dam – singles on 8th (KW_r) and 21st January (JL) were the only records of the year away from the Calder Valley lowlands.

Horbury Strands – a single was noted on the bank of the adjacent canal on 17th July (KW_r).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Reports were received from a healthy 38 sites, and although successful breeding was confirmed at just nine of them, there can be little doubt that it would have taken place at several more.

Breeding records were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res – two to four were present between 20th February and 13th September. Two pairs attempted to breed, of which only one pair were successful, raising at least one young.

Ossett Spa SW – an adult was incubating eggs on 18th April.

Dewsbury SW – a total count of 32 on 24th July included 17 young, five of which were newly hatched.

Wilshaw – an adult was incubating eggs at a small roadside pond between here and Netherthong on 17th May.

Dean Brook Farm (Deanhouse) – a pair produced two broods on recently created ponds, although no more than a single young was seen at any one time.

Diggle Edge – an adult was with two juveniles on 15th June.

Brun Clough Res – two adults and seven recently fledged young were on a nearby pond on 9th July.

Bretton Lakes – six adults and four juveniles were present on 22nd July.

Hepshaw Brow – an undetermined number of half grown juveniles were with two adults at a pond on Bedding Edge Road on 8th August.

Aside from those mentioned above, double-figure counts were confined to the early months at **Horbury**, where monthly maxima included a combined total of 32 on the Wyke and Strands on 20th January and 12 on the Wyke on 18th February.

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

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

Birds were recorded at a rather disappointing 15 sites, with breeding confirmed at eight of them, but it appears that some known favoured waters in the east of the area were not visited this year, or at least not reported from.

Monthly maxima at two regularly monitored sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth	7	12	14	19	22	17	9	9	13	5	3	12
Castle Dam	22	23	16	8	nc	14	17	18	22	22	25	28

Aside from those tabulated, double figure counts from the first winter period came from **Bretton Lakes** (monthly maxima of 37 on 18th January and 20 on 7th February), **Horbury** (10 on 20th

January), **Meal Hill Lake** (12 on 8th February), **Royd Moor Res.** (12 on 25th February) and **Scout Dike Res.** (18 on 25th February).

Evidence of breeding came from the following:

Dewsbury SW – a minimum of four pairs bred, producing at least seven young.

Ossett Spa SW – an adult was incubating eggs on 3rd May.

Castle Dam – four young were with 10 adults (one of which was engaged in nest-building/repair) on 15th June.

Gunthwaite Dam – two pairs were present on 17th June; one with a brood of two and the other with four much smaller young.

Ingbirchworth Res – sixteen adults and at least two broods of young (uncounted) were noted on 19th June.

Longwood Reservoirs – a juvenile was noted on 11th July.

Bretton Lakes – uncounted young at various stages of development were with at least 20 adults on 22nd July.

Scout Dike Res – a total of 23 were present on 29th July but it is unknown how many (if any) of these were young birds. However, three juveniles were noted here on 2nd August.

Additionally, breeding was thought likely to have at least been attempted at **Meal Hill Lake**, **Horbury Wyke/Strands**, and the reservoirs at **Meltham Mills** and **Royd Moor**. Meanwhile, at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, two were present between 10th April and 12th May, a single was present on 2nd June and two took up residence from 3rd June to 5th July with a single then remaining until 1st August. Despite this occupancy though, there was no evidence of breeding, and the only records thereafter involved singles on 7th August and 7th September.

In comparison with the first winter period, the final three months were mostly rather quiet, with the only double figure count not already mentioned involving 10 at **Meal Hill Lake** on 9th December.

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

Rare passage visitor.

This species was recorded for the second consecutive year and the fourth time in total when a party of six (thought to be 4 adults and 2 juveniles) was discovered at **Ingbirchworth Res.** at 06.55hrs. on 12th August. They were then present until 09.10hrs. when they departed E after being disturbed by a dog and walker (RJB, AK, NWM).

Of interest, one of the six had been colour-ringed as a nestling at Seal Sands, Stockton-on-Tees on 13th June of this same year. It had travelled a distance of 125km SSW in 60 days.

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

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

Reports were received from just under 40 localities and commenced with a single at **Baitings Res.** on 12th February. This was followed by one over **Hepworth** on 13th and two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th, and by the end of the month a further six sites had yielded records. However, numbers remained low; never exceeding the three at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28th.

These meagre counts were also a feature of March, which saw a gradual spread to 12 new locations but with double-figure gatherings confined to just one of them. This was **Broadstone Res.**, where nine on 9th increased to 15 on 18th and 16 (the maximum count of the year) on 22nd. By contrast, the maximum at the traditionally favoured **Boshaw Whams Res.** was a disappointing four on 4th.

Breeding has become commonplace over the past few years, and in general no longer attracts the attention that it once did. Hence, breeding information was received from only a handful of sites. One was **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where, after a failed first attempt, a single egg was hatched in mid-June, with the young bird then seen on several dates up to 7th July. Others included the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, where breeding again took place high on the rock face; **Butterley Res.**, where a pair were incubating eggs in mid-June; **Whitley Edge**, where a single juvenile was present on 6th July; and **Digley Res.**, where an adult was carrying food (thought to be an earthworm) on 19th July.

In July, birds continued to be regularly recorded at a variety of locations until the end of the month. However, the only counts in excess of two involved four at **Winscar Res.** on 15th and the same number at **Dewsbury SW** on 25th. As is usually the case, sightings then came to a fairly abrupt end, with the sole record for August referring to a single at **Langsett Res.** on 11th.

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

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

There were three records in January involving four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th, c.50 on the same date at **Maythorn**, and six at the former location on 25th. In February, birds were more widespread, but the two sites already mentioned were again among the most favoured. At **Blackmoorfoot**, numbers increased suddenly to 80 on 6th and 95 on 7th but then reduced to three on 16th and eight on 20th. At **Maythorn**, c.50 were still present on 10th; this rising to c.100 on 17th and then staying around that level for the remainder of the month. A similar number were also present for most of February at **Ringstone Edge Res.**, but counts elsewhere were much lower, with only **Snape Res.** (16 on 17th) managing to exceed single figures.

Typically, March produced some of the highest counts of the year, most notably at **Ringstone Edge** (maximum c.400 on 13th) and **Ranah Stones**, where 385 were present on 18th. Surprisingly, there were no records at all from the Maythorn area, but **Snape Res.** attracted variable numbers which peaked at 96 on 17th, and evidence of ongoing migration was seen at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**, where 195 flew NE in four separate flocks on 30th. Passage over this site then continued in April, with c.200 on 4th, c.125 on 11th, 75 on 13th, and 45 on 15th; the majority of which were again heading N or NE. Other favoured locations in April included (with maxima in brackets) **Harden Edge** (300 on 5th), **Whitley Common** (51 on 13th), **Blackmoorfoot** (54 on 13th), **Hartcliff Hill** (c.80 on 14th) **Ringstone Edge** (c.170 on 15th), and **Harden Moss**, where 59 were present on 29th. As expected, such aggregations were mostly short-lived, although those at **Hartcliff Hill** and **Harden Moss** did persist in a slightly reduced form until well into June, by which time they were considered to be made up of off-duty breeders from local moorlands.

Breeding was confirmed at **Featherbed Moss**, where a pair and recently fledged young were present on 26th June. It almost certainly also occurred at **Wessenden Head**, where a pair showed anxiety at the presence of the observer on the same date. Other territorial birds included four pairs at **Black Moss**, three pairs at **Withens Clough**, and one or two pairs at **Heyden Moss, Foxhouse Moss, Close Moss, Black Hill**, and **Chew Res.**, and it is likely that breeding was at least attempted at most if not all of these.

July began with singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 4th, **Featherbed Moss** on 5th, and **Whitley Common** on 6th, and continued with 25 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 11th. Incredibly though, there were no records at all then until late September, when four were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th, five were at **Ringstone Edge** on 25th, and two flew E at **Harden Quarries** on 28th. Passage then continued in October, with occasional records from six sites including **Wards End Farm** (maximum 10 SW on 9th), **Harden Quarries** (9 SW on 11th), and **Blackmoorfoot**, where 11 flew W on 29th. However, the main feature of this month was the build-up in numbers at **Ringstone Edge**, which held 140 by 26th, with counts then increasing to 200+ by 14th November. Other November records came from **Deer Hill Res.** (60 on 2nd), **Pule Hill** (28 W on 12th), and **Blackmoorfoot** (maximum 60+ on 23rd), but the only site with gatherings rivalling those at Ringstone Edge was **Broadstone Res.**, where c.170 were seen in flight on 14th. In comparison, December was something of a let-down, with singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th and 20th and near **Crossley's Plantation** on 14th and, finally, 17 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th.

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

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

In comparison to some recent years, January was quite productive, with triple figure flocks noted at a number of widely scattered locations. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, daily counts included 160-230 up to 18th, and then 110-140 from 25th to 31st. Others included **Whitley Common** (c.100 on 1st), **Maythorn** (c.200 on 4th), **Dewsbury SW** (235 on 22nd), and **Langsett**, where 140 flew SW on 26th. In February, counts of up to 140 persisted at **Blackmoorfoot** until the middle of the month, but those from elsewhere were mostly smaller than in January; typical maxima being c.80 at **Clayton West** on 6th, c.100 at **Maythorn** on 17th, 85 at **Wards End Farm**, **Marsden** on 23rd, and 60 at both **Hade Edge** on 26th and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 27th. March then saw numbers at most locations drop still further, but there was evidence of lowland passage in the form of 48 which flew W at **Dewsbury SW** on 11th. However, triple figure gatherings continued to be recorded at **Broadstone Res.**, where the spring peak was 300 on 16th, and **Ringstone Edge**, where 120 on 17th gradually reduced to 40 on 27th.

Breeding activity was first noted at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, where two pairs appeared to be on territory on 10th March and eight birds were present on 18th. A minimum of two pairs then succeeded in hatching young at this site, with sometimes up to eight adults showing agitation during May and June. Records from **Snape Res.** were mostly rather vague, but a few pairs were on territory there by 17th March, and several birds were incubating eggs in April. Subsequent sightings included young from at least two broods on 15th May, several young by the end of the month, and an adult still incubating on 7th June. Other sites where breeding was confirmed included **Annat Royd Lane** (3 broods totalling 10+ chicks on 4th May), **Whitley Edge** (2 adults with 2 chicks on 7th May), **Harden Moss** (4 young visible on 14th May), **Barnside**, **Hepworth** (chicks present on 18th June), **Alphin Pike** (a well-grown juvenile on 18th June), **Hartcliff Hill** (at least 8 young on 21st June), **Wards End Farm** (3 juveniles on 25th June), and **Wessenden Head**, where a recently hatched chick was noted on 26th June. Even later records of recently hatched young then came from near the **Ford Inn**, where up to three were present daily between 15th and 20th July.

As ever, there can be little doubt that the above records represent just a tiny fraction of the true number of breeding pairs in our area. Reports of small numbers in display were received from several upland sites, with later mentions of agitated adults at, for example, **Featherbed Moss**, suggesting that young had hatched successfully. On the other hand, agricultural activities put paid to the nesting attempts of seven pairs in a field W of **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

Earlier than in some other years, post-breeding flocks began to build up from the middle of June. At **Blackmoorfoot**, 40 to 50 were noted daily from 18th to 30th, on which date 138 were present at **Dewsbury SW**. Numbers at the former site continued to rise in July, when 280 to 310 were present daily from 21st until the end of the month. Elsewhere in July, gatherings mostly remained in mid double figures; the only exceptions being c.120 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th and 168 at **Dewsbury SW** the following day. This dominance by **Blackmoorfoot** then continued into August, with numbers there reaching 350 on 2nd and remaining at 300-360 for the rest of the month. By contrast, maximum counts at some other sites were c.70 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st, 82 near **Dewsbury SW** on 16th, and 130 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 25th.

In some ways, September proceeded in a similar fashion, albeit that numbers rose again across the board. At **Blackmoorfoot**, daily counts ranged from 340 to 550, whilst maxima elsewhere included 262 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 25th and 230+ at **Royd Moor Res.** on 30th. However, October brought changes in distribution which were most evident on 4th, when numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** dropped suddenly to 40 and those at **Ringstone Edge** increased to a monthly maximum of 350. Flock sizes at the former then built gradually to 220, whereas those at the latter were much more erratic and mostly smaller, although they did reach 300 again on 26th. Away from these two reservoirs, other October counts included 62 at **Deer Hill Res.** on 6th, 92 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 17th, a monthly maximum count of 200 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th, and a total of 180 flying mostly SW on the last day of the month at **Harden Quarries**.

Overall, the final two months of the year brought little change. At **Blackmoorfoot**, 280 were present on 1st November, but counts were never quite as high again; varying from 110 to 170 during the remainder of the month and then from 90 to 120 in December. Elsewhere, maxima in November included 70 flying W at **Wards End Farm** on 12th, 215 near **Scout Dike Res.** on 22nd, 140 at **Ladywood Lakes** on 24th, and c.200 at **Whitley Edge** on 25th. In December, numbers at **Ladywood Lakes** rose to 240 on 2nd, on which date c.250 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** After c.100 at **Bretton Lakes** on 5th, and 50 at **Wholestone Moor** on 7th, the wider **Ingbirchworth** area then provided fairly regular mid double figure counts for the rest of the month, but by this time birds were apparently confined to either here or **Blackmoorfoot** (see above); the only exception involving a flock of nine which flew W at **Wards End Farm** on Christmas Day.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

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

Although this species was reported from 13 sites, breeding was confirmed at just one of them, where a male and female present from 7th April were regularly seen in display from around the middle of the month. At some point they were joined by a second pair, with subsequent counts including four adults and three juveniles on 28th June and, in July, minima of three adults and four juveniles on 5th and two adults and three juveniles on 12th.

Other records were received from:

Wessenden Head Res – a single on 8th April.

Elland GP – one by the ski lake on 14th April.

Ossett Spa SW – two on 15th and 18th April.

Whitley Edge – two on 19th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single was present on 24th April, after which up to three were regularly reported until 2nd May. Barring one on 18th June, there were then none until July, when a series of records included four on 6th, six (5 adults and a juvenile) on 11th, and five adults on 20th. However, numbers then dropped sharply; the last at this site being an adult on 4th August.

Dewsbury SW – one or two adults were noted on several dates between 2nd May and 28th July.
Butterley Res – singles on 16th May and 11th and 15th June were followed by two adults on 5th July.
Redbrook Res – singles on 28th and 31st May preceded two on 14th June.
Ringstone Edge Res – singles were noted on several dates between 29th May and 16th June.
Deer Hill Res – an adult and a juvenile were present on 25th July, followed by an un-aged bird on 30th.
Scout Dike Res – one on 5th August.
Blackmoorfoot Res – the only record involved an adult along the west bank on 26th August.

(COMMON) **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

In what was a rather mediocre year for this species, records came from five upland reservoirs on nine dates between 26th April and 25th September. The maximum count was three.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single was on the dam bank on 26th April (NWM, DHP, MCW).
Langsett Res – three were engaged in display and courtship behaviour on 1st May (CDA).
Winscar Res – one on 8th May (MC).
Blackmoorfoot Res – there were four records, all of adults: in August, a single was present on 17th (MLD, GK, GBS) and two on 26th/27th (MLD, GBS *et al.*) and one was present on 25th September (MLD, GK, GBS).
Scout Dike Res – singles on 29th and 30th August were followed by two on 2nd September (RJB).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*
Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A total of four or five individuals at three sites on four dates (all in spring) amounted to one of the poorest showings of the last decade.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single flew N at 08.20hrs. on 24th April (DWS).
Blackmoorfoot Res – two were in the large field to the west of the reservoir on 26th April (CH, DMP, SP) and a single was present there the following day (MLD, DT *et al.*).
Harden Moss – two were feeding in a field alongside the A635 Isle of Skye road on 11th May (DHP).

(EURASIAN) **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*
Migrant breeder (3), 100-250 pairs. Common passage visitor. Red listed.

The first reports came in February and involved unseen calling birds at **Scout Dike Res.** on 23rd and 25th, on which date eight were also at **Maythorn.** On 28th, numbers had increased to around 25 at the latter site, and other records included 20 which flew W at **Harden** and singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and (flying W) at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

Early March brought two to **Brun Clough Res.** and a single which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th, and two at **Harden Moss** on 6th, but the main arrival began on 7th, when c.60 were in a field at **Maythorn.** Subsequent records from this traditional early spring gathering area included c.40 on 8th, 36 on 9th, and 31 on 21st, but none thereafter. Elsewhere, double-figure March counts came

from **Harden** (71 N and NNW in 6 flocks on 10th), **Wilshaw** (14 on 8th and c.30 on 14th), and **Blackmoorfoot**, where birds were observed on most dates and included 18 W on 14th, 31 on 19th, and 11 on 21st. Typically, records from this latter site were then reduced in April, although birds were still noted on 14 dates; mostly in ones and twos but with three on 2nd, four W on 5th, five on 20th, nine on 21st, and 12 on 28th. However, the month's peak count came from **Snape Res.**, where 14 were present on 28th.

Once again, the early signs of breeding activity were recorded somewhat vaguely. The first mention of display referred to a pair at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 10th March, although another observer stated that local breeders had been back on moorland territories in the S of our area for a week by this date. In April, birds were quite widely distributed, but references to song flight/display were limited to one or two at **Eastergate (Marsden), Upper Denby, Broadstone Road, and Langsett**, and the only mention of copulation involved a pair at **Wards End Farm** on 17th. However, territorial behaviour was more often recorded during May and June; usually involving small numbers in typical habitat in the S and W of the area but extending as far NE as **Bentley Grange Farm, Emley**, where two were in song flight on 13th May.

As is often the case, evidence of breeding success was rather hard to come by. At **Deer Hill Res.**, two broods were recorded, each consisting of three young. Meanwhile, in June, an undetermined number of recently hatched young were present at **Barnside, Hepworth** on 18th, and an adult was with two juveniles at **White Hull, Marsden** on 19th.

July usually sees a marked drop-off in the frequency of reports, and this year was no exception. Birds were heard calling at **Wards End Farm** on 1st and **Featherbed Moss** on 5th, and singles were noted occasionally at **Bradshaw/Isle of Skye**. Evidence of migration was then seen at **Blackmoorfoot**, where seven flew S on 17th, and **Scout Dike Res.**, where two flew SE on 29th, but the only other record that month was from **Harden Moss** on 30th, when an adult was on a dry stone wall and a juvenile was dead on the road. In early August, a series of sightings at **Ingbirchworth Res.** involved two E on 3rd, two juveniles dropping in on the afternoon of 4th, and then four birds did likewise on 8th. These were followed by a single at **Brun Clough Res.** on 11th, but the next records were not until 4th September, when two flew N at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and one flew high W at **Wards End Farm**. Typically, these turned out to be the last birds of the autumn and would have also been the last of the year had it not been for the wholly unexpected discovery of a solitary individual in a field near **Broadstone Res.** on 27th December (HQ).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing.

Ringstone Edge Res – an adult was present during the early evening of 30th July (JB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – three departed W from the west bank at 09.55hrs. on 22nd September (MLD, TD, GBS).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
68	3	3	0	0	2	11	0	0	4

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record involved five which flew W over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 10.35hrs. on 6th June (MLD, DMP, SP, GBS).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	1	2	18	2	0	5	0	2	5

RUFF *Calidris pugnax*

Rare to scarce visitor

The sole record referred to three (a ruff and two reeves) at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 11th September (AC).

Numbers of Ruff in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	3

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Following three blank years, this is the fourth consecutive year of occurrence for this wader.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a summer-plumaged adult circled the reservoir on two occasions before departing W at 10.15hrs. on 3rd June (MLD, Sck, GBS).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Once again there was evidence of probable breeding on some of our higher moors. Otherwise, birds were rather thin on the ground, especially during late summer/early autumn.

Saddleworth and Wessenden Moors – an unusually early single on Featherbed Moss on 1st March was followed by a series of records from several sites in this extensive moorland area during April, May, and June. Example counts included two at Chew Res. on 25th April, a presumed pair at Black Moss on 1st May, and six at the aforementioned Featherbed Moss on 16th May. However, the only recorded indication of successful breeding came from Wessenden Head, where two pairs showed agitation at the observer's presence during mid and late June.

Snape Res – a single in non-breeding plumage was present on 14th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were only eight records. In spring three flew W on 19th March, a single did likewise on 1st April and one was present on 9th May. Later in the year a single was present on 28th October, one flew S on 16th November and, in December, singles flew W on 9th, 14th and 22nd.

Ingbirchworth Res – one on 25th April.

Winscar Res – a single on 8th May.

Hartcliff Hill – two summer-plumaged adults were among Golden Plovers on 10th May.

Deer Hill Res – three juveniles on 30th August.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 22nd October.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Rare visitor

A single at **Butterley Res.** on 25th May was the first since 2004 and the first ever spring record in the Club area (JMP).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Records were received from 26 localities, which is slightly below the recent average. However, there is little doubt that an improvement in local observer coverage of reservoirs in the NW and S of the Club area could increase this number.

The first arrivals were singles in April at the reservoirs at **Ingbirchworth** on 13th, **Blackmoorfoot** and **Longwood** on 15th, and **Deer Hill** on 17th. The next were on 22nd, when three were at **Winscar**, two at **Wessenden Head**, and one at **Digley**. The last week in April then produced the highest counts of spring (5 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th/28th) as well as records from three new sites including **Horbury**, where a single on 30th proved to be the sole spring sighting in the Calder Valley lowlands.

In early May, passage birds continued to appear at reservoirs such as **Ingbirchworth** (1 or 2 regularly until 9th), **Scout Dike** (2 on 2nd), and **Blackmoorfoot** (2 on 2nd, followed by singles on 3rd and 12th to 14th) but by this time the majority of records referred to singles or pairs in known breeding areas. Again, most of these were reservoirs, which included **Wessenden**, **March Haigh**, **Langsett**, **Winscar** (2 pairs), **Dove Stone**, **Riding Wood**, **Yateholme**, and **Brun Clough** (2 pairs). However, proof of breeding was obtained only from **Yeoman Hey**, where a pair and two young were noted as early as 17th May; **Ringstone Edge**, where three young were seen on 6th June; and **Redbrook**, where two nests with eggs were discovered on 8th June and a pair and undetermined number of young were present on 26th June. That said, breeding almost certainly also took place at **Butterley Res.**, where six were present on 4th July and anxiety calls were heard on every visit until near the end of that month.

As expected, July also yielded records from new sites as birds began their post-breeding dispersal. These included **Broadstone Res.**, where a single appeared on 2nd, and **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where two or three were noted on several dates throughout the month and four were present on 29th. At **Deer Hill Res.**, high water levels in spring and early summer had seemingly discouraged any attempts at breeding, but passage birds began to drop in towards the end of the month, with one or two seen regularly from 21st.

Meanwhile, at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a single from 7th to 14th July was followed by four on 18th/19th and two from 23rd to 28th. Birds were then recorded on most dates in the first half of August and then daily until 6th September, with the maximum count again being four. Elsewhere in August, birds were surprisingly thin on the ground during the first half of the month, but became more widespread again from 17th, when singles were on the Calder near **Savile Town** and at **Royd Moor Res.** These two sites then produced the occasional record of one or two for the rest of the month,

with other reports from this period coming from **Deer Hill Res.** (2 on 19th August and 1 on 10th September), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (1 on 1st September), and **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where singles continued to be noted fairly regularly in September up to 18th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from six locations and spanned all months other than May. As is often the case, the most favoured site was Dewsbury SW, which this year produced a new record high count for the Club area.

Dewsbury SW and the adjacent River Calder – after singles on several dates between 22nd January and 29th April there were then no records until one on 23rd June. In July, counts increased to four on 2nd, six on 24th, and 10 between 25th and 30th; this being the highest ever count in the Club area. However, August saw a reduction in numbers, with a maximum count of four on 5th. September then yielded a single on 1st and three on 6th, which were followed in October by further singles on 4th and 28th (JH, DT).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single was flushed from the western end on 31st January (DG).

Scout Dike Res – one on 9th February (DBu).

Bretton Lakes – ongoing maintenance work on the dam and spillway of the Lower Lake kept water levels exceptionally low, resulting in areas of exposed mud which again proved attractive to waders. Sightings included one on 19th February, two on 26th March, and further singles on 9th November and 24th December (BBSG).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single on the west bank on 31st July (TD, CH) was the first record at this site since 2nd September 2010.

Broadstone Res – a single on 2nd October (DHo).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

By recent standards it was a typical showing, with singles at four sites on five dates ranging from early June to late August.

Dewsbury SW – singles on 3rd June and 13th August (JH).

Ingbirchworth Res – one on 11th July (RJB).

Deer Hill Res – one on 7th August (TD).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single was along the west bank on 24th August (MLD, GBS, SP).

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

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

Records were received from seven locations on a disappointing total of 11 dates. Aside from one count of three and another of two, all reports referred to singles. Two of the sites were in the River Calder catchment; the remainder being upland reservoirs. There was no evidence of breeding, but three records from Brun Clough Res. (which is on the edge of previously favoured moorland) offered hope that it could possibly have occurred somewhere in the vicinity.

Ossett Spa SW – one on 5th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles were noted on 9th March and 3rd April and three were present on 27th December. Winter records are unusual at this site and this is the first record which has involved more than a single individual.

Butterley Res – one on 10th April.

Brun Clough Res – two on 26th and one on 30th April were followed by a single on 11th June.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 16th June.

Horbury Strands – a juvenile on 17th July.

Deer Hill Res – a single on 7th August.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from five locations, of which three were on the moorland fringe and two in the eastern lowlands. Of the five, three sites held birds in the first half of the year and three again during the second. It is perhaps worth noting that the first two sightings of autumn were on the same date.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a record of two on 22nd January was the only one of the year to involve more than a single individual (DT).

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles on 18th March (SCK) and 21st October (DHP).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – two sightings on 22nd April were thought to relate to the same bird (DWS).

Crossley's Plantation – one was present nearby on 21st October (PAB).

Ossett Spa SW – a single on 24th November (DT).

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

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

There were four sightings during the early months involving one in flight at **Park Head** (south of Shepley) at dusk on 31st January and, in February, a single near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, one over the cricket pitch at **Holmbridge** around dusk on 16th, and a single flushed from gorse at **Scout Dike Res.** on 23rd.

In the breeding season, one was in the **Longwood Valley** on 20th May, but the only reports of roding birds came from the **Yateholme** and **Langsett** areas. At the latter, a minimum of four birds were active on a cool and windy evening in mid-June.

As is often the case, the late autumn and second winter period was slightly more productive than the early part of the year. The first of this season was one in flight W over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 10th November, but the main arrival began later that month, when singles were at **Winscar Res.** on 22nd and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 25th. These were followed in December by another W over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 5th, and singles at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 9th and **Waystone Edge (Buckstone Moss)** on 18th. The final record of the year involved one found dead at **Baitings Res.** on 27th.

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

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

The first two months brought records from six localities, although only two of them, both along the Calder, referred to more than a handful of birds. These were **Dewsbury SW** (monthly maxima 48 on 19th January and 18 on 18th February) and **Horbury Wyke/Strands**, which held 21 on 22nd January.

The Calder Valley then continued to produce the occasional single figure count during March (and indeed for the rest of spring) but, as expected, most reports from that month were of birds on or near their breeding grounds, with the boggy upper reaches of the **Colne** and **Holme Valleys** once again providing the majority of records. One site was the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, where up to four were regularly seen and heard in display from as early as 6th. It was a similar story at **Snape Res.**, where drumming and 'chipping' were heard almost constantly in May and decreased only gradually in June. Other locations included upper **Marsden**, **Wessenden Head**, the **Holme** area, and **Brow Grains/Deer Hill**, where the sight and sound of up to four in display was again a notable feature of spring. However, successful breeding was confirmed only at **Bradshaw Moor**, where a pair and three well-grown young were discovered on 18th June.

Away from these two valleys, display was witnessed at **Featherbed Moss**, **Hartcliff Hill**, **Flight Hill**, and **Carlecotes Ponds**, but reports were few and far between, and rarely referred to more than one or two birds. As a caveat though, it should be noted that our current understanding of the local distribution and density of this species is possibly affected by recent biases in observer coverage.

Typically, birds became much less visible in midsummer. In July, there were no records at all after 19th, but then early August saw the reappearance of small numbers in the Calder Valley, with five at **Dewsbury SW** on 2nd and seven there on 4th. In contrast, upland records were limited to just the occasional single until 13th September, when three flew SW at **Harden Quarries**. These were followed on 14th by two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and four at **Ringstone Edge Res.**, and then a gradual increase in both the number of sites and the numbers of birds.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a single on 20th September was the first since April. This was followed by four on 23rd, five on 24th, and three on 27th, and then in October by two on 6th, one on 23rd, 13 on 27th, and seven on 28th. Other notable October records came from **Meltham Moor** (10+ on 1st), **Dewsbury SW** (15 on 6th), **Scout Dike Res.** (15 on 13th) and **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where 10 were present on 19th. However, such gatherings were evidently short-lived; there being just five sightings in the whole of November and a maximum count of eight at **Wholestone Moor** on 5th. Disappointingly, December then turned out to be even more bereft, with only two records involving six remaining at **Wholestone Moor** on 7th and two which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 9th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare to scarce passage visitor

The only record involved two mainly summer-plumaged adults which departed E at 09.25hrs. from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd August (MLD, GBS).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from five localities (4 in 2014) with birds occurring between 21st April and 17th August.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two on 21st April.

Scout Dike Res – a single arrived at 10.35hrs. on 3rd May.

Dewsbury SW – singles on 20th May and 22nd June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only record involved two which departed E at 10.00hrs. on 4th July.

Bretton Lakes – an adult on 22nd July, an adult was feeding a juvenile on 22nd July, and a single was present on 17th August.

Although the feeding of a juvenile by an adult may indicate local breeding, parents are known to feed their young for several weeks after fledging.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 11th April (MCW).

Winscar – a single flew ENE at 07.00hrs. on 15th May (MC, RJB).

Winscar Res – one departed to the ENE at 19.00hrs. on 15th May (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single departed SW at 08.35hrs. on 19th May (NWM identified by MLD from photographs), one flew W at 10.00hrs. on 2nd June (MLD, GBS, TW) and an adult was present on 28th July (MLD, GBS).

The bird at Ingbirchworth on 11th April was the earliest ever recorded in the Club area, albeit only by one day.

(BLACK-LEGGED) **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

Rare to scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

An adult was present at **Elland GP** on 20th March (PG), an adult was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29th July (MCW) and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** an adult arrived at 10.55hrs. and departed NW at 11.05hrs. on 20th October (MLD, GK, GBS, TW).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Blackmoorfoot roost counts produced the following monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	6800	nc	24	nc	nc	21	124	nc	nc	4800	5500

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	700	400	130	20	19	80	24	15	1200	252	300

As is usual, small parties were seen at a number of widely scattered localities throughout the year, but the only treble figure counts involved the following:

Castle Dam – c.200 on 2nd January.

Bretton Lakes – c.145 on 19th January, c.180 on 7th February, c.100 on 3rd April, c.100 on 5th December and c.500 the following week.

Langsett Res – in the first winter period roosting birds were counted as follows: c.1550 on 25th January, 1275 on 4th February and c.2500 on 11th February. Later in the year the roost increased from c.178 on 11th August to 600 on 11th September

Dewsbury – c.130 were on the River Calder on 30th September.

Ringstone Edge Res – 124 on 25th September.

Lindley Recreation Ground – c.100 on 4th October.

Honley – 200 feeding in a field on 8th November.

Marsh – c.200 flew SW at 15.30hrs. These birds were presumably on route to the roost at Blackmoorfoot Res.

Winscar Res – the small breeding colony held seven sitting birds and a copulating pair on 6th May, and eight juveniles were seen in early July.

Visible migration was noted at three localities:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – birds were noted, mainly passing in a westerly direction, on a total of 86 dates throughout the year. Some 1466 birds were involved with most occurring in the second half of the year. Numbers were generally small, less than 40, and the only three figure counts involved 122 W on 11th July with 181 doing likewise on 17th July.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 166 flew SW on six dates between 25th September and 17th October.

Harden Quarries – 35 flew SW on 9th October.

A single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9th January was pure white (JMCL) and an individual at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st March had the head and bill shape of Black-headed Gull but had a pure white primary projection on the upperside on at least one side and there was a dark/dusky bloc on the underside of the opposite primaries when at rest. When seen briefly in flight, the upper-wing looked to have all white primaries on both wings. The bird was considered to be either an aberrant Black-headed Gull or a Black-headed Gull x Mediterranean Gull hybrid (MC).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were six records, probably involving as many birds: an adult was present on 4th January (MLD *et al.*), a first-winter roosted on 16th February (MC), an adult did likewise on 17th March (MC, NWM), a first-summer was present on 3rd June (MLD, GBS), and first-winters were seen on 10th November (MLD, GK, GBS) and 9th December (MLD, GBS).

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult was present on 9th/10th January (JMCL, DMP, SP).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – an adult flew low to the W on 7th May and a first-summer flew NW on 1st June (DWS).

Ringstone Edge Res – a second-winter on flew off towards Scammonden Water at 18.25hrs. on 24th September (DJS).

Whitley Common – a first-winter and a juvenile were present on 29th October (MC).

Broadstone Res – a second-winter was seen on 30th October (MCW).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

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

Pole Moor – 60 on 12th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 1,300 roosted on 18th February.

Langsett Res – 121 roosting on 4th February had increased to *c.*230 by 11th February.

Ingbirchworth Res – *c.*100 on 17th February.

Broadstone Res – *c.*200 feeding in nearby fields on 25th February.

Apart from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had up to five (but usually 1 or 2) on 31 dates between late April and mid-September, the only other records during these months were as follows:

Ringstone Edge Res – eight on 5th May.

Longwood Valley – three on 20th May and five on 28th June.

Lindley Moor – two on 2nd June.

Marsden – three on 6th June.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single flew W on 6th June and, in July, 54 flew W on 11 dates with maxima of 14 on 12th and ten on 25th.

Marsh – one on 16th June.

Broadstone Res – singles on 16th and 29th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 28th/29th July and 17th August.

Grimescar Valley – one on 4th August.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 2nd September.

Langsett Res – two on 11th September.

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

Blackmoorfoot Res – 33 were present on 30th October with 26 the following day. A total of 770 roosted on 12th November, as did 800 on 3rd December.

Broadstone Res – 47 on 30th October.

Ingbirchworth Res – 22 on 30th October 20 on 14th December and *c.*36 three days later.

Oldfield – *c.*200 feeding in a field on 25th November.

Visible migration was noted at two localities:

Wards End Farm – 542 were noted, mainly flying in a westerly direction, on 24 dates between 1st January and 23rd March. Numbers were generally small, usually less than 40, but 45 flew W on 2nd January, 126 flew W on 11th January and 65 did likewise the following day. Later in the year a total of 594 flew over on 31 dates between 6th October and 30th December, again mainly in a westerly direction, with a maximum of 200 W on 21st November, 68 (67 W + 1 E) on 27th November and 46 (26 W + 20 E) on 27th December.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 102 flew SW on five dates between 8th October and 17th November, with a maximum of 38 on the last mentioned date.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	19	13	7	12	13	9	7	5	7	8	8

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

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 118 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 18 dates between 10th January and 30th March. Low single figures were usually involved, but 19 flew W on the first mentioned date, ten flew W on 26th January, 21 flew W on 9th February, and 18 (13 W + 5 E) on 22nd March.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 12th January.

Elland GP – three on 15th January.

Castle Dam – a single on 18th January.

Ladywood Lakes – single on 22nd January and 17th February.

Langsett Res – six roosted on 25th January, as did two on 4th February and a single on 11th February.

Scout Dike Res – a single flew NW on 9th February.

Broadstone Res – three flew NW on 30th March.

From late April until late October birds were reported from a number of widely scattered localities. The usual autumn build up in the Broadstone area, as last year, was well below par. Numbers at most localities rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

Ingbirchworth Res – from 38 on 15th June number increased to 68 by 20th July, 120 by 25th August and c.200 by 1st September but had reduced to 30 by late October.

Langsett Res – c.17 roosted on 31st July. This had increased to c.223 by 11th August and 548 by 11th September but had reduced to c.80 by 28th September.

Broadstone Res – ten on 8th July, 21 on 29th August and 23 on 30th October.

Fullshaw – c.23 on 3rd August.

Royd Moor Res – up to 85 were present between 30th September and 21st October.

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

Broadstone Res – 11 on 2nd November.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.12 on 2nd November.

Winscar Res – a single on 2nd November.

Ladywood Lakes – three on 24th November and two on 2nd December.

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

Wards End Farm – a total of 629 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 99 dates between 11th April and the year end. The largest proportion of these were prior to early September and consisted of low single figures, only occasionally up to the 25, but 57 (5 W + 52 E) on 25th October with 33 (13 W + 20 E) the following day.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 12 flew W on 10th May and 13 did likewise on 5th June.

Harden Quarries – two flew SW and three N on 28th September and 27 flew SW on 9th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – singles flew SW on 4th October and 25th October and two flew SW on 12th and 17th November.

A bird colour-ringed as a first-winter at Byparken, Bergen, Hordaland, Norway on 12th September 2013 was seen at Ingbirchworth Res. on 13th June, having travelled 870 kms. in a south-westerly direction.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As is now normal, the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** never held more than single figures during either winter period with the exceptions of 68 on 15th February and 62 three days later. Occasional movements were recorded in November/December – in November, 26 flew NW on 22nd and 32 flew W the following day, and in December 43 flew E on 13th and 13 flew W the following day.

There were records from a further 18 localities (16 in 2014 and 20 in 2013), showing that the species is nowhere near as common as formerly. A large proportion of the records relate to passage birds over Wards End Farm, Marsden and, although these are summarised below, for completeness all other records are given.

Oldfield – seen regularly throughout January with a maximum of ten on 7th. There were then no records until a single on 10th November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 514 flew over, mainly in westerly direction, on 31 dates between 1st January and 30th March. Numbers, although occasionally reaching as high as 24, were usually in single figures, but 142 flew W on 2nd January, 33 flew W on 11th January, and 35 did likewise on 1st March. Records during the summer/early autumn were limited to April (2 flew SW on 12th and two flew S the following day), three flew W on 19th May, and singles flew W on 12th and 28th July, 3rd August and 6th September. There were then no records until a single flew E on 14th October. Thereafter, 844 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on a further 41 dates. Numbers rarely reach low double figures, but 27 flew W on 22nd November, 80 flew W the following day, 110 flew W on 6th December, and 140 did likewise on 27th December.

Dunford Bridge – c.20 flew W on 1st January.

Whitley Heights – a single on 5th January.

Ingbirchworth Res – ten on 9th January belonged to the nominate race *L. a. argentatus* (JMCL). Four were present on 13th January, five on 26th January, four on 3rd February, two on 22nd February, singles on 12th April and 21st May, two on 19th June and 13th October, ten on 22nd November and, in December, two on 6th, three on 17th, two on 23rd, and six on 27th.

Horbury – a single on the River Calder on 14th January.

Scammonden – a single on 20th January

Cooper Bridge SW – a single on 25th January and one flew S on 29th August.

Langsett Res – the only roosting birds reported involved five on 25th January. A flock of 17 flew W on 22nd November.

Elland GP – two on 25th March and 11th April.

Wilshaw – a single on 12th April.

Dewsbury SW – a single on 16th August and 80 flew W on 22nd November.

Bretton Lakes – one on 17th August.

Hartcliff Hill – a single flew W on 6th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – passage birds were noted as follows: a single flew W on 8th October, two SW on 25th October, two W on 12th November and four SW on 17th November.

Broadstone Res – two on 2nd October and eight on 22nd November.

Isle of Skye Quarry – nine flew S before turning back N on 23rd November.

Ravensthorpe – three were present at Biffa Waste on 2nd December.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Most records, as last year, reverted to the previous pattern of occurrences, with most being in the second half of the year. There was a good run of records from the Ingbirchworth area (mainly Ingbirchworth Res.) between early July and early November.

Ingbirchworth Res – a third-summer was present on 5th April (JMCL), a second-summer on 15th June (MCW) with two second-summers three days later (MLD). Between 8th July and 2nd November (mainly in August and the second half of October) up to four were seen on a total of 15 dates (MC, DHP, MCW *et al.*) From the age composition of the birds present, at least nine individuals were involved in these sightings.

Fullshaw – a second-summer on 3rd August (MCW).

Langsett Res – roosting birds were noted as follows: six (3 adults, 2 second-summers and a third-summer) on 11th August (MCW), two adults and a third-summer the following day (RJB), three (adult and 2 third-summers) on 16th August (RJB) and four (3 adults and a third-winter) on 11th September (MCW).

Hoylandswaine – an adult on 29th August (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – different adults were present on 5th and 9th December (MLD, GK).

Whitley Edge – a near adult on 29th October (MC).

Whitley Common – a first-winter on 29th October (MC).

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Rare Visitor.

This species was recorded in the Club area for the fourth year in succession. An adult was present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9th January (JMCL) and a juvenile was seen at the same locality on 28th July (MCW).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

The only record involved a first-winter which flew SW in association with four Common Gulls at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** at 10.57hrs. on 22nd March (DWS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

This species is becoming less frequent in the Club area as the years progress, not only in the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, but also in the area generally. Passage birds were noted at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on a number of dates but numbers never exceeded 32 on any one day (see below).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9

The only other records were as follows:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a total of 123 passed over on 21 dates between 1st January and 29th March, mostly in a westerly direction, with a maximum of 19 W on 2nd January and 32 W on 11th January. Singles flew W on 15th April, three dates in May, and 11th June. There were then no records until a single flew W on 5th July. Thereafter, a total of 165 flew over, again mainly in a westerly direction, on a further 39 dates until late December, with a maximum of 19 W on 23rd November, 18 W on 27th December and 16 W two days later.

Castle Dam – a single on 2nd January.

Langsett Res – seven in the late afternoon of 25th January did not remain to roost.

Cowcliffe – two flew E on 23rd April.

Langsett – two were in a field near the Flouch on 27th April and a single flew W on 22nd November.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two flew E on 30th April.

Fixby – four flew S on 25th December.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Once again this under-recorded species was only reported by a handful of observers who provided 53 records from 11 sites. All counts, despite the large numbers in the Town centre rarely reached double figures, the maxima being *c.*80 on 24th February. At **Turnbridge** 20 were present on 2nd July, 36 on 15th August and 75 on 24th August. Later in the year *c.*20 were seen along the **Huddersfield Broad Canal** on 15th November.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Records were received from 33 widely scattered localities (34 in 2014).

Although up to five (usually 2-4) were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot** there was no evidence of breeding. Birds were also present throughout the year at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and, although numbers during both winter periods rarely reached double figures, summer assemblages increased to a maximum of 21 on 12th May and 17 the following day.

Gardens in **Almondbury, Netherthong** and **New Mill** attracted birds throughout most of the year but only one or two birds were usually involved, the four at New Mill on 7th July being the exception.

Although the majority of the records involved no more than a handful of birds there were more double-figure assemblages than the previous year:

Cartworth Moor – 24 on 8th February.

Elland GP – 12 on 25th March.

Annat Royd Lane – *c.*30 with Woodpigeons on 27th April, 73 on 4th June and 12 on 23rd October.

Barnside, Hepworth – *c.*100 on 14th May.

Whitley Common – 32 on 14th and 46 on 27th May.

Harden Moss – 15 on 15th June.

Dewsbury – 12 along the River Calder on 30th September.

Spicer House Lane – c.65 foraging in fields with Black-headed Gulls on 23rd December.

Birds considered to be on migration were recorded as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – six flew SW on 6th September, one did likewise on 17th September and a single flew W on 25th October.

Wards End Farm – a single flew E on 11th October, two flew N on 13th October, one flew W on 15th October and two flew NW on 26th October.

Single leucistic individuals were seen at **Spicer House Lane** on 1st April and **Whitley Common** on 14th May.

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

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

Although there were well over 250 records spread throughout the year numbers, even at the migration watch points, were abysmally low. In the first half of the year the only treble figure count involve c.300 in a field at **Annat Royd Lane** on 17th April. It was equally poor in the second half of the year and, with the exception of migrating birds (see below), the largest flocks involved 100+ at **Scout Dike Res.** On 11th September and 40 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 19th September.

Unlike 2014, when migration was particularly heavy, movements this year were uneventful, with the following being noted:

Wards End Farm, Marsden – small numbers flew over on a number of days in February and March, with a maximum of 22 NE on 6th February and 33 W on 8th March and 18 W on 17th March. In the second winter period a total of 4,679 passed over on 31 dates between 9th October and 29th December. The majority of these flew SW or W and included maxima of 1,120 SW in two hours on 2nd November and 1,485 SW on 12th November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 6,388 flew SW on nine dates between 20th September and 17th November, with a maximum of 2,539 on 12th November. This is a particularly poor showing when compared to the previous four year average of 12,241 (JMP).

Harden Quarries – 112 flew SW on 9th October, 620 flew SW on 31st October and 670 did likewise on 1st November.

Blackmoorfoot – a flock of 600 flew S on 17th November.

It is possible, given the nearness of Pule Hill and Wards End Farm, that the 12th November counts involved some of the same individuals.

A single in a **Lockwood** garden on 21st May was considered to be a Woodpigeon x Feral Pigeon hybrid.

(EURASIAN) **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Continues to be recorded from many widely distributed gardens and urban areas, but away from civilisation records remain few.

There were records from nine gardens, most of which held birds throughout the year, but numbers never exceeded five with the exception of up to eight throughout the year at **Lockwood** and c.17 at **Skelmanthorpe** on 17th September. In a garden at **Hepworth**, where the species was formerly a daily visitor, records became only occasional. The same situation applied to a garden at **Netherthong**, where this year it became a rare visitor.

A single at **Broadstone Res.** on 16th July was considered an unusual sighting for the locality.

The only sign of migration involved five which flew NE at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 6th September.

(COMMON) **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*
Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Red listed.

There were records from 28 localities (30 in 2014) the majority from upland/moorland habitats. There were very few records from the Langsett area, an area which has been particularly favoured in the past.

The first record involved a single at **Skelmanthorpe** on 13th April, but the only other April occurrences were of singles at **Winscar Res.** on 22nd and the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27th. By early May birds became more widely distributed and up until late June were frequently recorded from **Honley Wood, Meltham Mills, Dewsbury SW** and **Isle of Skye Quarry/Bradshaw Moor.**

Other birds, all singles unless otherwise stated, were reported as follows:

Langsett Moor – 1st May.

Digley Res – 4th May, 7th June (3) and 14th June.

Crosland Hill – 4th May.

Dove Stone Res – 10th May (2), 13th May and 4th June.

Langsett – 16th May.

Yeoman Hey Res – 17th May.

Horbury Bridge – 20th May.

Carlecotes Ponds – 23rd May.

Brow Grains – 23rd May.

Snailsden Res – 23rd May.

Cheesgate Nab – 26th May and 4th, 8th and 15th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male was singing on 29th May and a juvenile was near the Will's O' Nat's on 30th August and 5th/6th September.

Deer Hill – 30th May.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 30th May.

Washpits – 31st May.

Little Don Valley – 3rd and 24th June.

Holmfirth – a male near the Huntsman Inn on 8th June.

Joy Wood, Kirkburton – 12th June.

Royd Edge Clough – 16th June.

Hingcliff Common – 24th June.

Brockholes – a female in a garden briefly on 16th July.

The only birds after these dates involved a single which flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 13th September and one at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 22nd September.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Occasional breeder.

This species had an amazing season, with a minimum of five pairs breeding in the area. Although the outcome of most of these breeding attempts is unknown, several young were ringed.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

The drop in the number of localities from which this nationally decreasing species was reported is becoming rather concerning; from 27 in 2014 (which represented a slight increase on the previous year) there were records from only 21 this year. Is this continued decrease real, or is the species under-recorded?

The majority of records involved birds for short periods only, and the only localities which held birds throughout the year were three sites in **Marsden**. The only breeding records were from **Red Lane**, **Meltham** (1 young fledged), **Helme** (nest with 3 eggs in May), between **Helme** and **Meltham** (outcome unknown) and the **Wessenden Valley** (2 fledged juveniles). All records, other than the family parties noted above, never involved more than two individuals.

The only records at **Blackmoorfoot**, where the species has become decidedly scarce, involved singles near the inflow on 18th March and 29th April to 1st May; a single on a wall to the west on 8th May; a single on Meltham Cop on 20th May; two on a wall to the west on 15th June; and a single on Meltham Cop on 1st to 3rd and 20th July. The birds on Meltham Cop were considered to be from the pair breeding near Helme.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded from 33 sites, a slight increase on previous years, but at no locality were birds recorded throughout the year. A good proportion of records involved singles during the autumn months and presumably related to dispersing juveniles.

Breeding was confirmed at **Big Valley** (outcome unknown), **Helme** (2 chicks in mid-May failed to fledge), **Dewsbury SW** (an adult with 3 young in late June) and **New Mill** (a juvenile heard in late July had probably fledged nearby).

The only record from **Blackmoorfoot**, where long-staying roosting birds are frequently noted, involved a single roosting in Orange Wood on 17th February. One was calling during the hours of daylight at **Longley Woods NR** on 26th June,

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

In the south of the Club area the observer had few opportunities to survey this year and was sure that they were under-recorded, but he did succeed in finding four pairs. Although the outcome of these nesting attempts is unknown, one pair had two young (although one was found dead in early May, very wet weather being the suspected cause) and another pair had three young.

The three pairs which nested in the NW of the Club area produced at least 14 young and at another locality which overlaps our western border, five pairs bred, but only one of these was inside the Club recording area.

A single drifted high to the S over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14th October (CH, GK) and at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** a single was seen on 23rd October and 3rd, 6th and 29th December (DWS). It was considered that the December records all related to the same individual.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

Unlike 2014, when most birds were present during the summer months, this year birds were seen throughout most of the year, although records in the first winter period were few and far between. Displaying birds were noted at four sites during the summer months, but there was proof of breeding at only one. An adult was seen feeding three young on 9th June and was observed for a considerable time during which it never failed to catch a vole once it launched from the ground to start its hunting flight. The young were fed with the parent delivering the vole while in flight, dropping it directly in front of the young owl without landing ('dam buster' style).

Away from the potential breeding areas singles were seen at **Holt Head** on 19th August and **Dove Stone Res.** on 25th November.

(EUROPEAN) **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder, which may occasionally do so. Red listed.

At the same location which held birds between early June and mid-August 2014, a male was churring on 23rd May and at least one, but probably two churring males, along with a female were present on 9th June.

The only record in the south of the Club area involved a male on 17th June. This is in marked contrast to last year when five churring males were present.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Three at **Dewsbury SW** on 26th April were the first. There were then no records until 11 were present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th May and singles were seen at **Bradshaw Moor** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** the following day. Records then became more widespread but assemblages generally remained in double-figures.

Following the first at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th May (see above) birds continued to be seen on a near daily basis until the last (3) on 7th September. Birds were present in smaller numbers than normal, with assemblages only reaching high double figures on a handful of occasions (all in May/June) with maxima of 300+ on 31st May and 220+ on 19th June.

The low figures at Blackmoorfoot were also reflected across the rest of the Club area and, even from well-watched sites, the only three-figure counts were as follows:
Ingbirchworth Res – c.100 on 7th May and c.200 on 18th June.

Dewsbury SW – c.500 on 20th May and c.120 on 29th May.

Redbrook Res – c.100 on 28th May.

The only evidence of breeding came from the 14 nest boxes on the viaduct at **Slaithwaite** when it was seen that many of the boxes were occupied throughout June.

By mid-August birds became less frequent, and the only records thereafter involved singles at **Lindley** and **Dewsbury SW** on 16th August, two which flew W at **Wards End Farm** on 18th August and a single N there on 3rd September and three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th September.

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

Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.

The increase in localities holding this species noted in previous years slumped alarmingly to only 19 (26 in 2014) and there were no confirmed breeding attempts.

The downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** also continued unabated, only amounting to singles on a total of nine dates: three in January, 23rd February, four in September and 25th October.

Birds were seen regularly through the year at **Dewsbury SW**, **Tunnel End Res.** and on the River Colne at **Bradley Mills** but, as noted above, no breeding attempts occurred. At the other locations, which included some former breeding sites, records were mainly confined to one or two individuals during the winter periods.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Rare visitor.

A single at **Scammonden Water** on 7th September showed well for an hour before being flushed by a passing car (JB).

This was the first record since a single on Norland Moor on 11th September 2008 and the eleventh for the Club area.

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

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

With records from 30 sites, the species has shown a marked increase from the 18 in 2014 and 22 in 2013 but, as in those years, with very few exceptions, birds were only present for short periods.

There was a welcome increase in records from **Blackmoorfoot**, where the species has always been an irregular visitor, with singles on four dates in February, 1st March, five dates in April, and two were present between 29th July and 1st August. Most records, as is usual, were from Orange Wood.

Two were present throughout most of the year at **Wards End Farm**, **Marsden**, but whether the juveniles present in August were of local origin is open to conjecture. Juveniles were also recorded from **Horbury Strands** (3 on 17th July) and the **Isle of Skye Quarry** (1 on 30th July), both localities where the species is very unlikely to have bred.

As in 2013, records from **Bretton Park**, a former stronghold of the species, were very few and only involved singles on 26th March and 3rd and 18th April.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

There were records from 54 widely distributed localities, a slight increase on previous years. Birds were present throughout the year in five gardens and there was a sharp increase in garden visits from June onwards when adults and their juveniles visited feeding stations. A single in a garden at **Springvale, Penistone** on 28th February, however, was the first record there for 16 years.

Birds were heard drumming at 12 sites in spring, but at none of these was breeding proved. Proof of breeding, however, came from eight localities (with 2 pairs fledging young at **Blackmoorfoot** and two pairs in the **Longwood Valley**) but, due to the presence of family parties in gardens during June/July, it presumably occurred at many more. With the exception of family parties, most records were of one or two individuals, but up to ten in a **Thick Hollins** garden during July must have been an amazing sight. It appears that the local decline commented upon last year from a **New Mill** garden has continued, as there were only four records of singles.

Birds were seen at visible migration watchpoints as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a single U-turned from the NE and one flew S on 6th September and a single flew W on 20th September.

Harden Quarries – one flew ESE on 13th September and a single flew SW on 19th September.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

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

There were five records of this nationally declining species. Although this is an increase on the two 2014 records, it is nothing to get excited about.

A single was calling from the canopy of **Oxley Bank Wood, Bretton Park** on 19th January (DBu); a male visited a garden at **Almondbury Bank** on 5th February (TW); a single was seen at **Gunthwaite Spa** on 11th February (MCW); two were at **Longley Woods NR** on 10th April (DD); and a single was present in **Bath Wood, Bretton Park** on 18th April (DBu).

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

There was a tremendous increase in the number of dated records, 244 as opposed to 164 in 2014 and from 70 sites as against the 53 of the previous year. It is unknown whether this increase is due to previous under recording or a genuine population expansion. The continued decline in the national population, however, suggests the former. Despite there being more records, breeding was only proven at six sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a male was present throughout the year, and on several occasions a female was seen, with five being present on 5th August and four on 21st August. For the third year, however, no interest was shown in the nest box secured to the tower by YW in 2012.

A pair nested at **Deer Hill** but deserted at the egg stage, probably because of very inclement weather. Young were successfully reared in an old Carrion Crow's nest near **Higher Green Owlers, Marsden**. A pair were seen in courtship display at **Harden** on 6th April. A juvenile was being fed by an adult at **Crimble Clough** on 18th June. Two juveniles were seen with a female at **Longwood Res.** on 16th July and in the **Wessenden Valley** two pairs reared two young each.

Although birds were present throughout the year at a number of locations, most records involved no more than two birds, only very occasionally three. The following, except for family parties and those at Blackmoorfoot (see above), were the exceptions: up to eight were present at **Harden** throughout July/August, up to 10 were seen regularly from **Wards End Farm, Marsden** during the latter half of the year, and four were at **Holme Moss** on 29th September.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

A total of 61 records were received from 12 localities, but 47 of these were from a single well watched moorland locality – Wards End Farm, Marsden. Birds were seen in every month but February with a third of records being in autumn. Breeding was confirmed and young ringed at one location with 'probable' breeding at two more.

Wards End Marsden, Marsden – the majority of the 47 records, most of which were after April, involved flyover singles, but a male and female were seen on 27th March; one flew N after mobbing Carrion Crows, then a Kestrel, and two singles flew W on 21st July; one flew W with a second 'buzzing' a model aircraft off Buckstones Edge on 10th August; one flew W and a juvenile flew fast low through the yard on 19th September; two were circling quite high on 28th September; an adult male flew low after Twite and a 'brown' bird did the same on 1st October; and two were seen on 15th October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – one flew W on 7th April.

Tunnel End – one carrying prey on 9th May.

Withens Clough – singles on 13th May and 16th June.

Featherbed Moss – one on 5th July.

Thurlstone Moor – a single on 10th July.

Deer Hill – an adult male flew N on 21st July, a single was hunting on 2nd August and one attacking a flock of Goldfinch on 20th September.

Upper Windleden Res – an adult male on 22nd August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two were flying together over the fields to the west on 28th August and a single was along the W bank on 22nd October.

Brow Grains – one pursuing a Skylark on 20th September.

Harden Quarries – one flew high S on 4th October and another flew SW on 17th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – one flew W on 12th November.

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

As can be seen from the table below 2015 was another good year though slightly down on the previous year. Records, which spanned the period 21st May to 28th September, were received from 10 localities (3 less than 2014).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were four records (7 in 2014): a single over the fields to the west on 21st May (MLD, GBS); singles over Orange Wood on 12th June and Meltham Cop the following day were presumably the same individual (TD, CH); and an adult over Nopper Road on 5th September flew SW over the reservoir (SP).

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 1st June (DHu) and 5th September (NWM).

Cliff Wood – one flew N on 25th June (MCW).

Wards End, Marsden – there were fifteen records between 2nd July and 16th September (all DWS). All sightings were of singles apart from two (including a juvenile) on 8th August and two on 20th August. The sighting on 16th September involved a single which took a House Martin at Lower Green Owlers (KWf).

Holme Valley – an adult on 15th July (PAB).

Marsden – a single on 30th July (MJS) and two were chasing House Martins on 12th September (JMP, DS).

Royd Moor Res – one flying towards Scout Dike on 8th August (MC).

Digley – a juvenile flew SE pursued by hirundines on 23rd August (DHP).

Bradshaw Moor – two on 28th September (PAB).

Harden Quarries – one flew SW on 28th September (JL).

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

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
7	8	8	11	12	16	28	18	34	29

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

A total of fifty records were received from 21 locations (same as 2014). Breeding was again confirmed at one site where two young were successfully reared and a pair were also present at a suitable site, but only for a short period. Quite a few juvenile birds were noted including two at one site, and one with an adult at another.

Nearly half the records (22) were from the regularly watching area around **Wards End Farm, Marsden**. The only records in the first half of the year involved an immature male on 14th January and an adult female which flew W on 27th March. There were then no records until a female was seen chasing a Kestrel on 28th July. All the other records (19) were between 2nd August and 29th December and concerned ‘flyover’ singles apart from two on 2nd and 25th August and 14th and 16th November.

Other records were as follows:

Featherbed Moss – a single on 11th January.

Ossett – one was seen perched on a church spire on 24th January.

Hepworth – a single on 17th February.

Hartcliff Hill – one flew NW on 4th April

Harden – one flew S on 20th April, one flew SW on 17th October and two did likewise on 31st October.

Digley – one on 22nd April.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single flew NE on 1st May.

Booth Wood Res – one on 10th May and two on 23rd June and 12th July.

Dove Stone Res – singles on 13th May and 8th July.

Cheesegate Nab – one in the air during the evening of 30th July was consorting with three Buzzards, two Kestrels and a Sparrowhawk.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were seven records, all involving singles; in August, an adult departed E on 3rd and an immature was present on 12th; a bird was over Meltham Cop on 11th September; one flew S on 26th October; an adult male, probably the same individual, was seen on 11th and 21st November and 8th December.

Laddow Rocks – one on 12th August.

Upper Windleden Res – a juvenile on 22nd August.

Yateholme – two juveniles on 5th September.

Deer Hill Res – a juvenile was sitting on the shore on 7th September.

Scout Dike Res – one flew NE on 26th September.

Crossley's Plantation – a single on 26th November.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Introduced.

There were records from six locations, but how many birds were involved is open to conjecture.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – one flew S on 12th January.

Silkstone Common – a single on feeders on 15th January.

Crosland Hill – three above Delves Wood on 4th February. It is understood that birds were present in Beaumont Park around this time, but no records were forthcoming.

Taylor Hill – one in a garden on 11th April with two there on 15th April.

Diggle – a single at Harrop Green on 13th October.

Meltham – a single in a garden on 30th November.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

A single photographed at **Deanhead Res.** on April 9th, being mobbed by small passerines as it was catching insects in warm sunshine, had been present since at least 7th. One observer also videoed it eating a small mammal in a hawthorn bush (DHP, DT *et al.*).

(COMMON) MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

Although still widely distributed throughout the Club area, the large aggregations noted in the past have become a rare phenomenon. There were many garden records, usually of one or two birds, but five were in an **Almondury** garden on several days in March, June and July and five were present in a **Thick Hollins** garden on 13th March. Magpies throwing moss from the roofs of houses onto the pavement below is not uncommon, this year it was reported from **Netherthong** and **Crosland Moor**.

Double figure counts were reported as follows:

Horbury – 15 along the River Calder on 6th January with 17 the following day and 12 on 18th February.

Horbury SW – 14 on 12th January and 20 on 5th March.

Waters Road, Marsden – a minimum of 18 on 27th January.

Grimescar Valley – 24 on 10th February, 18 on 3rd April, 11 on 23rd April, 14 on 4th May and ten on 22nd August.

Longwood Valley – 18 on 2nd April, 14 on 17th April and 11 on 20th May.

Lindley Moor – 11 on 26th April and 14 on 2nd August.

Pule Hill, Marsden – c.16 on 8th October.

Head Clough, Marsden – 12 on 2nd November.

Bradley Mills – 18 on 23rd November.

Aspley – 14 on 28th December.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Although widely distributed and present at most localities throughout the year the species can be very secretive and once again no breeding evidence was noted. As usual birds were present throughout the year in many gardens but, with the exception of four in a **Thick Hollins** garden in April/May, these never amounted to more than two birds. The usual autumn increase in numbers was not apparent this year. Indeed, there only a single double-figure count during the whole year.

Most records, even from the well-watched areas, rarely involved more than four individuals, the following being the exceptions:

Longwood Valley – six on 19th April.

Dove Stone Res – five on 4th June.

Grimescar Valley – six on 19th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – five on 25th September and seven on 8th and 22nd October.

Meltham Mills – eight on 13th October.

Bradley Mills – six on 23rd November.

Bretton Park – six on 24th December.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Harden – three flew high to the S and one N on 20th April. Despite breeding in nearby woodlands the species is rarely seen here in spring.

Harden Quarries – in September two flew SW on 19th, one flew NE on 26th and one flew E on 28th. A total of 13 flew NE on 11th October.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – two flew S and two E on 10th October.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

Recorded throughout the area, occasionally in large flocks. There were records from numerous gardens, but these rarely exceeded two birds with the exception of six in a **Marsh** garden on 12th August. Large numbers were reported at **Bretton Park** on 14th January, 7th February and 22nd July but no counts were forthcoming.

Flocks of anything up to 30 were widely distributed, those in excess are outlined below:

Lindley Moor – up to 70 were regularly seen between early April and mid-August.

Whitley Edge – c.40 on 26th January.

Marsden – c.80 in the village centre on 26th January.

Gunthwaite Dam – c.300 on 11th February.

Dove Stone Res – 34 on 13th May.

Grimescar Valley – c.50 on 23rd May and 40 on 19th September.

Brockholes – c.50 on 28th May and c.200 on 19th December.

Longwood Valley – 46 on 28th June.

Dewsbury SW – 150 on 25th July.

Scout Dike Res – 50+ on 6th September.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – in October c.80 were present on 9th, c.140 on 12th and c.80 on 20th.

Bradley Mills – c.40 on 23rd November.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Harden Quarries – a flock of 13 flew ESE on 13th September, 14 flew SW on 28th September and 65 flew SW on 10th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – c.15 flew W on 8th October and c. 25 flew W on 23rd October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs (2,450 during the Club survey in 2005).

Remains a fairly common bird in rural parts of the Club area but numbers appear to be falling and few large flocks were recorded. Nest counts were only received from six localities. In order to understand the fluctuating fortunes of this species it is essential that members continue to submit all records of rookeries including negative records from past breeding locations.

The only flocks in excess of 50 were as follows:

Gunthwaite Dam – c.50 in nearby fields on 1st April.

Whitley Common – c.80 on 27th May.

Scout Dike Res – 50+ on 11th September and 4th November.

Annat Royd Lane - c.100 on 23rd October.

Thurlestone – c.160 on 2nd December.

Nests were noted as follows:

Crosland Moor – three nests.

Hepworth (Lark's House) – six nests with five others nearby.

Hepworth (Red Lion) – seven or eight nests.

Old Mount Road, Marsden – five active nests in late March had been deserted by 26th April.

7-Acre Plantation, Bretton Park – at least eight occupied nests.

Royds Court (Woodlands Drive), Meltham – 14 nests.

A very strange looking hybrid Rook x Jackdaw/runt Carrion Crow/Rook was present at **Whitley Common** on 27th May. It was associated with Rooks and Jackdaws and was of intermediate size. The head, back and belly were brownish-grey and the upper breast black. The bill was Rook-shaped but lacked the bare skin at the base. The observer, MCW, suggested that if he were to stick his neck out he would be inclined towards a runt/aberrant Rook – but he felt he could not rule out any of the other aforementioned possibilities.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

This species is far more widespread and numerous than the records suggest. There were a number of records of birds visiting gardens and in a **Netherthong** garden birds were occasionally seen trying to remove feeders from their pole – sometimes successfully. Numbers in gardens were

always low, and the largest gathering only amounted to four which were present on numerous occasions throughout the year at **Thick Hollins**.

Most records were of less than 25, the following being the exceptions:

Dewsbury SW – c.100 on 24th January.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – 32 on 9th March.

Longwood Valley – 47 on 2nd April.

Lindley Moor – up to 93 in April, 36 on 9th May, 44 on 11th July, c.50 on 26th July and 36 on 2nd August.

Grimescar Valley – 29 on 8th April and c.53 on 23rd May.

A ‘white’ individual was present on **Lindley Moor** on 11th and 26th April and 9th May.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

Records were received from 29 sites, ten less than last year. In some areas birds were seen throughout the year on a fairly regular basis but there was no evidence of breeding. Most records related to one or two individuals, only occasionally up to four, but seven were present at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 26th October, and larger numbers were recorded at visible migration watch points.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Isle of Skye Quarry – five (1 flew SE and 4 S) on 4th April and a flock of ten flew E on 22nd November.

Harden Quarries – a loose flock of ten flew SE on 13th September, a single flew SW on 28th September, and two flew SW on 9th October.

Wards End Farm – seven flew SE on 26th October.

A single in the **Broadstone** area on 25th November was considered to be “playing”, as for 15 minutes it repeatedly dived on a large Starling flock that was foraging in the area.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 37 locations, reflecting a sharp increase from the 23 in 2014.

Occurrences during the first five months of the year, although from several widely scattered locations, were of one or two for no more than a few day’s duration with the exception of three at **Horbury SW** on 5th March and six at **Dove Stone Res.** on 13th May.

There were 13 records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which, nowadays, is par for the course. Records in the first half of the year only involved singles on 20th January, 17th February and 6th, 11th and 23rd March. There were then no records until a single was seen on 22nd September. Thereafter two were present on 5th October, singles were then seen on a further five October dates, and two were present on 3rd November.

Birds were regularly recorded throughout the year at **Fixby** and breeding was suspected nearby. Singing males were heard at **Harden, Dove Stone Res.** and **Healey Mills/Kerry’s NR** in May but there was no proof of breeding.

Records between June and early September were limited. The only June records involved three at **Dove Stone Res.** on 4th, singles in a garden at **Crimble Clough** on 6th and 10th, singles at **Thongsbridge** on 14th and **Thurstonland Bank** on 22nd and six at **Yeoman Hey** on 25th. The only records thereafter involved singles at **Castleshaw** on 12th July and **Wain Park, Berry Brown** on 12th August and four in the **Grimescar Valley** on 16th August.

Birds become more widely distributed after early September but, with the exceptions of five at **Scammonden Water** on 18th September and three at **Windy Bank Wood** on 24th October, all other records were of one or two birds. An interesting record involved a single which flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 28th September.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Despite being very widely distributed and common records were only received from 52 locations (12 more than 2014, but 12 less than 2013). Despite this wide distribution the only proof of breeding came from eight sites, but of the 32 nesting boxes at **Cliff Wood**, 14 were occupied by Blue Tits. As is usual, there were numerous garden records, but numbers never exceed the 10 in an **Almondsbury** garden on 15th August.

The only double figure counts were as follows:

Bretton Park – c.15 on 7th February and 24 on 18th April.

Longwood Valley – following the 29 on 2nd April up to 17 were then seen on several dates through to late August.

Grimescar Valley – double figure assemblages were present throughout the year with maxima of 29 on 3rd April, 38 on 23rd April, 27 on 4th May, and 21 on 19th June and 19th August.

Paddock – 11 on 6th April.

Lindley Moor – 11 on 21st April, 19 on 26th April, 12 on 30th April, and 11 on 7th May,

Bradley Mills – 10 along the River Colne on 24th April, 11 on 16th December and 16 on 28th December.

Langsett – 14 on 16th May.

Turnbridge – 12 along the canal on 1st July and 10 the following day.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Records were received from 45 sites, slightly up on last year. A high proportion of records were from gardens, as were the majority of the eight breeding records.

As is usual, most records were in single figures, but double figure assemblages were reported from the following sites:

Bretton Park – c.15 On 19th January and 11 on 18th April.

Longwood Valley – 17 on 2nd April, 12 on 20th May, c.11 on 27th May, and 12 on 16th June.

Grimescar Valley – 14 on 16th April, 18 on 17th and 23rd April, 17 on 4th May, and 11 on 3rd June.

Royd Moor Res – 10 on 2nd December.

Aspley – 12 along the River Colne on 28th December.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records were received from 25 sites, a large reduction from the 34 last year. Most records were from gardens, as last year, and spanned all months. Breeding was only recorded at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and **Blackmoorfoot**.

As is usual, most records involved no more than three individuals, the following being the exceptions:

Bretton Park – nine on 19th January and six on 22nd July.

Langsett – five on 16th May.

Grimescar Valley – nine on 19th June, five on 9th July, and four on 3rd and 19th September.

Yeoman Hey – seven on 25th June.

Pule Hill, Marsden – c.10 flew SW on 25th September.

Wards End Farm – five on 26th September and 10 which departed SW on 4th October.

Harden Quarries – seven flew high to the SE on 4th October, six were present on 9th October and 17 flew high to the SE the following day.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

There were records from 10 locations, one less than 2014. The stronghold for the species remains the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike Reservoirs**. As in 2014, however, there was no proof of breeding from either site. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** one or two were seen on four dates between 17th January and 3rd February but there were then no records until four (a family party of unknown origin) were present on 1st September; a single on 10th September, two on 30th October and three on 14th December were the only other records. There were even fewer records from **Scout Dike Res.**; two were present on 25th February, singles on 28th February, 21st and 27th March, 29th July and 1st August, two on 6th and 9th September and a single on 11th September

Other records were of as follows:

Bretton Park – a single in Menagerie Wood on 7th February.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two on 21st April.

Broadstone Heath – two on 1st September.

Broadstone Res – two on 25th September.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 1st and 29th August and 2nd December.

Gunthwaite Dam – a single on 3rd October.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – one on the feeders on 14th October was then seen on an almost daily basis to the year end.

Cowcliffe – a single was on garden feeders on 14th December.

A single Willow/Marsh Tit was on the feeders in **Greenhead Park** on 15th February.



White-fronted Goose, Scout Dyke, 21/2/15



Brent Goose, Ingbirchworth, 28/12/15



Merlin chicks, location withheld, July, taken under licence



Avocets, Ingbirchworth, 12/8/15



Dunlin, Ingbirchworth, 25/4/15



Snipe chipping, Snape Reservoir, 24/5/15



Woodcock, Langsett, 11/7/15



Little Owl, Honley, 1/8/15



Short-eared Owl young, 9/6/15, location withheld.



Kingfisher, Magdale, 12/1/15



Green Woodpecker, Meltham, 31/7/15



White Wagtail, Ingbirchworth, 26/4/15



Ring Ouzel, Holmfirth moors, 17/4/15



Siskin, Scammonden, 5/9/15



Twite, Derby Delph Quarry, 19/3/15



Bullfinch, Honley, 19/1/15

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

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

The only January records involved singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th and **Dewsbury SW** on 19th. There were then no records until 8th February when one was singing at **Winscar**, this was followed by a single at **Blackmoorfoot** and a minimum of six singing males at **Broadstone** two days later. The only other February records involved up to three birds at a further four localities. Between early March and late September birds were widely distributed, but numbers remained very low, never exceeding the 11 at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 11th March.

Autumn movements were noted as follows:

Blackmoorfoot – three flew W on 30th September.

Fixby – a single flew S on 30th September.

Isle of Skye Quarry – three flew N on 12th October.

Harden Quarries – a single flew S on 4th October and 13 flew SW on 9th October.

Ringstone Edge Res – in October, one flew W on 8th, two SW on 11th, six SW on 17th, three SW on 31st, and a single flew SW on 1st November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – four flew S on 8th October.

Wards End Farm – two flew SW on 23rd October.

With the exception of the October/November records outlined above the only other records at this time involved a single at **Horbury SW** on 18th October and four at **Scout Dike Res.** on 4th November.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

The first record of the year involved three which flew E at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st March. There were then no records until April when a single was present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th, three were seen at **Dewsbury SW** on 5th, one was at **Crosland Hill** on 6th, and two flew N at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 7th. There were then occasional reports from a further 14 widely scattered localities until the last (5) which flew SE at **Lascelles Hall** on 20th September.

With the exceptions of birds at breeding colonies and Blackmoorfoot (see below) assemblages rarely reached double figures, although there were *c.*20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 11th April and *c.*30 there on 19th June, in addition exceptional numbers were seen at **Dewsbury SW**: the 58 present on 29th April had increased to *c.*150 by 2nd and 7th May and *c.*250 by 15th and 18th of that month.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** where *c.*80 birds were present on 26th April (although no other data was received); **Crosland Hill Quarries** where at least seven nests were occupied in early June; **Horbury Wyke** where a 'few' birds were present along the riverbank in early June but no count of occupied holes was forthcoming; and at **Aspley** where four pairs nested in missing bricks in derelict mills along the Broad Canal.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, following the single on 4th April (see above), birds were then seen on a further 75 days (121 in 2014) until the last (3) on 17th September. Numbers rarely reached double figures but 20+ were present on both 23rd July and 26th August. This remains the only non-breeding locality in the Club area where birds are encountered with any regularity.

The only migrating birds involved a single which flew W at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 12th September and the five noted above which flew SW at **Lascelles Hall** on 20th September.

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

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

The first records for the year involved singles at **Blackmoorfoot** and **Crosland Hill** on 6th April and a single at **Oldfield** the following day. By mid-April birds were widely scattered and, although numbers were generally in low single figures, a few larger assemblages were noted:

Elland GP – c.70 on 11th April and c.80 the following day.

Dewsbury SW – c.340 on 15th April, c.1,000 on 24th April and up to c.350 on several days between then and mid-May.

Ladywood Lakes – 80 on 15th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – 120+ on 15th April, 380 on 2nd May and c.500 four days later.

Blackmoorfoot Res – see below.

Numbers during the summer months were uneventful but breeding was confirmed at a number of widely distributed locations, including six pairs at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**. By late July a few larger aggregations had developed:

Ingbirchworth Res – c.150 on 28th July and 14th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – see below.

March Haigh Res – c.500 on 16th August.

Wards End Farm – up to 100 in late August and 200 in early September and c.85 on 28th September, all of which departed SW.

Following the first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res**. on 6th April (see above) birds continued to be seen on a daily basis until the last, a single, on 17th October, and two pairs bred. Numbers were subdued, as they have been for the last two years, usually remaining below 40, and only reached treble figures on a few days in May and July. In spring, May produced 100+ on 2nd, 200+ on 14th and 300+ on 29th. Later in the year numbers only exceeded 30 on six occasions, the maxima being 250+ on 28th July, 80+ on 31st August and 70+ on 14th September.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Wards End Farm – 52 flew E on 20th July and, in September, 20 flew W on 3rd, 80 E on 12th, c.50 W on 15th, c.80 E the following day, two W and five N on 22nd, and six W on 23rd.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 192 flew W or SW on five dates between 11th August and 8th October, with a maximum of 153 on the first mentioned date.

Harden Quarries – 32 flew SW on 22nd August and, in September, 252 flew SW on 13th, 387 S on 19th, 377 SW the following day, 51 SW on 26th, 234 SW on 28th, and three S on 10th October.

By October the number of sites which held birds was greatly reduced, as were the number of individuals present. The last records involved singles at **Digley Res**. on 13th October, **Wilshaw** the following day and **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th (see above), and c.40 at **Push Dam, Shelley** on 23rd October.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Common passage visitor.

The first records involved a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th/12th April and, three days later, c.40 at **Dewsbury SW**, two at **Longwood Res.**, four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and ten at **Ingbirchworth Res.**

Birds became more widely distributed by late April but, unlike last year, there were some large assemblages:

Dewsbury SW – c.150 on 26th April and then up to c.700 were present until mid-May.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.100 on 29th April and up to c.350 in early May.

Horbury SW – c.50 on 7th May.

Following the first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (4 on 15th April) up to nine were then seen on most of the remaining April dates, with 20+ on the last three days. Thereafter birds were present on an almost daily basis until the last (23) on 30th September. As in the previous two years, numbers rarely exceeded 25, but 80+ were present on 28th July, 14th August and 4th September and 60+ on 20th September.

Following previous years' requests for all breeding records, breeding was confirmed at 20 sites (12 in 2014). **In order to understand the fluctuating fortunes of this species it is essential that members continue to submit all records of breeding locations including negative records from past breeding locations.**

The breeding sites were as follows:

Black Horse PH, Dalton – three nests (2 in 2014).

Crosland Moor (Blackmoorfoot Road) – five nests (none in 2014).

Marsden (Waters Road) – eight or nine nests (3 in 2014).

Marsden (Mount Road) – two or three pairs (at least 1 in 2014).

Marsden (Glenroyd) – one pair (no figure for 2014).

Marsden (Warrington Terrace) – at least two pairs (at least 1 in 2014).

Marsden (Hard End) – two or three pairs (at least 1 in 2014).

Marsden (Plains Lane) – one or two pairs.

Marsden (Warehouse Hill) – none (at least 1 in 2014).

Marsden (Binn Road) – one or two pairs.

Wessenden Lodge – at least one pair.

West Slaithwaite (Boot) – two or three pairs.

Kirkburton (Thornclyff) – 36 nests of which 32 were active (although not recorded in 2014, the owner attests to this being a traditional site).

Lindley (Holly Bank Road) – there were nests on three houses, but no numbers were provided.

Honley (Bradshaw Road) – three nests (same as 2014).

Thongsbridge (Stoney Bank Road) – young fledged from the two nests (4 nests in 2014).

Linthwaite (Upper Clough) – one nest (same as 2014).

Linthwaite (Causeway Side) – one nest (same as 2014).

Ingbirchworth – two nests (although others may have been unviewable) on a new house (less than two years) near the Fountain Inn.

Meltham Mills – two nests on a relatively newly built house on Hall Close.

Margaret Wood – two 'pairs' were attending artificial nest boxes on the CRT barn in early June and it was thought that they may breed.

Almondbury (Kaye Lane) – no information, although no birds were seen on the very infrequent visits.

Numbers during the summer months never exceeded 40 until late July, when 80 were present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20th and c.250 on 28th, the same date that 80+ were seen at **Blackmoorfoot** (see above) and c.50 at **Castle Dam**.

There was a noticeable increase in autumn assemblages over last year's meagre numbers, with high double-figures being reported from a number of widely distributed localities. Gatherings of up to c.200 were around the buildings at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** between mid-August and mid-September; c.100 were around farm buildings at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd September; c.400 were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 6th September; and c.1,000 hawking over **March Haigh Res.** on 16th September must have been an impressive sight.

Visible migration was only noted as follows:

Wards End Farm – a total of 1,250 birds were noted on 18 dates between 12th September and 26th October. Although there was no set pattern to these movements, with birds flying in all directions other than south, a large proportion moved in a westerly direction. Numbers involved were generally less than 50, but 80 flew W on 15th September and 220 E the following day, and, in October, 175 flew SW on 9th, 94 flew N or W on 13th and 181 did likewise the following day.

Harden Quarries – in September, 38 flew SW on 13th, 51 SW on 19th, 377 SW the following day, three SW on 26th, and 121 SW on 28th. The only October record involved 22 which flew SW on 9th.

Interestingly, despite the nearness of good numbers at **Wards End Farm**, there was a total lack of migrating birds at **Pule Hill**.

With the exception of those noted on migration the only other October records involved c.100 at **Wards End Farm** on 10th and c.150 there the following day. Interestingly, both these flocks remained around the farm buildings for a while before moving off in a westerly direction.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Recorded throughout the year from about 30 localities (same as 2014, but considerably less than 2013) with breeding only being reported from four of these.

As usual most groups were in single figures, the exceptions being outlined below:

Rastrick – 12 on garden feeders on 13th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded throughout the year, but occurrences were sporadic during the winter months and there were no sightings in January or August. Numbers were always small, only reaching very low double figures in June, October and November. Two pairs bred, but there was no evidence that they were successful.

Thick Hollins – present in small numbers in a garden throughout most of the year with 11 on 3rd February, 10 on 14th September and 1st October,

Bretton Park – 11 on 7th February

Horbury – c.12 along the River Calder on 18th February.

Deffer Wood – c.12 on 18th February.

Bradley Mills – 11 on 25th May, 14 on 20th July, 11 on 11th September and up to 19 in November.

Grimescar Valley – 11 on 9th July.

Lindley Moor – 15 on 18th August.
Dewsbury – 18 along the River Calder on 30th September.
Windy Bank Wood – 10 on 1st October.
Colne Road – 11 on 10th October.
Wards End Farm, Marsden – c.12 on 27th November.
Dewsbury SW – 29 on 27th November.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Records were received from 79 sites, an increase on the 60+ in 2014.

Records during the first winter period were all from the Horbury area:

Horbury SW – in January three were seen on 4th, four on 8th, a single on 14th and two on 20th then a single was present on 2nd and 18th February.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – two were present on 22nd January.

By late March birds were present at eight localities, but most of these were in the east of the area, and it was not until early April that the species became more widespread. The majority of records involved less than five individuals, the only exceptions being as follows:

Bretton Park – the six singing males on 26th March had increased to 15 by 17th April. Later in year six were seen on 22nd April.

Eastergate, Marsden – eight singing males on 6th April, then at least 15 males held territories in the Marsden area during the summer months.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – six singing males on 20th April and 15 on 17th August.

Scammonden Water – eight on 7th September.

Dewsbury SW – ten on 13th and 20th September.

The first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 25th March. Thereafter, four singing males took up territories, but only three attracted mates and nested, of which two were successful. These birds remained until mid-July, but there were then no records until a single on 1st August. Up to three were then present throughout most of August/September with singles remaining until 9th October. An unusual winter record involved a single on 26th November.

Despite the large number of localities holding the species, the only sites with confirmed breeding were **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see above).

The only records during the second winter period involved the single noted above at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26th November, three at **Horbury SW** on 23rd December and a single at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on the same date.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

Records were received from 54 sites, the same number as last year, and spanned the period 9th April to 23rd September.

The first arrivals concerned a single at **Tunnel End** and two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see below)

9th April. Birds very quickly become more widespread, but numbers rarely reach double-figures, the following being the exceptions:

Wessenden Valley – 27 singing males on 26th April and 15 on 16th June.

Digley – c.15 on 15th April.

Royd Moor Res – 12 on 17th April, 41 on 20th April and 18 on 27th May.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.30 on 20th April, 11 on 13th May and 14 on 24th June.

Hartcliff Hill – 18 on 22nd and 25th April.

Scout Wood, Bradshaw – c.20 on 23rd April.

Dunford Bridge – a minimum of 25 singing males were along a short stretch of the trail on 28th April.

Langsett Banks – 13 on 1st May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – ten on 17th August.

Scammonden Water – ten on 7th September.

The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned two singing male on 9th April and three from 10th to 16th. Six males then took up territories and remained throughout the summer months. This figure remained fairly constant until early September and a single on 5th of that month was the last.

September records were confined to 13 localities, with singles at **March Haigh Res.** and **Slaithwaite** on 16th, two at **Scammonden Water** on 18th and a single at **Dewsbury SW** on 23rd being the last.

A single at **Carlecotes** on 9th May had unusual plumage and initially caused confusion. The structure and call was that of Willow Warbler but the plumage was very dull: a much browner olive with very subdued yellow beneath (more of a dull buff). The possibly of the Scandinavian race *acredula* was considered though it is known that separation of Willow Warbler races can be very problematic, even in the hand (MC, NWM).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Recorded from 54 widely distributed sites, the same as last year. Despite the large number of localities holding the species, the only sites with confirmed breeding were **Cliff Wood**, **Thurstonland Bank** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below).

The first record involved a singing male at **Ing Lees, Marsden** on 10th April and two the following day at **Elland GP**. By mid-April the species became more widespread but the majority of records involved less than five individuals, the only exceptions being as follows:

Bretton Park – six singing males on 17th April, four males and two females the following day and six on 22nd July.

Colne Bridge SP – seven on 25th April.

Royd Moor Res – eight singing males on 27th May and ten on 20th July.

Colne Valley – 26 singing males were counted between Hey Green and Netherwood. This was the highest count in 13 years.

Binn Green/Yeoman Hey – six on 25th June.

Wessenden Valley – four singing males on 5th July were considered unusual for the area.

Royd Moor Res – about ten on 20th July.

The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male on 17th to 19th April. Six singing males then took up territories, all of which attracted females and bred. Family parties were

then present until late July. Thereafter, up to four (generally 2 or 3) were present on a near daily basis until mid-September, with a single on 2nd October and two the following day being the last.

September records were confined to six localities, most of which held no more than three birds, the only exception being up to five at **Scammonden Water** between 7th and 10th September. Birds were in very short supply during October and the only records involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot** (see above) on 2nd with two the following day, one at **Wards End Farm** on 3rd/4th and a single at **Horbury SW** on 18th.

The number of wintering individuals remains very low and the only records involved a female-type in a **Harden** garden on 3rd November and two males in a **Taylor Hill** garden on 24th April.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

There was a marked decrease in the number of localities from which the species was recorded: from 26 sites in 2014 to only 21 this year. The majority of records were of single singing males and the only locality where breeding was confirmed was **Blackmoorfoot** (see below). Although records spanned the period 19th April to 3rd September, occurrences after May were scarce. The first of the year was singing for five minutes in an **Almondsbury** garden on 19th April but there were then no further records until 27th of that month.

Considering the decrease in records, the following list contains all records:

Longley Woods NR – a singing male on 27th April and 14th May.

Ingbirchworth Res – a singing male on 2nd and 6th May and two singing males on 13th and 21st May.

Royd Moor Res – one on 2nd May.

Flouch – a single on 3rd May.

Scholes – one on 4th May.

Horbury SW – two singing males on 7th May.

Cliff Wood – a singing male on 10th May.

Blackmoorfoot – a male sang in Orange Wood from 12th May and a male sang in the NE corner from 3rd June. Both attracted females and fledged young. Birds soon dispersed after the breeding season, with two on 11th July being the last record.

Dove Stone Res – a single on 13th May and 4th June.

Horbury Canal – a single between Healey Mills/Kerry's NR and Horbury Wyke on 13th May.

Clough Lee, Marsden – one on 15th and 20th May.

Horbury Bridge – a single on 20th May.

Thurstonland Bank – two singing males on 23rd May.

Royd Moor Res – three on 27th May.

Brockholes – a single singing briefly in a garden on 29th May.

Sparth Res – a single on 30th May.

Honley Wood – one on 14th June.

Wood Nook – a single on 19th June.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles on 29th June and 2nd August.

Scammonden Water – singles on 27th August and 3rd September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

A continued decline for this species with records from five sites, a drop of two from last year, but only one was common to both years.

Horbury Canal – a singing male at Healey 4th May.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two, of which one was singing, on 7th May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a singing male on 20th May.

Thurstonland Bank – singing male on 24th June.

Red Lane, Meltham – a single on 2nd September.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Records were received from 42 sites, four fewer than 2014. Despite being widely distributed, the only localities with confirmed breeding were **Lindley Moor**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Dewsbury SW**, **Nettleton Hill** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below).

The first of the year involved a singing male at **Horbury SW** on 18th April and then, two days later, two were present at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and a single was seen at **Royd Moor Res**. By late April there were records from a further 11 sites, but it not until early May that the species became more widespread, but the majority of records involved less than three individuals, the only exceptions being as follows:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – five, including three singing males, on 30th April.

Horbury Canal – four between Healey Mills/Kerry's NR and Horbury Wyke on 13th May.

Ingbirchworth Res – six on 24th June.

Nettleton Hill – four on 9th August.

Dewsbury SW – at least six, including juveniles, on 16th August.

Royd Moor Res – six on 25th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a singing male on 26th April, but it was not until mid-May that numbers began to increase. Singing males increased throughout May and four pairs attempted to nest. Although the family parties remained until early August, the only records thereafter involved a single from 8th to 23rd August.

By late August birds were in short supply and the only September records involved three at **Broadstone Heath** on 1st and singles at **Dewsbury SW** on 6th and 20th (the last of the year) and **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 8th and 12th.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

There were records from four localities, the same as last year.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – following a reeling male on 24th April, what was probably the same individual was heard on four dates between 7th and 22nd May and again on 4th June. On 9th September good views were had of a bird considered to have been a juvenile.

Holme – a reeling male on 23rd May.

Scammonden Water – a reeling male on 13th June.
Tunnel End Res – a male reeled briefly on 22nd July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received from five sites, continuing a decline from the nine in 2013 and seven last year. Unlike last year, however, breeding was confirmed at two locations. Birds were reported between 30th April and 13th September.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – four singing males were present on 30th April and a single was seen on 17th July.

Dewsbury SW – although no arrival date was forthcoming, five pairs bred, and the last birds (2) were seen on 13th September.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – although no arrival or departure dates were forthcoming, it is known that two pairs bred.

Horbury Bridge – two were seen on 20th May.

Redbrook Res – a juvenile was present on 7th August.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

As for last year, there were records from five sites. The first record involved four, of which two were singing males, at **Dewsbury SW** on 26th April. Birds then remained at this site throughout the summer months, reaching a maximum of ten on 15th June, and at least two pairs bred. The last, a single, was seen on 6th September.

Elland GP – a singing male was present on 29th April and three on 16th May, but the only other record involved a single calling bird on 18th August.

Cooper Bridge SW – the only record concerned three on 15th May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – although recorded as 'present' on 9th June no further information was forthcoming.

As in 2014, what was probably the same bird, appeared in a **Linthwaite** garden between 7th October and 2nd November. The bird gave a clear sub-song and was heard most days but it only gave brief views on a single occasion (SP). Further details regarding the 2014 occurrence can be found in Birds in Huddersfield 2014.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*
Resident breeder, increased to (2-3), 50-150 pairs.

Records were received from 37 site, a drop of seven from 2014. Although now found in a number of widely distributed woodlands in the recording area, a large proportion of the records related to gardens, most of which had birds present throughout the year. Despite there being recorded from 37 localities, however, breeding was only confirmed at a handful of these.

The majority of records related to no more than three individuals, the only exceptions being as follows:

Thick Hollins – four on a number of dates in January/February and 21st September.

Bretton Park – seven in mid-January, nine in mid-April and four on 5th December.

Cliff Wood – four on 6th April.

Margaret Wood – six on 8th April.

Dove Stone Res – five on 18th June.

Longwood Valley – four on 28th June.

Crimble Clough – four on 15th July.

Grimescar Valley – four on 22nd August.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year and a pair raised young in the same nest hole in Orange Wood that they had used for the previous five years. A pair also raised young in nearby **Helme Wood**.

An interesting record involved a single which arrived with a tit flock at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 6th September and departing low SW over the moor.

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

As in 2014, there was a single record: three in the Woodhouse area of **Rastrick** on 3rd December (AC).

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Records were received from 23 sites, four more than last year, but considerably less than the 34 in 2012. There were a good number of garden records, some of which held one or two birds throughout the year.

Away from gardens, there were regular sightings at **Bretton Park, Langsett, Grimescar Valley, Windy Bank Wood** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below) but the only evidence of breeding came from **Blackmoorfoot** and nearby **Helme Wood**. All records were of no more than two birds with the exception of four in the **Grimescar Valley** on 3rd April.

As in the previous two years, records from **Blackmoorfoot** were very sporadic. There were very occasional appearances of one or two birds between January and March, but a pair then took up residence and bred in Orange Wood, raising two broods to the flying stage. These birds were not seen after mid-July and records thereafter amounted to no more than a single on one day in September, November and December. Two pairs also raised young in nearby **Helme Wood**.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This is one of the commonest and most audible species, but even so it is startling to see over 200 records, which is double the number of 2014 reports! So much material can only be summarised briefly, and, as last year, reports were evenly spread across the year and featured a wide variety of habitats throughout the area. Several observers followed the progress of breeding birds in their garden or local patch, and the first evidence of fledged young came from the **Marsden** area in late April. In the **Dove Stones** area 30 were estimated to be present in mid-May, and a survey in

Withens Clough found 22 in mid-June, with double-figure counts in spring and summer from **Grimescar, Longwood, Lindley Moor, and Bradley Mills.**

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Recorded from 40 widely distributed localities, a similar number to last year. Juveniles were widely distributed by mid-June, suggesting a good breeding season. Although the UK breeding population has decreased by over 80% over the last 30 years, numbers increase in winter due to Continental migrants.

The largest flocks were reported as follows:

Whitley Common – c.1,500 on 11th January, c.700 on 26th January, c.250 on 1st April and c.200 on 30th December.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – 500 flew E on 12th January.

Whitley Edge – c.1200 on 26th January and c.600 on 30th October.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.300 on 3rd February and c.100 on 13th October.

Hade Edge – 80+ on 20th February.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – feeding flocks of 100 were present on 4th March and 400 on 4th December.

Lindley Moor (Blackley) – c.110 on 27th May, c.180 on 30th August and c.270 on 13th September.

Windy Bank Wood – c.100 on 1st June.

Dewsbury SW – 127 on 21st June, 385 on 26th October and 160 on 27th November.

Golcar – 260 on rooftops on 23rd August.

Ringstone Edge – 120 on 22nd October.

Holme Valley (above Holmfirth) – 100 on 7th October.

Coddys' Farm (near Crossley's Plantation) – c.200 on 26th November.

Lockwood – 160+ on 2nd November.

Many gardens held the species throughout the year: in **Lockwood** between ten and 30 visited on a daily basis, in **Thick Hollins** there was a maximum 18 on 3rd April, in **Almondbury** there was a maximum of 20 in late July/early August, and a **Marsh** garden held a maximum of 50 in late July and 37 on 8th September.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Isle of Skye Quarry – of the c.215 on 12th November, c.35 flew W then turned E, c.150 flew S but also turned E and c.30 flew SE. A flock of c.30 flew NW on 23rd November.

Harden Quarries – with the exception of 28 which flew NE on 10th October all other birds flew SW: in October there were seven on 11th, 98 on 17th and 550 on 31st. A further 790 flew SW on 1st November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – the only movements in the first winter period involved 2 W on 6th February, 11 NE on 9th February and 32 E on 30th March. Later in the year a total of 6,022 flew over, mainly in a westerly direction, on 29 dates between 9th October and 21st December. Numbers fluctuated widely, with up to 350 on a number of occasions, and a maximum of 1,390 (332 NW + 768 W + 290 SW) on 26th October and 1,100 W on 29th October.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

A total of 127 reports were received, compared with just under 100 last year. Breeding was confirmed at **Marsden, Aspley, Bradley Mills, Yeoman Hey** and **Dove Stone Res.** and a pair probably bred at **Meltham Mills**. Others were observed at a number of other well watched sites, urban and rural, where in many instances one or more birds were present all year. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, for example, singles were seen along the inflow channel on ten dates between 16th January and 14th March and 20 dates between 15th August and 26th November.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A total of 62 records, 28 more than last year, could well be a cause for optimism. A single male appeared at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 25th March, and then the main influx began with 11 here on 10th April and with arrivals at several other venues including seven (5 males and 2 females) in the regular **Cheesegate Nab** field the next day, and eight at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 13th. Fourteen were in fields to the west of **Langsett** on 14th April and the 13 at **Pots and Pans**, near Dove Stones Res. on 17th April had increased to 28 by 19th, but only 20+ remained on 25th. Records then came in daily from these and other venues until into early May, almost all featuring ones and twos, some of which were from new sites. At **Langsett** two were present on 16th and 23rd May, and in July a bird carrying food/faecal sac was evidence of breeding here.

Autumn sightings began with singles at **Blake Lee, Marsden** on 26th September and **March Haigh Res.** the following day. Ten flew W at **Harden Quarries** on 11th October, and a single paused here to rest in trees. Ones and twos were seen at several venues for the rest of the month, one being **Wards End Farm**, where 11 flew S on 20th. A single at **Whitley Airfield** on 28th October was the year's last record.

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This is one of the commonest species, so it is not that surprising to receive a total of 378 records from many different habitats throughout the area. As in every year some members assiduously follow the fortunes of garden or local patch birds, and can usually be relied upon to watch for breeding evidence. January and February counts in **Bretton Park** reached 33 and 25 respectively, and counts in early April yielded 16 in the **Longwood Valley**, 17 in the **Grimescar Valley**, and at **Lindley Moor**, with similar figures at later dates. There were surprisingly few formal records of breeding, these being from **Langsett, Harden, Marsden, Brockholes, Blackmoorfoot**, and **Rastrick**, but many more such events will have gone unrecorded. Counts from the SW area survey in June revealed up to eight birds at various sites, and then autumn migration counts at **Harden Quarries** recorded a maximum of 11 SW on 17th October.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

As always, this species was sometimes to be found in mixed flocks with Redwings, usually in the first-winter period. The 65 records during the first winter period, predominantly in January and March, with only three counts just reaching three figures at **Wards End Farm, Marsden, Ingbirchworth, and Broadstone Res.**, were outnumbered by over 100 in the last three months, when several four-figure migration totals were recorded. A solitary bird at **Hartcliff Hill** on 22nd April was the last seen in the area until five early birds flew over **Marsden** on 19th September.

Large flocks began to appear in the second week of October, and **Pule Hill, Marsden** migration watchers counted a total of 1,553 heading W or SW on nine dates between 4th October and 17th November, with a peak of 820 on 31st October, which was clearly one of several days of massive movements, as the **Harden** “vis-miggers” counted 3,420 heading SW, with a further 400 the following day, the **Wards End Farm** observer having already counted over a thousand on both the 28th and 29th. The flow of migrants continued daily in November, albeit in less spectacular numbers, sometimes flying over, sometimes stopping to feed and rest. This pattern was also repeated in December, but with lower daily numbers.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

124 records were submitted from a wide range of venues, exactly last year’s total, many referring to just a single bird, often a garden visitor. Curiously, although this species is of course present throughout the year, there were many fewer reports for the last two months than for the first two. Indeed, four of these six reports referred to a single bird in a **Meltham** garden! Earlier in the year, a **Marsden** observer counted at least 14 territories, slightly fewer than previously. Birds were singing in various places across the area by mid-February, and four males were singing at **Langsett** on 1st May, but very few observers, unlike at **Blackmoorfoot** where a pair bred, were able to offer evidence of successful breeding. Up to seven were counted by visual migration watchers in autumn, and the only count to reach ten was at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 4th October.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As with Fieldfare, the majority of records referred to the second winter period, which is also when the biggest gatherings occurred. In some cases, Fieldfares were also present. A few notable records included the only three-figure count for the season, c.250 on **Meltham Cop** on 4th March, and, in mid-January, 50/60 at **Fixby, Horbury Strands/Wyke, Rastrick and Farnley Tyas**, one at the latter being snatched by a Sparrowhawk. Flocks of a similar size in February were at **Bretton Park, Oldfield, Slaithwaite, and Lindley Moor**. Up to 50 were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15 dates in the first winter period. Flocks of 40 at **Wholestone Moor** and 20 at **Bradshaw** on 27th March were the last first winter sightings.

Six flew NW over **Scammonden Moor** on 23rd September, and two days later saw the first of seven migration counts at **Pule Hill, Marsden** which yielded a total of 1,311 birds flying S or SW, reaching a peak of 708 on 17th November. One of a series of similar counts at **Harden Quarries** recorded 985 flying SW on 17th October, the same date that 2,170 (1,050 W and 1,120 NW) flew over **Wards End Farm, Marsden** and 140 flew NW over **Scammonden Water**. Numerous other

records were submitted on most days during the last three months, including frequent counts at **Blackmoorfoot**, the highest being 80 on 16th and 19th October.

Observers too numerous to mention across the Club area also contributed their garden and local patch records, and clearly Redwings do visit our gardens more often than Fieldfares, albeit always in small numbers.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs. Red listed.

The 150 records were evenly distributed across the seasons, and from a wide range of habitats, and in some instances birds were with Redwings and/or Fieldfares. One was carrying food at **Ossett Spa** on 26th April, and another was mimicking the calls of a nearby Green Woodpecker in **Cliff Wood** on 29th April. May began with four singing males at **Langsett Banks**, and an occupied nest was found later in the month at **Hey Green, Marsden**. A flock of 13 were at **Digley** in mid-June, and breeding was confirmed at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 21st June when an adult was seen carrying food to three young. There were thought to be at least 14 territories in the **Marsden** area. Some July counts reached double-figures, with youngsters clearly present, but none exceeded the 40+, including young, counted at **Hartcliff Hill** on 6th July. The only large-number counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where a pair bred, involved flocks of 16 on 7th July and 11 on 22nd August.

Eleven migration counts at several sites between late September and mid-November mostly yielded single figures, the highest being 16 which flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 17th November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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

Usually one of the later arrivals, the first, all singles, were at **Longley Woods NR** on 13th May, in a garden at **High Green Owers, Marsden** the following day, and in a copse on **Hartcliff Hill** three days later. Two other venues for May were **Horbury Bridge** and the beech woodland at **Carlecotes**. A mere five records for June added three new venues, one being **Langsett** where two were in the car park on 24th July, and early August proved no more productive, with just five records, all of singles.

There was then a flurry of sightings featuring several new sites which included reports of young at **Ingbirchworth, Dean Brook Road, Wards End Farm, Marsden** and **Lindley Moor**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** up to five were seen on 14 dates between mid-August and 13th September. Eight were present at **Scammonden Water** on 23rd and five on 28th August, and this site remained particularly productive in September, with up to eight on a number of dates and an impressive 15+ on 7th, and indeed the year's final sighting was of a single here on 18th September.

(EUROPEAN) ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species, as is reflected in the 340 records submitted from all over the Club area.

Several observers kept a watchful eye on their garden Robins throughout the year, while others paid monthly visits to their local patch. Two counts in early March yielded 19 and 12 in the

Longwood and **Grimescar Valleys** respectively, and at least eight singing males were in **Bretton Park** in mid-April. For such a numerous and conspicuous species, it is surprising that only four contributors formally confirmed breeding, at **Brockholes**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Wards End Farm**, **Marsden** and **Crimble Clough**.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 1-5 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Last year's slight improvement was maintained, with a similar number of sites and sightings. **Cliff Wood** remains the stronghold, with a singing male present from 14th April, and with a sequence of reports leading up to confirmed breeding of two pairs, by mid-June. Sadly, one nest with five eggs was predated, perhaps by Jays, while another pair's nest was found nearby. A male was first seen at **Dove Stone Res.** on 13th May, and another Club member doing a local survey found what was presumably the same bird here on 4th June. The only other records were of a female at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 15th May, one at **Langsett Banks** on 23rd May, and singles at **Scammonden Water** on 27th August and 3rd September.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

Rare visitor. Red listed.

A single was present at **Horbury SW** between 4th and 14th January (DHP, DT). The next appeared six months later on a barn roof at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 27th June, where two further sightings ensued, a female-type on 2nd August and an adult male on 8th September (DWS). One was at **Brow Grains Road** on 10th September (KW), and a probable male, a long-awaited first for this site, delighted observers at **Harden Quarries** on 13th September (MC, NWM, DHP). The **Isle of Skye Quarry** hosted the final visitor, a female-type, which spent 26th September interacting with a Wheatear; both had gone the next day (DMP, SP).

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Of the 23 records received 16 were between 15th April and 25th June. Sadly, this represents a 50% slump in sightings of this charismatic visitor in one year.

Horbury Strands/Wyke welcomed a male on 15th April, a full week before a female was found in Orange Wood at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** This latter bird, and a male near the inflow between 28th and 30th April, were unusual spring occurrences here. A male was found in **Cliff Wood** on 23rd April, and it was joined by a female six days later. A sequence of May records from this site continued through until 25th June, by which date breeding by two pairs was confirmed. One was seen at nearby **Langsett Banks** on 23rd May, and another observer found two nearby in the **Little Don Valley** on that date. Three other June sightings consisted of a female at **Dove Stone Res.** on 4th, one at **Holme Styes** on 6th, and a singing male at **Butterley Res.** on 11th.

No birds were reported for July, and the only autumn sightings at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved singles on six dates between 11th August and 1st September. The only other August records involved a male at **Scammonden Water** on 27th, and four along the edge of the conifer plantation at **Holme Styes** on 30th. Five September records began on 1st with a single at **Broadstone Res.**, where another was seen flycatching from a hedge on 16th. Meanwhile, also on 1st a male was seen

at **Wards End farm, Marsden**, where the 16th also produced what may have been the same bird. A single on **Old Mount Road, Marsden** on 26th September was the final record of the year.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This year's first arrival was a male on 21st April at the well-established site at **Brow Grains, Meltham**, and by May 10th there were three singing males here, and two pairs bred successfully, rearing young. Birds remained here until at least the third week of September. On 22nd April a female was the only spring visitor at **Wards End Farm, Meltham**. Five days later a female was seen near **Blackmoorfoot Res**, and on the last day of April a male and female were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**. May's only records (other than the breeding pairs noted above) were a single singing bird at **Pule Holes, Marsden** on 4th, a male at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th, and another singing on 16th at **Blakeley Res**. where it seems to have remained until 6th June. One was found at **Chew Res**. in the course of an area survey on 24th June.

The only July record involved a male at **Wards End Farm** on 24th, but this site saw a flurry of August activity, with two juveniles on 17th, five, of which four were juveniles, on 18th, and then further daily counts reaching the impressive total of 11 birds on 24th. September proved equally productive here, with up to nine present. Meanwhile, two other August records featured a very pale juvenile at **Upper Windleden Res**. on 22nd, and two juveniles at **Deanhead Res**. on the last day of the month. Birds were reported from two other **Marsden** sites in September, with singles at **Gilberts** on 12th and 20th, and seven at **Blake Lee** on 16th. Other September occurrences involved a single at **Brow Grains** on 3rd, two at **Scammonden Water** on 7th, and three at **Deer Hill** and one at **Kirkheaton** on 10th. The final record of the year concerned two at **Wards End Farm** on 22nd.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola rubicola*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A total of 97 records scattered fairly evenly over the year is similar to the 2014 picture, although almost half refer to just one well watched site, Wards End Farm, Marsden, where birds were observed in all four seasons.

A male and female were on **Meltham Cop, Blackmoorfoot** on 4th January, and a male was there on three February dates. The only other January records involved a male at **Harden** in a blizzard on 16th, a single at **Deanhead** on 27th, and a male with two females at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 30th. A male at this last mentioned site on 28th February was the only other sighting that month and, apart from one or two birds on various dates at this site the only other March records involved a single at **Broadstone Res**. on 3rd, two at **Deanhead Res**. on 17th and five in the **Chew Valley** on 22nd. A wider range of sites in April included three in the **Wessenden Valley** on 7th, singles at **Blakeley Res**. on 10th, and at **Redbrook Res**. and **Back Clough, Marsden** on 16th, and a male and female at **Wessenden Head** the following day. A male and female present at **Deer Hill** from 14th April produced young at their second breeding attempt. In May a male and female were at **Withens Moor** during a survey on 13th, a singing bird at **Blakeley Res**. on 16th was followed by more survey records from **Redbrook Res.**, where two juveniles were with a female on 28th. The only June records, with the exception of one or two at **Wards End Farm** on five dates involved a single at **Dove Stone Res**. on 4th and a singing male in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 7th and 29th.

Breeding birds were recorded as follows: two pairs bred between **Meltham** and **Deer Hill**, in August an adult was feeding a youngster on a gate at **Winscar** and two juveniles were being fed by a male at **Upper Windleden Res.**

In September there were several sightings of up to four at a number of **Marden** sites, three were present at **Deanhead** on 19th, and singles at **Kirkheaton** and **Broadstone Res.** on 20th and 25th respectively. October began with two at **Meltham Moor** on 1st, the **Isle of Skye Quarry** hosted up to three on four dates and **Wards End Farm** continued its monopoly with two on 1st and four on 10th. With the exception of one or two at **Wards End Farm** on several November/December dates, the only other records during these months involved a male at **Deer Hill** on 22nd November, and a male and female at **Panna Mill Dam, Meltham** on the same date.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

The 157 records began on 16th March with a solo female at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, two were there on 21st/22nd and singles on 26th and 30th. Other March records involved singles at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 23rd and 25th, and **Scammonden Water** on 24th and 27th, and two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th. The species became more widespread in early April, but records were only of one or two birds except for four at the **Isle of Skye** on 6th, 14 on **Cheesegate Nab** on 11th, while numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** reached 11 on 14th and a remarkable 46 were counted at **Lower Maythorn** on 15th. The second half of the month yielded another thirty records of up to ten birds at numerous venues but larger assemblages were reported from **Pots and Pans**, near Dove Stones which held 30+ on 17th, 20+ on 19th and c.10 on 20th. The last day April saw at least 16 on **Whitley Airfield**.

Birds were present at **Blackmoorfoot** for most of May, with 17 on 13th, and forty other records came from a variety of sites, with ten at **Chew Res** on 13th being the highest number. There were daily May counts of up to ten at **Wards End Farm**.

June and July produced just three records, but the **Little Don Valley** was the only site where evidence pointed to at least one pair having bred, an adult was seen carrying either food or a faecal sac on 17th July. Thereafter sightings became much more frequent, with a wide range of venues producing over forty reports during the next two months, a few referring to juveniles, but no counts exceeded the six on **Bradshaw Moor** on 26th August. The only October records concerned singles at **Wards End Farm** on 1st and 6th, **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st and 3rd, and **Broadstone Res.** on 2nd. Over a month then elapsed before the year's final record, a rather late individual at **Crossley's Plantation** on 7th November (PB).

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Birds showing the characteristics of this race were recorded from five locations Singles were present at **Cheesegate Nab** on 11th April (MC), **Scout Dike Res.** the following day (RJB), **Wards End Farm** on 17th and 25th April (DWS), and **Hartcliff Hill** on 25th April and 10th May (RJB). At **Wards End Farm** up to three were seen on many days in May and singles were present on 1st and 6th October (DWS).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Dunnocks may well be common, and easily observed, as the 150 records show, many referring to garden activity, but few observers were able to offer firm evidence of breeding. Courtship was recorded by the river in **Horbury** on 18th February, breeding was confirmed in gardens at **New Mill, Brockholes** and **Almondbury**, two pairs bred in the **Longwood Valley**, at least three pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot**, and two pairs bred at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**. At this last mentioned site up to six were regularly present, with eight on 17th March being the area's highest tally. An unusual record, just like last year, involved a single which fle SE at **Harden Quarries** on 10th October.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Observations were received from 33 sites, but counts remained low, probably reflecting the continuing decline of this once very prolific species.

Birds were regularly seen in the following gardens:

Skelmanthorpe – a maximum of 12 on 12th January.

Lockwood – up to 30 were present in June/July.

Marsh – there was a maximum of 21 on 20th August.

Almondbury – a maximum of 25 on 23rd August.

Golcar – there was a maximum of 13 on 12th August.

Other double figure counts were also reported from the **Grimescar Valley** where 11 were seen on 3rd April and 12 on 19th June. Between 11 and 14 were counted on six dates during the summer months on **Lindley Moor** and 25 were noted in **Lindley** on 14th May. **Langsett** held 11 on 16th May, 24 were along the canal at **Red Doles** on 17th May, 29 were in the **Longwood Valley** on 20th May, **Turnbridge** held 18 on 1st July, 24 were in **Wooldale** on 12th August and 20 were seen at **Lascelles Hall** on 20th September. A thriving colony was also observed throughout the year at the Riding Stables on **Millmoor Road**, but no figures were forthcoming.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bentley Grange Farm** where several pairs were noted in farmhouse buildings, at **Diggle Edge** where eight birds were present in an old house and also in the village centre at **Marsden**. Juveniles were also reported from the following locations: **Rastrick, Almondbury, Marsh, Whitley Common, Crosland Moor, Lockwood, Netherthong, New Mill** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.

There were two records from **Blackmoorfoot**: single males near Orange Wood cottages on 17th February and 10th March.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

The number of sites has remained stable this year with birds being seen at 13 locations.

In **New Mill** numbers are comparable to House Sparrows. Nest boxes were seen to be used during April and May, three young were noticed between 30th May and 11th July and on the latter date a

young bird was observed begging for food. Three pairs bred in nest boxes at **Wilshaw** and probable breeding occurred in **Margaret Wood** where one bird was seen visiting a nest box.

Elsewhere, birds were reported as follow:

Hepworth – two present in a garden throughout the first winter period and spring appeared to be nesting under a neighbour's loose roof slabs, but there was no firm evidence of breeding and no further sightings after late summer.

Blackmoorfoot – a single was near Orange Wood cottages on 17th February, a pair were nest building in one of these cottages between 2nd and 14th March but were not seen subsequently, and a single was present near these cottages on 4th November.

Royd Moor Res – about six were seen near Belle Royd Farm on 25th February and a single was present on 20th April.

Royd Moor – two on 3rd August and nine on 16th September.

Scout Dike Res – two on 22nd November.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – a single on 11th March, two on 17th March, singles on 19th and 24th March, two on 5th April, one on 6th April, and two on 20th October.

Margaret Wood – 10 on 8th April.

Taylor Hill – a single in a garden on 14th/15th April was observed carrying nesting material on the latter date.

Gunthwaite Dam – several birds were heard vocalising on 17th June.

Wood Nook – a single on 20th June.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Red listed.

A total of 17 records from mid-April to mid-September is almost identical to last year's overall picture.

The first arrival was a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th April, where a single was also seen on 1st/2nd May. A male and two females were at **Dewsbury SW** on 29th April, and a male was present there on 19th May. A male arrived at **Snape Res.** on 8th May and was joined by a female three days later and, for the second consecutive year, they were successful in fledging young.

The next sighting was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** where two were among a party of Pied Wagtails on 1st August. Also in August, a single was with Pied and Grey Wagtails at **Digley Res.** on 22nd and three were with Meadow Pipits at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th.

In September a single was in a field to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, four were in the **Marsden** area on 2nd, the same day that one was at **Scout Dike Res.**, a single was at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 8th, a juvenile was at **Lascelles Hall** on 10th, two were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 13th, and a single, the last of the year, was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs. Red listed.

As last year, there were over 200 records of this well watched species. Records were evenly spread throughout the year with most referring to assemblages of less than six birds.

As always, the sewage works at **Dewsbury**, where a pair bred, **Horbury** and **Meltham** remained attractive venues, with a notably high count of 12 at the latter on 19th September matched only by the same number at **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th August. Breeding took place at several sites and birds were present throughout the breeding season at others. Breeding was confirmed at two sites in **Marsden**, **Butterley Res.**, and **Langsett**, a pair nested at **Tunnel End Res.**, and a pair nested near the canal near **Horbury**. Two juveniles, later three, were with an adult at **Bradley Mills** in mid-May. Two pairs with juveniles were at **Yeoman Hey** in early June, and a bird was carrying food/faecal sac at **Hey Green Marsden** at the same time. A five-strong family party were at **Castle Dam** in mid-June, and another family party with an adult carrying food were at **Langsett** later in the month.

Singles were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14 dates between early February and mid-April, and, after a lull, almost daily from 26th June for the rest of the year, with numbers rarely reaching three, except for four on 30th June and from 26th to 29th August. December was quieter, with singles on just five dates.

Birds at the visible migration watch points were few, and only amounted to the following:

Harden Quarries – six flew SW on 13th September, four SW on 26th September, two SW on 4th October and a single SW on 17th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – eight flew SW on a total of four dates between 25th September and 17th November.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

As with their grey cousin, over 200 records were received, included many for the sewage works at **Dewsbury**, **Horbury**, **Silkstone**, and **Meltham**. The first two attracted some huge flocks in the winter months, most notably ranging from 150 to 300 on several dates between early January and mid-February, as well as several similar counts in late November. Mount Pleasant School at **Lockwood** hosted c.60 in a pre-roost gathering on 12th March, and two days later **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held its yearly maximum of 15. The only other large assemblages involved 75 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 22nd January, 26 on a ploughed field at **Scout Dike Res.** on 13th April, c.25 at **Marsden Cricket Club** on 20th August and c.43 there on 26th September, and 40 in sheep pasture above **Holmfirth** on 27th October.

Proof of breeding came from a number of widely distributed locations: four sites in the **Marsden** area, **Dewsbury SW**, **Bentley Grange Farm**, and the reservoirs at **Ingbirchworth**, **Broadstone**, **Redbrook**, and **Blackmoorfoot**.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 43 flew SW on nine dates between 11th August and 17th November, with a maximum of eight on 8th October.

Harden Quarries – a total of 42 flew SW on ten dates between 22nd August and 1st November, with a maximum of 15 on 4th October.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were eight records, five in spring and three in autumn:

Silkstone SW – a single was photographed on 19th March (BBS).

Whitley Edge – four were present on 1st April and two on 15th April (MCW).
Scout Dike Res – two were on ploughed land with 26 Pied Wagtails on 13th April (RJB).
Ingbirchworth Res – a single was photographed on 26th April (NWM, DMP, MCW).
Marsden – in September, singles at Wards End Farm on 6th, White Hall on 11th and Lower Green Owlers on 14th were considered to be the same bird (JD, DWS).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

The species remains precarious locally, and the favoured locality at **Carlecotes Ponds** only offered views of a single bird on two dates: 15th April (DBu, AK) and 23rd May (NWM, DHP). On a more positive note, at least five males held territories at **Swinden Walls** during the summer months (MCW). The only other records involved a single which flew N at **Harden** on 13th May (MC), a single at **Hingcliff Common** on 24th June (MCW), a single which flew W at **Bradshaw Moor** on 6th September (DHP), and a single at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** (DWS) and three at **Scammonden Water** on 7th September (JB).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

As usual, few were present in the first and last two months of the year, and the attraction of sewage works is exemplified by the biggest winter gathering, c.20 at **Meltham** on 18th January. **Wards End Farm, Marsden** produced some sizeable spring passage counts among the plethora of records submitted, peaking at 54 which flew W on 16th March and 80 N on 4th April, matched by **Blackmoorfoot's** 60 which headed N on 24th February and 70 which did likewise on 6th April.

At **Featherbed Moss** a bird was on territory on 7th March, and four were displaying later in the month. Numerous spring counts, some double-figures, came from mostly upland areas, such as **Pule Hill, Marsden**, where the observer commented that only four of the 24 present in mid-April were singing. As for confirmed breeding, despite the **Wards End Farm** observer's comment that "plenty were breeding on the moor", the only other record referred to another Marsden site, **Hey Green**, where an adult was carrying food/faecal sac on 9th June. One notable report described a group of c.30 along other small passerines mobbing a Great Grey Shrike at **Deanhead Res.** on 9th April. Surveys of upland areas in May/June found up to 28 at **Wessenden Head**, 22 at **Dove Stones**, 12 at **Yeoman Hey Res.**, 18 at **Dick Hill**, 49 on **Withens Moor**, ten on **Saddleworth Moor** and 40 on **Alphin Pike** near Dove Stones.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Harden Quarries – a total of 3,232 flew SW or S on 12 dates between 22nd August and 1st November. Peak counts, all in September, reached 275 SW on 13th, 983 S on 19th, 627 SW on 20th, 359 SW on 26th, and 223 SW on 28th. The only treble-figure count thereafter involved c.500 which flew SW on 4th October.

Wards End Farm – a total of 1,738 flew over, mainly in a W or SW direction, on 12 dates between 5th September and 1st November, with a maximum, all in September, of 350 W on 17th, 170 WSW the following day, 300 W on 23rd, 300 SW on 25th, and 200 SW on 28th. Records for the last two months reflected an almost daily passage of small numbers (never more than 20 but generally less than 10), usually heading in a westerly direction.

Pule Hill – a total of 14 counts between 6th September and 17th November saw 838 flying S or SW, the highest being 248 on 25th September; this can be set against annual averages for the past four years which exceeds 2,350!

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

A single was photographed at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 9th October (DF).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This unpredictable winter visitor was recorded at only 14 sites this year, a significant drop in both sites and the numbers of birds from last year.

With the exception of nine in a **Cowcliffe** garden on 20th January all other records during the first winter period referred to singles.

Castle Dam – 18th January.

Binn Green, Dove Stones – 1st February.

Netherthong – in a garden on 31st March and 3rd and 16th April.

Harden – 13th April.

A single which flew S over the **Isle of Sky Quarry** on 8th October was the first returning bird. All other occurrences, including passage birds (see below), were confined to October/November. One or two were present at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on a number of occasions during this period, but eight flew W there on 16th October, 37 dropped into the garden before departing on 19th October, 10 were nearby in Higher Green Owlers on 23rd October, and five flew W on 2nd November. The only other reports involved singles at **Oldfield, Digley** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd October, 15 at **Whitley Common** on 4th November and a single in a **Meltham** garden on 14th/15th November.

At the migration watchpoints numbers were slightly better than last year, although still low.

Harden Quarries – birds flying SW were recorded as follows: a single on 10th October, two on 11th and 31st October, four on 1st November and 23 on 8th November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – the following were recorded flying SW: 64 on 23rd October, six on 12th November, and a single on 17th November.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Although birds were seen regularly throughout the year at 58 sites, including many gardens, numbers were mostly low.

There were no large winter assemblages, and the first double figures counts were not until April and May. These only stemmed from seven locations, and never exceeded the 20 in the **Dove Stones** area on 13th May, 24 at **Langsett** on 16th May and 16 in the **Longwood Valley** on 20th May.

Singing males were only recorded from eight localities with confirmed breeding being noted at **Honley Woods, Blackmoorfoot** and **Higher Green Owlers, Marsden** and juveniles were present at **Wards End Farm, Marsden, Bretton Park, Almondbury, and New Mill**.

The only significant counts, other than the migration watch points (see below), in the latter half of the year came from **Wards End Farm** where between 10 and 14 birds were seen on 12 occasions in September.

Visible migration was reported from three sites:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 2,255 flew S or SW on 14 dates between 8th September and 17th November with maxima of 634 on 8th October and 287 on 17th November.

Harden Quarries – 763 flew SW on 12 dates between 13th September and 1st November with maxima of 132 on 4th October, 138 on 9th October and 132 on 11th October.

Wards End Farm – 510 birds, most of which flew W, were counted on 12 dates between 4th October and 19th November. The maximum counts were of 101 on 19th October and 108 on 23rd October.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare to scarce visitor. Former breeder.

A single which flew SW at **Pule, Hill Marsden** on 23rd October was not detected until photographs taken of passage Redwings were scrutinised after the migration watch (DS).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

These handsome finches were recorded from 40 widely distributed sites and in every month of the year, but numbers rarely exceeded three. Unusually though, only six gardens attracted birds with any regularity.

The only counts of more than three were as the follows:

Blackmoorfoot – up to five (usually 2 – 4) were present throughout the year and nine were present on 20th September.

Broadstone Res – five on 3rd January.

Elland GP – four on 15th January.

Bretton Park – four on 19th January.

Cooper Bridge SW – 10 on 25th January.

Almondbury – four in a garden on 26th April.

Breeding was only confirmed at a handful of locations: **Fixby, Royd Moor Res., Scammonden Water, Thick Hollins, Netherwood Heys** and **Blackmoorfoot** (2 pairs). Birds were also noted at six sites in **Marsden** during the breeding season but no proof of breeding was forthcoming.

Visible migration was reported as follows:

Harden Quarries – birds were seen flying SW as follows: a single on 22nd August, two on 4th October, five on 9th October, three on 10th October and 14 on 31st October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two flew S on 14th October, two SW on 23rd October, and a single S on 25th October.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

Recorded from 37 sites, with some gardens holding birds throughout the year. Counts were predominantly low, however, but were said to be 'increasing' at one site and a 'welcome return' at another. Is this species being under recorded or has it not yet fully recovered its numbers following the trichomonosis outbreak?

Prior to September, counts were of less than three birds, the only exceptions being six in the **Almondsbury** area on 12th February, six at **Harden** throughout March, four at **Crosland Hill** on 15th March, and, in June, five at **Dove Stone Res.** on 6th, five at **Diggle Edge** on 15th and five in an **Almondsbury** garden on 21st.

In the breeding season singing males were heard at **Bretton Park, Blackmoorfoot, New Mill, Langsett, Dove Stone Res.** and **Bentley Grange Farm**, but breeding was only confirmed at **Almondsbury, Dewsbury SW** and **Wards End Farm, Marsden**.

There was a significant post breeding build-up at **Wards End Farm** with 15 on 27th September and 19 on 8th October being the maxima. A **Rastrick** garden held eight on 6th December and c.30 were seen flying to roost at a farm near the M62 on the same date with c.50 doing likewise on 27th.

Visible migration was reported from the following locations:

Harden Quarries – 197 flew SW on 10 dates between 13th September and 1st November with a maximum of 40 on 26th September.

Pule Hill Marsden – 188 flew S or SW on 10 dates between 25th September and 17th November, the maximum being 101 on 25th September. The average number for previous four years was 234.

Wards End Farm – 24 flew WNW on 19th October.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Linaria cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Reports were received from 39 rural sites with the largest concentrations being seen in the early and latter parts of the year. More large flocks were recorded this year which is an encouraging sign.

Significant flocks were reported at the beginning of the year with up to 20 at **Royd Moor Wind Farm** in early January, 30 at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 22nd January, 20 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 22nd February, and 70 at **Potters Gate, Broadstone** on 28th February.

By April birds were more widely distributed but numbers were generally low, the exceptions being 23 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 15th April and c.50 which were present at **Deer Hill** Twite feeding station throughout April. There were only a handful of breeding records: pairs were noted on territory at **Harden** and **Scholes**, a **Marsden** recorder found birds at 13 sites, at least four pairs bred at **Alphin Pike**, near Dove Stones, six pairs nested on Edge Moor/Meltham Cop at **Blackmoorfoot**, and juveniles were seen at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** in June/July.

The highest counts were recorded in the post breeding season. An autumn build-up at **Blackmoorfoot** occurred between mid-July and early September reaching a maximum of 25+ on 21st/22nd August and 40+ on 3rd September. A flock of 24 were at **Lindley Moor** on 23rd August,

c.150 in the lodge garden at **Hartcliff Hill** on 20th September, c.40 at **Bradshaw Moor, Isle of Skye** on 28th September, c.20 at **Wards End Farm** on 10th October, c.110 at **Snowden Hill, Penistone** on 7th December and c.60 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th December.

Visible migration was witnessed as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – birds flew SW on 17th September (7), 8th October (5) and 23rd October (2).
Harden Quarries – 138 birds flew SW on eight dates between 13th September and 31st October the maximum being 28 on 4th October.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This upland finch is still very vulnerable in our area and as usual most records come from the three sites which remain the stronghold of this species.

Deer Hill – five birds had returned to the feeding station on 5th March. Numbers continued to rise throughout April with a maximum of 30 on 11th, after which they decreased and by mid-May all birds had moved away (DMP *et al.*).

Wessenden Valley – birds were present during the breeding season in suitable habitat although no proof of breeding was confirmed (DMP). In the **Wessenden Head** area birds were seen as follows: seven on 8th April (SK), four on 18th April (JMP), two on 6th May (JMP), and six on 13th June (DWS). Two were at **Blakeley Res.** on 12th July (DHP).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – the first bird was noted in March, a single on 20th, two flew NE on 25th and five flew N on 27th. Throughout April up to 12 were present and two birds regularly visited the bird table. May produced a maximum of five on 1st with two visiting the bird table during the first half of the month. Two to four were present in June with 14 on 29th and five the following day included begging juveniles. Numbers increased in July/August with up to 20 feeding on sorrel and thistle heads and a maximum of 29 on 30th August. Double figure flocks were maintained throughout September/October with, in September, 50 on 10th, 38 on 13th and 32 on 29th and, in October, 50 on 10th, 60 the following day, and 45 on 16th and 19th. An unusual record involved c.40 roosting in bracken near to **White Hull, Marsden** on 13th December, but there was no sign of them the next day (JD, DWS).

Records from other sites were as follows:

Derby Delph Quarry – 11 on 18th March and 8 on 2nd April (DT) and c.15 throughout the second winter period (JD).

Redbrook Res – singles on 8th and 11th August, five on 20th September and one on 12th September (JMP).

Marsden – 12 were present at Gilberts on 12th September (JMP).

March Haigh Res – five flew S on 16th September (DT) and 18 were present on 19th September (DWS).

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

This species has had fluctuating fortunes, and, over the years, the number of sites it has been recorded from has varied enormously – some years garden feeding stations have been a stronghold but over the last couple of years only a few gardens have been visited.

A garden in **Meltham** had up to seven on a daily basis until mid-April and another garden in Meltham was visited by up to eight throughout December.

Away from gardens, with the exceptions of nine at **Dove Stone Res.** on 4th June, five at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 29th June and five males which held breeding territories at **Langsett Banks**, there were only occasional records of up to four birds from a further nine sites until early August.

Although flock size was on the increase by September, birds were only reported from 17 locations, including the migration watch points. Six birds visited **Scammonden Water** on 3rd September; six were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 4th October and 47 were on the feeders there on 26th October. **Wards End Farm** held good numbers of birds throughout October with maxima of 24 on 3rd, 17 on both 4th and 17th and 10 were in nearby Lower Green Owlers on 21st.

Visible migration occurred at three sites:

Harden Quarries – a total of 83 flew SW on 14 dates between 13th September and 8th November with a maximum of 11 on 9th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 49 flew S or SW on nine dates between 19th September and 19th November with a maximum of 20 on 4th October.

Wards End Farm – in October, six flew W on 14th, 78 WNW on 19th and six W on 23rd.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

It was another very poor year for this species, with no records at all from the usual sites at Langsett and Yateholme.

Reports came from the following sites:

Blackmoorfoot Res – two flew E at 10.05hrs on 5th April (MLD, GK).

Harden – a single departed N on 13th April (MC).

Holme Styes – a single flew S on 16th April (DT).

Binn Green, Dove Stones – 15+ on 14th and 26th June, and, in July, c.30 on 7th, five on 8th and 20+ on 11th (SMS).

Harden Quarries – a total of 62 flew S or SW on eight dates between 22nd August and 1st November with maxima of 10 S on both 22nd August and 17th October and 17 SW on 9th October (MC, DHP *et al.*). In addition, 30 were present in the conifers on 10th October (RJB) with c.10 there on 25th October (DHP).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – two arrived from the E on 7th October, a single was in the garden on 11th October and two were present on 12th October. A flock of 10 flew west on 16th October and five did likewise the following day (DWS).

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This charming and abundant finch was recorded from 54 sites, with small flocks frequenting gardens throughout the year. Elsewhere birds were seen in larger numbers, which were swelled by juvenile birds in late summer and early autumn, as winter drew on numbers gradually reduced.

During the first three months of the year the largest flocks were reported at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** where 14 were seen on 12th January, **Wards End Farm, Marsden** held 20 on 10th February and 4th March, and 15 were present on 18th March. A flock of 20 were observed at **Crimble Clough** on 20th March and 10 were in an **Almondbury** garden on 22nd February.

In the breeding season two males were heard singing in the **Lockwood** area and two also sang in a **New Mill** garden, singing was also recorded from **Margaret Wood, Crosland Moor** and **Gunthwaite Dam**. Two pairs nested at **Blackmoorfoot** and on 10th May a bird was carrying nesting material at **Wards End Farm**, then from 12th June juveniles began to be seen. A single juvenile was in an **Almondbury** garden in mid-June, a garden at **Crimble Clough** also held juveniles by mid-June, a flock of 20 were seen at **Binn Green, Dove Stones** on 25th June and three juveniles were present at **Scout Dike Res.** in late July.

The largest assemblages post breeding season were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot – up to 60 were present on a daily basis between July and early October peaking at 100+ on 4th September and 108 on 9th October.

Lindley Moor – 63 on 2nd August, 37 on 18th August and 57 on 23rd August.

Wards End Farm – 45 on 7th August, c.100 on 25th September, c.120 two days later and c.200 on 28th September and 3rd October. Numbers then dropped to between 20-80 birds by mid-October.

Scammonden Water – c.100 on 7th September.

Scout Dike Res – c.50 on 11th September and c.100 the following day.

Whitley Common – c.100 on 20th September.

Broadstone Res – c.150 on 26th September.

Deer Hill Res – c.150 on 27th September.

Almondbury – 24 in a garden on 27th September.

In November/December the only double figure count, with the exceptions of migrating birds (see below) was of 17 at **Wooldale** on 26th December.

Visible migration was recorded as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 478 flew S or SW on 12 dates between 8th September and 17th November with a maximum of 85 on 25th September.

Harden Quarries – some 496 birds which flew over SW on 12 dates between 22nd August and 1st November with a maximum of 175 on 26th September.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Spinus spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This diminutive finch was attracted to 32 sites this year, with birds being observed in most months. There was an increase in records from late August, suggesting an influx. Juveniles were present at a **Marsden** location on a number of occasions and small numbers were located at garden feeding stations, with a garden at **Meltham** regularly attracting up to 12 birds.

The only double figure counts in the first winter period involved 19 at **Bretton Park** on 19th January and c.20 in the **Little Don Valley** on 8th March.

Larger assemblages were present during the summer months: a flock of 17 were at **Binn Green, Dove Stone** on 25th June; up to 12 juveniles, of unknown origin, were regularly seen at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** in July and early August, later in the month c.45 were feeding on thistle heads on 23rd August and from then until 7th September c.20 were present most days.

The largest flocks reported in August involved 10 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 17th, 30 at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 24th, 100 at **Yateholme** on 29th, and 40 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 31st August. In September flocks in excess of 20 were reported as follows: **Blackmoorfoot** had 20+ in Orange Wood on 1st/2nd, 40 were at **Ramsden Res.** and 30 at **Scammonden Water** on 5th, with 20 at the latter site on 7th and 20 were at **Old Mount Road, Marsden** on 6th.

Although widely distributed later in the year, with records from a good number of localities, the only double figure counts involved 20 at **Crosland Hill** on 8th October, a flock of c.20 at **Helme** on 22nd November and 60 at **Bretton Park** on 5th December.

Visible migration was witnessed at two sites:

Harden Quarries – a total of 377 flew SW on 14 dates between 22nd August and 1st November with a maximum of 95 on 13th September. This is a dramatic increase in numbers on last year's figure of 135.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 151 flew S or SW on eight dates between 17th September and 17th November with a maximum of 40 on 17th September.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

A single flew west at **Wards End Farm, Marsden** on 16th February (DWS).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

During the last four years the numbers and distribution of this species has reduced dramatically. All records, from 21 sites, were of less than four birds, the only exception being c.10 on farmland at **New Mill** on 5th November. Although this drop in number follows the national trend, is this a true fall in numbers or are their favoured sites no longer being watched?

As the distribution of this species is now very restricted, the following lists all localities which held birds during the breeding season: **Scout Dike Res., Royd Moor Res., Broadstone Res., Annat Royd Lane, Ingbirchworth Res., Farnley Tyas, Margaret Wood, Cheesegate Nab, Horbury** (on the canal), **Horbury Strands/Wyke, Hartcliff Hill, Storthes Hall Woodlands, Bradley Hall Farm, Denby Dale and Thurstonland Bank.**

The only area where birds were seen with any regularity was at the **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs but, as noted above, these never amassed to more than three individuals.

A single which flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 11th October was an unusual occurrence for the site.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Birds were recorded from 45 rural sites (an average number). This is encouraging, however, as only 28 sites were reported from last year. Unlike last year there were records from two gardens: eight were present in a **Harden** garden between 17th and 19th March and two in a **Holme** garden on 28th May.

There was a continuous presence of birds throughout most of the year at **Wards End Farm, Marsden**. Most birds, especially in the first winter period, were males, the highest counts being of eight on 24th January and 13 on 13th March. Also during the first winter period **Ingbirchworth Res.** held a maximum of six on 5th April and up to four were reported from a further 10 sites. The only records from **Blackmoorfoot** however, where the species normally breeds, involved one or two birds on a single date March and two dates in both April and July.

A singing male at **Wards End Farm** on 16th March revealed an early return to breeding territories. Other singing males were noted at 12 sites in the **Marsden** area and at the following locations: **Dewsbury SW, Healey Mills/Kerry's NR, Horbury Strands/Wyke, Ingbirchworth Res., Broadstones, Brun Clough Res., Carlecotes Ponds, and Upper Windleden**. Breeding was only confirmed at two sites: **Redbrook Res.** (juveniles in early June) and **Dewsbury SW** (recently fledged juveniles in mid-August).

Although birds remained widely scattered during the autumn/second winter period numbers rarely exceeded four, the exceptions being 10 at **Dewsbury SW** on 6th September, five at **Wards End Farm** on 19th October and c.12 at **Hassocks Road, Meltham** on 20th October.

Visible migration was witnessed at two sites:

Harden Quarries – a total of 20 birds flew SW on eight dates between 19th September and 31st October with a maximum of six on 10th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 39 flew S or SW on nine dates between 20th September and 17th November with a maximum of 12 on 23rd October.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Escape.

A single was on **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23rd May (DMP, SP).

HARRIS' HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Escape.

One at **Hartcliff Hill** on 20th September (RJB).

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar*

Introduced.

A single with eight Red-legged Partridges at **Gadding Moor, Gunthwaite** on 11th February (MCW).

ADDITIONS TO THE 2014 REPORT

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

9th November – c.91 (21 NE at 09.00hrs. + c.70 SE at 09.45hrs.) over **Hartcliff Hill**.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Ingbirchworth Res – five (3 males) were present on 4th April (BBSG).

(EURASIAN) HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Hartcliff Hill – a single flew S at 16.00hrs. on 14th September (RJB). This brings the yearly total of records up to 34.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Hartcliff Hill – singles were present on 23rd October and 1st November.

(COMMON) STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Flouch – c.1000 on 9th and 16th February.

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2015		EVER		2015	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	7/4	Wessenden Head Res	29/9	1969	23/9	Dewsbury SW
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	13/4	Ingbirchworth	21/11	1959	18/9	Ringstone Edge Res
Common Tern	31/3	2010	21/4	Horbury Strands	16/10	2001	17/8	Bretton Park
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	13/4	Skelmanthorpe	27/10	1977	22/9	Isle of Skye Quarry
Swift	13/4	2013	26/4	Dewsbury SW	8/11	2001	7/9	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	21/3	Ingbirchworth	23/10	1971	20/9	Lascelles Hall
Swallow	10/3	1959	6/4	Blackmoorfoot & Crosland Moor	5/12	1995	23/10	Shelley
House Martin	20/3	2005	11/4	Ingbirchworth	27/11	1959	14/10	Marsden
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	15/4	Carlecotes	5/10	2000	7/9	Scammonden Water & Marsden
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	17/4	Ingbirchworth	24/10	1952	14/9	Ingbirchworth
Redstart	21/3	1942	15/4	Horbury Strands	24/10	1976	26/9	Marsden
Whinchat	11/4	1949	19/4	Meltham	9/11	1999	22/9	Marsden
Wheatear	1/3	1997	16/3	Isle of Skye Quarry	4/12	1997	7/11	Crossley's Plantation
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	25/3	Marsden	25/12	1855	28/10	Whitley Airfield
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	24/4	Marsden	29/8	2000	9/9	Marsden
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	30/4	Horbury Strands	26/9	1999	13/9	Dewsbury SW
Reed Warbler	20/4	2011	26/4	Dewsbury SW	29/9	2001	6/9	Dewsbury SW
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	19/4	Almondbury	24/11	1984	3/9	Scammonden Water
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	4/5	Horbury	27/9	1973	2/9	Meltham
Whitethroat	1/4	2011	18/4	Horbury SW	12/10	1999	20/9	Dewsbury SW
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981		no records	4/9	1956		no records
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	9/4	Blackmoorfoot & Marsden	27/10	1987	23/9	Dewsbury SW
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	14/5	Marsden	16/10	1985	18/9	Scammonden Water
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	14/4	Langsett	19/9	1969	3/9	Scammonden Water

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		2015		EVER		2015	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	22/3	Broadstone Res	12/9	2015	12/9	Marsden
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	14/3	Royd Edge	11/9	2007	19/9	Harden Quarries
Redwing	7/5	1975	27/3	Wholestone Moor & Bradshaw	27/8	1941	23/9	Scammonden Water
Brambling	13/5	1976	16/4	Netherthong	13/9	1983	8/10	Isle of Skye Quarry

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: in view of the fact that Fieldfare previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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Dawtre. N. C.
Dean. A.
Denton. M. L.
Dryden. D.
Duckworth. T.
Dunning. J.
Eastwood. J.
Franz. D.
Frost. S.
Gerrity. P.
Goddard. Y.
Grba. P.
Griffin. D.
Hamilton. J.
Henshaw. M.
Holloway. D.
Horne. C.
Horne. K.
Hunt. D.
Jepson-Brown. C.
Kaye. G.
King. A.
Knell. S.
Laycock. J.
Loverick. S.
Lunn. J.
McLoughlin. J.
Mail. M.J.
Mallinson. N. W.
Marchant. D.
Mason. J.
Martin. I.
Mather. T.
Melling. T.
Moran. D.
Newman. J. M.
Oliver. G.
Owen. D. M.
Palliser. J. K.
Pearce. D.
Penistone. B.
Pennington. D. H.
Pinder. J. M.
Pogson. D. M.
Pogson. S.
Quarterman. H.
Rigby. M.
Rothery. S.
Saxelby. M. J.
Senior. R.
Sharp. M.
Shields. D.
Sill. D. W.
Silver. G. B.
Squires. C.
Sutcliffe. D. J.
Suttill. S.M.
Sykes. D.
Tattersley. D.
Taylor. M.
Wainman. M. J.
Walker. M.
Wells. M. C.
Wimpenny. T.
Wright. K.
Wright. O.
Barnsley Bird Sightings
Barnsley Bird Study Group
Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

VISIBLE MIGRATION AT HARDEN QUARRIES IN 2015

2015 was one of the slowest seasons since organised counts started at the Harden Vis. Mig. (Visible Migration) site at Harden Quarries (SE153037). Weeks of easterlies during the autumn period meant both fog and weather that was not conducive to inland migration. Generally, south-westerly winds are best for migration through the Pennines. Species that usually yield the largest numbers, such as Woodpigeon, Meadow Pipit, and winter thrushes, did not do so. The dearth of raptors, including Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Merlin was particularly noteworthy: but this negative would appear to support the view that moderate to large numbers of these species seen in years of favourable winds may be genuine migrants. On the other hand, Siskins were more common than usual - a pattern which was also noted elsewhere in the UK. The most unexpected species was a superb male Black Redstart that was actually seen flying south.

With the exception of 28th September, which contains a complete list of species recorded, all the others are incomplete i.e. not all species were submitted. Any species in bold is a remarkable observation for the locality, being a scarce/rare species or an unusually large number.

Date:	Saturday 22 August 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Not recorded.
Observers:	MC & NWM.

	SW		SW
Swallow	32	Pied Wagtail	1
House Martin	1	Bullfinch	1
Meadow Pipit	70	finch sp.	3
Totals:	108 individuals.		
Present:	Wheatear (1).		
Comments:	In addition, 12 Siskins and ten Crossbills flew S and a Snipe flew E.		

Date:	Sunday 13 September 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Not recorded.
Observers:	MC, RJB, NWM & DHP.

	SW		SW
Mergus sp.	1	Grey Wagtail	6
Sparrowhawk	1	Pied Wagtail	8
Buzzard	6	Chaffinch	90

	SW		SW
Snipe	3	Greenfinch	8
Cuckoo	1	Goldfinch	30
Swallow	252	Siskin	95
House Martin	38	Linnet	22
Meadow Pipit	275	redpoll sp.	2
Totals:	838 individuals.		
Present:	Wheatear (1), Spotted Flycatcher (1), Raven (1).		
Comments:	Meadow Pipits, Swallows, Siskins and Chaffinches were passing in moderate numbers. The highlights were a Spotted Flycatcher, the juvenile Cuckoo and, best of all, a male Black Redstart which was actually seen flying S before it landed on wires, then it disappeared. In addition, a loose flock of ten Ravens flew S and a single Great Spotted Woodpecker flew ESE.		

Date:	Saturday 19th September 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Not recorded.
Observers:	MC, RJB, NWM & DHP.

	SW		SW
Cormorant	2	Starling	9
Sparrowhawk	7	Chaffinch	39
Buzzard	10	Goldfinch	21
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	Siskin	58
House Martin	51	Linnet	15
Meadow Pipit	983	Lesser Redpoll	9
Pied Wagtail	4	redpoll sp.	1
Blackbird	3	finch sp.	4
Great Tit	1	Reed Bunting	1
Jay	2		
Totals:	1284 individuals.		

Present:	Sparrowhawk (9), Wheatear (1), Chiffchaff (1).

Comments:	Although birds were flying in various directions between W, S and E (with odd ones N), there was a definite movement, mainly of Meadow Pipits and Swallows (387 flew S). In addition, 52 Pink-footed Geese flew E and four Crossbills flew S.
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Date:	Sunday 20th September 2015
Counting period:	07.00 - 10.55hrs.
Weather:	No cloud with a moderate westerly wind.
Observers:	MC, JL, DHP & MCW.

	SW		SW
Swallow	377	Greenfinch	21
House Martin	122	Goldfinch	35
Meadow Pipit	627	Siskin	58
Pied Wagtail	2	Linnet	6
Song Thrush	1	Lesser Redpoll	9
Mistle Thrush	4	Reed Bunting	1
Chaffinch	30		
Totals:	1293 individuals.		
Present:	Chiffchaff (1).		
Comments:	Passage, despite nearly four hours of observation, was very poor. The numbers involved being very low for the time of year.		

Date:	Saturday 26th September 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Very calm with a light W then SSE wind later.
Observers:	MC, NWM & DHP.

	SW		SW
Swallow	51	Greenfinch	40
House Martin	3	Goldfinch	175
Meadow Pipit	359	Siskin	45
Grey Wagtail	4	Linnet	21
Pied Wagtail	1	Lesser Redpoll	7
Mistle Thrush	4	finch sp.	3
Chaffinch	31	bunting sp.	2

Totals:	746 individuals.
Comments:	Although there was a nice variety of finches, including Crossbill (7 flew S), numbers were low. In addition, c.200 Pink-foot Geese flew over, some going E, some W, and two Greylag Geese and a Jay flew NE. Persistent checking of the west ridge for raptors eventually paid off with two Buzzards flying NE, a cream-crown Marsh Harrier flying WSW and a juvenile Hen Harrier flying west.

Date:	Monday 28th September 2015
Counting period:	08.30 - 12.00hrs.
Weather:	Thick hill fog on arrival but started to clear c.08.30hrs. with clear skies by 10.00hrs., though thick mist still hung in the valleys. One okta cloud cover with a force 2 SSW wind later, becoming warmer.
Observers:	JL.

	SW		SW
Buzzard	1	Blue Tit	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	Jackdaw	14
Swallow	234	Raven	1
House Martin	121	Starling	1
Meadow Pipit	223	Chaffinch	29
Pied Wagtail	4	Greenfinch	1
Blackbird	1	Goldfinch	34
Mistle Thrush	3	Siskin	8
Goldcrest	1	Linnet	3
Coal Tit	1	Lesser Redpoll	1
Totals:	685 individuals.		
Present:	Buzzard (3), Kestrel (3), Collared Dove (2), Goldcrest (1), Goldfinch (45).		
Comments:	There was a steady migration, mainly of Meadow Pipits and hirundines, throughout the morning starting at fog clearance. The highlight was a Hobby which flew straight through S @ 10.10hrs. but a Goldcrest and two Blue Tits setting out over the moor was notable. In addition, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls flew N and a Jay and two Golden Plover flew E.		

Date:	Sunday 4th October 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Not recorded.
Observers:	MC & NWM.

	SW		SW
Meadow Pipit	500	Siskin	47
Grey Wagtail	2	Linnet	28
Pied Wagtail	15	Lesser Redpoll	5
Blackbird	3	Bullfinch	2
Turdus sp.	6	finch sp.	36
Chaffinch	132	Reed Bunting	4
Greenfinch	39	passerine sp.	24
Goldfinch	60		
Totals:	903 individuals.		
Present:	Raven (3).		
Comments:	In addition, the following flew S: four Goosanders (this is a rare migrant at the site), and single Merlin, Redwing and Skylark.		

Date:	Friday 9th October 2015
Counting period:	08.30 - 11.30hrs.
Weather:	4/8 oktas cloud cover, dry, part sunny with no wind.
Observers:	JL.

	SW		SW
Pink-footed Goose	60	Jackdaw	4
Anser sp.	14	Raven	2
Black-headed Gull	35	Chaffinch	138
Lesser Black-backed Gull	27	Greenfinch	11
Woodpigeon	112	Goldfinch	23
Skylark	13	Siskin	3
Swallow	3	Linnet	7
House Martin	22	Lesser Redpoll	11
Meadow Pipit	81	Crossbill	17

	SW		SW
Pied Wagtail	5	Bullfinch	5
Redwing	38	finch sp.	66
Coal Tit	6		
Totals:	929 individuals.		
Present:	Sparrowhawk (3), Buzzard (5), Kestrel (2), Lapwing (73), Woodpigeon (25), Jay (1), Magpie (1), Raven (1), Starling (3).		
Comments:	A steady morning with a good variety of migrants passing, mostly quite high and on a broad front in small parties with some finches too far away to identify confidently. There was a strong, high movement of Woodpigeons, hirundines and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. In addition to the 60 Pink-footed Geese mentioned above, a further 226 flew NE.		

Date:	Saturday 10th October 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Clear sky - no wind (had previously been E). There was yellow pollution in sky NNE of us - from the Continent?
Observers:	MC, RJB, NWM & DHP.

	SW		SW
Buzzard	1	Greenfinch	9
Meadow Pipit	10	Goldfinch	35
Pied Wagtail	7	Siskin	25
Song Thrush	1	Linnet	26
Redwing	5	Lesser Redpoll	7
Turdus sp.	27	Bullfinch	2
Parus sp.	2	finch sp.	8
Jackdaw	65	Reed Bunting	6
Chaffinch	13		
Totals:	378 individuals.		

Present:	Kestrel (1), Chiffchaff (1), Goldcrest (1), Crossbill (30), Bullfinch (1).
Comments:	In addition, 17 Coal Tits and a calling Dunnock flew high to the SE, seven Mistle Thrushes and 28 Starlings flew NE, three

	Swallows and a Brambling flew S and flocks of 76 and 35 Pink-footed Geese flew E.
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Date:	Sunday 11th October 2015		
Counting period:	Not recorded.		
Weather:	Fog at first, clearing later.		
Observers:	MC & JMCL.		
	SW		SW
Sparrowhawk	2	Starling	7
Buzzard	1	Chaffinch	132
Golden Plover	9	Brambling	2
Lapwing	8	Goldfinch	15
Snipe	1	Siskin	12
Skylark	2	Lesser Redpoll	9
Pied Wagtail	4	Crossbill	7
Song Thrush	3	finch sp.	12
Redwing	58	Yellowhammer	1
Mistle Thrush	6	Reed Bunting	2
Totals:	317 individuals.		
Present:	Sparrowhawk (2).		
Comments:	In addition, a flock of ten Ring Ouzels flew W whilst another landed briefly in a tree to rest and a total of 13 Jays flew NE.		

Date:	Saturday 17th October 2015		
Counting period:	Not recorded.		
Weather:	Fog at first - clearing by 08.15hrs.		
Observers:	MC, DHP & NWM.		

	SW		SW
Merlin	1	Redwing	985
Peregrine	1	Mistle Thrush	5
Skylark	6	Starling	98
Meadow Pipit	26	Chaffinch	34
Grey Wagtail	1	Goldfinch	16

	SW		SW
Pied Wagtail	2	Lesser Redpoll	4
Blackbird	11	finch sp.	47
Fieldfare	97	Reed Bunting	1
Song Thrush	5		
Totals:	1348 individuals.		
Comments:	In addition, ten Crossbills flew S.		

Date:	Saturday 31st October 2015		
Counting period:	08.00 - 11.00hrs.		
Weather:	Mainly clear and sunny with a force 2 southerly wind.		
Observers:	MC, RJB & NWM.		
	SW		SW
Wigeon	14	Redwing	98
Sparrowhawk	3	Starling	550
Buzzard	2	Chaffinch	42
Peregrine	2	Brambling	2
Lapwing	180	Greenfinch	36
Woodpigeon	620	Siskin	11
Skylark	3	Linnet	10
Meadow Pipit	25	redpoll sp.	6
Blackbird	9	Crossbill	6
Fieldfare	3420	Bullfinch	14
Song Thrush	4	Reed Bunting	3
Totals:	5060 individuals.		
Comments:	Due to the late start it was considered that any early push had probably been missed. This was the first reasonable Fieldfare count of the season! Wigeon are not normally seen on migration here so these were notable (though possibly the same birds were on Winscar Reservoir later in the day.		

Date:	Sunday 1st November 2015
Counting period:	Not recorded.
Weather:	Cool with no wind.
Observers:	MC.

	SW		SW
Woodpigeon	670	Chaffinch	53
Skylark	1	Brambling	4
Meadow Pipit	53	Greenfinch	28
Pied Wagtail	4	Goldfinch	49
Fieldfare	402	Siskin	3
Redwing	56	Lesser Redpoll	6
Turdus sp.	125	Crossbill	1
Starling	790	finch sp.	72
Totals:	2317 individuals.		

Date:	Sunday 8th November 2015
Counting period:	07.30 - 11.00hrs.
Weather:	wind strong SSW.
Observers:	?

	SW		SW
Whooper Swan	3	Brambling	23
Pink-footed Goose	825	Lesser Redpoll	6
Fieldfare	546	finch sp.	88
Redwing	6		
Totals:	1497 individuals.		
Comments:	The Pink-footed Geese (825) consisted of six flocks.		

Observers mentioned in the text			
MC	Mick Cunningham	JL	Jeff Lunn
NWM	Nick W. Mallinson	MCW	Martin Wells
RJB	Russell J. Boland	JMcL	John McLoughlin
DHP	David H. Pennington		

Mick Cunningham

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

Two old newspaper cuttings were recently passed on to me, which give some interesting insights into some of the problems faced by birds in the Colne Valley in the 19th and very early 20th centuries. The first is from *The Huddersfield Chronicle and West Yorkshire Advertiser* for Saturday 15th May, 1858, and is given here in full:

MARSDEN

A PLEA FOR THE CUCKOO - *It will grieve all naturalists and lovers of wood warblers to learn that there is a systematic attempt being made in the Wessenden valley to destroy the cuckoo. The cuckoo is one of the feathered vocalists - few and far between - which visit the Marsden valleys. Its advent is always looked forward to with interest, and its wanton destruction is a source of deep regret to the inhabitants. Some gamekeepers - who shall for the present be nameless - but who must have hearts of flint, imagining that the cuckoo destroys the eggs of the grouse, have set a trap which catches the bird by the legs, and detains the unhappy captive until its human foe gets it into his clutches, when its fate is soon sealed. There is reason for believing that the idea of the cuckoo destroying the eggs is unfounded - only an old woman's tale; but even if true, a few grouse eggs had better be lost than a feathered favourite of the entire population cruelly killed. The former is far the less evil of the two. There is not a man, woman, or child who loves the sight and sound of a bird, but will cry shame upon the wanton destroyers of the cuckoo, and it is to be hoped this gentle protest will have the effect of stopping this deliberate slaughter."*

The idiocy of this sorry tale compares with the shooting of Ring Ouzels on Slaithwaite Moor, because they were accused of 'setting the Grouse up with their alarm notes' (see *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area* 2008). A charitable explanation for this sort of excess is perhaps that the gamekeepers were under heavy pressure to provide large numbers of grouse for the annual slaughter. It also illustrates the profound ignorance about the habits of birds in those days. It was not until the 1920s that the behaviour of Cuckoos was fully understood. The pressures on gamekeepers are just as great today, but the excuse of lack of available knowledge is no longer valid.

The second cutting comes from *The Leeds Mercury* for 29th June 1900, reporting on a field meeting held by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union in the Huddersfield area the previous day.

After inspecting the natural history specimens in the new Biological Laboratory at the Technical College, the party split into three, one of which proceeded to Marsden by train *under the leadership of Messrs. S. L. Mosley. F.E.S., and C. Bulmer, the way was taken to the Isle of Skye.* Butterley and Blakeley reservoirs were then under construction, and the party inspected geological specimens found during the works. *A halt was called at the shooting-box (Wessenden Lodge) of Sir James Crosland, who had thoughtfully given instructions for refreshments to be provided. His caretaker, Mr. Wales, accompanied the party for some distance, giving them valuable information. Some rare birds shot in the district were inspected in the house, including mallard, teal, coot, woodcock, purple sandpiper, and barnacle geese, shot on the nearby reservoir (Wessenden).* The party then continued up to the Isle of Skye and back down into Meltham, from where they took a train to Healey House, walking from there to Crosland Hall where the three parties were reunited for tea.

The report is interesting in many respects, but from our point of view, the mention of Mallard, Teal and Coot as rare birds is fascinating. Mosley describes all three species as rare in his book on *The Birds of the Huddersfield District* (1915). It is hard to imagine Mallard as a rare bird, but in 1900 the habit of feeding the ducks was probably unknown; for most people, there would have been no

spare food for this purpose. It is also very likely that any Mallard which strayed into human proximity would find itself being cooked and eaten. It seems possible that Teal were overlooked as a breeding species, given their preference for the more remote and secluded upland waters, but against this must be weighed the intensity of keeping on the grouse moors in 1900, Why Coot should be rare is a mystery, perhaps there was a downturn in the European population? It continues to be a rare bird in Marsden, however. Including Woodcock as a rare species is contrary to the early accounts of Eddison and Mosley, quoted in *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area* 2008. The Barnacle Geese from Wessenden Reservoir, shot in 1891, form an established record, widely published. It was an unlucky choice for the birds to settle on a stretch of water next to a shooting lodge!

The mention of Purple Sandpiper is very intriguing, in that no other published reference to it has been found. It is certainly not included in Mosley's book, and since he was co-leader of the party, he would have known about the specimen. Did he have reason to doubt its identity or authenticity, or did he just forget? There is also the ever-present possibility that the reporter got his facts wrong. The normal thing would have been for a report of the meeting to appear in the YNU's journal *The Naturalist* that year, but there is no sign in either the 1900 or 1901 volumes, so the mystery remains. There are several more recent records of Purple Sandpiper in the Huddersfield area, so there is no doubt that the species could appear in the Wessenden valley, especially as Wessenden Reservoir offers good wader habitat when water levels are low.

Mike Pinder

SOUTH-WEST AREA SURVEY 2015

It was decided to repeat the Survey of this part of our Club area first carried out in 2004 to monitor what, if any changes had occurred in the breeding bird population in the intervening years. The same method was employed i.e. the area was divided into the exact same 12 patches as before.

The survey was divided as summarised below including volunteers.

1. Redbrook Res. to Featherbed Moss.	Dave Pogson.
2. Diggle / Diggle Edge.	Chris Abell.
3. Dick Hill / Kinder Stones.	Dave Sill.
4. Binn Green / Saddleworth Moor.	Alf King.
5. Yeoman Hey / Greenfield Res.	Stephen Frost.
6. Dovestone Moss / Chew Reservoir.	David Holloway.
7. Dovestone Res. / Chew Valley.	Hugh Quarterman.
8. Alphin Pike / Hoarstone Edge.	Ken. Wright.
9. Laddow Rocks / Black Hill.	Mick Cunningham.
10. Hey Moss / Black Hill.	Nick Mallinson.
11. Withens Clough / Withens Moor.	Mike Wainman.
12. Heyden Brook / Holme Moss.	Reg Senior.

Method

Wherever possible an early morning start was recommended to coincide with peak bird activity. The patches were accessed following the same footpath routes as before and this was identical apart from the occasional detour due to streams having flooded or, as in the below mentioned case, tree planting. All species were recorded and counted and where possible birds were sexed and any breeding activity recorded (breeding pair, singing, nest or nest building, food carrying, juveniles, predation etc.). A sketch map of each patch with all observations plotted on it wherever possible was made. Care was taken to try and not double count where two patches were adjacent to one another.

A total 77 species were recorded during the survey, 29 of these were considered to be definite breeders following the criteria laid out above. When likely breeders (i.e. singing or displaying males or other courtship behaviour) were included then the total of breeding species increased to 62. The estimated total number of likely breeding pairs was 713 of which 61 were considered definite.

- Far and away the most common breeding species was, not surprisingly, Meadow Pipit. No count was carried out in 2004 so no comparison can be made. Wren was a more common breeding bird even at some of the higher sites but the number of Canada Geese seen was drastically reduced.
- Over time there has been a fall in wader numbers. This follows the national trends; Snipe and Dunlin in particular stand out. Even so, a number of displaying Golden Plover were still seen.
- Some species which were completely absent from the 2004 survey are now present. The increase in Song Thrush is particularly welcome and of course Siskin, which wasn't proven to be breeding, but is now more common, as is Chiffchaff, and more Lesser Redpoll were seen, with of course Goldfinch now much more numerous.
- The great increase in singing Blackcap also stands out.

- Buzzard too were absent last time but were seen in good numbers and though breeding was only 'possible' no attempt has been made to elaborate on this. Although 12 were seen in one area on the same visit some overlap is inevitable. Kestrel were seen in all areas, but very few Sparrowhawk and no Peregrine. A probable Merlin was briefly seen landing at a possible nest site.
- Though Skylark numbers appear to be down there still seems to be a fair number in the right places and Willow Warbler, though also down, are not disastrously so. Raven was a notable absentee, however.
- In one area 10 Wheatear seen on the first visit but not the second were considered to have been migrants.
- Jackdaws were not entered as likely breeders as they were only seen feeding in flocks.

The records of the survey do tend to show quite accurately some trends that have occurred nationally over the past few years and so could be considered a success on that fact alone. In addition it must be noted that all observers met with some very bad weather conditions, namely very heavy rainfall which made access to some areas a problem and an unusual number of early mornings which saw prolonged periods of low cloud, making visibility impossible. Other factors included areas of tree planting since the last survey, and of course an R.S.P.B. reserve in one area. On the whole though, enough work was carried out to achieve the results in the tables below and I would like to thank all volunteers for their efforts in making the survey possible.

Of course this was only made possible by the dedication of our volunteer members and I would like to thank them most sincerely for taking the time to venture out on what turned out, in many cases, to be not very hospitable mornings.

See next page for a summary of the findings.

Dave Sill

SUMMARY OF SW AREA SURVEY RESULTS 2015

Figures represent the total from all twelve survey patches and are the maximum numbers observed in either visit 1 or visit 2. Figures from the 2004 survey are shown for comparison.

** = proven breeding, * = likely breeding.

Species		No. of likely breeding pairs.(no of areas)	Breeding confirmed. pairs.(no. of areas)	Max. no of birds. 2015. (inc.juvs)	Max. 2004.
Canada Goose.	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	31 (2)	2 (2)	93	222 **
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	17	4 (4)	39	61 **
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			3	0
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	23 (2)	2 (2)	49	27 *
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	1		2	0
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	1		2	0
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	13 (1)	2 (3)	27	46 *
Little Grebe	<i>Tachibaptus ruficollis</i>		1 (1)	2	0
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			1	0
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			1	0
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			0	12
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			0	1
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2 (2)		2	2 **
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Possible		24	0
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	5 (3)		10	7 **
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1 (1)		1	2
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1	2
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		1 (1)	3	1
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostragalus</i>	1		3	4
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			1	0
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	8 (2)		17	32 *
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	11	1 (1)	21	25 *
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1		1	5 *
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1		1	8 *
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			0	1
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	15 (3)		32	48 *
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3	2 (1)	10	14 *
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			54	9
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>			1	0
Lesser Black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			1	2
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	2		5	1
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	42 (2)	1 (1)	82	32 *
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1		1	1
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2 (2)		2	2
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			0	1
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	2 (1)		2	0
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	4 (1)	1	8	2

Species		No.of likely breeding pairs.(no of areas)	Breeding confirmed. pairs.(no. of areas)	Max. no of birds. 2015. (inc.juvs)	Max. 2004.
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	4		8 +c 100 W.	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2	1	5	1
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	17 (1)	3 (2)	29	43 *
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	10	5 (2)	33	18
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				5
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	140 (3)	7 (3)	262	No count
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	4 (1)	1 (1)	9	15 *
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	9	2 (2)	17	33 *
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	3 (2)	2 (2)	11	4
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	51 (3)	3 (3)	90	55 **
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	4		8	3
Robin	<i>Erithecus rubecula</i>	12 (1)	3 (3)	20	25
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1		3	1
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1		1	14 *
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		2 (2)	7	10 *
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	8 (2)	1 (1)	24	10 **
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	1		1	1
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	27 (2)		32	16
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	9 (2)		9	0
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	6 (2)	1 (1)	11	32 **
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	9		11	1
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	1		1	0
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	4 (1)		4	0
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	20 (1)		22	32 *
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	8 (2)		10	3
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	1		1	0
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	6		9	8 *
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	5		5	10 *
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1	1 (1)	9	10
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europea</i>		1 (1)	5	0
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			0	4
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	2		4	4
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1		6	23
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			77	38
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	11	1 (1)	44	20 *
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			0	15
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		1 (1)	24	10
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		4 (1)	8	2
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	41 (2)		49	36 *
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	9		10	9
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	12		37	12
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Possible		18	0
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	10	4 (1)	20	11
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	1		12	1
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1		2	2
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	5 (2)	1 (1)	11	8 *

Species		No.of likely breeding pairs.(no of areas)	Breeding confirmed. pairs.(no. of areas)	Max. no of birds. 2015. (inc.juvs)	Max. 2004.
Total no.likely breeding pairs		652			
Total no.definite breeding prs.			61		
Total no.birds seen				1563	1115
No.species seen				77	67

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all Club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the Club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the Club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the Club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from Mike Denton. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the Club area. It is by leaving

these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

The following is a list of the 273 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 2015. Thirteen additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then the less common 'additional' race(s).

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union's The British List (eighth edition, 2013), as described in detail in Ibis 155: 635-676.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* has been added to the list, recognising its status as having an established breeding population in Britain.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBTC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 150).

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 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	YNU
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>	YNU
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	YNU
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser 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
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicula</i>	HBC
	Pale-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	HBC
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	YNU
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	HBC
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	HBC
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	YNU
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	YNU

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
26	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	
27	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	BBRC
28	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	
29	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	HBC
30	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
31	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	HBC
32	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
33	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	
34	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
35	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	
36	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
37	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
38	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	
39	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	
40	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	
41	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	
42	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	
43	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	HBC
44	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	HBC
45	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	HBC
46	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	HBC
47	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	HBC
48	Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	HBC
49	Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	HBC
50	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	HBC
51	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
52	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	HBC
53	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	HBC
54	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	YNU

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
55	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
56	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	YNU
57	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
58	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	YNU
59	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	HBC
60	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	HBC
61	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	HBC
62	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	HBC
63	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
64	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
65	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	HBC
66	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	HBC
67	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	HBC
68	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	YNU
69	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	
70	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	YNU
71	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	HBC
72	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	HBC
73	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	YNU
74	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	HBC
75	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
76	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
77	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	YNU
78	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	YNU
79	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	HBC
80	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
81	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	HBC
82	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
83	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	HBC
84	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
85	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
86	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	HBC
87	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	HBC
88	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	HBC
89	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
90	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	
91	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
92	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	HBC
96	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
97	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
98	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	HBC
99	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
100	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
101	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
102	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	
103	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	HBC
104	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	HBC
105	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
106	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
107	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	HBC
108	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	HBC
109	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	YNU
110	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	YNU
111	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	YNU
112	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	YNU
113	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	YNU

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
114	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	HBC
115	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	YNU
116	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
117	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
118	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
119	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
120	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
121	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	HBC
122	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
123	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	
124	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	
125	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
126	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
127	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	HBC
128	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	HBC
129	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	HBC
130	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	HBC
131	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	HBC
132	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	HBC
133	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	HBC
134	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	HBC
135	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	HBC
136	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	HBC
137	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	YNU
138	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	HBC
139	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
140	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	HBC
141	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	HBC
142	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
143	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
144	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	
145	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	HBC
146	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
147	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	YNU
148	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
149	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentus</i>	
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>	HBC
150	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	HBC
151	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachimans</i>	YNU
152	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>	HBC
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	YNU
153	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	HBC
154	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	
155	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
156	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)	
157	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
158	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
159	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
160	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	
161	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
162	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	HBC
163	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
164	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	
165	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	
166	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
167	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
168	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
169	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	YNU
170	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	HBC
171	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
172	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
173	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	HBC
174	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
175	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
176	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	
177	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
178	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	YNU
179	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
180	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
181	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
182	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
183	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	HBC
184	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	HBC
185	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	HBC
186	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
187	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
188	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
189	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
190	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
191	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
192	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
193	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
194	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	HBC
195	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
196	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	
197	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
198	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	
199	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	HBC
200	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	HBC
201	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
202	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	HBC
203	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
204	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
205	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
206	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	YNU
207	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
208	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	HBC
209	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	HBC
210	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	HBC
211	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>	
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	HBC
212	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
213	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
214	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
215	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
216	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
217	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
218	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
219	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
220	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
221	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
222	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
223	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	
224	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
225	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
226	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	
227	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	
228	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
229	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	
230	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
231	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
232	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
233	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
234	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
235	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	HBC
236	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	
237	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	HBC
238	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
239	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
240	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
241	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	HBC
242	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
243	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
244	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
245	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	HBC
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	HBC
246	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
247	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	HBC
248	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2015

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Description
			species
249	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	
250	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
251	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	HBC
252	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
253	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
254	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
255	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	
256	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	
257	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	
258	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	
259	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	HBC
260	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	
261	Two-barred Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
262	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
263	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	BBRC
264	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
265	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	
266	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	HBC
267	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	HBC
268	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
269	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	YNU
270	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	YNU
271	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	
272	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
273	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	

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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 Works.

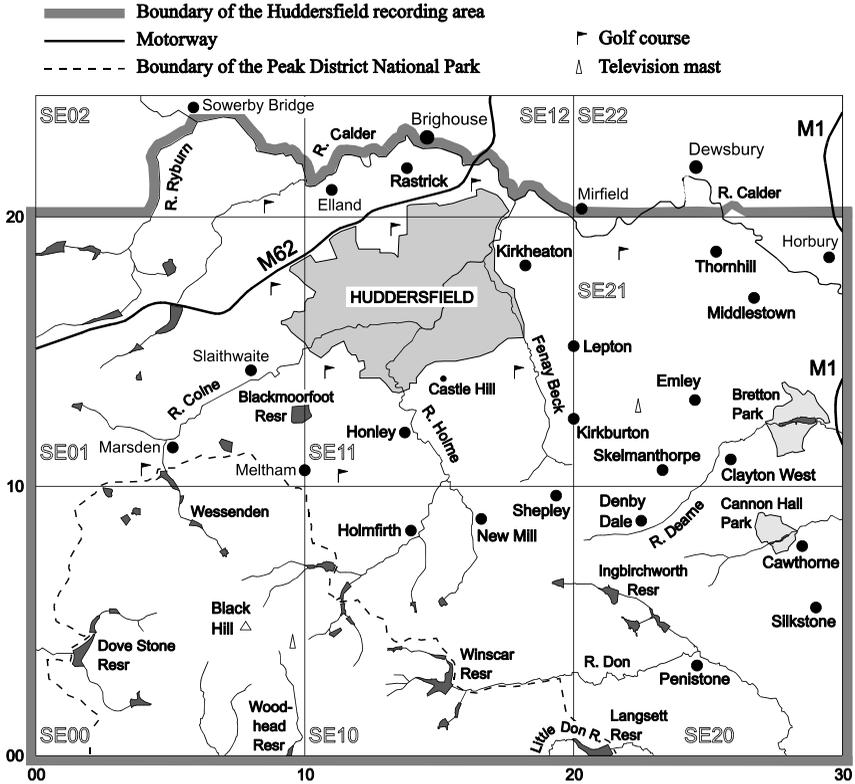


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



**This Great Grey Shrike, a rare migrant from the continent of Europe,
visited Deanhead Reservoir on 19th April 2015.**



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