

**HUDDERSFIELD  
BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB**

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**ANNUAL REPORT 1977**

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**PRICE 60p**

A D D E N D U M  
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The following records were omitted from the classified list,  
and both are new records for the area that have only been  
very recently submitted.

MARSH HARRIER, *Circus aeruginosus*

A cream-crowned bird seen over Langsett Res. on 10th May  
(R. Wells).

First record for the area.

SPOTTED CRAKE, *Porzana porzana*

One seen briefly on 14th August at Scout Dike Res. (R.J. Walker)

First record for the area.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1977

The Club has again carried out its annual programme almost without a hitch although I must apologise for misleading one of our speakers, Mr. Derrick Scott, who did an extra twenty miles on the motorway before finding our prearranged rendezvous due to an error on my part concerning motorway intersection numbers. However, the members waited patiently for our arrival, and perhaps we shall make amends by inviting him again someday. For a second year we held our joint meeting with the Wildfowl Trust in the Town Hall, and this time attracted an audience of nearly five hundred. It is most pleasing to find that such events are popular with the general public, and we plan to run our own venture on a similar basis during 1978.

The support of the Committee has been unfailing and I thank them all for their assistance in the past two years and especially Brian Woodcock who has retired after two years, each as President and Vice-President, but still continues to help the club (and the birds) with a regular supply of nuts.

Paul Bray has analysed numbers of certain species of duck at Blackmoorfoot and the results are published in a short paper following the classified list. Michael Denton has produced a detailed summary of birds ringed and recovered in the area. We must thank Willie Slater for creosoting the Blackmoorfoot hide which, in its ninth year, is still as sound as when it was built. Mr. and Mrs. Jollans will have left Lake House at Blackmoorfoot by the time this report is published and we shall be sorry to see them go, for their continuing co-operation in allowing us to use the land around the reservoir has been invaluable. We wish them the best of luck in their new home. Mr. Aubrook and his staff have continued to make us welcome at Ravensknowle, and an additional feature in the programme was an evening spent in the birdroom which proved most interesting.

New members of all ages continue to join the club and I hope that they all feel welcome and enjoy the activities, particularly the field outings which give them an opportunity to see habitats which differ from those in our own area.

JOHN E. DALE

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST FOR 1977

The area under consideration consists of Ordnance Survey ten kilometre squares SE00,01,10,11,20,21 along with parts of SE02 and 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

As in our 1975 and 1976 Reports the status of each species occurring within the club area has been indicated by one or more of the following classifications -

Resident breeder  
Migrant breeder  
Partial migrant  
Winter visitor  
Passage visitor

For the breeding species a number appears in brackets following the statement of breeding status which is an estimated level of breeding abundance based on the table below -

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

The passage and winter visitors have each been allocated a category stating their degree of frequency of occurrence. For passage visitors this indicates the number seen during the year, whereas for winter visitors an estimate has been made of the maximum number present in the area on one day during the year.

Rare	1 or less birds
Scarce	2 - 10 birds
Uncommon	11 - 100 birds
Common	101 - 1000 birds
Numerous	1001 or more birds

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

Precise localities for records of Schedule One species (Protection of Birds Acts 1954-67) have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication may lead to harmful disturbance.

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences readers should refer to the 1975 Report.

## NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

A total of 170 species were observed within the area during the year including three which were new. White Stork at Millhouses and Ruddy Duck and Pallas's Warbler at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. The latter was caught and ringed and was the first inland record for Yorkshire. Species which have occurred on no more than four occasions in the area were Black-throated Diver, Storm Petrel, Fulmar, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Mediterranean Gull, so that we had our share of local 'rarities' during 1977.

Inland passage of waders was markedly quiet and, whilst the reservoirs in the Muddersfield area maintained a high water level and therefore had little suitable feeding habitat available, the situation at other wetland sites further east with adequate feeding margins was also that of a very moderate year for migrant waders.

The Gull Roost at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir showed a reduction in numbers, particularly of the three larger species. The figures can be compared by reference to earlier reports. Whilst some of the decline in Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull may be due to the closure of local open tips, a decline in numbers of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, which normally reached its peaks during Spring and Autumn movements, was more unexpected.

Amongst breeding species welcome increases were noted for Sparrowhawk, Coot and Black-headed Gull, whilst Turtle Dove, Redstart, Garden Warbler and Whitethroat were all noted at more sites than in recent years.

Once again I must thank Paul Bray for his detailed summary of records from the Blackmoorfoot log for inclusion in this report and for being available, along with Michael Denton and Donald Sykes, to examine problematical records submitted during the year.

JOHN E. DALE  
RECORDER

CLASSIFIED LIST 1977

BLACK-THROATED DIVER, Gavia arctica

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 5th November (P.B.,M.L.D.) Fourth record for the area and first for the reservoir.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE, Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder (1) and passage visitor, uncommon

Bretton Park Present from 19th February to 31st December with a maximum of 8 in March and April, only 1 remaining in November and December. 3 pairs were sitting in April, but only 2 young were reared.

Scout Dike Present from at least 6th March (5) to 27th October (1) 2 pairs fledged 6 young of which 5 were still present in September.

Ingbirchworth Res. Present from 6th March (3) to 13th November (1). 2 pairs built nests and 1 immature seen in October.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - an increase in records with 1-3 on 27 dates between 23rd March and 24th November. Other records at Elland G.P. (20th March - 2) Home Styes (late May-early June), Royd Moor (October) and on R. Holme nr. Hagg Wood (23rd October)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE, Podiceps nigricollis

Rare passage and winter visitor.

Scammonden Dam 1 immature from 20th to 25th August (JED,SMD,SH et al)

LITTLE GREBE, Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Bretton Park Present all year, maximum 9 on 15th December.

Breeding attempted but no proof of success.

Royd Moor Present from 12th March to 5th November with a maximum of 6 in September after 2 pairs had each reared 1 young.

Scout Dike Present all year, maximum of 19 on 24th September.

5 pairs present of which 3 reared 8 young.

Ingbirchworth 1-4 present from 27th March to 13th November including an immature in early October.

Singles seen at Cannon Hall (1st January), Hall Dike (4th February), Gunthwaite (February-March, September - 2, December), Coxley (9th November) and Blackmoorfoot (6 dates 23rd August to 8th October with 3 on 3rd October)

STORM PETREL, Hydrobates pelagicus

Rare visitor.

Scammonden Dam 1 on 17th September (J.P.) Second record for the area.

FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis*

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 overhead on 3rd July (M.L.D.) Third record for the area and first for the reservoir.

CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Following the trend of 1976 there was again a record number of sightings.

Meltham Mills 1 overhead on 8th March

Blackmoorfoot 3 on 5th and 1 on 11th and 23rd April; 1 on 1st and 29th May and 1 on 4th and 24th September.

Langsett 1 flying NW on 11th April

Brownhill Res. 2 on 21st April one of which was of the Continental form (NL)

Digley Res. 1 on 11th May

Leeds Road 1 flying S on 29th May

Home Styes Res. 1 flying N on 8th June

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 24th September

Bretton Park 2 on 1st and 2nd October and 1 seen on 5 dates from 14th to 26th October, with 2 on 22nd.

GREY HERON, *Ardea cinerea*

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Sightings at Blackmoorfoot Res. reduced to 20 bird days and this reflected the position generally throughout the area which showed a reduction on 1975-76 records. Reported from 18 localities, the most regular being Bretton Park (7 dates), Ingbirchworth (1-3 on 17 dates) and Elland G.P. (maxima 12 on 1st February and 5 on 2nd September)

WHITE STORK, *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare Visitor.

One near Millhouses on 27th and 28th March (C. Bower et al). First record for the area.

MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (2-3) and winter visitor, common

Maximum counts - Blackmoorfoot Res. 94 on 9th January and 57 on 30th December;

Bretton Park 270 on 15th January and 145 on 3rd December;

Scammonden Dam 107 on 15th January and Ringstone Edge 113 on 7th September.

TEAL, Anas crecca

Resident breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, common.  
Breeding evidence from 1 moorland locality, others not examined.  
Recorded at 14 waters but numbers usually less than 10 and those of over 20 are as follows - Royd Moor 20 on 17th August; Ringstone Edge 20 on 5th and 23 on 14th September and at Dewsbury Sewage Farm 52 on 10th December.

GARGANEY, Anas querquedula

Rare summer visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 male and 1 female on 15th May (G.M.Y. et al)  
Scout Dika and Royd Moor Res. had 3 (2 males, 1 female) at the former water on 6th and 10th August (D.By, B.A.) at least 2 of which were seen regularly from 14th to 29th August, the last being 1 at Scout Dike on 11th September (P.B. et al). Presumably the same birds moving between reservoirs. At least five records now for the area.

GADWALL, Anas strepera

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Bretton Park 1 male and 1 female seen on 4th, 15th and 20th May. On 1st October 1 female, and from 9th to 29th October 1 male and 1 female after which 1 male from 5th to 20th November.

WIGEON, Anas penelope

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon-common

Blackmoorfoot Res. Only 6 dates 1st January - 20th April (1-4), with double figures only in September (14-13th, 18-24th, 20-28th) and October (18-1st, 2nd, 19-9th) with small numbers November and December.

Bretton Park 1-4 on 4 dates in January; 2 on 15th and 26 on 26th October.

Scout Dike 8 on 1st January

Royd Moor 8 on 2nd January; 4 on 2nd and 1 on 9th October

Ingbirchworth 7 on 17th and 2 on 18th September and 6 on 27th November

Broadstones Res. 7 on 27th November and 5 on 18th December

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 25th September

PINTAIL, Anas acuta

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 13th February; 2 on 12th March; 1 on 5th, 4 on 17th and 1 on 18th September; 3 on 4th, 2 on 7th, 1 on 9th and 26th, and 7 on 31st October and 1 on 27th December.

Ringstone Edge Res. 3 on 5th and 1 on 13th September.

Royd Moor Res. 1 on 24th September and 3 on 23rd and 29th October

Elland G.P. 1 from 10th to 31st December



SHOVELER, Anas clypeata

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Blackmoorfoot Res. Recent increase in records halted. 2 on 22nd April; 4 on 29th July; 4 on 8th, 9 on 14th and 2 on 24th August.

Bretton Park 11 flying W on 23rd January; 2 on 3rd April; 2 on 12th June; 1 on 4th and 2 on 17th August; 1 on 2nd and 2 on 15th October, and 2 on 22nd and 3 on 25th and 26th December.

Horbury (Wyke) 5 on 28th, 1 on 29th and 2 on 30th July

Dewsbury S.P. 1 on 27th July

Royd Moor Res. 1 on 27th August; 4 on 18th September and 2 on 9th October

SCAUP, Aythya marila

Passage and winter visitor, scarce

All records were of singles as follows -

Black Moss 24th June; Blackmoorfoot Res. 26th June;

Deer Hill 2nd July; Royd Moor Res. 17th September and

Scammonden Dam from 12th to 26th November

TUFTED DUCK, Aythya Fuligula

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

No conclusive evidence of breeding, but was present throughout the year at Bretton Park.

Maximum numbers at waters which held more than 20 on various dates were -

Blackmoorfoot Res. 51 on 3rd August and 38 on 29th October

Deer Hill Res. 25 on 9th and 23 on 23rd September

Royd Moor Res. 20 on 29th August and 25 on 11th and 32 on 17th September

Bretton Park 41 on 16th January, 36 on 12th February, 33 on 28th April, 29 on 20th November and 49 on 26th December.

Smaller numbers on many dates (except May and June) at Boshaw Whams, Digley Res. (5 on 4th June), Elland G.P., Gunthwaite, Horbury Wyke (4 on 10th May), Ingbirchworth Res., Langsett Res., Scammonden, Scout Dike Res., Ringstone Edge Res. and Windy Bank Wood Res.

POCHARD, Aythya ferina

Passage and winter visitor, common

Blackmoorfoot Res. Scattered records up to 2nd April and from 4th July (11) with a higher peak than usual of 43 on 9th October.

Bretton Park Regular (1-14) up to 4th April and from 4th August with a low peak of 23 on 30th October.

Elland G.P. Regular January-March and mid October-year end with peaks of 41 in March and 42 on 28th December.

Small numbers at Ingbirchworth Res. (January, August-November), Royd Moor Res. (August-September) and Scammonden (January)

GOLDENEYE, Bucephala clangula

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Blackmoorfoot Res. Present up to 3rd May (1) with maximum of 9 on 11th February and from 8th October (2) to the year end with maximum of 18 on 16th November.

An immature male summered June-August and seen intermittently to early October.

Recorded at 7 other waters early in the year with a late male at Ingbirchworth Res. on 28th May and recorded at 9 waters late in the year with 5 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 6th and 13th November and 26th December - 27th.

COMMON SCOTER, Melanitta nigra

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon

Hill Top Res. 1 on 12th January

Bilberry Res. 1 female on 2nd May

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 male from 11th to 20th July

Blackmoorfoot Res. 75 males on 30th July; 1 male on 7th and 6 on 15th August and 2 females on 23rd September.

RUDDY DUCK, Oxyura jamaicensis

Rare visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 male on 15th May (G.M.Y., J.E.D. et al). First record for the area.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER, Mergus serrator

Scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 male on 23rd April and 1 'redhead' on 28th June (MLD)

GOOSANDER, Mergus merganser

Passage and winter visitor, scarce - uncommon

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 male on 26th November

Bretton Park 1 'redhead' from 9th to 11th December and 2 on 27th December.

Elland G.P. 1 'redhead' on 22nd January and 2 on 7th February

SHELDUCK, Tadorna tadorna

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 5th and 3 on 13th February; 3 on 19th and 20th March;

11 on 8th and 1 on 26th June; 1 on 20th August; 5 on 8th and 25th and 1 on 29th September; 1 on 2nd October; 3 on 5th, 1 on 13th, 4 on 15th and 7 on 19th November and 1 on 9th December.

Elland G.P. 1 on 13th February; 2 on 23rd April and 1 on 8th December

Ossett 18 flew N.W. on 9th August

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 13th February; 1 on 26th March; 1 on 20th August and 7 on 14th September.

Hall Dike 4 flew W on 15th November (see Blackmoorfoot)

GREY LAG GOOSE, *Anser anser*

Passage visitor, uncommon

Bretton Park, 1 was present with the Canada Geese from 12th June to 31st December.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE, *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Passage visitor, uncommon - common

Redbrook Res. 2 on 24th September

Skins of this species and 'grey' geese not identified as follows -

January: Hall Dike 4 S. 2nd; Longwood 18 S 22nd; Edgerton 4 W 30th

February: Hall Dike 4 W 7th; and 108 NW 27th

October: Cartworth Moor 1 N 2nd

November: Blackmoorfoot 5 W 13th; Hall Dike 92 W 13th and 8 W 14th

December: Hall Dike 138 SSE 12th; Woodsome 61 NW 14th

Taylor Hill 50 W 13th; 100 W 14th; 200 W 15th

Withens Edge c 160 SE 27th

BARNACLE GOOSE, *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 W on 13th November

CANADA GOOSE, *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (1) and partial migrant

Bretton Park Flock numbers remained fairly steady with 122 on 23rd January and 126 on 20th November, but when 24 goslings from 5 broods were noted on 27th June 134 adults were present.

4 were at Scammonden on 25th April and 2 at Kirkheaton on 4th December.

MUTE SWAN, *Cygnus alor*

Resident breeder (1)

Bretton Park 1 pair reared 3 young only one of which was seen after June

Also seen regularly at Birds Edge, Cannon Hall, Denby Dale and Gunthwaite and at Elland G.P. (1 in May) and Scout Dike (1 in September)

WHOOPEE SWAN, *Cygnus cygnus*

Winter visitor, scarce - uncommon

Elland G.P. 1 found dead on 8th January

BEWICK'S SWAN, *Cygnus bewickii*

Winter visitor, uncommon

Scout Dike Res. 7 on 1st and 1 on 2nd January

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 2nd and 3rd January

Royd Moor Res. 2 on 2nd January

Langsett Res. 2 on 2nd January

Digley Res. 1 on 21st October

BEWICK'S SWAN (Cont.)

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 30th October

Broadstones Res. 5 on 27th November

Baitings Res. 1 from 22nd October to 2nd November

BUZZARD, *Buteo buteo*

Passage and winter visitor, rare

Langsett 1 W of the reservoir on 2nd January was probably this species (JED)

Bilberry Res. 1 over moors to west drifting SE on 21st June (D. Beevers)

Winscar Res. 1 over moors to west on 28th December (PB)

SPARROWHAWK, *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (1)

Again a considerable increase in the number of sightings with at least 5 pairs breeding, 2 of which reared 2 and 4 young respectively. Regular reports from 2 other areas where breeding is possible.

GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare visitor.

Six sightings in the area between January and May.

HEN HARRIER, *Circus cyaneus*

Passage and winter visitor, rare

One over Dead Edge Flat on 28th December (J.E. & S.M.D.)

PEREGRINE, *Falco peregrinus*

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult male flying East on 3rd December (M.L.D.)

MERLIN, *Falco columbarius*

Resident breeder (1)

At known nesting sites one pair reared 3 young, but at a second site the birds disappeared during the breeding season. Singles seen at 6 other localities mainly Autumn/Winter with 2 together near Blackmoorfoot on 17th September.

KESTREL, *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

Although seen at many localities breeding was only proved at 6 of these, and probably occurred at 9 other localities.

RED GROUSE, *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE, *Alectoris rufa*

Status uncertain but records increasing.

Ingbirchworth area 4 on 1st May and 1 on 9th July; Clayton West 2 on 7th May;  
Deffer Wood 1 on 28th May; Skelmanthorpe 3 on 31st August; Netherton Nr. Horbury  
3 on 9th and 2 on 16th November and at New Hall Nr. Midgley 8 on 31st December.

PARTRIDGE, *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

Reports of 1-6 from 12 localities and adults seen with 6 young near Scout Dike  
in August.

QUAIL, *Coturnix coturnix*

Summer visitor, rare

Ingbirchworth 1 in flight West of reservoir on 28th May (JMD)

Blackmoorfoot Village 2 flew East at dusk on 8th August (JED)

PHEASANT, *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (2)

WATER RAIL, *Rallus aquaticus*

Winter visitor, scarce-uncommon

Singles (except where stated) recorded as follows -

Bretton Park 16th and 30th (2) January; 19th February; 5th May; 20th (2) and  
27th November; 4th, 11th and 16th December

Elland G.P. 5th February (1+); 15th, 19th and 26th March; 27th May; 29th October;  
3rd and 15th December.

Canal Nr. Slaithwaite and Less Mill on 27th February and 6th March and  
Crookland Wood (Langsett) in stream on 16th January.

MOORHEN, *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (3)

COOT, *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2) and Winter visitor, common

Bretton Park Maxima. 241 on 2nd February and 147 on 3rd December

Bred successfully but no details recorded.

Ingbirchworth Res. had a maximum of 25 on 6th August including 8 young from  
3 broods.

Scout Dike Res. had over 40 during August including 22 young from 8 broods.

Also bred at Royd Moor (1 pair, 2 young) and a pair was present at Meltham Mills.

Records from more waters than usual including Elland G.P., Gunthwaite and  
Blackmoorfoot Res. where they were regular for the last 3 months with 20 on  
11th October.

OYSTERCATCHER, Haematopus ostralegus

Passage visitor, uncommon

Elland G.P. 3 on 10th July and 1 flying W on 9th August

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 19th July and 1 on 4th August

Bretton Park 1 on 18th September

LAPWING, Vanellus vanellus

Resident/migrant breeder (3) and numerous winter and passage visitor.

Some westerly movement during the early cold spell including 200 over Langsett on 2nd January. Autumn flocks were much larger than for several years particularly in the upland area of Ingbirchworth and the nearby group of reservoirs which had up to 3,000 from 31st July to 10th August. The largest flocks elsewhere were both of about 1,000 at Shepley on 8th and Blackmoorfoot on 9th September. Nine flocks in the area on the weekend 26th-27th November totalled over 2,000 and there were over 1,000 at New Hall on 15th December. These numbers contrasted markedly with the early months when no flocks of over 100 were reported after the cold spell.

RINGED PLOVER, Charadrius hiaticula

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 10th July; 3 on 17th and 2 with 1 flying overhead on 20th August; 1 on 30th September and 3 on 1st and 2 on 2nd October.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 4th and 27th August and 1 on 5th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 flying W on 3rd and 4 flying S on 6th September

Ossett 1 overhead on 15th October

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER, Charadrius dubius

Summer visitor, sporadic breeder; scarce passage visitor

First one at Elland on 15th April and last one at Deer Hill Res. on 26th-27th August. Regular sightings at three localities. One of these was a newly discovered breeding site where 3 eggs were laid but deserted in late May. At a traditional breeding site a pair were present for over 6 weeks but breeding not proved. At the third locality 1-3 were seen on 14 dates in July and August suggestive of breeding nearby.

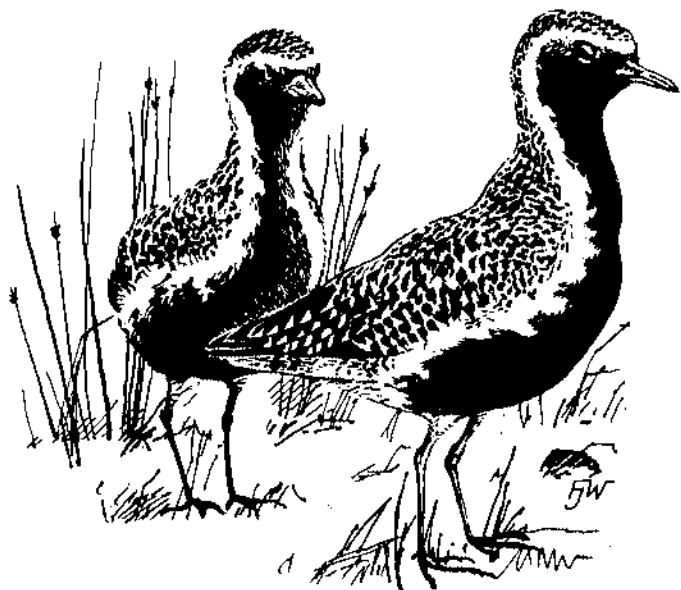
GOLDEN PLOVER, Pluvialis apricaria

Migrant breeder (2-3), passage and winter visitor, common

Early in the year flocks of 107 at New Hall on 8th and 86 at South Crosland on 9th January and 180 at Hall Dike on 21st February. The spring build up of flocks which has usual consisted mainly of 'Northern' birds was quite modest this year with 160 near Blackmoorfoot on 17th, 194 at Whitley Common on 23rd and 110 at Ringstone Edge on 24th April.

The early Autumn build up was quite considerable, possibly 1,000 near Broadstones on 31st July; over 500 at High Flatts on 16th August; 340 at Blackmoorfoot on 28th August and 400 at Ringstone Edge on 27th September. During the Winter the New Hall area usually had a large flock with a peak of 600 on 27th November, on which date

90 were at South Crosland, 248 in the Ingbirchworth area and 91 were at Ringstone Edge on 4th December.



SNIPE, *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident breeder (3) and passage and winter visitor, common.

Horbury 51 on 22nd March

Hall Dike 43 on 13th February

Elland G.P. 62 on 6th November

Blackmoorfoot Res. 78 on 21st October

Ingbirchworth Res. 80 on 23rd October

JACK SNIPE, *Limnocryptes minimus*

Passage and winter visitor, scarce

Elland G.P. 1-2 from 16th January to 26th March and 2nd October to 31st December

Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 4th and 2 on 10th December

WOODCOCK, *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor, common

Roding observed in May and June around woods at Bullcliffe, Deffer, Midgley, Yateholme and Bretton.

1-2 at 9 localities between 18th and 22nd November probably indicated a small influx of migrants.

CURLEW, *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor, common.

The return to the breeding areas commenced on 6th March and by the month end they were generally distributed. The only 'late' records were 2 at Blackmoorfoot on 31st October and 1 at Royd Moor on 20th November. 28 were at Thick Hollins on 27th March.

WHIMBREL, Numenius phaeopus

Passage visitor, scarce

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 flying N and 1 W on 16th April and 1 flying W on 24th July

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 24th August

Elland G.P. 1 on 12th May

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, Limosa lapponica

Passage visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 flying W on 14th August

GREEN SANDPIPER, Tringa ochropus

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

An exceptional number of records for this species.

Ryburn Res. 1 on 29th May

Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 25th July; 1 on 4th and 6th; 3 on 23rd and 1 on 27th August and 1 on 2nd and 3rd September.

Bretton Park 1 on 4th August

Horbury Wyke 1 on 9th and 10th, 2 on 17th, 1 on 23rd and 26th to 28th August, and 1 on 2nd September.

Blackmoorfoot 1 on 8th August and on 17th September, both flying West

Royd Moor Res. 4 on 7th, 2 on 10th and 1 on 13th, 17th, 20th and 27th August

Scout Dike Res. 2 on 10th August

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 14 dates from 9th to 30th August with 2 on 3 dates including 31st August and 1 on 3rd September.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 13th August Horbury S.F. 1 on 31st August and 3rd September

Elland G.P. 1 on 29th August and 3rd September Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 5th September

WOOD SANDPIPER, Tringa glareola

Rare passage visitor.

Horbury 1 flying E was found 5 minutes later at The Wyke on 10th August (D.P.)

Royd Moor Res. 1 on 13th August (S.H.)

COMMON SANDPIPER, Tringa hypoleucos

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor, uncommon.

First at Elland G.P. on 17th April but apart from 1 at Digley a week later none were reported until May. Breeding in the usual moorland localities by streams and reservoirs with from 4-6 seen by several of these during July. Regular at The Wyke and Dewsbury S.F. in late July and August with 6 at the S.F. on 20th August. Last 1 at Scout Dike on 16th September.

REDSHANK, Tringa totanus

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor, uncommon.

General return to the area from 19th March although 1 was at Hepshaw on 6th March. Present in the usual moorland breeding areas with a few records as late as October. During December 1-2 were found at 2 localities in the Calder Valley.

SPOTTED REDSHANK, Tringa erythropus

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 flying West on 4th September (MLD,GEW)



GREENSHANK, Tringa nebularia

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Horbury Wyke 1 on 27th July and 1 on 5 dates from 9th to 17th August.

Bretton Park 1 on 27th July

Dewsbury S.F. 1 from 7th to 10th, 2 on 14th and 16th, 1 on 20th, 3 on 27th and 28th and 2 on 31st August; 2 on 2nd and 3rd and 1 on 5th September

Elland G.P. 1 on 5th August and 1 on 31st August

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 7th, 10th and 20th August

Royd Moor Res. 3 on 13th and 1 on 14th, 20th and 21st August

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 8th to 10th, 14th, 16th and 17th and 2 on 21st August

Scout Dike Res. 1 on 20th, 28th and 29th August; 1 on 7th, 3 on 11th and 12th, 2 on 16th, 3 on 17th, 2 on 18th and 26th September

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 24th and 31st August

LITTLE STINT, Calidris minuta

Passage visitor, scarce-uncommon

Horbury Wyke 1 on 28th July

DUNLIN, Calidris alpina

Migrant breeder (2), passage and winter visitor uncommon

There were 2 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd January and 1 at Hall Dike on

6th February before the first spring arrival at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd April.

There were a few October records including 17 at Deer Hill Res. on 1st and the last were 2 flying West over Blackmoorfoot on 18th November.

SANDERLING, Tringa alba

Passage visitor, rare-scarce

Digley Res. 1 on 5th May

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 19th August

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, Tryngites subruficollis

Rare visitor.

Ringstone Edge Res. One first seen at 15.00 hours on 13th September (J.B.) remained until 19.00 hours on 16th when it was seen to depart to South East (JED,SH) Third record for the area.

RUFF, Philomachus pugnax

Passage visitor, scarce

Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 4th, 14th and 16th and 2 on 20th, 23rd and 27th August

Horbury Wyke 1 on 16th and 17th August

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 flying West on 13th November was 6 weeks later than any recorded previously.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, Larus marinus

Winter visitor, common

Blackmoorfoot Res. roost held much lower numbers than usual with maxima of 60 on 3rd February and 110 on 31st December.

Ringstone Edge Res. Maximum of 107 on 27th December

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, Larus fuscus

Passage and winter visitor, numerous

Blackmoorfoot Res. roost numbers were again low in the spring with a maximum of 200 on 8th April, but Autumn numbers were nearer recent years figures with 550 on 25th October.

HERRING GULL, Larus argentatus

Winter and passage visitor, numerous

Blackmoorfoot Res. Roost maxima were 350 on 8th January and 220 on 31st December.

COMMON GULL, Larus covnus

Winter and passage visitor, numerous

Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maxima were 700 on 28th March and 750 on 19th November

GLAUCOUS GULL, Larus hyperboreus

Winter visitor, scarce

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 1st winter on 9th January (MLD,PB,GEW) and 1 2nd winter on 9th April (MLD,SH,PB)

ICELAND GULL, Larus glaucooides

Winter visitor, scarce

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 16th February and 28th and 29th March (PB,MLD) and 1 on 10th December (PB). All 3 were adults.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 27th November (DIC,DJS)

MEDITERRANEAN GULL, Larus melanocephalus

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 sub-adult on 28th February (PB,MLD). Fourth record for the area.

LITTLE GULL, Larus minutus

Passage visitor, scarce-uncommon

Horbury Wyke 1 adult on 30th July

BLACK-HEADED GULL, Larus ridibundus

Resident breeder (3), passage and winter visitor, numerous  
Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maxima of over 4,000 on 1st January and about 4,500 on 23rd November.

Ringstone Edge Res. had about 600 roosting on 13th September and 1,500 on 3rd December.

At Black Moss at least 212 were sitting in late May, and at the new colony at Cupwith 3 were again sitting in late May.

KITTIWAKE, Rissa tridactyla

Passage visitor, scarce

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 19th February, 2nd and 5th March

Scamonden Dam 1 on 12th November

BLACK TERN, Chidonias niger

Passage visitor, scarce

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 26th May

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 18th August

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 25th September

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN, Sterna hirundo/paradisaea

Passage visitors, uncommon

A rather poor year for these species which, unlike the waders, would not have been affected by the high water levels at the reservoirs.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 15th, 8 on 27th and 2 on 29th May; 1 on 24th and 2 on 31st July; 1 on 7th August; 4 on 2nd and 1 on 17th September and 1 on 1st October.

Black Moss 9 on 26th May

Hall Dike 2 on 12th and 1 on 23rd August

Elland G.P. 1 on 22nd September

LITTLE TERN, Sterna albifrons

Passage visitor, rare-scarce

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult on 16th July (MLD) Fifth record for the area

SANDWICH TERN, Sterna sandvicensis

Passage visitor, rare

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 flying West on 24th April (MLD) Fourth record for the area and first for the reservoir

STOCK DOVE, *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), winter visitor.

Exceptionally large flocks were noted during the cold spell at the beginning of January, with over 200 at Wooldale on 2nd and 3 flocks totalling about 400 at Denby Dale on 3rd. 30 were roosting on rocks at Winscar Res. on 29th December.

WOOD PIGEON, *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4), winter visitor, numerous

Flocks of from 300 to over 1,200 were noted at 6 localities in the area during January, and throughout the month general westerly movement of very large numbers were recorded from several observation points as follows -

Blackmoorfoot 2,030 on 1st; 4640 on 3rd and 2860 on 16th

Hall Dike 1,275 on 1st; 1,075 on 15th; 4,950 on 30th and 2,100 on 31st and 4,040 on 1st February.

Netherton (Nr. Middlestown) over 1,000 on 5th.

Elland G.P. 2,900 on 22nd.

TURTLE DOVE, *Streptopelia turtur*

Migrant breeder (1-2)

As in 1976 more singing males were noted than in earlier years mainly during late May and June at Bretton Park (2), Cawthorne Park (2), Coxley Valley (1), Deffer Wood (2) and Bank Wood (1) with other singles seen elsewhere. First 2 were at Bretton on 30th April and last 1 at Horbury on 31st August.

COLLARED DOVE, *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

Although still seen regularly in many localities throughout the year, with the slight increase in upland areas such as Langsett continuing, a reduction at Stoneleigh, Edgerton where a winter flock of over 20 was regular to only 2 in December.

CUCKOO, *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2)

First at Digley on 24th April and last at Ingbirchworth on 29th August apart from a very late adult at Royd Moor on 27th October (R.J.W.)

BARN OWL, *Tyto alba*

Resident breeder (1)

No proof of breeding obtained and records of singles from only 4 localities.

LITTLE OWL, *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

Records from 24 localities with definite breeding proof at 7 of these represents a slight increase on 1976, but there is a suggestion from records received of a slight decline particularly in the Ingbirchworth area.

TAWNY OWL, Strix aluco

Resident breeder (2)

Reported in 22 localities with definite breeding proof for 6 pairs, but is undoubtedly much more common than these records indicate.

LONG-EARED OWL, Asio otus

Resident breeder (1)

Records from 2 breeding sites each of one pair both of which reared at least 2 young. 1 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 28th July.

SHORT-EARED OWL, Asio flammeus

Resident and migrant breeder (1)

One pair reared young in the south of the area, and at another moorland site at least one bird was present during the breeding season. Autumn records were of singles at Scammonden and Deer Hill.

SWIFT, Apus apus

Migrant breeder (3)

First 1 at Bretton Park on 1st May and the last 1 over Springwood Street on 14th September. Large numbers fed over Deer Hill Reservoir in July with 500 on 10th and over 400 were at Coxley on 27th.

KINGFISHER, Alcedo atthis

Resident breeder (1)

Although no proof of breeding was recorded pairs were present at Bretton, Near Scout Dike and Elland as well as winter and autumn records of 1-2 at localities along the Rivers Calder, Colne, Holme and Dearne. 1 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 5th September.

GREEN WOODPECKER, Picus viridis

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding proof from Hall Dike only but the regular presence of birds at Bretton Park, Digley, Near Blackmoorfoot and Elland doubtless indicated breeding pairs. Records at various times during the year from 6 other localities.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER, Dendrocopos major

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding evidence from the Hall Dike area (3 pairs) and also probable near Bretton, at Beaumont Park and Hagg Wood. Singles seen at 14 other localities with 3 in Deffer Wood during April.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1)

Seen most regularly at Bretton Park where breeding was attempted and near Elland where a pair were successful. 1 male in Grimscar Wood on 27th October.

SKYLARK, *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder (4), partial migrant

Flocks of 89 at Kirkheaton and 83 at Gawthorpe were seen on 2nd January during a cold spell. At least 70 were at Digley on 27th March, and 50 near Ingbirchworth on 23rd October was the only autumn flock.

SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4), passage visitor, numerous.

First 2 at Blackmoorfoot on 15th, with over 15 at Elland G.P. and at least 150 at Bretton Park on 17th April. Late singles were at Bretton on 29th October and Hall Dike on 13th November. The Lees Mill roost had about 1,100 on 31st August.

HOUSE MARTIN, *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3), passage visitor, common.

First 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 16th, with 4 at Bretton and 1 at Elland G.P. on 17th April. 2 were at Blackmoorfoot on 22nd October and 1 at Hall Dike on 5th November. Over 100 were at Bretton on 15th June.

SAND MARTIN, *Riparia riparia*

Migrant breeder (2), passage visitor, uncommon.

First 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 11th April followed by 2 at Bretton on 16th. 11 pairs bred near Elland G.P. but there was no evidence of breeding at the main Bretton colony during June. Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 24th September.

CARRION CROW, *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (2)

HOODED CROW, *Corvus cornone cornix*

1 near New Hall, Flockton on 14th December (S.M., J.Bb.)

ROOK, *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5)

JACKDAW, *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

MAGPIE, *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4)

Roost maxima of 110 at Hall Dike on 23rd January and 120 at Blackmoorfoot on 30th December.

JAY, *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Notable increase during October and November reported from many localities with at least 31 seen round the lakes at Bretton Park on 6th November being quite exceptional.

GREAT TIT, *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5)

BLUE TIT, *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

COAL TIT, *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

MARSH TIT, *Parus palustris*

Visitor, rare-scarce

Singles at Bretton Park on 16th January (D.But.); Old Spring Wood on 23rd January (R.B.); at Cowcliffe from 19th February to 1st March (G.B.S.) and at Elland G.P. on 24th March (DJS, DIC)

WILLOW TIT, *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

LONG-TAILED TIT, *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2)

Evidence of breeding or family/winter parties at 18 localities, with over 30 in Bretton Park on 20th July being the largest number reported.

NUTHATCH, *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (1)

Bretton Park 1-3 seen regularly but were apparently absent from June to September. 1 in Meltham Mills woods during July.

TREECREEPER, *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3)

WREN, Troglodytes troglodytes

Resident breeder (5)

DIPPER, Cinclus cinclus

Resident breeder (2)

Records from Upper Little Don, Chew Valley, Digley, Hall Dike (breeding) and Fenay Beck, with a notable absence of birds in Dean Wood during November-December.

MISTLE THRUSH, Turdus viscivorus

Resident breeder (3)

24 at Ingbirchworth on 29th August

FIELDFARE, Turdus pilaris

Passage and winter visitor, numerous

A fairly substantial westerly movement was noted during the cold spell in early January. Flocks of 100-400 were at 6 localities in March and early April with 1,100 near Lene Head on 17th April and the last record at Hall Dike on 22nd April where 470 was the maximum roost count on 6th March.

First 1 at Digley and 6 at Blackmoorfoot on 7th October with small numbers during the next week. The major influx occurred during early November and flocks of from 150 to over 500 were noted at 12 localities later in the month and similar numbers remained during December.

SONG THRUSH, Turdus philomelos

Resident breeder (4)

REDWING, Turdus iliacus

Passage and winter visitor, numerous

Early in the year flocks of just under 200 were at 3 localities and roost maxima were 200 at Edgerton on 30th January and 380 at Hall Dike on 6th March where the last was seen on 20th April.

First 5 at Bretton Park on 2nd, 2 at Digley on 3rd October followed by a steady influx during that month with flocks of over 200 at Coxley and Horbury on 12th. Generally less numerous during November and December than Fieldfare, there were however flocks of 100-350 at 7 localities and roosts of 250 at Edgerton and 150 at Bretton.

RING OUZEL, Turdus torquatus

Migrant breeder (2)

Digley, which is noted for its pre-breeding season gatherings, had 3 males on 16th March and up to 20 were noted on a few dates to the month end, and 25 were still present on 18th and 19th April. Pairs were present at Digley, Wessenden, Chew Valley and Rishworth Moor during the breeding season and the last was 1 male at Scammonden on 17th September.



BLACKBIRD, *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor, numerous  
Edgerton roost numbers were very low early in the year with 200 on 30th January  
being an exception, and during December up to 250 roosted.

WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (2-3)

A male on 15th March at Digley was the earliest record ever for the area and  
at least 12 were there at the month end. 6 were at Ringstone Edge and 1 at  
Blackmoorfoot on 19th March and singles at Scammonden and Langsett on 20th.  
12-20 were at Deer Hill during August and 20 on Whitley Common. The last was  
1 near Bilberry Reservoir on 9th October.

STONECHAT, *Saxicola torquata*

Resident breeder (1), passage and winter visitor, uncommon.  
Sightings of 1-3 at 4 localities January-early April, and 1-4 at 6 localities  
October-December. Pairs bred at Scammonden (4 young), Rishworth Moor (3 young  
and a 2nd brood) and near Dewsbury S.F. (3 young).  
A male at Elland G.P. on 30th January was considered to be of one of the  
Eastern races. It had probably been in the area for a few weeks (SH,NC,MB)

WHINCHAT, *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first was at Elland G.P. on 29th April and the last at Grange Moor on 17th  
September. There was evidence of breeding at Booth Dean (1 pair), Scammonden  
(2), Deer Hill (1), Wessenden (2), Chew Valley (3), Ingbirchworth area (6),  
Winscar (2), Langsett (2-3) and Dewsbury S.F. (1).

REDSTART, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (2)

First 1 at Hall Dike on 19th April, at Digley on 29th and next 2-3 at Bretton  
Park on 30th. Singles at Hall Dike and Lindley Moor on 7th September were the  
last recorded. Evidence of breeding from 9 localities.

BLACK REDSTART, *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Passage visitor, scarce.

Dalton 1 female/immature on 5th November (B.A.)

ROBIN, *Erithacus rebecula*

Resident breeder (5)

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER, *Locustella naevia*

Migrant breeder (1)

With only one record, that of a bird singing at Stoneleigh, Edgerton during  
June, the above status may not be accurate.

REED WARBLER, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Passage visitor, rare.

Two at Elland G.P. on 24th May. Singles at Cooper Bridge S.F. on 17th July and Dewsbury S.F. on 5th September (P.B.). A first year bird caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st August and retrapped on 2nd and 3rd September (M.L.D.) was either of this species or Marsh Warbler. *A. palustris*.

SEDGE WARBLER, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1)

First 1 at Elland G.P. on 23rd April and last at Dewsbury S.F. on 9th September. A considerable increase in the number of breeding records with proof from Elland G.P. (at least 4 pairs), Dewsbury S.F. (1), Horbury S.F. (1+) and Horbury Wyke (1) was an outcome of the Calder Valley being visited more frequently than usual. Singles were noted at Bretton, Royd Moor, Scout Dike, Horbury Bridge, Cooper Bridge S.F. (7 dates), Colnebridge, Blackmoorfoot (3 ringed) and Lees Mill.

BLACKCAP, *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3)

1 at Denby Dale on 16th March may have overwintered, and the first arrivals were 3 at Bretton on 23rd April and at Coxley, Brockholes and Hall Dike on the 24th-25th April. The last was 1 at Bretton on 15th October, apart from 1 probably wintering near Elland on 5th November.

GARDEN WARBLER, *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2)

First at Deffer Wood on 1st May and last at Hall Dike on 6th August. Singing males were present in at least 11 localities mainly in the central and eastern parts of the area.

WHITETHROAT, *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

Although the species is becoming more widespread in the area with a further increase of records from 15 localities and a possible total of 36 singing males at these during late May, it is still much less common than 10 years ago. Singles were at Bretton, Elland and Scout Dike on 1st May and the last was at Hall Dike on 12th September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT, *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

The first was a male at Bretton Park on 4th May and the last 1 at Horbury Wyke on 27th August. A pair reared at least 1 young at Bretton. Singles were at Deighton on 13th May; Kirkburton and Woodsome Lees on 18th June; Blackmoorfoot on 29th July; at Horbury Wyke from 14th August, and at Elland G.P. on 20th May.

WILLOW WARBLER, *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4)

First at Bretton Park and Elland G.P. on 4th April with a general influx from 17th-25th. 59 males counted in the Coxley Valley on 25th April. The last was at Hall Dike on 18th September.

CHIFFCHAFF, *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first 1 at Bretton Park on 12th March was exceptionally early and the next was at Elland G.P. on 20th. Bred at several localities and singing males were present during May and June at Bretton (4), Deffer Wood (2), Hope Bank (1), Coxley (2), Stocks' Moor (1), Bank Wood (2) and Bower Hill (1). 1 was near Brookfoot, Brighouse on 10th December.

WOOD WARBLER, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

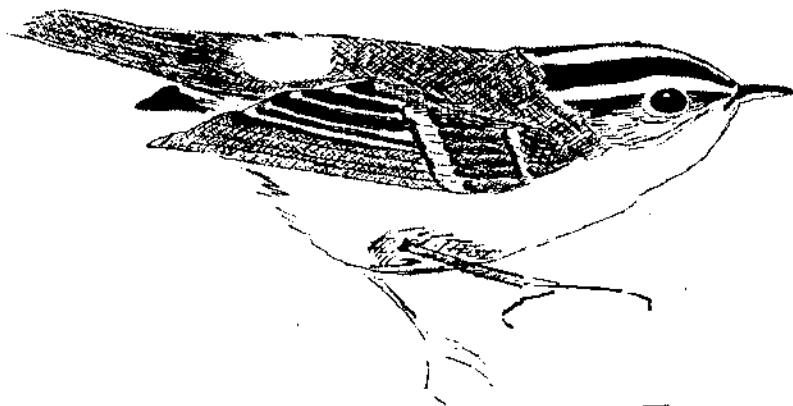
Migrant breeder (1)

Records mainly of singing males at Stocks' Moor from 15th to 22nd May (2 on 22nd); Margery Wood 2 on 22nd and 1 plus another bird on 28th May and 1 on 20th June; Boothroyd Wood on 23rd May; Dean Wood on 18th June and Booth Wood on 19th June.

PALLAS'S WARBLER, *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir caught and ringed on 12th October (MLD, PDB et al) was the first record for the area and the first inland in Yorkshire.



*Phylloscopus*  
12.6.73.

GOLDCREST, *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), passage visitor, common.  
11 were ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 16th April.

FIRECREST, *Regulus ignicapillus*

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Single adult males were caught and ringed on 25th March (MLD, PB, PDB) and 15th April (MLD). Fourth and fifth records for the area.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa Striata*

Migrant breeder (3)

First singles at Royd Moor and Hall Dike on 7th May and last at Hall Dike on 12th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER, *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Passage visitor, rare-scarce

Single males at Emley Moor on 27th April (GBS), at Bretton Park on 1st May (D.By., S.H.) and 21st June (P.B.)

DUNNOCK, *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5)

MEADOW PIPIT, *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder (4-5) and partial migrant.

A flock at Digley in the Spring numbered over 50 during March and about 100 during early April; and 50-60 were there during September. There were over 80 at Deer Hill during August and over 100 by 24th September.

TREE PIPIT, *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (3)

First 1 at Bretton Park on 18th April followed by a general influx from 23rd April to early May. Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 9th September.

ROCK PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare visitor.

Singles at Scout Dike on 27th March (P.B.) and Ringstone Edge on 7th October (J.E.D.). Fourth and fifth records for the area.

WATER PIPIT, *Anthus s. spinoletta*

Rare visitor.

One at Elland G.P. first seen on 15th January remained until 7th April by which time it had assumed summer plumage (S.H. et al). Another at Elland G.P. from 6th November to the year end. (J.M.D. et al). Third and fourth records for the area.

PIED WAGTAIL, *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3-4), partial migrant.

Over 60 were roosting at Elland G.P. on 31st March, and a roost not previously noted at Holt Head had 150 on 9th March, and 12th August, which dropped to about 60 on 29th August.

White Wagtails (M.e.alba) were seen at Deer Hill on 15th April and Brockholes S.F. on 18th April, and at Elland G.P. on 2nd, 3rd and 8th April.

GREY WAGTAIL, *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Proof of breeding at Bretton Park, Denby Dale, Hall Dike, Langsett and Chew Valley

YELLOW WAGTAIL, *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (2)

First at Clayton West and Elland G.P. on 16th April with scattered records elsewhere from 23rd and 12 at Bretton Park on 30th. During August 10 or more were at Bretton Park, Horbury Wyke and Dewsbury S.F. where there were 20 on 9th and 8 on 13th September.

WAXWING, *Bombycilla garrulus*

Winter visitor, rare-uncommon.

1 at Dalton on 2nd January; 1 at Fartown on 14th and 16th January; 8 flying N.E. over Paddock on 18th April and 1 at Lepton on 27th December.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce winter visitor.

Stoneleigh, Edgerton 1 first year bird caught and ringed on 30th January (MLD)

Bretton Park 1 from 27th November to at least 22nd December (J.B. et al)

Eighth and ninth records for the area.

STARLING, *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (5), winter visitor numerous

On 16th March at Whitley Common between 8,000 and 10,000 were feeding together on grassland. A roost at Ingbirchworth in willows on 16th July was estimated at 15,000.

GREENFINCH, *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

Those roosts that were checked held fairly small numbers. Bretton Park had 50 on 2nd January and over 100 in late December, and Blackmoorfoot had 60 on 28th November. A flock of over 200 were feeding near Spicer House Lane (Nr. Ingbirchworth) on 29th December.

GOLDFINCH, *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Feeding flocks included over 50 at Bretton Park on 6th March, and over 100 there on 27th September declining to 70 by 20th November and 15 by 10th December. Over 100 were in Deffer Wood on 30th April and 40 in Grimscar Wood on 22nd September. An adult was feeding a recently fledged young bird near Milnsbridge on 11th October.

SISKIN, *Carduelis spinus*

Winter visitor, scarce-uncommon

Rather scarce early in the year with 1 at Hall Dike on 4th and 2 on 5th January; 4 at Bretton Park on 23rd January and 12 at Boothroyd Wood on 30th January and 11 on 6th March. More frequent during the Autumn with the first 2 near Langsett on 26th September. Regular sightings at Bretton Park from 4 on 15th October and a maximum of 40 on 3rd December. A flock of over 50 fed on alders near the M1 Motorway at Ossett on 26th and 27th December and 1-4 were seen during November and December at Deffer Wood, Bullcliffe Wood, Grimscar Wood and Brighthouse, and up to 15 near Elland in December.

LINNET, *Acanthis cannabina*

Resident breeder (4) and partial migrant.

Flocks of about 70 at Digley on 27th August and 190 at Hall Dike on 18th September were the only ones of note reported.

TWITE, *Acanthis flavirostris*

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3).

There were no winter records, the first singles being noted at Deer Hill and Blackmoorfoot on 9th and 12th March respectively. Spring flocks were fairly small with about 30 at Ringstone Edge on 24th April being the largest. Autumn flocks were also smaller than usual, maxima being 60 at Ringstone Edge on 28th September and 80 near Meltham Cop on 2nd October. 4 at Ingbirchworth on 6th November were the last recorded.

REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea*

Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant and winter visitor, uncommon-common.

The largest flocks noted were of over 40 at Coxley on 9th March; 50 at Deffer Wood on 20th March and 60 on 17th April; 44 at Hall Dike on 18th September; 70 at Elland on 15th October and 53 at Bretton Park on 19th October.

Mealy Redpoll Singles of this variety were at Elland G.P. on 19th October and 26th November (N.P.S., J.E.D.), at Coxley on 16th November and 2 at Thornhill on 21st December and Horbury on 22nd December (D.P.)

BULLFINCH, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (3)

CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra*

Passage and winter visitor, rare-uncommon.

Deffer Wood 1 on 1st May (D.But.) and 1 or 2 heard on 9th July (P.B.)

Langsett 1 on 26th September (J.E.D.)

CHAFFINCH, *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (4-5) and passage and winter visitor, numerous.

A flock at Bretton Park which was present until 27th March numbered at least 300 on 30th January. 100-125 were roosting at Edgerton in late January. No Autumn flocks noted.

BRAMBLING, *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor, uncommon-common.

Fairly large numbers early in the year with a flock at Bretton Park of 50-100 up to late February which increased to about 250 on 27th March with less than 50 in April and the last 1 on 1st May. Double figures were recorded at 8 localities in January and February, at up to 200 were in Gregory Spring and Liley Woods on 13th February. Exceptional numbers were in the area late March-early April with 250

at Windy Bank Wood on 29th March-3rd April; 350-400 at Digley and over 100 at Lower Stones Wood on 3rd April.

Smaller numbers were noted in Autumn after 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 10th, 3 at Horbury on 12th and 15 at Bretton on 19th October and 1-15 at 5 other localities.

YELLOWHAMMER, *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3)

Small flocks of 10-30 were at 6 localities during January and February and over 80 were at High Hoyland on 16th January during severe weather.

CORN BUNTING, *Emberiza calandra*

Resident breeder (2)

Singing males noted at Ingbirchworth (5), Hall Dike (2), Stainland, Outlane Moor and Farnley Tyas.

REED BUNTING, *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident breeder (3)

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Winter visitor, scarce-uncommon.

1 near Cupwith Reservoir on 3rd and 17th December (J.B.) and 3 at Snittlegate on 27th December (J.E.D. et al)

HOUSE SPARROW, *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

TREE SPARROW, *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (4)

Flocks of 70 at Blackmoorfoot (9th and 11th August), 94 at Hall Dike (16th October) and 50-120 at Ingbirchworth (9th-22nd October)

ESCAPES

It is not general practice to publish details of probable and certain escaped birds, but the following is considered to be of interest.

WOOD DUCK, *Aix sponsa*

A pair present in T.P. Woodsfrom at least December 1976 to February 1977; another pair on the canal between Slaithwaite and Milnsbridge on 27th February; a drake at Lees Mill from 14th to 19th March and one between Slaithwaite and Marsden on 31st May.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY F.J. WATSON AND J.M. DALE

The following species have also been recorded in the area in earlier years but did not appear in 1977. With three exceptions (\*) all are classified as rare visitors.

Great Northern Diver, <i>Gavia immer</i>	Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres</i> *
Red-throated Diver, <i>Gavia stellata</i>	Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i>
Red-necked Grebe, <i>Podiceps goisegena</i>	Knot, <i>Calidris canutus</i> *
Slavonian Grebe, <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Purple Sandpiper, <i>Calidris maritima</i>
Leach's Petrel, <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Temminck's Stint, <i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Manx Shearwater, <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Curlew Sandpiper, <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Gannet, <i>Sula bassana</i>	Grey Phalarope, <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>
Shag, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Stone Curlew, <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
Bittern, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Arctic Skua, <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Black Stork, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Razorbill, <i>Alca torda</i>
Spoonbill, <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Little Auk, <i>Plautus alle</i>
Red-crested Pochard, <i>Netta rufina</i>	Guillemot, <i>Uria aalge</i>
Ferruginous Duck, <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Puffin, <i>Fratercula arctica</i>
Long-tailed Duck, <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Pallas's Sandgrouse, <i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>
Velvet Scoter, <i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Eagle Owl, <i>Bubo bubo</i>
Smew, <i>Mergus albellus</i>	Nightjar, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
White fronted Goose, <i>Anser albifrons</i>	Alpine Swift, <i>Apus melba</i>
Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i>	Roller, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Rough-legged Buzzard, <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Hoopoe, <i>Upupa epops</i>
Honey Buzzard, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Wryneck, <i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Montagu's Harrier, <i>Circus pygargus</i>	Woodlark, <i>Lullula arborea</i>
Hobby, <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Red-backed Shrike, <i>Lanius collurio</i>
Black Grouse, <i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	Rose-coloured Starling, <i>Sturnus roseus</i>
Corncrake, <i>Crex crex</i>	Chaffinch, <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Baillon's Crake, <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Cirl Bunting, <i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> *	Lapland Bunting, <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>
Dotterel, <i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	

Since the publication of the 1975 Report further research into historical records revealed that the following five species had also occurred in the area -

Red Kite, <i>Milvus milvus</i>	1 in 1853 and 1 in 1859
Dowitcher sp., <i>Limnodromus</i> sp.	1 in 1864
Nutcracker, <i>Nucifraga carvocatacles</i>	1 in 1870
Nightingale, <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	last record in 1875
Woodchat Shrike, <i>Lanius senator</i>	2 in 1850



Contributions to the 1977 Report (with apologies for any omissions)

B. Armitage	J.E. & S.M. Dale	S. McCormack
M. Barnett	J.M. & M.S. Dale	K.A. Norcliffe
J. Beaumont	M.I. Denton	J. Parkin
R. Beaumont	C. Disbrey	D. Proctor
D.H. Beevers	T.W. & P.M. Frost	N.P. Senior
J.W. Bell	D. Hall	G.B. Silver
P.D. Bell	A.N. Handley	P. Smith
G. Blenkin	P. Harrison	D.J. Standing
C. Bower	B. Hart	D.J. Sutcliffe
P. Bray	S. Hey	D. Sykes
J.L. Braybrooke	A.D. Hunt	R.J. Walker
D. Butterfield	D.S. & V. Ives	F.J. Watson
D. Bywater	H.C. Laidlaw	R. Wells
T. Cantwell	J.M. Laece	G.E. Wilkinson
G. Carr	N. Laece	B.W. Woodcock
M. Charnock	D. Manchester	G.M. Yates
D.I. Crawshaw	D. Maude	

and a number of others who visited the hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

I thank all who have submitted records during the year and ask them to continue to cover as many habitats as possible, and to concentrate on their own favourite areas.

J.E. DALE

## NOTE ON SEX RATIOS AMONG DUCKS AT BLACKMOORFOOT RESERVOIR

Among the information, which is regularly recorded on the Blackmoorfoot log sheets, there are separate counts of males and females of the common duck species. This note seeks to summarise this information over a period covering a few years.

The major obstacle to an assessment of the relative numbers of males and females is the variation in plumage of the drakes at different times of the year. The following discussion will be concerned with the six species Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Pochard and Goldeneye. In all these species the drakes go through an eclipse period but this is of no consequence in the case of the Goldeneye because the adult drakes have assumed their full plumage by the time they start arriving for the winter. In the case of the other five species, birds occur on the reservoir during the time of the eclipse. The adult drakes in eclipse are separable from the females with varying degrees of ease but in practice few counts are achieved of separate males and females during the main eclipse period from July to September or October.

Another complication is the fact that first-winter drakes are still emerging from their juvenile plumage into a recognisably male plumage after the moult of the adults has been completed. In the case of the Mallard and Teal, it is only slightly later, the adult drakes usually being in full plumage by October and the first-winter drakes by November. In the case of the Wigeon the delay is slightly greater, the first-winter drakes often not emerging until December. Pochard and Tufted Ducks are rather more variable and, in the case of the Goldeneye, the first-winter drakes remain much like females until the spring.

In order to take account of these factors, it has been necessary to consider the records covering different parts of the winter for each individual species. The basic procedure which has been adopted to arrive at a quantification of the sex ratio is to sum the numbers of bird-days in a given month over a selected number of years, using all the records where males and females have been counted separately.

### MALLARD

The first-winter drakes have usually all emerged into full plumage by November. The numbers of Mallard at the reservoir are maintained at a sufficient level until February but they begin to fall in March. As a result the figures have been examined covering the period from November to February. The bird-days have been summed over the five consecutive winters 1972-3 to 1976-7.

	males	females	ratio
Nov.	797	736	1.08:1
Dec.	980	869	1.13:1
Jan.	979	936	1.05:1
Feb.	633	595	1.06:1

The results show a small excess of males and this appears to be a constant feature of Mallard populations. Figures have been published from studies in three European countries. The ratios for the period November-February are: Netherlands 1.08-1.14:1, Southern Sweden 1.07-1.12:1 and Finland 1.10-1.30:1

#### TEAL

As with the Mallard, the first-winter drakes have usually all emerged into full plumage by November. Birds continue to appear at the reservoir through the winter until March and there are only a few thereafter. The following figures have been obtained by summing the numbers of bird-days over the six consecutive winters 1971-2 to 1976-7.

	males	females	ratio
Nov.	150	75	2.0:1
Dec.	193	118	1.6:1
Jan.	114	40	2.9:1
Feb.	75	55	1.4:1
Mar.	80	45	1.8:1

Although the ratio is variable, it is seen that there is always an appreciable imbalance in favour of males.

#### WIGEON

Since the first-winter drakes emerge into full plumage later than the previous two species, it has been considered appropriate to take the records for December onwards.

Prior to 1973 the numbers of birds in winter were generally low, but more counts are available for the four winters 1973-4 to 1976-7. Because of the very variable numbers, it has been necessary to combine the records in all months from December to April.

	males	females	ratio
Dec. to April	410	313	1.3:1

These results have been influenced by the numbers of birds in two particular periods, namely December 1973 and February 1976. Hence the data are probably not sufficiently widely based for the resultant ratio of 1.3:1 to be reliable. For the present it can be concluded that there is an imbalance in favour of males but the precise magnitude remains in some doubt.

#### POCHARD

Adult drakes in eclipse are not difficult to separate from females but few counts have been made at Blackmoorfoot before November, by which time adults and most first-winter drakes are in full plumage. Again, because of the very variable numbers, it has been necessary to combine the records in all months through the winter and spring. The following figures have been obtained by summing the numbers of bird-days over the five consecutive winters 1972-3 to 1976-7.

	males	females	ratio
Nov. to April	620	319	1.94:1

The resultant ratio, near 2:1, is in keeping with the situation in Britain as a whole, where it is known that there is an overall excess of males in winter. This is due to the sexes performing different migrations in Autumn and settling in different areas in winter. On waters in England the ratio may vary from less than 2:1 to sometimes 8:1. In some places in northern Britain it may at times reach 50:1.

#### TUFTED DUCK

Because of a recent increase in numbers of Tufted Ducks at Blackmoorfoot, attention has been restricted to the last three years 1975 to 1977. During these years a good many counts have been made during the early Autumn, June to August, and when these are summed they give the following result.

	adult males	others	ratio
June to August	1522	93	16:1

Thus it is evident that the great majority of birds in June-August are adult drakes. These birds are involved in moult migrations at this time of year, and indeed it has been observed increasingly that some remain to undertake their wing moult on Blackmoorfoot Reservoir itself.

During the succeeding months of September and October, few counts of sexed birds have been made but there have been more again from November to January. Generally only a few birds remain between February and April, so it has been necessary to combine the records for these spring months. The following totals have been obtained for the years 1975 to 1977.

	males	females	ratio
Nov.	369	113	3.3:1
Dec.	635	173	3.6:1
Jan.	353	78	4.5:1
Feb. to April	144	44	3.3:1

First-winter males are said to be variable in emerging into full plumage, most becoming recognisably males during November, while some remain much like females even into spring. The females in the preceding figures may therefore include a few immature males. The overall ratio in winter and spring appears to be approaching 4:1.

The reason for the imbalance is the same as in the Pochard; however, unlike that species there seems to be no obvious excess of males in Britain as a whole and instead some parts of the country have an excess of males and others have an excess of females. There seems to be no general tendency for males to be more numerous in the north. Of the areas for which information is available, the nearest to Blackmoorfoot is Cheshire; this county has an excess of males.

#### GOLDENEYE

This species is a regular winter visitor in small numbers to Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and it has been possible to make use of the counts throughout the months of occurrence at the reservoir. Unlike the other species considered above, first-winter drakes remain much like females through the winter and it has been assumed that all males recorded on the log sheets have been adults. Summing the bird-days over the five consecutive winters 1972-3 to 1976-7 gives the following results.

	adult males	others	ratio
Oct.	25	114	1:4.56
Nov.	212	213	1:1
Dec.	409	295	1.39:1
Jan.	430	303	1.42:1
Feb.	507	351	1.44:1
Mar.	611	428	1.43:1
Apr.	235	221	1.06:1

It is evident that brownheads tend to arrive before adult males in Autumn. On further examination of the records it is found that the initial preponderance of brownheads lasts through October until about the middle of November.

It is reported that there is an excess of brownheads in Britain as a whole during the winter and this is particularly noticeable in the south of the country where females and immatures may make up 90% of the population at times. This is mainly a result of the tendency for brownheads to migrate further in Autumn than adult drakes and the latter are in the majority in some parts of northern Britain.

At Blackmoorfoot it is seen that after the initial excess of brownheads adult males remain in the majority from December to April.

Although first-winter drakes remain much like females through the major part of the winter, many begin to show signs of change by March. Hence some will be recognised as males and entered on the log sheets as such, in which case they will have been included with 'adult males' in the above list. This is most likely to affect the figures for March and April. In most years adult males remain in the majority during April, but there was one year (1974) when there was an overall excess of brownheads in this month and this one year is responsible for the reduction in the ratio for April.

F. BRAY

#### RINGING REPORT

1977 was a year of quality and not quantity; 1,399 fewer birds were ringed in 1977 than in 1976 making a total for the year of 2,709. Sixty-two species were handled. The most interesting species caught included a Great Grey Shrike at Edgerton, yet another two Firecrests at Blackmoorfoot, a Long-Eared Owl, a Kingfisher and two Green Woodpeckers all at Blackmoorfoot, and again at Blackmoorfoot the bird of the year, if not the century, a Pallas's Warbler. New ringing species for the area included Sparrowhawk, Green Woodpecker, Pallas's Warbler and Great Grey Shrike.

The Reed/Marsh Warbler was a bird of the year which showed characteristics of both species. These two species can be notoriously difficult to identify, especially in their first year of life, and because of this they are the only two species that the B.T.O. will allow ringers to ring without specific identification.

During the year 205 polli were ringed; these were; Merlin (3 moorland locality), Kestrel (3 Wessenden), Black-headed Gull (112 Black Moss), Swallow (5 Honley), Magpie (3 Wessenden), Blue Tit (4 Waterloo), Mistle Thrush (12 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Edgerton), Song Thrush (8 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Elland G.P.), Blackbird (15 Blackmoorfoot, 8 Elland G.P.), Blackbird (15 Blackmoorfoot, 8 Elland G.P., 4 Edgerton), Robin (4 Blackmoorfoot), Duncock (11 Blackmoorfoot) and Starling (5 Blackmoorfoot).

RINGING RECOVERIES

## Key to symbols and terms used:

Age: Pull: nestling or chick not yet able to fly  
 Juv: young able to fly freely  
 I.Y.: Bird in its first year of life  
 F.G.: full grown, age uncertain  
 Ad: Adult, at least one year old  
 Sex: M: Male  
 F: Female

Manner of recovery

V: caught or trapped and released with ring  
 X: found dead or dying  
 +: shot or killed by man

Date of recovery

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets. All recoveries of 5 Kms or more are published. All foreign recoveries of Huddersfield ringed birds have been tabulated under the species heading.

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDS RECOVERED ELSEWHERELAPWING

Recovery area:

SPAIN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

SNIPE

Recovery area:

DENMARK

SPAIN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

CURLEW

Recovery area:

FRANCE

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

DUNLIN

Recovery area:

FRANCE

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

BLACK-HEADED GULL

EF61298

Pull

10.6.75

Black Moss, Marsden  
53°34'N 1°56'W

X

29.8.77

Newton, Hyde (Cheshire)  
53°27'N 2°03'W  
16 Kms SW

EH10473

Pull

21.6.76

Black Moss

X

Ca.0.3.77

Scouthead, Oldham (Lancs)  
53°33'N 2°03'W  
8 Kms WSW

**BLACK-HEADED GULL (Cont.)**

EHI7613	Pull	20.6.77	Black Moss
	X	31.7.77	Clifton Grove, Nr. Nottingham 52°54'N 1°12'W 90 Kms SE
EHI7637	Pull	20.6.77	Black Moss
	X	1.8.77	Harrogate (Yorks) 54°00'N 1°33'W 50 Kms NNE

**SWALLOW**

Recovery area:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
SPAIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
KK62178	Juv		5.9.76	Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield 53°37'N 1°52'W									
	X		(13.6.77)	Stacksteads, Bacup (Lancs) 53°43'N 2°13'W 25 Kms WNW									

**HOUSE MARTIN**

Recovery area:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

**WREN**

066029	I.Y.		23.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	X		(7.1.77)	Nr. Llanybyther (Carmarthen) 52°04'N 4°09'W 230 Kms SW

**FIELDFARE**

Recovery area:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
FRANCE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
GREECE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Winter	-	1
NORWAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

**REDWING**

Recovery area:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
FRANCE	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
GREECE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
ITALY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
PORTUGAL	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SPAIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2

BLACKBIRD

Recovery area;	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
BELGIUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
DENMARK	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
ESTONIAN S.S.R.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
FRANCE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
FINLAND	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
NETHERLANDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
NORWAY	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	7
SWEDEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	5
CH39799	Ad.M		25.12.73					Edgerton, Huddersfield					
								53°40'N 1°48'W					
	X		4.4.77					Poide (Kingissepa) Estonian S.S.R.					
								58°32'N 23°03'E					
XA38123	Ad.M		26.2.77					Edgerton					
	X		22.9.77					Rantakyla, Karstula (Vaasa) Finland					
								62°52'N 24°41'E					

ROBIN

JX64909	Juv.	10.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	14.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	8.8.76	Blackmoorfoot
	x	7.7.77	Drylsden, Manchester (Lancs)
			53°29'N 2°09'W
			25 Kms SW
KA49090	1.Y.	22.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	27.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	x	(27.1.77)	Rothwell, Leeds (Yorkshire)
			53°45'N 1°29'W
			28 Kms NE

GOLDCREST

Recovery area;	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
FRANCE	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>PIED WAGTAIL</u>													
Recovery area:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
PORTUGAL	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SPAIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
<u>STARLING</u>													
Recovery area:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
DENMARK	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
ESTONIAN S.S.R.	<	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
FINLAND	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
SWEDEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1



STARLING (cont.)

XV67446 F.G.F. 19.3.76 Crosland Moor, Huddersfield  
 53°38'N 1°50'W  
 X 26.5.77 Suvela, Espoo (Uusimaa) Finland  
 60°15'N 24°40'E

GREENFINCH

BP19647 Ad.M 22.1.72 Blackmoorfoot  
 X (19.3.77) Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham (Warwicks)  
 52°29'N 1°43'W  
 120 Kms S  
 BB83951 I.Y.M. 21.2.76 Edgerton  
 X 23.6.77 Thorpe, Wakefield (Yorks)  
 53°40'N 1°30'W  
 19 Kms E  
 BS48809 Ad.F 4.11.76 Blackmoorfoot  
 V 1.1.77 Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield (Warwicks)  
 52°33'N 1°50'W  
 120 Kms S  
 BB83975 Ad.M 9.4.77 Blackmoorfoot  
 V 15.4.77 Blackmoorfoot  
 V 29.8.77 Castleton, Rochdale (Lancs)  
 53°35'N 2°10'W  
 20 Kms W

LINNET

Recovery area:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
FRANCE	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	2	1	16
NETHERLANDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
SPAIN	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3

TWITE

Recovery area:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
BELGIUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
NETHERLANDS	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2

KA49187 I.Y. 23.7.76 Blackmoorfoot  
 X 0.2.77 Mill, Uden (Noord Brabant),  
 51°41'N 5°47'E Netherlands

CHAFFINCH

Recovery area:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	G.T.
NETHERLANDS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA

BLUE TIT

KN74033 Juv. 15.7.77 Blackmoorfoot  
 V 22.7.77 Blackmoorfoot  
 X 4.9.77 Salendine Nook, Huddersfield  
 53°40'N 1°50'W  
 5 Kms N

GREENFINCH

BR46072	F.G.P.	22.4.74	Blackmoorfoot
	V	8.1.77	Longwood Edge, Huddersfield 53°39'N 1°50'W 5 Kms N
BH36837	Ad.M	3.1.76	Edgerton
	V	13.11.77	Blackmoorfoot 6 Kms SSW

REDPOLL

KN74022	Ad.F	12.7.77	Blackmoorfoot
	X	17.9.77	Ripponden, Halifax (Yorks) 53°41'N 1°57'W 8 Kms NW

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELDBLACK-HEADED GULL

Copenhagen 6034039	Pull	20.6.72	Ronholm, Limfjorden (Jutland), Denmark 57°02'N 9°37'E
	X	21.8.77	Scout Dike Res., Nr. Penistone (Yorks) 53°32'N 1°39'W

LONG TAILED TIT

151881	F.G.	1.5.77	Worsbrough Res., Barnsley (Yorks) 53°40'N 1°48'W
	V	16.10.77	Edgerton 25 Kms WNW

BLACKBIRD

Stockholm 4133380	1.Y.M.	6.5.76	Ottenby, (Oland), Sweden 56°12'N 16°24'E
	X	28.12.77	Moidgreen, Huddersfield 53°39'N 1°45'W

GREENFINCH

NA23271	1.Y.M.	5.9.76	Hathersage (Derby) 53°19'N 1°39'W
	V	22.1.77	Blackmoorfoot 33 Kms NNW
	V	2.4.77	Blackmoorfoot
NA10061	1.Y.F.	1.12.76	Bramhall Park, Stockport (Cheshire) 53°22'N 2°10'W
	V	19.3.77	Blackmoorfoot 36 Kms NE
NC20525	1.Y.F.	16.1.77	Birkdale, Southport (Lancs) 53°38'N 3°01'W
	V	9.4.77	Blackmoorfoot 75 Kms E
NC42238	1.Y.M.	12.2.77	Attingham, Shrewsbury (Salop) 52°41'N 2°40'W
	V	21.4.77	Blackmoorfoot 115 Kms NNE

CHAFFINCH

KJ57731	Ad.F.	15.11.76	Himley, Wolverhampton (Staffs)
			52°31'N 2°10'W
	V	29.1.77	Edgerton
			130 Kms NNE

BIRDS RINGED IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 1977

Sparrowhawk	1	Robin	96
Merlin	3	Reed/Marsh Warbler	1
Kestrel	3	Sedge Warbler	3
Moorhen	2	Blackcap	4
Snipe	4	Garden Warbler	1
Black-Headed Gull	112	Whitethroat	1
Woodpigeon	1	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Little Owl	1	Willow Warbler	286
Tawny Owl	1	Chiffchaff	3
Long-Eared Owl	1	Pallas's Warbler	1
Swift	75	Goldcrest	14
Kingfisher	1	Firecrest	2
Green Woodpecker	2	Spotted Flycatcher	1
Swallow	132	Duncock	48
House Martin	7	Meadow Pipit	34
Carion Crow	1	Pied Wagtail	70
Magpie	7	Grey Wagtail	3
Jay	2	Yellow Wagtail	1
Great Tit	46	Great Grey Shrike	1
Blue Tit	212	Starling	14
Coal Tit	10	Greenfinch	651
Willow Tit	3	Goldfinch	17
Long-tailed Tit	9	Linnet	25
Treecreeper	2	Twite	4
Wren	45	Redpoll	43
Mistle Thrush	17	Bullfinch	55
Song Thrush	36	Chaffinch	85
Redwing	65	Brambling	5
Blackbird	293	Reed Bunting	15
Wheatear	5	Tree Sparrow	122
Whinchat	1		<hr/>
Redstart	2		2709

Totals for individual areas include 1934 at Blackmoorfoot and  
513 at Edgerton

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

In Huddersfield the majority of birds are ringed in areas that are accessible to the public, so it is not surprising that a large number of 'local' birds are found by such people, e.g. dead on road, killed by cat, etc.

Large numbers of retraps are also handled many years after ringing, these being tabulated below.

The top lines show the approximate period which had elapsed between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the number of individuals either retrapped or found dead at their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - RETRAPS

	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 yrs	TOTAL
Snipe						1	1
Swallow	3						3
Great Tit	4	2				1	7
Blue Tit	17	2	3	5		1	28
Long-tailed Tit	1						1
Treecreeper	1						1
Wren		1					1
Song Thrush	2						2
Blackbird	10	3	5	8	3	2	31
Robin	7	4	1		1	1	14
Willow Warbler	6						6
Dunnock	4	3	1	1	2		11
Greenfinch	14	3		2			19
Bullfinch	5	2	1				8
Chaffinch	2						2
Tree Sparrow	1						1

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TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 yrs	TOTAL
Collared Dove	1						1
Blue Tit	1						1
Coal Tit	1						1
Blackbird	2		2	4	3	2	13
Robin					1		1
Starling	1	1					2
Greenfinch	1						1
Linnet	1						1
House Sparrow		1					1

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ECTOPARASITES

The 1977 batch of Hippoboscidae sent to Mr. H. Beaumont of Rotherham do not call for special mention, although the following species hosts were recorded for the first time in the area.

ORNITHOMYA AVICULARIA

Green Woodpecker

ORNITHOMYA CHLOROPUS

Merlin            Wheatear

Little Owl      Redpoll

EXTREME DATES

All dates for the 1977 batch of Hippoboscidae fall within the periods set out in the 1976 report.

M.L. DENTON

## BRITISH BIRDS

'British Birds' is a readable informative monthly magazine catering for serious ornithologists in the British Isles. It covers every aspect of ornithology particularly behaviour and breeding biology, identification, conservation problems with additional notes, news, reviews and letters, and recent reports of observations of movements and arrivals. It is well illustrated by photographs and drawings, and has a very experienced editorial board.

Our club is able to put forward a Special Offer in the form of reduced subscription to British Birds. The subscription rate is at present £8 per annum, but a reduction to £6 is offered to club members.

Subscription order forms have been distributed to all members at recent club meetings and are available from the Hon. Secretary, Brian Armitage.

Amongst other items of interest 'British Birds' publishes annually a complete list of rare birds seen in Britain, and amongst those submitted for publication from the 1977 records are White Stork, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Pallas's Warbler seen locally.

## BLACKMOORFOOT RESERVOIR

The hide was visited for a record number of 355 days during 1977, with over 60 members using the facility at some time or other. The value of being able to maintain a regular watch over a water of this nature has been proved at many other sites in Britain particularly for monitoring levels of gull and duck numbers, and observing migration of waders and terns. Whilst no one site gives the full picture Blackmoorfoot records make an important contribution to our knowledge of birds in West and South Yorkshire along with Wath Ings, Potterie Carr, Winterset Reservoir and Redmires Reservoir which are as well, or nearly as well, watched as Blackmoorfoot, and a few other sites which are gradually becoming more popular. 131 species were noted during the year, and the ringing programme was continued for a seventh season. It is anticipated that the Yorkshire Water Authority will continue to support our efforts, which become more valuable the longer they are maintained, by allowing us to watch this strategically placed water.

CLUB OFFICIALS FOR 1978

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