



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield

2011



Birds in Huddersfield 2011 is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover illustration: **Great Northern Diver (Stuart Brocklehurst).**

Rear cover photograph: **Manx Shearwater (Dave Pogson).**

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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

The publication of this annual report is always to be keenly anticipated. I love to see it drop through my letter box or pick it up at a meeting, knowing how much interest lies within. And even in the internet age many of us still enjoy handling a book. This represents the culmination of countless hours of all sorts of tasks by you the Club's members and stands as a definitive, authoritative and up-to-date record of our local avifauna. I am free to compliment the club on its efforts because in 2011 personally I have contributed nothing (other than this preface) having had to hand over the presidency for reasons of ill-health no sooner that I'd started. But let me use that freedom.

As you can see from this report, Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club (you) know your stuff. Many of you spend a great deal of time in the field. Your intimate knowledge of local habitats, promising corners where interesting resident species may be found or migrants observed, is a foundation of this report. Discovery without disturbance is the key. The quality and depth of this report also relies on the detail of your recording. Keeping a tally of numbers seen, notes of behaviour, movements and interactions of birds all help to enrich our understanding of local bird life– and this report.

Our “domestic” recording is also important. Noting the number and behaviour of birds in the garden or overhead is a pleasant past-time but also contributes to our understanding of local trends over time. Starlings and sparrows are just as important and just as interesting to observe as our rarer birds – and of course these two species are themselves declining so we need to keep contributing our knowledge of such trends to the broader understanding.

So here we have a comprehensive, impeccably researched report, full of detail, interest and local relevance. It's highly accurate and enlivened with delightful drawings and photographs contributed by members. As ever, achievements on this scale rely on a dedicated team of leading individuals and you will find them appropriately acknowledged in the report. It's a super piece of work, a real achievement – if medals were awarded it would surely win gold, so well done and enjoy.

Terry Piggott

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 46 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2011* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

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

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

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

The whole of the club archive, including all of our publications since 1966, has recently been made available in digital format via our new web site (see below) 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. There are also club nights, with, for instance, our annual photographic review of the birds seen in Huddersfield, members showing photos of their own birding trips, local and further afield or quiz nights using video footage of birds in the field to test your identification skills – an excellent way of improving them!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see page 145) or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

2011: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 174 species was reported in the Club area, including one subject to acceptance by the relevant records committees. Although no new species were recorded, again it was a particularly eventful year with several locally rare species putting in a long-awaited appearance.

In stark contrast to 2010 the New Year opened on a much milder note. However, sites on the River Calder once again provided some engaging winter birding. In **January**, wildfowl were the main attraction, with both red-head and drake Smew, Red-breasted Merganser and exceptional counts of Gadwall and Teal. The returning Ring-billed Gull at Sands Lane proved a big draw for the year listers, although its presence was far less reliable this time around, while a Mediterranean Gull was nice 'bonus bird' early month. Numerous skeins of Pink-footed Geese - ever such a welcome presence in our winter skies - passed over during the month, and several Curlew from last December's influx decided to brave it out on the uplands. Last year's big Waxwing influx resulted in scarcely a berry-bearing bush remaining un-plundered within the Club area, with up to 80 of these delightful travellers frequenting the Lockwood and Folly Hall areas. Also on the passerine front, Mealy Redpolls visited feeders in birders' gardens at four sites, whilst 70 Yellowhammers at Shepley was another notable record.

Waxwings featured highly on local birders' 'Wanted' lists throughout **February**. The hundred birds that were reported visiting a garden at Hepworth must have been an extraordinary sight! A Green-winged Teal was reported from Horbury Wyke mid-month, and if accepted this Yankee one-day wonder would be only the third area record. Nine Common Buzzards watched together over Cawthorne were a particularly welcome sight and further indication of this raptor's remarkable increase in recent years. The month brought the first of a total of 11 Red Kite records - another impressive showing. Returning Curlews were much in evidence late month, with an exceptional 70 seen at Winscar - a fine reminder indeed that spring was just around the corner.

Early **March** saw herds of Whooper Swans pass over Hepworth and touch down at Blackmoorfoot respectively, but otherwise these fine birds were in scant supply. Twite made another very welcome return to their spring staging refuge of Deer Hill from 12th. There were another five sightings of Red Kite throughout, but these were overshadowed by a superb Rough-legged Buzzard at Dove Stones early month, with this or another at Snailsden Moor several days later, which was videoed at the same location and by the same finders of last October's bird! Returning Oystercatchers were again recorded in healthy numbers; three sites recording double figures. As the temperatures began to climb and the days lengthen, our first summer migrants began to arrive, led by Little Ringed Plover and Wheatear.

April got off to a cracking start with an Osprey over Winscar on 2nd, which was also a long-awaited 'House Tick' for the resident observer here! A fine tally of eight Ring Ouzels was counted at one upland site, as these charismatic thrushes enjoyed a particularly good spring. Among the commoner migrants, White Wagtails were found at Ingbirchworth, Horbury and Winscar and there was also a big Wheatear influx, with fields at Lower Maythorn holding up to 50 birds! Other highlights were two Hen Harriers - a ring-tail over Scout Dike followed by a fine adult male over Isle of Skye Quarry, an early Whimbrel through Deer Hill, and a brief Hooded Crow - the first for 10 years - again bringing a touch of understated beauty to Isle of Skye Quarry.

As spring migration began to reach a peak, early **May** produced a Little Egret at Healey Mills - no longer the big rarity they were few years ago, they always bring a touch of the exotic to the area - and an Arctic Tern at Sands Lane. There was a smattering of migrant Ringed Plover records and Whimbrel passed through Blackmoorfoot, Digley and Ringstone Edge. Passerine highlights in

this busy period involved a singing Wood Warbler at Blackmoorfoot and a singing male Black Redstart at Huddersfield Railway Station, which did at least help bring back some meaning to that hopelessly out-dated old chestnut - 'Let the train take the strain'! Late month welcomed the first Hobby of what would become a record year for this fine falcon and another Arctic Tern passed over Reddishaw Knoll on the uplands. An eventful month ended with a calling Quail at Deer Hill and a Turnstone at Langsett Reservoir - a rather excellent record considering the general scarcity of any passage wader species here.

Typically a quiet month migration-wise, **June** did produce the odd interesting migrant. Singing Quails were located at Scout Dike and Royd Moor. There were a further five Hobby sightings and a late Whimbrel paused at Ingbirchworth early month. Once again, it seems there was little by the way of change to the status of our breeding birds, although it was pleasing to report the first successful breeding of Black-headed Gulls in the area for several years, while Goosander bred for a fifth successive year. Common Buzzard aside, which now seems firmly established in our area, there was very little change in the fortunes of our breeding birds of prey. The status of Peregrine and Merlin continues to be very closely monitored and it is wholly understandable why information on such species is not disclosed.

Thanks to the efforts of dedicated observers, we gained valuable insight into the local status of Curlew, Lapwing and Little Ringed Plover. Unfortunately for some species, disturbance, persecution and habitat loss are not the only obstacles to overcome, as the 'American Mink versus the Sand Martin' case at Healey Mills demonstrates! Of our migrant passerine breeders, sadly the slow decline of Tree Pipit and Common Redstart continues, the status remains unchanged for our two flycatchers, but nine reeling Grasshopper Warblers and a welcome increase in Whitethroat numbers indicates a slightly more positive situation for these species. There were some encouraging signs that Stonechat may be making a comeback after two particularly brutal winters, but with our crazy climate nothing is guaranteed!

Birds began to move again in early **July**, bringing with them the extra spice of the anticipated autumn migration. With the month barely a week old the area's first party of summer Common Scoters - a fine flock of 21 - touched down at Ringstone Edge and another party later paused at Winscar. Another Quail revealed its presence, this time at Emley Moor, and the first autumn Green Sandpiper and Greenshank were recorded at Healey Mills and Isle of Skye Quarry, plus Blackmoorfoot and Sands Lane respectively. The latter site also hosted a juvenile Mediterranean Gull, and a churring Nightjar was located at a new site on the moors, which was just reward for its vigilant finders. An Osprey over Shelley, again picked up from the observer's house, just shows that whenever we birders are encumbered with domestics it's just worth looking out the window! Crossbills were recorded at several upland sites and these birds would be a precursor to an exceptional autumn.

August began with a Turnstone at Deer Hill Res.; the pick of the bunch of an average wader passage which would later include Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff at Blackmoorfoot. The latter site also produced two Black-necked Grebes early month. In a good month for raptors, Marsh Harriers were seen at Harden and Riding Wood Res., with the former site also hosting a Hen Harrier around the same time. Two Little Egrets again brought a touch of 'exotica' to Thornhill Edge late month and an eventful period ended with five Common Scoter pausing at Deer Hill.

With autumn migration starting in earnest, early **September** brought Scaup and Mediterranean Gull to Blackmoorfoot. The year's star rarity turned up shortly afterwards in the form of a Manx Shearwater, which had the misfortune to end up in a Meltham garden! Thanks to the benevolence of local people, this directionally-challenged seabird may well have lived to fly another day and

was the first Huddersfield record since Winston Churchill was a youth! Mid-month was a fairly steady affair before a flurry of activity in the final week. Two Black Terns and a Marsh Harrier passed through Blackmoorfoot, a Little Egret visited Langsett Res., two very early Whooper Swans graced Deer Hill and the local visible-migration watchers, the 'vis-miggers', were already notching up some decent passerine counts.

We have usually witnessed some excellent birding in **October** and this year proved no exception. There was a pronounced passage of Pink-footed Geese throughout the month and the 'vis-miggers' also enjoyed an excellent Crossbill passage. A month of real quality began with a Linthwaite birder seeing two flyover Spoonbills from his garden early one morning - a definite case of '*three* shredded wheat' here! Three days later four Red-throated Divers were found loafing in the gloom at Blackmoorfoot, but scarpered overnight when conditions cleared. Sixteen Common Scoter, plus Little and Mediterranean Gulls were recorded to round off a real purple patch for this site. Another diver, this time a simply stunning summer-plumaged individual of the Great Northern variety took up residence at Ringstone Edge Res. for several days and proved a very popular bird. Far less confiding was a superb Great Grey Shrike which quickly moved along the aptly named Flight Hill mid-month and seemed to be at the tail-end of a huge movement of winter thrushes through our upland sites. Another 20 passing Common Scoter were an excellent reward for a 'vis-migger' at Harden Quarries and, more typically, Whooper Swans were recorded at Blackmoorfoot and Skelmanthorpe. An exceptional month finished with a report of two Rough-legged Buzzards at Winscar, which will be the first ever 'pair' seen in the Club area if accepted.

The run of quality birds continued into early **November** with a Rough-legged Buzzard again seen in the Winscar area. Numerous skeins of Pink-footed Geese continued to pass over the area and Whooper Swans were also on the move early month with birds recorded at four sites. An amazing 17,000 Woodpigeons were logged over Harden and Little Gull at Blackmoorfoot ensured this water's fine run continued. Upland raptor action mid-month included another Hen Harrier at Winscar and another report of a Rough-legged Buzzard at Buckstones. In fact, observers out in our more 'elevated' areas continued to find almost all the good birds, but a fine male Red-crested Pochard briefly at Sands Lane - only our fourth ever - did break the monopoly! Two European White-fronted Geese took a liking to the Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor areas and were part of a big regional influx. Late month highlights were an elusive Snow Bunting in the Whitley Common area the returning Ring-billed Gull at Sands Lane and, perhaps most prized of all, a 'one day only' Slavonian Grebe at Blackmoorfoot - the first area record in 10 years.

December began with in fine fashion with up to eight Snow Buntings at Deer Hill. Thanks to the local observers braving some awful weather to provide seed, many a Huddersfield birder took the trip up to this rather bleak but beautiful upland site to add these cracking little birds to their area lists.

The Sands Lane Ring-billed Gull put in its last appearance of the year at a site which sadly, like many others in our area, appears to be suffering increasing disturbance. On the wildfowl front, a record count of Gadwall was made at Bretton Park, at least one of the White-fronts remained faithful to Ingbirchworth area to the year end, and more Whooper Swans put in early month appearances at Blackmoorfoot, Digley, Ingbirchworth and Winscar.

In contrast to the first winter period Waxwings were extremely scarce; just two small parties were found. The year ended on something of a high with a Great Grey Shrike taking up residence in the High Hoyland area on New Year's Eve. What would prove to be a very popular bird in the New Year brought an eventful 2011 to an end.

Russ Boland

THE WEATHER IN 2011

Overall, 2011 was the UK's second warmest recorded year and the driest since 1993.

Despite this, the initial winter period was the coldest for 100 years. January opened with a period of frost and snow, turning dry and dull by mid-month. February by contrast was generally very mild, but wet and windy.

March saw an extended period of good, mild, dry and sunny weather, as high pressure settled over the UK, this pattern extending into April, which was the driest month of the year. Westerly winds picked up in May, which saw sunny periods and showers.

The highest temperatures of the year were experienced in June, but the weather was changeable with some rain. Warm and sunny weather continued into early July, before becoming cool with rain at times, a pattern that persisted into August.

Most of September saw westerly winds bringing sunshine and showers, before a heat wave developed at the end of the month and continued into October, which despite the temperatures, saw below average sunshine and heavy rain in the west.

November was also very warm, but dull with showers and warm southerly winds, which strengthened later in the month.

December was wetter than average, with cool north-westerly winds bringing some snow initially before turning milder.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On page 133 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 269 species and eleven additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2011. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

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

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2011

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

There was a reduction in the number of sites the species was reported from this year, although unusually there was a spate of records from the uplands.

Horbury area – a pair were present throughout the year and raised four young. Additionally, a further three birds (2 adults and an immature) were on the River Calder on 13th February, and a third adult was present on 5th May.

Sands Lane GP – a pair were present throughout the year, raising seven young, which were first noted on 22nd March. Sadly one of these was found dead on 7th November. Prior to this, six (4 adults and 2 immatures) were present on 8th January, with four (2 adults and 2 immatures) on 12th and 14th January, and six (2 adults and 4 immatures) on the River Calder on 24th March.

Bretton Lakes – resident throughout the year with two pairs noted on 21st March but just a single cygnet was raised. Additionally, five (3 adults and 2 immatures) were present on 2nd January, with seven (6 adults and an immature) on 28th November and 21st December.

Heaton Lodge SW – a pair reportedly hatched young but no further details were submitted.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR area – up to two were present throughout the year, with three noted on 13th August.

Dewsbury SW – three adults on 6th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an immature arrived at 08.05hrs. and departed E at 08.30hrs. on 5th May (MLD, NWM).

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult departed E at 07.50hrs. on 16th August (NWM).

Scout Dike Res – anglers reported an immature in April (per RJB). This is thought to be the first record here since 1984.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

In terms of numbers it was a similar showing to 2010; likewise the largest herd recorded was 22 at Blackmoorfoot in March.

The first reports, unusually, were not until March. The first was a herd of seven flying W over **Hepworth** on 2nd. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a herd of 22 adults arrived from the S at 11.05hrs. on 6th. A single adult was at **Broadstones Res.** on 25th/26th March, with another adult on the latter date at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which arrived from the E at 08.20hrs.

In the autumn, the first returning birds were two adults at **Deer Hill Res.** on the very early date of 28th September. More typically, in October, three adults departed **Blackmoorfoot** to the E at 10.20hrs. on 20th and the following day three flew SE over **Skelmanthorpe**, whilst at **Blackmoorfoot** a party of 12 (11 adults and an immature) had been joined by a further six adults by 14.00hrs. In November there was a pronounced passage early-month, with three at **Winscar Res.** on 3rd, six over **Castleshaw** and nine SE over **Harden** on 5th and a herd of 12 adults at **Blackmoorfoot** arrived from the SE at 08.50hrs. on 6th. Early December brought three to **Digley Res.** on 4th, whilst at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th a herd of 10 (4 adults and 6 immatures) were joined by a further seven un-aged birds at 15.50hrs and three were at **Winscar Res.** (KW) the same day. The last record of the year was of five at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th December.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

A slightly better year than 2010 with at least 7,000 birds passing over the area. Like last year, the majority of birds (at least 4390) passed through in the second winter period. The highest day total was 850 over Blackmoorfoot on 5th November.

10th January – 58 N over **Sands Lane GP.**

14th January – 230 NW at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 14.00hrs.

17th January – 40 NW at **Crosland Hill Quarries** at 10.45hrs. and 130 NW over **Golcar.**

18th January – a skein heard heading SW at 08.05hrs at **Sparth Res., Marsden** and 60+ W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 14.15hrs.

19th January – 150 NW at **Blackmoorfoot** at 10.30hrs. and 200 NW at **Deer Hill** at 14.50hrs.

22nd January – 40 N at **Wilshaw.**

24th January – 150 W over **Whitley.**

25th January – 70+ NW at **Blackmoorfoot** at 11.55hrs.

26th January – 100 over **Thick Hollins, Meltham.**

27th January – 70 NW at **Blackmoorfoot** at 14.15hrs.

29th January – 50 NW at **Golcar** at 11.00hrs.

30th January – 360 (160 NW at 11.30hrs. + 200 N at 11.55hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot** and 450+ (c.150 W at 10.52hrs., c.100 W at 11.20hrs. and 200+ W at 11.22hrs.) at **Ingbirchworth.**

31st January – 150 WNW at **Meltham Golf Course.**

1st March – 74 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 11.35hrs., 250 NW at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 11.00hrs. and 150 W over **Whitley.**

Records of grounded birds involved singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 8th January, **Cannon Hall CP** on 24th January (probably of feral origin), **Scout Dike Res.** between 10th February and 2nd May, a single with Canada Geese at **Blackmoorfoot** from 21st February to 5th March and presumably the same individual from 11th to 16th March, and **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th March.

27th September – 8 W at 08.10hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot.**

5th October – 87 NW at **Bretton Park.**

6th October – 70 over **High Hoyland.**

7th October – 141 (22 W at 11.10hrs. + 70 W. at 12.10hrs. + 30 W. at 13.15hrs. + 17 W. at 14.00hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot.**

9th October – 30 over **Ingbirchworth.**

13th October – 98 W at **Honley** at 10.10 hrs., 43 W at 11.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and 150 W at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 10.15hrs.

14th October – 30 W at 11.30hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot.**

17th October – 170 E over **Fixby** at 09.10hrs.

19th October – 100 NW at **Thick Hollins, Meltham.**

22nd October – 55 E at Fixby at 09.35hrs. and 160 NW at 10.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot.**

26th October – 90 SE at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 09.30hrs., 200 NE at **Pule Hill, Marsden,** 200 SE at 09.15hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and 85 E at **Cooper Bridge SW.**

30th October – 200 SE at 08.30hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot.** Further skeins were heard heading NE over **Pule Hill, Marsden** at 09.28 hrs and WNW over **Fixby** at 17.10hrs.

2nd November – 100 NW at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 08.15hrs. and 22 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 11.20hrs.

5th November – 850 (300 SE at 08.50hrs. + 400 SE at 09.15hrs. + 150 SE at 09.20hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot.**

6th November – 270 SE at 09.05hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**, a distant skein of 320 SE at **Harden Quarries**, 10 SW at **Fixby** at 13.05hrs and 130 W over **Thurgory Lane**.

12th November – 1 S at 08.00hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

15th November – a skein heard as they flew SE at 10.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** could not be seen due to fog.

27th November – 200 E at **Hepworth** at 09.30hrs.

28th November – 70 E at **Shelley** at 09.00hrs., 150 NE over **Honley** and 70 over **Thick Hollins**, **Meltham**.

6th December – 200 SE at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 14.00hrs.

8th December – 150 W over **Horbury Strands**.

10th December – 32 over the **Wessenden Valley**.

17th December – 135 SSE over **Langsett** at 11.25hrs. and 41 W at 15.00hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

18th December – 80 W at 14.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

27th December – 52 W at 09.15hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

In the latter part of the year a party of 49 in fields at **Broadstones Lane** on 3rd December had increased to 92 the following day, with 49 again, probably birds of the same party, in the **Annat Royd Lane** area on 18th December.

The only other records of grounded birds came from **Blackmoorfoot** which had two on 14th October and a single which joined the Canada Geese on 15th November.

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

Rare visitor.

Three birds recorded in the Club area in November corresponded with a large influx into the county.

Two juveniles of the European race *albifrons* first found in fields on the south side of **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th November (BBSG) were re-located with Greylags in fields by **Spicer House Lane** two days later (RJB, NWM *et al.*) They remained faithful to the Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor Res. area until at least 18th December, with one remaining to the year end.

Another bird was observed flying towards **Deer Hill Res.** late in the afternoon on 27th November (SP).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

The increase appears to be continuing in the Ingbirchworth area, and for the first time ever a pair bred in the Club area, at Bretton Lakes.

Up to three were at **Sands Lane GP** during the first winter period, two were again present on 14th August and three on 24th August remained to the year end. The **Winscar** area had two on 12th February and a single on both 6th April and 5th May; five were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th February; two flew S over **Cook's Study Hill** on 9th April with four on the **Hebble/Calder Navigation** the same day; a single was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14th April with two here on 10th May; **Dewsbury SW** had two over on 30th April; a single was at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd May and

two flew E over **Shelley** on 7th May.

Three pairs were present at **Bretton Lakes**, one of which had seven young on 2nd May. This is the first recorded breeding attempt of the species in the Club area.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the increase in records continued. A single, present since 24th October 2010, remained until 21st January, in March between one and three were seen on seven days and seven flew SW at 09.15hrs. on 27th, a single was present on 17th April and the following day 13 arrived from the N at 07.35hrs. and departed SW at 08.40hrs. Two flew W at 09.20hrs. on 12th June and a single was present on 28th September. Eleven flew S (10 at 07.50hrs. and 1 at 10.20hrs.) on 22nd October (the 10 had been seen a few minutes earlier over Golcar) and in December four took up residence between 27th and 30th.

There was a striking increase in numbers in July with 79 at **Ingbirchworth** on 23rd and 102 at **Royd Moor** on 30th (RJB), followed by counts here of 97 on 15th August and 65 on 21st September; 57 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 15th October, 42 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 21st November and 73 at **Royd Moor** on 18th December.

Other records during the second winter period concerned two over **Denby Dale** on 20th October and seven alongside the River Calder at **Horbury** on 16th December.

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

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

Recorded from at least 38 sites but, as in previous years, this total is unlikely to include all known sites frequented by this widely distributed and common species.

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	48	46	37	32	11	10	6	88	93	82	74	57
Horbury Strands/Wyke	236	50	22	nc	nc	2	nc	nc	nc	21	47	74
Ingbirchworth Res.	90	90	170	38	9	17	38	155	45	24	220	52
Royd Moor Res.	60	29	98	30	nc	nc	nc	170	115	nc	nc	197

Away from the above sites, counts of over 20 birds were made at the following locations: **Mirfield** – 30 on 9th January; **Sands Lane GP** – 150 on 19th January and 80 on 5th February; **Elland GP** – 90 on 19th January; **Bretton Lakes** – 114 on 10th February and 179 on 19th October; **Sparth Res** – 22 on 20th March; **Scout Dike Res.** – 22 on 29th March and 50 on 2nd May; **Windle Res.** – 35 on 1st May; **Redbrook Res.** – 22 on 13th June; **Deanhead Res.** – 43 on 10th July; **Butterley Res.** – 44 on 23rd July; **Broadstones Res.** – 38 on 19th September, 55 on 20th October, 120 on both 30th October and 17th November; **Booth Wood Res.** – 24 on 26th October; **Scammonden Res.** – 68 on 26th October.

Breeding was confirmed at **Little Black Moss Res.** (3 goslings), **Butterley Res.** (a minimum of 11 juveniles), **Redbrook Res.** (2 young), **Colne Bridge SP** (5 goslings) and **Cannon Hall** (25 goslings).

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

More reports than usual, although all are thought to involve birds of feral origin.

Bretton Park – a single was present throughout the year.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – in January, a single on 2nd, two on 6th and a single on 13th.

Ingbirchworth Res – five on both 8th January and 18th March.

Royd Moor Res – three of the Ingbirchworth group were present on 8th January, five on 14th March and a single on 1st April.

Cannon Hall – five on 24th January.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

A rather poor year for this conspicuous species with reports from just five sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a monopoly during the first winter period. The first of the year was a single on 11th January followed by five on 25th January. A flock of eight was present on 12th February and two on 27th, with two again on 20th March.

In April a single was at **Horbury Wyke** on 7th, four on the **Calder/Hebble Navigation** on 9th and two at **Sands Lane GP** on 23rd. There was a similar smattering of records in May with two at **Horbury Wyke** on 6th, three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th, five at **Langsett Res.** on 20th and a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th.

The remaining records all came from the well-watched **Blackmoorfoot** site: single juveniles on 25th and 31st July and a single from 11th to 13th October.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

A similar showing to last year, although breeding was unproven. The Holmfirth pair remain the most reliable 'couple' it seems!

Holmfirth – the species' regular haunt. A pair was present throughout the year.

Bradley Hall Farm – a male and female on 3rd January.

Dewsbury SW – two on 6th January and a single on 13th January.

Bretton Lakes – three (2 males) were on the Upper Lake from 8th to 10th February.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a pair was present on 30th April and from 2nd June to 18th August, with a single on 14th and 15th December. The female was seen using a nest box which had reportedly been used by a Tawny Owl the previous year, but breeding was unproven.

Cooper Bridge SW – a single on 6th May.

Mirfield – a male associating with Mallard from 11th to 19th May, and a female was present on 12th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an eclipse male on 15th/16th September.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 15th October.

Sands Lane GP – a male on the River Calder on 10th and 26th November, with a female here between 30th November and 6th December.

(EURASIAN) **WIGEON** *Anas penelope*
Common passage and winter visitor.



Records were received from only 12 sites - 10 less than 2010 and highly likely an indication of birds remaining in favoured areas further east in Europe due to milder winter periods.

In January in the **Horbury Strands/Wyke** area there were counts of 11 on 1st and 16 on 6th, and further along the Calder, **Dewsbury SW** held 22 on 4th, 40 on 8th, 62 on 10th and 18 on 23rd. **Ossett SW** had 16 on 17th and 19 on 24th. In the uplands **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held six on 1st, singles from 24th to 26th and three on 28th, 11 were at **Broadstones Res.** on 1st and 32 on 22nd, 11 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th, 21 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 17th and 28 at **Meal Hill** on 26th.

During February, the year's best count of 80 was at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 12th (DT), but this had decreased to 40 the following day. Two were at **Boshaw Whams** and eight at **Blackmoorfoot** on 13th.

Numbers fell quickly during March as birds vacated for their breeding areas. **Blackmoorfoot** recorded two on 6th and a single on 9th, eight were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Broadstones** on 19th, and **Meal Hill** held five on 20th and a single on 26th. The last report of the spring was of a single at **Sands Lane GP** on 28th.

Following a sole summer record of one at **Sands Lane GP** from 4th to 18th June the first autumn migrants appeared in September at **Blackmoorfoot**, where there was a single on 12th/13th, five on 16th and 17th, seven on 25th and eight on 29th. Elsewhere, two were at **Ingbirchworth** and **Broadstones** on 21st but at the former site this had increased to 24 on 26th.

As was expected, there was a marked influx in October. Birds were recorded on 10 dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, where there were two maximum counts of 19 on 1st and 24th. In the Ingbirchworth area, **Broadstones** had 21 on 14th, rising to 36 on 17th and peaking at 44 on 26th. **Ingbirchworth Res.** itself held five on 3rd, six on 13th and 17 on 14th. One or two were at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th and 19th, and four were at **Boshaw Whams** on 17th.

In November singles were at **Bretton Lakes** on 1st and **Boshaw Whams** on 6th. Birds were recorded on six dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, with a maximum of six on 12th. Up to four remained faithful to the **Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor** area, and a late year maximum of 45 were at nearby **Broadstones** on 5th, but this had fallen to 14 on 21st.

Similar numbers remained into December with **Blackmoorfoot** hosting two on 3rd, a single on 5th, eight on 6th, 20 on 17th and a single on 31st. Elsewhere, 10 at **Ingbirchworth** on 15th had increased to 15 on 19th, and a single was at **Broadstones** on 17th/18th.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.



A much better showing this year from this rather understated duck, with some exceptional counts and the first ever proven breeding record.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – seven (4 males) on 2nd January, a male and female on 6th January and 17th April, and a single on 12th June with six birds of mixed ages the following day, which could conceivably have been the Healey Mills family party (see below).

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – an exceptional flock of 17 (13 males) was present on 4th January (DT) - the second largest party ever recorded in the Club area, with 11 still remaining four days later. A female with five young on 16th April (JRS) provided the Club area with its first-ever breeding record.

Boshaw Whams – a male on several dates between 5th January and 2nd April and a female on 4th March. A male and female were present on 15th November.

Dewsbury SW – five on 8th and a single on 14th January.

Bretton Lakes – up to five from 19th to 21st January, three on 8th February and 21st March, 14 (7 males) on 19th October and 1st November, 11 on 28th November and then a new Club area record of 18 (14 males) on the Lower Lake on 10th December (DMP) - a day when both lakes were 50% frozen over. Seven were still present on 21st December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were four records: a male and female on 25th March, 5th November and 25th December and two males and two females on 31st December.

Horbury SW – a single on 6th April and two on 16th April.

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

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

Recorded from 22 sites, which is slightly down on last year. Breeding was confirmed at two upland sites. In contrast to early 2010 numbers in the Calder Valley were generally much lower due to the milder conditions, although there were still three very good counts from Dewsbury SW. Autumn, too, was more typical.

In January, five were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 1st, 40 at **Langsett Res.** on 3rd, 30 were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 4th, whilst 30 at the favoured **Dewsbury SW** on the same day had increased to 200 on 23rd (JRS) - the third highest count on the Club records. There were seven at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th and **Bretton Lakes** held 16 on 21st and 10 were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 24th. Singles were noted at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Elland GP**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, and **Sparth Res.** on single dates.

In February, 18 were present at **Bretton Lakes** on 8th, a maximum of 30 were at **Horbury Wyke/Strands** on 12th with 21 at nearby **Horbury SW** the following day. A single was at **Broadstones** on 14th, **Blackmoorfoot** hosted three on 14th and five were present at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 26th.

As expected, numbers continued to fall in March, and the only double figure counts were of 10 and 16 at **Horbury SW** on 13th and 24th respectively. Elsewhere, two were at **Hey Green, Marsden** on 3rd, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th, three at **Deer Hill Res.** on 19th, and a single at **Bretton Lakes** on 30th.

Birds were predictably scarce in April. Singles were at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 5th, **Ingbirchworth** on 5th and 11th, presumed pairs were at **Langsett** on 8th and 21st and at **Little Black Moss Res.** on 10th.

During the breeding season it was pleasing to report confirmation of breeding at **Little Black Moss Res.** - a female and five young being noted on 5th May - and **Redbrook Res.** - a female and two young on 6th June.

Elsewhere, a male was at **Isle of Skye Quarry** – a former breeding site – on 27th May, and a single was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 10th July.

In August **Blackmoorfoot** recorded a single on 4th, six on 18th, two on 21st and 10 on 27th, and four were at **Wessenden Res.** on 21st.

Blackmoorfoot also had the majority of records in September with birds present on 12 dates, the maximum being 13 on 16th. Singles were noted at **Bretton Lakes** and **Brun Clough Res.** on 1st with seven at the latter site on 4th and **Langsett Res.** held 20 on 24th.

It was a similar scenario in October with the majority again at **Blackmoorfoot**, with records on eight dates and a maximum of five on 13th and 25th. Elsewhere, nine were at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th and 34 were at **Ingbirchworth** and 25 at **Broadstones Res.** on 14th.

Birds were back at sites along the Calder in November. Up to four were regularly seen at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, whilst 60 were present at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th. In the uplands 39 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 12th were part of an influx of other wildfowl (3 Wigeon, 8 Pintail and 11 Shoveler) and 50 were at **Langsett Res.** on 19th.

December saw a further increase in birds at **Dewsbury SW**, with 160 on 13th and 120 on 19th. Back on the uplands **Blackmoorfoot** hosted birds on five dates: two on 1st, 34 on 17th, four on 19th, six on 22nd and 10 on New Year's Eve, whilst **Ingbirchworth** held 32 on 17th.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Compared to 2010 birds were recorded from 11 fewer sites - 45 (56), but breeding was recorded from four more - 21 (17).

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	38	38	34	23	24	37	53	64	63	78	58	43
Ingbirchworth Res.	82	50	67	46	34	45	65	101	130	112	45	103

Away from the two sites above, the following notable counts were:

Holmfirth – 80 on 2nd January and 100 on 4th March; **Sands Lane GP** – 70 on 18th January, 160 on 10th February (the year's highest count in the Club area), 60 on 4th March, 126 on 26th July, 106 on 2nd August and 110 on 1st September; **Horbury** – 50 on 7th April; **Winscar Res.** – 88 on 5th May; **Cannon Hall** – 150 on 15th June; **Royd Moor Res.** – 75 on 15th August, 64 on 19th September and 71 on 17th October; **Broadstones Res.** – 45 on 7th July; **Greenhead Park** – 40 on 7th September; **Windy Bank Res.** – 100 on 16th October; **Bretton Park** – 63 on 19th October; **Scammonden Res.** – 40 on 26th October; **Digley Res.** – 60 on 30th October; **Plover Road Pond, Lindley** – 50 on 27th December.

Breeding was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (118 ducklings, 19 reached the flying stage), **Sands Lane GP** (broods of 8 and 6), **Marsden** (5 broods totaling 14 ducklings), **Horbury Strands/Wyke** (16 young), **Cooper Bridge SW** (brood of 11), **Bird's Edge** (brood of 10), **Butterley Res.** (brood of 6), **Holmfirth** (brood of 6), **Boshaw Whams** (9 young), **Ingbirchworth**

Res.(2 broods of 6), **Blakeley Res.** (broods of 1 and 4), **Scout Dike Res.** (broods of 4, 7, 7 and 8), **Dean Head Res.** (brood of 10), **Cannon Hall** (30+ young), **Healey Mills** (2 ducklings), **Greenhead Park** (4 juveniles), **Redbrook Res.** (brood of 5), **Burn Clough Res.** (brood of 9 all of which survived), **Plover Road Pond**, **Lindley** (6 juveniles), **Brighthouse** (12 ducklings).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A typical year with Blackmoorfoot once again hosting the majority.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in September two were present on 16th, one on 17th, four on 25th and one on 26th. The only other records, although present in larger numbers than recently, involved eight (3 males) on 12th November (along with 3 Wigeon, 39 Teal and 11 Shoveler), a female on 27th November and eight (4 males) on 18th December.

Royd Moor Res – 6 female/immatures on 15th October (NWM).

Scammonden Res – a male on 16th November (DHP).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A pretty unremarkable year with records from just five sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only record during the first winter period involved a male on 28th January. The second half of the year, although somewhat better, only managed six sightings: three on 20th and 25th August, singles on 16th and 25th September, a male and female on 25th October and 11 on 12th November (along with 3 Wigeon, 39 Teal and 8 Pintail).

Bretton Lakes – a male and female on 21st March.

Ingbirchworth Res – a male and female on 14th April.

Royd Moor Res – three (2 males) on 8th November.

Horbury Wyke – a male on 8th December.

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

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

It was another rather poor year for this diving duck. The species has evidently declined in the Club area over the last four years.

In the first winter period eight were at **Sands Lane GP** on 7th January (the joint highest count of the year in the Club area), with three on the nearby River Calder the following day, and two were present between 17th and 27th January, and from 7th February to 20th March.

Elsewhere, two were on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 2nd and 9th January, **Bretton Park** had three on 14th and a single on 24th January, singles were at **Cannon Hall** on 24th January, **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th and 26th February, and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18th February. **Boshaw Whams** then hosted seven on 4th March and a single on 12th.

The only summer records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with a single on 2nd May, four on 9th June and a single on 15th August.

A rather poor autumn for the species commenced with a single at **Sands Lane GP** on 3rd September. **Blackmoorfoot** then recorded eight on 25th October and, in November, three on both 14th (all females) and 17th (2 males). Singles at **Bretton Park** on 27th November and 21st December were the only other records.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*)

Rare visitor/feral/escaped species

An adult male was present for just one hour at **Sands Lane GP** on 19th November (JRS). It is known that this was the long-staying bird from Calder Wetlands, just outside the Club area.

This is only the third-ever Huddersfield record, although like the previous two it is likely to be of feral origin.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Records were received from 29 sites – the same as last year. The smaller numbers on the River Calder in the early part of the year reflected the milder conditions than in 2010.

Maximum numbers at the two regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	8	3	2	3	4	6	7	10	9	5	3	5
Ingbirchworth Res.	1	5	4	4	5	10	12	14	1	1	11	7

The numbers in the table above give a false impression of presence at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** During the first six months birds were only recorded on 70 dates (47 in 2010) and on a further 79 dates between July and the year end.

Away from these sites counts of more than six birds were as follows:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – 15 on the River Calder on 2nd January; **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** – nine on the River Calder on 4th January; **Sands Lane GP** – 13 on 7th January and 16 on the River Calder on 27th January; **Bretton Park** – 10 on 21st January, 12 on 8th February, 29 on 19th October and 37 on 10th December (the year's highest count in the Club area which, incidentally, coincides with the record count of Gadwall at the same locality); **Gunthwaite Dam** – 10 on 26th February; **Royd Moor Res.** – eight on 14th March, **Winscar Res.** – six on 1st July.

The only breeding record came from **Winscar Res.** where a female and four ducklings were seen on 1st July.

One to five birds were recorded on occasional dates at the following waters: **Elland GP**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Whitley Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Meal Hill**, **Digley Res.**, **Ramsden Res.**, **Bilberry Res.**, **Diggle Res.**, **Burn Clough Res.**, **Deanhead Res.**, **Little Black Moss Res.**, **Butterley Res.**, **Wessenden Res.**, **Redbrook Res.**, and **Windy Bank Res.**

(GREATER) SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were just two records, both from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** An eclipse male was present on 16th August (MLD, CH, NWM) and a juvenile arrived at 08.30hrs. on 4th September (MLD, CH, DMO *et al.*).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Slightly fewer records than in recent years of this popular sea duck, but there were three sizeable flocks.

Winscar Res – three (2 males) on 16th July (DH).

Ringstone Edge Res – 21 (19 males) on 9th July (DT).

Deer Hill Res – five (3 males) on 31st August (NWM, DHP, KW)

Blackmoorfoot Res – 16 (7 males) departed SW at 15.45hrs. on 10th October (DHP).

Harden Quarries – a party of 20 flew W over Holmbridge during a visible migration watch on 15th October (NWM).

(COMMON) GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Uncommon winter visitor.

Records were received for only 14 sites – a rather poor total compared to an average of 20 over the last four years. Numbers were understandably much lower at sites along the River Calder in both winter periods as there was no repeat of 2010's Arctic weather. The number of birds, along with the number of days present, continues to fall at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

In January along the River Calder in the **Horbury** area, there were counts of 17 (10 males) on 1st, 22 (4 males) on 6th (DT), 12 on 15th and 16 (6 males) on 22nd, and a maximum of six were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 10th. At **Elland GP** there was a single on 4th, two on 19th and four on 27th/28th and 30th. **Bretton Lakes** hosted a single on 19th and two on 21st. In the uplands two were at **Digley Res.** on 2nd and one was on the small village pond at **Bird's Edge** on 10th.

Birds had almost vacated the Calder in February, although **Elland GP** hosted two on 3rd, three on 5th, two on 16th and 20th and a single on 22nd. **Bretton Lakes** again had two on 8th and a single on 10th. The remaining records this month came from upland waters: two were at **Bilberry Res.** on 4th, four were at **Cupwith** on 22nd, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held a female from 23rd to 26th, a male and female were present the following day and on 28th a party of three (1 male) were seen; and a single was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th.

It was a very similar scenario in March. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a female on 4th, a male and female remained from 5th to 10th, a male on 11th/12th and a male and female on 20th/21st, singles were at **Broadstones Res.** on 6th, **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th and 14th, three were at **Bilberry Res.** on 12th, with a single on 19th and four were at **Riding Wood Res.** also on 12th.

In April one or two were present on several dates at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, with a maximum of four on 7th. A single was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 10th, two were at **Bilberry Res.** on the same date, a single was at **Royd Moor Res.** on 11th and two were present on 16th. There were just three

May reports: a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd and 5th and a single on the River Colne at **Slaithwaite** on 26th.

The first to return in autumn was not until a single appeared at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 2nd November. **Blackmoorfoot** then had a single on 5th/6th, two on 12th, a single on 14th/15th and two on 17th. The first birds back on the River Calder were three at **Horbury** on 16th and then nine on 27th, and **Sands Lane GP** held two on 19th and three from 23rd to 28th. **Bretton Lakes** could only muster a single on 28th.

In December singles were at **Sands Lane GP** on 6th, and two remained from 9th to 15th. Thirteen (8 males) at **Horbury** was the last report of the year from the Calder. In the uplands a single was at **Bilberry Res.** on 10th, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held two on 14th, a single on 16th, seven (5 males) on 17th, two on 19th and a single on 22nd; and **Ingbirchworth** and **Royd Moor** hosted two each on 17th.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Rare winter visitor.

The returning Pugnys CP/Calder Wetlands male once again visited the River Calder within the Club area.

In January it was seen in the **Horbury** area on 1st/2nd, 12th and 22nd (DB, DH, JRS, DT). A redhead on the river at **Dewsbury SW** on 4th was joined by the male on 8th (DT) and a redhead was present at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 10th (DT) and 16th (DM, JRS).

The returning male again visited the **Horbury** area on 28th/29th November and 16th December (DH, AK, JRS).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

It was another good year for what is usually a scarce Huddersfield bird. Once again, **Blackmoorfoot** was the favoured site.

In January a male and female were on the River Calder in the **Horbury Wyke/Strands** area on 2nd and 15th, with a male and two females here on 4th, and the male on 6th, 9th and 13th (DH, TP, JRS, DT). What was probably the same male briefly stayed at **Sands Lane GP** on 26th January after arriving with two Goosander (JRS). At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there was a male on 9th February (TD, CH, DHP) and a female on 21st March (MLD, CH) and a male was present at **Hinchliffe Mill** on 27th March (WDH).

During the second half of the year all records were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**: a female-type was present on 13th July (MLD, CH) and in October, four (an eclipse male and 3 female-types) were seen on 10th (MC, CH, DHP *et al.*) and three males on 13th (TD, CH).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*
Common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from 31 sites.

Maximum numbers from regular sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	25	14	13	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	6	15
Bretton Park	22	15	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12	22	19

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present on a near daily basis between 13th January and 28th March (401 bird/days) and again between 5th November and the year end (80 bird/days). The number of bird/days totalled 501 (392 in 2010).

At **Elland GP**, a hitherto favoured site, records were only forthcoming from January/February: seven on 1st, 15 on 14th, 40 on 27th, 13 on 28th and 10 on 31st, and 12 on 5th February.

In January three were present on the River Calder at **Brighouse** and **Bradley Hall Farm** on 3rd, two were at **Healey Mills** on 4th, with three on 17th, four on 23rd and 12 on 29th. Birds were also present on the River Calder in the **Horbury** area on six dates, with a maximum of 14 on 9th; **Sands Lane GP** held five on 7th, with six on the River Calder here on 8th, two on 18th and eight on 26th.

In the uplands, three were at **Scammonden Res.** and four at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 3rd, three were on the river at **Slaithwaite** on 9th, three were at **Windy Bank Res.** on 10th and two on 18th; singles frequented **Clayton West SW** and the River Colne at **Kings Mill Lane** on 10th, three were at **Tunnel End** on 17th, six appeared at **Sparth Res.** on 20th, with four here on 24th and two on 26th, and singles were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 22nd and **Golcar** on 29th.

During February **Sands Lane GP** hosted 10 on 1st, 12 on 7th, 17 on 12th, 10 on 18th and 17 again on 20th, two were at **King's Mill Lane** on 2nd, five were at **Horbury** on 11th/12th, with four here on 15th and three on 16th; four were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th and 10 appeared at **Windy Bank Res.** on 23rd.

March began with 10 at **Horbury** on 1st, 21 on the River Calder near the sewage works on 11th, six were at **Sparth Res.** on 3rd and three at **Deer Hill** also on this date were the regular observer's first record in 'almost 30 years of birding' (DMP) - a single was also seen here on 12th with two again on 14th, 19th and 21st, 11 were at **Sands Lane GP** on 10th, 10 were at **Healey Mills** on 18th, and two were at **Longwood Res.** on 18th and 26th.

Predictably, numbers began to fall in April. Fourteen at **Digley** on 3rd was by far the highest count of the month, with eight present on 8th, five were at **Horbury** on 9th and a single was at **Winscar Res.** on 10th. In early May presumed pairs were at **Bretton Lakes** on 2nd and on the River Calder at **Brighouse** on 5th.

Breeding took place in the area for the fifth successive year, with two broods of recently hatched young (10 and 6) noted at **Colne Bridge SP** on 15th May; a female with six young - perhaps one of the same - at **Heaton Lodge SW** on 1st June; and a female with three young on the River Calder on 20th June. The sole July occurrence involved two (a female and a juvenile) at **Healey Mills** - a former breeding site - on 22nd.

The majority of September and October reports came from Blackmoorfoot (see above). The only occurrences away from here were 12 at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th October, a single at **Sands Lane GP** on the same date which remained until 19th November, and a single at **Healey Mills** on 24th October which remained until 2nd November.

November saw an increase in reports beginning with up to four at **Windy Bank Res.** from 11th to 16th, five at **Healey Mills** on 16th, three at **Golcar** on 17th, a single at **Longwood Res.** on 18th, two at **Royd Moor** on 19th and two at **Horbury** on 27th with four here the following day.

Away from Bretton and Blackmoorfoot in December, four were at **Sands Lane GP** on 6th; up to three were at **Windy Bank Res.** from 10th to 13th, three at **Healey Mills** on 13th, 13 on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 16th, two at Burnlee Fishing Pond, **Holmfirth** on 26th and a single was at **Sands Lane GP** on 27th.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*
Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

There were 48 reports from a similar number of sites as last year. Birds were noted in every month except December.

The only significant numbers reported involved 30 at **Langsett** on 8th and 50 there on 20th January, 30 at **Cook's Study Hill** on 15th April with 19 counted at this site on 5th May, 50 flying in a tight flock at **Bradshaw** on 8th October and a flock of 50 at **Winscar** on 1st November.

Elsewhere, with the exception of a party of two adults with c.20 fledged young near the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 17th June, counts were of 18 birds or less.

One observer reports that his walks from **Holme** to **Black Hill** on 3rd June, 23rd July and 22nd August produced several family parties with up to 10 chicks in a brood. The only other report of breeding concerns a nest containing nine eggs on **Thurlestone Moor** on 21st April, and another nest with nine eggs, found by the same observer on the same date at **Stone Rocks**.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*
Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

As in previous years, probably the best place to encounter this species was in the **High Hoyland** area, where large numbers were released for shooting, and 50+ birds were reported here in both winter periods.

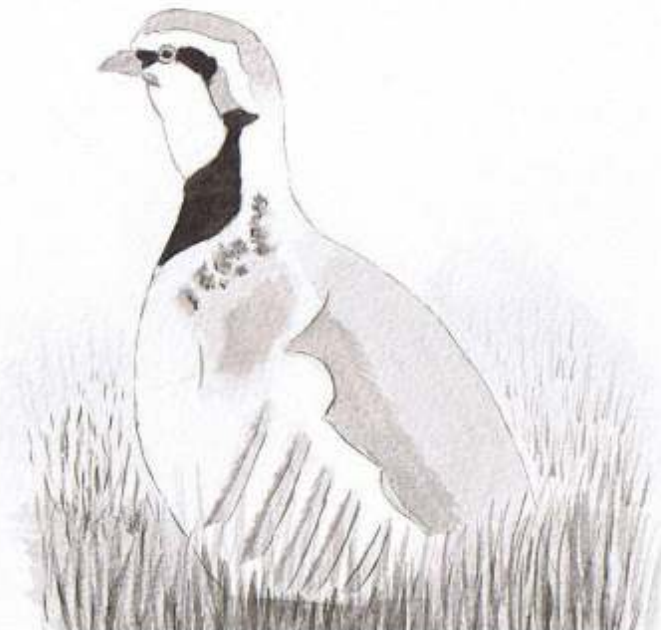
Elsewhere birds were reported as follows:

Royd Moor Res – two on 14th and 19th March.

Meltham/Royd Edge – two on 19th March.

Broadstone Res/Potter's Gate – two on 2nd April and 12 on 12th November.

Deer Hill – two on 17th April, four on 20th May and two on 25th May.



Thurgory Lane – one on 25th April.

Ingbirchworth – two on 10th May and a single on 15th May, and five off Horn Lane on 27th September.

Whitley Edge – two on 19th May, and an amazing flock of 30 on 19th November.

Tinker Hill – two on 24th May.

Burn Clough Res – two flushed on 12th July.

Cheesegate Nab – three on 17th August and four off Dick Edge Lane on the same date.

Emley Moor – eight on 15th October were considered unusual at this site by the observer.

Hey Slack – 13 on 24th October.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

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

Recorded in every month and from about the same number of sites as last year (35). How many are released for shooting purposes remains impossible to tell.

There were no double-figure counts in the first half of the year. The largest counts were as follows:

At **Dewsbury SW** there were six on 10th January, five at **Oldfield** on 20th January, and nine at **Deer Hill** on 22nd January then, with the exception of the breeding parties no more than four were recorded from any other site until a party of 12 at **Thurgory Lane** on 14th July, nine at **Horbury Wyke** on 17th August, eight at **Deer Hill** on 9th September with 10 on 30th September and 14 on

5th December, 14 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th September in the SW corner overflow field (the largest number ever recorded at the site), 12 at **Flight Hill** on 20th September, 11 at **Meltham** on 1st October, 12 near **Lane Village** on 22nd October, nine at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 25th November and six at **Royd Edge** on 17th December. Elsewhere no more than four were reported.

Confirmation of breeding came from **Meltham/Royd Edge** where two very small young were with two adults on 14th May, **Isle of Skye Quarry** where 12+ young were present in July, a pair bred at **Blackmoorfoot** with five juveniles being seen on Meltham Cop in late June, **Shelley-Roydhouse** had a family party of 10 on 27th July and at **Deer Hill** where four juveniles were seen in a covey of 12 birds on 31st July.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

There were four reports of this diminutive and secretive game-bird.

Deer Hill – one calling from cotton grass on 30th May (DMP).

Scout Dike Res. – one calling on 1st June (RJB).

Royd Moor – a singing male on 29th June (MCW).

Emley Moor – a single calling on 8th/9th July (SRG).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Records were submitted from over 40 sites again this year, and as might be expected large numbers were released for the enjoyment of the field sport fraternity.

The largest number reported by some margin was in the **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** area where the observer estimated that between 50 and 70 pairs were present in the valley throughout the year.

Although five or less were reported from many widely scattered localities, the only counts in excess were as follows:

Six were at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 3rd January; up to eight were at **Choppards** during January/February; seven were in Orange Wood, **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th January and then up to five were recorded on a near daily basis between 25th February and 26th October with outlying singles on two dates in November and 31st December; seven were seen at **Deer Hill** on 29th March; six were present at **Digley** on 3rd April; six were seen at **Cheesegate Nab** on 6th April and nine were in **Bretton Park** 19th October.

The only breeding reports came from **Blackmoorfoot** where a pair bred in Orange Wood, four half-grown young being seen on 24th June, **Bretton Park**, **Shepley**, **Farnley Tyas**, and the **Woodsome Valley** but with no quantitative details are available for these last four mentioned sites.

A melanistic male was seen at **Broadstones Res.** on 6th April and birds visited gardens in **Netherthong**, **Almondbury**, **Marsden** and **Lockwood**.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Rare winter visitor

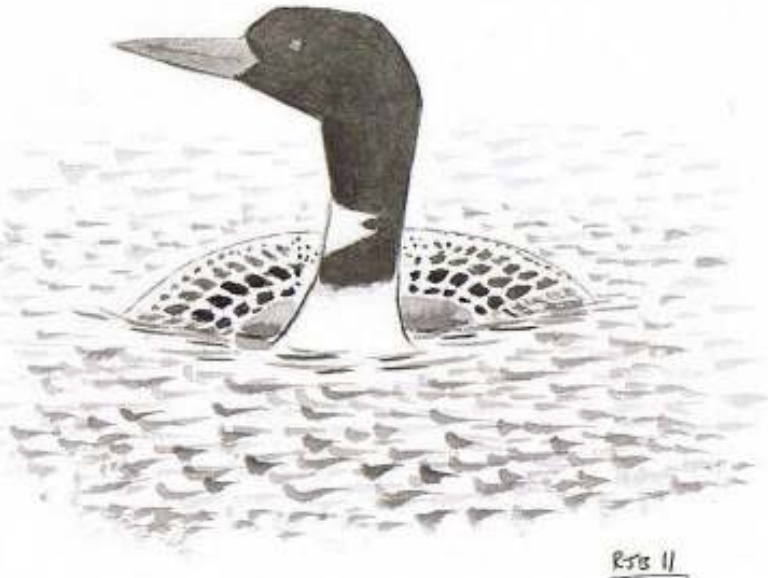
Four birds arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the early afternoon on 8th October in very gloomy conditions. All four had departed by the following morning (MC, CH, SP *et al.*).

These birds, which always remained as a group, were considered by some observers to be a family party (2 adults + 2 juveniles) and by another experienced observer to consist of three juveniles and one winter-plumaged adult. Viewing conditions, however, were far from ideal, and the birds were always distant, favouring the centre of the reservoir. A multiple occurrence of this species at any in-land water-body is, however, quite unusual.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor.

An adult in immaculate summer plumage was present on **Ringstone Edge Res.** between 12th and 19th October (DHP, NWM *et al.*).



LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Recorded at only 23 waters this year, slightly down on the previous year. Although no active nests were reported, it undoubtedly bred at some suitable waters.

Elland GP – a single on 1st January, three on 3rd February and a single on 15th August.

Horbury – regular in the early months with six recorded on the River Calder on 22nd January, six on 23rd October and then between three and five present to the year end.

Ingbirchworth Res – reported as being present throughout the year and may have bred. Four birds were recorded on 17th October.

Sands Lane GP – two present throughout the year.

Bretton Lakes – reported as resident and probably breeding but no further detail are available.

Boshaw Whams – regular and probably bred with seven (2 adults + 5 juveniles) recorded on 24th September.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – up to three present throughout the year.

Meal Hill – two on 6th March, young observed here on 6th July but counting difficult due to restricted access.

Royd Moor Res – six on 19th March then one to three birds reported up to the year end.

Broadstone Res – four (2 pairs on territory) on 28th March, one pair was present throughout the year despite the reservoir being drained due to repair work.

Scout Dike Res – two on 29th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only records during the first half of the year involved a single from 26th to 28th May and singles (different birds) on 22nd and 27th June. In the second half of the year birds were more numerous: in July, a single on 7th was followed by two on 24th and one from 25th to 31st, there were four records of one or two birds in August, including a juvenile from 9th to 13th, a single took up residence between 5th and 14th September and thereafter, one to three were seen on 35 days until 28th October

Deanhead Res – probably bred at this site where two adults were recorded feeding two juveniles on 9th June.

Redbrook Res – a single juvenile from 11th to 16th July. On the latter date this bird was accompanied by two adults but was not thought to have bred at the site by the observer.

Harden Res – two (adult + juvenile) were harassed by Black-headed Gulls on 23rd July. This species is considered unusual at this location.

Tunnel End Res – a single between 31st August and 5th November with much trilling on the first date.

Horbury SW – five on 25th November.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Records were received from 11 sites but proof of breeding came from only two of these.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a single on 29th January and two on 13th/14th February. From 24th February until 29th September up to 17 were present on a daily basis, peaking in July/August (see table). Two pairs attempted to nest, but failed due to the falling water level. The only records thereafter concerned up to four (usually 1 or 2) on 30 days between 7th October and 30th December.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	7	5	8	8	17	13	3	4	2	1

Horbury – five recorded on the River Calder on 1st January then between two and three birds to the month end.

Ingbirchworth Res – two were present throughout the year with three on both 14th March and 5th May but there was no evidence of breeding.

Bretton Lakes – reported as resident and breeding, a pair with two large young were present on 4th July and another pair with three young were seen on 9th August. Up to seven birds of mixed ages were recorded on a number of dates in September/October.

Elland GP – singles on 27th January and 6th May.

Sands Lane GP – singles on 1st February, 20th May and 15th December.

Scout Dike Res – four adults on 29th March. A pair was recorded displaying here on 2nd May.

Royd Moor Res – two on 16th April, three adults on 13th June and a single juvenile on 24th August.

Ringstone Edge – two adults on 23rd April and 9th June, and a single on 13th October.

Shelley – a single on a private pond on 2nd May.

Langsett Res – two adults on 4th May.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Rare visitor.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28th November (MLD, CH, DHP *et al.*) was the eighth record for the reservoir and the first since January 2001.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor, increasing.

There were two records from **Blackmoorfoot Res** – a moulting adult was present from 6th to 8th August (MLD, CH, DHP *et al.*) and two days after the adults departure a juvenile appeared but only remained for the day (MLD, CH, DHP).

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

Rare vagrant.

A slightly injured bird was picked up in a garden at **Meltham** by a local on 11th September. It was released onto Deer Hill Res. the same day where it was seen by several observers. The bird had departed by the following morning (DMP, SP *et al.*). This is the first record of this species for the Club area since 1892. See the more detailed article on page 122.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Records came from around 30 sites again this year and birds were seen in all months.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – eight (7 adults + an immature) flew W on 1st January. Usually between two and five were recorded during most months with a maximum of 10 on 12th June, one of which sported a red plastic ring on its right leg.

Brighouse – five adults on River Calder near Anchor Pit Lock on 3rd January.

Dewsbury SW – maximum monthly counts were of 17 adults on the River Calder on 14th January, six on 18th April and six on 3rd June. Five birds were seen in flight over Dewsbury town centre towards Sands Lane GP on 21st January.

Elland GP – a maximum count of 23 on 18th January with only four recorded on 4th February with no further reports after this date.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 24th January, three on 28th February, singles on 27th June and 23rd July, and four (2 adults + 2 juveniles) arrived from the E on 2nd October.

Sands Lane GP – present in good numbers in the first three months with 20 recorded on 20th February including some in full breeding plumage and at least some, if not all, showing characteristics of the race *P. c. sinensis* (DHP). There was a maximum count of 22 on 10th March.

Bretton Lakes – reported in low single figures during both winter periods.

Scout Dike Res – reported in small numbers during both winter periods.

Boshaw Whams – two adults in breeding plumage on 2nd March, then no reports until November and December with a maximum count of six on 31st December.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – all records were during the first half of the year with a maximum of six on the River Calder on 23rd January and four adults on 30th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were no records in January or February, the first being an immature which flew S on 7th March. Thereafter one to ten (generally 1 to 6) were recorded on a further 67 dates between 25th March and 28th December, being present almost daily between 20th July and 23rd August. Most birds, as is usual, were juvenile/immatures and the highest counts occurred during August/September. Of the birds which over flew (or departed) the reservoir, all but three flew between W and S.

Scammonden Res – seven (6 adults + an immature) on 30th July.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 13th October.

Castleshaw – three on 5th November.

Colne Bridge SP – eight on 18th November.

Fly-over birds included: two N over **Upper Heaton** on 13th February, two W over **Linthwaite** on 21st March, four adults NW over **Broadstone Heath** on 16th April, five over the observers house at **Hepworth** on 21st July, three over the observers house at **Harden** the same day, six heading SW up the **Colne Valley** on 14th September and five SW at **Harden Quarries** on a visible migration watch on 15th October.

Elsewhere no more than two birds were reported.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

This small striking heron was recorded on three occasions, involving four birds.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a bird which flew W upriver in the morning of 4th May was later found feeding on the riverbank N of the reserve, and later moved to a stream at Healey Lane where it was present till dusk. The bird was not re-located the following day (JRS).

Thornhill Edge – two birds flew towards Middlestown then SW until out of sight on 24th August (JRS).

Langsett – a single on 26th September (MCW).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

This species can be seen just about anywhere in the Club area and at any time of year. Although records came from around 50 sites again this year and covered all months, one observer intimated

that there was some indication that this species had suffered the effects of the severe winter, with December 2010 reported as being the coldest for 100 years.

At **Bretton Lakes** 70 birds were present on 10th February when there was 37 apparently occupied nests but information on breeding success was not forthcoming. The only other records regarding breeding came from **Moor Bottom Farm, Meltham** (no access to this site) where at least eight occupied nests were counted from Honley Wood and at **Kirkburton/Storthes Hall Woodland** and **Lepton Great Wood**, but no further detail were forthcoming.

Away from heronries no notable gatherings were reported.

At **Cooper Bridge SW** birds were present throughout the year, both on the ponds and as fly-overs, with a maximum of four on 28th January. On the **River Calder** at Horbury four were noted on 23rd January and there were regular sightings at **Elland GP** in the early months with a maximum of four on 20th February. At **Sands Lane GP** small numbers were recorded on several dates throughout the year with a maximum of seven (2 juveniles) on 18th June and at **Horbury Wyke** one to five were present on most visits throughout the year with a maximum of seven on 24th November.

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a quiet year. In the past this lack of occupancy has been attributed to the very high water level but, as in 2010, the water level lowered appreciably during autumn. One to four (generally only 1 or 2) were seen on 139 dates (89 in 2010) between 27th February and 6th November. The only exceptions concerned five (2 present + 3 N) on 12th July, six on 15th July with five for the following four days and seven (2 present + 5 N) on 22nd August.

Elsewhere no more than three birds were reported.

One very approachable individual was fishing in the river at **Holme** near the Co-op car park on 6th January and attracted a lot of attention from the public. Another very confiding bird seen fishing in the river at **Holmfirth** on 30th April seemed totally oblivious as people took photographs of it with mobile phones.

(EURASIAN) **SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*

The fifth record for the Club area.

Two adults flew SE over the observers' garden at **Linthwaite** at about 07.45hrs. on 5th October (SP).

Amazingly these birds were recorded over almost the exact location as the bird in 2009.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

Records of this impressive raptor were down somewhat on the previous years' total.

Brockholes – a single on 13th February (D&H Sill).

Harden – a bird flew WSW over the visible migration site at Harden Quarries on 12th March (MC), and one was watched here on the ground and in flight between 07.20hrs. and 09.35hrs. on 15th October (DHP, NWM).

Crosland Hill – a single flew W at 09.30hrs. on 13th March (D. Barker).

Farnley Line – one harassed by a Carrion Crow over woodland on 21st March (DH).

Hade Edge – one flew NW towards Scholes on 25th March (PMcG).

Bare Bones Road – a second-calendar year bird circled low at close range, before gaining height and heading off towards Ramsden Clough on 25th March. A distant bird over Ramsden Clough on 2nd April may refer to same bird (both DMP, SP).

Carlecotes – a moulting adult flew SW at 15.00hrs. on 25th May (DM Pearce).

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a very high bird headed NW at 10.20hrs. on 10th June (BA, JRS).

Mag Dale – a single on 3rd July (DB).

Winscar – one flew W on 17th August (MC).

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

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3	8	10	17	10

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

There were four reports of this fine raptor, the same as in 2010.

Harden - a juvenile was panicking grouse on the moors on 12th August, and what was probably the same bird was joined by a second juvenile here on 16th/17th August (MC).

Riding Wood Res - a 'cream-crown' drifted S over the reservoir on 20th August (DMP, SP, KW).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a 'cream-crown' flew SW over Meltham Cop at 13.15hrs. on 24th September (TD, CH). This is the ninth record for the reservoir, the first being in April 2006.

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

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
2	2	3	1	1	1	5	3	4	4

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As last year, five records again of our most persecuted bird of prey.

Scout Dike Res – a second-calendar year male was photographed by the observer as it drifted NW on 20th April (DHP). Normally birds of this age cannot be ascribed to sex. This bird, however, had replaced two central tail feathers (probably due to accidental loss), which were clearly visible on photographs. When birds lose feathers, through moult or accidental loss, they replace them with the next generation; in this case the grey adult male feathers'.

Isle of Skye Quarry – an adult male flew low to the N on 25th April (DHP).

Harden – a 'ring-tail' watched from the observers' house on 19th August (MC).

Winscar Res – a 'ring-tail', probably a juvenile, was watched for over 20 minutes near the yacht club as it chased grouse and interacted with/was mobbed by, and in turn mobbed Common

Buzzard, two Sparrowhawks, two Kestrels and a Stoat on 19th November (DMP, SP, KW). What was probably the same bird was seen from the observers' house at Harden later the same day (MC).

Dove Stone Res – a report of a 'ring-tail' in the area sometime in November but no further details are available (via MJW).

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

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	1	4	4	4	1	4	1	5	5

(NORTHERN) **GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*
Sporadic breeder (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce visitor.

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

A slight improvement on recent times with five reports of this powerful hawk.

A bird at one site drifted S before moving off higher with occasional flaps on 30th January (J&D. O'Hara, S. Westerberg, T. Wiffen). A female, easily identified on size alone was mobbed by Sparrowhawks as it flew high towards **Holme Moss** on 12th March, the observers opinion was that this bird was passing through and was not seen again (DMP, SP). A male in immature plumage at another site was seen in flight through pines on 19th March (DMP, SP). At **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** a bird was recorded on 15th, 16th and 17th April (JRS). A juvenile was recorded moving W up **Blakely Clough** on 23rd July (JMP).

(EURASIAN) **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*
Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Records were received from about 70 sites this year and covering all months.

Interesting encounters included a bird catching a Redwing as it flushed winter thrushes in a field at **Cheesegate Nab** on 2nd January. Redwing was again the victim on the same day at **Digley**. One hunted Pied Wagtails at **Horbury SW** on 4th January. A bird swooped in low and took a Linnet at **Broadstone Heath** on 25th April. A tiny juvenile was constantly mobbed by breeding Black-headed Gulls at **Winscar Res.** on 19th July and a bird was mobbed by two Buzzards here on 3rd August. A female was seen to take a Magpie at **Fixby** on 28th November. On 23rd December a male at **Lockwood** was suspected of hunting Dipper or Grey Wagtail as it hugged the river flying fast against the flow in typical hunting fashion and following every twist and bend as it went.

Birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot**. Generally only a single was present but two were seen on 10th April and on nine days between 14th August and 14th December with at least three on 26th October. The months with the highest bird/days were September (16) and October (23), although the number of bird/days was usually less than five.

The only definite proof of breeding concerns an adult taking prey to a nest site at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** 24th July (2 juveniles were seen here with an adult on 26th August) and at

Horbury SW a pair bred in a small wood near the river, although no further details are available. Breeding was also strongly suspected at **Bretton Park, Crossley's Plantation, Ingbirchworth, Langsett, Lepton Great Wood, Lower Stones Wood, Penny Spring Wood, Shelley, Winscar and Yateholme** and it undoubtedly did so at several other sites.

Displaying birds were observed at **Riding Wood/Ramsden** with up to four (2 pairs) in the air at one time on several dates between March and June, at **Langsett** two pairs were displaying on 16th March as were a pair at **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th March. Elsewhere, with the exceptions of seven at **Winscar** on 9th April and three in the **Little Don Valley** on 30th April, all other reports were of one or two individuals.

Birds visited and hunted in gardens at **Almondbury, Honley, Marsh, Meltham, Marsden, New Mill** (where a bird struck and killed a Collared Dove on 23rd April), **Skelmanthorpe** and **Thongsbridge**.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
49	16	24	31	4	8	15	16	26	17	9	10

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

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

Continues to be our most frequently recorded raptor and reported from over 70 sites again throughout the year. A pair bred at one site, raising a total of four young. (Pairs also bred at this location in 2009 and 2010, but went undocumented at the time).

Several birds were sometimes encountered at the same site, often in the air together. These included:

Whitley Beaumont – encountered throughout the year with a maximum of five on 15th September.

Kirklees Park – present throughout the year, with a maximum of seven soaring together on an unspecified date.

Cawthorne Park – eight in the air together, circling and drifting slowly NE at 13.05hrs. on 9th February.

Deer Hill – three soaring together moved off NE on 1st March and four on 27th June.

Honley – four over-flying on 12th March.

Horbury Strands – three in the air together on 13th March.

Bretton Park – four birds displaying on 21st March.

Wessenden Valley – four birds present on 22nd March.

Grimescar Valley – five seen on 27th March.

Thick Hollins, Meltham – four circling together on 8th April were mobbed by Carrion Crows.

Winscar – seven present on 9th April, and three over high the following day.

New Mill – five together soaring on thermals on 24th April.

Dunford Bridge – three, two of which flew E on 27th April.

Little Don Valley – six present on 30th April.

Shelley/Far Bank – eight drifted W on 26th September.

High Hoyland – five on 6th October.

Birds were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17 occasions, the same as in 2010, but the number of individuals in autumn was up on previous years: one flew S on 22nd January; in April a single flew S on 4th, a single was present on 9th and two circled over Edge Moor on 20th, the only May record involved a single on 4th; in August a single drifted W on 17th and one circled Edge Moor on 26th; September records involved a single circling over Edge Moor on 1st, five circling together over Orange Wood which departed S on 10th, two circling over Edge Moor on 15th, 10 circling over the south bank/Meltham Cop on 27th and two over Edge Moor the following day; in October a single over the south bank departed W on 22nd, one was circling over Edge Moor on 23rd and three over the east bank on 26th (2 drifted S, the other N); the only November record concerned two circling over the south bank on 18th and the final record of the year involved a single which flew W on 18th December.

Elsewhere one or two birds were recorded on more than one occasion at several sites including **Farnley Tyas** where two birds were seen circling then seen to land in School Wood on 21st March, **Cheesegate Nab** where two birds were in sporadic aerial confrontation with two Kestrels on 14th September, a very pale individual was seen over **Windy Bank Wood** on 27th September, on the same date a single at **Ingbirchworth** appeared to be involved in an aerial tussle with a Grey Heron and one at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** roosted in a coppice from 1st November to the year end and

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	6	28	35	13	6	5	14	25	16	6	4

ROUGH- LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

This impressive raptor was recorded for the second year running after a long absence, two in the same area as the 2010 bird.



A single was present at **Dove Stone Res.** on 6th March (D. O'Hara, S. Westerberg). At **Winscar** - a juvenile (probably the 2010 October bird) was watched for over 20 minutes both in flight and on the ground before it drifted slowly NW over Snailsden Moor on 19th March. This bird was filmed by SP and a video grab was put on the BirdGuides web site (DMP, SP, KW). The same observers (DMP, SP, KW) found another juvenile at the same location on 29th October, later the same day two juveniles were reported here together (RJB, NWM). Two were reported again, distantly on 31st October being mobbed by a Peregrine (SRG), thereafter one was seen by several observers and photographed, the last reliable sighting being on 1st November (TM, MC, DHP *et al.*). At **Buckstones** a bird was present on 16th/17th November and was photographed distantly perched on a hillside on the latter date (S. Downing, T. Walker *et al.*).

The records of two birds together are still awaiting ratification by the YNU but have been included for completeness.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

Another rather disappointing year for this splendid fish-eating raptor with just two records.

Winscar - a bird was seen from the observers' house moving NW on 2nd April (MC).

Shelley/Far Bank - one, again watched from the observers' house for c.10 minutes as it drifted slowly S towards Upper Cumberworth at 07.30hrs. on 22nd July (SRG).

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

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
7	5	1	9	2	2	8	3	1	2

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Although recorded in every month and from over 60 sites, this is a species that almost certainly continues to be under recorded. There were very few reports of breeding this year.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two (very occasionally 3) were present throughout the year and a pair raised four young in the YW tower, a pair were reported to have bred at **Laddow Rocks**, **Crowden** but no further detail are available, a pair bred at **Mount Scar**, **New Mill** and up to four birds were seen on one occasion in August, a pair bred in a tree hollow at **Thurgory Lane** but no further detail are available and a pair were feeding two young at **Digley** on 28th July.

Pairs present at other sites where breeding possibly occurred included: **Bretton Park**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Emley Moor**, **Horbury**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Kirkheaton**, **Langsett**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Marsden**, **Meltham**, **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (where, on 15th October, one sported a red ring of unknown origin), **Whitley Beaumont** and **Woodsome Golf Course**.

Elsewhere records consisted of one or two birds with the exception of four near **Digley** on 23rd July, five at **Cheesegate Nab** on 19th August, three at **Digley** on 30th October and seven between **High Hoyland** and **Bretton Park** on 12th December.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

Our smallest bird of prey was encountered in every month from just over 20 sites, a significant improvement over the last couple of years. Records were spread fairly evenly throughout the year.

The only information regarding breeding concerns a pair located at a previously favoured site with much calling on 13th March. This continued into early April, when they became much less frequently encountered. The nest site was monitored by the Peak District Raptor Monitoring Group, unfortunately the breeding attempt failed but no further details were forthcoming on the cause. At another site that has been used for breeding several times in the past a male was present on 30th May but was not seen subsequently.

Elsewhere records were as follows:

Horbury Wyke – an adult chasing a Redwing on 1st January.

Isle of Skye Road – a single in flight low over the moor on 2nd January.

Bretton Park - an adult flew S over Bath Wood on 10th February.

Helme – one on 1st March.

Royd Moor Res – an adult male at rest on a wall on 19th March.

Skelmanthorpe – an adult female flew WNW over the observers' house at 17.45hrs. on 25th March.

Whitley Edge – a single on 12th April.

Penistone – an adult male terrorising passage Wheatears at Hartcliffe Hill on 27th April.

Carlecotes – an adult flew NW on 16th June.

Harden – a probable juvenile flew SE being mobbed by Swallows on 23rd July, a juvenile over Harden Quarries visible migration site on 25th September and a single trying to catch migrants on 9th October.

Broadstones Res – an adult flew W on 28th July.

Deer Hill Res – an adult female chasing Meadow Pipits along the E bank of the reservoir on 7th August.

Blackmoorfoot – a single over the fields to the west on 17th August, one over Meltham Cop on 29th August and singles over Orange Wood on 3rd September and 10th September.

Ingbirchworth – an adult buzzed the migrant Meadow Pipits on 20th September.

Holme Moss – a single on 23rd September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a juvenile on 26th October, and probably the same bird here on 6th November.

Baitings Res – an adult female took refuge in a stand of conifers after being harried by Carrion Crows on 26th October.

Hepworth – a single was watched for five minutes perched on a telegraph pole in Slack Top Lane before departing W on 22nd November.

Whitley Common – one was seen in pursuit of a Snow Bunting that had been found by the same observers minutes earlier on 26th November.

Winscar – two adults interacting on 13th December was considered unusual winter behaviour by the observer.

Lower Cumberworth – a single seen briefly in flight at Coal Pit Lane on 24th December.

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

The best showing yet for this stream-lined hunter.

Fullshaw – a single over W towards the Little Don Valley on 25th May (DM Pearce).

Blackmoorfoot – a single over Meltham Cop on 7th June (TD), one flew S along the east bank on 2nd September (MLD, SWJ), a single flew over the reservoir on 16th September (GK) and a single was over Meltham Cop on 26th September (CH).

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a single feeding in the valley on 11th and 13th June (BA, MLD, JRS).

Brun Clough – a single on 26th June (M. Rigby).

Helme – a single on 26th June (TD).

Wessenden Head – good views of a bird hunting (probably moths) on 2nd July (DMP, SP, KW), what was probably the same bird was seen in the same general area the following day (SP).

Deer Hill End Road – one on 9th July (TD).

Ingbirchworth – a single over at 12.55hrs. on 15th July (MCW), and an adult in low flight here on 20th August (DMP, SP, KW).

Mill Moor, Meltham – a first-summer chasing Swallows over Panna Mill Dam on 24th July (DMP). First-summer birds, at one time, were thought to remain in their African winter quarters but it is now known that a small percentage do return to Britain.

Shelley/Far Bank – a single over to the S on 20th August (SRG).

Yatcholme – a bird zipped low through pine trees on 20th August (DMP, SP, KW).

Linthwaite – a single over the observers' house on 21st August (SP).

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

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3	12	9	13	7	8	8	11	12	16

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

This impressive and powerful falcon was reported from about 40 sites this year with records spanning all months. Breeding or attempted breeding was reported from four sites.

At one well monitored site the female laid three eggs but these failed to hatch (SRG per RSPB). At another site two young were present in the nest by late May, one young subsequently died having reached juvenile plumage. It was thought that the second young may have left the nest successfully as both adults were acting in an agitated manner on 4th July. At another site, carefully watched by two observers throughout the breeding cycle, two young successfully fledged, both juveniles having left the nest site by 24th August.

At a fourth site a pair reared four young to the flying stage on the same small moorland crag that had been used in the previous two years. At this site hatching took place around 6th May. By the end of that month the nest ledge looked very cramped and some-time before 2nd June, when the young were about four weeks old, two had fallen/jumped out and were on the ground. The RSPB were contacted and an attempt was made to get them up off the ground away from potential predators. This was only partially successful as both young were back on the ground within three days. Amazingly, the adults continued to feed both the grounded young and the two that remained on the nest ledge. All four young were flying strongly by 3rd July. Because the nesting ledge at this site is only about four metres up from the soft ground below, it is interesting to speculate how many young are lost through falling out of high nest sites into water or on-to rocky ground.

At another location a pair was recorded at a potential breeding site on 12th March and 7th April and three birds were recorded near a former breeding haunt on 3rd April.

Elsewhere recorded as follows:

Dewsbury SW – two present on 8th January.

Hepworth – a single first noticed in the distance as it approached from Cheesegate Nab, shot through the observers' garden at head height scattering corvids and other birds in all directions on 24th February. Two birds (male + female) gave a repeat performance on 17th December.

Honley – singles were recorded on 12th March, two dates in May and 2nd October.

Bradshaw – a single on 19th March.

Grange Moor – a male and female on 20th March, the male flying round carrying a rat and calling.

Elland – a single over the River Calder on 24th March.

Brun Clough – an adult male in pursuit of a Feral Pigeon on 7th April.

Blackmoorfoot – an adult over fields to the W on 17th April, a single over fields to the W on 4th July, a juvenile over the reservoir on 19th July, an adult male departed S on 22nd July, an adult on 9th September, an adult flew N on 27th September, one over Orange Wood on 2nd October and a juvenile harassing corvids on the south side of Meltham Cop on 4th October.

Longside Moss – an adult male on 18th April.

Langsett/Little Don Valley – an adult male flew S on 22nd April.

Booth Wood Res – two adults on 23rd April.

Penistone – a single on 14th May.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a juvenile recorded both in flight and on ground on 31st May and singles on 26th October (adult) and 1st November.

Salter's Brook – an immature flew N on 3rd June.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – an single from 8th to 11th June.

Harden – a juvenile on 17th June and again on 17th August and a single on 5th November.

Ramsden Res – a single on 17th June and two juveniles on 3rd September.

Broadstone Res – a single on 10th July.

Emley Moor – a family party of four birds (2 juveniles + 2 adults) took up residence on the TV mast during August with just a single remaining from September to the year end.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 20th August,

Mirfield – a juvenile roosted on Walker's Mill chimney, first seen on 1st September and was subsequently present on most visits to the year end.

Wessenden Head – a juvenile on 4th September and two on 6th November.

Kirkheaton – a single over the observers' house on 4th September.

Flight Hill – a single on 14th September.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 24th September.

Crowden – two birds were disturbed from cliffs by rock climbing activities on 28th September.

Bilberry Res – a single on 22nd October.

Winscar – two adults were present throughout October and November with calls being heard during the former month.

Whitley Common – an adult was mobbing a Rough-legged Buzzard here on 31st October.

Snailsden – an adult S over Snailsden Moss on 3rd November.

Isle of Skye Rd – a single on 1st December.

Shooters Nab, Meltham – a large looking bird patrolled the cliffs on 17th December.

Cheesegate Nab – a male and female on 17th November.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Birds were recorded at four locations, which is around the recent average. Less encouragingly, all reports referred to singles, and at three of the sites were restricted to one date only.

Horbury Wyke – a single feeding on the riverbank on 2nd January (JRS).

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – heard calling from Reedmace on an unspecified number of dates between 11th June and 23rd November (JRS).

Bretton Park – one heard calling from the traditionally favoured area around the old boathouse at the head of the Upper Lake on 1st November (SRG).

Millbank/Thornhill – a single on the riverbank on 15th December (JRS).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Records were received from 24 localities, with breeding confirmed or suspected at half of them. Numbers at some well-watched sites were generally down on recent years but the species was without doubt still significantly under-reported in the area as a whole. Breeding locations included the following:

Cooper Bridge SF – a pair bred, but only one of the five young survived. Another pair bred on the adjacent River Calder, where two young were raised successfully.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – three pairs were in residence along the riverbank, with at least one bird on eggs on 11th April.

Boshaw Whams Res – an adult with five young on 1st May.

Dogley NR – three young present on 16th May.

Horbury – on 26th June, seven adults and two young were at the Wyke and four adults and two juveniles at the Strands. Seven adults and three young were on the River Calder nearby on 2nd July.

Brun Clough Res – two adults copulated in the presence of a small chick on 29th June.

Sands Lane GP – two pairs attempted to breed by the adjacent River Calder but no further details were received.

Meal Hill – an unspecified number of young birds seen on the lake during the breeding season.

Bird's Nest Lane – an unspecified number of young birds present on a small pond during the breeding season.

Shelley – two pairs were thought to have bred at a private pond.

Ringstone Edge Res – two adults and two juveniles present on 10th July.

Bretton Park – three young on 9th August.

Unusually, no attempts at breeding were made at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** There, a single between 19th January and 21st February was joined by a second from 22nd February until 17th March. These were then joined by a further two on 18th March; the four remaining until 25th May. The only record thereafter was of an adult on 2nd September.

Outside the breeding season, only two places managed to muster more than 10. These were **Horbury**, where a minimum of 50 were present on 6th January, and **Bretton Park**, where 26 adults and two juveniles were seen on 19th October. Another site which has produced some high counts in the past is **Elland GP**, but, unfortunately, the only record received from there was of a single on 9th June.

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

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

Birds were reported from 18 sites, six of which were in the Calder Valley.

Maximum monthly counts at two regularly monitored sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth	1	9	9	7	6	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
Horbury	40	2	1	21	2	4	Nc	12	nc	nc	nc	nc

Records from outside the breeding season (see below) offered little indication of any patterns of movement. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, singles were present on just 13 days: 23rd February, 17th to 21st March, 25th July, 4th, 10th, 24th and 30th August, 2nd September and 30th November. For some sites data was presented as simple summaries and suggested that numbers were fairly stable throughout the year. Examples were **Sands Lane GP**, where the maximum was 18, and **Boshaw Whams Res.**, where it was 14. Apart from the eight mentioned below, the only count from **Bretton Park** was of 26 on 1st September, although the observer did add that numbers there were higher in the second winter period than in the first. Records from all but one of the remaining sites were limited to a single date at each. These involved two at **Scammonden Res.** on 5th January, six

at **Dewsbury SW** on 8th January, six at **Elland GP** on 19th January, one at **Broadstones Res.** in late March/early April, two at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 23rd April, two at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15th August, and a single at **Longwood Res.** on 26th October.

Breeding occurred or was attempted at the following:

Ingbirchworth Res – an adult was at a nest on 11th April. A young bird seen with two adults on 27th June was thought to be at the flying stage and, if so, could possibly have originated from elsewhere.

Cooper Bridge SW – a pair hatched five young on 20th April, with the family party being seen regularly up to 6th June.

Horbury – 21 adults were counted on 26th April, but only three young (1 at the Strands and 2 at the Wyke) were seen on 26th June.

Sands Lane GP – a minimum of three pairs bred. Reports included eight young on 4th June, broods of six and two young on 12th July, and three broods present on 16th August.

Cannon Hall CP – adults and young noted as ‘frequently encountered’ on 15th June.

Scout Dike Res – reported as resident (with a maximum count of 17 on 29th March) and ‘probably breeding’, but no details were forthcoming.

The only other reports mentioning juveniles were of an unspecified number at **Meal Hill** on 31st July and a single with seven adults at **Bretton Park** on 27th September.

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

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

Records were received from 29 locations, down from 39 in 2009 and 31 in 2010. Once again this was not thought to reflect any genuine decline, but perhaps it represents a leveling-off after the significant increases seen in recent years. The first was one at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 19th February and the last a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20th August, aside from which none were seen anywhere after 29th July. The maximum count was 14.

Breeding was confirmed at **Langsett Res.** where two young were present on 10th June. It also occurred at **Brun Clough Res.**, where a nest containing three eggs was discovered on 5th June. By the end of the month the pair was obviously agitated by the presence of Carrion Crows, dogs and walkers and it was thought that at least two young had hatched successfully. At **Wessenden Head Res.** a pair hatched three eggs around 17th June and an adult and single juvenile were seen on 9th July. However, pairs at some other locations fared less well. Three eggs laid on a mound of paper pulp near **Digley Res.** were almost certainly taken by Carrion Crows around the middle of May. The same species was also responsible for the predation of eggs in a nest on the sprinkler beds at **Dewsbury SF W** on 26th July.

Another site where breeding possibly took place was **Winscar Res.**, which held 10 on both 27th February and 12th March, 14 on 6th April, and five on 19th May. Significant counts in March also came from **Boshaw Whams Res.** (6 on 2nd, 9 on 7th, 10 on 12th, and 12 on 27th) and **Broadstones Res.** (12 on 20th, 14 on 27th and 9 on 28th). The latter reservoir then hosted similar numbers in early April, followed by six on 8th June. Other sites attracting maxima of four or more included **Ingbirchworth Res.** (4 on 2nd April and 5th May, and 6 on 6th June), **Healey Mills** (5 seen regularly between 11th and 29th April), and **Deer Hill Res.** (4 on 11th May).

Additionally, one to three were recorded on various dates at **Elland GP**, **Sands Lane GP**, **Horbury**, **Shelley**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Cooper Bridge SW**, **Bretton Park**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**,

and **Marsden**, and the reservoirs at **Scout Dike**, **Wessenden**, **Bilberry**, **Lower Windleden**, **Harden**, **Redbrook**, **Ringstone Edge**, and **Blackmoorfoot**, where, relative to occurrences elsewhere, it was considered yet another disappointing year.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*
Migrant breeder (1), 0-8 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

Continuing its recent good run, this species was reported from 15 sites between 18th March and 7th August. Records regarding breeding activity were largely inconclusive but, given its Schedule 1 status, it is still thought necessary to conceal some details, even where breeding was not proven.

Site A – two adults were in attendance from 2nd April, with display and then agitation noted during every visit until 13th July, when two juveniles were seen.

Site B – two displaying from 21st April were joined by a third on 30th, but there were then no further records until 9th July, when three un-aged birds were present.

Site C – the only report referred to two adults, one of them sitting on eggs, on 30th April.

Site D – in May, singles occurred on 3rd and 5th. The next were two on 18th, after which up to four were regularly noted during the rest of the month. On 23rd a single was seen repeatedly scraping a patch and sitting on it, and on 25th all four birds were engaged in display. June saw one on 1st, two on 2nd, three on 10th, two on 11th, and singles on 13th and 15th, but there were no reports thereafter.

Site E – singles (unless otherwise stated) were recorded at this generally under-watched site on 8th, 10th (displaying), 20th (2), and 22nd May, and 11th and 18th June. In July, two adults and a juvenile were present on 10th, and single juveniles on 14th and 22nd.

Site F – despite having apparently suitable habitat there were no records prior to July, when counts included a minima of nine (4 adults and 5 juveniles) on 3rd, six on 5th, five on 6th, six on 7th, and five again on 10th.

Other records were received from:

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 18th March and 21st April.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 3rd April and a single on 9th May.

Deer Hill Res – two on 16th April, increasing to four displaying birds on 19th. Two, but sometimes just one, were then present through much of spring and early summer but there was no sign of breeding having occurred.

Wessenden Head Res – two on 25th April.

Healey Mills – two on 30th April.

Winscar Res – single adults on 5th and 14th May, followed by a juvenile on 29th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles were recorded in May on 23rd and 31st. In June a pair were present from 1st to 3rd and 10th to 25th and, although seen copulating and excavating scrapes, no eggs were ever laid. The only records thereafter involved two which flew S on 4th July and two along the west bank on 7th July.

Royd Moor Res – two on 11th June.

Brun Clough Res – one on 19th July.

Scout Dike Res – three on 31st July were followed in August by three on 1st, four on 2nd, and three again on 7th.

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

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

Records were received from six locations between 18th March and 31st August, and included some good numbers in May, mainly at Ingbirchworth Res. This is in contrast to the previous year, when nearly all birds appeared in autumn.

Harden – one flew WSW, calling, at 06.45hrs. on 18th March (MC) .

Ingbirchworth Res – in May singles were present on 14th and 21st, four on 24th, five on 29th and 30th, and six on 31st (NWM, DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – two were present on 24th May (JL), three flew W at 07.50hrs. on 27th June (MLD) and two flew W at 08.50hrs. on 15th August (MLD, CH).

Redbrook Res – two on 25th May (SWJ).

Scout Dike Res – **Scout Dike Res** – a single on 14th August and 16th October (RJB).

Deer Hill Res – a juvenile was present on 31st August (DHP).

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

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

The only records in January involved 14 at **Broadstone Lodge** on 8th, two flying W at **Deer Hill** on 15th, and 20 in fields next to **Meltham Golf Course** on 21st. There were none then until 13th February, when a single was at **Whitley Edge** and 20 were at **Ringstone Edge**. These were followed by 60 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 22nd and a spate of sightings on 26th, which included 120 at **Whitley Common**, c.100 (the same birds?) off **Brown's Edge Road**, and four at both **Elysium Fields** and **Snailsden Res**.

In March, 24 were at **Blackmoorfoot Res**. on 3rd. Birds were then seen almost daily there until the end of the month, with notable counts of 52 on 4th, 54 on 20th and 89 on 30th. March also produced records from **Ringstone Edge** (where numbers had increased to 180 by 8th), **Harden Moss** (14 on 8th), **Deer Hill** (23 on 11th), and **Harden** (where three were already engaged in display as early as 12th), but, as in other recent years, the largest gatherings were in the area south and west of Ingbirchworth. Counts there included 400 at **Maythorn Slack** on 26th, 300 at **Whitley Common** on the same day, c.1000 seen in flight to the south of **Annat Royd Lane** on 30th, and 300 at **Broadstone Res**. on 6th April. Such numbers were however short-lived, and the rest of spring saw only sporadic appearances of up to 12 in this area. This is in contrast to **Blackmoorfoot** where, after a peak of 219 on 13th April, birds were noted daily in May (maximum 26 on 1st) and June (maximum 11 on 7th); these perhaps also accounted for the similar-sized flocks seen regularly during the same period at nearby **Deer Hill**.

Breeding was confirmed at an undisclosed site in the south of the area, where a nest with four eggs was found on 25th April. It also took place at **Reddishaw Knoll** (1 pair), **Deer Hill** (well-grown young noted on 10th July) and **Brun Clough Res.**, where a dog was seen to pass within a metre of a tight-sitting bird on 14th July. Sightings elsewhere included 39 in suitable habitat at **Chew Res**. on 25th May, although the proportion of local breeders amongst them remains open to conjecture. Another report referred to a minimum of seven territories on moorland between **Longside Edge** and **Round Hill**, but the fact that there are two sites with the latter name – one just inside and the other just outside our southern boundary – makes it unclear as to just how many of these were within the Club area.

Meanwhile, birds continued to appear daily at **Blackmoorfoot** throughout July (maximum 22) and for most of August (maximum 31). Also seen around this time were 30 at **Broadstone Res.** on 27th July and 12 at **Deer Hill** on 12th August, but otherwise birds were scarce. September was even quieter, with singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on just five dates and five seen flying W there on 29th. The only other report of the month was of 18 which flew SW at **Harden Quarries** on 18th.

Things then began to pick up from early October, when 52 at **Broadstone Res.** on 2nd turned out to be the forerunners of a wandering flock which numbered 300 by 30th and remained in triple-figures until near the end of the year. Other October records involved 19 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 16th and 200 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 24th. At **Blackmoorfoot**, eight flew W on 7th but there were then none until 117 on 20th, after which birds were seen daily (maximum 150 on 24th) for the rest of the month. Subsequent occurrences were more spasmodic, with 67 on 7th being the best of just five counts in November, but numbers rallied again in December, when up to 90 were recorded on eight widely scattered dates. December also produced an isolated record from **Norland**, where c.50 were present on 17th.

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

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

Maxima at the most regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	100	80	76	16	0	92	320+	440+	300+	220	117	274
Ingbirchworth	nc	1	12	9	8	9	80	90	50	150	98	nc

Apart from 100 at **Dewsbury SW** on 8th, most of January's highest counts took place towards the end of the month at **Blackmoorfoot**. Examples included 40 on 23rd, 70 on 25th, and 100 on 26th; the latter probably involving the same birds as the 103 seen at nearby **Crosland Heath Airfield** on the same day. Away from these areas, the only locality hosting more than 10 was **Horbury**, where 25 were present on 21st. This site then continued to attract birds in February, with a maximum of 56 on 11th and up to 30 on several other dates. Elsewhere in February, 200 flew N at **Meltham** on 1st, 70 were at **Sands Lane GP** on 12th, 78 at **Whitley Edge** on 13th, 44 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 22nd, and 100 at **Deer Hill** on 27th. Early March was similar, with 40 at **Digley Res.** on 1st, 76 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, and 50 at **Deer Hill** on 12th, several of which were displaying. Thereafter, most reports were of smaller numbers, and increasingly referred to birds on territory.

Breeding activity was fairly well documented this year; largely due to the efforts of one observer (DMPearce) taking part in the Dark Peak Wader Breeding Survey. This mostly concentrated on the area N and W of Langsett Res., and included records (with number of pairs in brackets) from: **Langsett/Flouch Inn** (24), **Fullshaw/Gilbert Hill** (18), **Reddishaw Knoll** (13), **Flouch Inn to Dog and Partridge** (36), **Longside Edge** (9), **Ranah Stones** (39), and **Carlecotes** (8). Subsequent counts of fledged chicks revealed a total of 88, which seems rather low, but the results nevertheless give a good illustration of the density of breeding pairs in a relatively small part of the Club area.

Successful breeding was also confirmed at the following:

Ingbirchworth Res – five or six pairs were on territory on 21st March, and at least two young were present on 5th May.

Horbury Strands – four pairs held territory on 30th March, reducing to three by 30th May. Three young were present on 6th July.

Isle of Skye quarry – four pairs were on territory in spring. Later, there were up to eight adults alarming, as well as regular sightings of chicks.

Winscar Res – an unspecified number of adults and small chicks were present on 2nd May.

Brun Clough Res – in July, six adults and two small young were seen on 9th and three adults and a half-grown young on 21st.

Bradshaw – three adults and a single young on 19th June.

Other notable breeding locations included **Deer Hill Res.** (at least 25 territorial birds on 2nd April), **Whitley Common** (15 pairs present on 12th May), and **Digley Res.** ('several nesting pairs' on 3rd June).

As is often the case, the maxima in the second half of the year tended to be higher than in the early months. By far the biggest flocks between July and September were at **Blackmoorfoot**, where counts were consistently in triple figures (maximum of 440+ on 1st August). The only other place with anything approaching such numbers was **Broadstone Res.**, which held 300 on 21st and 25th July. Birds in October were slightly more widespread, and included 150 at **Broadstone Res.** on 14th, 160 at **Deer Hill** on 16th, 240 at **Windmill Lane** on 26th, and 200 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 30th. November was similar, with 289 at **Windmill Lane** on 1st, 100 roosting on the roof of the Asda supermarket in **Dewsbury** on 15th, 70 at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 18th, and 170 at **Broadstone Res.** on 21st. At **Sands Lane GP**, 120-130 were recorded regularly between 23rd November and 6th December, on which date 120 also flew NW at **Healey Mills**. Otherwise, all December's records were from **Blackmoorfoot**, where 100-120 were seen daily until 28th, with 274 on 21st, and 41 present from 29th to 31st.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Although there was no proof of breeding, a series of records from reservoirs to the SW of Marsden in late spring and early summer suggests that it could have occurred on nearby moorland. The same might apply at the high-altitude Chew Res., which produced two good counts in late May. Away from these areas, ones and twos were seen at five sites on 12 dates between 2nd March and 14th November. Altogether, all but four of the records were from the first half of the year; the exceptions relating to one-day singles in July and September and two seen in flight on each of two dates in November.

Boshaw Whams Res – a winter-plumaged adult was in a nearby field on 2nd March. Later in the same day it was seen on the reservoir bank.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the only records involved two which flew NW on 11th April and, in November, two which flew E on 5th and two S on 14th.

Deer Hill Res – single adults present on 24th/25th April and 7th May, followed by two on 8th May.

Ingbirchworth Res – single on 18th, 20th, 25th and 29th May, and again on 9th June.

Redbrook Res – recorded in May on 19th (1), 20th (2), and 25th (4). Two were then present on 3rd and 6th June, with further singles during that month on 18th, 20th, and 29th.

Chew Res – in May there were three on 20th and eight on 28th.

Black Moss Res – two were present in gale force SW winds on 21st May.

Brun Clough Res – singles (unless otherwise stated) were present on 25th (2) and 31st May, 11th (2), 28th, and 30th June, 7th July, and 8th September.

Scout Dike Res – an adult on 30th July was associating with a Common Sandpiper.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor.

This species appears to be in decline as a local visitor. From 1973 up to 2004 it was recorded in all but one of the 32 years, with the average number of sightings per year being just over six. In contrast, of the six years from then until 2010, three were blank and the other three produced only one or two reports each, all involving single birds.

This year, the sole record came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where two (a ruff and a reeve) departed S at 09.35hrs. on the typical date of 27th August (MLD, CH, DHP).

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

More so than with most species, records of Jack Snipe are very often the product of targeted searches coupled with good fortune. Hence, any annual variations might not be as significant as they first appear. That said, this year's showing was the joint-worst since 1974 and as such was undeniably disappointing. There were just two sightings, both in November, when singles were at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 6th and **Wholestone Moor** on 16th (both DHP).

The apparent absence of birds in the first winter period might be at least in part explained by the prolonged frozen conditions which characterised the end of 2010.

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

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

Breeding season aside, it was a poor year. Numbers in the first two months were possibly affected by recent severe weather, but the same cannot be said for autumn and the second winter period, when birds appeared equally scarce.

In January, four were at **Horbury** on 13th, two at **Shepley** on 21st, and one at **Wholestone Moor** on 29th. There were then just two reports in February: a single at the latter site on 22nd and, on 25th, one at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where another single was present on 22nd March.

As with Lapwing, records of breeding activity were boosted this year by results from the Dark Peak Breeding Wader Survey. This produced a total of 33 territorial birds at eight linked sites which ranged east from **Longside Edge** as far as **Fullshaw/Langsett**. Separate from this survey, the highest single-site count was of seven on territory at **Harden** on 27th March. Other locations holding one to three chipping and/or drumming birds included **Hartcliff Hill**, **Whitley Common**, **Lower Maythorn**, **Tinker Hill**, **Law Common Road**, **Winscar Res.**, **Windleden**, **Digley Res.**, **Bradshaw**, **Deer Hill**, **Marsden (Ward End)**, and **Brun Clough Res.** However, the only proof of breeding success came from **Flight Hill**, where a newly hatched chick was found on 16th June.

As usual, post-breeding reports were few and far between. Except for an occasional one still chipping at **Harden**, the only records in July were from the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, which held singles on five dates. Further singles were present at this site on 3rd and 6th August, but there were then none anywhere until towards the end of the month, when one was at **Broadstone Res.** from 21st to 24th, and two at **Brun Clough Res.** on 31st. September continued in a similar vein, with one or two found at five upland locations on one date each. Perhaps more noteworthy was the

evidence of migration seen at **Harden Quarries**. This involved two on 11th and 14 on 25th, followed by seven on 23rd October. All were flying SW.

Elsewhere, numbers remained very low for the rest of the year, with birds appearing at just four sites. The only reports from **Blackmoorfoot** referred to one flying W on 17th October, a single on the west bank mud on 7th November, and two which flew W on 16th November. At the **Isle of Skye Quarry** a single was present on 12th October, followed by two the following day and one on 15th November. Maximum monthly counts were of three at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 28th October, five at **Wholestone Moor** on 3rd November, and two again at the former site on 9th December, after which there were none at all.

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

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



Unusually, there were many more records from the early months than from the second winter period. In January a single was at **Elland GP** on 1st and one was found dead at **Fixby** on 13th. These were followed by two at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 21st and one in the **Grimescar Valley** on 30th. In February, two dropped in at **Winscar Res.** on 5th and one was flushed at **Bretton Park** on 8th. There were none then until a single (possibly on territory) at **Holme Moss** on 21st March and one reported in a **Hepworth** garden on 7th April.

Breeding season records, although still considered under-representative of the area as a whole, were slightly more widespread than in most years. Maximum counts of roding birds included four at both **Yatcholme** and **Holme Styes/Elysium Fields** and six at **Langsett**, with one observer noting 'several' in the latter vicinity on 15th June. Other reports referred to ones and twos

displaying around **Winscar/Dunford Bridge** and, on 6th June, one roding at **Honley Wood**. Away from any known breeding area, a single was seen in flight at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on the evening of 31st May.

As is often the case, there were then no more sightings until the arrival of winter visitors towards the end of the year. In 2010 this involved birds at thirteen sites, but this year they were confined to just two. The first was one picked up freshly dead (with no obvious signs of injury) in **Meltham** in the third week of November. The only other report was of a single in the **Grimescar Valley** on 27th of the same month.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing. Red listed.

Two winter-plumaged birds were on the west bank of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the early afternoon of 15th August (SP, KW). As shown below, this is the first record for the Club area since 2008.

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

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

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.



A total of nine individuals were seen at six upland sites on eight dates – a typical showing. Except for one in association with a Curlew, all occurred singly and were fairly evenly split between spring and autumn.

Deer Hill Res – a single flew NW on 24th April (DMP). In autumn, one feeding on the shore at noon on 12th August was assumed to be the bird seen at Blackmoorfoot an hour earlier (see below). It eventually flew high NW at 12.30hrs. (DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew E at 10.20hrs. on 1st May (MLD, CH). A single which departed W at 11.05hrs. on 12th August (CH) was later found at Deer Hill (see above). Finally, two flew W (1 at 08.00hrs. and 1 at 09.00hrs.) on 21st August (MLD, CH).

Ringstone Edge Res – one flew NE on 3rd May (DJ Sutcliffe via HBC).

Digley Res – a single was present on 4th May (PAB).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single bathed and preened at 06.00hrs. on 6th June. It was then heard to call repeatedly before leaving WNW (NWM).

Royd Moor Res – one arrived with a Curlew at around 13.20hrs. on 24th August. Both birds were calling continuously. They circled the reservoir several times, gradually rising until almost out of sight and eventually drifting off NE (DHP).

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

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

As stated in last year's report, this species is usually absent during the winter months, so an unprecedented run of occurrences in December made 2010 a quite remarkable year. That run extended well into January, when up to seven were present between 1st and 18th in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** Some of these birds simply stood on the snow-covered ground for days on end and appeared not to eat. Other locations producing records in January were Red Lane, **Meltham** (9 on 1st), **Ringstone Edge Res.** (2 on 1st), and **Dewsbury SW**, where three were noted on 8th and 14th, reducing to two on 23rd.

Two which flew S over **Thornhill Edge** on 10th February could well have been local winterers but were perhaps more likely to have been the first spring migrants. If so, they were quite early, because the next, a single at **Broadstone Res.**, did not appear until 17th. By the end of the month birds had been recorded from a further six sites, and included notable counts of 15 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 22nd, 15 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th, 37 at **Boshaw Whams** on 27th, and 45 at **Winscar Res.**, also on 27th. Even more impressive was a 'bubbling' flock of 70 which dropped into the latter site at dusk on 1st March; this being matched only by a similar-sized group arriving from the NE at **Snailsden** on 8th.

Early March also saw gatherings of 19 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd, 23 at **Snape Res.** on 7th, and 18 at **Broadstone Res.** on 14th but, as the month progressed, counts generally became smaller and more widely spread as birds dispersed to their breeding grounds. As usual, the vast majority were on or near the higher ground in the south and west of the area. The only exceptions to this were singles at **Emley Moor** on 4th and 20th, one 'singing' flock of 70 which dropped into the latter site at dusk on 1st March; this being matched only by a similar-sized group arriving from the NE at **Snailsden** on 8th.

Breeding records included the following:

Longside Edge/Thurlestone Moors/Fullshaw – a total of 88 pairs were located by one observer as part of the Dark Peak Breeding Wader Survey.

Bradshaw – 15 were displaying on 19th March, rising to 19 by 16th April. This was followed by the discovery of a nest with four eggs, all of which hatched successfully. Four birds were still present on 17th July.

Digley Res – records of 16 in flight on 21st March and 15 present on 3rd April possibly involved birds from the adjoining Bradshaw area (see above), but smaller numbers were seen on several other dates and included an alarming adult near Issues Road on 3rd June.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a pair showed agitation at the observer's presence on every visit in spring and early summer.

Harden – a nest with four eggs on 25th April.

Black Moss Res – an adult with a newly hatched chick nearby on 30th May.

Wessenden Head – two pairs with young on 4th June.

Brun Clough Res – sightings included five agitated adults and one young bird on 16th June and two well-grown young on 10th July.

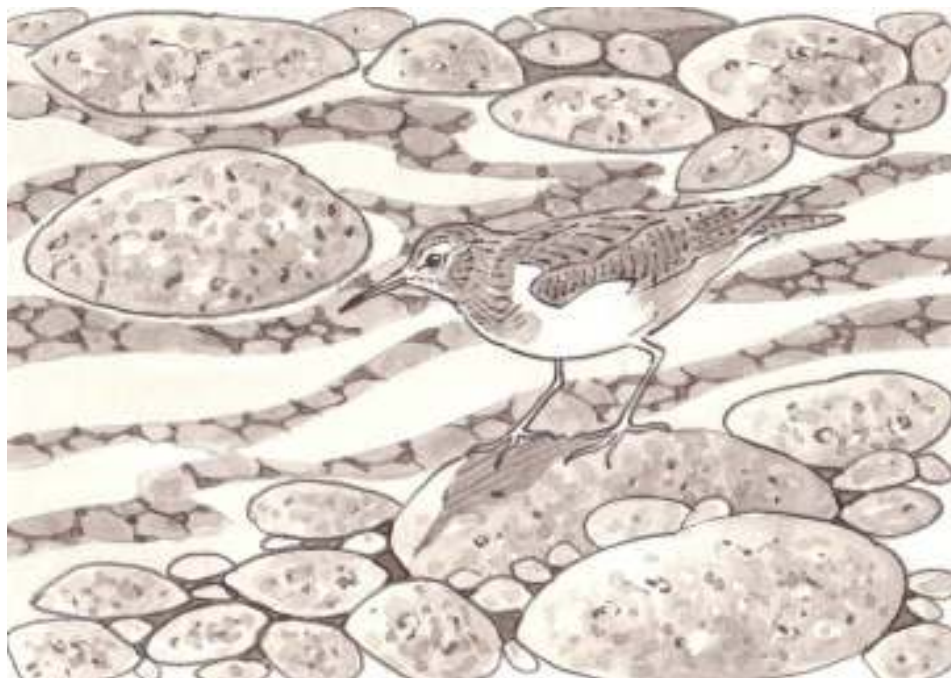
Deer Hill – an agitated adult on 2nd July.

Little Don Valley – a juvenile on 26th July.

As in other years, birds often just seemed to vanish into thin air as soon as breeding was over. A good illustration of how this might happen came from **Harden**, where night-flying migrants were heard moving W as early as 26th June. Nine then flew NW at the same site on 29th July. At **Blackmoorfoot**, singles occurred on eight dates in July, with two on 21st. These were followed in August by four flying W on 3rd and further singles on 4th and 8th, but the only records from

elsewhere that month involved one at **Redbrook Res.** on 1st, singles at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 3rd and 23rd, and one which departed NE with a Whimbrel from **Royd Moor Res.** on 24th. There were then none until 3rd October, when a single at **Blackmoorfoot** proved to be the last of the year.

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



This was another good year, with records received from some 30 locations between 7th April and 13th September.

The first was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7th April, followed by singles at **Royd Moor Res.** on 9th, **Butterley Res.** on 10th, and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th. Birds then appeared at a further nine sites between 16th and the month's end. Most reports referred to singles, but two were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 16th, with three there on 24th. Two were also present at **Wessenden Head Res.** on 30th. This period also saw the first of four spring records from the lowlands in the north and east of the area – singles at **Sands Lane GP** on 21st and 27th, one at **Bretton Park** on 30th, and two at **Horbury Wyke** on 2nd May.

Breeding was confirmed at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** (where at least one newly fledged young was present on 30th June) and the reservoirs at **Brun Clough**, **Redbrook**, **Butterley**, and **Snailsden**. It almost certainly also occurred at **Winscar** (a minimum of 3 pairs), **Harden**, **Langsett** (at least 2 pairs), **Blakeley**, **Digley**, **Chew**, **Greenfield**, and **Yeoman Hey**, and possibly at **Ingbirchworth**, which held two on several dates in May and four on 14th June. At **Wessenden Res.** a pair was displaying with a third bird present on 4th May, but none were seen on 3rd June, by which time the

reservoir was full to capacity. Similarly, at **Deer Hill Res.**, a pair displayed on 8th May, but after a single on 10th there were then no further sightings until one in autumn. An intriguing record of one at **Windy Bank Res.** on 13th/14th May probably involved a bird still on migration.

Many of these sites continued to produce records in July, although as ever it was sometimes difficult to separate local breeders from birds dispersing from elsewhere. The same applied to singles at **Holme Styes Res.** on 30th June and **Brownhill Res.** on 6th July, and three at **Riding Wood Res.**, also on 6th. However, reports of two at **Sands Lane GP** on 9th, and singles at **Royd Moor Res.** and **Scout Dike Res.** towards the end of the month almost certainly referred to birds on passage. This was also true at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where up to three (but mostly just 1 or 2) were seen on an almost daily basis between 26th June and 13th September.

Otherwise, there were very few reports after the end of July. Singles were seen again at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd and 21st August, and one was at **Deer Hill Res.** on 31st, but, away from Blackmoorfoot, the only record in September was of one in the **Dove Stone** area on 3rd.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Even when discounting the absence of records from its former stronghold at Dewsbury SW, this can still be considered a bad year for the species. Birds were seen at just two sites on seven dates between 26th March and 3rd August. Looked at more positively, the fact that five of these sightings were along the banks of a small stretch of the River Calder might prompt speculation that it could have also occurred, unnoticed, in similar habitat in less well-watched parts of the valley.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – all records refer to birds on the adjacent riverbank. Three on 26th March were followed by singles on 17th and 24th April and 30th July and two on 2nd August (JRS). **Isle of Skye Quarry** – singles were present on 15th July and 3rd August (DHP).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Whilst lacking the long-staying birds of 2010, it was nonetheless a much better year than some other recent ones. Up to three (but mostly just one or two) were recorded at three sites on eight dates between 9th July and 25th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in July singles were present on 9th/10th (MLD, TD, CH) and 21st (MLD). In August a single was present on 8th (KW), three arrived from the E at 10.55hrs. on 19th (MLD, CH) and singles were seen on 20th (MLD, CH) and 25th (CH, DMO).

Sands Lane GP – on 16th July two arrived from the NW and fed on the SE bank for over an hour before departing E (JRS).

Deer Hill Res – singles present on 19th and 20th August (DHP). It is possible that there was some overlap with occurrences on the same two dates at nearby Blackmoorfoot.

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

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

After a promising run of appearances in the early months there was again some evidence of probable breeding at a known favoured location. However, in contrast to 2010, the second half of the year brought records from only one site, and there were none at all after early August.

In January, one which flew through at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st was followed by three sightings of singles along the River Calder on 4th, 10th, and 29th. The fact that all were in the short stretch adjacent to **Dewsbury SW** and **Healey Mills** suggests that they could well relate to just one individual. The next report came in March, when two were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th.

Early May saw the first of seven records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see below), but the main focus during this period turned towards the moorland SW of Marsden. Most reports came from the tiny, roadside **Brun Clough Res.**, where singles on 3rd and 9th April were followed in May by two on 8th, one on 9th and 19th, and, in June, two on 5th, and further singles on 9th, 11th, 16th, and 22nd. It seems likely that at least some of these records involved the same birds as those seen around the nearby reservoirs at **Black Moss** and **Swellands**. Here, a very agitated pair was present on 21st May, and what was thought to be a different pair behaved likewise, half a mile distant, on 30th. This area has produced several similar records during the recent past, and, with the current lack of breeding evidence from elsewhere, surely warrants some closer attention in spring and early summer.

The remainder of the year's sightings were all from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** These consisted of a single flying W on 6th May, one present on 9th June, two on both 20th June and 10th July, and singles again on 19th/20th July and 8th August.

(RUDDY) **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

Rare passage visitor.

Turnstones have appeared in five of the previous six years, the exception being 2010. In what was generally a poor year for the scarcer waders there were two welcome records, one in spring and one in autumn. Both involved one-day singles.

Langsett Res – an adult on 31st May (MCW).

Deer Hill Res – on 3rd August a juvenile present from at least 14.15hrs. and was photographed as it fed on the shoreline near the inflow. It departed NE at 14.35hrs. (DHP).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1200	nc	Nc	nc	nc	33	123	260	360	2100	4000	nc

The low number roosting at Blackmoorfoot in January may have been due to the reservoir being frozen over between early December 2010 and 11th January.

The **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area, although not counted with any regularity, produced treble figure counts on a number of occasions: Ingbirchworth had 220 on 30th January, up to 140 in February, 100 on 1st March, up to 145 in September and 158 on 21st November; the only count from Scout Dike involved 100 on 10th February and Royd Moor held 338 on 21st November.

Although a number of widely scattered localities hosted small numbers throughout the year, the only treble figure counts were as follows:

Horbury Wyke – 150 on 1st January.

Sands Lane GP – held between 100 and 150 in January/February with a maximum of 200 on 7th February and 230 on 15th February, 160 on 24th October and 200 on 28th November.

Broadstone Res – 120 on 17th January, 170 on 14th February, 115 on 28th March, 164 on 16th September and 190 on 21st November.

Boshaw Whams – 100 on 4th March.

Langsett – 360 on 27th December.

For the first time in several years confirmed breeding occurred in the Club area: three pairs bred on a cliff at **Winscar** producing a minimum of two young and a pair bred in Heather at **Harden Res.** again producing a minimum of two young (MC).

Visible migration was noted on 15th October when 27 flew SW at **Harden Quarries** and 338 flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 26th October.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a party of three (adult, second-winter and first-winter) departed W at 10.10hrs. on 16th October (MLD, CH, SWJ *et al.*) and a first-winter flew W at 14.40hrs. on 12th November (MLD, DMO). These are the first records for the reservoir since October 2005.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor.

There were five records, involving four birds.

Sands Lane GP had a first-winter on 4th January (JRS) and in July a juvenile on 9th (JRS) and 11th (DB). At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a second-winter was present on 9th September (MLD, CH) and an adult on 11th October (MC, NWM, KW).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
400	nc	Nc	nc	1	2	4	5	6	237	1100	nc



As with Black-headed Gull the low number roosting at Blackmoorfoot in January may have been due to the reservoir being frozen over between early December 2010 and 11th January.

During the first winter period records were received from several widely scattered localities, especially in the east of the area, but these rarely exceeded 40, the following being the exceptions:

Stocks Moor – 49 on 27th January.

Sands Lane GP – 40 on 1st February and 107 on 15th February.

Broadstone Res – 80 on 14th February, 225 on 17th February, 90 on 12th March and 100 on 18th March.

A colour-ringed first-winter at **Sands Lane GP** on 1st February had been ringed as a nestling at Vanse, Norway sometime ‘last summer’.

The only records during the summer months, with the exception of the few enumerated in the table above, involved a single at **Healey Mills/Kerry’s NR** on 30th April, five over **Shelley** on 19th May, two in the **Grimescar Valley** on 21st May and a single at **Sands Lane GP** on 12th June.

Numbers began to build from mid-October but, as in the first winter period, numbers rarely exceeded 40, the exceptions being as follows:

Upper Heaton – 47 on 23rd October.

Whitley Res – 56 on 28th October.

Broadstone Res – 180 on 21st November.

Oldfield – 60 on 12th December and 106 on 22nd December.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Rare vagrant.

The adult present at **Sands Lane GP** during 2010 remained into 2011, being reliably recorded on a total of 20 days between 2nd January and 21st March (DHP, TP, JRS *et al.*). On this last mentioned date the bird was seen to leave high to the N at 13.45hrs. (JRS). What was presumably the same returning individual was recorded on 29th/30th November and 9th December (JRS).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	nc	Nc	6	21	11	23	16	18	34	8	4

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

Calder/Hebble Navigation Canal – 20 flew W on 2nd January.

Dewsbury SW – a single on 8th January.

Sands Lane GP – one or two on a number of days in January/February.

Royd Moor Res – five on 17th January.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 28th February.

Shelley – three flew W on 11th March and a single did likewise on 13th April.

Digley – two on 3rd April.

From early May until mid-October birds became more widely distributed but, as in the past few years, numbers rarely reached double figures, the following being the exceptions:

Blackmoorfoot – see table above.

Brun Clough Res – 50 on 9th June and 11 flew E on 4th September.

Royd Moor Res – in August, 17 on 5th, 22 on 15th and 200 on 24th and, in September, 80 on 21st and 44 on 27th.

Broadstone Res – in August, 38 on 7th, 22 on 15th and 31 on 17th, in September, 50 on 17th, 25 on 19th and 20 on 24th, and, in October, 124 on 14th.

Ingbirchworth Res – in September, 42 on 9th, 13 on 16th, 41 on 21st/22nd and, in October, 237 (most of which were adults of the race *gracillii*) gradually left to the S on 2nd, but only 18 were present the following day.

Hepworth – 35 flew S on 15th September.

Flight Hill – 30 on 19th September.

Midgley – 80 on 21st September.

Thereafter, all records were of low single figures, and from a limited number of localities.

Visible migration was noted over **Harden Quarries** on a number of days in October/November and produced a maximum of 12 SW on 15th October, 27 SW on 23rd October and 37 SW on 5th November. A total of 24 flew NE over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 6th November and 12 flew N at **Broadstone Res.** on 18th December.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	33	27	0	2	0	4	0	2	5	14	7

The Blackmoorfoot records during February/March concerned birds overflying the reservoir and not roosting: in February 13 flew W on 16th, 33 flew N on 27th and 17 flew N the following day, in March 27 flew E on 6th.

The only other records, from 13 localities (21 in 2010), indicate the continued decline of the species in the Club area. For completeness all records are given.

Sands Lane GP – a single on 1st February.

Crosland Heath Airfield – one on 3rd February.

Brun Clough Res – 27 (most of which were immatures) flew E on 27th March.

Shelley – singles on 5th August and 12th December were the first records for three years.

Pule Hill, Marsden – two flew SW on 1st October and a single flew NE on 6th November.

Ingbirchworth – three on 2nd October.

Harden Quarries – two flew SW on 15th October.

Wessenden Res – two on 28th November.

Honley – one on 6th December.

Broadstone Res – a single on 18th December.

Oldfield – two on 21st December.

Bradshaw – six flew W on 27th December.

Langsett Res – 50 roosted on 27th December.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

There were seven records of at least six individuals (3 in 2010), all in autumn.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult on 15th August (MLD, CH).

Spicer House Lane – a first-summer with Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 17th August (MC).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single moulting into second-winter plumage was filmed on 27th August (DMP, SP).

Flight Hill – a first-summer on 9th September and a second-winter on 21st September (MC). It is possible that these records relate to the same individual as during the 12 day interval moult would have changed its appearance.

Broadstone Lodge – two (a first-winter and a sub-adult/adult) on 9th October (MC).

Royd Moor Res – a first-summer moulting to second-winter on 15th October (RJB, NWM).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

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

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

With the exception of those above, the marked downward trend continued and the following were the only additional records:

During the first winter period the only record involved two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14th January. Later in the year two were at **Langsett Res.** on 26th July, a single flew N over **Bretton Park** on 9th August, one was at **Sands Lane GP** on 30th November, a single was at **Broadstone Res.** on 17th/18th December and 18 roosted at **Langsett Res.** on 27th December.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record concerned two juveniles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28th September (MLD, CH, SP).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from eight localities (6 in 2010) but, with the exception of Blackmoorfoot, birds were in very short supply. Birds were noted between 7th April and 9th September.

Horbury Strands – a single along the canal on 7th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two departed S at 08.45hrs. on 10th April and singles were present on 25th May and 27th June. There were six records during July: two departed NW at 08.15hrs. on 2nd, two were present on both 3rd and 14th, a single was seen on 20th, one departed W at 08.10hrs. on 24th and five were present on 29th. The only records thereafter involved an adult on 7th August, three immatures which flew W at 07.45hrs. on 13th August and two adults on 9th September.

Bretton Lakes – two on 2nd May, an adult and immature on 19th July and an adult on 28th August.

Horbury – at least one, probably two, on 19th May and a single on 5th June.

Sands Lane GP – a single on 31st May.

Healey Mills – one on the River Calder on 2nd June.

Cupwith Res – two un-aged birds flew W at 14.00hrs. on 7th August.

Scout Dike Res – an adult flew SE at 08.20hrs. on 14th August.

‘Commic’ Tern

A single which flew SE over **Harden Quarries** on 3rd September was either this or the next species.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were two records, both in May.

A single was at **Sands Lane GP** on 3rd May (RJS) and one flew NW over **Reddishaw Knoll** on 20th May (DM Pearce).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Recorded throughout the year but, as is usual, this species was under recorded. The maximum number of birds reported was 200 at both **Ingbirchworth** on 6th April and in the **Chapel Hill** area of Huddersfield on 16th April. No breeding records were received.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Recorded from 43 sites across the whole of the Club area, with records spanning all months. This represents a decline from 59 sites in 2010 but more than the 37 in 2009, and 27 in 2008.

Up to 12 birds were regularly seen at **Sands Lane GP** between January and March, a flock of 54 (the largest group in the first winter period) were seen on bare ground at **Spicer House Lane** on 3rd April and up to 20 were present at **Ingbirchworth** throughout the year. Birds were present throughout most of the year at **Blackmoorfoot**, being seen on an almost daily basis between early March and late September, but very sporadic during other months. Small parties of up to six were the norm, the only exception being eight on 28th February.

Although there were no actual breeding records, breeding was suspected in a number of areas. Singing was heard at **Horbury Sewage Works** on 29th January but any breeding evidence was lacking. A bird was seen entering a hole in a building on **Isle of Skye Road** on 19th March. Singing was heard between mid-April and late May near a **New Mill** garden where up to three were present on a daily basis from January until mid-August and where a juvenile was seen on 14th May. At **Sands Lane GP**, where around 20 birds were seen on most visits during the summer months, six juveniles were seen on 14th July and 10 on 26th July. The largest count of the year was from **Shepley** where 71 (which included many juveniles) were recorded on 12th October.

A total of 11 flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 26th September.

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

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

The only flocks of 100 or more in the first winter period were from **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** where 100 roosted throughout January with 200 on three dates, 100 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 9th January, 700 at **Cawthorne** on 17th February and 180 at **Whitley Beaumont** on 18th April.

Breeding was recorded from **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (10 pairs), **Shelley Whins** (2 pairs) **Shelley** (where a pair had 2 broods) and a juvenile was seen in an **Almondbury** garden.

After the breeding season, well in excess of 500 were feeding on stubble fields at **Farnley Tyas** on 18th August, at least 350 fed in a recently cut cereal field to the NE of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd September and over 100 were in the **Bretton Park** area on 18th October.

Good numbers were recorded from the visible migration watch points:

Blackmoorfoot – 350 S on 16th October and, in November, 1650 S between 08.15hrs. and 10.00hrs. on 6th and 800 S between 09.30hrs. and 11.30hrs. on 7th.

Harden Quarries – 942 SW on 16th October, 1425 NE on 23rd October, 5465 SW on 5th November and 17,318 SW between 07.15hrs. and 11.15hrs. on 6th.

Pule Hill Marsden – all birds flew in Sa W direction, in October, 533 on 20th, 1,529 on 26th and 521 on 30th and, in November, 1,814 on 1st and 1,959 on 6th.

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

As in previous years most reports came from gardens, with breeding noted at **Fixby**, **Almondbury** (where a juvenile was seen in June), **Crosland Moor** (where a pair bred in the same conifer as last year) and **New Mill** (where a juvenile was seen with adults on 31st August). Away from gardens, 10 pairs bred in the **Healey Mills/Kerry's Foods - Millbank** area and three pairs at **Edge Top, Thornhill**. At **Shelley** singing and display was recorded in December and a pair were copulating in a **New Mill** garden on 29th December.

During visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** two flew SW on 15th October and at **Pule Hill, Marsden** 30 (including a group of 10) flew SW during a heavy Woodpigeon passage on 1st November. Interestingly, they were flying just above ground level whilst the Woodpigeons were moving at 30+ metres. This was the first time the observer had seen this species on a visible migration watch at this locality.

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

Reported from 24 sites, a reduction from the 34 in 2010, but in line with 2006 and 2009, suggesting that the species may be recovering from the crash in 2007 when it was recorded from only six sites.

The first was a singing male at **Dean Hill** (between Cannon Hall and High Hoyland) on 13th April. Also in April were single males at **Shelley Whins** on 16th, **Hullock Bank**, **Meal Hill** and **Bilberry Res.** all on 18th, **Shelley/Far Bank** on 22nd and **Marsden** on 23rd. Singing males were heard regularly at **Deer Hill** (up to 2 from 23rd April to the end of June), **Cheesegate Nab** and surrounding areas in May, **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** area in June and in the **Little Don Valley/Swinden** area of **Langsett** where up to three males were present between 21st April and 4th June.

A juvenile near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20th August was the first record for the reservoir since June 2007. A juvenile photographed at **Deer Hill** on 25th August was the final record for the year.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

Throughout January a single bird roosted in a box which had been put up for Tawny Owls at a site in the east of the area. After the bird had moved on, the box was cleaned out and over 20 pellets were collected. The only other record was of a bird found dead at **Dewsbury SW** on 11th February (JRS).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.



Recorded from 28 sites, which is a marked decline from the 50 in 2010. One observer commented that several birds at other localities appeared to have succumbed to the cold during the December 2010/January freeze.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were seen on the walls to the west of the reservoir (occasionally on Meltham Cop) between 16th January and 4th August. The only records thereafter concerned one on a wall to the west on 23rd and 30th September, a single on a wall to the east on 20th October and a single on a wall to the west from 14th to 30th November.

Breeding was confirmed from two sites and a family party (5 birds) were seen at **Hade Edge** on 22nd July. Breeding probably took place at a further 11 widely scattered sites (15 pairs).

At a site in the east of the area a single used a nest box throughout November.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Reported from 25 widely scattered localities (compared to 38 in 2010), with records spanning all months.

A single was found dead in the **Grimescar Valley** on 30th January. Most records involve one or two individuals but three were calling at daybreak at **Meal Hill** on 22nd January and five birds were calling around the **Hepworth** area on 26th June.

Breeding was confirmed from three sites with young in nest boxes at two of these. A further nine pairs were suspected of breeding at a further eight sites.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

Annual survey work carried out by MC found fewer birds this year than last with no definite evidence of breeding success. It was speculated that the hard winter of 2009-10 has depleted numbers, although birds were present at four (possibly 5) sites.

A single by the road side at **Pole Moor** on 10th October (JKP) was most likely a migrant.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

Breeding was confirmed at one site in the S of the Club area where two adults and two fledged young were seen together on 19th May. Pairs were seen together at two further possible breeding sites and at one a bird was predated, probably by a fox.

Birds were seen at three moorland locations in the autumn/winter period and at **Blackmoorfoot** a single quartering the SW corner overflow field/Meltham Cop area on 31st December (MLD, DMO, MJS) was the first record for the reservoir since November 2005.

In addition a Short-eared/Long-eared Owl seen over the east bank at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th October was too distant for specific identification (MC, KW).

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

Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder. Red listed.

One was heard churring at a new site in the S of the Club area on 2nd and 4th July (MC, DHP, NWM).

Encouragingly, at least four were heard at a site just outside the Club area on 15th June (HQ).

(COMMON) **SWIFT** *Apus apus*
Migrant breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Two birds flying over **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** on 24th April formed the first record for the year. Other April records involved a single at **Elland GP** on 27th, nine at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** on 29th and one at **Fixby** on 30th. By early May the species had been recorded from a number of widely distributed localities.

Two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 3rd May were the first at that locality. Thereafter birds were seen almost daily until the last (2) on 18th September. As has become the norm, numbers present were generally low, usually less than 15, the only exceptions being 35 on 23rd May, 60+ on 26th/27th May, 25+ on 12th June and 80+ on 10th July.

Breeding was reported from **Thornhill** (5 pairs), **Dalton Green Lane** (at least 5 pairs) **Kirkheaton**, **Crosland Moor** (St Luke's Hospital) and **Marsden** (where the breeding season was considered to have been more productive than 2010). Breeding probably took place at **Slaithwaite** and at **Lindley**.

With the exception of the double-figure records from Blackmoorfoot (outlined above) there were few high-figure counts, the maximum included: 130 at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** on 3rd June, 250 flew E here on 6th June and 60 were present on 26th July; 30 over **Almondbury** on 31st July and 30 at **Thornhill** on 27th August.

The only September records involved three at **Dalton Bank** on 1st, four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the same day and two here on 18th.

(COMMON) **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*
Resident breeder (2), near 30 pairs.

Reported from 22 sites (25 in 2010) with records in all months but breeding was only confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** where two young were seen in May and at **Colne Bridge SP** where a pair were seen taking fish to a nest hole in early May. Young, however, were not seen at this latter site. Breeding was suspected at **Sands Lane GP** and records of two together during the breeding season were received from **Holmfirth**, the **Marsden** area, **Horbury** and **Bretton Lakes**. At these last two mentioned sites birds were present throughout the year.

The downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continued. In the first half of the year singles were recorded very sporadically; on only one day in January, two in February and three in March. The second half of the year was equally poor with singles on two days in August, three in September and one in October; two were present on both 27th August and 1st October.

(EUROPEAN) **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*
Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Reported from 33 sites (same as 2010) and in every month of the year, but breeding was confirmed only at **Millbank/Thornhill** where adults were recorded on most visits and a juvenile was seen on 26th July. Breeding probably took place at **Bretton Park** and **Shelley Woods**. Yaffling was heard at 12 sites between 21st March and 12th July although at **Meal Hill** birds were heard throughout the year (HQ).

At **Blackmoorfoot** singles were present (mainly in Orange Wood) on 20th July, 13 days in August and 25th September. Two unusual records involved a juvenile at **Winscar** on 12th August and a single which flew S over the moorland from **Holme Styes Plantation** on 31st October.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Widely reported from 66 sites throughout the year.

Drumming was first heard at **Fixby** on 17th January and was heard from a further 11 sites until 30th April. Breeding was confirmed with young being seen at eight locations; **Golcar Tip**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Digley**, **Pighill Wood**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see below), and gardens at **Thick Hollins**, **Meltham**, **New Mill** and **Meal Hill** where two broods were recorded from June onwards.

Surprisingly breeding was not confirmed at **Bretton Park** despite six males heard drumming on 21st January and frequent sightings made up until 30th March. There were no further records until 21st September; is it because this species was absent or more likely the site was not visited because of the cost of parking there?

Sightings were received from 10 more gardens (including **Harden** which was considered unusual) emphasising the importance of feeders.

At **Blackmoorfoot** records were very sporadic until mid-March when a pair took up residence along the east bank, producing fledged young by late May. The family party then remained until mid July but thereafter occurrences reverted to occasional sightings of one or two birds (6th November only), although a single was seen daily between 26th July and 25th August.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

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

Seven records were received from four sites, five of the sightings being between 22nd March and 4th April. Three of the sightings were from **Bretton Park** with singles on 19th January and 30th March and two in Menagerie Wood on 19th October. Singles were seen in **Hagg Wood**, **Brockholes** on 22nd March and **Penny Spring Wood** on 29th March. No breeding was reported but at **Healey House** a female was calling and showing well on 26th March and birds were occasionally seen here throughout the spring (DMP).

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

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

This species was widely reported between 17th January (3 birds at **Thurgory Lane**) and 8th July, then between 11th September and 18th November with one further record from **Deer Hill Res.** on 18th December.

The only significant counts in the first winter period concerned 60 on a ploughed field at **Shepley** on 22nd January and 20 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th February.

Singing was first heard at **Bretton Park** on 10th February (reported as singing males but no count given) and at 16 other sites (at least 56 males) until the final report from **Ponker Hill, Skelmanthorpe** on 30th June. Numbers of singing males were unremarkable with a maximum of six at **Blackmoorfoot** (see below), five at **Deer Hill**, five or six between **Cheesegate Nab** and **Tinker Hill** and at least 16 at **Reddishaw Knoll**. The three pairs at **Wessenden** were considered an improvement (JMP) but the same observer considered the four at **Pule Hill, Marsden** a poor showing.

The first returning birds at **Blackmoorfoot** were on 14th February: eight (5 flew S + 3 singing males in the fields to the east). The next sighting was not until 24th February when five were present, thereafter up to six singing males were present around the reservoir until early September.

The only large flocks noted in the second winter period involved 18 at **Botany Lane, Lepton** on 2nd October and 26 on 17th November and 50 over a copse at **Thurgory Lane** on 10th November.

Visible migration at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** was noted on a number of days between 11th September and 26th October and involved a maximum of 16 W on 11th September, 13 S on 30th September, 16 W on both 20th and 23rd October and 7 W on 26th October. These latter mentioned birds were the last for the year at this site. All other visible migration records were in very low single figures with the exception of 12 which flew SW over **Oldfield** on 12th October and nine which flew SW over **Harden** on 6th November.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

The first of the year (2) were seen at **Blackmoorfoot** on 24th March, by 26th March there were 70 at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** and 160 at **Sands Lane GP** on 2nd April.

There were no later records except from **Blackmoorfoot** where after the initial sighting the next was of 40+ (most of which flew S) on 3rd April. Up to nine (generally less than 4) were then recorded on eight dates between 4th April and 6th May. A gap of a month then ensued, but thereafter up to 11 (generally less than 4) were present on 39 dates until the last (4) on 17th September.

Breeding was confirmed from three or four sites. At **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** 60 birds were entering holes in sand bank on 18th April. By 10th June there were 40 juveniles, some flying, others being fed at entrance holes. During late June observers watched a Mink work along the water's edge, however, climbing up to and entering nest holes and taking chicks, each time taking chicks to stash under nearby rocks, before returning for more! This continued for three days and totally cleared out the colony! After the Mink had been trapped some of the birds returned and four pairs bred in July (JRS).

In May a new breeding site was found at **Horbury Wyke** with c.20 holes in a sand bank and 15 young were seen here by late July. Another observer reported 20 birds at a nest colony at **Horbury** on 5th June but it is not possible to determine from the record whether it is the same site as above. Four unfledged birds were being fed there on 2nd July.

On 29th July breeding was also confirmed in a working quarry at **Cartworth Moor** where a small colony of at least four holes was located in a sand bank with at least birds still in the area. Remarkably this site is at 323m above sea level (DHP).

Visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** revealed one bird on 25th September and two on 16th October, this latter being the final record of the year.

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

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

The first record involved a single at **Shepley** on 22nd March and from 26th March small numbers were seen at a variety of sites but it was not until 13th April, when 30 were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, that the species was present in any numbers.

Breeding was only confirmed from four sites; two pairs bred in a barn at **Blackmoorfoot**, two pairs at two sites in **Honley**, a pair bred in an owl box at **Broadstones Res.** and a pair bred at **Brun Clough Res.** Regular sightings were recorded from two other traditional breeding sites.

The first record from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved at least five on 3rd April. As in recent years, numbers thereafter were usually low, rarely exceeding 30 (usually less than 20), the only exceptions being 40+ on 26th May and 28th July, 50+ on 11th and 23rd August, 120+ on 30th August, in September, 60+ on 5th, 120+ S on 10th and 140+ S on 15th and 45+ S on 1st October.

Although numbers built up in the late summer with 200 at **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** on 4th July and over 100 at **Harden** on 30th July, there were no other substantial numbers recorded. Together with the comments from **Blackmoorfoot** and the apparent reduction in the number of breeding sites, these figures beg the question is this species declining in our area or is it under recorded?

During a four and a half hours visible migration watch at **Harden Quarries** on 25th September a total of 274 birds flew SW.

The two which flew S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 24th October were the last record of the year in the Club area.

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

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

The first record was of three flying over **Cooper Bridge SW** on 30th March followed by low numbers from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** in early April. Birds then became more widely distributed but the first double-figure sighting was not until 16th April when 22 were present at **Sands Lane GP.**

Breeding was reported from 14 locations (8 in 2010). The traditional site at the **Black Horse PH, Dalton** was down to four nests continuing the steady decline from 15 nests in 2005. Likewise the **Thornhill** site had 10 nests compared to 20 in 2010. A pair bred on a house near the **Bull's Head** at **Blackmoorfoot** but lost their young when the nest dislodged from the wall and at **Crosland Moor** six pairs nested on a house in Blackmoorfoot Road. However, breeding probably took place at four sites not previously reported: **Birds Edge, Kirkheaton, High Hoyland** and the

Flouch at Langsett. At **Oldfield**, where breeding was reported for the first time in 2010, two pairs bred.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** numbers rarely exceeded 20, the following being the exceptions: 50+ on 30th July, in August 45+ on 2nd/3rd, 60+ on 8th, 40+ on 14th, 29th/30th with 60+ the following day and 40+ on 1st and 6th to 8th September. The only other significant numbers (>100) were 150 at **Bretton Lakes** on 9th August, 150 at **Thornhill** on 1st September and 305, most of which flew SW, on a visible migration watch at **Harden Quarries** on 25th September.

The last birds of the year (4) were seen at **Thornhill Edge** on 12th October.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

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

Seven records from four locations reflect a further slight decline in this species' fortunes in the Club area. A single in the **Little Don Valley** on 18th April (SRG) was followed by a singing male at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 23rd, and a further sighting in the former area on 30th. No birds were reported in May. Two were seen together at **Carlecotes** on 4th June, with just one singing male here on 14th July. One other June record featured a singing, displaying male at **Yateholme** on 25th. The year's last record was of two birds calling loudly in flight over **Spicer House Lane** on 17th August (MC).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (5), 2,500-4,000 pairs. The commonest bird of open country.

In contrast with last year, there were very few three-figure counts in either winter period, while there were more sites where birds were present in the first two months of the year. Counts at **Horbury SW** and **Dewsbury SW**, where more than 100 were present at this time in 2010, produced no more than about 20 at the latter, and only a single at the former. The earliest report, apart from those at the sewage works, was of six birds in the **Broadstone** area on 16th February. Spring passage brought a sudden flurry of records from numerous sites in mid-March, mostly of small numbers, with 70 flying N at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st, 70 at **Thurgory Lane** on 26th, and 65 at **Digley** on 3rd April being easily the largest assemblages.

A total of 14 took up residence at **Blackmoorfoot**, and other observers reported displaying males and birds carrying food from a range of venues through the late spring and summer months.

Autumn counts included at least 50 on wires at **Brow Grains, Meltham** on 23rd August, a maximum of 60 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st September, and 40 at **Dove Stone/Binn Green** two days later, while a migration watch at **Boshaw Whams** on 14th September yielded 86 heading SW, and a 45 minute count at **Brun Clough Res.** the following day yielded 50 heading E. A series of migration counts at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 12 dates between 21st September and 11th November produced an overall tally of 1,957 birds, including 1,662 heading SW on 26th September. Migration watchers also counted 365 passing SW over **Harden Quarries** on 25th September. The only substantial counts from the last three months were 57 migrating S over the **Wessenden Valley** on 1st October, and 80+ heading S at **Blackmoorfoot** three days later, after which date very few birds remained in the area.



Pink-footed Goose, Blackmoorfoot, 23rd February 2011



Barnacle Goose, Horbury, 13th January 2011



Mandarin Duck, Blackmoorfoot, 16th September 2011



Grey Partridge, Holmfirth, 11th July 2011



Great Northern Diver, Ringstone Edge, 13th October 2011



Slavonian Grebe, Blackmoorfoot, 28th November 2011



Cormorant, Sands Lane Gravel Pits, 23rd September 2011



Rough-legged Buzzard, Winscar, 1st November 2011



Turnstone, Deer Hill, 3rd August 2011



Great Black-backed Gull, Blackmoorfoot, 21st January 2011



House Martin, Oldfield, 20th March 2011



Yellow Wagtail, Potato Lane, 1st September 2011



White Wagtail, Ingbirchworth, 10th April 2011



Grasshopper Warbler, Broadstones, 21st April 2011



Whitethroat, New Dam, 1st June 2011



Goldcrest, Isle of Skye Quarry, 30th September 2011



Leucistic Starling, Ingbirchworth, 28th May 2011



Common Crossbill, Harden, 29th October 2011



Snow Bunting, Spicer House Lane, 26th November 2011



Sacred Ibis, Scout Dike, 24th May 2011

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

As last year, the first arrivals appeared at **Horbury SW**, but on 12th April, which was over a week earlier than in 2010 (SRG). These two birds were feeding on the sprinklers and were lucky to escape the talons of a Sparrowhawk. Three other sites welcomed birds on 18th April: three were in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot**, and singles were found at **Longside Edge** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** A male was at **Deer Hill** on 22nd April, the same day that one flew S over **Ranah Stones**, followed next day by singles at **Fulshaw** and **Folly Lane**, **Scout Dike**. Two were then seen on **Hartcliff Hill** on 26th April in the company of Wheatears and *Alba* wagtails, and April closed with one flying upriver at **Healey Mills**. Two other spring records featured singles at **Bradshaw** and **Brun Clough Res.**, both on 7th May.

In August, one was present at **Scout Dike Res.** on three dates (7th, 14th, 18th), another was at **Bradshaw** on 22nd, and two with sheep in a field by **Birds Nest Lane** the next day. On 1st September one was found at **Blackmoorfoot**, while eight, mostly young, were counted at **Marsden**. The last sighting of the year came from **Holmbridge** on 11th September, where three were seen in a sheep field (PAB).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

As in previous Annual Reports this is a very well reported species, with 124 sightings evenly spread over the year from just under fifty venues. Most records referred to one or two birds, with several offering evidence of pairs on territory and of successful breeding.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the only records during the first winter period involved a single on 1st to 3rd and 12th March. One to three (generally 1 or 2) were then recorded very sporadically between 1st June and 28th December, the only exceptions being a party of six on 20th July and four on 29th July. Other places where birds were recorded at various times throughout the year included the River Holme from **Holmbridge** to **Holmfirth** and **Honley**, **Marsden** (with 6 known sites), **Bretton Park**, **Cooper Bridge SW**, **Colne Bridge SP**, and the **Little Don Valley**.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Although one hundred fewer records were submitted for this species compared with last year, there is no conclusive evidence of a decline in the local population, even if there were also fewer three-figure counts than in the past two years. As usual, the largest gatherings were to be found at sewage work77s, all in the first winter period, (150 at **Dewsbury SW** on 4th January, 200 at **Horbury SW** three weeks later, and at least 150 at **Meltham SW** on 30th March). A regular **Marsden** observer commented that the freezing weather at the start of the year had driven all birds from the area until the thaw brought a return to normal figures. Reports of one or two birds came from a scattering of other sites, with one flock of about twenty in fields by **Spicer House Lane** on 9th February, and 16 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 26th.

Several observers reported birds as present throughout the year, while some found evidence of breeding, with birds nesting in an **Almondbury** garden in mid-April, and six young having fledged by the River Holme at **Holmbridge** on 16th May. Two family parties, one with five

young, were seen at **Sands Lane GP** on 22nd June and another pair bred in a garden at **Harden** in July. Six on 1st July represented the highest **Blackmoorfoot** count, followed by another family group of six at **Brun Clough Res.** on 10th. Larger gatherings, including juveniles, were of 30 at **Whitley Airfield** on 9th July, and 26 at **Cannon Hall CP** on 22nd August. A migration watch at **Harden** quarries on 16th October yielded 35 *Alba* wagtails. Lastly, one notable second winter period count featured 61 at **Horbury Wyke** on 24th November.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

An outstanding year for this race, with 10 records, including, remarkably, two in autumn.

A flurry of spring sightings began with singles at **Broadstone Res.** and **Whitley Common** on 18th March, the latter in the company of Pied Wagtails (GLB). Next up was a summer plumage male amidst male and female Pied Wagtails at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 29th March (DButt), followed by two on the dam wall at **Winscar** on 3rd April (MC). Back at **Ingbirchworth**, two were reported by different observers on 7th (MC) and 8th April (NWM), with a further sighting of a single six days later (NWM). Meanwhile, at **Horbury SW**, another adult was photographed in the company of two Yellow Wagtails on 12th April (JRS).

The first autumn records since 1994 featured two birds, probably males, on freshly ploughed land on **Flight Hill** on 9th and 14th September (MC).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

The first winter period proved very productive, with just under forty records from the start of the year until mid-April, but records in the second winter period amounted to just two further sightings in December.

Visitors to Hinchcliffe's Farm Shop in **Netherton** may have noticed 20 in the vicinity on 3rd January, while on the same day twice that number were seen in flight at **Brighouse**. Gatherings, ranging from large flocks to a few individuals, delighted observers in a variety of locations in subsequent weeks, with counts of 70 in **Lockwood** on 12th January and in **Almondbury** a week later. It would be nice to think that pupils of **Netherton Primary School** saw the 30-40 in a nearby tree on 19th January!

At **Blackmoorfoot** a party of c.20 fed in a garden in the south-east corner of the reservoir on 21st January, and the nearby Bull's Head patrons may have enjoyed seeing 19 in the car park on 12th/13th February. These constitute the fifth and sixth records for the reservoir area, the first being in November 2004. **Folly Hall** often attracts substantial numbers, and this year was no exception, although the 80 or so visitors remained only for a few days in late January. Twenty appeared outside the fire station on **Huddersfield** ring road on 26th January, 40 tucked into berries in **Ravensthorpe** on 1st February, while 60 flew over **Sands Lane GP** on the same date. A lady in **Hepworth** rang with news of as many as 100 gracing her garden in late February. Flocks of up to 50 remained in the Club area at various venues throughout February/March with, in April, 20 at **Lockwood** on 11th, seven at **Holmfirth** on 12th, 10 at **Dalton** on 15th and an unrecorded number on **Cambridge Road, Huddersfield** on 18th being the last.

The second winter period was disappointing, with just five in **Greenhead Park** on 14th December, and four in **Silkstone** on Boxing Day.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

As last year, over 70 records were received, covering a similar number (30+) of venues, featuring in almost every instance one or two birds. The few exceptions were three on territory at **Brockholes** on 8th April, four adults on the River Holme between **Holmbridge** and **Holmfirth** on 14th May, three at **Hey Green, Marsden** on 21st May, five in **Holmfirth** on 29th May (including recently fledged young being fed), and an adult with two juveniles at **Brockholes** on 6th June. A regular **Marsden** observer reported birds present in at least six locations, and other waterways where one or more sites were occupied included the canal at **Slaithwaite** and **Linthwaite**, **Fenay Beck**, and the **River Colne**. A single at **Kirkburton/Dogley Bar** on 14th February was the first record of this species for a very long time. There were several reports of birds singing and carrying nest material in **Holmfirth** in early March, while one observer referred to territorial disputes involving at least two pairs here on 12th. Display involving two birds at **Brockholes** on 7th April was followed by three on territory the next day. By the start of May two young were being fed in **Holmfirth**, and other May records came from **Colne Bridge SP**, **Shepley**, **Langsett**, **Wessenden Valley**, and **Thunderbridge**, where a juvenile was present on 16th. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were seen by the inflow on 31st August, 4th and 28th September and 17th October. One was seen from the Co-op car park in **New Mill** on 13th November, with a Grey Wagtail nearby. December records featured several new sites for the year, such as **Bilberry Res.**, where one was watched submerging, **Washpit**, **Scissett**, **Armitage Bridge** and **Golcar**.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Over 140 records were submitted, reflecting the wide and numerous distribution of this species. A number of observers clearly keep track of their garden birds' fortunes, while others submit monthly counts of birds in a given area, both groups finding evidence of breeding. While early records for some areas indicate the presence of some birds from the very start of the year, despite the freeze in early January, other observers, for instance in **New Mill** and the **Wessenden Valley**, did not see their first local Wrens until the beginning of April: indeed the latter venue had five singing individuals on 10th, whereas the first singing **New Mill** male was not heard until 6th June.

Elsewhere, two were seen carrying nest material by the River Calder at **Horbury** on 1st March, four singing males were counted in the **Upper Dearne Valley Woodlands** on 19th, while alarm calls were noted at **Royd Moor Res.** and in **Blacker Wood**. Six were counted in the **Longwood Valley** on 26th March, eight at **Scout Dike** two days later, seven at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st April (where 4 pairs bred), 13 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 3rd, nine along the canal at **Horbury** on 9th, and another count at **Longwood** on 22nd produced nine, rising to 13 on 15th June. A more clement winter enabled birds to remain present across the Club area until the year end.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.



There has been a noticeable increase in reporting of this familiar and widespread species, with over 170 records from numerous sources. As with Wrens, a number of contributors clearly keep monthly records of garden or local patch activity, alert to signs of territorial and breeding behaviour. Indeed, garden records are now so numerous that to mention them all would take up a disproportionate amount of space in this report: most confirm the presence of this species throughout the year with as many as six counted in one garden at one time. Records of confirmed or probable breeding came from **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR, Shelley Whins, Emley Moor TX, Fixby, Almondbury, Marsden, Blackmoorfoot, New Mill, and Ingbirchworth**, but these must represent only a tiny proportion of the true picture.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

The 250 records submitted for this common and highly visible species reflects not only the very widespread distribution, but also the growing number of keen contributors to local ornithological data. As with Dunnock, it is impossible to include references to every observation: regular garden and area counts make up a significant proportion of the overall picture.



One **Dalton** observer's account of his garden birds' fortunes no doubt mirrors events in hundreds of other gardens across the Club area - having chosen an old football casing as an ideal residence, the birds were seen to have five eggs on 11th April, and the first brood flew on 9th May. After a few days spent refurbishing their nest site, the pair reared another five young by mid-June. Encouraged by their success, the pair proceeded to rear five more chicks, but were let down by their football as rain penetrated the entrance hole, and the young succumbed (DS). Another observer found a family party with five young in **Skelmanthorpe**, and counted 10 in **Bretton Park** on two visits in September and October. Three resident pairs at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** were joined by eight winter visitors in November and December.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

This proved to be a very disappointing year after the well-watched long-staying birds of the previous autumn, with just one brief visitor to **Huddersfield** railway station on 5th/6th May, a singing male on the roof of the old warehouse opposite platform 8 (JMP). This site has hosted birds of this species in the past, although there is no record of successful breeding.

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Sadly, another year of steady decline, with reports from just eight venues, compared with twelve last year, and once again, no evidence of breeding, although one observer found a male and

female together at two Langsett sites (**Little Don Valley** and **Swinden Plantation**) on 4th June, another observer having reported four here on 20th May.

The year's first three sightings were all from the **Little Don Valley**, starting with three on 18th April, followed by a single singing male on 21st and two birds on 28th. A male was seen fly catching from a fence in the **Wessenden Valley** on 4th May, a male was singing in **Pighill Wood, Golcar** on 7th, two singing males were found at what has been a regular venue at **Elysium** on 18th, with one being seen here two days later. There were no further records until two appeared in **Helme Wood** on 24th June, two juveniles were present here on 19th July and a male for the following two days. Singles were seen on five occasions at **Blackmoorfoot**, between 24th July and the year's last sighting in the Club area on 3rd September, all along the catchment near the inflow. One other record on 25th July came from a lucky observer cycling uphill on the Sheffield Road near **Hepworth**, who caught sight of a male fly catching from a nearby fence.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.

The first arrival was a male on 24th April at **Deer Hill** (DMP) which remains one of the most reliable sites to observe this species. Indeed, at least eight were in the vicinity on 29th May, and two family parties were seen there in late June.

There were two spring records from **Blackmoorfoot**, both from the fields to the west: males on 7th and 17th May. A male was singing at **Brow Grains, Meltham** on 14th May and a male was singing at **Shiny Brook** on 23rd May. A male and female were together at **Deanhead Res.** on 9th June, and again a month later, but there was no sign of young. In the **Wessenden Valley** a pair was feeding young on a bracken-covered slope at **Wessenden Head** on 19th June and in the lower valley there were initially just single singing males at **Blakeley** and **Wessenden**, but a family party was seen at the former in late June and early July. With the exception of the family party the only other July record involved a single at **Helme** on 26th.

August produced more birds at different venues, the first being a single on gorse at **Broadstone Res.** on 7th, followed by two juveniles at **Digley** on 19th and then by two records on the last day of the month – a single at **Brun Clough Res.**, which remained until 4th September, and two at **Deer Hill**. An amazing spectacle greeted the observer at the top of **Red Lane, Meltham** on 29th August when he came across 12 all perched on a barbed-wire fence, most of which were judged to be birds of the year due to the lack of white in the wings in flight.

September began with four at **The Dene, Marsden** on 1st, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd, and then three were recorded at **Bradshaw** on 8^{th/9th}. The last birds of the year were two at **Broadstone Res.** on 29th September, which is where the last 2010 bird was seen, albeit ten days earlier.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*
Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

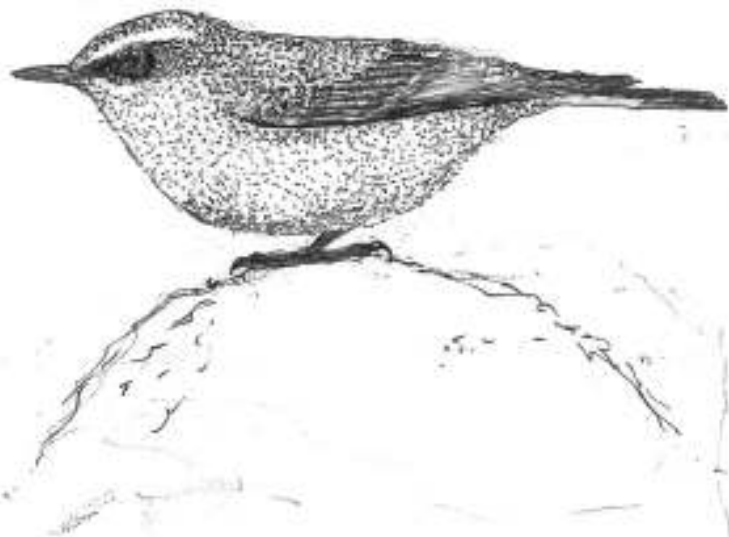
After two hard winters, this year saw another downward turn in the fortunes of this species, with fewer than thirty records from only a dozen sites, compared with over thirty sites two years ago. However, several observers found evidence of breeding, with sightings of juveniles or family parties reported from **Meltham Moor, Harden Res.**, and the **Wessenden Valley** (2 pairs). There

were no records of birds in the area until 22nd March, when a male sang briefly at **Wessenden Res.**, and two were seen five days later in the **Isle of Skye Quarry**. A male and female were found at the regular **Winscar Res.** site on 6th April, and a male was at **Harden Res.** on 9th, where at least two young were seen during May and June. A male and female at **Brow Grains** on 20th, a male and female at **Mill Moor, Meltham** on 22nd and a single male at **Ingbirchworth** on 24th were the only other April records and one on 19th May was the only record for **Dove Stone Res.** There were only two records from **Blackmoorfoot**, an area that has been well favoured in the past, both for breeding and wintering; a juvenile on Dunnock Lane on 20th June and a female on Meltham Cop on 29th October.

A male and female were together at **The Dene, Marsden** on 4th July and 1st September. A single bird was seen at **Crowden** on 22nd and 28th August. September sightings included five on **Meltham Moor** accompanied by a Whinchat on 15th, a female at **Maythorn** on 24th, and another at **Meltham** catchment on 26th, and three, possibly four, in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** at the end of the month. On 1st October an adult male was with four either female or immature birds at **Brow Grains, Meltham** and a single was at **Blakeley Res.** on 15th. The final records of the year involved a single at **Deer Hill** on 6th and 8th December.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.



Records were received from just over fifty venues, which is a similar total to last year's; no doubt the large number of records (well over two hundred) can partly be attributed to the enthusiasm with which many of us watch for the early spring arrivals in particular, as well as the conspicuous nature of the species!

This year's first sighting was of a male and female at **Lower Maythorn** on 18th March (GLB), five days ahead of any others; six were also seen here on 26th. A male at **Pule Holes, Marsden** on 23rd was followed by further March arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot, Broadstone Res., Horbury Strands, Boshaw Whams, Brun Clough Res., Winscar, and Deer Hill Res.** Among the many (95) April records, large groups were seen at **Digley** (13), **Whitley Airfield** (up to 22), **Blackmoorfoot** (17), **Reddishaw Knoll** (15), and, most remarkably, 50 at **Lower Maythorn**. In many cases birds were observed at these and other venues on a daily basis during April and May. Some of those at **Deer Hill** from as early as 17th April onwards were considered to be showing characteristics of the Greenland race (DHP). A single female lingered at **Oldfield** from 13th April to 20th May. Of four at **Brun Clough** a female was carrying wool nest material on 1st May, two males were singing/displaying on 7th, and on 9th June two family groups were watched, each consisting of a male and juveniles, with a single female some distance away. Several reports of juveniles or of possible/probable breeding came from other sites during July and August.

Daily sightings continued throughout September, almost always of singles or small groups, with the highest tally being nine at **Bradshaw** on 8th. Far fewer birds were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** in autumn, a juvenile in a field to the west on 5th August being the first. Thereafter, up to seven (usually fewer than 3) were present on 32 days between 9th August and 19th October. This last-mentioned record, of two birds, was the latest ever from the reservoir. Daily records continued elsewhere for the first few days of October, including an unusual sighting at **Stretch Gate, Shepley** on 2nd. There were two particularly late records, firstly a single bird on a wall on **Cheesegate Nab** on 26th (HQ), and the last of the year on 29th on a footpath at **Digley** (MW).

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce spring passage visitor.

No definite records were submitted, although one observer (DHP) commented on some showing features of this race at **Deer Hill** [v. above] on 17th and 25th April, as well as two on 20th September.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

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

Two males singing in a field behind **Ward End Farm, Marsden** on 22nd March (D&HS) were the first of the year, followed five days later by three males at **Brun Clough Res.** In April, several sightings at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** featured three males on 8th, a female on 18th, and a male and female on 29th, while eight were seen nearby at **Bilberry Res.** on 10th and a male and female were also seen on the track leading from the main road down to Bilberry Res. on 16th, when a single male was found at **Bradshaw**, and five, including three males, were observed at **Deer Hill Res.** near the Twite feeding station. A male and female were present in the area on 24th in suitable breeding habitat, but were not seen subsequently. Meanwhile, back at **Ward End Farm** three (two males) were reported on 18th, and four the next day, while another observer found two males and a female near **Digley**, and a single male appeared in the **Little Don Valley, Langsett**. A female was at **Brow Grains** on 20th April. Unusually, no spring records were forthcoming from the regular **Cheesegate Nab** site, and there was a lull until 4th May, when one was flushed at **Wessenden Lodge**. There were just three more spring records: a single in **Shiny Brook Clough** on 14th May, a bird "chacking" probably in response to a nearby Fox at **Shooters' Nab, Meltham** on 30th, with a male and female carrying food and making alarm calls here on 4th June.

Three autumn sightings featured two birds at **Crowden** on 22nd August, a male feeding on berries in **Red Lane, Meltham** on 18th September which flew off towards Deer Hill, and finally one was calling from **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 17th October (JMP).

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Once again, many reports were received, including detailed monthly or seasonal records for gardens and local patches, with some, limited, references to breeding activity, although many observers referred to the presence of apparent/presumed pairs. One **New Mill** garden watcher found two dead young in April, and saw other young being predated by Magpies. Another counted up to eleven birds in his **Almondbury** garden in the first winter period, with much lower numbers throughout spring, summer and autumn, until December when he recorded a peak of 14. Other regular counts reveal a similar pattern. Unlike 2010 there were no unusually high counts in any season, the highest figures being for up to 20 in winter visits to such areas as **Shelley Whins** and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

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

More records were received for the first four months of the year than for the autumn, with more birds seeming to stay for longer than usual, although some remarkable counts for the latter period surpassed any for January to April. As usual, in some instances birds were in mixed flocks with Redwings or Starlings. The first of several Fieldfare totals exceeding 200 was 250 at **Shelley-Roydhouse** on New Year's Day, and a similar tally was reached at **Moor Lane, Netherthong** and at **Annat Royd Lane, Ingbirchworth** on 2nd, when 200 were also seen at **Thick Hollins Moor**. Other three-figure flocks were logged in the first week of January at **Blackmoorfoot, Broadstone Res.**, and **Scout Dike Res.**, then at **Deer Hill** on 15th, at **Oldfield** on 19th, and lastly, an observer at **Farnley Tyas** came up with the very precise figure of 245 on 27th. At the other end of the scale, several singles appeared in gardens. February saw the largest first-winter flock at **Ingbirchworth**, where 350 were recorded on 12th, and five days later 220 were at **Broadstone Res.** At **Maythorn** on 26th the observer estimated 200 to be present along with Starlings before they were dispersed by the arrival of a female Sparrowhawk. Healthy numbers remained through March, including c.100 at **Armitage Bridge** on 16th and 120 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th, and 180 at **Harden Moss** the next day. The largest March gatherings included a party of 250 moving E over **Skelmanthorpe** on 21st and 300 at **Deer Hill** on 29th. Many lingered well into April, with **Deer Hill** hosting up to 200 on 2nd, and **Broadstone Res** producing as many as 400 on 6th, when another group of 450 which could have been the same flock, were roaming grassland near to **Boshaw Whams**. Several venues still had up to 50 present beyond mid-month, and the final spring reports of eight near the **Dog and Partridge** on 21st and five at **Gilbert Hill** on 23rd came from the same observer (DMP).

Apart from one record of c.30 at **Crow Edge** on 10th September (WDH), the autumn influx began in dramatic fashion at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 13th and 14th October when many thousands were recorded heading S and SW between 08.30hrs. and 10.00hrs. Accurate counts were impossible even with good visibility on the second day, as wave after wave passed overhead: the observer (DHP) commented that he had never seen anything like it. Twelve other records were submitted from different sites on these two days, with flock sizes ranging from 40 to 120, and one count of 235 at **Cooper Bridge SW**. The flow continued daily for the rest of the month and into

November. **Blackmoorfoot** counts of note included 227 flying S on 20th October, followed by 370 heading W on 21st, 570 and 640 moving S on 23rd and 29th respectively. In November 280 flew S on 3rd, 310 flew S on 9th and 110 did likewise on 15th. December was quieter here except for an isolated occurrence of 230 between 27th and 30th. Numerous other records from a range of venues featured smaller groups except for migration watches at **Harden Quarries** which yielded totals ranging from 154 SW on 16th October to 324 WSW on 6th November.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Records from around forty sites represent a slight decrease compared with the 2010 figures, although the regular **Marsden** observer commented that 2011 was a good year for this species, having counted 23 occupied territories, which is six above the recent average. Between six and ten pairs were recorded in **Bretton Park**, while other records of successful breeding referred to several pairs in **Lower Stones Wood**, **Stocks Moor**, and at **Scout Dike Res.**, three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, as well as two pairs at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, and at least one pair at **Dogley NR**. Four were singing at **Horbury Stands/Wyke** in mid-February, while three were counted at **Cooper Bridge SW**. Spring activity included four singing males at **Langsett** on 21st April, and birds feeding young at **Blackmoorfoot** by 5th May. Breeding was also confirmed at **Thunderbridge**, and **Emley Moor**. Many other records, mostly of single birds, featured garden visitors, some of which remained present all year. The only sighting after 1st November was of a single bird on **Hullock Bank** on 17th December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

The largest assembly in the first winter period comprised 200 birds on **Honley Moor** on 3rd February, and the only other three-figure counts were 100 flying over **Shepley** on 2nd January, and 140 at **Boshaw Whams** on 14th January. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** only had sporadic appearances, with birds present on only 15 days between 13th January and 25th March. Numbers rarely exceeded 26 (generally less than 14), the only exceptions being 50 on 13th/14th January, 40+ on 8th February and 70+ on 3rd/4th March. One observer saw a male Merlin in pursuit of a meal, while two others witnessed birds falling victim to Sparrowhawks. As always, birds were often seen in the company of Fieldfares, and sometimes with Mistle Thrushes and Starlings. Small flocks remained throughout March, with just one sighting of two birds at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 1st April.

The first day of October saw the first autumn arrivals in the form of a steady trickle of birds over **Shelley**, and another observer described frequent night calls throughout the month. A dramatic two days at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, already mentioned in the Fieldfare account, saw a massive southward movement of winter thrushes on 13th and 14th, while other observers elsewhere also reported big flocks at **Shepley**, **Oldfield**, **Ingbirchworth**, and **Butterley Res.**, where the tally reached 395. The first returning birds at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned 11 on 9th October and 100+ which flew W the following day. Thereafter, unlike the first winter period, appearances were more frequent but numbers were generally low. Up to 23 (usually less than 7) were present on a further 28 days to the year end, the only exceptions being 40 on 22nd October, 32 which flew S on 29th October and 30 on 7th November. The only other three-figure flock was 100 at **Castleshaw** on 5th November.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Sixty venues were a source of records, as last year, with more than half the sightings occurring in the first four months, and nothing to rival last year's autumn flock of 78 birds, the biggest gathering being 25 in two separate groups in the **Little Don Valley, Langsett** on 4th June. It was during the summer and early autumn that all the other double-figure counts took place, with 23 near **Healey Mills** on 7th July, 15 in flight at **Ingbirchworth** on 4th August, 11 also in flight at **Lindley** on 21st, and 12 flying over **New Mill** on 3rd September. The only large-number counts from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved 14 on 31st July, 16 on 27th August and 28 the following day.

Numerous garden records were received, and some observers referred to definite or probable breeding. Birds sang at 15 sites in the **Marsden** area, but confirmed territories have decreased from 13 in 2007 to just five. Two pairs were present between **Deanhouse** and **Oldfield**, and as usual birds were seen in several places defending berry-trees against all-comers, including a trio protecting their hoard against Waxwings in **Huddersfield** on 5th February.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

At least nine reeling males were reported from 14 widely scattered localities.

The first record concerned a male at **Scammonden** on 20th April (MB). The following day single males were located at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, **Broadstone Lodge** and **Broadstone Heath** (where it remained until 25th). Thereafter singles, unless otherwise stated, were seen or heard as follows:

Sparth Res – 7th May.

Deer Hill – 7th May and up to two between 27th June and 2nd July.

Broadstone Road – 20th May.

Skelmanthorpe – 27th June.

Winscar/Broadhill Bank – 28th June.

Dunford Bridge – 2nd/3rd July.

Broadstone Lodge – 4th July.

Thurstonland Bank – 4th/5th July.

Deanhead Res – 10th July.

Broadstone Heath – 20th July.

Broadstone Res – 21st July.

Scammonden Res – two on 30th July.

Marsden – 1st August.

The only evidence of breeding came from **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** where a pair raised three young, although two reeling males were present on 6th May. The last sighting concerned a single here on 13th August.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from seven sites (10 in 2010) involving at least nine birds, probably many more. The first was at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 21st April and the last at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 7th August.

As is usual, most records were from the **Horbury** area, but the only evidence of breeding concerned a pair with three young at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** in June. Singles were recorded at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 23rd April and 7th August.

An unusual record concerned a singing male on a traffic roundabout close to the old goods warehouse of Huddersfield railway station at 06.30hrs. on 8th May (DHP).

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

Recorded from four sites (same as 2010), with breeding evidence from three of these. The first was a single at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 20th April, the first site record for some years but eventually three pairs reared young. A male sang at **Colne Bridge SP** on 1st May but was not heard subsequently. Confirmed breeding was also recorded at **Dewsbury SW** and at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (probably 2 pairs at each locality). The last sighting of the year was at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 18th August.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Records from over 30 widely scattered sites. Overwintering was noted in both winter periods.

In **Almondbury** a male was noted between 5th January and 15th February and again between 13th and 20th March and a male was in a **Meltham** garden on 9th February.

A singing male held territory at **Cowcliffe** from 4th April and birds were more widely distributed by 10th. Maximum numbers included six at **Colne Bridge SP** on 16th April, six in the **Woodsome Valley** on 17th April, 15 at **Bretton Park** on 15th May and 17 between **Hey Green** and **Sparth** during the summer months.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, **Shelley Whins**, **Windy Bank Wood**, **Blackmoorfoot** (see below), **Swinden Plantation** and **Tunnel End** but probably occurred at many more sites.

The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved a singing male on 9th/10th April. Four males then took up territories and birds were present on a daily basis until 11th July with a pair nesting in Orange Wood. Thereafter single birds were present between 28th July and 1st August, 16th/17th and 20th August and the last (2 males + a female-type) on 21st/22nd August.

The only late winter record involved a male in a **Lockwood** garden on 10th December.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded from 31 sites, with most records involving singing males. Records spanned the period 21st April and 21st August.

April records were from **Colne Bridge SP** on 21st, **Heaton Lodge SW** on 26th and **Shelley Whins** and **Scout Dike** on 27th. The majority of records were in May: two at **Bulcliffe Woods** and five singing at **Bretton Park** on 2nd, three singing in the **Little Don Valley** on 4th, a male was noted chasing another at **Cotton's Dam, Linthwaite** on 11th. Most other May records had an easterly bias but in the west singles were recorded on a single day at **Sparth Res., Tunnel End, Slaithwaite** and **Golcar**.

June brought records from **Whitley Beaumont, Netherwood, Elland GP, Healey Mills/Kerry's NR, Skelmanthorpe, Horbury** and 10 males sang on the **Trans-Pennine Trail** between **Dunford Bridge** and **Wortley** on 2nd (although some of these would be out of our recording area).

Breeding was confirmed at **Cooper Bridge SW, Ingbirchworth Res.** (2 young), **Millbank/Thornhill** (3 young), and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (2 young).

There were only a handful of July records: a single at **Horbury** on 2nd, with one at **Ingbirchworth** the same day and two on 4th, two at **Whitley Beaumont** on 13th and four at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 14th and five on 19th. The only August records involved five at **Millbank/Thornhill** on 2nd and two in a **Shelley** garden on 21st.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports were received from 16 sites (1 more than 2010) with breeding confirmed at three of these. The first of the year was a singing male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 23rd April followed by singles (unless otherwise indicated) at:

Horbury Wyke – 26th April and 2 on 6th May.

Flockton – 29th April.

Royd Moor Res – 29th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – 1st and 10th/11th May.

Scout Dike – 2nd May.

Shelley Whins – 2nd May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – 4th May 2 on 6th May.

Skelmanthorpe - 8th May.

Thornhill Edge – 2 on 10th May.

Longwood Res – 10th May.

Horbury – 19th May.

Whitley Beaumont – 2 on 31st May.

Helme – 12th and 16th August.

Breeding was confirmed at **Thurstonland Bank** when a family party of seven/eight birds were seen on the 22nd June. A juvenile was seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th June and a family party at **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th June.

The last record was of a single near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th August (MLD, MJS) which, interestingly, was the first record for the reservoir since May 2001.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*
Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.



Records were received from 50 sites, an increase over the past two years, with at least 20 breeding pairs being confirmed at 16 of these, in addition probable breeding was recorded at five other sites.

The first record concerned a single at **Thurstonland Bank** on 1st April followed by a single at **Horbury SW** on 21st April and **Scout Dike Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Sands Lane GP**, all on 23rd April. Three singing males were at **Royd Moor Res.** and five at **Flockton** on 29th April. By May the species was more widely distributed and by 2nd there were five singing males at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, three at **Bullcliff Top Wood/Bullcliff Wood** and a good total of 15 at **Scout Dike Res.** June records included four singing males at **Dunford Bridge Trans-Pennine Trail** on 2nd, four at **Horbury** on 5th, a family party at **Ingbirchworth** on 6th, a family party at **Longwood Res.** on 8th, a single at **Elland GP** on 9th, two in the **Grimescar Valley** on 12th, two at **Stirley Farm, Hall Bower** on 19th, a family party at **Swinny Knoll** on 23rd and one at **Skelmanthorpe** on 30th.

Two pairs bred at **Colne Bridge SP**, **Cooper Bridge SW**, **New Dam** and **Sands Lane GP** and at least two pairs bred at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (where seven adults and seven young were seen on 4th July). A pair fledged young at **Blackmoorfoot** and breeding probably occurred at **Dewsbury SW** where four pairs were present.

There were only five August records: four at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd, two at **Bulcliff Top Wood/Bulcliff Wood** on 9th, and singles at **Shelley/Far Bank** on 21st and **Red Lane, Meltham** on 29th. The only September records involved a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd (with two the following day) and a single at **Shelley Whins** on 5th.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

The only record involved a singing male in the NE corner wood at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8th May (MLD, CH, SWJ). This was the first record for the reservoir since April 2001.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Records were received from over 40 sites. This is a large drop from last year (at least 70), but is similar to 2009, so may simply reflect observer activity. This species is widely distributed in the Club area although breeding was only noted at three sites.

Records from **Horbury SW** on 21st and 24th January and 12th February indicate at least one overwintering bird.

The first probable migrants, all single males, were recorded in March: **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th, **Thornton Lodge** on 16th, **Waterloo** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18th (1 to 3 males then took up residence between 25th March and 27th July, but there was no evidence of breeding). By the month end records had been received from 27 other sites, mostly of one to three birds but at least six were in the **Blacker Wood** area on 21st, five at **Scout Dike Res.** and four at **Marsden** on 29th (where 11 males eventually summered, the highest number since recording began here in 2002) and 12 at **Bretton Park** on 30th.

The highest numbers reported during April involved 11 on the **Calder/Hebble Navigation Canal** on 9th, seven in the **Grimescar Valley** on 10th, four at **Colne Bridge SP** on 21st and five at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 30th. During June six were on the **Dunford Bridge/Trans-Pennine Trail** (although some may have been out of area) on 2nd, six at **Elland GP** on 9th, five at both **Cannon Hall** and **Deffer Wood** on 15th, six at **Langsett** on 21st and 10 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 24th.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Cooper Bridge SW** (at least two pairs), **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (two pairs) and **Shelley Whins** where two juveniles were seen on 2nd July.

In July/August records were only received from nine localities. Most of these concerned one or two individuals but eight (1 singing male + 7 in a flock of tits) were at **Colne Bridge SP** on 31st August.

In September between one and three birds were reported from only eight localities, most of which were reservoirs. It was a similar situation in October, with records of one to three birds at nine sites, the last being a single **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13th, two at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 16th and a single at **Bank Bottom Mills, Marsden** on 24th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

The most common and widely distributed warbler in the Club area, with records from over 60 sites. Even so there were confirmed breeding records from only six localities.

The first reported arrivals, all single males, were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29th March followed by **Windy Bank Res.** on 1st April and **Healey House** the following day. The species was widely distributed in small numbers by 7th April, but 16 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** by mid-month and eight singing at **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 8th had increased to 30 by 18th and 40 by 21st. There were 43 along the **Dunford Bridge Trans-Pennine Trail** on 27th April and 22 males held territories in the **Wessenden Valley** and there were 41 between **Hey Green** and **Sparth** in the **Colne Valley**.

The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned three singing males on 6th April. The following two days had five singing males and nine males were present from 9th April until 2nd May. Thereafter six males remained throughout the summer months, some attracting females and breeding. From mid-August to 4th September one to eight were present on a daily basis, the only exception being 12+ between 20th and 22nd August. The only records thereafter involved a single on 14th/15th September.

Males were recorded in double figures at a number of sites in May/June, the following being the maxima: in May, 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd and 18 the following day, 22 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd, 34 at **Langsett** on 4th and, in June, 36 on the **Dunford Bridge/Trans-Pennine Trail** on 2nd (although some of these would be out of our recording area), 12 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 5th and 11 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 13th.

Although still widely distributed during July/August, with the exception of those recorded from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see above), the only double-figure counts involved 12 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 2nd and 13 on 4th July.

September records were restricted to one or two birds at five localities. The final birds of the year involved two in the **Bretton** area on 21st September and a single in **Windy Bank Wood** on 1st October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Our smallest bird species was reported from 47 sites, 27 more than last year but 22 less than 2009.

On 1st January there were sightings of singles at **Shepley, Langsett, Lockwood, Horbury, Elland GP** and **Shelley Whins**, where two were in residence throughout the year. During the rest of the month there were reports of birds at a number of widely scattered localities, most of which were in the east of the area and involved singles, the only exceptions being three at **Horbury SW** on 6th, three at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 21st, two at **Horbury** on 22nd and 'good numbers' at **Langsett** on 25th.

Between February and August, although more widely scattered, numbers rarely exceeded one or two, the exceptions being four in the **Grimescar Valley** on 13th February and 24th July., 'several' at **Cartworth Moor** on 1st June and five at **Swinden Plantation** on 21st June.

Up to six pairs may have bred at **Shepley**, 'good numbers' at **Langsett** and a pair probably bred at **Shelley Whins**.

Records between September and the year-end were only received from a small number of widely scattered localities and, with the exception of the six below, never exceeded more than three. Of interest was one which recovered from a collision with a patio window in **Hepworth** on 18th September, one in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 30th September was the first record for the site (DWP), a party of six were mobbing a Little Owl in a small tree at **Wilshaw** on 27th October and two at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 2nd November was only the second site record for the year.

There was an increase in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** but this only involved one to three individuals on 16 days. The only records in the first half of the year concerned singles on 23rd March and 2nd and 17th April. A juvenile in Orange Wood on 5th July was unusual. Thereafter one to three were seen in September (2 days), October (4 days), November (6 days) and December (1 day).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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

Records were received from 14 sites, a little down from last year. There was only one record of confirmed breeding although breeding was thought possible at three other sites. Birds were recorded between 8th May and 3rd September.

All records involved singles unless otherwise stated.

Woodsome Lees – 8th May.

Helme Wood – 13th May, thereafter a pair took up residency and attempted to nest on three occasions, but failed each time.

Ingbirchworth Res – 14th May.

Langsett – two on 17th/18th, 31st May and 27th August.

Dean Brook Road, Deanhouse – a single in the same tree on 29th May and 7th to 9th June was the first the observer has seen in the area in over 40 years.

Thunderbridge – 31st May.

Langsett Barn – a juvenile in the car park on 26th June.

Skelmanthorpe – 27th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 1st July, 20th and 26th July with two from 27th July until 5th August. From 13th August one or two (4 on 20th/21st August) were seen on a further 10 days until the last, a single, on 3rd September.

Scholes/Morton Wood – two on 20th/21st July.

Yateholme – two on 23rd July.

Bretton Park – two on 25th July and a single on 1st September.

Cooper Bridge SW – 17th August.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a single on 23th August was the first record for the reserve.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

A single male at **Cliffe Wood, Langsett** on 18th April and two singing males on 18th May (SRG) were the only records from this former breeding locality. A singing male was at **Molly Carr**

Wood on 20th April (BA) and a single near the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st July (MLD, TD, CH) was the eighth record for the reservoir and the first since August 1993.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.



Reports were received from 44 sites, 17 less than last year but 11 more than 2009. The species is widely distributed across the Club area but breeding was only confirmed at seven sites and thought probable at a further six.

Garden records were from all months except May/June and the largest groups of birds were all in first winter period. Numbers were generally small but in a garden at **Thick Hollins, Meltham** up to 26 were present during January and 34 during February, c.12 frequented a **Cowcliffe** garden on most days during the second winter period.

There were a good number of flocks of up to 15 reported, those in excess involved: 16 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 9th January, at least 20 at **Bretton Park** on 14th January, 25 at **Lepton Great Wood** on 12th February, 24 at **Hollin Avenue, Marsh** on 25th June (with 17 on 25th September) and 26 at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 23rd November.

Present in small numbers throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** although there were only single records in January, February, June and July and two records in December. Two pairs attempted to breed; a pair in Orange Wood aborted after nest building and a pair near the inflow fledged eight young on 19th May. Even with the family party, numbers rarely exceeded 10, the exceptions being 15+ on 13th August, 16 on 17th October and, in November, 12 on 4th, 15 on 27th and 11 on 30th.

On 26th September an interesting observation involved a flock of 27 which flew SW at **Pule Hill, Marsden** during a heavy Meadow Pipit/finch passage: 10 of which returned 10 minutes later.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This common bird was reported across the Club area throughout the year with numerous breeding records including the use of garden nest boxes. This data is important in maintaining Club records but only large groups are recorded here and, interestingly, they are mainly from the first winter period.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR had 17 on 21st January and 24 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th January. There were 62 at **Bretton Park** on 10th February, a peak number of 36 in the **Longwood Valley** on 20th March and 22 on the **Calder/Navigation Canal** on 9th April. The **Grimescar Valley** held good numbers with peaks of 35 on 10th April and 46 (including 19 juveniles) on 17th June.

A single in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 30th September was the first record for the site. The bird was with a small flock of Great Tits (only the second ever record).

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Very common throughout our recording area. Reports were received from 40 sites, more than last year but reflecting more assiduous record keeping in every month of the year!

There were nine breeding records, five in garden nest boxes, three in nest boxes away from gardens and one in tree hole.

The largest groups seen were 20 at **Lepton Great Wood** on 12th February; **Blacker Wood** and **The Field** had a minimum of 16 (including 4 singing males) on 21th March; 20 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 3rd April and 16 on 12th June (including 7 juveniles) and 24 in **Bretton Park** on 19th October.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records were received from 32 sites, 10 less than last year but more than 2009. There were garden records for every month confirming more use of feeders by this species that is mainly found amongst conifers. Most garden records were of one to three individuals but a **Marsh** garden had four on 25th September and a **Cowcliffe** garden had between two and four during the winter months.

Most records involved single figure flocks, the only exceptions being 20 at **Langsett** on both 20th January and 21th June and 10 in **Deffer Wood** on 15th June. **Bretton Park** is generally a stronghold for the species but could only boast a maximum of eight on 19th October.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** occurrences were very sporadic during the first winter period, there being one or two birds on 10 days in February and three days in March. From 1st April two pairs took up residence and attempted to breed; a pair in the NE corner aborted after nest building (these birds were not seen after 24th April) and a pair in the south bank wood fledged at least four young on 31st May. The family party remained until 21st June but records thereafter only involved a single on 26 days to the year end, with none between 18th September and 15th November.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing. Red listed.

This nationally declining species was recorded from 12 sites, four less than last year but the same as for 2009. There has been little change in site records over a number of years although poor numbers were reported at **Bretton** this year (SRG). Confirmed breeding came from two sites and probable breeding occurred at two others.

The species was recorded throughout the year at **Scout Dike Res.** (with five, including juveniles on 2nd June), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (family party on 2nd July), **Gunthwaite Dam** (where they almost certainly bred) and **Stockmoor Common NR** (where they probably bred).

Other records were all of single birds, unless otherwise stated:

Royd Moor Res – 8th January and, in November, two on 12th, three on 19th and 21st.

Bretton Park – 10th February, 9th August and two on 19th October.

High Hoyland – 21st March.

Ossett Spa SW – 24th April.

Shelley/Near Bank – in the observer's garden on 17th May (and other dates around this time).

Horbury – by the River Calder on 2nd July.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a single on the bird feeders from 13th August until the year end.

Birds Edge – two on 2nd September.

(EURASIAN) NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

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

Records were received from 45 sites, suggesting that last year's reduction was most likely a resulted of reduced observer activity as the species is increasing nationally. Breeding was confirmed at eight sites.

Recorded throughout the year in the **Woodsome Valley** (10 plus pairs), between **Deanhouse** and **Hagg Wood, Brockholes** (almost daily), **Marsden, Kirkburton/Dogley NR, Butternab Wood** and **New Mill**.

Garden records were received from **Fixby** (regular throughout the year in 2 gardens); **Lockwood** throughout the year; **New Mill** (1-2) daily except May/June; **Choppards** (1-2) on a number of dates in the first two months; **Thick Hollins, Meltham** daily during May-July and December and various other dates; **Almondbury** (3 gardens), **Hepworth** (up to 3 birds) and at **Cowcliffe** on 5th November.

Bretton Park held a maximum of 10 on 10th of January and 10th February, 12 on 30th March and five in September/October. Five birds were at **Carr Wood** on 5th May and four at **Lower Greave Wood, Fixby** on 19th November.

Breeding was confirmed at **Windy Bank Wood, Blackmoorfoot** (see below), **Fixby, Langsett Barn, Longwood Res., Thunderbridge/Meadowlands LNR, Helme** (four pairs on territory by late April) and **Brown's Knoll Meadows**. Three pairs nested in nest boxes: a pair at **Langsett Barn** (SRG), a pair at **Brown's Knoll Meadows** plastered the entrance hole (HC) but a pair at **Fixby** obviously found the entrance hole to their liking as they did not reduce the size (MJL).

At **Blackmoorfoot** the only January record involved a single in Orange Wood between 18th and 21st January. A single in Orange Wood from 8th February was seen to be inspecting last years' nest hole on 22nd and had attracted a mate by 16th March; the pair fledging young in late May. The family party then frequented the Orange Wood/south bank wood area until 13th July. Occurrences thereafter involved one or two in Orange Wood or the south bank wood on a further seven days in July, 26 in August, 19 in September, eight in October, three in November and one in December.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Records were received from 39 sites. Breeding was confirmed at only three sites although it was thought probable at three others.

The species was present throughout the year at **Lepton Great Wood, Kirkburton/Dogley NR, Butternab Wood, and Penny Spring Wood**.

Most sightings involved one or two birds, but three were present at **Bretton Park** on 19th January and again on 21th December, in the **Grimescar Valley** on 20th February, **Dogley Bar/Kirkburton** from 6th to 12th March, **Blacker Wood** on 31st March, **Langsett/Little Don Valley** on 4th June and **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th July.

Garden records were received from **Thick Hollins, Meltham** on 8th February and **Shelley/Far Bank** on 18th August, **Hepworth** (2 almost daily in December and other sightings) and from **Netherthong** (almost daily in December and other sightings in the first quarter). At the two latter mentioned sites observers suspected that the species visits more frequently than recorded.

A single at **Healey Mills NR/Kerry's NR** on 23rd August was the first record for the site.

Breeding was confirmed at **Ingbirchworth Res., Horbury and Blackmoorfoot** (see below) and suspected at **Kirkburton, Lepton Great Wood and Penny Spring Wood**.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a single in Orange Wood from 9th March had attracted a mate by 18th, the pair attempted to breed but the nest was predated by 9th April, after which the adults vacated the area. Thereafter one or two (3 on 10th July) were seen on 40 days between 3rd June and 30th November, the majority of records concerned a single which remained between 3rd and 30th June.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Rare passage and winter visitor.



A single was seen briefly at **Harden Quarries** on 16th October (RJB, MC). One was reported in the **High Hoyland/Jebb Lane** area on 31st December (BBSG) and remained into the New Year.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Records were received from over 40 sites but this probably underestimates the presence of this widespread and secretive species. Sightings spanned the year but there were fewer during the last two months.

Most records were of between one to three individuals, but up to five were present throughout the year at **Horbury Wyke/Stands**, four were at **Stirley Knoll, Upper Park Wood** on 18th March, six were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 23th March, nine were at **Blackmoorfoot** on the same day (see below), up to six were seen on several occasions during autumn in **Miry Lane, Deanhouse** and six were at **Millbank/Thornhill** on 13th December.

There were a good number of records from gardens, most during autumn and the winter periods: **Lockwood** (3 gardens); **Almondbury** (2 gardens); **Choppards**; **Marsden**; **Thick Hollins**, **Meltham** and **Netherthong**.

Seen on a daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the majority of records involving between one to four birds, but nine were present on 23rd March and five on 1st October. A pair bred along the east bank, raising at least one young.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

This year numerous records were received, many of birds in gardens, but the species is no longer to be seen in large roosting congregations.

Two gardens had high numbers: up to 10 were present throughout the year in **North Street, Lockwood** and a flock of 12 were in **Thorpe Lane, Almondbury** on 27th November.

The **Grimescar Valley** had flocks on various dates with a maximum of 16 on 6th March and 14 on both 20th March and 27th December. A flock of 17 was in the **Wessenden Valley** on 12th March and the highest count at **Royd Moor Res.** involved 20 on 19th March. In the **Longwood Valley** there were 20 on 22nd April and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** had a maximum of 15 on 23rd August. A flock of 26 birds at **Marsden Golf Course** on 16th October was the largest gathering reported and 14 were noted along the River Calder at **Horbury** on 27th November.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

Records of this widespread and common species were received from 50 sites with breeding in chimneys and an old barn being noted.

Flocks of 40 strong flying to roosts or at roosts were recorded from a number of widely scattered localities and a minimum of 500 regularly flew over **Shelley/Far Bank** during both winter periods.

There were a good number of flocks of up to 40 reported, those in excess involved: 60 at **Marsden** on 5th January; 350 at **High Hoyland** on 17th January; 230 at **Hartcliff Hill, Penistone** (with a few Rooks) on 12th March; a flock of 50 which flew E at **Marsden** on 12th May; 70 at **Brun Clough Res.** on 6th June; 54 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st September; 50 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 28th October; c.200 flew NE over **Hagg Wood, Brockholes** on 12th November; 50 at **Skelmanthorpe** on 12th December and c.90 at **Deer Hill** on 13th December.

A total of 626 flew SW over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on four dates between 20th October and 6th November, with a maximum of 566 on 24th October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

This species is fairly common in the Club's rural areas and records were received from 28 sites although no gatherings larger than 300 were reported.

Rookeries were reported from:

Crosland Moor – eight nests.

Hepworth – 16 nests in a garden and nearby Sycamores.

Mount Road, Marsden – one nest.

Paw Hill, Penistone – 4 nests on a pylon.

Stretch Gate, Shepley – 60 occupied nests

Thornhill Lees – 4 nests.

Whitley Beaumont – 5 nests.

Up to six visited a garden in **Marsden** on several dates in March/April, June and December and two did likewise in a garden at **New Mill** on 19th March and two dates in December.

The largest flocks recorded consisted of 60 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 9th January and 300 (with Carrion Crows) on 28th August, 100 at **High Hoyland** on 17th January, c.200 (with Jackdaws) at **New Mill** on 19th March and 50 at **Healey Mills** on 28th October.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

This species was recorded from all habitats within the Club area although only eight records of nesting were received.

Two partially white young were noted at **Thornhill Edge**. There were visits to five gardens (**Hepworth, Marsden, Marsh, Almondbury** and **Horbury Strands**), with a maximum of six birds at **Marsh** on 30th October.

Gatherings in excess of 40 were as follows:

Dewsbury SW – 60 to 100 were present throughout the year with 150 feeding on the sprinkler beds on 23rd August.

Healey Mills – 40 on 21th January and 62 on 30th April.

Grimescar Valley – 45 on 10th April.

Longwood Valley – 76 on 25th June.

Ford Inn – 40 on 12th December.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

Rare visitor.

A single across the road from the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 26th April (MC, DHP, DMP) was the first Huddersfield record since one which flew N over Harden on 16th or 17th May 2001. Within Yorkshire the species has become an increasingly rare visitor, but 2011 saw an increase in records.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

Records were received from 27 mainly moorland sites with probable breeding at two of these. Most sightings involved no more than two birds, but a party of five flew SE over **Harden** on 2nd May and six were in the air together at another site on 17th September.

The most interesting reports were from **Cheesegate Nab**: on 16th February three were in aerial battle with two Buzzards and on 10th September a single was interacting with 3 or 4 radio controlled model aircraft. The bird swooped amongst the planes for at least 10 minutes, appearing to copy some of the movements made by the model aircraft. Perhaps confirming that some corvids "just like to have fun" to plagiarise a song.

There was a single record from **Blackmoorfoot**: one over Meltham Cop on 20th September (TD, CH). A single was mobbed by Carrion Crows at **Pule Hill, Marsden** on 1st November.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Reports covered over 40 sites, but as most were from the same five observers, it is likely that this nationally declining species is under recorded. Breeding was only reported at only two sites but records of juveniles indicate success across the Club area.

Most notable were three leucistic juveniles seen by several observers in the **Ingbirchworth Res.** area in the last days of May. Images of these birds by DHP were posted on the Club Forum at the time.

There were many garden records throughout the year (with a maximum of c.30).

The largest flocks noted were:

Ingbirchworth Res – 300 on 28th February.

Blackmoorfoot Res – 350+ on 28th February, 250 on 27th March and 170 on 31st July.

Deer Hill – 100 on 28th May.

Brun Clough Res – 100 on 13th June.

Hey Green, Marsden – 100 on 15th June.

Lindley Recreation Ground – 100 on 17th September.

Whitley Common – 1000 plus on various dates, mostly in the autumn.

Visible migration at **Harden Quarries** involved 963 flying NE in a four hour period on 15th October and 674 over on 6th November (in the early part of the watch the birds flew W but most then started to fly between N or NW, as is normal for the species at this locality in autumn). At **Pule Hill, Marsden** a total of 551 flew SW on 26th October and 826 did likewise on 1st November.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species. Red listed.

Records came from 36 sites this year, six more than last year and once again, most records were from gardens. Several observers noted House Sparrows in their gardens for the first time, or as the

first for many years, which is encouraging.

The largest single flock was of 70 at **Knotty Lane Lepton** on 17th October, feeding around the chicken runs. The colony at the riding stables at **Millmoor, Meltham** continues to thrive, with a maximum of 60 being seen. A garden at **White Rose Avenue, Dalton** also continued to attract birds, with up to 40 being seen. At **Hollin Avenue, Marsh**, birds were recorded from January to October, with a maximum of 33 on 6th September, while a garden at **Winton Street, Lockwood** held a flock throughout the year, with a maximum of 40 during September and October. At **Shelley/Far Bank**, birds were present throughout the year, with a maximum of at least 30 in late June. Flocks of at least 20 were in gardens at **New Mill** throughout the year, at **Golcar** during January, in the **Grimescar Valley** on 3rd April, and by the River Calder at **Horbury** on 15th February.

Proof of breeding came from **Holly Bank Avenue, Lindley**, where adults were feeding three juveniles on 12th May, **Hollin Avenue, Marsh**, where 14 adults were accompanied by nine juveniles on 23rd May, **St. Mary's Crescent, Netherthong** where young were being fed in June, and juveniles were seen at a few other sites, where breeding doubtless occurred. There were no records from Huddersfield town centre, although the species certainly continues to be resident there.

Unusual records were of very small numbers of birds at isolated or high altitude locations - **Harden, Emley Moor**, and **Ward End Farm, Marsden**.

A single which fed from a nut basket in a **Shelley** garden between 20th and 24th July was a hybrid House x Tree Sparrow, exhibiting characteristics of both species. Images by the observer (SRG) were posted on the Club Forum at the time.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Tree Sparrows were reported from 28 sites this year, rather more than in 2010, but the species remains at about the same level of abundance, and its distribution is unchanged.

One or two known colonies went uncounted, but four other sites reported probable or confirmed breeding:

Emley Moor - a small colony remains in the area of **Emley Pit** but no further details are known.

Upper Denby - from four to 11 birds were almost daily visitors to garden feeders between 1st January and 7th February. Thereafter, at least three pairs bred, two of which had three broods. The maximum count was 25 of birds.

High Hoyland/Litherop Lane - six to 10 birds normally present, but c.20 in November and December probably indicated successful breeding.

New Mill - birds were seen intermittently from 23rd March (1) to the year end; there were two on 29th March, four, two of which prospected a nest-box on 10th, and a single on 19th April, one on 16th May, then one or two from 25th – 30th June, with only four visits in July. None were then seen until 25th October, from which date one to four birds were regularly present until the year end.

Skelmanthorpe - breeding was confirmed in a garden, but no further details were obtained.

Elsewhere, birds were reported from the following locations:

Deffer Wood – three on 24th January, six on 15th and 30th June.

Stocks Moor Common – three on 27th January.

Thurgory Lane – six on 12th February and 11th March, with 20 on 10th November.
Royd Moor Res – two on 26th March.
Whitley – 15 were on feeders on 11th April, and six juveniles were seen in June.
Shelley/Far Bank – singles on 18th May, 5th June and 3rd July, with two on 29th November.
Broadstones area – one on 8th June, four on 9th and 12 on 20th/21st July.
Deer Hill End Road – a juvenile of unknown origin on 28th June.
Scout Dike Res – 15, of which several were juveniles, were present on 29th July.
Cheesegate Nab – two on 17th August.
Dick Edge Lane – a single on 17th and 21st August.
Kirkheaton/Gawthorpe Lane – seven on 27th August.
Denby Dale/Denby Hall Farm – two on 22nd October.
Woodsome Valley – three on 5th December.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This widespread species was fairly well reported during the first half of the year, when males were singing and birds were frequent garden visitors. There was no repeat of last year's flock at **High Hoyland**, and no other notable gatherings were located in the first winter period. Proof of breeding was submitted from just one site, but singing males were very widely reported. The main feature of the autumn was a good visible passage, involving over 2000 birds. At the end of the year, a good flock built up at **Bretton**.

During the first three months of the year, small groups of up a dozen or so were reported from 19 sites, the maximum being 14 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 19th March and 19 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st March.

Breeding was only proved at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, where two pairs bred on the reserve, although at least five pairs were thought to have bred at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, and two or three pairs at **Shelley Whins**. Otherwise, birds were widely reported during the spring. Double-figure counts, all in April, were of 11 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, 16 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 3rd and 10th with 14 on 24th, 24 by the canal at **Horbury** on 9th, 20 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th and 21 in the **Longwood Valley** on 22nd. During May, there were 10 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, 21 at **Langsett** on 4th, 23 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 5th with 11 there on 10th. As might be expected, there were no high counts during June, but in July, 100 were in fields near **Healey Mills** on 24th. Otherwise, July reports came from only 10 sites, the maximum being 10 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st. There were even fewer reports in August, by far the highest being 50 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 2nd. September and October saw the build-up of a feeding flock at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, which totalled 50 by 15th September and 70 on 11th October. Otherwise, the majority of records in September and October were of birds passing over during visible migration counts:

Harden Quarries – 594 moved mainly between E and S on 13 dates between 4th September and 6th November with maxima of 134 SE on 25th September and 196 SW on 16th October.
Pule Hill, Marsden – 1585 flew SW on 12 dates between 21st September and 17th November, with maxima of 333 on 26th September and 499 on 1st November.
Wessenden Valley – 40 S on 22nd September and 30 S on 1st October.
Blackmoorfoot Res – 35+ W on 21st October.
Hey Green, Marsden – 20 W on 23rd October

During the second winter period records came from a dozen sites. The only double-figure counts

were of 10 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th and 22 on 24th November, and, far and away the largest gathering was a flock feeding on beech mast at **Bretton Park** which had built up to an estimated 100 birds by 22nd December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

2011 was an unexceptional year for this unpredictable winter visitor. There was a reasonable scattering of records in the first winter and early spring periods, with several gardens again being favoured, but after a small flurry of records in October there were very few in November and December.

During the first winter period birds were reported from 13 sites, mostly in single figures. The largest flock was in a garden at **Linthwaite**, where birds were present throughout January, February and March with a peak count of at least 40. Birds were present in a **Marsden** garden on a near daily basis between 9th January and 16th April. The highest numbers involved 10 on 16th January, 27 on 6th February, 11 on 27th March and 19 on 3rd April. Thereafter numbers dwindled and the last (5) were present 16th April. Only low single figures were recorded at two other sites during that month. The last bird of the spring was a single seen flying S over **Winscar** on 5th May.

The first returning birds concerned two feeding on beech mast with a Chaffinch flock at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th October, followed by a single at **Shelley Whins** on 12th, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13th and singles at **Cook's Study** on 14th and SW over **Pule Hill, Marsden** on the same day. Further birds reported during October were three at **Deer Hill** on 16th with six at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the same day, two at **Marsden Golf Course** and three at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 20th, four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd, a single in **Marsden Churchyard**, two at **Tunnel End** and six at **Hey Green**, all on 23rd.

Migration watches at **Harden Quarries** in October revealed 11 SE on 16th, 11 SE on 23rd and 10 S on 29th and two SW on 5th November. Migration (all in a SW direction) was also noted at **Pule Hill, Marsden** with, in October, a single on 24th, six on 26th and 10 on 30th and, in November, six on 1st and four on 17th.

Apart from those already mentioned at the migration watch points, there were few records in November, with two at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 5th followed by a single on 14th and three on 27th, nine at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd and one in **Marsden** on 29th. There were just two records in December - two in the **Windy Bank Wood** area on 2nd and 'small numbers' at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 21st.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

Although reports came from only 33 sites, this species remains widespread and common in our area. One very experienced observer, however, thought that numbers were down at **Cooper Bridge SW**.

Garden feeding stations were as usual visited frequently in the first winter period, but there were no double-figure counts. Elsewhere, the only flocks reported were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where there were 35 on 21st January, 12 on 1st February and 22 on 1st March.

Singing males were widely reported in spring but evidence of breeding came only from **Almondbury (Fenay Crescent)**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (4 pairs), **Harden** (minimum of 10 young raised) and **Shelley Whins** (pair raised 3 broods). Breeding probably also occurred at **Kirkburton/Dogley Bar**, **Lepton Great Wood** and **Ward End Farm, Marsden**. The only post-breeding flock of any size was at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, which built up from 50 on 24th July to 75 by 2nd August.

The autumn saw one or two gardens receiving more visitors, with 16 in **Fenay Crescent**, **Almondbury** on 9th October being the maximum. Otherwise, the main feature of the autumn was a somewhat heavier passage than last year over two migration watch-points. At **Harden Quarries**, 76 flew in directions mainly between E and S on seven dates between 18th September and 6th November, with maxima of 20 on 5th September and 21 on 23rd October. **Pule Hill, Marsden** had a total of 151 SW on seven dates between 23rd September and 17th November, with a maximum of 77 on 1st November.

The second winter period only saw two gardens with double-figure counts: 17 at **North Street, Lockwood** on 23rd December and 15 in **Meltham Road, Marsden** on 26th. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** produced the only other double-figure counts, with 18 on 1st September, 14 on 1st October, 35 on 14th November and 13 on 18th December.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Reported from over 60 sites, representing a very healthy picture for this delightful finch. Although not many nests or broods were found, good numbers of juveniles were seen in late summer/early autumn. With one notable exception, autumn flocks were not large, and birds either dispersed or left the area as the winter drew on.

Birds were attracted to feeding stations in a large number of gardens, in many cases throughout the year. During the first winter period they were mostly in low single figures, but double-figure counts came from **White Rose Avenue, Dalton** (up to 10), **Fixby** (10 on 9th January) and **Thick Hollins, Meltham** (up to 12 on 5 dates in March). Away from the gardens, there were few concentrations noted, but 30 were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 13th January and again on 12th February, 40 were at **Bretton Park** on 17th February and 17 were at **Broadstones Res.** on 6th March. Breeding was confirmed at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Shelley Whins**, **Harden**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Skelmanthorpe** and **Deanhead Res.**, with probable breeding taking place at a minimum of eight other localities.

Post-breeding gatherings were not detected until mid-August, when 18 were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15th, 40 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23rd and, on the same day, a splendid gathering of 250 birds were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**. In September, 40 were still at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** between 1st and 3rd and again on 25th September, 24 at **Dovestone/Binn Green** on 2nd, 50 at **Whitley Common** on 9th were mainly juveniles, 87 were at **Victoria/Hepworth** on 14th, 50 at **Deer Hill Res.** on 17th and 70 at **Royd Moor Res** on 22nd. In October, 60 were at **Crosland Hill Quarries** on 12th and 30 were present at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th. Visible migration during this period was observed at **Harden Quarries**, where 171 moved between E and SW on seven dates between 11th September and 6th November, with a maxima of 42 on 16th and 70 on 23rd October, and at **Pule Hill, Marsden** where 108 moved SW on nine dates between 21st September and 17th November, with a maximum 43 on 26th September.

Gardens again supported birds during the second winter period, with two different ones at **Bird's Edge** holding 15 during November and 14 during December respectively. Otherwise, there were no significant flocks except 40 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th November.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This is a somewhat unpredictable species, and records this year seemed to follow a different pattern to that seen in 2010. There were widespread reports in the first winter period, but few during the breeding season. There was a lack of post-breeding flocks, but the autumn was dominated by a well-documented passage in September and October. This was not, however, accompanied by many birds stopping to feed, and records were then very few in the second winter period.

Small numbers of birds were present throughout the year in the **Marsden** area, where they were in low single numbers during every month except December, at **Winscar** and at **Harden** they were frequent garden visitors all year apart from the early summer.

Garden feeding stations were a big attraction during the early months of the year, with a garden at **Millmoor, Meltham** hosting birds from the beginning of January through to the end of March, building up to around 30 through February and early March and gradually decreasing thereafter. Another garden at **Thick Hollins, Meltham** was visited by up to 11 on five dates in January, up to 21 on six dates in February, up to seven on six dates in March and two were present on six dates in April. At **Shelley/Far Bank** birds visited garden feeders from 9th January until 16th April, with a maximum of nine on 27th February. A further five or six gardens were visited by up to six birds between January and April. Away from the gardens, records came from a dozen sites with significant counts in January being 20 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st, 13 at **Elland GP** on 14th, 60 at **Riding Wood Res.** on 22nd, 14 at **Langsett** and c.30 at **Hey Green, Marsden** on 25th. In February, **Bretton Park** held 30 on 8th, 22 were at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 10th and 12 were at **Horbury** on 1st March.

Very few records were received during the breeding season, and there was no proof of breeding anywhere, but display was seen on several days in March at **Yateholme**, and birds were thought to be probably breeding at **Langsett/Little Don Valley**. Display was also seen at **Langsett/Swinden Plantation** on 4th June and breeding may also have occurred at **Storthes Hall**. A family party at **Broadstones Heath** on 20th July may have bred locally.

There were no May records away from the few regular sites, and in June, birds were recorded from just one other site, with two in a **Thick Hollins, Meltham** garden on 17th, four on 22nd and a single on 24th and 30th. July brought more records, with singles present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on five dates from 13th and mostly single-figure counts from five other sites, including a maximum of 14 at **Digley/Bilberry** on 17th. Single birds were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on six dates in August, but the only other record that month away from the regular areas was a single at **Shelley/Far Bank** on 30th.

September and October brought many more records, the vast majority of these concerning birds passing over regularly watched sites:

Harden Quarries – a total of 697 moved in a variety of directions between E and SW on 12 dates between 4th September and 30th October, with maxima of 124 on 18th September and 155 on 16th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – on seven dates between 11th September and 21st October, a total of 124 birds were seen, either going S or W, with maxima of 37 S on 4th and 30 S on 17th October.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 85 birds flew SW on seven dates between 22nd September and 26th October, with maxima of 24 on both 22nd September and 20th October.

Wessenden Valley – on four dates between 22nd September and 15th October, a total of 43 birds flew S, with a maximum of 26 on 29th September.

Isle of Skye Quarry – on four dates between 22nd September and 1st October, a total of 27 moved in directions between S and W, with a maximum of 13 W on 27th September.

Oldfield – 2 S on 27th September.

Marsden – five SW on 29th September and two SW on 22nd October.

Thurstonland Bank – 6+ S on 13th and 1 S on 18th October.

From these figures, it can be seen that nearly 1000 birds passed over our area. If we take into account the fact that at many of these sites unseen birds were heard in addition to those counted, the total would be much higher.

Grounded birds were recorded in September at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on eight dates (maximum of 4 on 10th), and in October single figures were at the latter site on four dates (maximum of 4 on 1st), 30 were present at **Yateholme** on 22nd and 20 at **Baitings Res.** on 26th. Birds were recorded at just four sites besides **Winscar, Harden** and **Marsden** during the last two months of the year. In November, there were 45 at **Shelley Whins** on 22nd, with 10 staying to the year end, December brought a single to **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 13th, two at **Holmfirth** on 24th and 'several' were in **Golcar** on 31st.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs. Red listed.

Linnetts were recorded at 36 mainly rural sites during the year. Early returning birds were 12 at **Horbury** on 10th January, and singles at **High Hoyland** on 19th and at **Shelley/Far Bank** on 27th. Birds began to return in earnest from 18th March, but the only double-figure count was of 12+ at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23rd March. Birds were seen in small numbers at a wide variety of sites during April, including an unusual garden record from **Harden** on 3rd, flocks of 35 at **Oldfield** on 12th, 18 at **Deer Hill Res.** and 20 at **Broadstones Heath** on 25th being noteworthy.

Although reported from a good number of sites during the breeding season, proof of breeding was only obtained at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (7 nests), **Pule Hill, Marsden** (family party), **Bird's Edge** (female carrying food), **Broadstones Heath** (family party) and **Shelley Whins** (3-4 pairs), with the only other records being of probable breeding at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Emley Moor**. This will be a severe under-representation of this species' breeding status in our area.

Post-breeding flocks began to form in August with 120 at **Oldfield** on 5th which had increased to 176 by 28th, 100 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 23rd and, in September, 50 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, 80 were feeding among pineapple weed at **Brow Grains, Meltham** on 10th, 30 at **Crosland Heath Airfield** on 25th, 34 at **Scapegoat Hill** on 27th and c.80 on **Deer Hill End Road** on 27th with c.100 here the following day. A flock of 80 were in stubble near **South Crosland** on 8th October and 30 were at **Thurgory Lane** on 13th and 15th. At **Harden Quarries** a total of 133 moved in directions varying between E and SW on six dates between 18th September and 30th October, the highest counts being 84 on 16th and 35 on 23rd October. Migration watches at **Pule Hill, Marsden** produced 79 flying SW on eight dates between 24th September and 17th November, with a maximum of 54 on 26th September.

Birds rapidly moved out of the area thereafter, with the last, a single, being seen at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 22nd October. November records came from just four sites, mostly in low single figures, but with 30 at **Shepley** on 18th. There were no December records.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Red listed.

The sad decline of this moorland specialist continues, with sightings from just eight localities, although no records from the **Calder Valley** were available at the time of writing. Breeding evidence came from just two sites, and one wonders how much longer we will have this little bird as a local breeder.

Deer Hill remains the stronghold, with birds being present from 12th March (3) with six here the following day. Numbers built up through the rest of March and April, with a maximum of 30 on 3rd April, the flock then gradually dwindling to low double figures by the end of the month. Two females were seen nest-building near the shooting range on 22nd May (DMP *et al.*). The only other area with regular sightings was the **Wessenden Valley**, where a single was seen in flight at **Butterley Res.** on 20th April (JMP), with further birds seen or heard in flight on several dates in April and May (DMP). Five at **Wessenden Head** on 26th September were the last of the year (JMP).

Other sites where Twite occurred were:

Cupwith Res – a single on 11th June and two on 2nd July (DWB).

Ward End Farm, Marsden – three, one with a pink ring (from Deer Hill) on 26th and two on 28th April (D&H Sill).

The Dene, Marsden – five, including two juveniles being fed by adults on 4th July (KW).

West Nab – six on 2nd July included at least two juveniles (DMP).

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

An even better year than 2010 for this species which can be difficult to identify, with records from five sites, mainly in late January and early February. Four of the sites, were gardens with feeding stations, once again proving their value not only to the birds, but also to the garden owners.

Fixby – birds were regular garden visitors between 18th January and 16th March, with a maximum of five on 11th February (DT).

Cooper Bridge SW – a single on 23rd January and 1st February (DS).

Thongsbridge – three visited garden feeders between 25th January and 6th February (DHP)

Linthwaite – up to 10 were present in the observer's garden on several dates during the first three months of the year. Four reappeared on 15th November, and were regular visitors with Lesser Redpolls until the year end (SP).

Millmoor, Meltham – three were regular visitors to garden feeders with Lesser Redpolls during February and March (DMP).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Records came from 26 locations in what was a rather quieter year than 2010, especially in the second half of the year. Observers at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, however, recorded more sightings than during 2010.

Birds were seen at a wide range of sites in January, including several gardens, but mostly in single figures. Larger concentrations were in gardens at **Thongsbridge** (up to 12, and up to 26 in February) and **Linthwaite** (up to 20, remaining into March). Also in January were 50 at **Horbury SW** on 6th and 15 at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 23rd. February saw up to 20 in a **Millmoor, Meltham** garden, where they remained into March, gradually tailing off by the end of that month. Also in February was another nice flock which frequented a **Fixby** garden, numbers built up from 20 on 5th to 40 on 26th. This flock also remained into March, with a maximum of 35 on 9th. The same **Fixby** garden also held the only double-figure gathering in April, with up to 12 until 8th, but there were very few other records that month, which only involved low single figures.

During the spring/summer, breeding evidence came from **Winscar** (probable), **Langsett/Swinden Walls** (at least 4 pairs), **Holme Styes** (persistent song-flighting) and **Dovestone Res.** (several pairs thought to have bred).

August records came only from **Marsden** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, involving between one and four birds, but birds began to move through in September, with **Harden Quarries** seeing a total of 201 moving in directions varying between E and SW on nine dates between 4th September and 6th November, with a maxima of 64 on 18th September, c.40 on 15th and 32 on 23rd October. At **Pule Hill, Marsden** 54 moved SW on nine dates between 21st September and 17th November, with a maximum of 13 on 28th October. Elsewhere in September, seven flew over the observer's house at **Shelley/Far Bank** on both 18th and 28th and eight flew S up the **Wessenden Valley** on 22nd and 10 did likewise on 1st October. Also in October were a flock of 10+ at **Marsden Golf Course** on 4th, 20 were in **Windy Bank Wood** on 16th with 12 at **Horbury Wyke** on 20th. Away from the migration watch points, the only November records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where two were present on 5th and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** which had 20 on 15th. Birds began to return to garden feeders in December, with up to 10 at **Millmoor, Meltham** from 10th and one or two were at **Thick Hollins, Meltham** from 25th. Otherwise, two were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 16th, seven at **Cooper Bridge SW** on 23rd, and a single in **Golcar** on 31st.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

An even better year than 2010, with records coming from 22 sites and from every month except February. There was no proof of breeding this year, although juveniles were seen at one site in June, and resident flocks were present in the **Yateholme** and **Langsett** areas for several months. A feature of the autumn was a strong passage which began in July, with the visible migration watchers at **Harden Quarries** producing impressive numbers. Frustratingly, the penetrating calls of this species were heard from migrating flocks at several other sites, too high up to be seen.

Yateholme was the most favoured site, starting with three adults on 22nd January, 12 on 19th March, 30 adults on 15th May, 20 (including many juveniles) on 25th June, and smaller numbers seen or heard on several other dates in July and August, with a maximum of 17 on 20th August. The last birds were in October, with five on 15th and 20 on 22nd. In the **Little Don Valley** an

adult was present on 28th April and two adults on 20th May (SRG). Eight adults flew N over **Swindon track** on 21st May and at **Swinden Plantation** there were three adults on 29th July. Nine adults flew N over **Ranah Stones** on 9th June and six were present at the **Flouch Inn** on 4th July, with 15-20 SW the same day, and three or four SW on 11th. The **Langsett** area also held birds quite frequently, with 25 on 1st August, c.20 on 24th September, 30 on 19th November, two flying over on 4th and 30 present on 17th December.

Other sites recording Crossbills were:

Crossley's Plantation – three adults on 20th March.

Dovestone/Binn Green – 10 on 6th July were adults, but 25 on 20th July were mainly juveniles.

Blackmoorfoot Res – five flew S at 07.30hrs. on 10th July and a single was along the east bank on 24th July.

Shelley/Far Bank – birds were heard as they flew S on 15th, 20th and 24th July.

Winscar – nine were seen in flight on 20th July (NWM), 25 in flight over the car park on 31st October and several heard calling overhead on 5th November.

Harden – eight birds were calling overhead on 30th July.

Harden Quarries – in a remarkable series of records from visible migration watches between 17th September and 6th November, a total of 246 were recorded as follows: in September, five flew S on 17th, three SW on 18th and 27 E or SE on 25th; in October, one flew S on 9th, eight SW on 15th, 35 SE on 16th, 76 E or SE on 23rd and 36 SE on 29th; in November, 54 flew SW on 5th and a single SE on 6th. In addition to these moving birds, others were present at or near the site in October, with three on 23rd, c.20 on 30th and six on 31st.

Butterley Res – a single flew SW on 22nd September, a small party calling from the plantation at 07.20hrs. on 1st October were not present two hours later, and finally two flew SE on 28th November.

Holme Styes/Elysium Fields – four were seen on 24th September, with eight present and another two in flight towards Harden Quarries on 27th September.

Bretton Park – a female-type in Menagerie Wood on 27th September (DB) and birds were heard calling on 2nd November.

Wessenden Res – flocks heard going high S at 08.35hrs. and 08.40hrs. on 1st October (JMP). These probably involved the birds from Butterley.

Booth, West Slaithwaite – two flocks heard going high to the SW at 07.40hrs on 1st October.

Marsden Golf Course – two flocks heard going high to the SW on 4th October.

Bare Bones Road – four at the small plantation on 15th November.

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

Records of this widespread but unobtrusive species came from about 50 widely spread sites, representing a variety of habitats ranging from upland conifer plantations and riparian vegetation to suburban gardens. As usual, most records were of birds in low single figures, with occasional groups of five or more, but double-figure flocks were noticeable by their absence.

Between one and four were seen at feeders in 12 widely scattered gardens on dates throughout the year. A garden at **Thick Hollins, Meltham** held eight on four dates in January and another garden at **Cowcliffe** was visited by between one and four regularly during both winter periods. At **Bretton Park**, birds were present throughout the year, with 10-12 recorded in both winter periods. In the **Bare Bones Road/Holme Styes/Elysium Fields** area, five were present on 5th January.

During the breeding season, broods were reared at **Blackmoorfoot Res., Bullcliff Wood, Cooper Bridge SW, Thick Hollins, Windy Bank Wood, Healey Mills/Kerry's NR, Shelley/Far Bank, and Thurstonland Bank**, and pairs probably bred at **Ingbirchworth Res., Kirkburton/Dogley Bar, and Langsett**.

Visible migration was again recorded at **Harden Quarries**, where, in October, seven flew S on 15th, two S on 16th, one S on 29th and four S on 30th, in November five flew SW on 5th and a single flew SW on 6th. Migration was also observed at **Pule Hill, Marsden** for the first time ever, with one SW on 20th October, and four going in the same direction on 1st November.

During November and December, small numbers were seen at 11 sites, with the highest count coming from the **Bare Bones Road/Holme Styes/Elysium Fields** area in November, where 11 were present on 6th and nine on 15th. Two females coming to a feeder in a **Golcar** garden on 31st December were the first recorded there for almost 40 years.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs. Red listed.



Records came from 43 sites this year, four fewer than in 2010. As usual, these were all to the east and south of Huddersfield.

In the early months there were 10 at **High Hoyland** on 19th January and 70 at **Shepley** on 21st January but this had risen to 75 the following week. In February, an early singing male was present at **Bretton Park** on 6th, 25 were at **High Hoyland** on 10th and 12 at **Thurgory Lane** on 12th. Birds visited a garden at **Bird's Edge** from 3rd to 22nd March with a maximum of four (2 males) and what were presumably the same birds revisited on 30th April.

Males took up territory during March and singing birds were found at **Broadstone Heath**, **Broadstones Res.**, **Bullcliff Wood**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Crow Edge**, between **Emley Moor** and **Shepley Roydhouse** (where up to 10 pairs bred), **Farnley Tyas**, **Gilbert Hill** (where a pair were seen nest-building), **High Hoyland**, **Horbury Strands**, **Ingbirchworth Res.** (2 males), **Lepton Great Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Skelmanthorpe**, **Thurgory Lane**, **Thurstonland Bank** and **Snowgate Head** (where juveniles were seen with adults).

After the breeding season there were few reports but an unusual one was of a single bird flying SW over **Harden Quarries** on 6th November. There were no double-figure flocks until 35 appeared at **Thurgory Lane** on 10th November followed by a maximum of 15 at **Bird's Edge** on 15th November and 70 had gathered at **High Hoyland** by 21st December.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

Another good year for this less than annual visitor, with a few birds remaining for most of December, being the first wintering flock in the Club area since 1988.

Records of single birds came in November from **Spicer House Lane** (NWM, DMP, SP, KW) and **Whitley Common**, both on 26th (DMP, SP, KW), and **Whitley Edge** on 30th (MC), which probably all relate to the same individual. At **Deer Hill**, a small flock took up residence between 1st and 23rd December: after two on 1st (DHP) and six on 2nd, numbers fluctuated between one and six, with eight on 4th and seven on 5th (SC, JL, DHP *et al.*).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Records came from only 37 sites this year, 14 less than in 2010; it is not clear if this is due to under-recording or to a genuine downturn in the population.

Birds were seen at a wide scatter of sites during the first winter period and garden feeding stations again proved their worth during the hardest weather. One such garden at **Millmoor**, **Meltham** attracted birds throughout the first three months of the year, with four on 8th January and a maximum of nine on 13th March. Another garden at **Meltham Road**, **Marsden** had a single on 5th, three on 6th, two on 14th and four on 27th February. In March, two to four were on feeders at **Bird's Edge** between 1st and 8th, and between one and three from 9th to 16th. Elsewhere in the early months, the largest group was of nine at **High Hoyland** on 10th February.

As usual, there was a return to breeding territories in March, exemplified by two males at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 12th which were the first seen there this year. Breeding was confirmed near the latter site (Dunnock Lane), at **Cooper Bridge SW** (2 pairs), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (young being fed in June), **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (2 pairs), **Scout Dike Res.** (2 newly fledged young in mid-June), **Broadstones Res./Potters Gate** (2 family parties in July), **Redbrook Res.** (adult food carrying) and **Brun Clough Res.** (adult food carrying). A further 26 singing males were found at another 16 sites, including 15 birds on the moors around **Marsden** in a very unsystematic survey - many of these must have represented breeding pairs.



Once breeding was over, only ones and twos were noted at just a few sites in July, with **Blackmoorfoot Res.** having its last sighting of the year as early as 15th. There were no records for August but from September, evidence of migration came from **Harden Quarries**, where singles were seen moving over between E and SW on three dates in September, with two on 16th and three on 23rd October. One or two birds were recorded at just five sites until the year end, including one in a **Marsden** garden on 10th and two on 26th December. The only large gathering noted was of 15 at **High Hoyland** on 21st December.

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

A single was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd January (SP, SWJ).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Introduced.

This exotic species maintains a toe-hold in the Club area with five reports from four sites.

At **Honley** what was considered to be the same male was recorded on 14th January and 7th April (WDH), an adult was present at **Bretton Park** on 19th April (via KW) and one was calling in **Hagg Wood, Brockholes** on 29th April (WDH). An adult male frequented an over-grown garden in **Oldfield** on 27th July (SC).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare vagrant.

A bird that was reported and photographed at **Hoyland** by E. Shepherd on 21st November re-located to **Silkstone** later in the day where it was also photographed by C. Bower. The latter observer remarked on the birds' approachability and noted that it sported a narrow ring just above its foot on the right leg. It seems almost certain that the bird involved was one of the free-flying individuals from a collection in the UK or the near continent rather than a genuine vagrant.

SACRED IBIS *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

A single on an artificial lagoon at **Woolrow Farm** (between Shelley and Emley) was reputed to have been present for a few days before it departed on 12th May (identified from photographs by BA). What was obviously the same bird was then seen in flight over **Skelmanthorpe Cricket Field** on 15th May (KW). On 21st and 24th May it was present at **Scout Dike Res.** (RJB, DHP *et al.*) and it was also seen at **Royd Moor** on the later date (HQ).

RING-NECKED PARKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Recorded from three localities:

Marsden – a bird calling overhead on 1st June was thought most likely to be this species (JMP).

Ravensthorpe – a single on Low Mill Lane industrial estate on 23rd July (DB).

Skelmanthorpe – a bird calling from trees in the vicinity of St. Aiden's Church on 14th November (DButt).

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

A 'normal' plumaged bird flew S. at 15.15hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th April (MLD, DMO).

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS


	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2011		EVER		2011	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	18/3	Ingbirchworth	29/9	1969	7/8	Scout Dike
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	7/4	Blackmoorfoot	21/11	1959	13/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	31/3	2010	7/4	Horbury Strands	16/10	2001	9/9	Blackmoorfoot
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	13/4	Dean Hill	27/10	1977	25/8	Deer Hill
Swift	16/4	2000	24/4	Healey Mills	8/11	2001	18/9	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	24/3	Blackmoorfoot	23/10	1971	16/10	Harden Quarries
Swallow	10/3	1959	22/3	Shepley	5/12	1995	24/10	Blackmoorfoot
House Martin	20/3	2005	30/3	Cooper Bridge	27/11	1959	12/10	Thornhill Edge
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	18/4	Little Don Valley	5/10	2000	17/8	Spicer House Lane
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	12/4	Horbury SW	24/10	1952	11/9	Holmbridge
Common Redstart	21/3	1942	18/4	Little Don Valley	24/10	1976	3/9	Blackmoorfoot
Whinchat	11/4	1949	24/4	Deer Hill	9/11	1999	29/9	Broadstone Res.
Northern Wheatear	1/3	1997	18/3	Lower Maythorn	4/12	1997	29/10	Digley
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	22/3	Marsden	25/12	1855	17/10	Marsden
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	20/4	Scammonden	29/8	2000	13/8	Healey Mills
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	21/4	Healey Mills	26/9	1999	7/8	Cooper Bridge
Reed Warbler	22/4	2002	20/4	Cooper Bridge	29/9	2001	18/8	Healey Mills
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	23/4	Ingbirchworth	27/9	1973	18/8	Blackmoorfoot
Common Whitethroat	3/4	1901	1/4	Thurstonland	12/10	1999	5/9	Shelley
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	21/4	Colne Bridge	24/11	1984	21.8	Shelley
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	8/5	Blackmoorfoot	4/9	1956		No records
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	29/3	Ingbirchworth	27/10	1987	1/10	Windy Bank Wood
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	8/5	Woodsome Lees	16/10	1985	3/9	Blackmoorfoot
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	18/4	Langsett	19/9	1969	31/7	Blackmoorfoot

 Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

Note: Blackcap and **Chiffchaff** dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2011		EVER		2011	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	26/3	Broadstone Blackmoorfoot	4/10	2005	28/9	Deer Hill
Pink-footed Goose	21/4	2010	26/3	Royd Moor	11/9	2007	27/9	Blackmoorfoot
Goldeneye	mid-May	?	26/4	Slaithwaite	mid-Sept	?	2/11	Blackmoorfoot
Waxwing	29/4	1991	18/4	Huddersfield	24/10	1965	14/12	Greenhead Park
Redwing	7/5	1975	1/4	Gunthwaite Dam	27/8	1941	1/10	Shelley
Brambling	13/5	1976	5/5	Winscar	13/9	1983	11/10	Ingbirchworth

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: **Fieldfare** - in view of the fact that this species previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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Organisations:

Barnsley Bird Study Group

Bird Forum

Bird Guides

Greater Manchester Bird Recording Group (GMBRG)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

Marsden Moor NT Estate

RSPB Denby Dale Office

RSPB Halifax/Huddersfield Local Group

THE MELTHAM MANXIE

At about midday on 11th September I received a message from a nearby neighbour saying he had, whilst on his way to buy the Sunday newspapers, picked up a slightly injured bird just metres from his house at Golcar Brow. He had no idea as to the bird's identity.

The bird was crouched in a corner between a house wall and garden fence, on a small patio. He noticed a patch of blood on the bird's neck – and a cat lurking nearby. Wanting to save it from becoming the cat's next victim he caught it and took it home, put it in a plastic container then placed a cover over the top to try and calm it down as the bird had become quite lively.

As I walked the short distance to his house I pondered over the brief description Tony had given me, thinking that maybe it was a gull of some sort. On removing the cover from the container my first comment was probably unprintable but went something like "Good Heavens. It appears to be a Manx Shearwater!" The black upper-parts and white under-parts and the diagnostic whitish crescent that curled up behind the rear ear coverts eliminated all similar species.

After taking a few pictures with my small digital camera and contacting several other Club members, I had to decide if the bird needed to be taken into care or not. The wound on the neck was actually superficial and on handling the bird for the first time I was surprised at how fat it felt and how lively it was.

At this point we were joined by Steve Pogson and an attempt was made to feed the bird with some tinned fish. This was met with limited success. We decided to release the bird on to Deer Hill Reservoir as soon as possible. The bird was placed in a shopping bag and Steve drove us up there. Midway along the east bank we clambered over the wall and released it on to the water. In hindsight this may not have been the best decision: nevertheless, with a last parting lunge at my hand, the bird swam away strongly and even started to bathe and dive. It was very difficult to keep track of on the dark, choppy water – the same weather conditions that brought the bird to Huddersfield in the first place were still very much to the fore – but we tracked it into the north-east corner where we saw it climb out and waddle up the recently tarred area to huddle under a wall.

The bird now looked bedraggled, but still healthy, and although it was fairly well out of the way we felt it was now vulnerable: lots of dog-walkers about! Steve suggested that we make a crude lean-to out of a couple of flat stones, and this we soon accomplished. The bird took advantage of this shelter of its' own free will.

A steady stream of Huddersfield birders were able to get reasonable head-on views of the Shearwater without causing any disturbance and the bird still looked well as the light faded. There was no sign of it the following morning, and given the weather conditions of the previous night we felt confident that the bird had got away safely.

According to *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area* (Bray & Bray 2008), this is the first record of Manx Shearwater in the Huddersfield recording area since 1892.

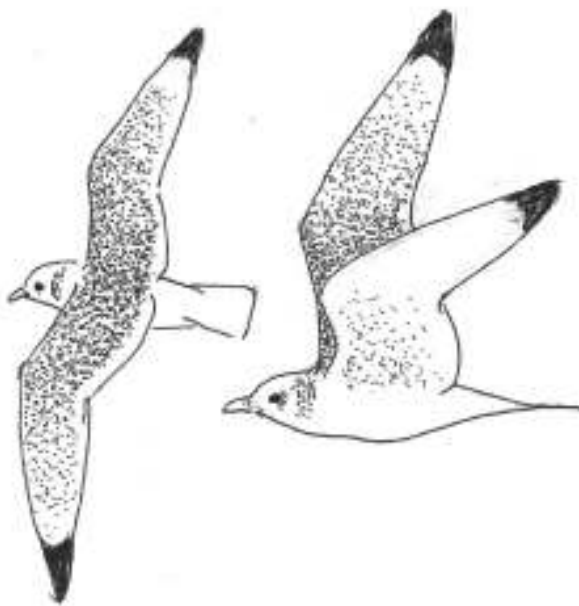
I would like to thank Tony Rice without which this remarkable record would probably not have come to light

David Pogson

WHERE HAVE THE KITTIWAKES GONE?

Introduction

For more than 30 years up to 2004, Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) formed an annual part of the ornithological picture in the Huddersfield area. Whether seen unexpectedly making their way over open country, dropping into a gull roost, standing on the ice of a frozen reservoir on a sunny winter's day or battling westwards into the teeth of a force 6 wind with lashing rain, in ones and twos, or in much larger numbers, they could turn up anywhere and at almost any time of year. Even before the blank year of 2005, however, it was obvious that they had become much less frequent in their appearances and this paper examines some of the factors that may be involved in this changed status.



The species in the British Isles

Kittiwakes are the most pelagic of our breeding gulls. They nest colonially on coasts all around the British Isles, wherever suitable cliffs or other precipitous sites present themselves. Adults reoccupy the colonies between January and March, and the clutch of 1-3 eggs can be laid any time between late April and mid-June, depending on the individual colony. The juveniles disperse quickly after fledging, but the adults will remain at the colony for several weeks, sometimes as late as November.¹ The young birds can travel long distances in their first few months, many crossing to the far side of the Atlantic.² Birds in all plumages have been seen right across the North Atlantic between latitudes 40° and 60° N during winter, although the majority are on or near the continental shelves.³

Kittiwakes in Huddersfield

The traditional assertion that Kittiwakes occur inland as storm-blown or ‘wrecked’ birds is probably only partly true. Most of the Kittiwakes seen in Huddersfield have been apparently fit and healthy birds which pause only briefly before continuing on their journey. Only one, a ringed immature, has been found dead in the Huddersfield area. It has been shown that when on the open ocean outside the breeding season, Kittiwakes make extensive movements in response to the passage of low-pressure systems, preferring to keep within the ‘warm sector’ of such systems.⁴ This can occasionally lead to them being pushed into the North Sea with a deep depression blocking their exit to the north, and it is such conditions that can cause them to be seen passing through our area in the largest numbers.⁵ There are probably other reasons for them to travel overland which are not yet understood. The main peak in occurrence in Huddersfield is between late February and early April, when 46% of sightings have occurred, 33% of the remainder occurred either side of this peak, from December to mid-February and from mid-April to mid-May. There is also a smaller peak from mid-October to November, accounting for 15% of records.⁶

There were annual records of Kittiwakes in Huddersfield for 33 years from 1971 until 2004, with the mid 1980’s being the period with both the highest number of records and the largest numbers of birds, including some impressive flocks. Since then, a fairly steady decline has taken place to the extent that in 2005, 2007 and 2010 there were no records at all.⁷

Average annual records per decade of Kittiwakes in Huddersfield

Period	Records	Birds	Birds (adjusted) *
1971-1980	3.2	4.9	4.9
1981-1990	6.9	41.7	11.6
1991-2000	3.6	8.1	4.9
2001-2010	2.4	8.0	1.9
*all flocks of 20+ discounted			

It can be seen that the number of records per annum has fallen by approximately 60% between the 1980’s and the first decade of this century. Where the numbers of birds are concerned, the decline is even more dramatic, but this is exaggerated by some large flocks seen during the 1980’s. When all records of flocks of over 20 birds are removed, the reduction in the number of birds seen is still very marked, at over 80% between the 1980’s and now.

The origin of the birds seen in Huddersfield

The only indication we have for the origin of the birds which occur here is the recovery of a bird ringed as a nestling in June 1983 at Goulien, Finistarte, France and found at Brighouse in March 1984. As the bird was long dead when found, however, it gives no indication of the true time of passage.⁸ Outside Huddersfield, a colour-ringed bird from a different colony in Brittany seen at Swillington Ings on 25th March and 4th April 2010, had been ringed as a chick the previous summer.⁹ Remarkably, it was seen in the West Midlands between the two dates. Both these birds appear to be atypical, however. The Brighouse bird was either sick or exhausted, probably both, when it died, and the Swillington bird wandered inland for at least 10 days. The vast majority of birds seen inland only stop briefly, if at all, before continuing on their journey, often into strong headwinds. This implies that they are in good health. Lightly oiled birds have also occasionally been seen, but have seemed healthy enough. Thus these birds are of dubious value as an indicator

of the origin of the Kittiwakes that occur here, and it seems we can have no idea of their origin. It should also be noted that the French population numbered only 5,000 - 5,600 pairs in 1998 – 2000.¹⁰ They form only a minute portion of the European population, and are unlikely to be the sole, or even the main source of the birds seen in Huddersfield.

Some possible reasons for the reduction in observations of Kittiwakes in Huddersfield:

- **Population changes**

Kittiwakes have suffered a series of very poor breeding seasons in the British Isles and in other European countries over the last 15-20 years. Colonies are shrinking due to the 'natural wastage' of adults and the lack of young birds to replace them. The number of breeding pairs of Kittiwakes in the UK reduced from 504,055 in 1985-88 when the population was at its highest, to 378,847 in 1998-2002, a decline of around 25%.¹¹ Similar declines have been taking place throughout the species' NE Atlantic range.

It is obvious that the reduction in the Kittiwake population is reflected in the decrease in the number of records in the Huddersfield area. This decline is, however, disproportionate: the breeding population has declined by 25%, but Huddersfield records have dropped by about 60%. Although the records from our area are not statistically very significant, they do indicate something less straightforward than simply a reduction in the overall Kittiwake population.

Like many seabirds, Kittiwakes are relatively long-lived, so their poor productivity means that young birds have come to represent a much smaller proportion of the total population than formerly, and this may be a clue to the reduced numbers of birds inland. It could be argued that it is most likely to be inexperienced birds which have to resort to overland flights to relocate themselves after being displaced. On the face of it, this idea is easily dismissed by the fact that only about 11% of the approximately 580 birds which have occurred in Huddersfield, and to which an age has been ascribed, were obvious juvenile/immatures. Three factors need to be borne in mind here. Firstly, most breeding adults could be expected to be at the colonies during the spring peak of occurrences in Huddersfield, and maybe also in the autumn peak period too. Secondly, second-winter birds are easily overlooked as adults, and this may be why very few have been recorded in our area, and thirdly, Kittiwakes do not normally breed until their fourth year, and after their second winter, they are not distinguishable from older birds. It could be the case therefore, that most or all the birds seen around Huddersfield are not yet fully mature. If it is these younger birds which tend to be seen inland, then we have a feasible explanation for the current dearth of records. There is also a possibility that they are birds from high Arctic colonies, which winter in the same area as the rest of the population, but do not return north until the British population is already back on the breeding cliffs. It can at least be said that the birds seen inland during the first 3-4 months of the year are most unlikely to be British breeding birds.

- **Changes in weather patterns**

These are hard to quantify, but the Atlantic depressions which can potentially displace birds inland have if anything, grown in intensity, a fact that might be expected to increase the inland records of Kittiwakes.

- **Changes in observer effort**

Kittiwakes have been seen at a total of 18 sites in the Club's recording area. The site with by far the most records has been Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, where regular observation of the gull roost in particular ensured that few birds escaped notice. However, the level of observer effort, especially with regard to the roost at this site, has diminished over the last 7-8 years, so Kittiwakes attracted to the roost are less likely to be observed than in previous years.¹² Coverage

of other sites in the Club area has intensified, however, particularly in recent years. The situation with regard to observer effort is thus rather difficult to assess in terms of the decline in records. Renewed interest in gull roosts might still produce more records, as shown by some watching of the gull roost at Langsett Reservoir during the first three years of this century, which produced four records.

The situation in inland Yorkshire as a whole

Because of the inconsistent way inland records of Kittiwake have been presented in the YNU annual bird reports¹², it is not possible to make a direct comparison between the situations in Huddersfield and that in Yorkshire as a whole. We can, however, compare two five-year 'snapshots', one from the 1980's and one from within the last decade. Between 1981 and 1985 there were approximately 370 records of Kittiwakes inland in Yorkshire, involving about 1841 birds.⁵ The annual averages were thus 34 records and 368 birds. Between 2005 and 2009, there were 110 records involving 224 birds, giving averages of 22 and 44 respectively. These are merely sample averages, and not statistically safe, but a downward trend is very clearly illustrated.

Conclusion

The main factor in the reduction in Kittiwake records in Huddersfield is undoubtedly the general decline in the population of the species but this may be exacerbated by the reduction in the proportion of pre-breeding-age birds within the population. In Yorkshire as a whole, there appears to be a similar reduction in inland records. On a local level, the phenomenon may be being exaggerated by the reduced coverage of the gull roost at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. More attention paid to gull flocks in general might show the situation to be not quite as bad as it seems.

This short paper is of necessity highly speculative, and is offered only as a first attempt at an explanation for the current scarcity of an attractive and always welcome visitor to our area. They will be sadly missed if they revert to the status of 'occasional visitor'.¹⁴

Acknowledgements

This paper would not have been possible without the records contributed by countless observers to local reports within Yorkshire, which also form the basis of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union annual Reports. My gratitude is especially due to those who contribute records from the Huddersfield area. I am also grateful to Mike Denton for commenting on an earlier draft of this paper.

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Birdwatchers' Club.

⁹ Leeds Birdwatchers Club Annual Report 2010

¹⁰ Tucker, G.M., Heath, M.F., Tomialojc, M. & Grimmett, R.F.A. (1994) *Birds in Europe: Their Conservation Status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge.

¹¹ JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme: Kittiwake <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2889>

¹² M.L. Denton pers. comm.

¹³ Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Annual Bird Reports 1966-2009

¹⁴ Swabey, E.C.J. & Aubrook, E.W. (1958) *Birds Around Huddersfield*. Tolson Memorial Museum.

Mike Pinder

THE NEED FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND THE NEED TO SUBMIT THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER!

It has always been the aim of the Club to present our annual report with complete accuracy. Generally speaking, most bird records will be accepted for publication on face value! However, some species - those which are rare or unusual - require a description to be accepted by an adjudication panel before they can be published. The current Adjudication Panel for the Club consists of Mike Denton, Mick Cunningham and Russ Boland.

Species whose records require descriptions are listed in *The Huddersfield List to end 2011*, which is to be found on the club's new web site (www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk) and in this report. They fall into three broad categories:

1. **HBC** description species – for obvious reasons this is by far the longest list and all species are assessed by our own adjudication panel
2. **YNU** description species - which are assessed by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and
3. **BBRC** description species - national rarities, which are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Note: the club will require a description for any species or race not on the current Huddersfield List.

These bodies each take time to assess and decide upon descriptions submitted to them, though, of course, our own panel should be able to reach their verdict much quicker than the others. But they still require time to review, assess and adjudicate fairly and honestly and we would like the finders of birds that are on these lists to keep this in the forefront of their minds.

I would like to stress that it is imperative the finder of a description species should furnish a description as soon after the event as can be managed. As has happened on occasions in the past, it doesn't help to find a first notification of said species amongst a batch of other records six months or so after the bird was seen.

Although the following protocol has been devised by David Butterfield, Mick Cunningham, Russ Boland and Mike Denton in an effort to overcome problems relating to species which are currently on the HBC 'Description required' list, it has changed little over the history of the Club.

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB DESCRIPTIONS REQUIRED

1. Records of description species/races will only be entered on to the database if they are accepted by the relevant rarities committee (HBC, YNU, BBRC).
2. If an observer doesn't supply a description he/she will be asked by the Recorder to do so and sent the appropriate form – a copy of which is on the Club website.
3. The description, as has been the case in the past, will then be forwarded to records panel members by the Recorder, and each individual will then report back to the Recorder with their decision. Any descriptions of a YNU or BBRC species will be forwarded to the appropriate body. The highest authority will have the casting vote.
4. Photographs posted on the Club website, or published anywhere else in the public domain, or submitted to the Recorder which prove correct identification may be

accepted in lieu of a description, but the Club reserves the right to decline publication if there is no evidence it was taken when and where claimed.

5. In the event of a bird which is seen by a number of observers, a written description may be deemed unnecessary.
6. The panel will be prepared to accept records from a reliable observer should they give a verbal description which adequately describes that species. As this will generally be undertaken shortly after the observation, pertinent questions allow for a quick decision to be made. This has long been the case in HBC and has worked well with a good number of observers/species.
7. Call only records will only be accepted from observers who know the species well or describe the call convincingly. Generally, the bird should be seen and described as belonging to that family.
8. If a description is submitted to a club which overlaps the HBC recording area and that club accepts it, then HBC will do likewise, ditto if they reject it.
9. If a species/race is outside the panel's experience but not on the YNU or BBRC lists the panel will call on someone who knows that particular species.
10. Records from BirdGuides/pagers will only be considered if the observer (if one can be found) submits an acceptable description/photographs.
11. The panel reserve the right to request descriptions of species/races not currently on the HBC list or out of season sightings.

A WORD OF CAUTION

When writing a description it is worth bearing in mind that a written account is required so as to convey to the adjudicating panel that the species which has been named is correct. In some cases, however, the record fails, not because it is thought that a misidentification has occurred, but because the record lacks sufficient detail to convince the panel.

With descriptions it is all too easy to assume that the panel realise that the species you are describing actually belongs to the correct family. In a good number of cases it is not sufficient to start a description with "A grebe seen at 50 yards range was identified as a Slavonian because.....". Why was the bird a grebe? The following observation, which occurred at Fairburn Ings in 1966, exemplifies this problem. In the winter of 1966 the Main Bay at Fairburn hosted a 'redhead' Smew and a winter-plumaged Slavonian Grebe. Both species have a similar plumage pattern, and a good number of people were recording either two Smew or two Slavonian Grebe! Had these people taken the time to look at the bill of these birds (let alone the colour differences) they would have realised that one was a duck and the other a grebe! In this case, a written description without details of the bill or plumage colour would result in the record been rejected.

Although this may seem trivial, this is the type of detail required to see a record through the adjudication process without stumbling. The panel only see what you have written on the form – the more detail included will assist the panel in coming to the correct decision.

Mike Denton

On behalf of the Adjudication Panel

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from Mike Denton. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within the club area. It is by leaving

these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

CO-ORDINATES OF COMMON LOCALITIES

The edited list of co-ordinates of sites within the club area is no longer included in the annual report. A more complete list can be found on our web site at:

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

The following is a list of the 269 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2011. Eleven additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the years in which the birds appeared are also listed.

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

There is one change to scientific name: Greenfinch, previously *Carduelis chloris*, becomes *Chloris chloris*.

No species new to the area were recorded in 2011.

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 144).

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Huddersfield area. Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>				
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996	YNU		
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		HBC		
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		HBC		
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		HBC		
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>				
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		HBC		
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>				
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU		
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002	HBC		
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2010	YNU		
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU		
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
26	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				
27	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985			
28	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>				
29	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				
30	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC		
31	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
32	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>				
33	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				
34	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				
35	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				
36	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>				
37	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>				
38	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
39	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
40	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				
41	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				
42	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC		
43	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC		
44	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC		
45	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				
46	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
47	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC		
48	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC		
49	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC		
50	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC		
51	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC		
52	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC		
53	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
54	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		HBC		
55	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
56	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC		
57	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC		
58	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU		
59	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		HBC		
60	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1989, 2010	YNU		
61	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
62	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC		
63	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC		
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC		
65	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC		
66	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		YNU		
67	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				
68	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU		
69	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC		
70	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC		
71	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU		
72	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC		
73	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				
74	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
75	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU		
76	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU		
77	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC		
78	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				
79	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU		
80	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life ✓	Year ✓
81	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
82	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
83	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
84	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC		
85	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	BBRC		
86	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC		
87	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				
88	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				
89	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC		
90	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
91	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005, 2010	HBC		
92	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>		HBC		
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC		
96	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
97	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
98	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				
99	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
100	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
101	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC		
102	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC		
103	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU		
104	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU		
105	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC		
106	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC		
107	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
108	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU		
109	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
110	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>				
111	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
112	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		BBRC		
113	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
114	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				
115	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
116	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				
117	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				
118	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	YNU		
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
120	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990			
121	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
122	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				

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123	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
124	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC		
125	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
126	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
127	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	YNU		
128	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU		
129	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC		
130	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC		
131	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC		
132	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC		
133	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC		
134	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC		
135	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
136	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
137	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
138	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC		
139	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				
140	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU		
141	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>				
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>		HBC		
142	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>				
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC		
143	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC		
144	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU		
145	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	2008	YNU		
146	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC		
147	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
148	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		HBC		
149	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC		
150	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU		
151	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC		
152	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				
153	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC		
154	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC		
155	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC		
156	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC		
157	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC		
158	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888	BBRC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

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159	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)				
160	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				
161	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				
162	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				
163	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
164	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
165	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC		
166	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
167	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
168	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				
169	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
170	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
171	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
172	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU		
173	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
174	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968	BBRC		
175	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC		
176	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC		
177	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
178	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
179	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				
180	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC		
181	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				
182	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC		
183	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
184	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
185	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
186	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU		
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
188	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
189	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>		HBC		
190	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC		
191	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>				
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		HBC		
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990, 2010	HBC		
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				
193	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>				
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Years	Description species	Life √	Year √
194	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>				
195	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				
196	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
197	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
198	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
199	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC		
200	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC		
201	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
202	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
203	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				
204	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
205	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
206	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				
207	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				
208	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				
209	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				
210	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				
211	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				
212	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				
213	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				
214	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
215	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
216	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				
217	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
218	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC		
219	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC		
220	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC		
221	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>				
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC		
222	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
223	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
224	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		HBC		
225	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				
226	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
227	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				
228	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				
229	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				
230	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>				
231	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2011

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232	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC		
233	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				
234	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				
235	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	2010	HBC		
236	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC		
237	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC		
238	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
239	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				
240	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				
241	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				
242	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				
243	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>				
244	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		HBC		
245	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				
246	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC		
247	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
248	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
249	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				
250	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
251	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				
252	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
253	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				
254	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				
255	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>				
256	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>				
257	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>				
258	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				
259	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	BBRC		
260	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
261	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
262	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC		
263	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC		
264	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
265	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>		YNU		
266	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU		
267	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
268	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	HBC		
269	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				

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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.

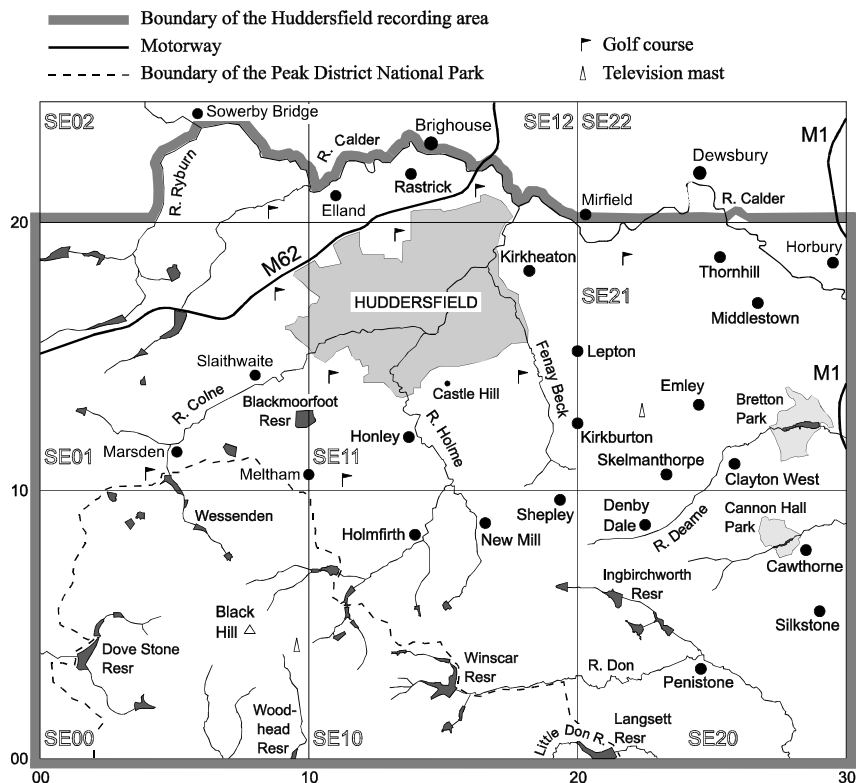


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



Manx Shearwater, Meltham, 11th September 2011

This injured Manx Shearwater, a sea bird common off the British coast but scarce inland, was the first record for Huddersfield since 1892. Found in a Meltham garden, the bird was tended by local people and given the chance to fly another day.



www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

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