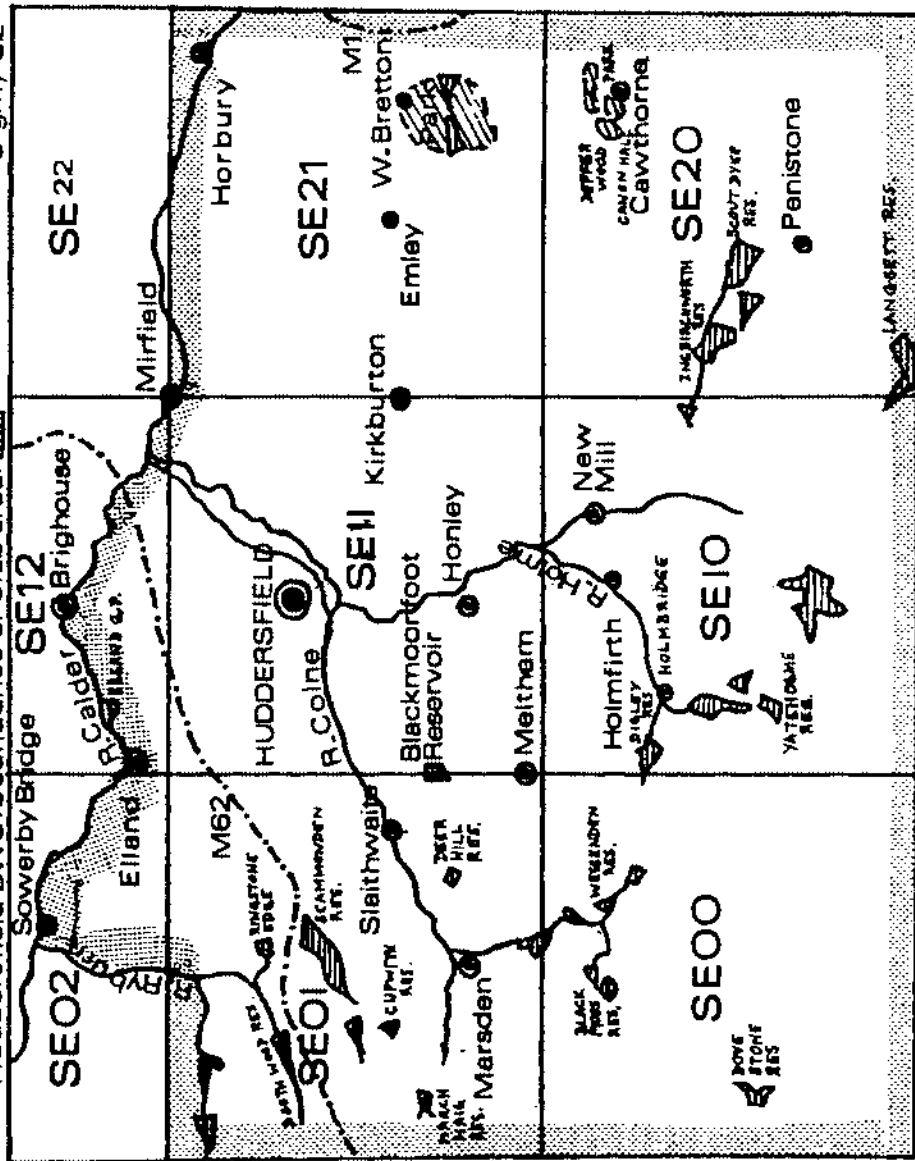


Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 1987



ANNUAL REPORT



BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1987

Report of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

CONTENTS

Front Cover		Map of the Club Area
Page	2	President's Report for 1987
	3	Field Trips in 1987 - David Butterfield
	7	The Tetrad Breeding Survey - Progress Report
	9	Introduction to the Classified List
	10	Notes on the Classified List
	11	Classified List - John Dale
	43	List of Contributors
	44	Ringing Report - Mike Denton
	57	Local Retraps and Recoveries
	58	Ring Total List - 1987
	59	Breeding Peregrines at Rishworth Moor - John Armitage
	60	Club Officials for 1988

ILLUSTRATIONS

Front Cover	Crossbill - J.M. Pinder
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 1987, despite the difficulties described below, the Committee once more provided Huddersfield Bird Club members with an interesting and varied programme of Field Trips (see separate report by David Butterfield to whom the Club is greatly indebted for organising this part of our activities), opportunities to participate in atlassing the distribution of birds in the Huddersfield area (see John Dale's report for details), and indoor meetings comprising 12 programmed lectures, 2 informal club evenings, a Christmas Social (where those attending greatly enjoyed the culinary efforts of various members and or their spouses to whom our thanks are due) and the A.G.M.

As in the past indoor meetings were held in the Tolson Museum from January to April, but, for a time, the second half of the programme was in jeopardy when the Committee was informed at short notice that our usual venue was no longer available and would not be for the foreseeable future. Sterling work by John Dale and others resulted in accommodation being made available for us in the Public Library where we have alternated between the Art Gallery and the Junior Library. After the initial trauma many members have found the more centrally situated venue easier to reach and both rooms provide more space for members to move around and 'natter' before and after lectures. The helpful attitude of the Library Staff has been much appreciated and, so far, we have been fortunate in not having to pay for the facilities though this is certain to change in the near future.

Our first lecture of 1987 was on January 6th when John Armitage from the RSPB's North-West England Office talked about breeding birds lost and gained in 'Swings and Roundabouts'. On 17th February Dave Gosney made it clear that doing census and other 'serious' work was no hindrance to 'Enjoying Birds'. Dr. M. Usher discussed and described many pressing conservation problems in 'Conservation Around the World' on March 3rd. In 'Feeding Behaviour in Birds' on 17th March Dr. Janet Kear of the Wildfowl Trust presented rather technical biological information in a lucid and entertaining way. That Club members are active far away from Huddersfield was clearly revealed by Michael Dale's 'Central America' on 31st March and Geoff Welch's account of the Djibouti II Expedition in 'Gateway to Africa' on 14th April. Barry Mattress started our autumn meetings on September 22nd by describing bird life of 'The Isle of May'. Because illness prevented George Yeates from visiting us on 6th October your President went 'In Search of Vaders' in England, Lapland and East Africa. Roy Rhodes made a welcome return on 20th October and showed more evocative slides in his account of Chat Moss entitled 'Where Solitude Reigns'. On 10th November we had a meeting very different from the usual when Richard Margoschis presented 'More Sounds From Nature' and made members realise how shaky they were on songs and calls not heard in natural habitats. Losing all his research data in a fire prevented Richard Lumb from talking on 'The Coot' on 24th November and we are grateful to Mr. Derek Proctor, a local photographer who kindly 'stood in' at the last moment with 'Nature Through the Seasons'. Kevin and Christine Carlson revisited us on 8th December and, as usual, showed outstanding slides in their presentation of 'Birds of Malawi'.

Club finances received a set-back when vandals did extensive damage to the hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Fortunately they did not destroy log books and equipment and I suppose we must be grateful that this was the first incident of its kind since the hide was built and we can only hope that it does not happen again. It is a pity that the troublesome wolfhound was not about on this occasion.

Finally in this, my last, report I should like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work in making the Club run so smoothly in spite of the 'snarl-ups' indicated above. I think particular thanks are due to Don Haigh for looking after our finances so ably and to Stephanie Coghlan who, in spite of other commitments, served for a further year as Hon. Secretary - an onerous post whose occupant shoulders much of the administration that operates the Club. In handing over to Mike Denton I am sure that the Club will continue to flourish.

John Reynolds, September 1988.

FIELD TRIPS IN 1987

FAIRBURN INGS AND BLACKTOFT SANDS

18 January 1987

We had a fine day for the first field trip of the New Year - a day of bright sunshine, but which held little heat and made not the slightest impression on the thick frost which topped the lying snow. Later at Blacktoft, where the tidal rivers Trent and Ouse meet, a stiff wind was blowing over the exposed reed-beds making the already cold day even more bitter and this had a marked effect over the birds that we saw.

Fairburn Ings produced 55 species but there was little particularly out of the ordinary; Gadwall (2 pairs), Scaup (1-3), Ruddy Duck (3 fcs) were some of the wild-fowl encountered. Whooper Swan almost went un-noticed as 14 birds were huddled together, heads down across their backs, seemingly asleep, on the snow-covered grassland. Water Rails were quite active with at least 7 birds being seen - in areas where these birds occur, the fact of snow on the ground often provides the best opportunities for which to see them. At least one, and probably two, Kingfishers were also about in this area.

Birds at Blacktoft Sands were few and far between with only 30 species being recorded but it is always a case of quality rather than quantity here. Excellent views were had on a number of occasions of one male and three 'ring-tailed' Hen Harriers. Additionally, there was both Merlin and Kestrel, along with Short-eared Owl (2) and Barn Owl on the wing over the reed-beds and along the river banks. Unfortunately, due to the wind as I stated earlier, Bearded Tit, a speciality of the area, were restricted to one or two audio-contacts only.

RIBBLE MARSHES AND MARTIN MERE

15 February 1987

The day was rather spoilt by strong winds and heavy, persistent rain which fell for most of the day. At Marshside and Crossens Marshes it was a particularly high tide, and we managed to time our arrival to coincide with it excellently, giving good views of the wader populations, which include huge numbers of Oystercatchers, Dunlin, Knot, Gray Plover (c100), Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits (c100+), Curlew, Redshank and Greenshank (1). Distant views of swirling wader clouds over other areas of the marsh were impaired by the heavy rain.

Pink-footed geese in the area numbered a minimum of c2500 grazing birds. Martin Mere also produced large numbers of geese, swans and ducks with the very welcome bonus that at least here we could get out of the rain! However, amongst these birds there were no surprises.

Here we did manage five species of raptor: Marsh Harrier (one adult male), Hen Harrier (1-2 'ring-tails'), Sparrowhawk (1 fcs) and Kestrel (male and fcs), and lastly Peregrine - a male that gave very good views to a fortunate few.

HORNSEA MERE AND BARMSTON BEACH

15 March 1987

Our first port of call was Hornsea Mere where we spent the morning before moving on to Hornsea sea-front (for 20 minutes where we easily picked up Mediterranean Gull, which was eating fish-and-chips in front of the chip-shop in the coach park), dropped in for an hour at Bridlington Harbour and finished the day off at Barmston Beach.

At our main venue, Hornsea Mere, the weather was kind to us but the birds weren't little of note was seen amongst the 40 species recorded, with the possible exception of Barn Owl, which was seen, I believe, by one person only.

There was little of note, either, in Bridlington Harbour but it is always worth checking the gulls here for the occasional winter rarity. Our final stop, Barmston Beach, was the best ornithologically but here, once more, the weather turned poor with a strong wind picking up, the light went, and heavy rains arrived making it even harder to see than it was. If you've been caught out in a storm at Barmston, with no possibility of shelter, you will know all about this!

However, we had seven species of wader, along with Shore-lark, Lapland Bunting and Corn Bunting which went some way to ameliorate the bad weather.

HEST BANK AND LEIGHTON MOSS

26 April 1987

As has become customary now on our trips to the RSPB reserve at Leighton Moss, we initially make a brief stop at Hest Bank, in Morecambe Bay, ostensibly for waders but it is also a good place to see what are for many of us our first views of the year of the returning summer migrant passerines. In this respect today's visit was successful with 6 species being found here in 30 minutes: Swallow and House Martin, Yellow Wagtail, Whitethroat, Blackcap and Willow Warbler.

All of these six species were subsequently seen at Leighton Moss, along with Tree Pipit, Sedge, Reed and Garden Warblers, and Chiffchaff.

Another species increasingly occurring in the area, I feel, is Bearded Tit, of which several pairs were observed.

Of the 'speciality' bird of the reserve - the Bittern - possibly up to 9 'booming' males were heard with regularity, but I do not think that anyone actually saw one, but this is not unusual. Marsh Harrier was seen, as were a pair of Garganey.

EAVES AND WATERSLACK WOODS

17 May 1987

This was a new venue for the Club. Other than that stated in the literature, which sounded impressive, no-one knew quite what to expect from the area. It is located about one mile to the north-west of Leighton Moss and, along with the adjoining Middlebarrow Wood, stretches up to the lower slopes of Arnside Knott. Eaves Wood is a (conical) hillside, with areas of limestone pavement, carrying a mixed woodland of oak, ash, small-leaved lime, beech and yew with a very well developed understory which includes buckthorn, privet and spindle. Among the woodland birds that occur are numbered Marsh Tit, Nightingale (it is said) and Woodcock, while mammals include Red Squirrel.

Waterslack is an adjoining area to the east of Eaves Wood, comprising broad-leaved woodland on the edge of Hawswater, with areas of wet willow carr and scrub woodland.

Immediately one enters the area on foot it is apparent that the locality should be an exciting birdwatching habitat. However, with the risk of sounding repetitious, the day was spoiled by inclement weather and the 50 or so species recorded at both sites does not, I believe, do justice to either. Despite the rain the most vocal birds of the woodland were warblers, with pride of place going to Garden Warblers which were very vocal.

Towards the close of the visit, several party members, fed up with the wet woodland and seeing that the rain was easing, decided to walk down to Leighton Moss. These fortunate few were rewarded with sightings of both male and female Marsh Harrier, and Spoonbill, two very good birds to add to an otherwise quite meagre day's total.

Eighty-eight species were recorded on the day, despite, as has occurred in previous autumns, the very warm, mild and windless weather resulting in very low numbers of migrant passerines moving through the area. Luckily, several members of the party were compensated with views of such species as Manx Shearwater (1), Curlew Sandpiper - a summer plumage bird at Chaik Bank, Whimbrel (3-4), Spotted Redshank (3) to name just a few of the wader species present and very good views of a dark - phase Pomarine Skua which came quite close inshore. Arctic Skua (4-6) and Great Skua (1) were also found, along with a single Little Gull.

Of particular interest, I felt, amongst the passerine species observed on the day were Yellow Wagtail (2) and Grey Wagtail (male), up to six Whinchats, two Wheatears and singles or pairs of up to four species of warbler, but the highlight must be considered to be the male Lapland Bunting which was found no more than a stone's throw from the Observatory buildings. Not as spectacular, maybe, but in some ways equally of interest, were the Corn Buntings found in small numbers alongside the canal zone.

FILEY BRIGG

18 October 1987

The day stayed dry despite our expectations of rain but the winds were very strong and unfortunately blowing off the land, as they had been for several days prior to our visit. Under these circumstances I felt that the sixty-three species recorded on the day was not too bad a total, although there were few really 'good' birds to enthuse over. Exceptions to this were the adult winter plumage male Long-tailed Duck which gave very good views very close inshore, taking advantage of the sheltered waters in the Bay and the four Brent Geese which were observed, I understand, on the grassland of Filey Field. Seven wader species were identified on or around the Brigg - but the areas 'speciality', the Purple Sandpiper, was present in very low numbers indeed, further indication, perhaps, of the trend towards milder autumns experienced in recent years.

Another unlikely bird to have been recorded on the day was the Nuthatch which was found in the small area of woodland running on either side of the roadway leading from Church Cliff down to the sea-front and Cobble Landing. A Treecreeper was found here also but that is not quite so unusual.

Finally, the small party of Twite found overflying the grassy area on the cliff top above the Brigg deserve mention.

RIBBLE MARSHES AND MARTIN MERE WILDFOWL TRUST

22 November 1987

In many ways these two localities are 'chalk and cheese' to each other. The Ribble Marshes are a huge expanse of salt and grazing marshes which stretch for mile after mile of coast to the north of Southport and around the Ribble estuary. However, the best areas for birdwatching are the marshes at Marshside and Crossens, which can be overlooked from the coast road. Here the surrounding area is flat and bleak, with no amenities whatsoever for shelter. In bad weather, the wind and rain gets everywhere; on the other hand, get there at the right moment - the best time is two hours before high tide - and the bird watching can be spectacular!

Martin Mere is a Wildfowl Trust sanctuary, which obviously places considerable importance on its wildfowl collection, but the 105 hectares of 'wild' area - marshland - does attract a remarkable array of wild birds, all of which can be overlooked from hides which, in comparison to the first venue, represent almost palatial comfort. In addition to this, the wildfowl collection does offer unparalleled opportunities to get to grips with such of our 'wild' wildfowl species and many others. Imagine, over 10,000 Pink-feet annually migrate from Greenland and Iceland onto the reserve.

Our visit to the Ribble Marshes combined both the best and the worst. We timed it right and were rewarded with some spectacular views of vast flocks of flying Knot. We had parties of over 100 of

both Grey Plover and Black-tailed Godwit, and grazing Pink-feet numbered possibly as many as 2500 - 3000 birds. Neither is the area short of passerine species of interest, even at this time of the year: as usual we had views of both male and female Stonechat and winter flocks of Twite and Linnet in fair numbers.

This was the 'best': the 'worst' was the weather - it teemed with rain and the winds were quite strong, to put it kindly. Luckily, moving a few miles inland to Martin Mere seemed to take the teeth out of the gale-force winds and the rain became intermittent.

At Martin Mere highlights comprised views of adult male Marsh Harrier, 'ring-tail' Hen Harriers on several occasions, views of both Sparrowhawk and Kestrel, views by a lucky few of preening Peregrine and I had a report of Goshawk observed overflying the area.

Outside the collection grounds, wildfowl in vast numbers were represented by all three Swan species, by six species of geese, and by thirteen species of duck.

The high-spot of the whole day must have been the spectacle of skein after skein after skein of wild geese flighting into the reserve off the surrounding countryside at dusk. Sight and sound was truly magnificent!

The day gave us a total of 67 species.

EAST COAST TOUR: SCALBY MILLS, SCARBOROUGH & BRIDLINGTON HARBOURS & BARMSTON BEACH 6 December 1987

To be honest, this was not one of the better trips, although in the past these areas have produced some good days birdwatching. For the time of year, the weather was good, with the winds in the right direction to bring things in off the sea, but unfortunately, this did not happen - at least, not in sufficient numbers.

There was little of note at Scalby - although Little Grebe on the (freshwater) river was nice, as were the small numbers of Eiders (4-6) and larger numbers of Common Scoter (40) out to sea.

There was supposed to be a Little Gull in Scarborough Harbour, but we failed to find it. We did find a couple of Shags there, at rest on a beached dingy in the harbour mud.

Bridlington Harbour was equally devoid of interest, except for several Purple Sandpipers, and the antics of a Herring Gull trying to cope with an overlarge piece of flatfish!

Barmston Beach provided us with the best birds of the day with a party of (41) White-fronted Geese in flight off grassland adjoining the sandy foreshore. When these birds lifted they left behind five Brent Geese in the same field. Offshore, at Barmston, were further parties of Common Scoter, but probably the best birds of the day for most of us were the small numbers of Little Auk in flight over and on the inshore waters. A very few members of our group also found, I believe, a few Lapland Buntings.

David Butterfield, Field Trips Organiser

THE TETRAD BREEDING SURVEY - PROGRESS REPORT

By the time this report is published the third season of hard work in the field will have been completed. The number of members involved during 1987 increased slightly to about twenty-five, and additional useful breeding records were submitted by others along with their general observations.

Of the 150, tetrads in the six 10-Kilometre squares, records have now been received from at least 140 although some of the information from SE 00 was not complete, and that included in Table A is based on 1986 data. The totals also include some records for 1988 for SE 11 and SE 20 so the table is not an accurate statement, but is published for interest and to give an indication of progress.

TABLE A

10Km square number	SE 00	SE 01	SE 10	SE 11	SE 20	SE 21	Total
Tetrads with < 20 species	23	2	8	3	8	10	54
Tetrads with 20 - 39 species	2	11	13	12	6	8	52
Tetrads with > 40 species	-	12	4	10	11	7	44
Total registrations	199	960	672	902	801	645	4179

The figure for total registrations include records for all categories, that is possible, probable or confirmed breeding, and in all 109 species have been logged, and breeding has been confirmed for 95 of these.

10Km square SE 01 in the north-west of our area was selected, along with other squares elsewhere in Britain, by the British Trust for Ornithology for pilot survey work during 1987 for their New Atlas. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Mike Denton, who is a B.T.O. Representative, in organising comprehensive coverage of this square, and doing a considerable amount of work himself, our knowledge of this area is well in advance of that in the other five squares.

The most widespread species according to present information are listed in Table B. The first column gives all categories combined, and the second column gives confirmed breeding, with the number of tetrads in which recorded.

TABLE B

Order	All Categories	Confirmed Breeding
1	Blackbird	105
2	Blue Tit	104
3	Maggie	103
	Willow Warbler	103
5	Skylark	102
6	Carriion Crow	101
7	Starling	100
8	Chaffinch	99
9	Swallow	98
10	Woodpigeon	97
	Blue Tit	86
	Swallow	83
	Starling	81
	House Sparrow	80
	Blackbird	77
	Maggie	74
	Carriion Crow	68
	Robin	65
	Great Tit	64
	Mistle Thrush	61

We hope once again that this summary will give encouragement to those who participated, and interest others who may wish to take part. Please do not hesitate to come forward as you may be surprised to find that we require information on an area which is within easy reach of your home, or is of interest to you. The Atlas Recorders, who are listed below, will be only too pleased to assist with the mysteries of identifying your tetrad, and leave the bird identification to you!

ATLAS RECORDERS

SE 00, SE10	Michael Pinder 29 Thick Hollins Meltham Huddersfield
SE 01	Michael Denton
SE 11	Brian Armitage
SE 20	John Dale
SE 21	David Proctor Lyndhurst Woodbine Street Ossett Wakefield

The addresses of the other recorders may be found under the Club Officials for 1988 on p.59 of this report.

As mentioned in our 1986 Report it is our intention to publish the results of the survey in book form and we are delighted to say that this will receive support from Kirklees Leisure Services.

John E. Dale

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST

Only 167 species were recorded, including four species of wildfowl of dubious origins, of which the Mandarin and Wood Duck may have been recent escapes, and the Barnacle Geese and Egyptian Goose were presumably of feral stocks that are now becoming established in the wild. Nonetheless it was an interesting year and included Slavonian Grebe, Fulmar, Osprey, Hobby, Purple Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull, Wrenneck and Great Grey Shrike that are rarely seen in the area.

A Crane during June was well described by a Banks Hall resident, who had excellent close views during two days, but frustratingly for a few of our members whom he informed, it had departed on the second evening. This, and a party of geese which were confirmed as Bean Geese on the last day of the year, were both new species for the area.

We may have said farewell to the beautiful drake *Smew* which was first seen as a sub-adult at Ingbirchworth Reservoir in January 1980, and was last seen in April 1987, and if as assumed was the same throughout would be almost eight years old when it left. The Brambling flock from late 1986 in the Ingbirchworth area continued to delight many of us during January and February. Lapwing and Golden Plover flocks were fewer, and in general smaller than usual in the area, and no large counts of Snipe were reported although high water levels at the favourite reservoirs certainly the areas available for feeding.

Kingfisher appears to be flourishing as never before, although our knowledge has improved thanks to the breeding survey workers discovering new sites. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker bred at a newly found site; Pied Flycatcher bred again, as did Nuthatch which is always scarce in the area. Wood Warbler was again heard in new localities, and Corn Bunting, much scarcer than twenty years ago, was also reported from hitherto unsuspected sites during the breeding atlas work.

Bratton Park had two welcome surprises in the last two months of 1987, with Marsh Tit in Oxley Bank Wood, and nearby in Menagerie Wood a flock of Hawfinches, feeding on beech, that reached record numbers for the area.

It had also been a good year for breeding Crossbills with encouraging records from two areas in the early months. A pair of Peregrines bred for the second successive year in Booth Dam Quarry, also known as Derby Delph Quarry, this year having the benefit of round the clock surveillance by R.S.P.B. wardens, and providing an excellent opportunity for the general public to view this exciting species.

Thanks are due to Mike Denton for summarising the Blackmoorfoot logsheets and for producing a most comprehensive Ringing Report; to Brian Aisittage for maintaining our record card system, and producing reports for the years 1984 to 1986 and handing on near complete cards for 1987; to David Butterfield for the new feature 'Field Trips in 1987' giving interesting summaries of the Club outings and in particular to Peter Martin for spending many hours with his word processor enabling us to hand on a report to the printer ready for reduction and duplication.

John E. Gale, Recorder, September 1988.

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 along with those parts of SE 02 and SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

As in the last eight annual reports, the status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one of the following classifications:-

Resident Breeder
Partial Migrant
Passage Visitor

Migrant Breeder
Winter Visitor

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

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

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

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

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

Precise localities for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1954-67) have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences, readers are referred to the 1975 Report. A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 1980, and notes on their status, appeared in the Report for that year.

Many breeding records for 1987 were received by the Atlas Recorders that do not appear in the species summaries. It was considered unreasonable to give them the task of producing separate summaries for each breeding season, and therefore readers may find certain breeding records omitted from this report.

CLASSIFIED LIST

This list follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Professor Dr. K. H. Voous (1977), *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species*.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Resident breeder (1), Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Small numbers present in the early months with one to two at Blackmoorfoot, Bretton Park, Cannon Hall, Gunthwaite Dam and Ingbyrchworth Reservoir during January and February. Also during February, two on the River Calder near Elland on 15th and one on the River Colne at Linthwaite on 21st, had possibly resorted to the rivers after a freeze up of other waters early in the month.

Six pairs bred successfully, with two of these at Ingbyrchworth Reservoir raising at least three young, and single pairs at Coxley Dam, Square Wood Reservoir (two young), Scout Dike Reservoir (two young), and at Bretton Park where three young were present on 14th June, and one on 15th November from a late brood. A second pair had been at Bretton Park during May. In addition two immatures in a party of four on 27th September at Royd Moor Reservoir may have been raised there.

Four at Cannon Hall on 6th December, and during the last two months one to three on seven other waters including Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, where the species occurred on 63 dates up to 18th April, and on 47 dates from 7th August.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1), Uncommon passage visitor

Three to six at Bretton Park during the first two months before the March influx, which peaked at 24 on 11th, and again peaked in April at 18 on 15th, with six pairs remaining at the month end. One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14 January days, and after a freeze up in early February birds present continuously from 12th February to 25th October, with monthly maxima of 12 from 29th to 31st March; 15 from 24th to 26th April; 21 from 26th to 30th May; 20 on 8th June, and 12 from 8th to 14th July.

Six pairs bred at Bretton Park, but of 18 young on 20th May few survived. Of four pairs at Scout Dike Reservoir on 31st May, two had three and two young respectively, and a third pair was sitting. Single pairs at Ingbyrchworth Reservoir and Hill Top Reservoir probably both failed. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir two nests lost their eggs to predators during May; one nest had its eggs destroyed by wave action during June, and rather more successful was the hatching of two young from a nest on 4th August, but both of these had perished by the 8th, one being eaten by a Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Numbers in the area declined rapidly during the autumn and Bretton Park was the only site to hold any into December, including three on 19th.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Rare visitor.

One at Elland Gravel Pits (Brookfoot Lake) from at least 7th to 17th February (JPA, RS). Eighth record for the area.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

Rare visitor

One flew south west over Ingbyrchworth Reservoir at 20.55 hrs on 4th August (MLD, TV). Ninth record for the area.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Rather fewer records than in recent years more than half of these being at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir as follows:- one from the east departed west on 29th March; one on 5th April; one west on 8th April which showed characteristics of the Continental race, *P. c. sinensis* (MLD); one on 7th September; one immature west on 24th October, and one south on 31st December. One north over Netheraton on 4th April, and one over Digley reservoir on 5th flew west then departed to the east. One at Bretton Park on 1st October, and a very active bird visited both Ingbirchworth and Scout Dike Reservoirs on 16th November.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*
Resident breeder (1)

As in 1986 five pairs nested at Bretton Park, and four of these reared 15 young, the eggs of the fifth pair failed to hatch. Recorded throughout the year at Bretton Park, and also in the Hinchliffe Mill area where two to three were present regularly.

Records from a further 25 localities covered all months, with an emphasis on the August to December period particularly at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. In early July small parties of five over Meltham on 3rd, and six over Rishworth Moor on 6th, both included some birds of the year

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*
Resident breeder (1)

A pair reared four young at Wildspur Mill, Hepworth but otherwise all records referred to single birds. One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir in January and February (with a second one briefly), and from April to June. Singles at Elland G.P. and Broadstones Reservoir during February; at Bottoms Dam, Holmfirth in April and May; at Hinchliffe Mill during May; at Royd Moor Reservoir in late May and June; at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th September, and an immature at Square Wood Reservoir from 21st September to 22nd October. One on the canal at Horbury for much of the year.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*
Uncommon winter visitor.

An adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 13th November and four adults on 7th December (MLD, JMP).

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*
Uncommon winter visitor.

Over Lindley Moor on 3rd April 19 were flying west at 09.00 hours and on meeting low cloud over high ground turned and flew back eastwards (JED, SHD). One adult north-west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th November (MLD, PLM, JMP).

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*
Rare visitor.

A party of nine feeding on grassland near Whitley House Farm first reported by Mrs. P. Marsh as being present on 27th December had their identity confirmed on 31st December (CB, BA et al). N.E. Parker in talking to the local people gathered that they may have been present since early December. First record for the area.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchos*
Uncommon to common passage visitor

The only confirmed records were in the Blackmoorfoot area. After one on 6th October, skeins flying overhead occurred on 25th October, with 111 at 07.50 hours, and then about 400 at longer range all going south-west, the latter number only being claimed as probable Pink-footed Geese. 52 west on 1st November; 36 west on 21st; 1 west on 28th November, and 220 east on 30th December at 09.10 hours. 123 north-east over Meltham Cop in three skeins on 18th November. 'Grey' geese which may have been of this species were recorded as follows:- over Slaithwaite on 3rd January, 28 south-east; over Oxspring on 17th October, 50 south-east; over Drop Clough on 2nd November, 35 west; over Blackmoorfoot on 14th November, 53 west, and on 22nd, 75 west; over Leeds Road on 17th November, 75 west, and over Almondbury on 24th November, 20 north-west.

GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*
Uncommon passage visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 14th and 15th February; 24 west over Digley Reservoir on 5th April; four west over Booth Dam on 9th June; 41 south-west over Deer Hill on 25th September, and one on Scammonden Dam on 13th November.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*
Resident breeder (2).

At Bretton Park the early maximum was 323 on 14th February, and at the year end 149 on 13th December. 21 goslings were reared although population controls are still being carried out.

A pair had a nest with four eggs at March Haigh Reservoir on 29th April, but by 24th May the nest and been robbed and adult feathers were in the nest area suggesting Fox *Vulpes vulpes* as the probable predator (MLD).

The species continues to colonise new sites and although no other breeding records were received pairs appeared in the breeding season at Gunthwaite Dam, Scammonden Dam, Ingbythorpe Reservoir, Digley Reservoir, Brownhill Reservoir and Booth Dam. Larger parties included eight at Digley Reservoir from 19th April to 3rd May; eight at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 30th July; 14 at Vinscar Reservoir on 14th July and at Boshaw Whams on 7th August; 13 at Scammonden Dam on 16th August, and also eight flying east over Leeds Road on 4th June.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*
Rare visitor but birds of feral origin now breed in the area.

Present throughout the year at Bretton Park where a pair reared one gosling. Maxima of seven during February; ten on 12th April, and five at the year-end.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
Rare visitor

One at Bretton Park from at least 14th to 22nd February (JED et al).
Published with the escape proviso.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir again provided the bulk of the records as follows; five on 23rd and one on 26th January; two on 16th February; one on 29th and three on 30th March; two on 10th, three on 22nd and one on 24th April; seven from east on 7th May; a total of 90 on 23rd July included nine west at

19.40 hours and 39 east at 20.40 hours and 42 from the west at 20.55 hours; one on 26th and three on 29th August, and singles on 24th and 30th December. Elsewhere singles at Digley Reservoir on 18th and Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 19th April; an adult and seven immatures on Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 28th August, and an immature at Dewsbury S.F. on 4th October.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

A male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 26th April to 17th May.
Published with the escape proviso.

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata*

A male at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st and 2nd April.
Published with the escape proviso.

WIGDON *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor.

A relatively poor year for this species.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Recorded on eight dates to 17th April (three) with usually one or two, but five on 24th January; and on 27 dates from 28th August to 29th November (five) usually one or two, but also five on 11th October.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir One on 1st January; three on 15th February and on 24th December.

Broadstones Reservoir Seven on 4th and five on 10th January, and seven on 23rd October.

Royd Moor Reservoir One on 25th February, and five on 17th September.

One at Longley, Holmfirth on 18th January during a freeze-up.

BADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Singles at Ingbirchworth Reservoir and Royd Moor Reservoir on 18th October; a pair on Scammonden Dam on 13th November, and one at Elland S.P. on 27th November.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (!), Common passage and winter visitor.

Numbers were quite low in the early months with the exception of a feeding flock at Horbury Wyke which had maxima of 56 on 25th January; 31 on 25th February; 76 on 22nd March and 83 on 8th April. Present at eight other sites during the first three months, with no more than single figures anywhere, apart from 12 in the Black Brook Valley on 23rd March, and up to 18 at Royd Moor Reservoir from 8th to 24th January.

Birds at probable breeding localities included three males at March Haigh Reservoir, and singles or pairs at Scammonden Dam, Wessenden Head Reservoir, Black Moss and Royd Moor Reservoir during the period late April to early June. A female was with a small duckling on Tunnel End Reservoir on 17th June.

Recorded during autumn on eight waters with maxima of ten at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th August; 35 at Royd Moor Reservoir and 15 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 18th October, and at Bretton Park maxima of 26 on 17th November and 39 on 14th December, with double figures there most days during those two months.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Peak numbers at most waters in the early months were relatively low, and included 123 at Bretton Park on 18th, 64 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 22nd and 51 at Broadstones Reservoir on 24th January, 33 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th and 67 at Elland G.P. on 17th February, then fewer during March as birds dispersed to breeding sites.

Breeding reported from the River Colne at Colnebridge, on the canal between Huddersfield and Golcar, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Ringstone Edge Reservoir, Royd Moor Reservoir, Cannon Hall and Bretton Park.

Generally higher maxima during the autumn and early winter particularly in the Ingbirchworth area, with 114 at the latter reservoir on 13th September and 96 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th September. During December 52 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir and 126 at Bretton Park on 13th, and 63 at Elland G.P. on 14th.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir two on 5th February and one on 30th March; four on 21st and one on 28th August, and during September, four on 3rd, two on 14th and one on 17th and 30th. A male at Bretton Park on 13th November probably remained until at least 20th December being recorded on eight dates and joined by a female on 29th November. A pair at Cannon Hall from 2nd November may have been remnants of releases made in 1985.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Very few records, the first being a male at Royd Moor Reservoir on 26th April, then a pair at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 7th May. Also at the latter reservoir five on 5th July which departed westwards and one on 20th August. Bretton Park had a party of five on 1st and 2nd November, then 2 males on 13th, a pair on 15th and three males on 29th November, and finally a pair on 14th December.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir Present on only 18 dates up to 12th March, with maxima of only six, then a single on three dates in May. Occurred regularly from 3rd August to 30th September and from 25th November to 27th December, but only four October dates including 15 on 19th, and other peaks were only 11 on 29th September and ten on 28th November.

Bretton Park Occurred regularly up to late March with a maximum of 24 on 5th January, then again from late July, but usually only in single figures apart from 15 on 30th December.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir Present fairly regularly to early April, with a maximum of 13 on 11th January. Less frequent from 1st September into December, with no more than six at any date.

Scout Dike Reservoir Recorded from January to March and in October and November, with maxima of 20 on 17th February; 18 on 18th October, and 25 on 15th November.

Small numbers during the early months at Digley Reservoir, Hill Top Reservoir, Elland G.P., Royd Moor Reservoir and Cannon Hall, and during the late months at the last two waters, and at Boshaw Whams and Meltham Reservoir.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Present regularly during the first three months at Bretton Park, with 23 there on 29th March; at

Ingbirchworth reservoir, 22 on 14th February, and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Also on occasional dates at six other waters during this period.

Pairs present at nine sites in the breeding season including a successful pair at Bilberry Reservoir. No breeding success at Bretton Park, and no information received from Scout Dike reservoir.

Moulting flocks during July at Ingbirchworth and Blackmoorfoot reservoirs peaked at 63 and 17 respectively. Present on 11 waters during the autumn months, but maximum numbers were quite low such as 20 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 5th September, and 24 each at Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th September, and at Bretton Park on 30th December

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

The only records were of two males at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st July (MLD, DMO), and a female at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 24th August (NAP).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Two at Bretton Park on 5th April, and one on 12th; one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 8th, and one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 13th April. Seven, four of which were males, at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th July.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Regular but uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Numbers were again low compared with the 1970's and only regular at two reservoirs.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Present on seven January dates then fairly regularly from 6th February to 27th April, usually one to three but six on 21st February and 25th March. Quite scarce at the year-end, with one to three on 15 dates from 6th November.

Ingbirchworth Reservoir. One to two throughout January and fairly regularly to early April, with four on 10th January and 15th February. One to two from 13th November to 31st December.

During the early months one to two at Elland G.P., Digley Reservoir, Bilberry Reservoir, and the last one at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 9th April, being reported from these reservoirs only infrequently. Apart from five at Deer Hill Reservoir on 2nd November autumn records were again only of one or two on occasional dates at Cupwith Reservoir, Scammonden Dam, Ringstone Edge Reservoir, Bretton Park, Scout Dike Reservoir and Elland G.P..

SNEW *Mergus albellus*

Rare visitor

The adult male remained in the Ingbirchworth area until at least the 7th April for what was actually its eighth winter in the area, but did not reappear at the year-end.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Two at Bretton Park on 6th January and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th February. One at Langsett Reservoir on 14th March. One at Bretton Park on 26th then five on 29th March, with one remaining to 5th April.

The only autumn records were from Bretton Park with two overhead on 21st then three on the lakes on 28th November.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce visitor.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th January (DWG, MLO, JMP), and at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th (PJWS) and 12th January (NEP). One at Bretton Park on 17th May (Dr. Findlay). One at Scout Dike Reservoir on 25th August (JER, SH).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce visitor.

A ring-tail near Brownhill Reservoir on 17th October (DRC).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

Scarce visitor.

A breeding attempt in the area failed but causes of failure are not known.
Sightings near Langsett on 24th February and 14th March, and over Harden Clough on 26th April.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Resident Breeder (1-2).

As in the previous two years birds were reported from some sixty localities, but breeding evidence was only obtained from five of these. The Barnsley Bird Study Group in carrying out a long term survey of this species located 12 pairs in SE 21 and a similar number in SE 20.

Occurred in gardens at Lindley Moor, Oakes, Cowcliffe, Lockwood, Meltham, Almondbury, Minchcliffe Mill and Edgerton.

Recorded at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 44 dates.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor.

One near Gunthwaite Bae at 13.00 hours on 14th September flew east at 13.20 hours mobbed by Carrion Crows (JED, SHD).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor.

One north over Elland on 26th April (RR per PMH), and one south over the Little Don Valley on 13th September (GB, BP).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2).

Reported from some 60 localities at most of which birds were present throughout the year, although the species has a tendency to leave the inhospitable uplands during mid-winter.

Breeding evidence, in various forms from territorial birds and food carrying to actual nests with young located, at Booth Dam, Scamondan, Lindley Moor, Ainley Top, Colnebridge, Ashbrow Mills, I.C.I. Leeds Road, Bargate, Wessenden, Digley, Yateholme, Bretton Park, New Park (Denby Dale), Gunthwaite, Deifer Wood, Hapworth and Wessenden.
Recorded at Blackmoorfoot on 77 dates.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*
Former breeder.

Although the total number of sightings was rather low it is encouraging that during the breeding season birds were seen regularly near two former breeding sites, and also on one occasion at another uplands locality.

One at Deanhead Moss on 29th January and one at Emley Moor on 15th February were the only early records. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st August and 12th October; at Hollin Brow Knoll on 15th September; at Ingbirchworth on 20th September and 8th November (the one on the latter date chasing a Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*), and at Bretton Park on 4th November.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*
Resident breeder (1).

A pair bred for the second year rearing three young in Booth Dam Quarry. This year the R.S.P.B. undertook round the clock wardening of the site from late March until July when the young birds flew. This is fully reported on page 59.

Other sightings included one in the Town Centre in January and birds on six dates in another locality from March to November, and one near Chew Reservoir on 26th November. Singles at Scammonden on 4th May and Booth Dam on 13th August were probably birds from the breeding site.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*
Resident breeder (2-3).

Counts of 53 at Snailsden on 9th October and 26 at Tinker Hill on 14th October were the highest reported.

Present in the breeding season on moorlands north and east of Holme Moss; west of Black Hill; at Wessenden Head; on Meltham Moor and Slaithwaite Moor, but in general is infrequently reported and may be scarcer than in the 1970's.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*
Resident breeder (1).

Only three singles reported. The first being in the Digley area on 20th January (HQ), and the second near the Dartmouth Arms at Lepton Edge on 11th May (GBS), and another sighting near Upperwood House, Saddleworth (per DWY, no date).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*
Resident breeder (2).

Reported from only three localities in the early months, and from four in the last three months, with a covey of nine at Thornhill Power Station on 6th October being the largest reported.

Noted in the breeding season at Scammonden, Elland G.P., Bradley Park, Colnebridge, Upper Denby, Gunthwaite, Ingbirchworth, Hepworth, Silkstone, Birdsedge, Lindley Moor, Skelmanthorpe and Royd Edge Clough.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*
Resident breeder (2-3).

Rather under recorded with most records only referring to one or two birds. Exceptions were six at a garden bird table at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 22nd January, and nine males at Paul Lane, Colnebridge on 9th December.

Noted during the breeding season at Almondbury, Bretton Park, Stonecliffe Wood, Stockmoor Common, Gunthwaite and Denby Dale.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce winter visitor.

One regularly at Gunthwaite Dam up to 22nd February (BA, JED et al), and one to three by the canal at Golcar between 14th February and 5th April (CH, JP). One at Bretton Park from 11th November to 20th December (DB et al); one at Gunthwaite Dam on 16th and 17th November (JSA) and one by the River Calder near Elland G.P. on 29th November (PJWS).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (2-3).

A count of 29 at Horbury Wyke on 25th February was the highest reported. Bred at Bretton Park, Cannon Hall, Colnebridge, Dogley S.F., Hepworth, Minchcliffe Mill, Ingbirchworth Reservoir and along the canal at Slaithwaite and Golcar areas. Present at Gunthwaite Dam, Horbury, Lepton Great Wood along Beldon Brook, and at Ryburn Reservoir during the breeding season.

COOT *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2).

Peak counts in the early months were low, with 13 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th January; 15 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during March; 28 at Bretton Park on 11th March, and 21 at Scout Dike Reservoir on 15th March.

Bred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Ringstone Edge Reservoir, Meltham Mills, Bretton Park, Gunthwaite Dam, Cannon Hall, Ingbirchworth Reservoir and Royd Moor Reservoir, and present at Longwood Reservoir and Mag Dale.

Year end peaks in December of 12 at Cannon Hall; 11 at Elland G.P.; 10 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir and 22 at Bretton Park, which held 31 on 18th October.

CRANE *Grus grus*

First record for the area.

An adult feeding on farmland during the afternoon of 16th June and again about midday on 17th June at Banks Hall near Silkstone (Mr. Stewart). This record has not yet been submitted to the B.B.R.C.

DYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Five at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st May, and singles there on 20th May and 18th June. Singles over Booth Dam Reservoir on 10th May and 25th June, and four north over Red Brook Reservoir on 31st May. During July singles west over New Mill on 9th, Deanhead on 15th and Drop Cough on 20th and 29th, and another over the latter site on 23rd August. Two at Yateholme on 12th July and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th July, with singles there during August on 13th and 27th, three on 15th and two on 21st. One at Broadstones Reservoir on 16th August; four south over Ramsden Reservoir on 18th August which turned to fly off north-east, and the last one at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 1st September.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Occasional breeder and scarce summer visitor.

Very few records this year but all were in possible breeding situations. One in display flight at Deanhead Reservoir on 27th April (JED). A pair at Wessenden Head Reservoir on 16th and 25th May were displaying, but not recorded later (BA, MLD). A pair with a juvenile on Langsett Reservoir on 12th July (DRC), and an anxious pair present at Dovestones Reservoir, not dated (per DWY).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Three at Scamondon Dam on 26th April otherwise all records were of singles passing over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, usually westwards, on 10th May, 14th, 15th and 29th August, and 2nd September.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*
Migrant breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor.

Pre-breeding season flocks were much smaller than in previous years. Apart from a flock of 150 in the Crosland Hill area on 9th January, all other counts were well below 50. In the Ingbirchworth and Whitley Common area, a former stronghold of the species, counts of 13 in April and 15 in May were the highest. In addition to land improvements referred to in the 1986 Report the Whitley Common area is regularly used for flying model aircraft which seriously disturb feeding flocks. None located in the Ringstone Edge area between late March and late April, and the maximum near Blackmoorfoot was 37 on 14th March, 21 to 22 in the Issues Road area near Digley from 17th to 23rd May.

Present during the breeding season at Rishworth Moor, Buckstones Moss, Black Moss, Wessenden Head, Holme Moss, the Bilberry area, Maltham Moor, Snailsden Moss, Birchen Clough and Black Hill. A flock at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir peaked at just over 40 on 31st July and 17th August, whilst later after the passage period, 54 on 24th October and 47 on 14th November were probably birds wintering on nearby farmland. A post breeding season flock of 132 at Broadstones Reservoir on 11th July, and 100 on 25th fell to 32 by 16th August. None located at the former wintering site near Flocton, and only single figure flock near Ringstone Edge during the late autumn months.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*
Rare/scarcely passage visitor.

One west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th August (MLO).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*
Resident breeder (3-4). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

As with Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* numbers during the early months were much lower than in many previous years. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 77 on 1st January and 105 west on 10th, were the highest numbers before July although a flock of 200 was regularly in the Crossland Hill area during February, 80 near Grimes Lane, Broadstones on 15th March.

Many of the breeding records were received through breeding atlas survey work and as explained in the introduction are not easy to extract for this report, but breeding did occur at Ringstone Edge, Lindley Moor, Ingbirchworth, Blackmoorfoot, Hade Edge, Skelwanthorpe and Digley.

Post breeding season and early autumn flocks were recorded at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, with 370 on 1st and 28th July, then 410 on 29th; an increase in late August to 763 on 25th, then generally less than 100 in September, but 540 on 2nd; 180 on 11th October, and on 30th and 31st December, but usually below 100 during the last three months. In the Ingbirchworth area 1,000 at Broadstones Reservoir on 25th July after 478 on 1st; an August maximum of 700 on 16th, and 233 on 23rd October, and later at Whitley Common 317 on 13th and 595 on 21st November. Other noteworthy flocks were all during November being 250 near Skelwanthorpe on 6th; 230 east over Elland G.P. on 21st, and 370 at Ringstone Edge on 22nd.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Rare visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 12.45 hours to 16.35 hours at least on 21st October (TD, MLD).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2). Uncommon passage visitor.

None in the early months the first ones all being in April, with singles at Twizle Head Moss on 12th, and west at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 15th, where four flew west on 20th, and two at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 14th. Two at March Haigh Reservoir on 29th April.

Two pairs at Black Moss on 4th June and other breeding evidence from Slaithwaite Moor, Wessenden Head, near Black Hill and Cloudberry Knoll.

During the autumn at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir singles on three dates; four west on 1st August and two there on 24th October. One at Broadstones Reservoir on 25th July, and 5 west over Royd Moor on 23rd August. More records than usual during the last two months, with in November 17 west over Broadstones Reservoir on 13th; eight west on 21st and three west on 22nd over Blackmoorfoot, and one on 22nd at Ringstone Edge Reservoir. Finally two south at Blackmoorfoot on 7th December.

JACK SNIBE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Only recorded in the Elland G.P. area with two on 17th February (BA, GBS), one on 20th March, and one on 18th April (MLD).

SNIBE *Gallinago gallinago*

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

The only reports from the early months concerned Ingbirchworth Reservoir, with up to four during January, and singles at Elland G.P. during February.

The first at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was one on 20th March, and a nest with eggs was located there during April. Displaying birds at Pole Moor, Scammenden, March Haigh, Slaithwaite Moor, Deer Hill, Bilberry and Digley areas, Langsett, Whitley Common and Dunford Bridge.

A very poor autumn with no large numbers, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir having birds on only 13 dates, with three on 17th September as maximum, and one on 7th November being the last. One west over Lindley Moor on 18th November.

WOODCOCK *Scalopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor.

Riding birds observed during April, May and June at Turner Wood, Bretton park, Cawthorne, Deffer Wood (three) and Langsett (two).

Singles early in the year at Elland Park Wood on 24th February and Ramsden Clough on 22nd March. During the autumn two at Riding Wood on 17th October, and in November singles at Windybank Wood, Lindley, Deighton and one on two dates over Cawcliffe.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*
Scarce passage visitor.

Singles over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th January (south) and 2nd May (west). One over Booth Dam Quarry on 23rd May. Six west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 31st July, and one came into the reservoir at 16,20 hours on 21st November.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*
Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

The only spring record was of one flying north-west over Meltham on 28th April. During July singles west over Cowcliffe on 8th and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 22nd, and over the latter site singles west on 15th and 25th August. In the Broadstones area three in fields near the Lodge and two west over the reservoir on 22nd July, and one at the reservoir on 25th.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*
Migrant breeder (2). Common passage visitor.

One at Broadstones Reservoir on 14th February was early, but singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 28th February and 1st March, and over Lindley Moor on 6th were more likely the first of the spring arrivals. Blackmoorfoot had one to three on ten days from 13th to 31st March, and others during the month included five at Broadstones Reservoir on 15th; 14 at Booth Wood Reservoir and three at Digley Reservoir on 22nd, and 20 in the latter area on 28th.

Display and other breeding evidence from Rishworth Moor, Moss Moor, March Haigh, Slaithwaite Moor, Scammonden, Wessenden Head, the Digley area, Yateholme, the Ingbirchworth area, Winscar, and in the lowlands at Bretton Park and near Jowett House Farm (Cawthorne).

Occurred regularly at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during April, and from late June to mid September, including seven west on 4th July and eight west on 24th August. Nine at Broadstones Reservoir on 25th July and 13 there on 16th August. Late singles near Colnebridge on 28th October, and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th November.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*
Migrant breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One flying west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd January was only the second record for January at the reservoir, and the next in the area were singles there on 24th and 30th March. One at Bretton Park on 7th April and others at Ingbirchworth, Dean Head and Blackmoorfoot during the month.

A pair bred at Horbury; two pairs were at Black Moss; pairs were at Wessenden Head and on the moors west of Black Hill, but no longer in the Whitley Common area although an immature was at Broadstones on 18th July.

Only seven records from mid-August with the last one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th October.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Rather a poor year with only five records received. One west over Big Valley, Lockwood on 9th August; one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 21st; three west over Drop Clough on 23rd, and one at Dewsbury S.F. on 30th. One west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 17th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*
Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One at Broadstones Reservoir in mid-July and one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 25th, and other singles there on 3rd, 4th, 7th, 15th and 22nd August. Singles at Dewsbury S.F. on 30th August and 4th October.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*
Migrant breeder (2).

Two each at Digley Reservoir on 18th and Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 19th April, then three at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th and 21st, and recorded at six other waters by the month end including four at March Haigh Reservoir on 29th.

Bred near Booth Dam (three pairs), Wessenden Head, Ovestones Reservoir, Moss Moor, Bilberry Reservoir, Deer Hill Reservoir and probably at Butterley Reservoir. Five at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 6th July. Present at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 75% of the days between 28th June and 19th September, with a peak of eight on 2nd July. A few singles at other reservoirs after the breeding season with the last at Royd Moor on 20th September.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*
Scarce passage visitor.

The only sightings were of birds flying west over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, two on 1st August and three on 16th September (MLD).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*
Rare visitor.

Another very good year for this species at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir where it is now virtually an annual visitor. Quite remarkable when one considers that the first inland record for Yorkshire was at this reservoir as recently as 1975. An adult on 28th February and 1st and 2nd March (MLD, JMP). Another adult on 8th and 9th March (MLD, JMP). A series of four different adults which could be distinguished from each other by head pattern details during December on 3rd (MLD, JMO); 12th (MLD, PLM, JMP); 19th and 20th (NC, MLD, JMP), and on 21st (JMP).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*
Scarce passage visitor.

Two adults at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 27th July moved off westwards and an immature was present there on 30th September (JMP, MLD).

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*
Rare visitor.

On 22nd October at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir an adult roosted having been first located at 17.40 hours (MLD). This bird appeared after very severe south-westerly gales had swept the southern half of Britain bringing many of this species into the country probably from the Bay of Biscay. The third record for the area.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*
Resident breeder (1). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

The highest counts at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir were of 6150 on 12th February and 6650 on 29th November

but these were of a combined total with Common Gull *Larus canus* and at such times of the year the latter species rarely forms as much as 20% of the roost. Other peaks were of 2000 on 29th August and 1700 on 7th September, and combined with Common Gull, 2950 on 28th September, 400 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir during January, and 550 during December; 1040 at Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 9th August, and 600 on 16th December, and 350 at Elland G.P. on 7th November.

The breeding site at Black Moss did not show any sign of recovery for on 4th June only four adults and a first-summer bird were present, and one nest with two eggs was found. Two pairs may have bred at Cupwith Reservoir, but no young were seen (MLD).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

Somewhat under-recorded. The only count of any size at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was of 210 on 7th October. No counts of more than 30 away from this site were reported.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Occurs at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir in every month of the year, but numbers in the winter months remain low the maxima for January, February and December being respectively five, 21 and 14, and the spring and autumn peaks were 54 on 1st April, and 137 on 10th October.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *L.f. intermedius* were at the reservoir on 20th September (two), and 9th October (one).

Very few counts above single figures were received from any other sites apart from Winscar Reservoir which had roosting in October 249 on 18th; 323 on 21st and 201 on 25th.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

The Blackmoorfoot Reservoir roost had three counts over 200 during January with 387 on 8th, but then much lower numbers down to the last on 8th April followed by single figure counts from 9th July until early November, with a peak for the year-end of 343 on 27th November. Very few records submitted from other localities.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor.

Two first-winter birds at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during December, the first on 2nd and the other on 20th (MLD, JMP).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor

A second-year bird near Whitley Common on 31st December (DJS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had 189 on 2nd and 272 on 8th January, then fewer until 77 on 12th February and only single figures after 22nd February on six dates up to 4th May. One on 26th August and single

figures on only five dates before November, with peaks of 139 on 27th November, and 142 on 7th and 141 on 25th December. Apart from 21 at Whitley Common on 21st November the scattering of records from elsewhere were only of one to six birds.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*
Scarce passage visitor.

Five records of singles at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir occurring on 5th February, 2nd, 18th, 28th and 30th March.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*
Uncommon passage visitor.

Only positively identified on four occasions, with at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one west on 26th April; nine on 28th May and an adult west on 1st August. Two at Scout Dike Reservoir on 30th July.

Birds not specifically identified which could have been either this or the next species occurred at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th June (one); 22nd August (two adults west); 4th (seven) and 21st September (two), and in addition one north over Berry Brow on 11th May; one at Booth Dam Quarry and over the reservoir for two hours on 23rd May before departing west, and another briefly on 31st May and four west over Crossley's Plantation on 27th August.
Addition to the 1986 Report: One 'Connic' over Ossett on 15th July.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*
Uncommon passage visitor.

All the records were from Blackmoorfoot Reservoir commencing with three north on 28th May; three on 12th June; two which departed west on 11th July; two on 26th July and one on 29th August.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*
Scarce passage visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 25th May (JEB).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*
Resident breeder.

A flock regularly in the Broadstones area early in the year numbered 250 on 14th February, 515 at Shelly Woodhouse on 8th February. Although not fully wild or a full species it is in fact considered to be an element of Rock Dove *Columba livia*, it is felt that large flocks and breeding localities should be recorded as numbers of these birds are significant in the local avifauna.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*
Resident breeder (2-3). Common winter visitor.

As the species was only reported from ten localities it is probably again being under-recorded.

Breeding evidence was confined to pairs seen on rocks at Booth Dam and at Lindley Moor, although other records were submitted to Atlas Recorders. No flocks of any size were reported, although westerly movement was again noted at Blackmoorfoot in particular during late March and during August and September, with totals of 21 and 18 respectively in those last two months.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4), Numerous winter visitor.

Even less in evidence than in 1986 which was considered to be a poor year.

181 west over Blackmoorfoot on 21st November, and flocks of 300 at Gunthwaite on 29th October, and 200 at Norcroft near Cawthorne on 6th December.

Widespread evidence of breeding obtained during atlas survey work.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3).

Breeding evidence, including displaying birds, at Salendine Nook, Dalton, Almondbury, Blackmoorfoot, Golcar (increasing) and Deffer Wood.

The largest gathering reported was of 14 on a house roof at Beaumont Park on 3rd March.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Migrant breeder (1-2).

Three singles reported, the first two were singing males at Horbury Bridge on 27th and Deffer Wood on 31st May, and another at Stockmoor Common on 5th June, and two at Thurgoland on 9th June.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

One at Penistone on 26th April (NP).

This obvious escape has been published as this species is known to be able to survive in the wild in Britain, and has done so locally sometimes for several months.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2).

More April records than usual commencing with one at Digley on 25th; one heard at Springwood, Bretton on 26th; two males together at Scamonden on 27th, and singles at Yateholme, at Tunnel End, Marsden, at Head Clough and Little Moss (by the Pennine Way west of Buckstones) all on 29th. Reported from 16 localities during May and a further five during June suggests a slightly healthier situation than in 1986. An hepatic female at Blackmoorfoot on 29th June. Five together in Marsden Clough, and probably up to eight in that area on 27th May.

One very late young bird being fed by Gunnocks *Prunella modularis* at Fernside Park between 22nd August and 2nd September.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Resident breeder (1).

Remains elusive to local birdwatchers despite a variety of rumours being received from the general public particularly in the immediate vicinity of Huddersfield.

One at Bentley Springs on 28th January (BBS).

Reintroductions being carried out to the east of, and in the south of our area should lead to a more viable population being established. (per Barnsley Bird Study Group)

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2).

Breeding proved at Lindley Moor, and at Upper Denby where a pair have apparently bred for about five

years. Probable breeding pairs located at Scammonden, Almondbury, Longwood Valley, Skeelanthorpe and near Cawthorne, whilst singles were at 11 other places during the breeding season. One found dead at Tunnel End on 22nd January.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
Resident breeder (2).

Reported from 15 localities plus a number of others during the course of breeding atlas survey work. Three pairs bred successfully in Bretton Park, and other successful pairs each with two young were in Longley Wood and at Gunthwaite.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*
Resident / migrant breeder (1). Scarce winter / passage visitor.

One north of Black Hill on 19th April where a pair may have bred (per DWY). One at Oldfield, Honley on 12th September pursued an injured Rook *Corvus frugilegus* before flying off east at a high altitude (WDH). Two seen at Netherton near Honley early in the year (JG).

SWIFT *Apus apus*
Migrant breeder (2).

Three north over Kirkburton on 27th April were relatively early and the next was one at Bretton Park on 30th, then another at Ingbirchworth on 2nd May, 14 at Blackmoorfoot and 20 at Ingbirchworth on 9th May, and smaller numbers at three other places. A steady increase and spread during the next week, with higher spring numbers than usual at Blackmoorfoot with 48 on 11th; 98 on 12th; 94 on 15th; over 380 on 17th; 160 on 19th; 122 on 20th; 250 on 22nd and 113 on 28th May and 155 on 2nd June. Over 50 at Bradley Park on 19th May, and a similar number over Aspley in early June.

Bred at Albert Street, Lockwood and on a mill in Commercial Street; in old mills at Digley and Colnebridge, and at a mill site at Acre Street, Lindley. Up to 40 in the Aspley area on 6th August and 49 at Blackmoorfoot on 9th, but by 13th most had left the area, and the last one was seen at Blackmoorfoot on 29th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*
Resident breeder (1).

A further upsurge in the numbers reported which suggests that the above status of less than 20 pairs may be an underestimate. We feel it is not wise at the present time to release the precise details of breeding localities but leave that information with the fortunate finders.

Two pairs bred along the River Colne and from information received it is possible that three more pairs could have bred. At least two pairs may have bred along a tributary of the Colne. There were sightings in the breeding season along the River Holme and Hall Dike. At least three pairs bred along the River Dearne, and in at least one tributary of that river a pair was located. Also recorded in the breeding season along the Rivers Don, Calder and Ryburn.

Outside the breeding season there were frequent records from the River Colne and others from Elland B.P., Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Hill Top Reservoir, Meltham, Gunthwaite, Scout Dike Reservoir, Bretton Park, and Cannon Hall.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*
Rare visitor.

One at Scammonden in the mixed plantation on the hillside south of the picnic site on 22nd April (KP).

BA, et al), and 23rd April (JP). Seventh record for the area.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*
Resident breeder (1-2).

There are encouraging signs from breeding atlas records and the overall number of reports that the species is more common than indicated in the lower end of the status statement above, and that more than 20 pairs are probably present in good years.

Recorded in 32 localities with breeding proved near Elland, at Drop Clough, at Bretton Park, near Sheepridge and probable in the Longwood Valley, at Deffer Wood, near Holmbridge and in the Digley area.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*
Resident breeder (2).

Reported feeding in gardens and on bird tables in winter months at Sheepridge, Lockwood, Marsden, Almondbury, Edgerton, Thick Hollins and Hinchliffe Mill.

Widespread breeding reports included woodlands in the Bradley and Sheepridge areas, woodlands along Hall Dike, Penny Spring Wood and Fenay Lane near Almondbury, Beaumont Park, Brooke Wood (Honley), Lepton Great Wood, Bretton Park, Daffer Wood and Cat Hill (near Penistone).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*
Resident breeder (1).

Reported on more than 20 dates from Bretton Park, with four claimed on 8th February and 29th March. A pair found breeding and feeding young in late May at a new site in SE 11 (SRG et al).

Outside the breeding season singles at Elland Park Wood on 24th February, Harrow Clough on 17th March, and Broadstones on 6th November (HQ, JED).
1986 Addition:- One male in Coxley Valley on 21st January (6CO).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*
Resident breeder (3-4).

Birds were singing in territory in several areas from 16th February to the month-end, but in upland localities are easily affected if weather conditions deteriorate and in general do not settle down until April. No large numbers recorded apart from 60 feeding on grassland at Crosland Hill on 9th March, and 54 moving west over Drop Clough on 25th September.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*
Migrant, former breeder.

Remains scarce with a similar number of records as in 1986. Singles at Bretton Park on 5th and 12th April, and two at Hill Top Reservoir on 7th. At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir one on 15th, and two on 18th and 22nd April, then two on 14th, three on 15th and one on 27th May. At Ingbirchworth Reservoir five on 21st April, one on 25th April and one on 9th May. Bretton Park had two to three from 18th to 20th April but no later reports received. One at Cupwith Reservoir on 2nd May. Present at Scout Dike Reservoir on 30th July, and one to three at Blackmoorfoot on six dates from 24th July to 6th September.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor.

Two each at Elland G.P. on 8th and Bretton Park on 11th April, increasing steadily at the latter site to 30 on 19th and 90 on 20th April. Arrived at seven other sites between 12th and 20th April, but a really marked influx took place in early May when there were 100 at Ingbirchworth and 21 at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd, with 42 there on 14th.

Although breeding throughout the area we have no real indication that numbers have recovered from the decline which was noted nationally in 1984.

Over 100 at Ingbirchworth on 18th July and over Springwood, Bretton on 16th September, whilst on 14th September well over 500 were feeding over farmland between Cannon Hall and Deffer Wood. Moderate numbers at Blackmoorfoot in the autumn apart from over 250 south on 6th October. Late singles at three places on 18th October, at Blackmoorfoot and Bretton Park on 24th and Millhouse on 30th. Four south at Silkstone Common on 2nd November.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3).

The first one at Bretton Park on 11th April, with up to six on a few days before 20 on 22nd, but only singles elsewhere at Waterloo and Ingbirchworth by that date. Appeared at three other places before the month-end and at Blackmoorfoot on 1st May, and good numbers there by 14th with 66 then 86 on 17th May. 120 in the Ingbirchworth area on 2nd May.

As with the previous species breeding was widespread, but we cannot determine whether numbers are increasing. Some counts in the early autumn, and adults feeding young at a number of nests in September were quite encouraging.

86 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st August, and over 50 were present on 31st July and 9th to 26th August. 50 at Golcar School on 15th July; 140 at Ingbirchworth on 7th August; 94 at Almondbury on 2nd September; over 400 between Cannon Hall and Deffer Wood on 14th September; 200 at the former place on 15th; 197 on wires at Drop Clough on 17th September, and 95 feeding near Outlane on 19th. Recorded at six places during October including the last one at Penistone on 30th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (3).

One at Deffer Wood on 12th; one at Bretton Park on 13th April, and two on 15th then one at Yateholme on 16th April, and three on 17th followed by a really impressive influx on 18th, with birds at five other places including at least 12 singing males, and at least as many probable females at Deffer Wood.

Although some of the better breeding localities, were not counted over 30 singing males were located during May, and at least ten more during June including eight in Royd Edge Clough near Meltham. With territorial or breeding birds reported from nearly 30 sites it would appear to have been a good season.

Late singles at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd September and Thick Hollins on 4th, and at Gunthwaite on 14th.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder (4-5). Partial migrant.

The only report in the early winter was of two at Silkstone S.F. on 5th January. As usual birds began to return to the uplands and the west of the area during March commencing with

20 by the canal at Bolcar on 14th, then up to 30 at Digley on 22nd and 60 on 28th, and moving west on 29th were 17 at Netherton and 18 at Blackmoorfoot, and further 19 west there on 30th.

The usual high numbers that accumulate during April prior to breeding were not reported but the species was found to be very common during atlas survey work in SE 01 during April and May.

Southerly passage recorded at Blackmoorfoot on five September and three October days totalled 223 and 80 respectively, and during the period 2nd September to 10th October 3037 moved west over Drop Clough with a maximum of 623 on 25th September. 53 on Lindley Moor on 19th September where 25 moved west on 7th October, and 40 at Digley on 11th October.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Rare visitor.

One flying west over Digley on 23rd October was heard calling and one was feeding alongside Whitley Road on 6th November (JED).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (1).

Two males at Stratton Park on 25th April and singles there and at Penistone on 26th April. A male was in a suitable wet meadowland area near Penistone on 21st and 22nd May, but that and the foregoing were the only spring records apart from one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th June.

During August singles at Blackmoorfoot on six dates and at Ingbirchworth on two dates, and three at Densbury S.F. on 30th. Singles during September at Blackmoorfoot on four dates and at Scout Dike Reservoir on 16th, and at Royd Moor Reservoir on 20th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2).

Reported from 30 localities with breeding proved at Ashbrow Mills, Monley Bridge, Meltham Mills, New Park (Denby Dale) and Ingbirchworth, and probable at Booth Wood, Longwood Valley, Jackson Bridge, Bretton Park and doubtless near Blackmoorfoot Reservoir where three juveniles were seen on 27th June.

Occurred in both winters at five localities and presumably present at many more. A few singles south at Blackmoorfoot during September with a maximum of four on 13th.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3).

Continues to roost at the Civic Centre during the winter, but the only count was of about 100 gathering at the nearby car park on 30th December prior to roosting. 31 noted going west at Booth Dam Quarry to roost on moorland on 15th April. 39 were feeding on grassland between Cannon Hall and the park lakes on 14th September, and over 20 were near Springwood Colliery on 6th August.

Bred at Booth Dam, Woodsome Lees, Yateholme and Bretton Park.

WAXWING *Bombusilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon, winter visitor.

Three singles reported during January; at Wakefield Road, Dalton on 1st (Mrs. Moxon); in the Town Centre near the Library and Polytechnic Sports Hall for several days around 12th (SMC et al) and at Stocksnoor, Thurstonland.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*
Resident breeder (2).

Breeding confirmed at Ryburn, Moss Moor, Piper Holes (Marsden), March Haigh (two nests), Hill Top Reservoir, Longwood Valley, West Vale, Fenay Beck, Denby Dale and near Penistone. Birds present in likely breeding areas at Tunnel End, Meltham, Digley, Little Don Valley, Hinchliffe Mill, Crowden and near Blackwoorfoot.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Resident breeder (3).

Breeding atlas survey work indicates that the species is doing well following a few milder winters, and has been found in woodland habitats again.

DUNMOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder (3).

Less easy to locate than either Wren or Robin but at the time of writing breeding has been confirmed in 30 tetrads.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*
Resident breeder (4-5).

During the breeding survey has so far been located in 90 tetrads with confirmed breeding in 65 of these which represents 72%, a much higher proportion than the two previous species.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochturoides*
Rare visitor.

One near Molebridge on 18th April (CH) and one near Chew Reservoir on 26th November (POB).

Addition to the 1986 Report: One to the north of Digley Reservoir on 18th April (J.L.-M).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Migrant breeder (2).

One at Bretton Park on 5th April was a long way ahead of the next which were two males at Swinden Plantation on 22nd, a more typical arrival date, then singles at Hay Clough on 24th and Scaemonden on 26th, by which time at least four were in the Digley area.

Breeding confirmed in the Digley and Yateholme areas and near Helme. Singing males at Turner Wood, Rishworth (four), Barkisland, Bradley Wood, Royd House Wood, Windybank Wood, Brookes Wood, Netherley Wood, Crossley's Plantation and Bank Wood at Wilshaw.

One at Yateholme on 3rd September, and two near Scout Dike on 13th September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2).

One at Scaemonden on 24th and 25th April and four at Meltham Moor on 27th were the only ones reported before early May.

Bred at Rishworth Moor, near Booth Dam, Scaemonden, Meltham, Royd Edge Clough, Wessenden Head and

near Broadstones.

Singing males in the Digley, Langsett and Ingbirchworth areas, and also on one date only by Manchester Road above Marsden, near Lingards and at Bradley Park.

Four on Lindley Moor on 2nd September, and one on 16th and three near Royd Moor on 18th.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Occasional breeder (1). Scarce passage visitor.

One male at Royd Edge Clough on 11th October (MT).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (2).

One at Booth Dam Quarry on 29th March; one at Digley on 30th and four at Meitham Cop on 31st. Widespread during the first half of April including nine on Lindley Moor on 10th and nine in Royd Edge Clough on 12th, and later 10 at Scamondon on 23rd.

Bred at Rishworth Moor, Booth Dam Quarry, Scamondon, Crosland Heath, Digley, Pikenaze Moor and Broadstones. Pairs also present at Moss Moor, March Haigh, Yateholme and near Ingbirchworth.

One west at Cumberworth Lane, Denby Dale on 22nd and one at Annat Royd Lane on 25th September.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (2).

A male at Digley on 22nd March and another at Deer Hill on 30th. No large gatherings, with five along Issues Road above Holme on 22nd April being the highest count.

Bred at Vessenden Head, Marsden Clough, Heap Hill Clough, Hey Clough and Booth Dam Quarry, and also present in the breeding season at Rishworth Moor, Deanhead, Holme Moss, Yateholme, the Little Don Valley and Royd Edge Clough.

One at Royd Edge Clough on 13th September.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

A party of over 30 were with Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* near Hopton Mills at Lower Hopton on 10th January, but otherwise reports were only of small numbers.

Widespread breeding throughout the area in many habitats including sheltered moorland sites at up to 1200 feet above sea level.

Down movement to the west over Drop Clough from 11th to 14th November totalled 477, with 326 of these on 11th, on which date good numbers were on Town Centre buildings.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Numbers during January were low, apart from 70 at Lower Hopton on 10th. During February, a month when the species tends to be scarce in the area, they were noted at about ten localities particularly towards the north-end with 70 at Netherthong on 18th; 65 at Digley on 19th; 80 at Ingbirchworth on 21st and 111 there on 28th; 350 at Bretton Park and 110 west at Gunthwaite on 22nd.

100 at Gunthwaite on 1st March and 150 at Broadstones on 15th, 120 at Grange Moor on 12th April; 100 near Scout Dike on 17th and 200 near Spicer House Lane on 18th April. The only May record was of one at Bradley Wood on 7th and 13th.

Small numbers occurred during October from 6th until 24th when the first three figure counts were reported, but well in advance of these were three west at Drop Clough on 15th September and eight south-east over Denby Dale on 28th. Over 100 at Broken Cross, Almondbury on 24th October; 60 west at Carlecotes and 257 west at Blackmoorfoot on 25th; 45 south-east over Skelmanthorpe on 30th, and smaller numbers at three other localities during the month.

In November 72 at Blackmoorfoot on 1st; 85 at Bretton Park on 2nd; 70 at Elland G.P. on 7th; 100 south west at Shelley Woodhouse on 9th; 386 west at Drop Clough from 11th to 14th; 454 south-west over Blackmoorfoot on 14th; 80 at Scout Dike on 16th and 50 at Broadstones on 21st. Quite scarce during December with a flock of about 100 at Colnebridge on 22nd being the only sizeable one.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (4).

Always fairly scarce during the winter months apart from pockets in sheltered areas of woodland and garden habitats, it is nevertheless fairly widespread as a breeding bird, being present in 77 tetrads, with breeding confirmed in 49 of these from the atlas survey work.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Only ten records received for the early months and it seems likely that there was a genuine scarcity in the area. About 30 at Norcroft, Cawthorne on 5th January; 14 at Bretton Park on 8th February and ten at Slaithwaite in that month; 15 at Skelmanthorpe on 11th March; 12 at Paul Lane, Colnebridge on 3rd, and ten at Digley on 4th April, and four other records in January and February of one to five.

Two over Bretton Park on 3rd October, then one to three at Drop Clough, Blackmoorfoot and Almondbury up to 12th, 107 north over Blackmoorfoot on 25th October. Flock sizes during November and December were small the largest being of 50 at Colnebridge on 20th November; 30 at Bretton Park on 22nd November, and 20 near Cawthorne on 6th December.

1985 Addition; 210 briefly in an Ossett garden on 3rd February departed north.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3).

A flock of over 30 at Leeds Road Playing Fields on 10th August, and during September 15 at Krumlin on 6th; 13 at Blackmoorfoot on 13th and 17 at Digley on 28th. The highest counts came from Drop Clough, with 34 on 16th September and 42 on 17th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1).

Is quite scarce in the area and is most frequently located along the River Calder. Birds near that river including singing males during May at Mealey Mills, Horbury Wyke and Horbury S.F. (DP) and one at Elland G.P. on 23rd July (MLD).

One in song at Royd Moor (NAP) and another by the canal at Golcar (CH) on 26th April. A male at Coxley Dam on 5th June (DP), and two males near Booth Wood Dam on 11th June (PRD).

At Blackmoorfoot Reservoir two caught and ringed on 2nd August and two more on 8th August (MLD).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare passage visitor.

A male in song at Bretton Park on 2nd May (MT).

Singles caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 29th August and 9th September (MLD) were the first there since 1977.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1).

A pair at Gunthwaite Dam on 9th May, and singing males during the month at Bretton Park on 19th; Coxley valley on 20th; Bretton Park on 25th, and Thornhill on 27th. Further singing males at Emroyd Common and Overton on 4th June, and at Royd Moor Reservoir on 7th June. A male was in song at Horbury Wyke through much of May and June.

Singles at Forest Road, Dalton on 6th and 29th August, and at Ingbirchworth on 20th September.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2).

Singles in Deffer Wood on 18th and 26th April were relatively early, and others were located between 3rd and 7th May at Kirkburton S.F., Silkstone S.F., Skelmanthorpe and Springwood (Bretton).

On 27th May 23 singing males were counted along the Calder Valley in the Horbury and Thornhill areas where there had been ten in 1986 in a similar count.

In addition to the above sites singing males were at ten other localities during May and June including five in the Bradley Park Golf Course area on 19th May.

None reported after mid-July.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2).

Three in Deffer Wood and one in Bretton Park on 26th April, with three at Bretton on the following day. Several singing males at Stocks Moor Common, Silkstone S.F. and Gunthwaite Dam on 3rd and 4th May, and a general arrival at breeding sites during the next week.

Bred at Deffer Wood, Bretton park, Berry Brow and as far west as the Longwood Valley.

In the east of the area from the Coxley Valley south to Silkstone 26 singing males were present in early June. Three caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir including the last one on 13th September.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (2-3). Scarce winter visitor.

Overwintering birds at Sheepridge with two males from 3rd January, and at Lockwood one male from 15th February to 1st March.

A male in Bretton Park on 12th April, and then on 18th April three males there and two each at Elland G.P. and Deffer Wood, and one at Silkstone S.F. Observed at nine more localities before the month end.

The species seems to have been fairly adequately reported and a total of 100 singing males were distributed below about 600 feet above sea level including 12 in Bretton Park, ten in Stoneycliffe Wood, seven in Deffer Wood and six in the Longwood Valley, mostly being counted during late May.

Of two caught at Blackmoorfoot on 4th September one was re-trapped on 19th. One was at Berry Brow on 30th September.

Single males at Paul Lane, Colnebridge from 28th October to 2nd November and at Lumb Lane, Almondbury on 26th November. One at Silkstone Common on 19th and 20th December.
Addition to the 1986 Report; A male at Bretton Park on 18th December.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Migrant breeder (1-2).

Two in Deffer Wood on 26th April and one at Meltham Mills on 27th, and by the first week of May four and two singing males respectively at these sites, and singles at Drop Clough and New Park (Denby Dale).

Breeding localities included Moll Springs, Spring Wood (Netherlon), Lepton Great Wood, Deffer Wood, and Meltham Mills.

About 25 singing males reported, which although fewer than in 1986 is considerably more than earlier in the 1980's.

None reported after late June.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Migrant breeder (2). Scarce winter visitor.

One in the Golcar area on 25th March and one at Bretton Park on 31st. In general rather later than usual not being recorded at some of the regular breeding sites until between 8th and 12th April.

Approximately 30 singing males reported with pairs breeding at Beaumont Park, Bretton Park and Deffer Wood.

Birds in several localities in September, and singles at Bretton Park on 8th and 15th November.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Migrant breeder (3-4).

On 8th April four at Silkstone S.F. and two each at Elland G.P., Golcar and Deffer Wood, and by the 10th eight at Deighton, but only briefly, and one at Bretton Park, where there were seven on 12th, and at least 20 by 19th. Reported from more than 20 localities by 19th April.

As usual the most widely distributed and numerous warbler and at the time of writing breeding has now been confirmed in 58 tetrads.

Late birds at Blackmoorfoot on 21st and Cowcliffe on 23rd September. An unusually late record of one singing in a Meltham garden on 27th October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*
Resident breeder (2). Common passage visitor.

Much more widely reported than in 1985, and after a blank year at Blackmoorfoot in 1986 was recorded on 32 dates mainly between 5th September and 2nd October including 30 on 15th September.

Breeding proved at Bretton Park and Deffer Wood and present during the breeding season at four other localities.

Some evidence of autumn movement at Drop Clough from mid-September, and small parties were located at Scout Dike and Bretton Park in early November, whilst at Deffer Wood 21 were present on 29th October, and possibly up to 100 there on 29th November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*
Migrant breeder (2-3).

Apparently late in arriving apart from one at Meltham Mills on 4th May and two near Sparth Reservoir on 6th, the next being near Holsbridge on 20th.

Bred at Bretton Park, Hepworth and Swinden Plantation and present at 15 other suitable localities.

Late birds at Netherley Wood on 13th September, Blackmoorfoot on 16th and at Cannon Hall on 25th.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Migrant breeder (1).

A male at Bretton Park on the early date of 19th April was presumably passing through (DB). A singing male at Meltham Mills on 3rd May (JMP), and a pair inspecting a nest hole on 4th (DRC) then various other observations here up to 24th June when a male was feeding a juvenile (D Man.). A singing male in Arrunden Wood on 13th May (JMP), and one at Beaumont Park from 16th to 31st May had gone by 6th June (D Man.).

In Deffer Wood a female on 4th May (RD, SEH) and a singing male on 5th (JED, SHD), then a pair on 9th May (DJS) but no further sightings after that date.

One in suitable breeding habitat at Langsett on 14th June (NEP).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*
Resident breeder (2).

A party of nine in Bretton Park on 8th February included a white headed bird first seen in 1955 (JER). Two flocks at Bretton Park totalled 15 on 22nd February, but otherwise parties reported were of five or less in the early months.

Bred at Moll Springs, Honley Wood Bottom, Horbury Wyke, Stockmoor Common, Bretton Park, Silkstone S.F. and Gunthwaite Dam and pairs were observed at six other places.

Good numbers in Bretton Park from 29th November to 20th December including 25 on the last date, and ten to 14 in Deffer Wood during late October.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*
Rare visitor.

At least one in Bretton Park on 8th November (DB), and then one seen at the edge of Oxley Bank Wood from at least 22nd November to 28th December (BA, DMP et al) by many observers from Barnsley and Wakefield as well as Huddersfield.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*
Resident Breeder (2).

Recorded regularly at Deighton and Bretton Park and on occasional dates at five other localities in the early months.

Bred at Bretton Park and Horbury, and present at Stockmoor Common, Digley Wood and near Brownhill Reservoir during May.

One to two at six localities in the late months, and at least four at Crookland Wood on 1st October. This elusive species may be more common than our records suggest and for breeding atlas purposes it has now been recorded in 14 tetrads.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*
Resident Breeder (3).

A regular visitor to garden sites in Sheepridge, Almondsbury and Meltham in the early months.

Evidence of breeding in the Longwood Valley, at Bretton Park, Deffer Wood, Yatcholme and Digley.

At least 30 in Deffer Wood on 29th October, and regularly about 20 in Bretton Park during November and December.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*
Resident breeder (5).

No large flocks reported although 22 were in a Meltham garden on 20th February.

One of the most widespread breeding species in woodlands and gardens and has been located in 104 tetrads breeding being confirmed in 86 of these.

BREAST TIT *Parus major*
Resident breeder (4)

As with the previous species no large flocks were reported, but breeding has now been confirmed in 64 tetrads.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*
Resident breeder (1).

One at Beaumont Park on 21st March (TC), and one at the 1985-86 breeding site on 23rd April, and on 3rd May when it went into the nest hole, and seen again on 6th June, but not apparently breeding (D Man.). One in Orange Wood near Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 4th and 5th July (TD, MLD), and in the woods on the south bank on 7th July (JMP). Two in Bretton Park on 29th March (JER).

One to two in Bretton Park on seven occasions from 8th to 29th November (MLD, PRO, DB et al), and one on 30th December (DP).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*
Resident breeder (2-3).

Reported from over 30 localities. Five in Brackenhall Woods on 15th March.

Bred at Helme, Dogley S.F., Lepton Great Wood, Netherley Wood (Holme), New Park (Denby Dale) and at Bretton Park where there were three pairs. One found dead at Springwood, Bretton on 5th November.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*
Rare visitor.

Singles in the Little Don Valley on 29th October (DJH) and in the Digley area on 15th November (HQ).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*
Resident breeder (2).

Reported from six localities in the early months, and ten during the October to December period but no real evidence of movement, and counts of nine on 29th October and seven on 28th November in Deffer

Wood were the highest numbers.

Bred at Langsett, Swinden Plantation, three woodlands in the Denby Dale area, Hagg Wood, Almondbury, Golcar, Edgerton and Longwood, and pairs present at 12 other localities in the breeding season.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*
Resident breeder (4).

During February the roost at Blackmoorfoot had 63 on 11th, 61 on 14th and 47 on 28th, and in December 43 on 19th, 32 were feeding by the canal at Linthwaite on 18th February, and 25 were at an Edgerton site on 22nd. A recently located roost by Bradley Boulevard had 56 on 2nd and 72 on 12th February. Feeding parties of 30 at Cawthorne on 6th December, and at the Outlane milk farm on 13th December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*
Resident breeder (4).

As usual it was difficult to get a true picture of feeding flocks, movements or roosts as when in numbers this species invariably associates with Rock *Corvus frugilegus*. Movement over Crosland Moor westwards to a roost noted regularly such as 125 on 23rd January. Maxima going south at Blackmoorfoot of 78 on 4th October, and 75 on 27th December. At least 1,000 going to roost at Bretton Park on 15th November.

ROCK *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5).

The club has extensive historical data on rookeries in the area covering over 40 years, and in most years when full surveys are not undertaken few counts are received. In 1937 small rookeries at Hill Top and Springwood (Bretton) held 37 and six nests respectively.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*
Resident breeder (3).

It is known that this species has spread dramatically since the Second World War, but nonetheless it is quite surprising to find that at the present state of our breeding atlas information it occurs in 67% of the tetrads.

The only high count was reported from near Booth Dam on 12th July with over 100 birds in the area, quite exceptional for the time of the year and probably represented many families from the surrounding area having found a good feeding site. Family parties of four to seven birds usually remain within a couple of miles of their breeding site during the summer and early autumn.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*
Resident breeder (5).

No reports of the roosts of large flocks in the area received, but the Town Centre roost continues to hold over ten thousand for many months outside the breeding season. A leucistic bird at St. Lukes Hospital grounds on 20th May had pale buff nape, mantle, wings and tail.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
Resident breeder (15).

At the time of writing breeding has been confirmed in 80 tetrads.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Small flocks during the winters at Paul Lane, Colnebridge of about 20 on 7th January and over 25 on 22nd December. Reported from six other localities in the early months, and four localities near the year-end including at least ten at Castle Hill on 29th November and over 50 near Cawthorne on 6th December.

Bred at Gunthwaite and Longwood.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

Small flocks of about 20 at four places during January and February, although well over 80, were in Crossley's Plantation on 1st March and over 30 of these were in song.

Regular westerly movement over Drop Clough from 25th September to 22nd October totalled 3,752 including 1,084 on 11th October (DM). Flocks of about 100 at Bretton Park on 2nd November; near Royd Moor Reservoir on 15th November and near Cawthorne on 6th December. A flock of up to 50 regularly at Bretton during the last two months; 30 at Cannon Hall on 25th November and over 60 near Scout Dike on 13th December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor.

The large flock that had appeared in the Ingbirchworth area in late November 1986 declined in numbers after early January, but higher numbers were again located in mid February. 100-130 by Annat Royd Lane from 4th to 8th January; 320 in the Broadstones area also on 8th January; then few reported until 11th February when over 100 were near Ingbirchworth again rising to 200 to 250 on 14th and 15th then down to 85 by 22nd, and although no records were received for March from that area may still have been present as 120 were seen as late as 11th April. Elsewhere single figure parties in gardens at Lindley Moor, Longley Lane, Meltham, Holmfirth, Hinchliffe Mill, Lockwood, Almondbury, Netherton, and Oakes most of which proved to be quite long stayers from January even into April in some cases. The party at Longley Lane was the only one to reach double figures peaking at 14 during March. These miscellaneous records all from birdwatcher's gardens plus another long staying party of nine at Brackenhill Woods totalled 64 if we consider the highest counts at each site. It is interesting to speculate how many have wintered in non-birdwatcher's gardens! Also noted at Gunthwaite Dam, 20 on 22nd February; Bretton Park, five on 8th February, and a male at Ransden Clough on 26th April.

Singles during October at Thornhill Power Station on 6th; Blackmoorfoot on 23rd, 24th and 25th, Deffer Wood on 29th and two at Ingbirchworth on 26th. Bretton Park had good numbers from 2nd November to the year-end. Highest counts there were 70 on 2nd; 50 on 15th, 22nd and 29th, and 60 on 18th November; 50 on 2nd and 27 on 14th December.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4).

Numbers at Blackmoorfoot were not high and included 26 caught on 23rd January, and over 25 present on 25th October. A flock of 200 near Ingbirchworth on 6th and 20th September.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2-3).

Single figure parties at Dalton and Bretton Park in January and one by Annat Royd Lane on 24th January. This last record was at an unusual altitude for this species in mid-winter in our area.

In general a return to the upland localities takes place during April, and reports were received from eight such places between 12th and 22nd April.

Bred at Lindley Moor, Colnebridge, Cannon Hall, Clayton West, Denby Dale and Holsbridge.

September flocks of 31 on Lindley Moor on 1st; 32 at Cannon Hall Park on 14th; 50 near Ingbirchworth on 26th and 40 near Royd Moor Reservoir on 27th. Only four reports during November including six at Bretton Park on 29th, then none after that date.

SISKIN Carduelis spinus

Resident breeder (1), Uncommon winter visitor.

Parties of one to five occurred in garden sites in the early months at Sheepridge, Beaumont Park, Oakes, Netherton, Meltham and Hinchliffe Mill, and also up to eight in Brackenhall Woods during January. Ten at Golcar near the canal on 23rd March down to eight on 26th and two there on 21st April, and two each at Elland G.P. on 24th February and at Silkstone S.F. on 8th April. A flock at Bretton Park numbered 25 on 8th February and from 12 to 20 on various dates between 11th January and 22nd February.

Present in Deffer Wood on 18th April and Swinden Plantation between late April and mid July. Three at Yateholme on 18th August.

Singles at Blackmoorfoot on six dates between 9th September and 23rd October, and a total of 15 south during this period including seven on 25th September. 66 west over Drop Clough between 5th and 11th October.

Good numbers in Bretton Park between 8th November and 2nd December, but as they never formed one united flock numbers were not easily established. Probable maxima of 26 on 8th November, 45 on 15th and 55 on 22nd. Parties of ten at Deffer Wood on 29th October and Gunthwaite Dam on 3rd November, and 15 at Elland G.P. on 7th November, with 14 still there on 12th December. One at Digley on 23rd October and two at Cannon hall on 2nd November.

LINNET Carduelis cannabina

Resident breeder (3-4), Partial migrant.

As in 1986 there were more than usual in the area during the early months when it is generally absent apart from flocks occurring along the Calder Valley. 12 near Ingbirchworth on 24th January, and eight near Broadstones on 8th January, and no fewer than 170 there on 21st February, whilst at Crosland Hill a flock of over 100 on 12th February. Returned to some breeding areas at typical dates between 30th March and 26th April, including a recently arrived flock of 60 at Farnley Tyas on 20th April.

Widespread breeding reports including good sized colonies at Bradley Park and Colnebridge.

A flock of from 50 to 70 at Broadstones from 25th July to 27th September. Another flock near Ingbirchworth of from 35 to 50 between 6th and 27th September, 33 at Outlane on 4th September and 30 at Boshaw Whams on 9th October, but the largest flock fed in a kale field east of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during October, with 120 on 3rd; 180 on 11th and 150 on 25th; and November with 87 on 1st; 68 on 10th and six on 28th.

TWITE Carduelis flavirostris

Resident and partial migrant breeder (2-3).

Has been recorded during the winter months with increasing frequency during the 1980's. Broadstones has proved to be a favourite area and one was there on 21st February with Linnet's *Carduelis cannabina*, and 25 were in a turnip field in that area on 1st March.

Reports of returns to breeding localities were spread throughout April from 2nd to 26th and usually

these only involved small parties or pairs, but up to 20 were on Issues Road on 22nd and 25 at Pole Moor on 28th.
The 10km square SE 01 which has already been very thoroughly surveyed has much suitable habitat for this species and breeding has been confirmed in eight tetrads, and it is probable or possible in ten more.

18 moved south over Blackmoorfoot on 13th September, and westerly movement over Drop Clough totalled 109 between 3rd and 26th September. Flocks of 40 at Flight Hill near Snittlegate on 6th September, and 150 between Digley and Holme on 15th were the largest noted, apart from a feeding flock east of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir which numbered over 25 on 28th November, about 40 from 24th to 26th December and 137 on 30th being the latest ever recorded in that area, and the only three figure flock ever recorded in the Huddersfield area in mid-winter.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor.

Only four records in the early months which included a party of seven at Almondbury on 11th January and 19 in Hagg Wood, Honley on 22nd January.

Noted at seven localities during April all between 17th and 26th, and this included birds at breeding sites such as Digley (two pairs), Deffer Wood (a pair and a flock of eight on 18th), Swinden Plantation and Bretton Park. 16 flew south over Blackmoorfoot on 20th April. Seen again at these localities in May, and also at Lepton Great Wood. A party of ten, mostly juveniles, in Holmfirth from July to 3rd August.

Small numbers in September and October at five localities including Blackmoorfoot where 14 went south on 11th October. A flock of about 25 in Digley Bottom on 13th December was the only report of more than eight anywhere in the last two months.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor.

A good year particularly during the early months when this species normally breeds.

At Langsett eight on 25th January; a pair courtship feeding on 24th February; eight on 8th March including two males; three on 19th March, and on 14th June a male, a female and four juveniles (NEP, MT, L.L-E).

In the Upper Little Don Valley, a mixed party of five on 24th and 26th February (GC, RT, SE et al), including a pair nest building and another singing male; one on a nest on 7th March; a pair at a nest on 28th March (MT), and a pair confirmed breeding in that area (DJS).

The Ransden Clough and Yateholme areas had one on 22nd February, and four on 28th (PB), then during April two pairs and four others on 10th (CH), and possibly two pairs on 19th (O.Man.). Three west over Booth Wood Dam on 28th June, and two in Deffer Wood on 29th October.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2).

Noted at about a dozen sites in the first two months but no more than five in any party.

Confirmed and probable breeding in the Longwood Valley, at Blackmoorfoot, Skeanthorpe, Bretton Park and Deffer Wood.

An influx into Drop Clough in late September peaked at 18 on 26th; at least ten in Deffer Wood on 29th October and eight at Scammonden on 27th November, and one to seven at seven other places during November and December.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare visitor.

One over Blackmoorfoot flew south into Orange Wood on 1st March (MLD). Two at Cannon Hall on 29th March (NEP), and one on 25th November (NL). One in Margery Wood on 2nd May (NEP).

An exceptional series of records in Bretton Park during November and December when a flock feeding mainly on beech mast on the south side of the lower lake gave many observers excellent views of this normally elusive and scarce species. Two on 1st November (D By); one on 4th; three on 8th; one on 9th and 11th; five on 15th; one on 17th and 18th; four on 21st; nine on 22nd; ten on 25th; three on 29th November; seven on 1st; two on 2nd; up to 17 on 9th (GC); one on 13th, 14th and 19th December. These records are the combined submissions of more than 12 observers, and the count on 9th December is the highest on record for the area. One at Cawthorne on 17th November.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor.

A male visited a Lindley Moor garden for a few minutes on 2nd February (SMO). One flew over Ingbirchworth on 8th November pursued by a Merlin *Falco columbarius* (SP). Some evidence of small passerines feeding on Slaithwaite Moor on 20th and 24th December were probably this species (JED).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3).

A flock of 13 at Blackmoorfoot on 14th March was the largest reported in the early months.

Evidence of breeding at Dalton Bank, Blackmoorfoot, Meltham, Castle Hill, Hepworth, Royd Moor, Gunthwaite, Bretton Park and Deffer Wood where up to 20 males were holding territories during late April.

A flock of 40 near Scout Dike Reservoir on 13th December was the largest reported.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident breeder (2).

Noted at only five sites in January and February of which two were in gardens which are visited during severe weather

Breeding evidence at Blackmoorfoot, Meltham Moor, Royd Edge Clough, Wessenden Valley, Scammonden and Bradley Park.

Seven in Royd Edge Clough on 13th September, no other flock being of more than five, and only reported from Elland G.P., Winscar Reservoir and Holme during November and December.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Resident breeder (1).

A singing male at Farnley Tyas on 12th April and 10th May (DRC). A pair at Ealey Park, Clayton West on 10th May in the vicinity of a nest (DB), and one at Ealey on 15th June (GBS). Four singing males located during June at sites to the south of Penistone (NEP). One Thurgoland on 9th June.

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With apologies for any omissions.

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RINGING REPORT

Although very cold, generally unsettled weather governed the first winter period of the year, conditions at week-ends allowed for good catches of Greenfinch to be made as they utilised the pea-nut basket at Blackmoorfoot, the presence of a small but constantly changing Chaffinch population at this site during previous winters has allowed good numbers to be ringed. However, this species was noticeably scarce during the winter of 1986/87 and consequently none were handled during the early months of 1987. The new Duck-trap at Blackmoorfoot came into its own with several Mallard and a single Coot being caught.

The unseasonably wet weather, which prevailed throughout the whole of the nesting season, did nothing to dampen the spirits of breeding birds as the number of nests located and the eventual young reared remained unchanged. For the second consecutive year the Black-headed Gull colony at Black Moss was only just extant; only one nest was built with no young reared. Had it not been for the failure of this colony the number of pulli ringed would have been much higher. Even so, 124 pulli were ringed, this being made up of: Collared Dove (2 Blackmoorfoot), Swallow (4 Booth Wood Dam), Dipper (3 Deer Hill Moss, 6 Mill Top, 9 March Haigh, 5 Piper Holes, 5 Ryburn Reservoir, 5 West Vale), Blackbird (10 Blackmoorfoot, 3 Crosland Moor, 4 Hall Dike, 6 Salendine Nook), Song Thrush (4 Blackmoorfoot), Ring Ouzel (4 Wessenden Head), Histle Thrush (4 Blackmoorfoot), Pied Wagtail (5 Booth Wood Dam), Robin (5 Blackmoorfoot), Duncock (4 Blackmoorfoot), Blue Tit (8 Watarloo), Willow Warbler (7 Blackmoorfoot), Carrion Crow (5 Booth Wood Dam, 1 Scamonden), Greenfinch (10 Blackmoorfoot) and Yellowhammer (4 Blackmoorfoot).

The last two weekends of July see the annual Huddersfield holidays. This holiday period generally coincides with a peak passage of Willow Warblers and good numbers can normally be expected at this time. However, weather conditions play an important part, not only in the number of birds passing through an area, but also on the mist-nets set to intercept them. The weather during this period was abysmal with strong easterly winds for the first week and unsettled showery conditions for the second. Winds from the eastern quarter are not conducive to the catching of birds at Blackmoorfoot and during rainy spells nets can become lethal to the birds ensnared and are therefore put out of commission at such times. These same unsettled weather conditions also prevailed throughout the whole of August but, despite these set backs, when it was possible to erect nets, good numbers of Willow Warblers were found to be present. A record total of 427 was ringed. It could be argued that the final total would have been far higher given better conditions for netting.

Other notable features of the autumn were the catching of a Kingfisher, two Reed Warblers, 10 Spotted Flycatchers and 43 Goldcrests, along with controls of both Willow warbler and Chiffchaff.

The second winter period of the year was unseasonably mild, with no snow and very few periods of sub-zero temperatures. It was perhaps because of these mild conditions that there was a dearth of birds feeding from the pea-nut basket, more natural food presumably being available to them. Hence fewer than normal Greenfinches were handled at this time. The Duck-trap continued to be used throughout this period but again, because of the mild conditions, the local Mallard tended to avoid it.

Despite the unsettled weather conditions which had prevailed at the peak times of the year, a total of 1690 birds were ringed, a total of 42 species was handled and for the ninth consecutive year no new ringing species were handled. Collectively a grand total of 1727 birds were ringed by Club Members.

Once again Trevor Sutton ringed birds in his garden and although he only increased the ringing total by 37 he is to be thanked for his efforts. Unfortunately Dave Hodson, who has ringed birds in his garden in the past, was not in a position to do so during 1987. The additional birds ringed by Trevor have been placed in brackets in the Ring Totals List.

SPARROWHAWK
Recovery Area
Britain 98 Kms

7 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1

KESTREL
Recovery Area
Britain 100 Kms

63 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1

MERLIN

9 : 0

WATER RAIL

1 : 0

MOORHEN
Recovery Area
Britain 109 Kms

18 : 0 (1)
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1

COOT

7 : 0

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

9 : 0

RINGED PLOVER

1 : 0

LAPWING
Recovery Area
Britain 0 - 4 Kms
120 Kms

79 : 2 (3)
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1
1 1
2 1 3

KNOT

1 : 0

DUNLIN
Recovery Area
France

1 : 0 (1)
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1

JACK SNIBE
Recovery Area
Britain 0 - 4 Kms

8 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1

SNIBE
Recovery Area
Britain 55 Kms
Denmark
Spain

53 : 3
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1
1 1
1 1

WOODCOCK

1 : 0

CURLEW
Recovery Area
Ireland
France

4 : 0 (2)
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1
1 1

GREENSHANK

1 : 0

COMMON SANDPIPER

9 : 0

BLACK-HEADED GULL
Recovery Area
Britain 0 - 4 Kms
5 - 50 Kms

672 : 41 (3)
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 4 3 8
1 2 1 2 5 4 3 2 1 3 24

BLACK-HEADED GULL (Continued)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 61 - 125 Kms		1	1		2	1	2	1		1		1	10
150 - 200 Kms		1						1					2

EH69309 1 7.6.83
+ (29.12.87)

Black Moss, near Marsden 53 34'N 1 57'W
Flint, Cloyd, Wales 53 15'N 3 7'W
86 Kms WSW

EH69387 1 22.6.83
1 30.12.87

Black Moss
Sale Water Park, Sale, Greater Manchester 53 26'N 2 19'W
29 Kms WSW
2 : 0

COMMON GULL

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

1 : 1	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
								1					1

STOCK DOVE

5 : 0

WOODPIGEON

Recovery Area

Britain 14 Kms

13 : 1	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
								1					1

FS62099 4 24.7.85
+ 15.8.87

Blackmoorfoot, near Huddersfield 53 37'N 1 52'W
Flockton, West Yorkshire 53 37'N 1 39'W
14 Kms E

COLLARED DOVE

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

15 : 1	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
								1					1

CUCKOO

1 : 0

BARN OWL

Recovery Area

Britain 82 - 96 Kms

150 Kms

1 : 0 (3)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
		1									1		2
						1							1

LITTLE OWL

3 : 0

TAWNY OWL

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

16 : 1	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
								1					1

LONG-EARED OWL

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

2 : 0 (1)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
								1					1

SHORT-EARED OWL

1 : 0

SWIFT

Recovery Area

Britain 17 - 28 Kms

200 : 2	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
								1		1			2

KINGFISHER

5 : 0

GREEN WOODPECKER

2 : 0

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

5 : 0

SKYLARK

5 : 0

SAND MARTIN

21 : 0 (1)

Recovery Area

Britain 10: Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1							1

SWALLOW

3476 : 19

Recovery Area

Britain 0 : 4 Kms

7 : 250 Kms

Spain

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1	2	1	1				5
					2	1	2	6	2			13
									1			1

E231063

1 5,7,87

V 30,8,87

Booth Wood Dam, near Ripponden S3 38'N 1 58'W

Winterset, Wakefield S3 38'N 1 26'W

35 Kms E

HOUSE MARTIN

730 : 3

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

France

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1		1					2
										1		1

TREE PIPIT

11 : 0

MEADOW PIPIT

223 : 1

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1							1

YELLOW WAGTAIL

14 : 0

GREY WAGTAIL

16 : 0

PIED WAGTAIL

635 : 11 (1)

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

9 - 21 Kms

192 - 250 Kms

Portugal

Spain

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1		1			1		3
			1	1				1				3
		1							1			2
2										1		3
										1		1

DIPPER

72 : 2

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1				1			2

WREN

610 : 1

Recovery Area

Britain 230 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
1												1

DUNNOCK

1175 : 11

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

6 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
		1	3	1	2	1	1					10
				1								1

ROBIN

1490 : 25 (2)

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

15 - 28 Kms

72 - 123 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
1	1	1	3	1	3	1	4		2	1	3	21
						2						4
					1					1		2

REDSTART 21 : 0

WHINCHAT 37 : 0

STONECHAT 1 : 0

WHEATEAR 23 : 0

RING OUZEL 28 : 0

BLACKBIRD 5293 : 232 (19)

Recovery Area	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms	19	21	20	31	23	34	22	8	5	5	2	11	210
6 - 104 Kms	4	1	2		1	1	1				1	1	12
110 - 345 Kms	1	1	1	1			1				1		6
Ireland	2	1						1					4
Belgium											1	1	2
Denmark	1	1	1	2	1								6
Estonian SSR				1									1
Finland			1		1	2			1				5
France	1												1
Netherlands										1			1
Norway				1	1				1	3	1		7
Sweden							2	1	1	1			5

FIELDFARE 4 : 1 (3)

Recovery Area	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
France	1											1	2
Greece										1	winter		1
Norway										1			1

SONG THRUSH 497 : 17 (2)

Recovery Area	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms		1	2	4	1	2		1		1	1	1	14
6 - 15 Kms						1	1			1			3
Ireland	1			1									2

REDWING 604 : 3 (12)

Recovery Area	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms												1	1
64 Kms				1									1
726 Kms											1		1
Ireland	1												1
France	2								1				3
Greece			1										1
Italy										2	1		3
Netherlands			1										1
Portugal	1												1
Spain											1	1	2

MISTLE THRUSH 212 : 2 (1)

Recovery Area	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms						1						1	2
32 Kms						1							1

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER 2 : 0

SEDGE WARBLER 63 : 0

REED WARBLER
Recovery Area
Britain 85 Kms

5 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1

REED/MARSH WARBLER

1 : 0

LESSER WHITETHROAT

9 : 0

WHITETHROAT

25 : 0

GARDEN WARBLER

34 : 0

BLACKCAP

62 : 0

PALLAS'S WARBLER

1 : 0

WOOD WARBLER

19 : 0

CHIFFCHAFF
Recovery Area
Britain 400Kms

53 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1

WILLOW WARBLER
Recovery Area
Britain 0 - 4 Kms
18 - 29 Kms
147 - 305 Kms

3670 : 14
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
3 1 4
1 3 1 6
1 3 4

IP1754 3 24.7.87
V 25.7.87
V 28.7.87
X 21.8.87

Blackmoorfoot
Blackmoorfoot
Blackmoorfoot
Waterhead, Oldham, Greater Manchester 53 33'N 2 7'W
18 Kms WSW

GOLDCREST
Recovery Area
France

299 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1

FIRECREST

4 : 0

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

32 : 0

PIED FLYCATCHER

3 : 0

LONG-TAILED TIT
Recovery Area
Britain 0 - 4 Kms

78 : 1
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1

MARSH TIT

2 : 0

WILLOW TIT

43 : 0

COAL TIT
Recovery Area
Britain 0 - 4 Kms

95 : 3
J F M A M J J A S O N D TOTAL
1 1 1 3

BLUE TIT

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms
5 - 11 Kms
19 - 28 Kms
68 Kms

3504 : 33 (2)

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
2	2	2	5	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	2	27
			1		1	1		1			1	5
			1								1	2
								1				1

E189912 3 8.10.86
I 25.7.87

Blackmoorfoot

Rastrick, Brighouse, West Yorkshire 53 42'N 1 47'W
11 Kms NNE

GREAT TIT

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 kms

786 : 7

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
		1		1	1	1			3			7

TREECREEPER

35 : 0

GREAT GREY SHRIKE

1 : 0

JAY

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

12 : 1

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1							1

MAGPIE

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms
5 Kms

105 : 6

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
							3	2				5
			1									1

JACKDAW

12 : 0

ROOK

18 : 0

CARRION CROW

10 : 0

STARLING

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms
5 - 9 Kms
64 - 116 Kms
176 - 256 Kms

722 : 22 (16)

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
		1		3	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	17
				1	1		1					3
		1	1	2	1	2		1	1			10
		1	1									2

Denmark

Estonian SSR

Finland

Sweden

					1				1			2
					1		1					1
						1						2
							1					1

HOUSE SPARROW

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

1873 : 23

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
		1		4	4	6	3	1	1	1	2	23

TREE SPARROW

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms

2384 : 5

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
				1		1		3				5

CHAFFINCH

Recovery Area

Britain 0 - 4 Kms
15 - 80 Kms
176 Kms

695 : 6 (3)

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
				1	1	2						4
				1								2
						1						1

Netherlands

Norway

				1								1
				1								1

BRAMBLING

72 : 0

GREENFINCH

6499 : 80 (13)

Recovery Area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms	2	2	4	4	1	5	3	1			1	2	25
5 - 15 Kms	7	3	8	1	1	2		5	2	1	2	5	37
51 - 100 Kms	1	3	2	4	1	4	1						16
101 - 160 Kms	2	3	1	1		2		2			1		12
216 - 290 Kms		1	1			1							3

VA44267 5M 15.3.86
I 14.4.87

Blackmoorfoot
Wooldale, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire 53 34'N 1 46'W
9 Kms SE

VC05002 3M 14.12.86
X 24.4.87

Blackmoorfoot
Kirtan, Boston, Lincolnshire 52 59'N 0 1'W
142 Kms ESE

VC05027 3M 14.12.86
V 11.6.87

Blackmoorfoot
Ormesby St. Margaret, Norfolk 52 40'N 1 42'E
260 Kms ESE

Note that the two long distance recoveries given in full were ringed on the same date.

GOLDFINCH

41 : 0

SISKIN

2 : 0

LINNET

404 : 2 (22)

Recovery Area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms						1							1
141 - 208	1					1	1						3
France									12	2	1		16
Netherlands									1				1
Spain		1									1	1	3

TWITE

350 : 7

Recovery Area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 265 Kms	1	1											2
Belgium										3			3
Netherlands		1								1			2

REDPOLL

150 : 1 (1)

Recovery Area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 8 Kms									1				1
57 Kms					1								1

CROSSBILL

4 : 0

BULLFINCH

448 : 12

Recovery Area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 0 - 4 Kms		1	1	1		2	1				1	2	9
5 - 6 Kms	2	1											3

E189760 3M 27.9.86
I 26.2.87

Blackmoorfoot
Marsden, West Yorkshire 53 36'N 1 56'W
5 Kms WSW

YELLOWHAMMER

10 : 0

Birds colour marked as 3Js at Alborg, Jylland, Denmark 57° 4'N 9° 48'E during the autumn of 1987 were seen as follows: (Each line represents a single individual)

Blackmoorfoot 4.9.87
28 & 29.8.87
20-22.9.87
25.9.87
11.10.87
22.10.87
29.12.87
Ringstone Edge, near Ripponden 53° 40'N 1° 55'W 12.8.87

Ingbirchworth, near Penistone 53° 33'N 1° 40'W 1.9.87

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 48 - 100 Kms						1		2					3
309 - 332 Kms							2						2

HERRING GULL

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 100 Kms											1		1

KITTIWAKE

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
France			1										1

COMMON TEAL

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Poland										1			1

TAWNY OWL

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 22 Kms											1		1

SWIFT

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 9 - 22 Kms						1	1	1					3

SHALLOW

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 15 - 82 Kms						1	1	1	3	6			12
107 - 315 Kms									3	4			7

B714856 3J 31.8.83
X (20.6.85)

Wintersett, Wakefield, West Yorks 53° 38'N 1° 26'W
Lower Denby, Denby Dale 53° 34'N 1° 35'W
15 Kms WSW

PIED WAGTAIL

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 250 Kms						1							1

WREN

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL

BLACKBIRD

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 16 - 130 Kms	1		2		1								4
225 Kms					1								1

BLACKBIRD (Continued)

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Germany	1												1
Netherlands	1												1
Sweden			1									1	2

FIELDFARE

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Finland		1											1
Sweden	1												1

REDWING

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 41 Kas											1		1

WOOD WARBLER

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain					1								1

CHIFFCHAFF

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 152 Kas										1			1

5N0277 3 12.7.87
V 18.9.87

Eaglesfield, Cockerthorpe, Cumbria 54° 39'N 3° 24'W
Blackmoorfoot
152 Kas SE

WILLOW WARBLER

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 47 Kas										1			1

6K3853 1 7.5.87
V 4.8.87

Cracoe, near Skipton, North Yorkshire, 54° 2'N 2° 0'W
Blackmoorfoot
47 Kas SSE

GOLDCREST

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 80 Kas											1		1

PIED FLYCATCHER

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 140 Kas					1								1

LONG-TAILED TIT

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 25 Kas										1			1

WILLOW TIT

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 23 Kas										1			1

COAL TIT

Area of origin	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Britain 107 Kas					1								1

STARLING

Area of origin
 Britain 30 - 120 Kms
 Finland
 Lithuanian SSR

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
1						1					1	2
							1					1
		1										1

CHAFFINCH

Area of origin
 Britain 130 Kms
 Finland
 Netherlands

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
1												1
1												1
		1										1

BRAMBLING

Area of origin
 Britain 154 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
	1											1

GREENFINCH

Area of origin
 Britain 21 - 50 Kms
 51 - 100 Kms
 101 - 150 Kms
 160 Kms
 270 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
2	4	3	1					1		1	2	14
1			1									2
			2		1					1		4
1												1
1												1

LINNET

Area of origin
 Britain 352 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
			1									1

TWITE

Area of origin
 Britain 140 Kms
 France

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
					1							1
						1						1

BULLFINCH

Area of origin
 Britain 26 Kms

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
									1			1

M. L. Denton

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

In Huddersfield the majority of birds are ringed in places that are accessible to the public, so it is not surprising that a number of 'local' birds are found; eg. dead on road, killed by cat etc.

Large numbers of retraps are also handled, some, many years after ringing. These are tabulated below. The top lines show the approximate period between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the numbers of individuals retrapped or found dead near their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - *Retraps*

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	TOTAL
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER		1			1
HOUSE MARTIN	1				1
DUNNOCK	3				3
ROBIN			1	1	2
BLACKBIRD	2			3	5
WILLOW WARBLER	4				4
BLUE TIT	8	1			9
GREAT TIT	2	1			3
GREENFINCH	3			1	4
					<hr/> 32

This is the first time that Great Spotted Woodpecker has featured in the above table.

TABLE 2 - *Recoveries*

	1yr	TOTAL
BLACKBIRD	1	1

M. L. Denton

RING TOTALS LIST - 1987

The figures in brackets indicate the number of birds ringed by Trevor Sutton

Mallard	7	Reed Warbler	2
Coot	1	Garden Warbler	3
Collared Dove	2	Blackcap	7
Kingfisher	1	Chiffchaff	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	Willow Warbler	427
Sand Martin	1	Goldcrest	42
Swallow	34	Spotted Flycatcher	10
House Martin	148	Coal Tit	1
Tree Pipit	1	Blue Tit	228 (21)
Meadow Pipit	1	Great Tit	43 (11)
Yellow Wagtail	1	Maggie	1
Pied Wagtail	28	Rook	6
Dipper	33	Carriion Crow	6
Wren	36	Chaffinch	20 (3)
Duncock	71	Greenfinch	365
Robin	77 (2)	Goldfinch	2
Ring Ouzel	4	Linnet	1
Blackbird	45	Redpoll	1
Song Thrush	5	Bullfinch	2
Nistle Thrush	5	Yellowhammer	4
Sedge Warbler	4	Reed Bunting	11
		TOTAL	1690 (37)
		GRAND TOTAL	1727

M.L.Denton

BREEDING PEREGRINES AT RISHWORTH MOOR

1986 saw the commencement of breeding by a pair of Peregrines at Derby Delph Quarry, Rishworth with two young birds being raised. For a variety of reasons it was decided that we, (RSPB, North West Region), should try and mount a public viewing facility at the site during 1987. With the Peregrine, as a breeding species still being a rare bird within the South Pennines, the fact that such a scheme would afford protection to the birds and an opportunity to present such magnificent raptors to local birdwatchers and the general public was too good to miss.

After the melee of organising such a scheme two wardens were finally in place at the end of March. From that time things ran smoothly with eggs being laid at the end of March / beginning of April, the first eyass hatching on 6th May, and eyasses fledging between the 16th and 19th June. Early April had seen us install an alarm system, part of which eventually doubled as a microphone relaying sounds from within the nest back to the public hide which, on occasions, lent an extremely realistic touch to viewing! From 20th May when first people were allowed to visit the hide, to 8th July, when the scheme was officially closed over 12,300 visited the site and enjoyed a first class spectacle of either one or both adults, or of the whole family. The youngsters comprised two falcons and one tiercel which, by the first week in July, had dispersed quite widely and were only being seen infrequently.

So ended an extremely satisfying and exciting project which hopefully will assist in establishing still further this bird as a more widely distributed breeding species in this part of the country in addition to providing an enjoyable and educational experience to the many people who visited the site.

The project also allowed the opportunity for the wardens and visitors to record many other species which occurred in the vicinity of the quarry. A selection of the most outstanding was four Greylag Geese flying west on 9th June, eight occasions of 'different' Peregrines intruding at the site, a Bar-tailed Godwit pursued by both Peregrines on 23rd May on which date one bird also pursued a passage 'Commie' Tern and three Crossbill flying west on 28th June.

At this juncture it is opportune to thank all those who offered assistance to the wardens and hope that we can all look forward to a repeat opportunity occurring in 1988.

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