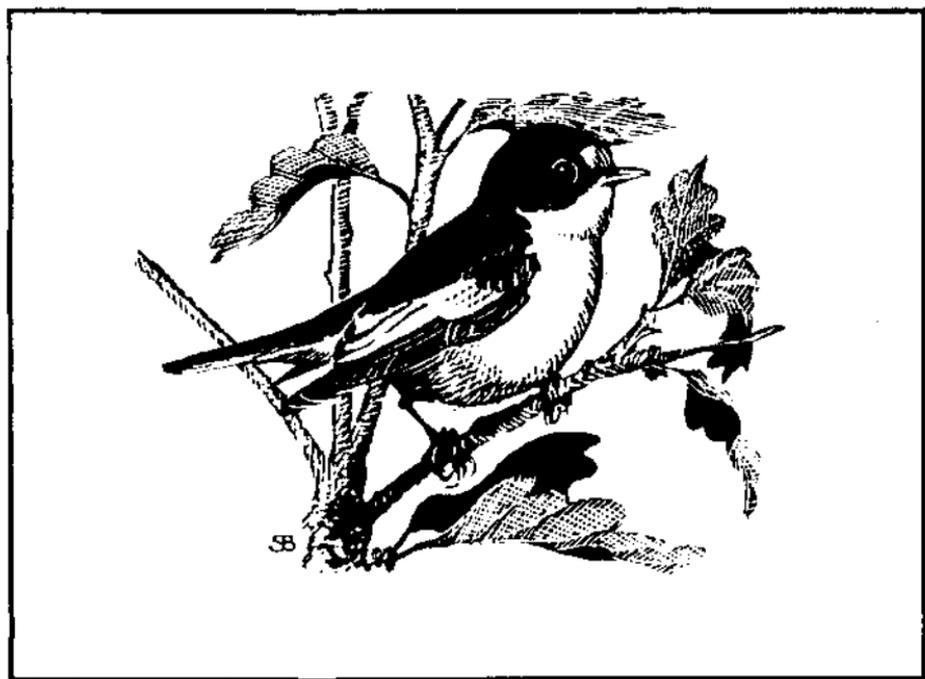


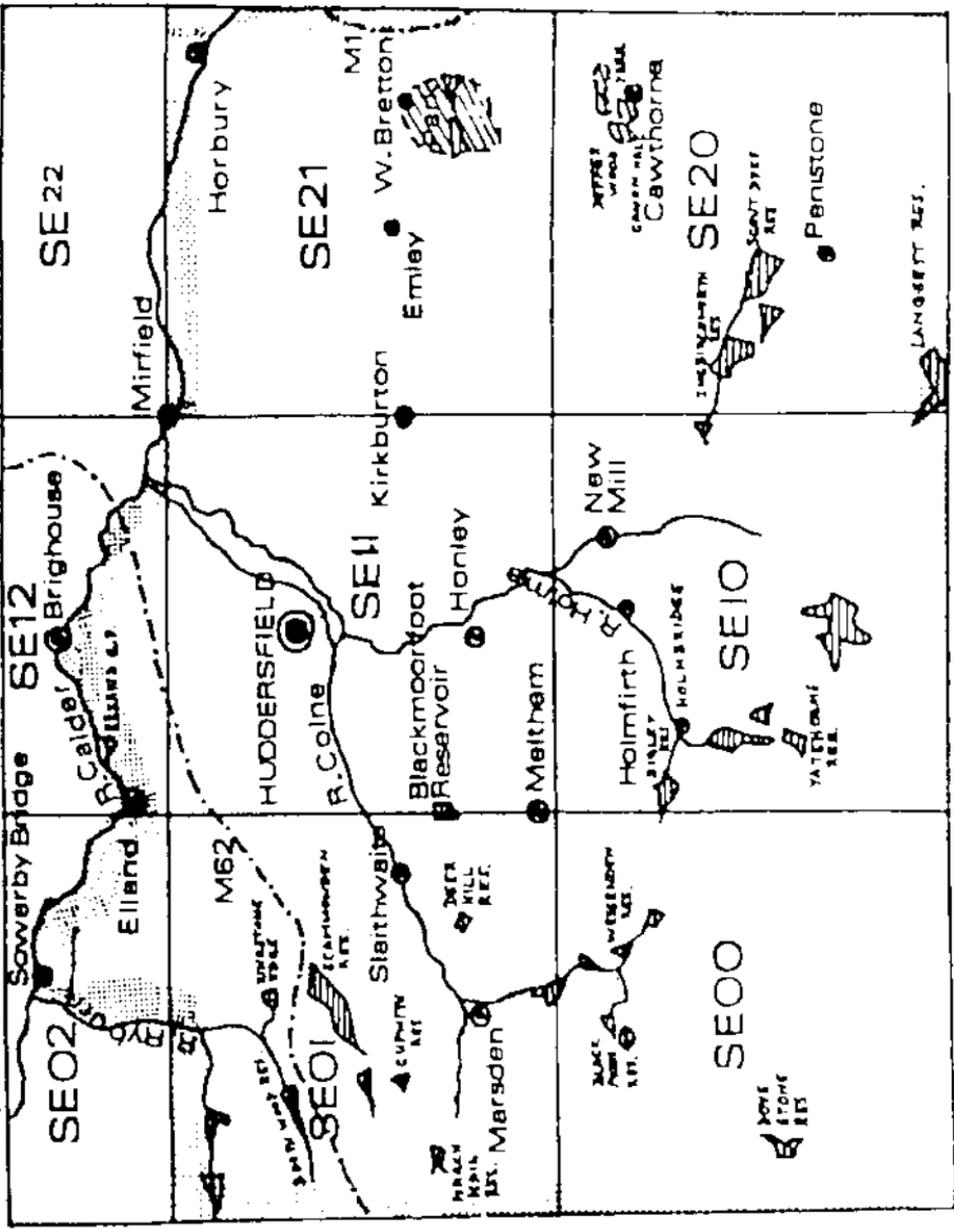
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 1997



ANNUAL REPORT

Huddersfield BWC: boundaries of Club area:



BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1997

Report of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Contents

Inside front cover		Map of the Club area
Page	2	President's Report for 1997
	3	Recorder's Comments
	4	The Classified List
	42	List of contributors and acknowledgements
	43	Field Trips Report for 1997
	46	Ringling Report
	49	Local Retraps and Recoveries
	50	"Murder Without a Motive." <i>M.L.Denton</i>
	52	'Twenty five years of migrant breeders in the Club area
	56	Club officials for 1997 - 8

Illustrations: All by Stuart Brocklehurst

Front cover		Pied Flycatcher
	25	Little Owl
	28	Dipper
	34	Wheatear

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1997

High attendance at our indoor meetings was a testimony indeed to our speakers, for the content, global coverage and narration of their programmes. The responses and the reception given to them were gratifying to everyone and warmly received. I feel there has never been a better season.

The 1998 - 1999 season is already fully booked, beyond that however there is cause for concern. David Barrans has now retired as recorder and I thank him for his fortitude and endeavours. We are indebted to Brian Armitage, who has agreed, on a strictly temporary basis, to occupy this position.

The work carried on by David Woodhouse, David Butterfield and Mike Denton continues unabated and we are most grateful.

I return to my previously expressed concern. **This is your Club**, and its activities must be co-ordinated and run in a manner in keeping and allied to the majority of your wishes. A new millennium approaches, and we will be guided through by David Holloway but what after ?

There is no President elect, no indoor meeting organiser, no replacements for the vacancies within the committee - no Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club beyond 2000 ? I hope not !

This is your Club - now and beyond 2000. To survive and to continue you must come forward if you want a Huddersfield Birdwatchers Club. No afterthoughts, it is the best of bird clubs and it provides the best of meetings both indoor and outdoor.

Your club needs you, for it must be that you want your Club !

You ! You ! You ! Come forward it is the only way up towards 2000 and beyond

MALCOLM CHARNOCK
FLA, MLIA (dip)
PRESIDENT H.B.W.C.

RECORDER'S COMMENTS

In spite of, or perhaps due to, some appalling weather, 164 species were recorded and 1997 proved to be another interesting year. One of the highlights was the number of Waxwings which remained with us from 1st January and were regularly seen up to 17th March. The highest number being 82 on 3rd February. The weather conditions could perhaps have been responsible for the large concentration of Wigeon during the second half of the year, with 81 being present at Blackmoorfoot on 16th October. An interesting observation was the arrival and departure of Goosander, any potential observer of this species would be advised to be up and about before dawn or to go in search of the birds at dusk.

Raptors, as usual, were well recorded with many behaviour details noted. Hopefully the persecution of these birds will be brought to a halt but I'm afraid that they appear to still be regarded as a threat by some individuals and a challenge to the illegal pursuits of egg collectors. The Montagu's Harrier on 14th May was only the seventh to be seen in the Club area.

Garden reports turned up not only the usual species, but all three woodpeckers were represented and Treecreepers were reported from gardens at Hinchcliffe Mill and Meltham, yet at the aforementioned location a disturbing report was that House Sparrows were in decline as they are nationally.

The usual interest in migrant breeders spurred me on to look at past records and perhaps answer some questions, such as "is it too early for me to have seen ...?" At the end of this report I have published my findings for the Club area over the past twenty-five years. With all the talk of "Global Warming" I was curious to see if there had been any significant change in the arrival patterns of these migrants. I will leave it to the reader to draw his/her own conclusions.

For those of you who enjoy a mystery, you should find "Murder without a cause" something to puzzle over as a true "Whodunnit".

Finally, as this is my last report as recorder, I would like to thank the many people who have contributed in any way. Some of the reports received have been so well written that I am led to believe that there are potentially a number of recorders waiting in the wings. I do hope that one will come forward to relieve Brian Armitage who has taken over the position strictly on a temporary basis. It is a worthwhile and very enlightening job, I am sure that it has increased my awareness of what is happening in my own area. I am once again indebted to Mike Denton for doing his usual by crossing the t's and dotting the i's and generally ensuring that this is a readable and informative report.

David Barrans.

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 the parts of SE 02 and 12 which lie south of the rivers Ryburn and Calder.

The status of each species occurring within the area has been noted beneath the species name

For the breeding species an estimate of breeding abundance has been made as follows :-

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

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

Precise locations for records of Schedule I species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication may lead to harmful disturbance

The Systematic List

This list mostly follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Prof Dr K.H Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species). Some previously considered races have been given species status in the light of recent findings.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Widespread resident breeder (1)

Reported regularly from the usual locations throughout the year, with evidence of breeding from Elland G.P., Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth, with the the last location recording the highest number ever in our Club area, 13 in September (DBu).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1)

Breeding successes were well reported with three young to the nesting pair at Blackmoorfoot (see later article by M.L.D.), three pairs were successful at Bretton C.P., similarly three pairs at Scout Dike with three, three and four young respectively and at Hill Top two adults and four young were present on 1st August. The maximum number

recorded at Blackmoorfoot was 24 during the last week of August and the first week of September with numbers remaining high until the night of 12th/13th September when there was a sudden exodus leaving only four birds

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Uncommon and passage winter visitor

The first record was of a single at Elland G.P. noted on both 1st and 4th January. On 22nd March a single was seen at Horbury Wyke and on the same day a bird was seen to depart Blackmoorfoot at 08.05 hrs. All other reports came from Blackmoorfoot with three flying west at 15.00 hrs on 2nd April, one west at 09.05 hrs on 4th, three adults south at 08.30 hrs on 18th and two west at 07.25 hrs on 21st. Singles were then noted on 29th April, 1st and 13th May, then three on 16th June. An immature bird (probably a 1st-summer) arrived at 15.20 hrs on 23 June and a juvenile was present on 14th August departing west at 08.00 hrs. Other records were of singles with an adult on 2nd September and an immature dropping in for 50 minutes on 20th and finally two adults on 1st October (MLD)

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
Rare visitor

A 1st year bird was at Elland G.P. on 1st September (SH).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Resident breeder (2)

Many of the 30+ reports were of single birds flying over and some taking advantage of a ready food supply at garden ponds. One unfortunate report was of a dead bird at Blackmoorfoot which had caught its foot in stones on the north bank on 14th October. Breeding took place as usual at Bretton C.P. with 17+ nests on the upper lake and a further five nests on the lower lake by 2nd April (BA). Nests were under construction at Scammonden on 9th March and by 30th three pairs were sitting and a fourth nest was in the process of being built (JED).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Resident, occasional breeder (1)

A pair with one sitting bird was noted at Horbury Wyke on 27th April, the outcome of this was however unknown (J11). Two adults were on the river at Cooper Bridge on 21st July and at Blackmoorfoot an adult appeared on 18th October (MLD), this was only the 7th record of this species from this location since 1953.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce winter visitor

The only record was of three at Ingbirchworth from 19th to 20th November (DHP, RDH)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce winter visitor

The only sighting during the first winter period concerned an immature at Blackmoorfoot on 1st January (MLD). On the same day, 19 swans seen flying north over Golcar, may have been this species or Bewick's (KW). The second winter period produced two juveniles, again at Blackmoorfoot on 5th November (MLD).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor

During the first winter period observations were :

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Jan 11	14 40	100+	W	Blackmoorfoot	JKP
" 24	10.30	250	NNW	Lindley Moor	JED
" 24	11 30	96	NW	Bradley Park G C	DWB
" 25	--	c40	N	Holmbridge	HQ
Feb 26	18 20	?	W	Linthwaite	DWB

During this period a single was at Blackmoorfoot on 9 February (MLD), one with an injured leg was at Longwood Reservoir on 17th (BA) and at this location two were seen feeding in fields on 14th April (JED)

The second winter period proved to be more active, the observed migration passage being:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Oct 11	?	c100	?	Shelley	SG
" 15	17 05	180	NW	Blackmoorfoot	MLD
" 18	07.55	3	SW	Blackmoorfoot	MLD
Nov 9	08.45	143	E	Blackmoorfoot	MLD
" 9	22.50	? heard	E	Shepley	DBa
" 9	22.50	? heard	E	Wooddale	SMB
" 16	09.15	40	W	Bradley Park G C	DWB
Dec 29	15.50	100 +	W	Blackmoorfoot	JKP
" 31	--	50	NW	Scout Dike	BA

Also noted during this period was a single on 15th December at Melham Mills which remained until the end of the year (TD) and at Blackmoorfoot on 28th December one flew west at 15 10 hrs (MLD).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Uncommon passage visitor

The only record was of an immature of the "Greenland race" *A.a.flavirostris* at Scammonden on 27th December, first located by JB and verified by JED.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage visitor

During January a single was seen regularly in the company of Canada Geese at Ingbirchworth (DHP). Also, during that month, two were present at Scout Dike on 14th and a single was at Royd Moor on 18th and again on 8th February (BA). A single was seen again at Scout Dike on 7th May Cannon Hall was still holding seven "resident" birds on 7th September and one was present at Bretton C.P. on 22nd November (SH).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Introduced resident breeder

Once again a large number of records have been submitted for this species. Bretton C.P. appears to have a stable population of c100 and breeding was recorded on reservoirs at Digley, Bilberry, Yatcholme, Boshaw Whams, Little Black Moss, March Haigh and Wingscar. Ingbirchworth had a large concentration during the first winter period with a maximum 156 on 26th January (BA) and during the second winter period 207 on 3rd December (RDH). Royd Moor Reservoir held similarly high numbers with 160 on 18th January (BA) and 230 on 30th November (SH).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor. Feral birds occasionally breeding.

Numbers at Bretton C.P. fluctuated throughout the year with seven on 12th January, three on 11th February, six on 22nd March, one on 2nd April and six on 22nd November. At Cannon Hall two birds were present throughout the year.

Egyptian Goose *Alopachen aegyptiaca*

Rare feral visitor.

A pinioned bird was at Deer Hill Reservoir from 14th July until late September (DMP *et al*).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

During the first half of the year single figures were reported from three locations, Blackmoorfoot had two on 11th February, one on 23rd February, three on 18th March, one on 4th April, two on each of 11th and 24th April, four on 28th April then one on 23rd May and two on 16th June (MLD) At Ringstone Edge there were two on 14th February (JED) and five were present at Royd Moor on 28th April (DHP) Numbers were higher during the second half of the year with, at Blackmoorfoot, six on 16th October, two on 30th October, nineteen on 26th December and one on each of 27th and 31st (MLD) The only other record was of twelve at Ringstone Edge on 26th December (SH).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare visitor from feral populations

The only record during the early part of the year was of a male at Elland G.P. on 24th January (JED). Later records were also of males with one on the canal at Slaitwaite on 22nd September (TD), one at Elland G.P. on 11th October (SW) and near this location on the river Calder on 18th October (DHP) then, finally, two at Blackmoorfoot on 6th November (MLD, DMO, AJW).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Royd Moor held 21 on 18th January (JED), increasing to a maximum of 28 by 28th (BA) and at Scout Dike 19 were recorded on 18th January (JED) and 18 were seen to fly off in the direction of Royd Moor on 8th February (BA) At Horbury Wyke 16 were present on 9th March (JH). During this period Blackmoorfoot, Broadstones and Brookfoot Lake all held birds in single figures. The second half of the year provided an outstanding 81 at Blackmoorfoot on 16th October (MLD), this is the highest concentration since 1981. Birds reappeared at Ingbirchworth with 20 on 4th October (SH), gradually building up to 27 on 11th December (DHP).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

The only record was of a pair at Horbury Wyke on 22nd March (JH)

Teal *Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (1) Common passage and winter visitor

A good number of records were received from ten different localities. During the first winter period single figures were the normal apart from Royd Moor Reservoir where 22

were present on 18th January (JEI) then fluctuating to 14 on 10th March. Two birds were present at Blackmoorfoot from 15th February until 27th, and at Brookfoot Lake eight were noted on 24th January then seven on 6th February. Two pairs were on the R. Calder near Elland G P on 18th April. Other areas supporting single figures were Deanhead Reservoir, Horbury Wyke, Ingbirchworth and Scammonden whilst at Little Black Moss a pair seen on 19th April were behaving as though on territory (JH) and on 2nd April a pair were on the upper lake at Bretton C.P.(BA). The second winter period also gave single figure records from each of the above mentioned locations. The only double figure record was of 19 at Royd Moor Reservoir on 4th December (BA)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3) common winter visitor

A very well reported species with records containing great detail of breeding accomplishments, this was particularly the case at Blackmoorfoot where brood sizes were 9, 4, 18, 6, 8, 2, 12, 6, 9, 9 and 8. The brood size of 18 is stated in "Birds of the Western Palearctic" to be the maximum for a single female. Incidentally out of the total of 91 ducklings only 21 flew!

At Elland G P two broods of 9 and 4 were seen on 28th May (SH) and at Ingbirchworth two broods each of five were noted on 13th June (BA, DBa). The maximum monthly figures at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth were:

Blackmoorfoot

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	18	17	12	17	14	27	22	41	54	41	51

Ingbirchworth

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	19	4	11	10	17	17	24	52	39	51	66

Others reported were Royd Moor with 50 in January and 40 in February, Bretton C.P. with 20 on 11th February, Broadstones Reservoir with 21 on 15th February. Then in the second half of the year, at Lindley on a pond in Plover Road there were 52 on 30th September and 44 during October (JMN). Royd Moor also had good numbers during this period with 75 in October, 32 in November and 26 in December.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

There were only three sightings during the first winter period. The first of these was a leucistic white-cheeked bird which appeared at a small pond in Meltham for a few days in January (DMP, TD). The others were both at Blackmoorfoot, a single on 21st February and two on 17th March. During this second winter period twelve were seen at Deer Hill on 12 September with seven of them flying off towards Wessenden (DMP). A single was

present at Blackmoorfoot on 13th, 17th and 18th September, then on 28th, 13 departed west at 16.35 hrs. In October there were six on 16th and three on 31st (MLD).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Two males were at Bretton C.P. on 12th January (DSI, SH). At Blackmoorfoot there were two on 9th April and a male and a female were seen on 9th June (MLD) and at Royd Moor there was a pair on 16th April (DHP). During the second half of the year singles were seen at Blackmoorfoot on 19th October, 6th and 22nd November. The only other record in this period was of six at Ingbirchworth on 16th October (DHP).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor

At Blackmoorfoot nineteen were present on 16th and 17th January, but only three remained the following day. From 1st February a single was recorded regularly throughout each month until 29th June. During the second winter period, on 16th October, 42 were present for that day only. Numbers then reduced to one or two until the year end. During January at Ingbirchworth there were 30 on 1st, 36 on 28th then numbers reduced to single figures throughout the rest of the year. A similar pattern was noted at other waters, Elland G.P. with 15 on 3rd January, Scammonden with 15 on 13th January and Scout Dike with a maximum of 29 on 8th February.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1) common passage and winter visitor

This is another well recorded species with reports covering every month of the year from Blackmoorfoot, Hoshaw Whams, Bretton C.P., Broadstones, Deanhead, Deer Hill, Digley, Gunthwaite, Horbury Wyke, Ingbirchworth, Meltham Mills, Ringstone Edge, Royd Moor, Scammonden, Scout Dike and Yateholme. Double figures were recorded during the first half of the year from: Blackmoorfoot with up to 22 towards the end of June, Bretton C.P. with 35 on 22nd March, Ingbirchworth with 15 on 27th April and Scout Dike with 10 on 26th March. Breeding successes were reported from Ingbirchworth, Horbury Wyke and Scout Dike but there were probably more.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

The only records were of a male and three females at Blackmoorfoot on 7th July, then, at the same location on 28th September a group of 32 (17 males and 15 females) arrived at 18.35 hrs (MLD, PB).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
Regular but uncommon winter visitor

Numbers at Blackmoorfoot never exceeded three during the first winter period, with the last (3) being seen on 20th April. During this period, there was only a single report from Bretton C.P., a female on 12th January. A single female at Ingbirchworth on 6th January was followed by a male and three females on 28th, then single males and females until 26th March. Ringstone Edge, Scout Dike and Winscar reservoirs held similar numbers at this time. Birds started to return to the aforementioned waters in October and November and were mainly in single figures apart from 17 (nine males and eight females) which turned up at Blackmoorfoot on 5th November. Additional locations during this time were Deer Hill with two on 16th October and Cupwith with five on 10th December.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Rare visitor

The only reports were of "redheads" with two at Elland G.P. (Brookfoot Lake) on 1st January (JED) and again on 4th (SH). Then one was seen at Bretton C.P. on 25th February (DHP).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot once again provided the only records with a male on 14th April (DMO) and two "female types" on 15th October (MLD).

Gosander *Mergus merganser*
Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor

One interesting observation from the well-watched Blackmoorfoot Reservoir was that the birds tended to arrive at dusk and then depart at first light the following day. The fourteen records from this location in January were all in single figures, the highest being nine on 25th. During February there were sixteen records, once again in single figures and again nine birds on the 15th. The seventeen records for March failed to produce anything higher than the five seen on 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 9th. In April there was a male present on 5th, then in May, a female on 18th. During the second winter period up to seven (but usually two or three) were present almost daily from 29th October and numbers were quite high at Bretton C.P. with, in December, 35 on 4th, 12 on 7th, 35 on 13th, 25 on 14th and a high count of 55 (24 males and 31 female) on 22nd (DMP *et al*).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Infrequent visitor but expanding

Very few sightings this year and no reports of breeding birds. At Horbury Wyke however two pairs were noted on 17th May. Other reports came from Scout Dike with two males on 7th May, a single male on 2nd June and a female on 28th September. A single male was seen at Ingbirchworth on 19th August and this remained until 26th when it was joined by a "female type", then odd singles were seen until 19th September with the final sighting being of a male and a "female type". Blackmoorfoot and Bretton C.P. had singles on 25th August and 22nd November respectively.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor

The only sightings were of a male at Holt Head on 1st May (M.I.D) and a "ring-tail" at Doyestones on 3rd May (SG)

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Rare visitor

The seventh record for the Club area was of a "ring-tail" seen as it drifted west at 06.50 hrs over Blackmoorfoot on 14th May (M.I.D).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and rare visitor

Sightings came from a variety of locations. Yateholme provided the first with a single flying SE on 15th February (HQ). In March good views were had of a pair displaying at a location on 23rd. Reports came in from five different locations during April with as many as five birds at one of these. There were no further reports until September when on 10th a female was hunting over the embankment at Ingbirchworth (BA), excellent views of an adult male were obtained near Risby Wood on 17th (J.E.D) and a male provided good views as it flew low over fields near Royd Edge Clough on 24th (J.J, DMP)

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2)

The many observations from 47 different locations gives some indication of the success of this species. Habitats varied considerably and included moorland, farmland, woodland, reservoirs, gardens and even the town centre. Whilst no details of prey were given, a male was seen scattering a flock of Siskin at Holmbridge on 25th January (HQ) and one was noted in pursuit of a Blackbird at Royd Moor on 23rd February (BA).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor

Sightings were all of single birds, the first being in the Digley area on 22nd March (MN). At Langsett one drifted into the Club area at the eastern end of the reservoir on 6th April (RD & SEH). During the following two days one (presumably the same) was recorded over Meltham G.C. on 7th and then, on 8th flying past Will's o' Nat's at 14.15 hrs and over Meltham at 16.00 hrs (TD). In the Lindley Moor area a single was seen flying due north at 10.50 hrs on 30th May then circling and rising on reaching Lindley Moor Edge (JED, SMD)

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

This proves to be a very well recorded species throughout the Club area. Detailed breeding records came from Blackmoorfoot with birds displaying on 10th March and breeding through April and May with four young fledging on 23rd June (M.L.D). Other breeding records came from Bretton C.P., Digley, Golcar, Lockwood, Scammonden and Yateholme. At the latter mentioned site a bird in the company of two others was seen to be wearing jesses. Food carrying was noted near Broadstones, Shepley and Lindley Moor

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Resident breeder (1) and scarce visitor

Two were seen at Yateholme on 10th March (BA) and similarly, two were present at Digley on 30th. A pair bred and successfully raised four young at a moorland location. On 2nd May a pair were present at Midhope (SG) and on 3rd a female was seen over Black Moss flying towards Broadhead Moss (JH). Mating was observed at Meltham on 16th May with the pair remaining until the first week in July but there was no proof of breeding (DMP). Other sightings were : a female or immature at Honley on 12th September (BA), a male at Scammonden on 7th October (JED) and a single flew over Dearne Dike Lane on 4th December (BA).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Rare visitor

What was presumed to be a young bird provided excellent sightings between High Flatts and Ingbirchworth at 16.30 hrs on 21st September. It created chaos as it flew into a flock of 80/100 Starlings, scattering them in all directions. It doubled back into a group and had probably "downed" a catch as it was not seen subsequently (AP).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder (1)

There were a good number of detailed reports received, the first being of a female at Winscar Reservoir on 18th January (JED). Later in the year at this location a male and a female were seen (JED, SH). At Yateholme on 15th February there was a single and a pair were present on 10th March with much calling taking place (BA). An interesting observation at Whitley Common on 2nd March was of a pair, the male of which caught a Lapwing and passed it to the female which took it to the ground. The bird mantled it and started to pluck it but, after about ten seconds the Lapwing flew off, pursued by both birds and minus a lot of feathers. As all three birds flew out of sight the outcome of the encounter was unknown (BA). Other sightings were: a single at Digley on 8th April and 17th August, this one being harried by a Raven and heading NW (HQ); a single at Dovestones on 12th and 15th April then two on 3rd May (SG); a single at Cartworth on 3rd May (HQ); a single at Deer Hill on 14th May then two on 27th (TD) then, in August, a single on 18th (KW). There were several sightings in the Wessenden Valley between October and December, sometimes with two birds together (DMP). The final records were each of singles, at Meltham on 24th December (TD) and at Blackmoorfoot on 31st (MLD, AJW).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

The light covering of snow made it fairly easy to locate about 60 birds feeding at Snailsden on January 5th (RD & SEH). Other records during the month were mainly of birds heard near the summit of Holme Moss, at least two seen and others heard at Yateholme on 21st and Winscar on 26th. Subsequent months revealed small numbers, usually in single figures at Wessenden, Crossley's Plantation and Dunford Bridge. However, more than twenty were seen at Tooleyshaw Moss on 2nd May and in excess of thirty were seen at Holme Moss the same day (MLD). Numbers during the last three months of the year seldom rose into double figures.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1)

The small population of this species appears to be constant. On 27th April two were seen near Bilberry Reservoir and a single was noted there on 28th May. At Dovestones the two seen on 3rd May showed Chukar characteristics (just as last years observations at this location). A pair were noted at Digley near Whitewall Lane on 28th May. There were no further reports until October when one was seen at Deer Hill Moss, then on 6th November two were present on Meltham Cop.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

Seven birds seen on the CBC plot at Shepley on 3rd January were presumably the birds which had been raised there (BB, DBa) but, unfortunately, there was no evidence of breeding this year. During the very cold spell 13 were seen in the Lumb Lane area on 13th January (SG) and up to ten remained until 13th March when numbers reduced to five (BA). A pair seen at Blackmoortfoot on 1st June were known to have bred successfully on Meltham Cop. There were no doubt many undetected successes judging by the number of reports received from Broadstones, Deer Hill (eight on 10th October), Dunford Bridge, Elland G.P., Haddingley Lane, Hill House, Holme, Hinchcliffe Mill, Ingbirchworth, Langsett, Royd Moor (11) on 11th October), Scammonden, Scout Dike, Woodsome Lees and Yateholme.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor, occasional breeder.

This species is now becoming an annual visitor to the Club area. The first record was of one calling at Millmoor on 26th May (DMP) with another at Deer Hill Moss on the same day (TD). In the Broadstones area there was one seen as it flew down the road on 23rd June (BA) then, the following day, three were calling from a set-aside field. At least three were then present in this area until the last report on 4th July. Other records were of singles at Erley on 30th July (GB) and at Clayton West on 1st August (SK).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (2 - 3)

Breeding was successful in Orange Wood at Blackmoortfoot where a nest was found containing 13 eggs on 1st May, from these, six young hatched during June. A male was frequently heard calling in the SE corner until 26th October. A pair with at least two young were at Royd Moor on 17th June and at Deer Hill two young, just capable of flight were seen on 2nd September. Garden reports came from Dalton, Hinchcliffe Mill and Holme and other singles were noted at Folly Dolly, Deer Hill, Gunthwaite, Honley, Wessenden and Woodsome.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce winter visitor

Singles were seen in the first winter period at Bretton C.P. on 8th January and 4th March (BCo), and at Elland G.P. on 27th January (JE:D). Bretton C.P. was the only location to feature in the second winter period with a single near the old boathouse on 20th December (DMP, SP).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (2 - 3)

Numerous locations in the Club area indicate the success of this species. At Blackmoorfoot a single bird was present on 2nd March increasing to four by 1st May. A nest with a single egg along the west bank was flooded out on 5th May, but a replacement nest was built, the young hatching on 20th June. Another pair built in the south-west corner but the outcome of this one was unknown. A pair with six young were on a pond at Lumb Lane on 8th May. Young were present at Hill Top on 24th June and at Dewsbury S F four broods were seen on 25th August. Other locations included Elland G.P., Hey Wood, Ingbirchworth, Scissett and Waterloo, but this by no means exhausts the list.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2)

At most of the usual sites birds were recorded every month. The only time when double figures were recorded was during the second half of the year when there were 12 at Scout Dike on 10th August, 13 at Blackmoorfoot on 18th August and 28 at Ingbirchworth on 22nd August, (including eight juveniles). Also at this location there were 16 on 3rd and 4th October and 17 on 30th November. Breeding also took place at Elland G.P. with two juveniles (one from each of two pairs) and Dewsbury S F where two juveniles were seen.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon passage visitor

The only records this year were from Blackmoorfoot where singles were seen on 4th, 7th, 14th April, 23rd, 25th, 26th May and 24th June and Broadstones during May with three on 12th and five on 15th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Occasional breeder and scarce summer visitor

The earliest seen was a single at Royd Moor on 16th April (DHP). Another single appeared there on 22nd and three were present on 24th (BA). Broadstones was obviously a favoured habitat with singles on 24th April and 2nd May, two on 3rd and by 8th four were present, these were seen to be displaying on 12th. At least two birds remained throughout June and July and in August two juveniles were present on 3rd and one on 5th. At Ringstone Edge an adult was present on 19th July and two juveniles on 26th. During May, other records came from Scout Dike with two on 7th, Blackmoorfoot with one calling on 14th and Deer Hill had a single on 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

On 7th September five flew west at Blackmoorfoot at 08.30 hrs (MLD). The only other sighting, again at this location, was of a juvenile on 7th October (DMO).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Migrant breeder (2)

Both the quantity of records and the sizes of flocks appear to be down compared with previous years. Maximum numbers at Blackmoorfoot were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	2	81	43	32	21	11	2	8	3	4	-

In the Whitley Common area a flock of c 60 was present on 11th March with c 80 on 15th (RD & SEH). The largest flock in this area was c 110 on 20th April but this had reduced to 47 by 27th. 47 were seen at Deer Hill on 14th April (MLD). At Crossley's Plantation the 46 seen on 23rd April had increased to 70⁺ the following day (DHP). Later in the year about 55 were seen at Broadstones on 4th December (BA). Apart from the seven pairs on Black Moss on 9th April (JH) and 28 birds at Issues Lane in the Holme Valley on 28th May (DSI) other records were all in single figures.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident breeder (3 - 4)

At Blackmoorfoot the maximum monthly figures were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
162	160	36	-	-	115	180	162	154	322	547	213

Whilst at Ingbirchworth the figures were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	24	3	-	-	450	54	-	200	34	350

Other maxima of note were 94 at Broadstones on 9th March (BA), 42 at Ringstone Edge on 24th June (JED) and later in the year there were c100 at Scout Dike on 19th October, then c 400 were seen on 30th November (SH).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Scarce passage visitor

The single record of this species concerns one at Blackmoorfoot on 1st November (MLD).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1 - 2)

The first record was of two at Blackmoorfoot on 28th February. Subsequent records were then of singles on 2nd, 12th and 14th March. During the second winter period at this location singles were again noted on 4th and 18th August, 10th October and then on 16th there were five and the following day three. During November two were present on 1st and 2nd then singles on 11th, 17th and 18th (MLD). Other reports were of singles at Black Moss on 19th April, Broadstones on 23rd April and Scout Dike on 7th May. There were apparently at least six pairs in the Black Moss area during May (JH).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

One record only, of a single at Broadstones on 14th August (DHP).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

During the first winter period two were seen at Deer Hill on 14th January and then a single on 25th (TD). The first sighting during the second winter period was of a single at Blackmoorfoot on 30th September (MLD). Deer Hill provided the remaining records with singles on 9th November (DMP, JJ) and 9th December (TD).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

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

A very well recorded species throughout every month. During the first six months figures were low with singles at Moldgreen on 1st January and Bretton C.P. on 7th. At Royd Moor however, six were present on 18th January and 8th February. Deer Hill had singles on 30th March, 14th April and 1st and 3rd May whilst Blackmoorfoot had a single on 29th May. On Flight Hill (above Winscar Reservoir) there was also a single noted on 22nd June (RDH). The second six months saw higher numbers with maxima of between four and twenty-three daily at Blackmoorfoot during November and the highest counts at Royd Moor and Broadstones were respectively, 14 on 16th November and 12 on 12th December.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) uncommon winter visitor

The first record was of a single at Deer Hill on 8th April (TD). Other singles were then noted at Stocks Moor Common on 13th and 14th April (SG, JH) and later in the year on 2nd August. Two were at Ewden on 2nd May (SG) and on this date one was roding above Wilderness Plantation, near Bretton roundabout (JED). Roding birds were noted at Royd House Wood on 14th, 30th May and 23rd June (DSI), Yateholme where, on 20th May, two birds were joined by a third at 21 20 hrs (BA) and Carr Wood on 19th July. A bird was flushed from the side of the old railway track at Dunford Bridge on 12th June (SH). The only other record was of a single at Meltham G.C. on 27th October (TD)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Rare passage visitor

The only record was of a single which was seen to depart east from Blackmoorfoot at 10 05 hrs on 5th November (MLD)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

All reports relate to birds seen during May. One flew west at Blackmoorfoot at 15.25 hrs on 3rd (MLD), on 6th one was at Broadstones then two were present on 8th and one associating with Curlew was seen on 9th (DHP). One called twice as it flew north over Holme on 18th (SH)

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) common passage visitor

Returning birds were reported from ten locations during March. First seen were on 8th at Blackmoorfoot and Yateholme, each with a single, and Ingbirchworth with two. Other reports during the month came from Bretton (1), Browns Edge (2), Deer Hill (4), Digley (1) increasing to c50 by 22nd (MN, HQ), Dunford Bridge (4), Scammonden (with 21 on 13th) and finally Whitley Lane (5). There were many other locations in subsequent months with successful breeding reported from Broadstones and Stocks Moor Common. The final sighting was of a single flying west over Blackmoorfoot on 16th October (MLD)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1)

It was somewhat disturbing to have had so few reports of this species. The first was of a single at Blackmoorfoot on 10th March, no others were reported from this location until 8th July when two flew west, a single was then present on 26th and two on 28th (MLD)

Two pairs were noted at Black Moss where breeding took place (JH). The only other records came from Ingbirchworth with a single on 21st and 22nd April (DHP, BA).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor

Singles occurred at Blackmoortfoot on 12th and 13th August (MLD), then at both Broadstones (DHP) and Dewsbury S.F. (SH) on 25th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Broadstones was the only location where this species occurred; singles were seen on 12th and 15th August, two were present on 25th and then singles again on 27th and 29th (DHP).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

A very well recorded species. The first was at Blackmoortfoot on 13th April, numerous records were received regularly throughout the summer, usually of singles but with a maximum of four on 15th July, the final report being of a single on 21st September (MLD). Other locations where singles or pairs were seen and where breeding could have taken place were:- Booth Dam, Bretton C.P., Broadstones Res., Deanhead, Deer Hill, Dewsbury S.F., Digley, Dovestones, Elland G.P., Ingbirchworth, Langsett, March Haigh Res., Marsden, Riding Wood Res., Ringstone Edge, Royd Moor, Scammonden, Scout Dike and Wessenden. A pair at Broadstones had at least one young on 17th June (DSI), whilst a pair at Winscar were behaving in a very agitated manner as though young were around on 25th June (DBa)

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

All reports concerned either 1st-winter birds or adults. At Blackmoortfoot during February a 1st-winter bird was present on 10th, an adult on 15th and 16th and a 1st-winter on 21st and 28th (MLD, JKP, PB). The same 1st-winter bird was seen on 6th, 14th and from 20th to 22nd March (MLD, PB). An adult was recorded at Ingbirchworth at mid-day on 22nd February (DJS). The only record during the second winter period was an adult at Blackmoortfoot on 14th December (JKP, MLD, PB).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor

Two adults put in a brief appearance at Blackmoortfoot on 16th November (MLD).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Resident breeder (1) numerous passage and winter visitor

The only counts which took place at Blackmoorfoot were during August with a maximum of 420 and then in October with 1150 (MLD)

Whilst at Ingbirchworth (RD & SEH) the figures were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
34	37	150	32	6	2	-	-	26	147	160	300

The recreation ground at Lindley proved attractive to 20 on 6th August, 21 during September and c60 on 25th October (MN). During November there were 41 at Elland G.P. (SW) No breeding records were submitted for 1997.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor

During January there were six to be seen regularly, perched on the roof of Brook Motors in St. Thomas's Rd (ICP) 150 were present at Royd Moor on 18th January (JED). At Broadstones there were two or three on 27th May (SH) and one was on the recreation ground at Lindley on 6th August (MN). The only other counts were at Blackmoorfoot with one in May, two in June, seven in both July and August, 27 in September and 143 in October (MLD). At Ingbirchworth there was one in October and two in December (RD & SEH)

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common passage and winter visitor

At Blackmoorfoot the maximum monthly figures (MLD) were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	28	52	19	27	37	113	1034	1146	1047	484	24

Whereas at Ingbirchworth the only maximum of great significance was the October figure of 73 (RD & SEH) Broadstones had 20 on 27th May and 21 on 11th September (BA). At Ringstone Edge 105 were seen on 13th August (JED) and at Royd Moor the 32 seen on 11th September had increases to 170+ by 11th October but had reduced to eight by 30th November (BA).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Very few records were submitted, two immatures were at Broadstones on 27th May (SH) and on 11th October four adults were seen at Elland G.P. (SW) Monthly maxima at Ingbirchworth were January - 4, February - 12, September - 8, November - 2 and December - 3 (RD & SEH)

At Blackmoorfoot the maximum monthly figures (MLD) were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	113	18	2	-	1	-	1	5	18	97	322

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachimans*

Scarce visitor

The only record during the first winter period was of an adult at Blackmoorfoot on 25th January (PB). The second winter period was a different story, starting with a sub-adult on 27th and 30th August, then three (a third-winter, a sub-adult and an adult) on 1st September. This mixed pattern of adults, second and third-winter and sub-adults being seen on a further 29 dates to 1st November when a full adult was recorded (PB, MLD). The only other record was of an adult reported as a "*michahellis*" type at Ringstone Edge on 3rd August (JED).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Scarce winter visitor

All records for this species were during the first winter period. A 2nd-winter bird in the company of six other large gulls flew over Denby Dale on 4th January (DMP, SP, KW). On 18th January a 1st-winter flew west from Royd Moor Reservoir (JED). Blackmoorfoot provided all other sightings with a 2nd-winter on 1st February (JKP, GR), two 2nd-winters on and again on 9th (PB, MLD), then a further 2nd-winter on 31st March (DWS, DP, JJ).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor

Once again the first winter period proved to be the most productive at Blackmoorfoot with a 1st-winter being present on 11th January, a 1st-winter plus a 1st- or 2nd-winter bird were seen on 17th, then on 18th, 21st and 23rd January and 9th February a 1st-winter was present (MLD, JKP, PB). These were the only records for the Club area.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor

Apart from the monthly sightings from Blackmoorfoot there was only one record during the second winter period, this was of two at Royd Moor on 11th October (BA).

At Blackmoorfoot the maximum monthly figures (MLD) were :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
168	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	77	116

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor

During the course of the year there were four sightings, all from Blackmoorfoot. An adult was seen on 12th and 13th March then on 14th there were two, again adults. During the second winter period two adults appeared on 5th November (M.L.D).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Rare passage visitor

Two flew west over Blackmoorfoot at 07.15 hrs on 18th June in the company of two Common Tern (M.L.D)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage visitor

On 29th May one was seen fishing over the large lake at Bretton C.P. (DS & VI) At Blackmoorfoot, as mentioned previously, two flew west with Sandwich Tern at 07.15 hrs. on 18th June. Two adults were recorded on 26th July and an adult plus a juvenile flew west at 08.50 hrs. on 1st August. A juvenile which was oiled on the lower belly was present on 4th October but was not seen after 07.35 hrs (M.L.D). The only other report was of an adult at Brookfoot Lake on 20th June (J.F.D).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage visitor

A single was at Blackmoorfoot on 12th June (M.L.D) and two juveniles flew west over the reservoir at 18.30 hrs on 21st September (P.B).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage visitor

During August two were seen at Blackmoorfoot on 20th, then seven were noted on 21st (M.L.D). On both 25th and 26th September a single appeared at Deanhead Reservoir (J.B).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3)

The Huddersfield Town Centre population fluctuated between 330+ in January to 200+ in July (M.L.D). These were the only reports received

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2)

Appears to be fairly widespread throughout the Club area, records came in from 21 different locations and were usually in single figures. The exceptions were at Kaye Lane where 16 were seen on 25th March (BA), Broadstones with c20 on 22nd April (BA), Horbury Wyke with 33 on 5th October (JH) and Royd Moor which had 14 on 11th October and 39 on 29th (SH). From April through to the end of June three or four were present on the CBC plot in Shepley (DBa). Regularly recorded throughout the year at Blackmoorfoot with a pair observed building in Orange Wood during April (MLD).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4)

The only large flocks reported during the first winter period were both on 2nd March, c200 at Bretton C.P and c150 at Deffer Wood (SH). During the second winter period however much larger numbers were moving around. At Blackmoorfoot 600+ flew east on 10th November, then on 12th 300+ went west and on 16th 1670 flew north, these were all during the early morning and were possibly leaving a nearby roost (MLD). 550+ flew south-east at Crosland Moor on 19th November. During December Holme Styes, Longroyd Bridge, Mollicar Wood and Scammonden all held good sized flocks but the outstanding record was a flock of c3000 roosting at Woodsome (BA).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3)

Many reports related to the habits of birds coming to garden bird tables. Throughout January a flock of 52 were seen going to roost in an ivy covered tree near Lockwood Brewery (DM). There was a maximum of 21 at Blackmoorfoot on 30th August (MLD).

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rare feral visitor

Records of singles were all obtained during the last quarter of the year and came from - Blackmoorfoot on 21st October when one flew north (MLD), in a garden at Meltham on 30th November and in the college grounds at Greenhead on 7th December (HQ).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first record was of a single at Almondbury on 1st May which then remained throughout the breeding season (DS1). Males were then recorded from a further 16 different localities. At Deer Hill, as well as the three visible males there was a further male

and a female calling on 9th June (KW). One observer noted regretably that this was the first time in 50 years that none had been either seen or heard in the Ossett area (GC).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

The number of sites where this species has bred or probably bred now exceeds 30 making it impossible to list all in this report. Pairs with young were seen at Almondbury, Bilberry, Blackmoorfoot, Bulcliff Farm, Deer Hill, Longwood Valley, Penny Spring Wood and on the 'CBC' site at Shepley.



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2)

There was quite a range of activities recorded which included calling at many locations, roosting, as at Carr Wood or in a mill chimney cavity in Big Valley and hunting, as at Dunford Bridge. Sightings, which were usually in woodland but also from gardens, may have included breeding birds but the only evidence of breeding came from Longwood and Quarmby Clough.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

At Blackmoorfoot a rather emaciated bird was found dead in Orange Wood on 12th March (DWS, DP, SP). There was however a success story, from a site where a nest containing three young, two of which certainly fledged (SK).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1)

Once again the number of sightings was sadly sparse. One was seen flying over Black Moss on 1st May (JH) and another single was near Wessenden Head Reservoir on 27th May (RC).

Swift *Apus apus*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first of the returning birds were seen on 2nd May, Quarmby with one and Blackmoorfoot with two. Numbers at Blackmoorfoot steadily increased and by 24th May up to 49 were seen, numbers remained in double figures throughout June and July but August saw a steady reduction, from 22 on 1st to 2 on 29th. The last seen there, and

indeed in the Club area, was a single on 20th September (JKP). Whilst there were many reported sightings of single figures others recording double figures were, Elland G P with c10 on 8th May (SH) and Lindley Moor with 10 on 9th (JED). At the end of the season 20+ were seen at Dalton on 3rd August (BA).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1)

In January a total of five birds were seen at Bretton C.P., two along the river, two on the lower lake and a single busy excavating in the river banking (SG). According to one observer, who made 24 visits, a total of six could be seen. At least one pair bred successfully and a minimum of two young fledged. Breeding was also successful at Elland G P on the R. Calder. Other reports of singles came from Armitage Bridge, Blackmoorfoot, various stretches of the R. Colne from Marsden through to Mirfield, Hagg Wood, Hinchcliff Mill, a good number of sightings along the R. Holme particularly at Lockwood, the canal at Slaithwaite and Fenay Beck down as far as the supermarket at Waterloo.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (1-2)

The list of locations for this species continues to grow. Pairs or young were seen at Bretton C.P., Golcar, Hinchcliffe Mill, Horbury Wyke, Netherton, Scammonden, Stocks Moor Common and Stoneycliffe Wood. Reports of singles came from a further 30 locations and no doubt breeding took place at some of these.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2)

Many of the reports related to birds feeding from nut bags etc. in gardens. These were very widespread coming from Almondbury, Blackmoorfoot, Dalton, Fixby, Hinchcliffe Mill, Meltham, Shelley and Wooddale. These were not just winter feeding and in a number of cases referred to juveniles accompanying adults in June and July. Breeding was well documented from a good number of well known sites.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1)

A female was observed for 25 minutes at Bretton C.P. on 4th March (BCo), other sightings there were a male on 22nd and 29th October and 5th November. On 7th March a male was seen in Toby Wood at Denby Dale (TM) and on 31st one was heard drumming in the Lower Woodsome Valley (DSI). During April one was drumming and calling in Molly Carr Wood (DSI).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder (3-4)

Unusually, several were reported in the Digley area on 25th January (HQ). A bird was in song in Shepley on 14th February and eight birds flew west at Blackmoorfoot on 24th. Singing birds were then heard until the end of May. Autumn records were sparse with only two in double figures, i.e. Blackmoorfoot with a flock of 23 on 5th October and Scout Dike with c10 on 19th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Migrant, rare breeder

The first report was of a single at Blackmoorfoot on 24th March and, although more birds than usual were present until September, numbers never reached double figures, the maximum being seven on 22nd April. Between ten and twelve birds were at Elland G.P. on 10th April (DHP). The only report from Ingbirchworth was of six on 28th April. This year unfortunately there were no records available from the usual breeding site. The final report was of two at Blackmoorfoot on 20th September (MLD).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4)

The first arrival was at Blackmoorfoot on 6th April (1), the following day singles were seen at Golcar, Ingbirchworth, Moll Springs and Shelley. There was then a steady influx, with the maxima at Blackmoorfoot being 24 on 20th April and 27 on 6th May. Double figures were then recorded almost daily from this locality until the end of September. At Elland Bridge two flocks of 12 and 20 respectively were seen on 17th April whilst at Ingbirchworth there were c15 on 22nd. There was a good number of reports of breeding successes, mainly where birds had made use of farm buildings. During the autumn numbers gradually increased and flocks of up to 110 were reported from Blackmoorfoot and Scout Dike between 7th and 10th September. By the middle of October the stragglers were passing through, but there was one very late record of a single which was seen at Golcar on 11th November (DMP, SP).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Migrant breeder (3)

Two returning birds were at Cromwell Lake on 17th April (DM). Single figures were then recorded from a number of widely scattered localities until 28th when 70+ were seen at Ingbirchworth (JED). Most birds had returned to the traditional nesting sites by the second week in May with at least one pair building under the eaves in East Street, Lindley and there were four nests which eventually held young at a residence in Lumb Lane, Almondbury. Migrating birds were gathering in early September, on 17th 85 were on the telephone wires in Jenkyn Lane, Shepley at 14.15 hrs and by 14.30 hrs there was not one

to be seen On a larger scale, at Royd Edge between 2500 and 3000 flew south between 12 15 hrs and 13 00 hrs (TD) The final sighting was of two on 5th October at Honley (SH).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (2-3)

One in song in the Little Don Valley on 12th April (JH) was the first record for the year All other reports concerned single birds, a male at Scammonden on 29th April, then, in May, one was in song at Dalton on 1st and 2nd but not seen thereafter, at Cliffe Wood, Langsett one in song on 1st was again reported on 9th June. Other reports of singles were of one date only for each location : Thunderbridge, Thurstonland, Holme Styes, Blackmoorfoot, Elland G.P. and Woodsome

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder (4-5)

Unusual records in January concerned three feeding near Fenay Beck at Moldgreen on 1st (JKP) and one which was regularly seen at Ingbirchworth throughout the month (DHP). During March small parties were seen, with c40 at Blackmoorfoot on 13th and at Royd Moor there were over 40 on 25th which had increased to 50+ by 10th April During this period small numbers were also noted at Digley, Dunford Bridge and Scout Dike In the second half of the year a group in excess of 100 birds was seen at Scammonden on 3rd August (JED), other records of significance were c40 at Lindley Moor on 11th September and c70 at Castle Hill on 26th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage migrant

A single seen at Deanhead on 27th October offered views down to about 20 feet (JED)

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder (1)

The only records were of birds seen in the autumn Three were present at Shelley on 11th August (SG) and two were in a pasture field at Honley on 2nd September (JMD, BA) with a single there on 19th (SH)

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Recorded during every month of the year. The locations varied considerably from town centres, supermarket car parks, small streams, canals and rivers, extending to moorland streams and reservoirs. The records from Blackmoorfoot show that birds were present

there on over 100 days, usually singles but on some occasions two. Breeding evidence came from Hey Green, Hill Top, Flland G P, Little Don Valley (two pairs) and Marsden (two pairs)

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Resident breeder (3)

Most of the data received related to maximum numbers seen. At Silkstone S F. there were 19 present on 16th January (JED) but the greater numbers were during the second half of the year with 25 at Dewsbury S.F. on 25th August, 30 at Cannon Hall on 7th September (SH) and in excess of 50 at Longroyd Bridge just as they were leaving the roost near Highfield Gears on 2nd October (JKP).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon winter visitor

This has been another exceptional year with good numbers being present during the first winter period. The first records were of 17 at Hirkby on 1st January and two in a garden at Dalton then 26 in the Springwood/Greenhead area on 3rd January (JED). On 29th there were 75 near Kwiksave at Aspley which only remained an hour (BA). During February numbers increased and by 3rd there was a minimum of 82 in Victoria Road feeding on rowan berries, but these had reduced to 56 the following day (RAH). Numbers remained in reduced double figures, 14 at Crosland Moor on 14th February (MLD) and c50 near Greenhead College on 1st March (HQ). The final sighting of the year was of a flock of between 30 and 40 at Longwood on 17th March (KW).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2)

At Jackson Bridge two birds were present on 5th March but there was no further report from this location. Confirmed breeding success was reported from Hill Top where a pair raised two broods (MLD) and Marsden where a bird was seen carrying food on 9th June (DSI) with an adult and a juvenile being noted on 17th (BA). Probable breeding took place at Dovestones and the Little Don Valley with two pairs at each. Reports of singles came from Hagg Wood, Black Brook, Hinchcliffe Mill, Liphill Brook and near the canal at Milnsbridge.



Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (4)

Very widespread throughout the area

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (3)

Very widespread throughout the area

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (4-5)

Very widespread throughout the area. The eight seen at Quarimby Clough on 1st January could possibly have been winter visitors (SH). A pair had a nest with eggs in a Fixby garden on 1st April and on 13th the young hatched (DSH)

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first report was of a male on the cycle track at Dunford Bridge on 10th April (HQ). Other reports were all of males at Digley on 30th April, 11th, 14th and 27th May, then two males on 28th (HQ, BA *et al*). At Langsett there were three males present on 1st May, then singles at Midhope on 2nd, Scammonden on 14th and Hilberry on 25th. It is interesting that no females were observed and that there were no autumn records whatsoever.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2)

A pair seen at Scammonden on 29th April were the first returning birds reported. During May numbers built up at this site and 4 males were present on 27th with at least three pairs raising young (JED *et al*). There were at least 14 other sites in the Club area where birds were observed and breeding could possibly have taken place.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Occasional breeder (1) scarce passage and winter visitor.

The only record during the first half of the year was of a pair near the "Wills o' Nats" at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd March (TD). All other reports were from September onwards with a female at Crosland Edge on 22nd, then in October, a single at Milimoor on 14th (DMP). On 21st November a male was at Deer Hill and a female at Scammonden. The last records were of singles at Wessenden on 1st December and at Royd Moor on 4th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (2)

A very early record was of a male just off the Greenfield Road out of Holmfirth on 8th March (HQ) Singles (males in each case) were present at Wessenden on 23rd, Whitley Common on 25th and Digley on 29th There then followed a stream of reports during April and May, the largest number being c30 at Meltham Cop on 6th April (JJ via MLD) Pairs and juveniles were well reported from the usual locations during the autumn but the outstanding record was of a bird seen on 2nd and 4th December at Deer Hill, having survived the coldest two nights of the year when temperatures dropped to -4°C! (DMP, TD).



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (2)

A male in the Wessenden Valley was the first record of the year on 21st March (TD, DMP) At Deer Hill there was a male present on 1st April (JL) then, on 4th, two males and a female were in the Digley/Bilberry area (HQ) Other locations recording the species were Dovestones, Mickleden Beck, Royd Edge Clough and Shiny Brook. At the last mentioned site two males and a female were all observed food carrying indicating that two pairs bred (M.L.D)

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5)

Very common species throughout the area

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Good numbers were reported during the first winter period. The largest flock was over 1000 strong at Bradley Park G.C on 2nd January (DWB) Other maxima noted in January were - 110 at Meltham on 4th, 100 at Bretton C.P. on 7th, c80 at High Hoyland on 16th, 130 at Blackmoorfoot on 18th and, on the same day, c350 at Royd Moor. Similar sized flocks were present in a number of areas throughout February and March with a reduction of reported sightings in April. At Meltham there were 110 between 12th and 14th April whilst in the Ingbirchworth/Broastones area c500 were present on 22nd and 23rd April then c320 at Cunthwaite on 27th April. The final sighting was a single at Ingbirchworth on 29th April. Whilst returning birds are expected in October, a strange report was of a single with a group of Mistle Thrush on 5th July at Bilberry (HQ) Had this bird been present during summer? The first winter visitors started to arrive on 12th

October with 17 at Blackmoorfoot rising to 142 by the 24th, eight at Ingbirchworth on 19th October, c50 at Royd Moor on 20th, 48 at Lindley Moor on 27th, c20 at Bretton C.P. on 4th November and 130 at Broadstones on 4th December (BA)

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Resident breeder (3)

In January there were a number of reports of singles from various localities, once again garden sightings during this period were not uncommon. In February there were at least four at Bretton C.P. but the majority of reports came later, with birds in song in April and May. At Digley, Blackmoorfoot, Elland G.P., Molly Carr Wood and Woodsome there were at least two in song during these months.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor

On 1st January five were feeding in a garden in Dalton and on 9th there were 14 feeding from Pyracantha and Cotoneaster in a garden in Fixby. Some of the maximum numbers recorded during the first winter period were - 200+ in the Greenhead area (BA) and 100 at Bretton C.P. on January 7th (SG), c350 in Huddersfield Town Centre on 9th (SH), c100 at Thunderbridge (DSI) and c150 at Royd Moor on 18th (JED). Towards the end of March most had departed but a straggler was seen at Bretton C.P. on 12th April (DHP). October saw migrants returning with one at Lindley Moor on 2nd (JED). Numbers remained in double figures until the end of the year.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3)

Numbers during the first winter period were low, however an interesting one was an albino which had remained at Stubbin Clough throughout the winter (HQ). Two pairs bred at Lepton Great Wood (SG) and breeding also took place at Emsley near the T.V. station (SG) and at Shepley in Lower Stones Wood (DBa). In the second half of the year 16 were seen at Digley on August 25th, 19 at Meltham on 5th September (SH), 25 at Boothnase on 14th September (HQ) and 19 at Scammonden on 18th October (JED).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder (1)

There was a single report of a bird reeling to the east of Emsley village at 07 00 hrs on 30th July (GB)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1)

A male was in song at Royd Moor on 3rd May (JMD). Elland G.P. proved to be the most productive location with at least two singing from 19th May until 4th July (DSI, JED), but by 27th only one could be found (DHP). Blackmoorfoot had a single male on 8th June (MLD)

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare passage migrant and breeder (1)

Elland G.P. provided most records with one in song on 3rd May then two in song until 20th June and possibly two pairs bred (DHP *et al*). A single was present at this location on 8th July. At Horbury Wyke one was in song on 4th May (JH).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1)

Singles only were reported. Silkstone S.F. on 11th May (JED), Elland G.P. on 13th (DHP) and Dalton on 19th (SG). More than one was in song at Horbury Wyke on 28th May whilst another single was at Stoneycliffe Wood on 29th (JH).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

There were not as many records as in previous years. The first migrant to return was at Bretton C.P. on 27th April (DM, SG *et al*), then on 30th there were three in song at Elland G.P. (SH). During May, once again at Bretton C.P., at least six were located at the western end and probably four to five pairs bred. There were a further twelve reports, usually of singles, the final one being at Bluebell Wood on 22nd September (DMP).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2)

A good two weeks earlier than last year, the first record was of one in song at Dogley on 9th April (DSI). Singles then occurred at Almondbury on 13th and at Bretton C.P. on 27th. During May there were reports from a further twelve locations. Successful breeding was reported from a further five.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (2-3) scarce winter visitor

In January over-wintering birds were reported from seven different locations. In all cases these were males, but the one at Almondbury on 18th was joined by a female on 31st

(SG). The first of the summer migrants appeared on 8th April with a male in song at Almondbury and one at Bretton C.P. There then followed in rapid succession of reports from around forty other locations with a good number of breeding successes. The final report was of a female caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 16th August but another female which was probably intending to over winter was seen on the south bank on 3rd November (MLD)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Migrant breeder (1-2)

There were only two sites this year where birds were seen and probably bred. Cliffe Wood at Langsett with a pair on 15th May plus a further male on 26th (JED) and again on 27th (SH). Storthes Hall Wood provided the other record with a bird in song on 3rd June (SG)

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder (2)

A report of a bird over-wintering came from Crosland Moor on 8th January (MLD). The first record of incoming migrants was at Bretton C.P. on 12th March with one in song (BCo). Many other records were then submitted from a variety of locations, 36 in all, and a number of these included nests found and breeding successes. The final records involved a single at Scammonden on 20th September and two at Blackmoorfoot the following day.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (3-4)

The most numerous of the warblers in this area. The first of the year was a single at Moll Springs on 7th April (DM) but the remaining reports were usually of multiple sightings, such as 13 in song at Elland G.P. on 11th April (JED), 20+ at Bretton C.P. on 14th April (SG) and, on the same day, 12 in song in the Longwood Valley (JED). It is possible that up to 15 pairs bred in Lepton Great Wood (SG) with a similar number at Stocks Moor Common (SG). The final sighting was of two in a garden at Lindley Moor on 11th September (JED).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reports covered every month of the year, usually in single figures, but some included the words "several" or "many", probably due to the difficulty of establishing an exact figure. Breeding was reported from Stones Wood, Midhope, Detter Wood, Lepton Great Wood and Cawthorne village but there were no doubt a great many unlocated.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (2)

Woodsome Carr Wood held the first of the returning birds on 13th May (BA). Reports of singles then came from Mellicar Wood on 22nd, Digley on 24th, Meltham Mills on 25th and Royd House Wood on 9th June. A nest containing four eggs was found in Digley Bottom Wood on 3rd June (DHP). At Hill Top two were present on 12th August (MLD) with singles at Yateholme and Blackmoorfoot on 11th September. At this latter mentioned site the single remained until 14th, with two (the last for the area) being noted on 17th (MLD).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder (1)

The first report was of two males in song at Cliffe Wood, Langsett on 30th April (BA). On 15th May a pair were present, then on 6th June three pairs were located (JED et al). One was observed singing from and going into a nestbox in Digley Bottom Wood on 18th May (SH). A site not previously associated with this species was Woodsome Carr Wood where a pair were seen on 13th May and where, on 9th June, a male was uttering alarm calls (BA). Other sites where only males were seen were: Bretton C.P., Honley, Magdale and Spring Wood.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2)

The number of locations increased to over thirty this year. Nesting was recorded at: Blacker Beck with three found, Blackmoorfoot in Orange Wood, Bretton C.P., Bullcliff Wood, Hill Top, Horbury Wyke with four found, Lockwood, Netherton in Big Valley, Paddock Brow, both Upper and Lower Stones Wood, Stoneycliffe Wood, and Thurstonland Bank. The seven birds which appeared at Lindley Moor on 24th October provided only the 3rd record in 32 years! (JED). Flock sizes ranged from single figures to 20+ at Elland G.P. on 5th September

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

The chief sources of records were Bretton C.P. (up to two birds), Royd Moor (a single) and Scout Dike (up to two birds) each having four reported instances but all of these were outside the breeding season. Nesting was confirmed at Bullcliff Wood, Horbury Wyke and Stocks Moor Common

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

Recorded throughout most months with regular garden sightings at Almondbury, Blackmoorfoot, Dalton, Fixby and Hinchcliffe Mill. There were numerous sightings in the woodland areas such as Stones Wood, Deffler, Woodsome Carr, Farnley Hey and Bretton C.P. and doubtless, breeding would have taken place in this type of habitat

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

Very common throughout the area, most reports were of birds visiting gardens. Over 20 were present in a garden at Meltham on 5th March

Great Tit *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4)

Very common in gardens and woodland throughout the area

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (1)

It is very pleasing to note that this species is continuing to extend its range within the Club area. Bretton C.P. continues to be the stronghold and amongst many reports, one of particular interest was that mating was observed on 17th April and young were being fed in the nest on 21st May (BCo). Nesting took place for the first time in Spring Wood, Netherton (DM), a pair were feeding young in a nest at Mag Wood on 2nd June and at least one was heard calling in Lower Stones Wood, Shepley on 17th September (DBa)

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Most of the reports were of singles and came from 26 different locations. This appears to be yet another success story, probably due to the relatively mild winters we have experienced of late. Nests were found at Blacker Beck, Harley Bank Wood, and Stockmoor Common and food carrying was noted at Sands, Holmfirth. A family group was seen in Storthes Hall Wood on 15th July (BA) and there were reports of birds coming to gardens at Hinchcliffe Mill and Meltham.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2)

This is a species which can regularly be seen in many of the local woodlands such as Mollicar Wood, Royd House Wood, West Wood (Honley), Meltham Mills, Storthes Hall

Woods, Bretton C.P., Bentley Springs and Digley to mention but a few. There were no large concentrations, six in Penny Spring Wood on 18th February, six at Blackmoorfoot on 18th August and at least seven at Elland G.P. on 17th October being the highest numbers reported. A garden report from Fixby was of a bird attempting to bathe in a stream and being continually harassed by Magpies.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4)

A very common species throughout the area. The roost at Blackmoorfoot had, in February 42 on 10th, 39 on 11th and a maximum of 48 on 12th. At Fixby one was seen to be taking and consuming tadpoles from a garden pond on 12th May.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4)

Numerous in all wooded and built up areas

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5)

Whilst abundant in the area, the only nest counts to have taken place were at Hill Top on 15th April, this yielded 48 (MLD)

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (3)

Continuing the theme of the previous two years, "crows with white in their plumage", this year there were three at Penny Spring Wood with varying amounts of white in their wings. One of these, so much so that it was almost Magpie-like (BA). The only roost of note was of c50 at Scammonden on 11th May (JED).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Rare visitor

Two were seen flying along the ridge at Winscar on 26th January heading towards Holme Moss. A single was also seen there on 16th April (JED), and 24th November (LL-E). At Digley on 27th March one flew south-east, calling (HQ). On 12th April there were two sightings, at Dovestones two birds were being mobbed by a Peregrine (SG) then another was seen flying over Long Moor towards the Little Don Valley (JH). The Dovestone sighting was repeated on 15th April and 2nd May. The 2nd May produced two sightings of four different birds, the pair seen over Holme Moss were moulting their inner primaries whilst the pair over Tooleyshaw Moss were not (MLD). An unexpected record

was of two flying west over Skelmanthorpe on 20th December, seen at quite close range with the "pruck" calls being clearly heard (JMD)

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (5)

Very abundant throughout the year. In the Broadstones area on 3rd July there were c5000 feeding in the fields, most being juveniles (JED) There were in excess of 1000 roosting in elder at this location the following day (BA)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

Once again there was concern expressed by one observer that this species could not now be found in the Hinchcliffe Mill and Holmbridge areas. There was also a reduction in numbers at Lindley Moor where it seems there have been a good number of roof and gutter repairs thus eliminating nest holes (JED). At Kaye Lane, however, during the early and late winter months, a flock of c50 could regularly be seen (BA) and in Ossett, where there had been a decline, numbers appear to have built up again as there were c40 to be seen round the birdtable (GC).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (2)

The only records received were from Lumb Lane where up to 25 could be seen frequently in early spring, this is probably the most reliable site left in the Club area and seems to have a stable breeding population. Six were seen near the farm at Gunthwaite on 27th April, a single was in a mixed Chaffinch/Sparrow flock at Scout Dike on 30th July and two were in Honley on 5th October. Two present at Royd House Farm 16th April nested as one was seen carrying food on 31st. Two at New Mill raised young in a garden nest box and up to six were feeding from a peanut holder during November and December. Up to ten could be seen in Penny Spring Wood in late November/ December

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (4)

The only flock size of note during the first winter period was c25 at Digley on 9th March. The species was very widespread during the breeding season in a variety of habitats. Wintering flocks ranged from c50 at Ingbirchworth on 11th October, 45+ at Blackmoorfoot on 27th and 28th to c300 at Bretton C.P. on 22nd November and 100+ on 22nd December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor

Six had been seen regularly in a garden in Almondbury from the beginning of the year until 12th April (SG). A female visited a garden in Fixby and was last seen on 26th April (BL). The second winter period was heralded by a single at Blackmoorfoot on 5th October (MLD), from then on reports from this locality increased, although initially numbers were in single figures. Some maxima were,- Blackmoorfoot with 40+ on 1st November, 20+ at Stubbin Clough on 15th November, 40+ in Ingbirchworth on 4th December, Bretton C.P. with 100+ on 13th December and Windy Bank Wood with c80 on 30th December

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

Winter flock sizes never rose above double figures. During the first winter period there were c25 feeding on rosehips in Lockwood Road on 2nd January. At Blackmoorfoot the monthly maxima were 50 on 24th January and 65 on 9th February. Flocks during the second winter period were of similar sizes with c40 at Rusby Wood on 17th September and c25 at Scout Dike on 4th October. Up to 35 frequented a garden at Sheiley until the end of the year.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident breeder (2-3)

There were two flocks of c30 and c50 in the Jenkyn Lane area of Sheiley on 10th March (DBa *et al*). Few reports during the nesting season but it is likely that breeding took place in Penny Spring Wood and Dogley Reserve. The post-breeding season saw flocks gathering again, with c30 at Broadstones on 23rd July (DHP). In September there were c80 by the approach road at Scammonden on 2nd (JED), in excess of 60 at Lindley Moor on 16th (JED), 30 at Blackmoorfoot on 19th (MLD) and, on the same day, c20 at Almondbury flying towards Castle Hill (BA) then 50 in fields at Hade Edge on 27th (HQ). The only significant flock during October was of c50 at Scout Dike on 19th (SH).

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1) uncommon winter visitor

Good numbers were around during the first winter period. 43 were at Silkstone S.F. on 16th January (JED), then 10 were seen on 19th at Elland G.P. whilst at Yatchoime a group of 12 were scattered by a Sparrowhawk on 25th. Then at this latter mentioned location there were c50 were present on 15th February (HQ). One was feeding on sunflower seed in a garden at Fixby during April and several were seen during May at both Langsett and the Little Don Valley where they possibly bred. Some maxima during the second winter period were. Honley with c13 and Royd Moor with 10 on 6th

September, Deffer Wood with 10 on 7th, Blackmoorfoot with 19 on 14th and Dalton with c20 on 21st In the remaining months single figures occurred in a number of localities apart from Bretton C.P. where the 10 seen on 12th November had increased to c30 by 22nd (RDW).

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident breeder (3)

The first report was of two flying over Dalton on 8th March. There was a little more activity in April with six at Broadstones on 2nd rising to 15 by 27th. On 17th several were present at Penny Spring Wood with c12 being seen at Elland G.P. then at least 30 were present at Royd Moor on 28th. During the nesting season there were reports from the usual suitable habitats then, later in the year flocks gathered, giving again quite good numbers such as the maxima of 86 at Blackmoorfoot on 20th August and then 63 on 11th September.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident breeder (2-3) partial migrant

There were a good number of records this year, the first being of six at Deer Hill on 11th March followed by a further eight records, mainly of single figures during April and early May, the exception being c20 on wires at Honley on 8th April (BA). Close by at Deer Hill Moss there were 17 on 1st May (MLD). Blackmoorfoot, Buckstones, Crosley's Plantation, Deanhead Reservoir, Digley, Dovestones, Honley and Scammonden all held low single figures featured during April and May. Later in the year, in September, there were 26 at Deer Hill Moss on 2nd and an amazing 70+ on the telegraph wires at Millmoor Road on 30th (DMP).

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Resident breeder (2) uncommon winter visitor

In January three were at Golcar Tip on 2nd (KW) and singles were reported from Ingbirchworth on 8th and Bretton C.P. on 12th. The only report during February was of two on roses in a garden at Fixby on 25th. In March a flock of 25 were observed at Crosley's Plantation on 12th (JH) and eleven were seen in Lockwood Cemetery on 16th (DM). Singles were present at Blackmoorfoot on five dates during April, there was at least one in Storches Hall Woods on 3rd and four in the Little Don Valley on 16th. During the second half of the year one or two were recorded at Blackmoorfoot on six dates in September, five dates in October and finally two on 1st December and a single on 3rd (MLD). Other records in September were of one on 6th and two on 19th flying over Honley (SH), five at Penny Spring Wood on 26th (SG) and twelve by the cycle track at Duoford Bridge on 28th (HQ). Two were seen in Stones Wood on 31st December (SG).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) uncommon passage visitor

An excellent year for this species with records from 12 different locations. A good number in the area on 24th June with 27 at Langsett (JED) and between 25 and 30 in Storthes Hall Wood (BA). The small plantation near the picnic area at Winscar yielded 15 on 6th July (DBa) and 21 were seen in the Little Don Valley on 10th August (SH). Sightings at Blackmoorfoot were of three flying south on 2nd October, 18 flying south on 17th October (MLD) and 12 flying south on 15th November (PB). Further records came from Yatcholme (1) on 11th September, Holme Styes Wood (2) on 27th September and (11) on 14th December, Hallstead Wood (1) on 25th October, Holmbridge (8 & 3) on 22nd and 29th October respectively, Digley (5) on 16th November, Scammonden (8) on 16th November and Lundley Moor (1) on 24th November.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2)

Whilst normal records are of one or two birds, the exception was 12 at Elland G.P. on 24th January (JED). The species is well distributed throughout the Club area as the 30+ locations verify. Breeding took place at Lepton Great Wood, Penny Spring Wood and Wilderness Plantation. Two pairs nested at Dogley Nature Reserve.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce to uncommon visitor

Bretton C.P. was once again the only location in the Club area where this species was seen. Singles were present on 22nd October (BCo) and again on 20th December, this time in the company of a group of Chaffinch near the college car park (DMP, SP).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce winter visitor

A single male at Deer Hill on 11th March (MLD) was the only record for the year.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3)

The largest winter flocks reported were of c20 at Gunthwaite on 18th January (JED) and 30+ in Bretton C.P. on 11th February (BA). On the C.B.C. plot in Shepley 14 territories were mapped out between 10th April and 20th June (DBa). All suitable habitats, as in previous years, were well reported with probable breeding (ranging from three to ten pairs) at Penny Spring Wood, Lepton Great Wood, Farnley Tyas and near Royd House Wood (SG). In the second winter period the largest flock was of c20 at Dearne Dike Lane on 10th September (SH).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident breeder (2)

Males were predominant in the reports received, the first being a single at Royd Moor on 8th February but it was not until 10th April that a second bird, another male, was reported from this location (BA). It was a similar story at Blackmoorfoot with a male seen on 10th March then single males were recorded throughout the following month and until 21st May (MLD). Whilst a male and a female were regularly seen at Scamonden during April and May (JED) the only others reported were at Deer Hill Moss where a pair nested (TD).

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Resident breeder (1)

A single record only of this species, this being of one singing from wires adjacent to Broastones Road between 10 00 and 12 00 hrs on 3rd May (TM, DBa)

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

A single at Bretton C.P. on 28th April (NA). Full description sent to BBRC and accepted by them on 31 March 1998

List of Contributors (With apologies for any omissions)

N. Addey, Y. Allott, B. Armitage, D. Barrans, B. Barrans, S.M. Barrans, S.P. Barrans, J. Beaumont, Mr. Billington, P. Bray, D.W. Brierley, G. Brooke, D. Butterfield, T. Cantwell, G. Carr, N. Carter, A. Chambers, P. Chambers, D. Cobley, B. Cocking, H. Corbett, R. Crossley, J.E. Dale, J.M. Dale, S.M. Dale, A. Dean, J. Dean, M.L. Denton, T. Duckworth, J. Garbutt, M. Gilbert, P. Gilbert, S. Graham, C. Gutteridge, J. Hamilton, R.A. Hampshire, S. Hey, B. Hinchcliffe, J. Hodson, R.D. Holloway, S.E. Holloway, D.S. Ives, V. Ives, J. Jemison, S. Knell, A. Lacey, N. Leece, L. Lloyd-Evans, B. Lucas, D. Manchester, I. Martin, T. Melling, J.M. Newman, D.M. Owen, J.K. Palliser, N. Parker, D.H. Pennington, T. Piggot, D.M. Pogson, S. Pogson, J.D. Pope, A. Pownall, I.C. Pritchard, H. Quarterman, A. Rivers, G. Royston, P. Sewell, A. Shaw, D. Shore, D.W. Sill, M. Simpson, B. Smith, P. Smith, P.R.H. Smith, R. Smithson, D.J. Standring, J. Thurman, A. Todd, A.J. Wainscoat, J.M. Walker, S. Warrillow, M. Wells, D. Whittaker, W.E. Wood and K. Wright

The following have also passed on records: Shepley Bird and Wildlife Group and R.S.P.B. Office (Denby Dale)

FIELD TRIPS REPORT 1997

Clumber Park and Blacktoft Sands

26th January

The day got off to a good start, before we had even left Huddersfield over 60 **Waxwings** were seen as we passed through.

At Clumber Park a few of the group saw **Hawfinch** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**.

Other birds around the feeding stations were:- **Goldcrest**, **Long-tailed Tit**, **Marsh Tit**, **Coal Tit**, **Nuthatch**, **Treecreeper** and **Jay**. The lake held **Great Crested Grebe**, **Cormorant**, **Grey Heron** and various ducks and geese.

At Blacktoft - **Hen Harrier**, **Merlin**, **Water Rail**, **Dunlin** and **Snipe** were noted.

(D.Woodhouse)

Wombwell, Denaby Ings and Potteric Carr

23rd February

A fairly local trip provided quite a good species tally. At Wombwell we had a covey of **Red-legged Partridge** Broomhill had **Ringed** and **Golden Plover**, **Lapwing**, **Dunlin** and **Redshank**. The feeding stations at Denaby were excellent with **Bullfinch**, **Willow Tit** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**.

At Potteric Carr only a couple of the group saw **Lesser-spotted Woodpecker**. We also saw **Great-crested** and **Little Grebe**, **Wigeon**, **Gadwall**, **Teal**, **Shoveler**, **Pochard**, **Tufted Duck**, **Goosander** and **Ruddy Duck**. As Long-eared Owl had been reported at Broomhill, we returned, but unfortunately we did not see them.

(D Woodhouse)

Teeside

23rd March

At Saltholme Pools we saw a good selection of the usual ducks and geese. At Seal Sands we saw an early **Wheatear**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Curlew**, **Ringed Plover** and **Kestrel**. We also had excellent views of the seals right up the estuary by the bridge. At North Cove we saw a good number of **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Red-throated Diver**. Finally Hartlepool had an immature **Glaucous Gull**, **Turnstone**, **Oystercatcher** and **Purple Sandpiper**.

(D Woodhouse)

Hest Bank, Woodwell and Leighton Moss

20th April

As usual an excellent species count here of 86. The high tide at Hest Bank had lots of **Curlew** and **Oystercatcher**. Some of the group tried and failed for **Hawfinch** at

Woodwell. At the reserve were **Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Little Owl, Reed Warbler, Wood Warbler, Hearded Tit, Marsh Tit, Garganey, Scaup, Goldeneye, Buzzard, Snipe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wheatear, Jay, Linnet and Bullfinch** - an excellent day !

(D Woodhouse)

Bempton Cliffs, Flamborough Head, Filey Brigg and Blacktoft Sands
18th May

A trip by car today, and a superb one. At Flamborough, although we could not see the sea because of fog, we still managed to see **Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot**. At Bempton the fog had cleared a bit and we saw the vast numbers of seabirds on the cliffs and that now rare bird, **Corn Bunting** in the fields above. At Filey Dams were two **Cuckoos** and the Brigg had a few **Eider**. Blacktoft was excellent with **Marsh Harrier, Avocets** with young, **Turtle Dove, Sand Martin, Lesser Whitethroat** and a stunning male **Garganey** in front of the hide. Those who stopped until 9 pm heard **Grasshopper Warbler** and just before dark **Roe Deer**, a **Fox** and a **Barn Owl** appeared in front of the hide.

(D Woodhouse)

Spurn Point Bird Observatory
21st September

A very warm, dry and sunny day with light, southerly winds: visibility was generally good at close distances but viewing over the sea and the Humber estuary was not helped by heat-haze. In the past Spurn has given Club members some memorable days, but with only about 60 species identified most of us went home feeling some degree of disappointment.

The day still had its moments. At least four **Red-throated Divers** were recorded moving along the coast in both directions, and a similar situation appertained to **Gannets**, where most of the birds appeared to be immatures. Both **Wigeon** and **Eider** were seen in small parties offshore from the Kilnsea Cliff area and up to 30+ **Brent Geese** were on the exposed estuarine mud. **Red-legged Partridge** - two pairs each with five young were seen, one along Beacon Lane, the other in Clubleys Field.

Up to 11 species of wader were identified: most notable of these were the huge numbers of **Knot** encountered on the estuarine mud off the Narrow Neck and Chalk Bank areas (it seems a long while since numbers rivaling this magnitude were seen by Club members). Two **Curlew Sandpipers**, each showing remnants of summer plumage, were also present. Surprisingly few **Dunlin** were seen however.

Migrant passerine species were not well represented today. Hirundines still seemed plentiful but there were hardly any migrant warblers and only **Whitethroat** seemed to be present in any numbers. Both **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Pied Flycatcher** were in the garden of Rose Cottage and **Whinchat** - at least four - were close by.

It was encouraging to once again find **Tree Sparrows** in significant numbers (parties of 80 + and 70 +) were in the hedgerow systems along the fields between the reserve gates and the Bluebell Reception Centre

(D.Butterfield)

Flamborough Head, South Landing, Filey Bay, Brigg and North Cliff C.P.
19th October.

The weather today proved very disappointing; whilst it remained dry, largely light southerly winds did nothing to dispel the heavy mists which cut visibility down to (at times) less than 15 yards and made sea-watching from any point impossible.

As a consequence the day's tally was less than 40 species. The only highlights came from a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and several **Goldcrests** which were noted at South Landing and from the male **Blackcap**, four to five **Rock Pipits** and the winter-male **Snow Bunting** which was on the cliffs at Filey.

(D.Butterfield)

Ribble Estuary and Martin Mere
23rd November

At the Ribble were good numbers of ducks and geese, also a **Merlin** and a peregrine which scattered the wader flocks which included **Golden Plover**, **Dunlin**, **Ruff**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Curlew**, **Redshank** and **Lapwing** However we did not see the rare Yellowlegs which was in front of the hide the previous day. On the marine lake we had excellent views of a winter **Great Northern Diver**.

At Martin Mere we saw **Peregrine**, **Merlin** and a **Sparrowhawk** taking a **Lapwing** as well as a good view of stoat with prey

(D.Woodhouse)

Once again, thanks to everyone who has supported the trips over the last year.

David Woodhouse

RINGING REPORT

The weather conditions, coupled with a month long ringing expedition to The Gambia, made any ringing attempts during the first winter period impractical

For the first time since intensive ringing commenced at Blackmoorfoot (1971), this was the first year in which the reservoir remained almost full of water during the autumn period. As a consequence it was only possible to erect a single mist-net late in the autumn and the only free-flying birds ringed (84) were on the few days when the weather conditions allowed.

On the other hand the ringing of pulli was fruitful and resulted in the ringing of 81 nestlings/chicks, this consisted of the following: Lapwing (14 Deer Hill), Dipper (10 Hill Top), Dunnock (5 Blackmoorfoot), Blackbird (12 Blackmoorfoot), Mistle Thrush (4 Blackmoorfoot), Willow Warbler (13 Blackmoorfoot), Chaffinch (14 Blackmoorfoot) and Greenfinch (9 Blackmoorfoot)

The generally inclement weather conditions during the second winter period were not conducive to the catching of birds and consequently no birds were handled at this time

During the course of the year only 165 birds were ringed

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used

Age:	1	Pullus (nestling or chick)
	2	Full-grown. Year of hatching quite unknown.
	3	Hatched during the calendar year of ringing.
	3J	As 3, but still in juvenile plumage.
	4	Hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown.
	5	Hatched during previous calendar year.
	6	Hatched before previous calendar year.
	8	Hatched three or more calendar years before year of ringing
	10	Hatched more than 4 calendar years before year of ringing

Sex:: M = Male F = Female

Manner of recovery:

V	Caught or trapped and released with ring.
VV	Ring number read in field or sight record of identifiable colour marks
X	Found dead or dying
XL	Found dead (not recent)
+	Shot or killed by man

All recoveries of five kilometers or more are published

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDS

Willow Warbler

5T0429	3	19/08/95	Blackmoorfoot, near Huddersfield.	53°37'N 1°52'W
	V	11/04/97	St Albans Head, Purbeck, Dorset 339 Km S	50°34'N 2°3'W

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

Black-headed Gull

A full life-history of the colour ringed bird from Denmark noted in the 1996 Report is now available and is here given in full.

S	13/04/86	Utterslev Mose, Kobenhaven, Denmark	55°43'N 12°29'E
VV	26/03/88	Utterslev Mose	
VV	21/06/88	Utterslev Mose	
VV	26/03/89	Utterslev Mose	
VV	04/04/89	Utterslev Mose	
VV	07/04/89	Utterslev Mose	
VV	13/01/90	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km WSW
VV	19/01/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	26/01/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	04/02/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	08/02/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	18/02/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	24/02/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	25/02/90	Blackmoorfoot	
VV	16/03/90	Utterslev Mose	965 Km ENE
VV	23/07/90	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km WSW
VV	14/03/91	Tingbjerg, Kobenhaven,	55°43'N 12°29'E 965 Km ENE
VV	26/03/92	Utterslev Mose	5 Km E
VV	23/04/92	Utterslev Mose	
VV	18/06/92	Utterslev Mose	
VV	07/07/93	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km WSW
VV	28/03/95	Utterslev Mose	965 Km ENE
VV	29/05/95	Utterslev Mose	
VV	01/07/95	Utterslev Mose	
VV	31/03/96	Utterslev Mose	

VV	02/04/96	Utterslev Mose	
VV	03/04/96	Utterslev Mose	
VV	08/04/96	Utterslev Mose	
VV	18/04/96	Utterslev Mose	
VV	04/05/96	Utterslev Mose	
VV	29/08/96	Blackmoorfoot	965 Km WSW
VV	23/03/97	Utterslev Mose	965 KM ENF
VV	02/04/97	Utterslev Mose	
VV	12/04/97	Utterslev Mose	
VV	29/05/97	Utterslev Mose	
VV	23/06/97	Utterslev Mose	

M.L. Denton

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

Due to the limited ringing very few retraps were handled and the only bird which exceeded a 12-month period between ringing and retrap concerned a 2 year old Great Tit.

No recoveries of more than 12-months duration were notified during the year.

M.L. Denton

RING TOTALS LIST - 1997

Lapwing	14
Woodpigeon	1
Dipper	10
Wren	1
Duncock	5
Robin	6
Blackbird	13
Mistle Thrush	4
Blackcap	1
Willow Warbler	41
Goldcrest	7
Spotted Flycatcher	1
Long-tailed Tit	15
Blue Tit	18
Great Tit	3
Starling	1
Chaffinch	15
Greenfinch	9
GRAND TOTAL	165

M.L. Denton

MURDER WITHOUT A MOTIVE.

The number of Great Crested Grebes *Podiceps cristatus* at Blackmoortfoot Reservoir during April and early May 1997 fluctuated between three and eight. From these birds two breeding pairs formed and from 11th May these were the only ones present. An additional bird was in residence on the morning of 22nd. By this time one of the pairs had hatched chicks from a nest in the partly submerged willows *Salix* spp. along the west bank of the reservoir. The other pair had made feeble attempts at constructing a nest in a partly submerged willow near the south bank inlet (some 490 metres distant).

As I arrived at the hide for a second visit on 22nd (14.50 hrs) two birds were in the throes of an almighty battle in the west bank willows to the north of the hide. One of the birds was stabbing violently at the other, whilst at the same time trying to hold it under water. To my complete surprise the bird managed to hold the other under water sufficiently long enough to drown it. The victor, which was somewhat dishevelled, then swam out onto the open water and joined a bird which had been fishing. Once the victor had undergone a vigorous preening session, both birds swam towards the submerged willow on the south bank and loafed in the vicinity for the rest of the afternoon.

In trying to understand the situation, my immediate thought was that one of the south bank territory holders had killed the newcomer. This theory, however, raised a question. Why should it? Neither bird was within its own territory, indeed, the newcomer hadn't had time to proclaim a territory and, one very important factor, both birds were trespassing and presumably had little to fight about. There would seem, therefore, to be no justification behind such an act, especially since it culminated in the unnecessary death of another. Most creatures, including humans, have evolutionary mechanisms where posturing overcomes physical contact which is likely to lead to severe damage.

My next thought was that the rightful territory holder had been in conflict with the other bird, and the interloper had won the battle. It was at this stage that I became aware that a bird was patrolling the west bank willows, calling loudly. I assumed that this was one of the rightful territory holders but, as its wings were not held in an elevated position, it was not carrying chicks. The worst, but far more likely scenario, began to pass through my mind. Had the south bank bird ventured into the other territory and found itself in conflict with the bird in charge of the chicks? In such a situation, the small chicks, upon falling into the water would soon perish; at most they were seven days old and small chicks, not being waterproof, are particularly vulnerable to chilling (Simmons, 1989).

At 06.15 hrs the following morning (23rd) only three grebes appeared to be in residence, the south bank territory holders and a single from the west bank territory. This situation was also observed during the course of the afternoon. The worst scenario, therefore, appeared to have taken place. At 06.15 hrs on 24th, however, a grebe was carrying small fish into the willows along the west bank, strongly suggesting that it was feeding young. Careful observations thereafter revealed that the family was safe and well, and that they

had three chicks, not two as previously thought. They had presumably taken their family into the willows for shelter, thereby avoiding the cold north-easterly wind that had prevailed for several days.

Although dismissing my original thought as being rather fanciful, it now became obvious that one of the south bank territory holders had indeed killed the newcomer. This still begs the original question: Why, under these circumstances, should one bird kill another? Given the facts outlined above, it is far too easy to become anthropomorphic about the issue. However, may it not be that the victor of the battle was so frustrated at its abortive breeding attempts that, finding itself in a conflict situation, it took vengeance on the newcomer?

Although Cramp & Simmons (1977) and Simmons (1989) state that the Great Crested Grebe is an aggressive bird and will fight at times, they give no recorded instance of one bird killing another. Harrison (1973) relates an incident in which a Great Crested Grebe was considered to have been killed by another, but the evidence was circumstantial. From the records available, it would appear that the killing of conspecifics is a very unusual phenomenon. The pugnacious Robin *Erethacus rubecula* would appear to be one of the few bird species in which this happens, but then only during territorial disputes (Cramp, 1988).

The above documents the killing of one Great Crested Grebe by another and would seem to be the first reported instance for this species. It is unfortunate that I had arrived too late to witness the build-up to this conflict and the above interpretations are the best that can be made of the situation. The fact still remains, however, that this was 'Murder without a motive'.

REFERENCES

Cramp, S. (editor) 1988 *The Birds of the Western Palearctic (Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa)*, volume 5. Oxford University Press, London.

Cramp, S. and Simmons, K.E.L. (editors) 1977 *The Birds of the Western Palearctic (Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa)*, volume 1. Oxford University Press, London.

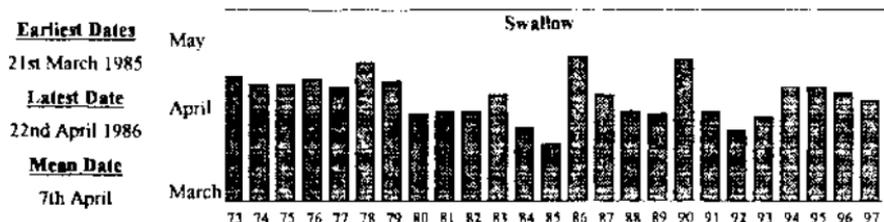
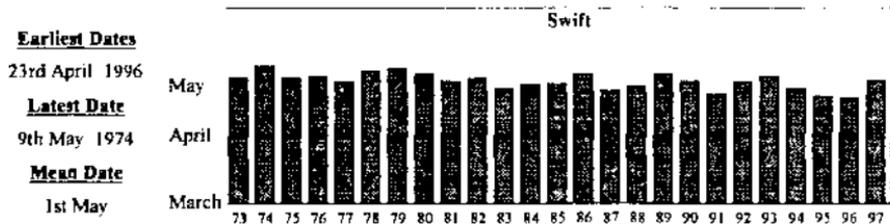
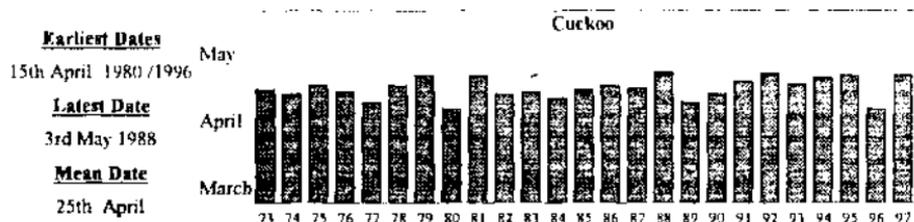
Harrison, R. 1973. Death of Great Crested Grebe in unusual circumstances. *British Birds* 66: 364.

Simmons, K.E.L. 1989 *The Great Crested Grebe*. Shire Publications Ltd. Aylesbury.

Twenty-five years of Migrant Breeders in the Huddersfield Area

The following graphs are a result of the data relating to the first sightings of migrant breeders returning to the Club area since 1973. I have not attempted to draw any conclusions but must confess to finding the results extremely interesting and it is this interest that I wish to share with you. I have concentrated on the regular migrant breeders but the omission of Chiffchaff and Blackcap is quite deliberate as the records were not able to distinguish between the birds which had over-wintered and the genuine migrant breeders. I have also refrained from commenting on individual graphs as this may detract from making individual comparisons. The datum line in each case is 1st March with the vertical scale through to May in all cases apart from Wheatear, Ring Ouzel and Willow Warbler. Although most species follow a remarkable consistency in their timing of arrival, it must be borne in mind that generally these birds will be local breeders and not necessarily on passage.

David Barrans July 1998



Earliest Dates

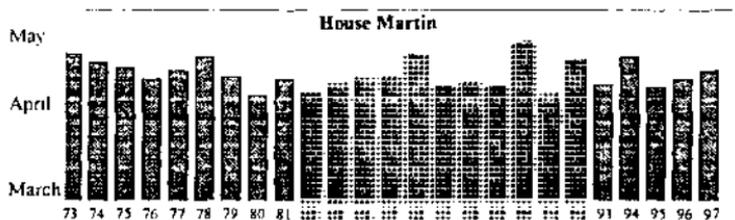
8th April 1980 / 1991

Latest Date

27th April 1990

Mean Date

13th April

**Earliest Dates**

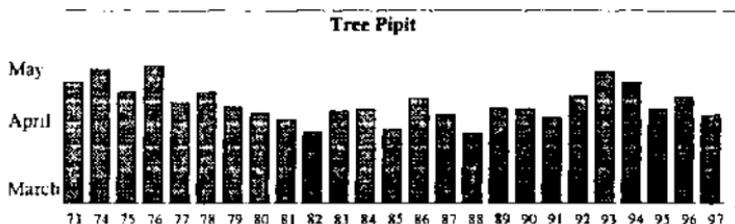
3rd April 1988

Latest Date

6th May 1976

Mean Date

16th April

**Earliest Dates**

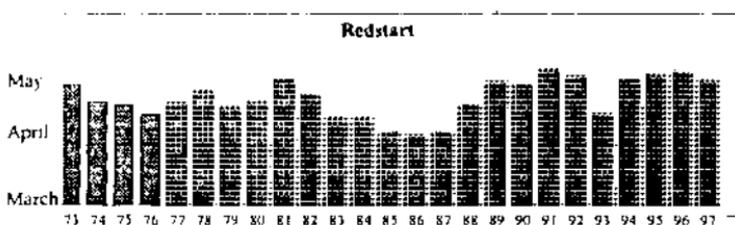
3rd April 1986

Latest Date

5th May 1991

Mean Date

21st April

**Earliest Dates**

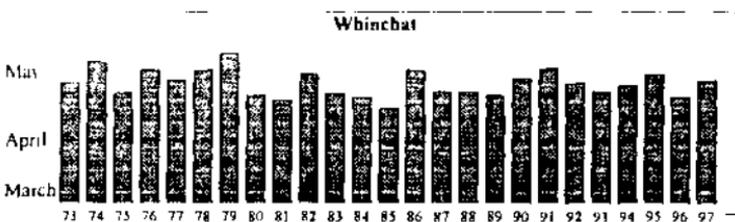
16th April 1985

Latest Date

12th May 1979

Mean Date

27th April



Earliest Dates

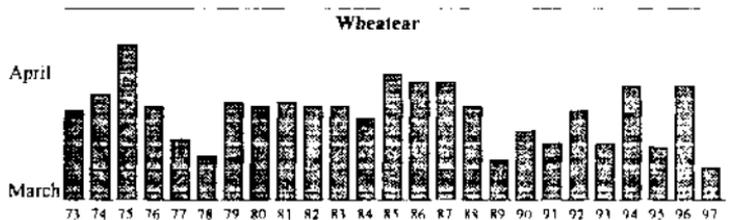
4th March 1997

Latest Date

7th April 1975

Mean Date

21st March

**Earliest Dates**

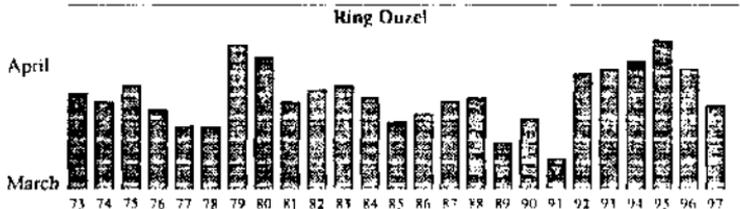
8th March 1991

Latest Date

6th April 1995

Mean Date

23rd March

**Earliest Dates**

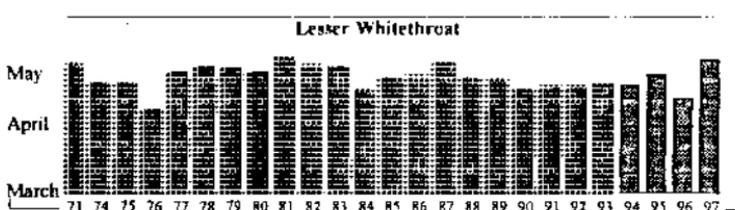
4th April 1976

Latest Date

12th May 1981

Mean Date

1st May

**Earliest Dates**

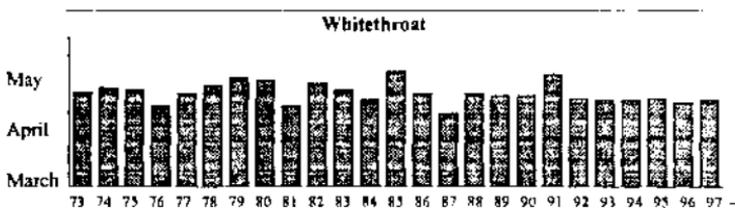
18th April 1987

Latest Date

16th May 1985

Mean Date

2nd May



Earliest Dates

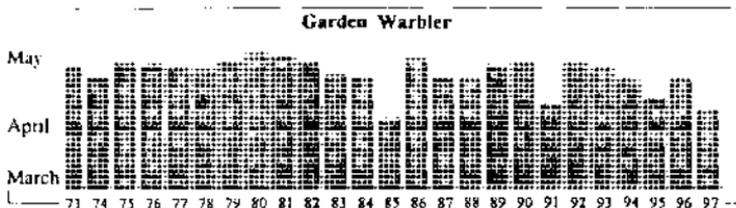
4th April 1985

Latest Date

9th May 1980

Mean Date

28th April



Earliest Dates

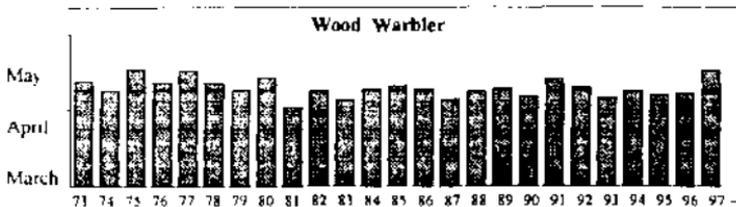
21st April 1981

Latest Date

16th May 1975

Mean Date

4th May



Earliest Dates

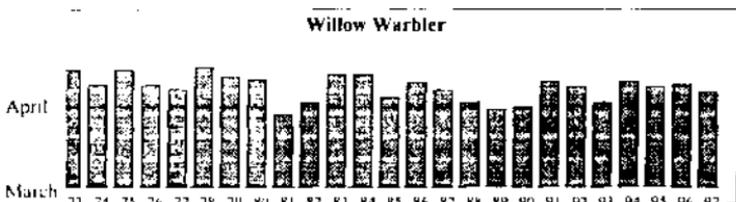
29th March 1981

Latest Date

17th April 1978

Mean Date

9th April



Earliest Dates

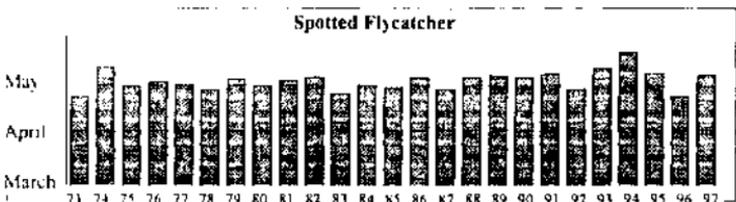
29th April 1996

Latest Date

28th May 1994

Mean Date

10th May



OFFICERS

President

DAVID HOLLOWAY

84 Townend Road, Wooldale, Holmfirth. HD7 1XT

Tel: 01484 684099

President Elect

Hon. Treasurer

DAVID SHORE

4 Fixby Park Drive, Huddersfield HD2 2NN

Tel 01484 514237

Hon. Secretary

DAVID BUTTERFIELD

15, Dene Road, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield HD8 9BU

Tel 01484 862006

Recorder

BRIAN ARMSTRONG

106 Forest Road, Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 8ET

Tel: 01484 305054

Field Meeting Organiser

DAVID WOODHOUSE

13, Ingleton Road, Newsome, Huddersfield. HD4 6QX

Tel. 01484 519219

Conservation/Liaison Officer

MIKE DENTON

77, Hawthorne Terrace, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield HD4 5RP

Tel: 01484 646990

Auditor

MAVIS MURPHY

Committee Members

David Barrans, Stuart Brocklehurst, Sandra Holloway