



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield

2008



Short-eared Owl

'Birds in Huddersfield 2008' is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Front cover: **Short-eared Owl** by Stuart Brocklehurst.

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ISSN 0962-5925

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Registered charity no 1098296

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Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and you can see more of his work on his web site:
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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Once more it is my pleasure to introduce our latest club report, revealing the continuing growth of the "Huddersfield List" together with less welcome news of the continued decline in the populations of certain species. These contrasts bring home the constancy of change, whether we welcome it or not, and the importance of reports such as ours in making their contributions towards the monitoring and measurement of such change. Over the years of formally recording birds in the club area since 1966 this list has grown to 268 with three further species and one sub-species added this year. Indeed the total of 177 species seen in the club area this year is considerable (and considerably more than those that I managed to see), indicating the efforts being put in by the many observers in the field who contribute so willingly to this report.

The style and presentation of the report continues to develop and the inclusion of colour plates which began last year has been repeated. One thing that hasn't changed over many years is the inclusion of numerous black and white illustrations by a number of different contributors. I'm sure that the many who have had illustrations printed by us in recent years will forgive me for bestowing particular praise to the efforts of Stuart Brocklehurst who once more has provided some outstanding images this year. This is in fact the twentieth year that Stuart has contributed illustrations to the club report and I'm sure that those of us with access to previous years' reports can take pleasure in reviewing those earlier illustrations once more. In commemoration of this anniversary Stuart has provided us with a colour plate of a short-eared owl for this year's cover. Once again this breaks new ground for the club and sets us on our mettle to be innovative once more in the upcoming 2009 report.

One new development that the club is considering investing in is the digitisation of all of the club reports back to 1966. This will entail the reports being scanned and converted to a digital format that can be easily searched on a PC to unearth whatever details are required within the records. It will also, more importantly in my view, ensure that a permanent record can be created and stored in various systems and consequently ensure that such reports should not succumb to accidental loss. None of this will change the type of reports that are received by members or bought by others, but can enhance the facility available to those who may be interested in more sophisticated methods of data investigation.

I've mentioned in earlier forewords the work that goes into these reports behind the scenes, but it would be remiss of me not to repeat this. Data is collected from our contributors (this year only 57 compared with 76 last year – let's have plenty more for 2009) and entered onto spreadsheets by David Butterworth who then distributes these according to groups of species amongst the nine report writers. These set to and pound their keyboards, producing their individual sections in good time, which are then compiled, seemingly effortlessly, by Mike Wainman, who then gathers in illustrations and tables to produce the whole. A series of proof readings later and the full report is off to the printers ready for your delectation.

Enjoy reading it, acknowledge the effort that has gone into producing it, and continue to be committed to doing **your** bit towards future reports.

Alf King

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering over 40 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological research and *Birds in Huddersfield 2008* is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

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

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

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

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

Our lecture and meeting programme runs between September and May each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography. There are also club nights, with, for instance, members showing photos of their own birding outings, local and further afield, a 'brains trust' of experienced members to answer your question or quiz nights using video footage of birds in the field to test your identification skills – an excellent way of improving them!

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

The forum on our web site is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, as is a great way of finding out what is about.

Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:

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

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust,

Natural England, Peak District National Park, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and The Friends of Beaumont Park. We also advise Kirklees Council on bird life issues through our representation on its conservation committee.

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see page 142) or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

2008: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 177 species were reliably recorded in the club area, which is the fourth most productive on record. Three species plus a recognised sub-species were recorded in the area for the first time, while several other species either put in first appearances for many years, or gave their best showing to date.

The year began fairly quietly. Blackmoorfoot Res. continued to offer safe roosting for several thousand Common and Black-headed Gulls, and Water Rails were noted early in the month at both Bretton Lakes and Elland Gravel Pits - good records of an elusive species.

The expected, and often spectacular, Pink-footed Goose movement took place late month with several skeins passing over the area, and an impressive 30 Whooper Swans passed over Lepton - a taste of things to come. A Scaup was seen at Horbury late month and a gathering of up to 30 Yellowhammers in the Calder area was a particularly welcoming sight.

February 2008 should be particularly memorable for three exceptional records. The club area's first Kumlien's Gull - a rare form of Iceland Gull - was identified in the Langsett Reservoir gull roost, but in a 'one night only' performance. Amazingly, the same observer then found an adult Night Heron lurking in trees at Scout Dike Res. three days later! This much more obliging bird's racial identity, unfortunately, then raised questions over its origin. But there can be no such doubts about the club area's third Woodlark which flew through Cooper Bridge mid-month. Speaking of fly-overs, a Rock Pipit over Harden during darkness on the last day of the month was just reward for a tuned-in and/or over-worked birder!

In March, after an increasingly rare Glaucous Gull briefly paused at Blackmoorfoot, a Mediterranean Gull was found at Golcar, a Scandinavian Rock Pipit graced Dewsbury Sewage Farm and an impressive 1,400 Fieldfare were counted at Elysium. A big movement of Whooper Swans took place mid-month, including a splendid herd of 50 over Scout Dike, and a Scaup, perhaps the Horbury bird, began a several week stay at Sands Lane Gravel Pits. Our first summer migrants were back from as early as the 10th, with a Wheatear at Holme Moss. To cap off an excellent month, on the last day at Blackmoorfoot an Iceland Gull emulated its bigger cousin, and the first of a record eight Red Kites in the area drifted over.

In April, after a wintry opening, it was all systems go for migration from mid-month. For the rarer species, there were an excellent five Osprey sightings through the area and the Calder Valley pulled in, among others, Garganey, Marsh Harrier, Grey Plover and Arctic Tern. On the uplands, an exceptional 14 Ring Ouzels paused near Blackmoorfoot, up to 40 Twite frequented their Deer Hill stronghold, and Black Terns visited Ingbirchworth and Scout Dike late month.

An excellent early May period saw Turnstone and Black Terns pass through Blackmoorfoot, Wood Sandpiper at Dewsbury Sewage Farm and, best of all, an adult Shag chose the unusual setting of Elland Gravel Pits from which to entertain local birders. A Little Egret then passed through here mid-month and a drake Ruddy Duck tried, unsuccessfully, to make all the right noises to his opposite at Scout Dike.

Things began to settle down in June, although calling Quails are always a thrill to hear and singles duly obliged at Honley and Wholestone Moor. Two Common Scoters at Butterley Reservoir heralded an average summer influx. The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the three Nightjars which took up territories, giving local birders an excuse to escape the soaps on rare

sultry evenings. Up to 50 Crossbills were in the Dovestones area and the first of the 11 Hobby sightings in the area came from Shelley.

There was, once again, mixed fortunes for our breeding birds. The wind and rain of another good old British summer wouldn't have helped of course. Of our waders, Oystercatcher appears to be going from strength to strength, but there was again little evidence to suggest that Golden Plover and Redshank are doing no more than merely hanging on. Conversely, it was better news for Dunlin with six pairs breeding on our western moorlands. Common Buzzard seems to be becoming more established, with acres of habitat available in the area, but it was a desperate year for Merlin and another poor return for Peregrine. It would be folly to think persecution of our birds of prey is diminishing, even with all the publicity surrounding them. On a more positive note, Barn Owl appears to be very steadily increasing, and it was an excellent year for Long-eared Owls. Understandably, a fair bit of discretion is often needed where species like these are concerned.

Of our migrant breeders, signs remain encouraging for Cuckoo and also Grasshopper Warbler - with six 'reelers'. Garden Warbler, Common and Lesser Whitethroat all, it seems, enjoyed a better year. It is also very pleasing to report a slight increase in Tree Pipit and Redstart numbers. However, Yellow Wagtail remains scarce and there was a worrying drop in Whinchat reports. Wood Warbler and Pied Flycatcher, once again, retain a toe-hold in the area.

Migration notched up a gear from the third week of July. In another record year, Little Egrets visited Elland, Dewsbury Sewage Farm and Scout Dike, while the latter site also hosted a splendid Black-tailed Godwit. All these were eclipsed by a second new bird for the area in the form of a Glossy Ibis seen over the small Boshaw Whams Reservoir - no doubt an astonishing experience for the lone observer present.

In August, yet another Ciconiiform appeared for the first time - a Black Stork was witnessed by one very lucky observer heading north over Dalton. Other good records, but decidedly bit-part players, this month included a Black Redstart at Deer Hill, a fine showing from Marsh Harriers at both Scout Dike and Winscar, 23 Common Scoters at Ringstone Edge Res. and a nice influx of Green Sandpipers.

September often serves up cracking local birding, and this year proved no exception. Rarity wise, the star of the show was the area's tenth Wryneck - a one day wonder at Norland. A major influx of Honey-buzzards took place around mid-month, and although not on the scale of that in 2000, the club area did get in on the act with four birds reported. Blackmoorfoot enjoyed a fruitful period, as well as one of the fore-mentioned Honey's it also hosted Osprey, six Sandwich Terns, Turnstone and the autumn's first Pink-footed Geese passed over here late month. Deer Hill and Ringstone Edge Reservoirs pulled in migrating Sanderling and Black-tailed Godwits respectively.

October began with another Sanderling visiting Blackmoorfoot, which was followed by an exceptional record of a party of fly-through Knot at nearby Meltham. A large movement of Redwings took place mid-month, with Fieldfares arriving in force a little later. Two more Rock Pipits were 'nailed' on visible migration watches, and what would become a good run of Whooper Swans commenced at Blackmoorfoot. Several skeins of Pink-feet heralded the onset of the colder months. There was a flurry of good records towards the end of the month: the first Long-tailed Duck for many years graced Ryburn Res; a wrecked Gannet was rescued from a fence at Crimble Clough; and the migration magnet of Dewsbury Sewage Farm pulled in Grey Plover and Water Pipit.

November opened with two Waxwings at Scout Dike, the first of a mini late-year invasion into the area. Higher than usual numbers of Pink-footed Geese were recorded and Bretton Park hosted up to 31 Goosanders. A Hen Harrier passed through Ringstone Edge, a Red-breasted Merganser paused at the favoured Blackmoorfoot site and the fourth Grey Plover of the year also passed through here.

Waxwings were the highlight for many in December; up to 150 of these delightful birds entertained birders in areas where, for any other reason, their presence would have raised suspicion! Elsewhere, things were fairly quiet, although the larger gulls did make three figures at the Blackmoorfoot roost. Another Red-breasted Merganser at this site brought an exceptional year in the Huddersfield area to a close.

Russ Boland

THE WEATHER IN 2008

Mild weather greeted the start of the year, January being the fourth warmest since 1916, and about average sunshine levels. February continued in the same vein, but with below average rainfall and above average sunshine.

March was fairly average, apart from being the wettest for seventeen years, but despite the rainfall there was above average sunshine. The weather in April was also typical for the month in terms of rainfall, temperature and sunshine hours. There was a change for the better in May, which proved to be the warmest recorded (at least back to 1914), with below average rainfall and well above the norm for sunshine.

The summer, like that of 2007, was disappointing. June was cooler than normal, in fact the coldest since 2001, but with average sunshine and rainfall and July was very average in all respects. Temperatures in August were about average but some areas had their wettest August on record and sunshine hours were well below average. Conditions throughout the summer months were bad for insects and consequently for insectivorous bird species and others trying to feed young.

The first half of September continued in a similar vein, but there was a big improvement in the second half, which proved to be, after early May, the most settled period of the year. October was mixed with above average sunshine but below average temperatures and also very wet in some parts of the country.

November was changeable with significant rainfall leading to flooding in parts of the country and by the month end was distinctly cool. From the end of the third week there was some snow, freezing fog and frosts. Temperatures in December continued to remain below average and the end of the year was cold and dull with high pressure firmly in place.

A second consecutive terrible summer must have had a significant effect on the area's wildlife that will not become apparent until 2009.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

The area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE 12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits. See also the map on page 131.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007 there were major changes to the taxonomic order, which now follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

Anseriformes (swans, geese and ducks) and Galliformes (grouse, partridges, pheasants and rails) were moved to the beginning of the Systematic List.

Changes have also been made to some scientific names and to the species order of shanks (genera *Xenus*, *Actitis* and *Tringa*), gulls, warblers and tits.

The following were split from the *Larus* genus of gulls – Little Gull becomes *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* and Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Little Tern becomes *Sternula albifrons*.

Great Skua becomes *Stercorarius skua* and Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*.

The *Sylvia* warbler sequence was re-arranged and became Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

The Tits (genus *Parus*) were split into smaller genera and their order re-arranged. New scientific names were applied to the following: Blue Tit becomes *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Coal Tit *Periparus ater*, Willow Tit *Poecile montana* and Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*. Rose-coloured Starling became *Pastor roseus*.

Other minor changes in order were made to conform to the latest BOU advice.

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

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

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

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

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

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2009 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly.

Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1981) and for some other sensitive species have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication might lead to harmful disturbance.

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

c.	-approximately
N	-North
S	-South
E	-East
W	-West
CP	-Country Park
GP	-Gravel Pit
NR	-Nature Reserve
SF	-Sewage Farm
SP	-Sludge Plant
Res.	-Reservoir

On page 131 is a complete list 'The Huddersfield List' of the 267 species, plus one provisional addition, and eleven additional distinct races, of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2009.

Please note that The Huddersfield List now incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

All reports of rare and unusual species that require a description have been accepted by the YNU Adjudication Panel or the BBRC, as appropriate.

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2008

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Recorded at ten sites, with at least three pairs breeding.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – two adults on 12th/13th October.

Bradley - two immatures on the canal on 6th January, and one on 19th March. A pair hatched three young in May.

Bretton Park – present from 10th February (1 adult) to the year end. The resident pair were seen with five juveniles on 14th July. Another pair were seen occasionally.

Colnebridge SP – single adults on the River Calder on 14th January and 24th February.

Cooper Bridge SP – three immatures were seen twice in May, and a pair with three juveniles were present on 25th of that month.

Dewsbury SF – three on the River Calder throughout January, and five during September and October.

Elland GP – in January, two immatures and an adult on 3rd and 22nd, with the two immatures remaining on 27th.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – recorded in single figures in every month up to September, and thereafter only on two dates in November. Six adults and two immatures were present from 28th January, one adult having left by 5th February. One pair hatched five cygnets, of which at least two survived into November.

Sands Lane GP – an immature present in late February, an adult from 26th February to 13th April, with two on 2nd March. Three immatures on 26th April were followed by two adults on 30th. What were presumably the same adults were accompanied by four juveniles on 20th July, the only subsequent record was of two adults and a juvenile on 12th October.

Shelley Woodhouse – a single adult resident on a private mill pond throughout the year.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A good year for this species, with a notable movement taking place on 16th March involving perhaps 200 birds.

During the first winter period, 15 birds, which flew over **Lepton** at 10.00hrs on 30th January (JMD) were probably those heard over **Outlane** five minutes later (JED). Five were present at **Broadstones Res.** on 9th February (JKP).

March 16th proved to be a day of Whooper Swan movement, beginning with two adults departing W from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 09.35hrs (MLD, CH). Later on, c.50 flew W over **Scout Dike Res.** at 10.17hrs followed by another herd of c.20 at 11.20hrs (RJB). 21 flew over **Ingbirchworth Res.** at mid-day and 21 NW over **Brown Edge Road** (untimed), are most likely to be the same birds and were probably the same as the 20 over **Scout Dike** at 11.20 hrs while 38 adults and an immature arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the afternoon (MLD, MS). Other untimed records include **Scammonden Dam** where 45 flew N (HBC) and **Linthwaite** with 30+ over (KW). The final record on this day was of an unknown number heard over **Fixby** at 20.45hrs (DT).

Records during the second winter period came mainly from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where, in

October, five adults departed W at 15.35hrs on 17th (MLD, DHP, MS), with an adult in residence from 19th to 21st (MLD, CH, DMO *et al*) and five adults present on 31st (MLD). In November 10 adults were present on 6th (DHP, MS), two adults on 18th (MLD, DHP, MS) and three adults which arrived from the W at 11.10hrs. on 19th landed in the fields to the E (MLD, DMO). The latter may well have been the three adults which departed SW from **Tunnel End Res.** at 08.30hrs that day (JMP).

Two swans present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th or 12th February "with lots of yellow on the bill", were reported by anglers, and were probably this species (per RJB). Seven distant swans flying south, seen from **High Hoyland** on 7th December may also have been this species (SRG).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

This regular migrant over our area was observed in slightly higher numbers than in 2007, with a couple of days in particular bringing multiple records from several sites. All records are given here, with time and direction of flight where this information was supplied.

About 3,500 birds were seen on passage during the first winter period, rather better than in 2007. All were recorded in the first two months of the year and, where the direction of flight was noted, all moved W or NW. There was heavy passage on 28th January, accounting for almost 2,200 birds at six widely scattered sites.

23rd January - 60 WNW over **Fixby** at 11.25hrs and 47 over Carlecotes ponds at mid-day.

24th January - 100+ NW over **Bradley Hall Golf Club** at 10.40hrs.

26th January - 200+ over **Crosland Moor**.

27th January - a skein passed over **Crosland Moor**.

28th January - at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** 41 flew WNW at 09.30hrs., followed by 310 NW at 10.17hrs., 90 NW at 10.19hrs. and 181 NW at 10.20hrs. (total 622). At **Ingbirchworth Res.**, c.730 flew W in 11 skeins between 09.50hrs and 11.40hrs. and c.200 went W over **Skelmanthorpe** at 11.50hrs. In the **Blackmoorfoot/Crosland Moor** area, 44 flew NW at 10.25hrs., while 140 flew W at 11.15hrs., another 140 W at 12.00hrs. and 135 W at 12.15hrs. (total 459). A skein flew W at **Wholestone Moor** at 11.30hrs., with another of 131 W at 11.45hrs. 180 flew W at 13.15hrs. over **Ainley Top**, and c.60 went W over **Netherthong**.

29th January - 155 WNW near **Healey**.

1st February - **Blackmoorfoot** had 32 W at 08.45hrs., 150 W at 09.30hrs. and 85 W at 15.25hrs.

10th February - c.70 NW at **Scout Dike Res.** at 09.35hrs.

11th February - 66 flew W at 10.25hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**, and another 50 over there. At **Netherthong** 100 passed W at 11.00hrs.

12th February - 70 W over **Blackmoorfoot** at 10.50hrs.

Grounded birds during the first winter period occurred at **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, which held two from 22nd to 24th and 3 on 28th January, a single on 3rd and 15th February and two on 1st April. A group of 12 were present on **Meltham Cop** on 30th January. One was at **Ringstone Edge** on 25th March, with another accompanying Canada Geese there on 12th May, both which may have been feral.

Movement in the autumn/winter involved about 4,350 birds, very similar to 2007. Again there was a day of particularly heavy passage, this time on 12th October, with about 1,500 birds on the move over five sites.

- 24th September - 52 SE at **Blackmoorfoot** at 15.00hrs.
 27th September - c.60 E at **Scout Dike Res.** at 13.15hrs.
 28th September - birds were heard calling over **Netherthong** at 06.15hrs, and 50 flew E over **Blackmoorfoot** at 11.10hrs., with 73 E over **Fixby** at the same time.
 11th October - c.100 passed over **New Mill**.
 12th October - eight flew over **Scout Dike Res.** at 10.16hrs., c.75 at 10.47hrs, 80 at 10.57hrs. and 140 at 11.02hrs., all going W; 140 flew E there at 11.25hrs., which the observer considered to be different birds. 260 passed NW over **Snailsden Res.** at 10.30hrs. At **Blackmoorfoot**, 160 went W at 11.20hrs. Other observations were of 80 N at **Golcar** and three skeins of c.100 and one of c.150 W at **Meal Hill**.
 17th October - 26 N over **Bradley Hall Farm**.
 18th October - 80+ W at **Butterley Res.** at 09.30hrs.
 27th October - c.150 over **Wilshaw**.
 28th October - 62 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.15hrs. followed by 240 S then W at 15.15hrs., with a further 67 N at 15.30hrs.
 29th October - 140 E over **Blackmoorfoot** at 08.30hrs. and c.150 went WNW over **Lepton**.
 1st November - c.50 E over **Shelley** at 09.50hrs.
 9th November - 300 passed E at **Blackmoorfoot** at 08.00hrs.
 16th November - 100+ over **Meltham**.
 17th November - c.130 W over **Shelley** at 11.00hrs, and c.200 N at **Lindley**.
 18th November - 80 NW at 14.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.
 22nd November - 180 passed N at **Ingbirchworth Res.** at 11.00hrs., and a skein flew W at **Fixby** at 17.15hrs.
 24th November - 50 NW over **Bradley Hall Golf Club** at 09.45hrs.
 29th November - 160 W at **Blackmoorfoot** at 11.30hrs.
 30th November - 180 W over **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.25hrs.
 6th December - 130 NW over **Snailsden Moor**.
 7th December - at 11.30hrs, 120 flew NW over **Cawthorne**, and 52 went NW at 11.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.
 20th December - 18 W at **Healey Mills**.

During the second winter period, a single was present on **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 27th October. Eight (along with 2 Greylag Geese) were in a field to the W on 25th and 29th November with the same birds remaining between 7th and 10th December. These birds were joined by a ninth the following day, all of which remained until 24th December. One was at **Elland GP** on 4th October, **Horbury Wyke/Strands** held four from 4th to 9th December. A single was seen at **Sands Lane GP** on 21st November and others, consorting with Canada Geese were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th November and 26th December.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

More birds were reported from more sites than in 2007, with a notable flock of c.50 in the **Ingbirchworth** area. This, and similar double-figure flocks noted in recent years on dates outside the October to April period are something of a mystery; they easily outnumber any 'resident' birds in the area, and it would be of interest to know where they originated.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - singles were present on 26th and 30th January (with Canada Geese) and between 6th and 9th February. Two (along with 8 Pink-footed geese) were present in a field to the W on 25th and 29th November with the same birds (along with 8 or 9 Pink-footed Geese which

remained until 24th) remaining between 7th and 25th December.

Bretton Park – a single present all year, with two on 28th February.

Sands Lane GP - singles on 20th February and 15th March.

Silkstone/Berry Moor - four on 24th March.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - up to eight regularly between 18th April and 16th May.

Dewsbury SF - three on 30th April and two on 14th May.

Ringstone Edge - four on 4th, 15th and 16th May.

Ingbirchworth Res. - about 50 which flew low over the reservoir on 16th August appeared to land near Spicer Hill. Two were accompanying Canada Geese on 7th September.

Royd Moor/Scout Dike area - up to 12 during August.

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

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

Records were received from over 30 sites, some being frequented by sizeable flocks. Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Park**, **Dewsbury SF** (11 young), **Gunthwaite Dam** (4 young), **Healey Mills** (6 young), **Horbury Strands** (12 young), **Langsett Res.** (11 young), **Scout Dike Res.** (4 young) and in the **Wessenden Valley** (four young). Breeding probably also took place at **Digley**, **Dovestones** and **Winscar Reservoirs**.

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	53	62	2	5	0	27	40	61	9	93	93	69
Bretton Park	100+	100+	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	15+	n/c	n/c
Elland GP	22	n/c	n/c	2	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	28	15	47
Horbury Strands/Wyke	250	250	n/c	n/c	2	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	170	170
Ingbirchworth Res.	263	c.300	c.300	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	52	n/c	n/c	76	c.250
Royd Moor Res.	n/c	300	n/c	17	n/c	n/c	n/c	200	c.210	n/c	n/c	n/c

Counts of 30 or more came from several other sites:

Broadstones Res. - 300+ on 14th January and c.50 on 10th September.

Sparth Res - 126 on 27th January.

Butterley Res. - 38 on 26th June.

Scammonden Dam- 80 on 2nd and 3rd October.

Snailsden Res. - 72 on 12th October.

Meal Hill - c.65 on 16th November.

Boshaw Whams - 60 on 22nd November.

Smaller numbers were recorded at **Blakeley Res.**, **Broadstone Heath**, **Digley Res.**, **Cooper Bridge**, **Deffer Wood**, **New Mill**, **Sands Lane GP**, **Shelley** and **Silkstone**.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

The only record came from **Royd Moor Res.**, where two feral birds were with Canada Geese on 12th October.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

Birds were recorded in every month except January, the majority being in February, April and September. The two largest flocks, however, were on 28th August, probably reflecting the return migration from the species' moulting grounds on the eastern side of the North Sea. Slightly fewer records came from a smaller number of sites this year, but the long-stayers at Horbury were of interest - perhaps hinting at a future breeding attempt in our area.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - two on 5th and one on 8th February, two on 4th and again from 16th April to 10th May. The last records were of singles on 18th May and 20th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - only a small number of records this year: Six on 8th February, one on 3rd and two on 28th April, two juveniles on 21st July, three on 19th October, three on 18th and one on 27th December.

Scout Dike Res. - a single on 9th February.

Dewsbury SF - two were present throughout March and April. Singles on 21st May, 13th and 16th June were followed by two from 14th to 17th July. Finally, singles were present on 3rd and 19th September.

Bretton Park - three departed W on 15th March.

Ringstone Edge - a single on 31st March was followed by a nice count of 24 on 28th August, of which 12 were on the water as another 12 flew over. There was a final single on 19th September.

Royd Moor Res. - eight on 28th August, the same day that 24 were seen at Ringstone Edge..

Elland GP - one on 23rd December.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Records of this exotic duck came from nine sites this year, four more than last year, with a hint of breeding. No records were received from Ryburn Res., where the species has been seen in each of the previous four years.

Dewsbury SF - present on the River Calder throughout the year, with six on 11th September, then eight from 11th to 15th October (JH).

Brockholes - a male on 28th February, and a single on 24th June (HQ).

Elland GP - a single on 2nd April (HBC).

Healey Mills - a male and female present from 13th May to 24th September (JRS).

West Slaithwaite - a male and female on the canal on 8th August (DWB).

Marsden - an eclipse male on the canal on 20th September (JMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res. - a male on 19th October (MLD, TD, DMO).

Windy Bank Res. - a male from 30th October to 2nd November (MW).

Fenay Beck - a male from 16th December to the year-end had imprinted on a female Mallard (DS).

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

Recorded from 15 sites this year, with birds well into double figures remaining for periods during the winter months in the **Horbury** area and at the complex of reservoirs centred on **Ingbirchworth**. **Windy Bank Res.** also held a few birds during the second winter period. Although the numbers involved were only of local significance, this is a welcome phenomenon which has emerged during recent years.

Reports from the main locations were as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res. - the only records during the first winter period concerned females on 11th and 15th February. The first bird of autumn was a single male which remained between 3rd and 8th September. Also in September were a flock of 43 (mainly males) on 11th, five on 12th, 15 on 13th, three on 15th, five on 18th, seven on 22nd and two on 24th. In October birds were only noted on six dates between 9th and 31st, the maximum being six on 10th. November was equally as poor with a maximum of four on six dates between 1st and 26th. In December 10 (6 males) were present on 14th, a male on 26th and six (3 males) on 28th.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - maxima in the first winter period were 60 on 28th January, 55 on 3rd February and 14 on 18th March, with the last birds being seen on 16th of that month. The only record from latter part of the year was of four on 26th December.

Meal Hill - during both winter periods, up to 30 alternated between here and **Broadstones**. The last birds were seen on 8th March, with the first returning on 25th September.

Royd Moor Res. - 15 on 18th February, 10 on 31st August and 21 on 26th December.

Scout Dike Res. - 13 on 30th November, 21 on 6th and 46 flying towards Royd Moor on 7th December.

In addition, 12 were at **Boshaw Whams** on an unspecified date in the early months of the year, and 18 flew W up the river at **Healey Mills** on 20th December.

Smaller numbers were at **Booth Wood Res.**, with a maximum of five on 5th October; **Dewsbury SF** - two on both 5th January and 3rd November; **Elland GP** - one on 6th November; **Ingbirchworth Res.** - a male and female on 9th March, two males on 7th and a single from 15th to 17th September, and two on 11th December; **Ringstone Edge** - six on 31st August rose to 12 by 12th September but had dwindled to four by 29th, five were present on 5th October and a single on 3rd December. At **Windy Bank Res.**, birds were present from 12th January to 18th March, with a maximum of four (2 males) between 12th February and 4th March.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

The twelve records came from nine sites and involved 15 birds, making this a slightly better year than 2007. All but two records were in the second half of the year between August and December.

Bretton Park - a male from 10th to 15th February (DB, SRG, DT) with a further male on 6th November (SRG).

Elland GP - a male on 1st May (DT).

Blackmoorfoot Res. - there were three records, each concerning a male and female: 29th August (MLD, CH), 23rd October (MLD, CH, DHP, MS) and 4th December (CH).

Ringstone Edge - a single on 30th August (HBC).

Horbury Wyke - a male on 7th September (JRS).

Ingbirchworth Res. - a male on 27th September (DB).

Scout Dike Res. - a male on 27th September (RJB).

Gunthwaite Dam - a male on 4th October (DMP).

Royd Moor Res. - a male on 14th December (RJB).

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

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

Records were received from 15 sites, covering all months except June and July, the largest numbers being in January and December. An interesting feature in February was the spread of small numbers throughout the area. Once again, there was no proof of breeding within the Club area.

Only three sites were visited with any regularity:

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a rather quiet year. The only early records concerned a single on 15th February, two on 6th March and, in April, one on 4th and two from 8th until 10th. There were then no records until August; a single on 8th, seven on 17th and 15 on 30th. Number remained low thereafter, up to nine (generally only 1-6) being seen on 17 dates between 1st September and 28th December. The only exceptions involved, in December, 22 (6 males) on 12th and 10 (3 males) on 25th.

Dewsbury SF held 45 on 5th January, but this was down to five by 19th. There were 11 on 8th March, with two remaining from 15th March to 11th April. The first returning birds were 12 on 29th October, six on 3rd and eight on 11th November which remained until the year end.

Horbury Strands/Wyke had a flock of c.50 throughout January, reducing gradually to just two by 26th April. Strangely, there were no reports after that date.

At **Thornhill Millbank** birds were present on flooded land between 2nd and 14th April, with maxima of 23 on 14th and 18 on 16th.

Smaller numbers were recorded at **Boshaw Whams** - three on 4th January; **Elland GP** - three on 7th February and one on 15th October; **Bretton Park** - four on 15th February, and at least 10 on 3rd October; **Haigh Woods** - two on 12th February; **Gunthwaite Dam** - two on 14th February; **Sands Lane GP** - one on 20th February; **Isle of Skye Quarry** - two on 28th February; **Maythorn Slack** - three on 27th March and five on 3rd April; **Meal Hill** - eight on 2nd April; **Wessenden Res.** - a male on 20th April; **Ringstone Edge** - three on 5th October and **Royd Moor Res.** - 12 on 14th December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Records were received from about 30 localities, but this is probably some way short of the full picture of this taken-for-granted species. For example, some well-known gatherings of feral birds were not counted.

Breeding was confirmed at **Almondbury** - two broods of 16 and six; on the River Calder at **Bradley** - 11 ducklings; **Blackmoorfoot Res.** - 18 ducklings out of 104 reached the flying stage (including eight from a brood of nine); **Cooper Bridge** - seven ducklings; **Dewsbury SF** - four broods of 12 and two of ten; **Digley Res.** - two broods; **Elland GP** - one brood of six; **Horbury Strands/Wyke** - 23 ducklings; **Plover Road Pond, Lindley** - one brood of seven; **Scout Dike**

Res. - two broods. Of the 68 birds seen at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th June, 28 were considered to be juveniles.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	44	47	27	19	19	27	43	51	61	47	43	58
Ingbirchworth Res.	36	30	n/c	16	12	68	n/c	45+	76	22	75+	105

The 61 at **Blackmoorfoot** in September were only present on 21st, there usually being no more than 47.

Away from Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth, maximum counts of more than 20 were as follows:

Bretton Park - 40+ on 13th February and 50+ on 3rd October.

Royd Moor Res. - 30+ on 18th February, 30+ on 29th August and 69 on 27th September.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - 26 on 13th April, 42 on 20th July and 46 on 27th September.

Bradley - 22 on 26th May.

Longwood Res. - 40+ on 24th August and 25 on 5th October.

Scout Dike Res. - 32 on 25th August, 28 on 13th September, 30 on 30th November and 50 on 7th December.

Dewsbury SF - 87 on 18th September.

Elland GP - 28 on 4th October.

Cooper Bridge SP - 24 on 13th November.

Broadstones Res. - 98 on 22nd November.

Smaller counts came from **Almondbury, Blakeley Res., Deer Hill, Digley, Grimescar Valley, Haigh Woods, Healey Mills, Linthwaite, Plover Road Pond (Lindley), Shelley, Silkstone, Slaithwaite, Stockmoor and TP Wood.**

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A typical set of records of this attractive duck.

Dewsbury SF - one on 18th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. - two on 13th and three on 16th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - the only record concerned three on 29th September.

Ringstone Edge - one on 12th October.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage visitor

Horbury Strands - two males and a female on flooded land on 17th April (DT, CEA, JRS).

Only nine of the previous 24 records have been in spring.

(NORTHERN) **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*
Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot and the **Horbury** area shared most of the records, with a small resident flock at the latter site in the first winter period being a welcome development in an otherwise average year. The flock of 13 here in January was the third-largest ever recorded in the Club area.

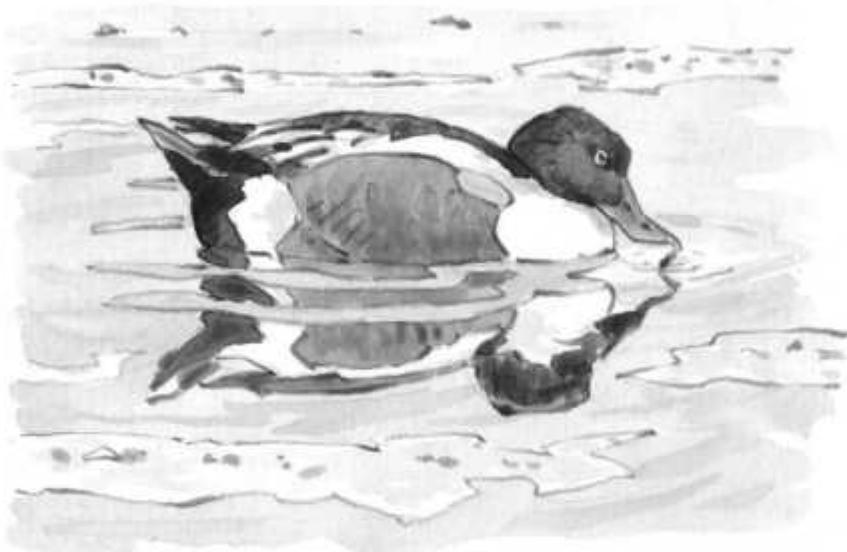
Horbury Strands/Wyke - present from January to early April, with maxima of 13 on 22nd January, nine on 8th and 15th February, five on 7th March, and two males still there in April, the last being seen on 23rd. Display was observed during March. The first returning bird was on 4th August, followed by two on 7th and a single on 14th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - three (1 male) on 11th February and four (2 males) on 19th April were the only records during the first winter period. The second half of the year was equally poor: one on 27th September, a male on 30th November and, in December, five (1 male) on 13th and a male on 14th being the only records.

Bretton Park - a single male on 17th April and in November, a male on 14th and three males on 26th.

Scout Dike Res. - a single on 14th September.

Dewsbury SF - a single on 27th September.



(COMMON) **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*
Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

This species was seen at slightly more sites than in 2007, but occurred with less frequency and in even smaller numbers, the largest gathering being 11 at **Bretton Park** in February.

Elland GP - one or two present on three dates in January and a single from 7th to 21st February. A male was seen on 12th and 30th November, two on 20th and one on 23rd December.

Bretton Park - two on 9th and three on 19th January, between two and five from 5th to 13th

February, with 11 on 6th. At least five were present on 3rd October, with four on 6th and two on 14th November.

Scout Dike Res. - two on 9th February and a single on 4th September.

Windy Bank Res. - a female on 9th and 14th February and presence was noted on two dates in December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - the only first winter period record concerned a male on 11th February. There were no further records until August which hosted a single on 15th and four males on 28th. In September five males were present on 23rd and in October the only records involved a single on 1st and four on 11th. In November seven (5 males) were present on 14th, three (2 males) on 25th and three (1 male) on 29th. The only other occurrence involved two males on 27th December.

Sands Lane GP - a male on 21st February.

Dewsbury SF - three on the River Calder on 14th September.

Gunthwaite Dam - a female-type on 21st September.

Ingbirchworth Res. - a single on 22nd September and another on 7th and 22nd December.

Ringstone Edge - a male on 21st September.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Reported throughout the year, but from only 16 sites, three less than in 2007. In spite of generally low numbers, both **Blackmoorfoot** and **Bretton** were visited by larger flocks this year. Breeding was proved at **Carlecotes Pond** and at **Winscar Res.**

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	2	29	4	2	4	5	9	13	7	22	11	35
Elland GP	34	33	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	43	43
Ingbirchworth Res.	6	10	0	6	6	12	0	9	9	1	5	9

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, some of the larger counts in the table above refer to flocks present for only a day's duration: less than three birds were generally involved in February, the 29 (28 males) were only present during the afternoon of 9th; the 13 in August were only seen on 3rd, less than six being present on other days and in December usually less than 10 were present with 35 (25 males) on 12th and 34 (20 males) on 14th.

Reports from other waters were:

Boshaw Whams - nine on 1st January and two on 31st July.

Bretton Park - 16 on 19th January, 13 on 10th February, 15+ on 3rd October and 20 on 6th November.

Windy Bank Res. - a male and female on 22nd January and noted as present in February.

Scout Dike Res. - 16 on 16th February, nine on 13th July, 18 on 24th August and 12 on 7th December.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - a male and female on 13th April and four (2 males) on 8th June, plus three (2 males) on 7th September.

Gunthwaite Dam - two on 13th May and five (4 males) on 10th June.

Blakeley Res. - four on 4th July.

Denby Delf - one on 11th July.

Carlecotes Pond - a female with downy young on 3rd August.

Digley Res. - two on 29th August.

Meal Hill - five (two males) on 24th December.

Winscar Res. - a female and two unfledged juveniles on 23rd July and two juveniles on 22nd August.

Dewsbury SF - only noted as being present.

Aythya hybrid

A Scaup-like bird, possibly a Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid, was present on **Royd Moor Res.** on 4th October (RJB). The observer considered this to be the same bird as that seen at Scout Dike Reservoir in October 2007.

(GREATER) **SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

The birds at **Sands Lane GP** and **Whitley Res.** stayed longer than is usual for this species, in an otherwise typical year.

Horbury Strands - a female on 29th January (DHP).

Whitley Res. - a female from 8th February until 11th March (DHP, DT).

Sands Lane GP - a long-staying female from 14th March to 3rd May (BA, DHP, JRS, DS, DT).

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor

Ryburn Res. - an adult female on 22nd October. (M. Cowton via HBC)

This is the first record since 1992, and the thirteenth in the Club area.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

A slightly above average number of occurrences this year, from just four sites.

Elland GP - a female from 2nd to 4th April (HBC, DT).

Butterley Res. - two males, one a first-summer, were present on 9th June (AK, DHP, JMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res. - in July different males were present on 2nd and 23rd (MLD, CH) and 10 males were seen on 27th (CH, SP). The only August occurrence was a male on 10th (CH), and there was a female on 14th/15th November (MLD, CH, DMO).

Ringstone Edge - 19 males on 23rd August (HBC).

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Records came from 21 sites and although there was a gathering of 13 at **Elland GP** on 28th January, numbers generally were even lower than in 2007. There was the usual scattering of small numbers at widely spread sites, especially during the return migration in March and April.



Dewsbury SF - six on 1st, and singles on 19th and 29th January, all on the River Calder.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - four were present in January, a female-type over on 29th April, seven (5 males) on the River Calder on 23rd November and five on the river on 29th December.

Langsett Res. - a male on 9th January.

Digley Res. - three (2 males) on 12th January and a single on 18th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - the only January records concerned a single on 26th and two the following day. In February and March no more than three were present on a total of 20 days (11 in February and 9 in March). April had a male and female from 1st to 5th, a male on 7th/8th, and a female which remained between 9th and 28th. The first returning birds were a male and female on 28th October. In November one to four were present on six days. This general lack of birds continued and the only December record concerned a female on 10th.

Royd Moor Res. - one on 6th February.

Scout Dike - a female on 9th February.

Yateholme Res. - a male and female on 28th February and a single on 14th March.

Ingbirchworth Res. - maximum counts were four on 28th February, a male and female on 31st March, a male and female on 15th April and three (1 male) on 7th December.

Bilberry Res. - two males on 4th March.

Boshaw Whams - two males and a female on 6th March and two females on 1st November.

Deer Hill Res. - single on 17th and 31st March.

Sands Lane GP - regularly present on the River Calder in March and April, with a maximum of eight (two males) on 14th April.

Ringstone Edge - a male and female on 8th April, with the female remaining on 9th.

Bretton Park - a single on 17th April.

Deanhead Res. - one on 19th April.

Scammonden - a female on 29th April.

Baitings Res. - seven female-types on 23rd October.

Redbrook Res. - a female-type on 1st November.

Carlecotes Ponds – a single on 28th November.

Whitley Res. - a female on 26th December.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

A typical showing from this scarce duck, at its most regular locality.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - a male departed W with four Goosanders at 10.30hrs. on 14th November (MLD, CH, DMO) and a male was present on 23rd December (MLD, CH, DHP).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.



Reported from 20 sites this year, but with a tendency to appear more frequently at some of these. The largest gatherings were again at **Bretton Park**, with 30+ in March and 31 (15 males) in November. Breeding occurred at two sites this year. At **Healey Mills** suitable nest boxes were put on trees overhanging the River Calder and, although none were occupied, birds did breed nearby (JRS). Birds also bred at the same site in 2007. At **Lower Hopton** a female was seen

accompanied by six ducklings on an unknown date during the summer (per DS).

Maximum numbers from regular sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	14	7	6	0	0	0	1	0	5	2	7	10
Bretton Park	27	21	30	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	1
Elland GP	8	9	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	2

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the downward turn in numbers noted in previous years continued, but the species was recorded on 118 days; the number of bird/days being 443. Interestingly, unlike previous years when most birds arrived during the evening, the birds during the second winter period tended to be present during the day. In contrast with the other two main sites, **Bretton Park** had better numbers than last year in both winter periods. At **Elland GP** observers commented that although numbers were lower than five to ten years ago, birds were present more frequently.

Away from the main sites, birds were recorded as follows:

Sparth Res. - recorded on four dates between 3rd January and 8th March, with a maximum of seven (5 males) on 3rd January. In December, birds were present on five dates, with a maximum of 12 (6 males) on 21st.

Bradley Hall Farm - birds were reported wintering on the River Calder in "variable numbers". Counts made were of a single on 15th January, a male on 28th April, two on 28th November and 14 on 30th December.

Whitley Res. - four on 22nd January, present throughout February with a maximum of 11 on 9th. Three were seen on 7th May.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - singles on 22nd January, 26th February, 16th March, and in April one on 13th, six (2 males) on 14th and a final singleton on 21st.

Cooper Bridge - four (2 males) on the river from 29th January to 1st February.

Dewsbury SF - present on the river from January to May, with six on 19th January, two on 8th and 12 on 29th March, four on 4th and 14 on 24th April, and the last on 28th May. Eight on 8th September were the first returning birds, with small numbers to the year end, including eight on 28th October.

Windy Bank Res. - a male and female on 5th February and a female on 5th March.

Scout Dike Res. - a male and female on 9th February.

Sands Lane GP - two on 22nd, one on 24th and three on 25th February, with four on 6th March, all on the River Calder.

Healey - birds seen on the River Calder and Hebble Canal concerned a single on 23rd, two on 24th and three on 29th January, with nine on 8th February.

Colnebridge SP - two on the River Calder on 24th February.

Deanhead Res. - one on 17th and four on 31st March.

Bradley - birds were reported to have overwintered on the River Calder in variable numbers. The last being a male on 28th April.

March Haigh Res. - five on 6th April.

Healey Mills - 15 (10 males) on 5th and five males on 12th May. Two females and a juvenile on 31st August.

Longwood Res. - two on 26th November.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce visitor. Has bred.

Just one record of a species that is liable to become even scarcer as a result of the official cull.

Scout Dike Res. - a pair present, the male displaying, on 26th May (RJB).

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Reported from 21 sites this year, but confirmed breeding at only two of these: **Langsett Moor** and **Winscar**, but it most certainly bred elsewhere.

The highest counts of the year were of 12 at **Chew Res.** on 1st March, 11 in the **Digley/Nether Lane** area on 2nd April and 13 at **Flight Hill** on 1st November. Elsewhere numbers consisted of eight birds or less and it was considered as being very scarce now along the moorland edges of **Wessenden Res.** by one observer.

Of interest, on 6th September a Red Grouse which sat openly in cotton grass near **Winscar Res.**, was persistently stooped at and mobbed by a Marsh Harrier, the grouse simply lowered its head every time the harrier came within striking distance. At no time did the grouse attempt to fly off, the harrier eventually lost interest and moved away and was seen to capture a small mammal (DMP, SP).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports of this species came from only seven sites this year.

High Hoyland - 30+ in both winter periods. This is probably the best place to see this species in the Club area due to large releases for shooting purposes.

Elsewhere reports were only in low single figures.

Cheesegate Nab - a single on 27th March and two on 4th April.

Scout Dike Res - two on 28th March.

Deffer Wood - two on 15th April.

Haigh Woods - two on 2nd May and a single on 9th June.

Dovestones - several records of small numbers but no other details.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

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

As usual shooting interests obscure the picture somewhat. Birds were reported from only 22 sites, considerably fewer than last year. Proof of breeding came from just two sites, at the former **Bullcliffe Colliery** adults and young were heard calling, and near **Bretton Park**, but no further details.

Other reports came from the following:

At **Blackmoorfoot** singles were present on Meltham Cop on 18th April and 23rd June.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - recorded on eight dates with a maximum of six on 18th April.

Healey Mills - nine on 18th May and six on 24th August.

Meltham - seven near Brow Grains on 27th July.

Dewsbury SF - eight on 14th August.

Kirkheaton/New Road - nine lifted from a field on 29th August.

Thurgory Lane - recorded on four dates with a maximum of 11 on 29th August and 9th October.

Lepton/Botany Lane - six on 24th October.

Cheesegate Nab - recorded on five dates with a maximum of nine on 22nd December.

Shelley Roydhouse - seen on six dates, with a maximum of 12 on 23rd December.

Elsewhere birds were seen in ones or twos, including a bird running up the middle of the road near **Gunthwaite Dam** on 25th October.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Two records again this year of this small elusive gamebird.

Honley - a single calling from a wheat field on 20th June was eventually seen by one lucky observer (HQ, DHP, WDH).

Wholestone Moor - one calling on 6th June (DT).

(COMMON) PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Although reports came from about 30 sites this species is certainly under-recorded, and as might be expected large numbers are released for shooting purposes.

Breeding was confirmed at **Deer Hill, Healey Mills** (2-3 pairs), **Bretton Park, Farnley Tyas** and the **Woodsome Road** area, though it undoubtedly did so at several others.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were seen on a daily basis between 3rd March and 30th October. Despite this continued residency there was no evidence of breeding. The only record thereafter concerned a male on 19th December.

The highest count by far was of 70 birds at **Haigh Woods** on 2nd May. Other high counts included 40+ near **Castle Hill** on an unspecified date, 12 on farmland in the **Ingbirchworth/Annat Royd Lane** area on 9th April and 20+ at **Deffer Wood** on 15th April.

Recorded in double figures daily at **Dewsbury SF** due to a captive breeding programme across the river. Elsewhere numbers consisted of nine or less, with birds visiting gardens in **Dalton** and **New Mill**.

An interesting observation at **Harden** concerned a Stoat in ermine that twice tried to sneak up on Pheasants but was so glaringly obvious when it bobbed its head up it didn't meet with any success.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Reports came from 21 sites with confirmed breeding at seven of these and probable breeding at a further three.

Boshaw Whams – a single on 1st January, four on 31st July and five (4 adults and a juvenile) on 28th August.

Horbury Strands - up to six were present in January and a pair raised a single young.

Gunthwaite Dam - regular throughout the year. An adult with three recently fledged young were present on 10th June.

Dewsbury SF - two birds reported as being present throughout the year, and one or two birds were present on the River Calder in the early months.

Elland GP - recorded in nearly every month with successful breeding taking place, a pair were seen with three juveniles on 26th June, the maximum count at this site was of 11 on 11th January.

Broadstones Res - one or two were recorded on several dates from early February to mid September and a pair probably bred. There was a maximum of four on 9th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res - the only records during the first half of the year concerned singles on 4th April, in May one from 23rd to 29th and, in June, an adult from 24th to 30th. In sharp contrast the second half of the year was totally different, with one to five being seen on a daily basis between 9th July and the year end.

Bretton Park - a pair on 11th May with breeding confirmed, there were four (3 adults and a juvenile) on 19th August.

Healey Mills - a pair raised two young.

Ingbirchworth Res - recorded in all months except October and November. Three pairs were thought to be holding territory by mid May, and three young were seen soliciting food from adults on 17th September. Most other records concerned one to three birds.

Kirkheaton - confirmed breeding at this site, a pair with one juvenile on 6th September.

Scout Dike Res - between three and four birds recorded throughout January, then just singles in February. Breeding was confirmed here on 10th June when an adult was seen with three juveniles.

Elsewhere the species was reported as resident in the **Langsett/Midhope** area and a pair probably breed; **Marsden/Tunnel End** saw birds on four dates; **Meltham Mills Res.** had two during the first and last three months of the year; **Meal Hill** had two in March/April; **Royd Moor Res.** held two on 18th September and **Scammonden Res.** had two on 2nd October.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs

Records came from 18 sites this year, an increase of seven over the previous two years. Proof of breeding came from just three waters.

In January **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had up to four on 17 days from 6th. From 1st February until 4th December birds were present on a daily basis. Thereafter between one and three were seen on a total of nine days. An unusual record concerned two which departed high to the NW at 09.10hrs. on 22nd May. The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	5	5	6	10	16	11	11	11	8	3	3

A single pair raised three young, all of which departed during the night of 15th/16th October. One of these young had become independent, after much bullying from its siblings, from 12th September (when only 48 days old).

Elland GP - singles in January and February, and two in April, but no more reports were received from this site until October, when there were singles on two dates. Reports in the last two months were regular, with a maximum of five on 11th December.

Bretton Park - one on 10th February had increased to six by 13th when a single was noted to be in breeding plumage. A bird was seen on a nest in mid May and there was a count of nine on 3rd October, presumably some of these included young birds of the year.

Ingbirchworth Res - a single on 11th February was already in breeding plumage, then regularly at this site to the year end with a maximum of four on 12th April. A pair reared at least two young to full size.

Ringstone Edge Res - one or two from 17th March to 21st April, then up to six summered, and there were two on 5th October.

Broadstones Res - one on 3rd April then two from the middle of the month into May. The only other record involved a single on 10th September.

Scout Dike Res - regular from spring to autumn with as many as six birds involved but no breeding occurred, possibly due to low water levels.

Elsewhere reports came from **Longwood Res.** - one on 13th February and one in August and September; **Whitley Res** - one on 17th March; **Scammonden Dam** - two on 29th April and one on 2nd October; **Horbury Wyke** - one on the river on 3rd May; **Winscar Res.** - a single from 1st to 8th June; **Royd Moor Res.** - three on 4th June; **Sands Lane GP** one on the river on 7th June; **Dewsbury SF.** - one frequently on the river in August to the year end; **Marsden/Tunnel End** - one on the canal on 7th November was considered an unusual location by the observer.

[NORTHERN] **GANNET** *Morus bassana*

Rare visitor

The eighth record for the Club area since 1914 and the first since 2003.

A young bird was seen at **Winscar** on 24th October (D. Standing *et al*). On 25th October a spotty juvenile, probably the same bird, was found entangled in a fence at **Crimble Clough** and taken into care by persons unknown (RSPCA). An experienced former member of the Club was shown a photograph of the bird and confirmed the identification. A young bird, again probably the same one, had been seen on 21st October flying low over Pike Low near Langsett, just outside the club area.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Reports came from 26 sites this year an increase over the last two years.

Blackmoorfoot Res – generally scarce during the first half of the year, with only six records. In March an adult which showed characteristics of the Continental race *P. c. sinensis* departed W at 08.00hrs. on 14th (MLD), an immature departed W at 08.10hrs. on 19th and an adult flew W at 08.20hrs. on 27th, in April two adults and an immature flew W at 08.00hrs. on 3rd and a single was present on 15th and, in June, an immature was present on 10th. (The early morning bias may well

have been caused by observer presence). The second half of the year was decidedly better, with one to five birds being recorded on 22 dates from 1st August to 23rd November. As is normal, birds over flew the reservoir on several occasions but, unlike the past when birds have flown in every compass direction at all times of the year, this year most birds flew or departed in a westerly direction.

Boshaw Whams - had a maximum of five on 3rd January with four present the next day, three birds circled on 22nd November before departing NW.

Calder/Hebble Navigation - up to three were present in the first two months and a single flew E on 16th April.

Cooper Bridge/Sludge Plant - birds frequently seen overflying at this site and six were present on 15th December.

Dewsbury SF - no double figure counts this year, the maximum being eight which flew W on 14th February, otherwise four or five were seen on a daily basis.

Elland GP - there was a maximum count of 12 on 22nd January, then three or fewer were present up to April. Thereafter birds were reported from October to the year end with a maximum of six on 29th December.

Horbury - a maximum of 10 on 22nd January, then single figures on several dates during the next three months. Four were present on 16th May and one flew W on 20th July.

Ingbirchworth Res - singles, including overflying birds, on two dates in April, four dates in September and one in December.

Scout Dike - recorded regularly with a maximum of eight on 8th December.



One to four birds were recorded at several other sites on various dates included: **Sands Lane GP**- two on 13th April and three on 14th September; **Bretton Park** - one flew E on 17th April; **Shelley**

Whins - overflying singles on 24th and 28th April; **Broadstone Res.** - three overflying on 16th September; **Scammonden Res.** - four on 3rd October; **Tunnel End Res.** - a first-year on 12th October; **Booth Wood Res.** - two on 1st November; **Windy Bank Res.** - one on 26th November; **Longwood Res.** - a single on 7th December; **Bradley Hall Farm** - two on the River Calder on 30th December.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Rare visitor

Elland GP - an adult in breeding plumage was present from 3rd to 6th May (JB, DHP, DT).

The bird was photographed as it perched on the ski ramp on 5th May (DHP).

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Rare vagrant

An excellent find and welcome addition to the Huddersfield List.

An adult was present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 9th/10th February (RJB et al). The bird was considered by some experienced observers to show characters of the Nearctic race *hoactli*. See also the article on page 115.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor

With good numbers of breeding birds now well established in Britain, we can hopefully look forward to seeing more of this elegant heron in our area.

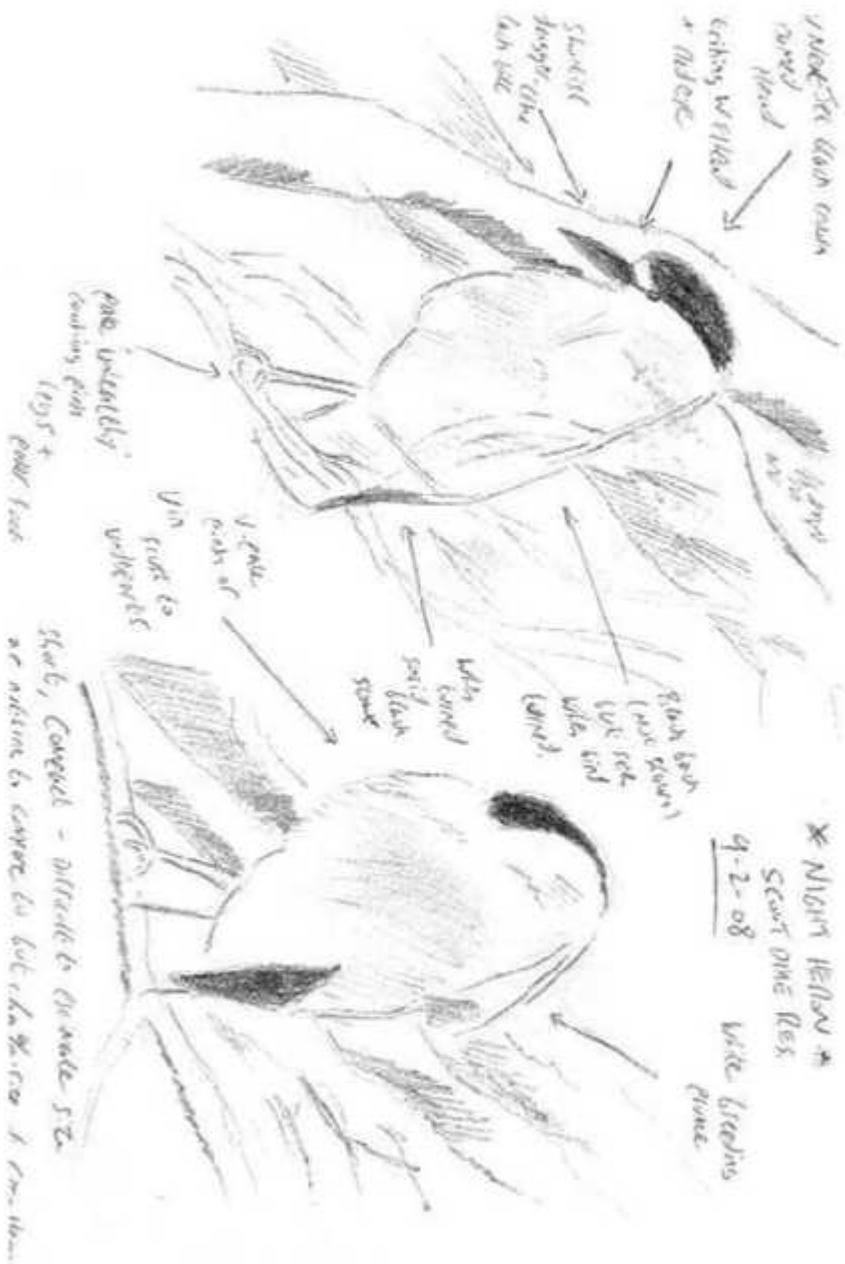
Five records this year makes for the best showing to date.

Elland GP - one flying W appeared to land in the vicinity of the ski lake on 17th May (MC, M. Cowton via HBC).

Elland Wood Bottom - two flew W on 21st July (S. Johnson via HBC).

Dewsbury SF - one flew in from the E and stayed for c.40 minutes before departing W on 22nd July (JH).

Scout Dike Res - one was reported here by anglers (D. Simpson, D. Freeman) during the morning of 28th July. It was then seen flying NW over the reservoir at 16.20 hrs (RJB).





GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

Seen just about everywhere in the recording area and encountered throughout the year during its nomadic wanderings in search of food. Reports came from over 40 sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had a very quiet year due to the very high water level. One or two (generally only one) were seen on 95 dates between 12th February and 28th December. The only exception concerned four on 15th August.

Bretton Park - there were 35 occupied nests by 10th February and 58 nest platforms were counted a fortnight later though it isn't known if all these were being used. The number of young reared is not known.

Meltham - at Wood Bottom Farm seven nests were occupied, as last year.

Dewsbury SF - birds were recorded daily with a maximum of five on 7th May to the month end.

Elland GP - one to three were regular seen in the first two months and one pair bred but the outcome was not noted. Up to two birds were reported on several dates in October and November.

Horbury - recorded in every month with some sizeable gatherings: nine on 5th January, 10 on 18th May, 11 on 20th July, 15 on 7th September and 18 on 16th November being the maxima.

Scammonden Res - there were nine nests one of which fell from the tree. A total of 15 juveniles were seen on an unspecified date.

Elsewhere records were of one or two birds mainly in the winter periods, the exception being three at **Scout Dike Res.** on 10th February. A pair probably bred on private land near **Lepton Great Wood** but no further details were forthcoming. A single visited a garden in **Marsh** on one date in October and birds were noted fishing regularly at **Gunthwaite Dam.**

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

Rare vagrant

One flying N over **Dalton** on 20th August was another excellent addition to the Huddersfield list (DS). See also the article on page 112.

The number of Black Storks reported in Britain as a whole equalled the third-highest annual total since 1950 (*British Birds* report on rare birds in Great Britain 2008).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare vagrant

At **Boshaw Whams** a bird came in from the W and circled twice before leaving to the SW (BA).

This bird was presumed to be the same wandering individual that had visited several other sites in Yorkshire over a protracted period (*British Birds* report on rare birds in Great Britain 2008), and another fantastic addition for the Huddersfield List. See also the article on page 113.

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

There was a huge autumn influx of this fantastic migratory raptor into the British Isles and the following four reports came from our area, with three on the same date.

Ringstone Edge - one flying S on 17th September (A. Cockroft via HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single over the fields to the west of the reservoir on 20th September flew SSE (CH).

Dewsbury SF - one flew S being mobbed by corvids on 20th September (JH).

Winscar Res - one from the direction of Dunford Bridge flew SW on 20th September (DMP, SP, KW).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.



This superb raptor seems to be going from strength to strength, and with eight reports from our area this was the best year ever.

Amazingly there were four records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, all concerning birds without wing-tags: one flew W along the north bank on 31st March (PB), a single low over Orange Wood drifted S at 09.18hrs. on 17th June (CH), one drifted E at 08.20hrs. on 24th August (MLD, CH) and a single flew N along the east bank at 08.25hrs. on 23rd September (MLD, CH).

Former **Bullcliffe Colliery** - two reports of single birds on unspecified dates in mid June (via SRG).

Elland GP - one flying W on 24th March (G. Dennison via HBC).

Langsett/Low Moor - one on 25th May (MC).

Cheesegate Nab - one over on 15th August (HQ).

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

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
7	3	5	3	8

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.



Another fine raptor that put on its best show to date, recorded at four sites this year and involving at least five birds.

Dewsbury SF - a 'cream-crown' flew W on 18th April (JH).

Scout Dike Res - a 'cream- crown' over the reservoir left to the NE on 10th August and what may have been the same bird flew NE on 17th August (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot - a 'cream-crown' flew W at 15.35hrs. on 20th September (MLD, DMO).

Winscar Res - an interesting series of records and events came from this site: on 2nd August two 'cream-crowns' were in the air together accompanied by a 'ring-tail' Hen Harrier, all three birds were seen to play fight together but with no obvious aggression shown, mainly consisting of hanging in the breeze with legs extended at times then jinking away from each other at the last moment.

All three birds would repeatedly land together on the hillside before lifting off into the stiff breeze to interact again, the darker (younger ?) of the two Marsh Harriers would also pull vegetation up with its feet and take it up into the air before dropping and chasing after it, this was repeated several times, the whole event lasting about 10 minutes and much of it was captured on video film (DMP, SP). On 6th September what was probably one of the same 'cream-crowns' (the paler bird) persistently stooped at a Red Grouse that was in the grass just above the Yacht Club, this bird was seen later to capture a small mammal and then flush a roosting Short-eared Owl (DMP, SP, HQ). Again, what was probably the same two birds were seen actively hunting on 20th September (DMP, SP, KW).

It was noted that good numbers of Kestrels were always seen here at the same time indicating a good supply of voles, could this have been the reason that the Harriers remained here for so long?

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

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	5

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed

Four reports is about the norm for our most persecuted bird of prey.

Norland Moor - a 'ring-tail' on 8th May.

Ringstone Edge - a female flew S on 15th November (via HBC).

Hepworth - a female flew low over the road below Victoria pub being mobbed by Swallows on 29th July (JKP).

Winscar Res - a 'ring-tail', probably a juvenile based on under-parts colour was accompanied, and reacted with two Marsh Harriers on 2nd August before drifting off to the S (DMP, SP).

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

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	4	7	4	1	4	4	4	1	4

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

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

Despite suitable tracts of breeding habitat and an abundant supply of prey species this powerful hawk would appear to be faring badly in our area.

The only reports were of a single on 25th April and two at the same site on 3rd June (SRG). The same observer stated that this is the first time in 20 years that he had failed to see any displaying birds in spring.

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

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Reported from 60 sites, but confirmation of breeding only came from three of these: at **Barkisland** three young were fledged, at **Healey Mills** a pair bred in a willow coppice and a pair bred at **Elland** but no further details were forthcoming.

Birds were seen in suitable nesting habitat at several other sites including **Bretton Park**, **Shelley** and **Windy Bank Wood**, where, no doubt breeding took place. Again birds were reported in every month, most consisting of single birds with two occasionally.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	15	13	12	16	5	6	13	16	13	8	6

One or two were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot**. As has been the case in the past, numbers of sightings per month were much reduced on previous years, the highest monthly bird/days being nine in September and eight in October.

Birds visited and hunted gardens in **Almondbury, Crosland Moor, Harden** where a male tried to ambush Goldfinches, **Jackson Bridge** were a male and female hunted throughout the year, **Shelley** were prey items included Collared Dove, Greenfinch and Chaffinch. A female was photographed plucking a Woodpigeon on the front lawn at this latter mentioned site.

Elsewhere two appeared to be hunting together near **Thurgory Lane** on 12th and 18th October, a bird pursued a Woodpigeon over **Royd Moor Res.** on 27th September, the pigeon taking to the water for several minutes to avoid capture. At **Snittlegate** one was trying to stop a male Kestrel pirating its prey and an adult female was trapped inside a **Huddersfield** engineering factory for nearly three weeks in October (see a full account on page 122).

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

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

With reports coming from over 40 sites, this compact raptor looks set to becoming well established in our area, and though there was only one report of breeding, much suitable habitat exists.

Birds were recorded in every month except December.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	8	13	10	7	7	5	6	11	5	3	0

Midhopstones - a pale headed second-calendar year bird described by the observer as a rough-leg look-alike was harassed by crows and 15 Fieldfares on 5th January (MC).

Bretton Park - six reports from this site included two flying WSW on 9th January (DB), then single birds on three dates in February, one in March and one in October (DHP, SRG, DM).

Scout Dike Res - a single on 10th February, two on 16th March, one on 24th and 27th March, one E on 5th April and one S on 17th September (RJB).

Penistone - three drifted W on 13th February (NEP).

Gunthwaite/Carr Head Wood - one over on 14th February (DT).

Thornhill Edge - two circled overhead, drifting W on 23rd February (JRS).

Wholestone Moor - a single flew S on 17th March (DT).

High Hoyland - a pair were seen displaying on 17th March and a single was seen on 24th April (HQ, SRG).

Silkstone/Berry Moor - two on 24th March (DM).

Lower Cumberworth - one over on 27th March (JRC).

There were three records from **Blackmoorfoot**: one drifted S along the east bank at 14.40hrs. on 31st March (MLD, DMO), one drifted E at 15.00hrs. on 11th April (MS) and one low over Orange Wood drifted E at 15.40hrs. on 24th August (MLD, DMO).

Dovestones Res - one on 10th April (DM).

Jackson Bridge - singles on 12th April and 21st September (HQ).

Kirkburton/Jenkinson Wood - one on 14th April (AK).

Deffer Wood - two on 15th April (DB).

Digley - one over on 15th April (WDH).
Fixby - one NE on 19th April (DT).
Stocks Moor Common - one on 26th April (SRG).
Holme Styes - one soaring on 2nd May (DS & VAI).
Haigh Woods - singles on 2nd May and 9th June (DT).
Yateholme - singles on 13th May and 20th/21st August (MC, WDH). Two birds seen up the valley indulged in partial display on 22nd November (PDB).
Shelley - a pair seen displaying from the observers garden on 4th June then single on 9th June and 5th October (SRG).
Bullcliffe Colliery - three over on 9th June (SRG).
Langsett - several reports came from this area including three on 14th June (MC) and two flying E on 1st November (RJB).
Swinden Walls - one on 20th June (DHP).
Kirkburton - two on 23rd June, both of which had moulting inner-primaries (MLD).
Almondbury/Lumb Lane - one soaring on 24th July (DS & VAI).
Farnley Tyas - singles on 31st July and 29th September (DM).
Dewsbury SF - one flew E on 13th August (JH).
Townhead - a bird described by the observer as 'living dangerously' was hanging above a convoy of grouse-beaters on 20th August (MC).
Horbury - one flew S towards Bullcliffe Wood on 4th September (DT).
Winscar - three in the air together on 6th September (DMP, SP).
Marsden - a single on 10th September (JMP).
Wood Nook - four on 18th September (SC).
Honley/Knowl Top - a single on 23rd September (MW).
Swinny Knoll - one on 27th September (DHP).
Windy Bank Wood - two on 27th September (MW).
Golcar - one flew S mobbed by corvids on 12th October (TP).
Whitley Beaumont - one flew E on 12th October (DS).
Cheesgate Nab - two were harassed by crows on 15th October (HQ).
Snailsden Moor - two were seen intermittently throughout the year (MC).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

A good year for this exciting raptor with eight reports received.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles flew W at 17.45hrs. on 2nd April (CH) and S at 12.45hrs. on 3rd September (DHP).

A single flying NE at **Castleshaw Res.** on 4th April flew into our area (GMBRG via Judith Smith).

Boshaw Whams - one was seen to catch a trout and fly off by the water bailiff on an unspecified date in late April.

Elland/Brookfoot - one perched in a tree during the evening before flying off to the W on 4th April (M. Stead via HBC).

Hade Edge - a single flew towards the reservoir at 18.15hrs. on 14th April (GO).

Fixby - one flew SSW at 11.10hrs. on 23rd August (DT).

Winscar Res - a single drifting S over the reservoir slowly headed off WSW on 6th September (DMP, SP, HQ).

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

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
6	2	0	7	5	1	9	2	2	8

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs

Rather well recorded this year with reports coming from about 80 sites and confirmation of breeding at 11 of these including Huddersfield town centre, and probable or possible breeding at a further seven.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year and a pair raised three young in the YW tower. At **Cheesegate Nab** young were very vocal in July. A pair successfully reared four young on a low grassy ledge near **Deer Hill**. At **Dewsbury SF** a pair bred adjacent to the works. At **Healey Mills** a pair bred under the loading bay at Kerry's foods. Young were seen in a nest behind the old cinema on Venn Street in **Huddersfield** town centre, confirmation of breeding from other sites came from **Cooper Bridge**, **Deanhead**, **New Mill**, **Ox-lee Quarry** and **Red Brook Clough**.

Elsewhere birds were reported in every month consisting usually of one or two, the exception being four above **Bilberry** on 28th July, and eight in the air at **Winscar Res** on 20th September.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

With reports coming from just nine sites, half the number on the previous two years, this must be one of the poorest years on record for this small falcon.

A pair was at a traditional breeding site in the first week of May, and both birds were seen to mob a Peregrine, unfortunately the pair had departed mid-month, something which, sadly, has happened regularly over the past few years (TD, DMP).

Elsewhere birds were reported from the following sites:

Broadstones Res - a bird was feeding on a kill in a field before being flushed by motorbike scammers on 12th January (MC) and one was seen in flight there on 16th September (DB).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single flew W on 8th March (MLD, DMO), an adult male was over the fields to the west on 21st August (CH), one flew W over Orange Wood on 6th October (MLD, CH) and a single was over the fields to the west on 26th December (MLD).

Grimescar Valley - one on 9th March (DM).

Digley - singles on 2nd April (S & HC) and 5th June (DHP).

Cooper Bridge - one overflying the sludge plant on 7th April (DS).

Deer Hill Res - two birds were mobbing a Peregrine on 3rd May (DMP).

Winscar - a single on 18th May and one S on 14th September (MC).

Langsett/Little Don Valley - two on 16th July (MC).

Scout Dike Res. - one flew S on 23rd August (RJB).

(EURASIAN) **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*
Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

A similar picture to the last two years for this dashing falcon. There was a total of 11 sightings though it is possible that only eight individual may have been involved.

Shelley - one NW on 25th June agitated the local House Martins, and single seen on 1st and 16th July may again, as last year, be indicative of over summering in this area if not breeding (SRG).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a single was chasing Swallows over Meltham Cop at 17.30hrs. on 7th July (CH) and an adult flew W along the south bank at 08.35hrs. on 13th September (MLD, CH).

Bradley Hall Farm - one hawking insects on 12th July (S. Johnson via HBC).

Harden - a first-summer cruised N low over the observers drive from the direction of Winscar on 12th July (MC).

Broadstones Res - a single flew towards Ingbirchworth on 10th September (DB).

Isle of Skye Quarry - a first-summer flew E on 23rd September and what was probably the same bird was seen briefly on 25th (DHP).

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

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
6	6	8	3	12	9	13	7	8	8

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

Slightly down on last year with reports coming from just 19 sites and attempted breeding at just one of these, (though it may have done so at a further two) where, like last year the nest was almost certainly robbed at the egg stage (DMP). It seems sad that in these so called enlightened times some of our more spectacular birds of prey are still subjected to unwanted attention from certain quarters.

Reports were as follows:

Washpit - a single chasing Black-headed Gulls on 5th January (HQ).

Shelley - one flew E on 14th January (SRG).

Windy Bank Wood - a single on 19th January and a juvenile on 4th April (MW).

Meltham - a large female perched on a fence post near Red Lane flew off towards Blackmoorfoot on 18th July (DMP).

Bretton Park - one in flight over Cascade Bridge on 6th February (DHP).

Isle of Skye Quarry - a female on 18th February, two on 2nd May, two presumed juveniles were play fighting on 30th July and a bird was calling loudly on 2nd August (DHP).

Digley - a single on 2nd April (S & HC).

Wessenden - a first-summer bird stooped at a Common Sandpiper on 27th April, the sandpiper took evasive action by dropping into the reservoir, from where it swam c.50 metres to the bank then climbed out, none the worse for wear (DMP). Birds were also seen on 6th June (BA) and one over the moor on 14th September (CDA).

Deer Hill Res - a bird was mobbed by Merlins on 3rd May (DMP).

Langsett/Low Moor - a single on 24th May (MC).

Huddersfield - two juveniles calling over Oldgate on an unspecified date in late June/early July (R. Mitchell).

- Dewsbury SF** - two birds were in the air over the works for nearly 40 minutes on 23rd July (JH).
- Healey Mills** - one circled over the reserve calling on 17th before being moved on by two Kestrels, which were rumoured to have bred near here on a public building (JRS).
- Leeds Road** - a single circled the incinerator chimney on 29th August, some days later both male and female were present (DS).
- Scout Dike Res** - one flew E on 30th August (RJB).
- Royd Moor Res** - a single on 14th and 17th September (RJB).
- Blackmoorfoot Res** - in October a single drifted E at 15.30hrs. on 13th (MLD, DMO) and two (an adult male, shortly to be followed by an immature female) over Meltham Cop during the early afternoon of 24th (CH, TD).
- Butterley Res** - one flew N on 18th October (JMP).



WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Breeding was confirmed for the second year running and for only the third year in total. At least one pair bred at the new reserve at **Healey Mills**, where birds were noted on most visits during the

year and reported as being very vocal in March (JRS). Breeding had been suspected, but unproven, at the same site in 2007.

Single date reports were received from five other locations, a slight increase on recent years. All refer to single birds and all but one were from the first winter period.

Bretton Park – by the Lower Lake on 6th January (P & BB).

Elland GP – heard calling on 7th January.

Ramsden Mill Dam – 17th February (KW).

Calder/Hebble Navigation – seen and heard by an adjacent small pond on 27th February (DT).

Marsden Tunnel End – heard calling on 12th October (JMP).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Although reported from over thirty sites, with breeding confirmed or strongly suspected from at least 14 of them, the species is still considered to be very much under-recorded. However, a count at Horbury at the end of the year revealed 96, the highest number ever recorded at any site in the Club area.

Breeding locations included the following:

Dewsbury SF – 11 pairs bred successfully, with a total of 27 young counted. Two small chicks were still present on 15th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res - at least one pair attempted to breed but only a single chick fledged.

Almondbury – six young were reared at a garden pond on Lumb Lane.

Gunthwaite Dam – recently fledged juveniles present on 4th June.

Denby Delf – a pair and five young on 11th July.

Blakeley Res – a juvenile on 20th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – at least one pair bred.

The species also bred in unknown numbers at **Horbury**, **Elland GP**, and **Bretton Park**. Breeding by single pairs occurred at the former brickworks at **Kirkheaton** and Middlemost Pond, **Birkby**, and was suspected at **Wessenden Res.** and **Shelley**, but the outcomes of these are unknown.

During the rest of the year, counts were mostly of less than ten. Exceptions came from **Dewsbury SF** (20+ on 5th January), **Longwood Res.** (16 in January and February), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (14 on 9th April) and **Horbury** (a site maximum of 96 counted from the Wyke railway bridge on 26th December).

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

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

Maximum monthly counts at favoured localities were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	1	1	1
Elland GP	28	4	nc	10	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	13	15
Horbury	4	21	8	10	nc	4	13	nc	nc	nc	2	nc
Ingbirchworth	9	8	nc	nc	nc	18	nc	nc	nc	4	7	11

The situation in 2008 was similar to many recent years, with birds being reported from at least 14 sites. Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Park, Elland GP, Horbury** (birds sitting on two nests in April, and then six juveniles with seven adults below Horbury Bridge on 10th July), **Gunthwaite Dam** (a pair with two young on 10th June), **Boshaw Whams** (a pair plus a juvenile in late July and August), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (numerous young seen throughout the summer, some of them reaching maturity), and **Scout Dike Res.** (a maximum of 13 adults and seven juveniles on 10th June). Three pairs also began to breed at **Cooper Bridge SP**, where a presumed male was feeding a female as early as 10th January, but all three first attempts ended in failure. Two of the pairs then built new nests, one of them failing again and the other rearing two young, reducing to one by 11th August. Breeding was also suspected along the River Calder near **Dewsbury SF** and at **Dovestones Res.** but no proof was obtained from these sites.

Few details were forthcoming from **Bretton Park**, but in addition to the confirmed breeding it was also the site with the highest daily count of the year, 30+ on 3rd October. Other locations included **Meal Hill** (at least 12 on the lake there throughout the year), **Longwood Res.** (a maximum count of six on 13th February), and **Windy Bank Res.** As implied above, the species was very scarce at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** this year and, interestingly, all the birds that did occur there were adults.

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

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

Birds were in the area between 19th January and 20th October, with the majority of reports again coming from spring. It is perhaps a measure of the species' recent relative abundance that one experienced observer admits to now regularly 'forgetting' to record it.

Blackmoorfoot Res – somewhat bucking the trend set elsewhere, 2008 was, like the previous year, relatively disappointing. The only records concerned a single on 19th January, one on 25th March, in April, one on 6th and one W on 27th, in May, a single S on 4th, seven N (one flock) on 10th and two on 20th, in June, one W on 7th and one S on 21st, a single W on 12th July and one on 7th August.

Yateholme – a single on 28th February. Breeding probably took place in the area, with a pair and at least one well-grown young being reported in July.

Winscar Res – two on 2nd and 5th March, joined by a third on 8th and, briefly, a further six during heavy rain on 10th. There were few reports in April other than four on 18th, but then in May a pair stayed to breed. A half-grown juvenile was seen on 19th July.

Scout Dike Res – seen frequently from early March to April. The only other record here involved two on 4th June.

Digley Res – a pair was present from 7th March until well into the summer and possibly bred. What was presumably the same pair appeared at nearby **Bilberry Res** on 13th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – one to two noted in the area on a few dates between 9th March and 22nd May, followed by five on 16th June.

Boshaw Whams Res – 11 (the years' maximum count) on 24th March, with just two there the following day, and none reported thereafter.

Deer Hill – eight on 25th March.

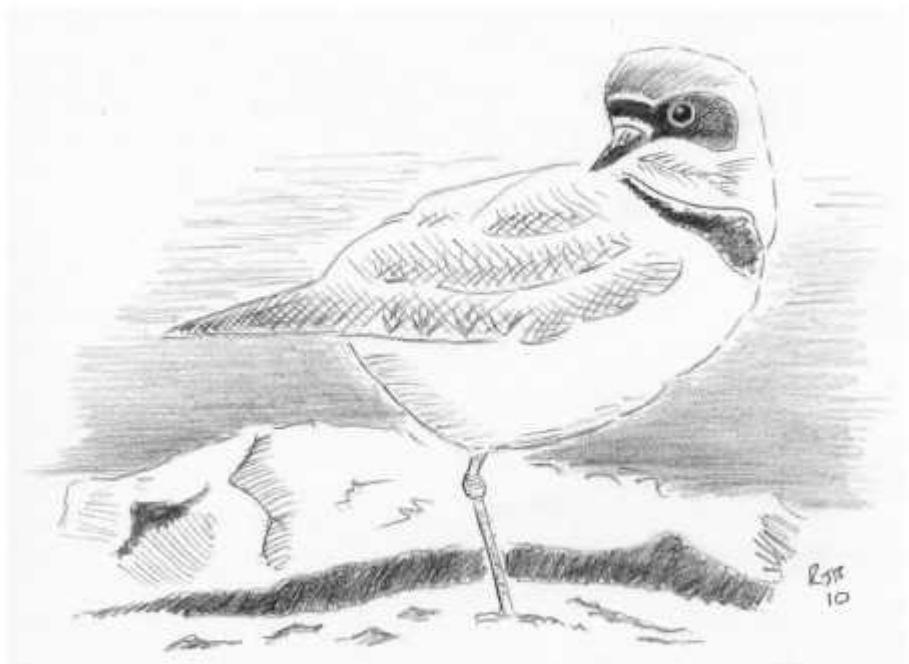
Whitley Common – 'present' on 27th March.

Carlecotes Ponds – a pair almost certainly bred here or very nearby.

Horbury – a pair present around the Wyke/Strands between at least 2nd April and 28th June, with copulation noted on 10th April. Records from nearby Horbury Bridge of two on 8th June (one with a broken leg) and one on 10th July possibly involve the same birds.

Broadstone Res – two, possibly a pair on territory, reported on 2nd, 9th, and 29th April.
Dewsbury SF – reported on five dates between 16th April and 12th May, all involving singles except on 3rd May, when two were present.
Calder/Hebble Navigation – one W on 16th April.
Ringstone Edge Res – the only report concerned two on 21st April.
Holme Styes Res – ‘present’ on 19th May.
Langsett – two nearby on 22nd May.
Marsden – two flew NE on 30th May and one flew SW on 20th October.
Ox Lee Quarry – a single on 18th June.
Royd Moor Res – a juvenile with adults on 14th July, indicating probable breeding here. Later, five adults on 2nd August.

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



Birds were recorded at eleven sites between 14th March (the same first date as in 2007) and 6th September. Breeding was proven at two of these and probably occurred at a further two. At the first location, a pair was present on 31st March and at least two pairs, probably three, stayed to breed. At least four birds, including a juvenile, were still present here on 4th July. At site number two, a nest with four eggs was found on 20th May. A pair was on territory at the third site on 6th May but no further details emerged. No news of breeding was received from **Ringstone Edge Res.** this year, other than that a probable pair was present throughout May.

Away from these sites, **Dewsbury SF** again produced the bulk of the reports. After singles on 14th and 17th March, three appeared on 29th March. In April, four were present on 11th, with three on

17th to 19th and four again on 23rd. Two adults were then recorded on 3rd, 10th, and 15th May, and 13th June. The last bird here was a single adult on 5th July.

Other records, all referring to single adults unless otherwise noted, came from: **Thornhill Millbank** – two on 22nd March and four on 19th April, possibly involving some of the same birds as at Dewsbury SF; the north bank of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 8th May; **Black Moss Res.** on 9th June; **Wessenden Head Res.** on 17th June; and **Ox Lee Quarry** on 18th June. At **Scout Dike Res.**, a juvenile appeared on 30th August and was followed by an adult flying E on 6th September.

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

Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

Another fairly good year, with birds appearing at seven sites between 4th April and 20th September, and a pair again engaged in a possible breeding attempt at one of them.

Dewsbury SF – compared with some recent years there was little evidence of spring passage but, again, a pair was present and holding territory on many dates between 4th April and 4th June. Display was noted on 12th May but there was no proof that breeding occurred. The only autumn record here was of a single adult on 13th August (DT, JH, JRS).

Thornhill Millbank – two on 19th April (JRS).

Elland GP – in April, one on 21st and three on 24th (DT).

Ringstone Edge Res – oddly coinciding with events at the previous site, one on 21st April and three on 24th. Whether these records involve the same individuals as those at Elland GP is open to conjecture, as no details of times were received. Later, a single was present on 13th May, and then in autumn a single on 30th August (HBC, DHP).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 5th May (DT).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a party of 10 flew SW at 08.00hrs. on 29th August (MLD, CH).

Royd Moor Res – a juvenile briefly on 20th September (RJB).

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

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

Four sites held birds in January. The only report from **Blackmoorfoot** that month concerned eight on 12th. At **Wholestone Moor** there were 23 on 17th, rising to 120 on 27th, on which date **Maythorn Slack** hosted 150+. At **Snap Res.** birds started appearing near the end of the month but remained in single figures from then until early March.

Numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** picked up during February when birds were seen on 10 days up to 20th, usually less than 14 but 47 were present on 3rd, 42 on 15th, 130 on 18th and 63 on 20th. Elsewhere things were very quiet, with the monthly maximum at **Wholestone Moor** being a mere six. Six were also on **Emley Moor** on 18th, an unusual record for this site, but away from **Snap Res.** (see above) the only other report was of a single at **Broadstone Res.** on 11th.

March began with a single over **Harden** on 1st, and at the same site on 16th a bird was singing. At **Snap Res.** numbers suddenly increased to 86 on 5th, reaching a monthly maximum of 200+ on 25th. At **Blackmoorfoot** there were usually less than 11 but 51 were present on 4th, 27 on 5th, 51 on 23rd and 130 on 24th/25th. An increase took place at **Wholestone Moor** with 120 there on 2nd, rising to 218 on 13th and c.240 on 22nd, before tailing off to 60 by the last day of the month. As is usual, there was probably some movement of birds between this site and **Ringstone Edge Res.**,

which held a maximum of 580 on 25th. From the end of the month **Maythorn Slack** was again a productive site, with c.400 on 28th, increasing to c.1000 on 8th April. These counts probably involved birds which also appeared at nearby **Broadstone Res.**, where very high numbers were regularly recorded in April: 400+ on 6th, 392 on 7th, c.1000 on 8th, c.600 W on 12th, 500 on 15th, 400 on 16th, and 220 on 25th. Other site maxima during this month included 99 at **Snape Res.** on 7th and 200 at **Wholestone Moor** on 21st but elsewhere the only double figure count concerned 30 at **Flight Hill** on 12th.

As expected, numbers began to drop off in early May, but **Blackmoorfoot** still held 62 on 1st and then between six and 52 daily for the rest of the month. At **Snape Res.** the last of the spring were c.20 on 5th, on which date five were at **Millmoor**. At **Whitley Common** 14 remained on 13th.

There were few reports of breeding, but at the same time there was little to suggest that it occurred less than in other recent years. Birds were heard calling in suitable habitat in the **Deer Hill** and **Winscar** areas, with a pair seen at **Flight Hill** on 20th May. Numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** remained steady in June and July, with up to 27 regularly noted; most of these presumably being off-duty breeding birds. Probable breeding, mostly evinced by the agitated behaviour of adults, also occurred at many locations in the west of the area including **Chew Head**, **Diggle**, **Dovestones**, **Harrop Dale**, **Holme Clough**, **Loddow Moss**, and **Standedge**, but the only site at which breeding was confirmed was on **Saddleworth Moor**, where hatched eggshells were found.

As is often the case, reports in August and September were very sparse. **Blackmoorfoot** hosted a single from 1st to 3rd August and two were at **Salter's Brook** on 17th August but then there were no records for over a month until five appeared at **Wholestone Moor** on 19th September and one flew over **Snailsden Res.** two days later. The former site then produced regular records through October and November, usually of single figures but with a maximum of 28 on 4th October. At **Blackmoorfoot** a single flew W on 27th October and two days later five were seen. The only November records here concerned 26 on 25th and 40 on 30th. December fared slightly better with up to 77 being present on seven days – generally less than 29 were seen, but there were 51 between 1st and 3rd and 77 on 12th. The only other location to hold birds during this period was **Maythorn/Broadstones**. Around 50 were at **Maythorn Slack** on 22nd November, on which date 178 graced **Broadstone Lodge**, with just two remaining at this latter site on 1st December.

GREY PLOVER *Phivalis squatarola*

Rare visitor.

There were three records, involving four birds at two locations – a good showing for this species. Two were at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th April and the same site held a single on 28th October (JH). At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one flew W at 13.35hrs. on 20th November (DHP).

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

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

Maxima at the most regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	180	68	30+	8	12	59	280	240	50	80	160	90
Dewsbury SF	1	nc	24	10	nc	30	42	200	180	nc	nc	nc
Horbury Strands/Wyke	120	22	4	10	10	nc	80	nc	100	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth	62	c70	c30	26	14	24	nc	nc	nc	nc	34	nc

The figures in the table for **Blackmoorfoot** give a rather inflated impression of the number of birds present. Although four of the months indicate birds in treble figures, these flocks were generally short lived and numbers of this magnitude were not seen regularly. Conversely, some of the figures given for the other sites might well be under-representative of the true maximum numbers there.

Away from these sites, counts of 50 or over in the early months included: 115 at **Penistone/Harthill** on 5th January; 100 at **Ravensthorpe GP** on 9th January; 150 at **Crosland Hill Airfield** on 11th January; c.350 at **Sands Lane GP** on 19th January; 70+ at **Skelmanthorpe** on 30th January; c.60 near **Broadstone Res.**, on 11th February; 50 at **Hade Edge** on 6th March; c.100 at **Maythorn** on 9th March; 60 at **Elysium** on 8th March; and 98 at **Harden** on 9th March.

Reports of breeding activity were, as usual, mostly rather sketchy, but included the following:

Broadstone Res – three birds displaying on 6th March and at least five on territory on 29th April.

Shepley – c.6 pairs present.

High Hoyland – six pairs present.

Horbury – two pairs at both the Strands and the Wyke.

Isle of Skye Quarry – at least one pair bred.

Ingbirchworth – 3+ pairs on territory.

Slaithwaite/Coal Gate – one pair displaying on 4th June.

Scout Dike Res – seven adults and eight young on 10th June.

Diggle – an unknown number of pairs bred in two tetrads.

At **Deer Hill**, c.20 pairs were in the area on 12th May but it turned out to be a disastrous year, largely due to predation by Carrion Crows. Two pairs attempted to nest on top of the grass-covered settling tank, but both of these failed due to the activities of off-road bikers.

In addition to those tabulated above, notable counts from later in the year included: 70+ at **Linthwaite** on 12th August; well over 100 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** during July and August, this rising to a maximum of 240 on 28th September; 200 at **Pole Moor** on 2nd October; 160 in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area on 11th October; 120 at **Crosland Hill Airfield** on 31st October; 350 at **Sands Lane GP** on 17th November (with 300 still present there on 28th December); 100+ at **Bretton Park** on 21st November, c.120 at **Maythorn** on 22nd November; and 290 at **Norland Moor** on 28th November.

(RED) **KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

Rare passage visitor.

This species is just about holding on to its current status as an annual visitor to the area. The only record this year involved four birds flying low, west, over **Meltham Moor** at 13.30hrs. on 10th October (JKP).

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Recent records of Sanderling are fairly evenly split between spring and autumn but this year's two reports both concern birds in the latter period.

Deer Hill Res – one on 26th September (MLD, DMO).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single landed on the north bank at 08.10hrs. on 3rd October (MLD).

As with Knot, this is the eighth consecutive year of occurrence of the species.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

The previous three years have produced no breeding records at all, so it is most pleasing to report that in 2008 six pairs bred near **Dovestones** on land which is set to become part of the new RSPB reserve. Breeding behaviour was also noted in late June at two other localities in the west of our area.

Elsewhere, **Ringstone Edge Res.** remains the favoured site for passage birds, with up to four recorded throughout May and an adult on 6th August.

Other reports, all of singles, came from **Horbury Strands** on 27th April, **Black Moss Res.** on 9th June, **Dewsbury SF** on 24th July and 25th September (both adults), and from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** in October, where one was heard calling on 8th and a single flew west on 24th.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Recorded at 11 sites, which is about twice as many as the recent average. This year there were slightly more reports from the early months than from the latter.

Ringstone Edge Res – one caught and ringed on 16th January (SG, via HBC).

Wholestone Moor – singles on 9th and 28th February and 13th March (DT). Later, one on 3rd November (DHP).

Cheesegate Nab – two flushed from long grass on 12th February (HQ).

Elland GP – one on 10th March (M Stead, via HBC).

Broadstone Res – one between here and Potter's Gate on 2nd April (HQ).

Dewsbury SF – singles on 17th and 21st April (JH, DT).

Deer Hill – a single on 4th October (DMP).

Scout Dike Res – one on 12th October (RJB).

Isle of Skye Quarry – in October, two on 15th and one photographed on 21st (DHP).
Honley Wood – one in the open pool area at the west end on 28th October (DHP).

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

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



In the early months, birds were noted at **Dewsbury SF**, where the highest count was of 15 on 1st January (with four still present on 4th April), and **Ringstone Edge Res.**, which held a maximum of 20 on 11th January. Other reports during this period, mostly of ones and twos, came from **Longwood Brook**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Horbury Wyke** and **Strands**, around the **Ford Inn** (Holmfirth), and **Wholestone Moor**, where the maximum count was of nine on 31st March. In the evening of 8th April, a calling bird flew high, SW, over **Marsden**.

As last year, birds were not recorded on territory until 2nd April, when two were drumming at **Deer Hill Res.** Breeding behaviour was then noted at **Hade Edge/Law Common Road** (three displaying on 9th April), **Flight Hill** (six displaying on 12th April), **Langsett** (six displaying on 25th April and 'several' still in the area on 16th June), **Low Bottom House** (one chipping on 22nd May), **Deer Hill Res.** (one chipping on 23rd May), and **Scout Dike Res.** (one drumming on 4th June). There were also undated reports of one to two chipping at **Broadstone Res.**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Snape Res.**, and **Wessenden Head**, and of displaying birds at **Harrop Dale**. Also, up to three were regularly reported from the **Digley/Bilberry/Bartin** area around this time.

Records during midsummer were very sparse, the only ones received being of three at **Horbury Wyke** on 30th July, two at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th August, and up to four during August at **Healey Mills**, where a similar number were present to the year end.

Numbers picked up from September, and included maxima of 14 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** in September and also 3rd December, nine at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th September, 24 at **Wholestone Moor** on 15th October, 15 at **Horbury Wyke** on 9th December, as well as reports of one or two birds at **Emley** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** As is often the case, it is difficult to determine whether some of these records involved passage or wintering birds but, at **Snailsden Res.**, five were seen to fly south during a visible migration watch on the morning of 19th October.

(EURASIAN) **WOODCOCK** *Scelopax rusticola*

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

Due to its rather secretive nature, records of this species from outside the breeding season tend to be reliant on serendipitous encounters, and those from May to July depend on the willingness of observers to be out at dusk. Hence, without any proper studies, not too much significance should be read into any apparent annual variations in its occurrence. This year, birds were noted at three sites in the early months. Two were at **Colnebridge SP** on 4th January, followed in February by singles at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 9th and **Gunthwaite Dam/Cat Hill** on 14th.

During the breeding season, a single was near **Slaithwaite** on 16th May, but the first report of roding involved a bird at **Low Bottom House** on 22nd May. Up to three were roding around **Holme Styes/Elysium** in late May and early June and at nearby **Crossley's Plantation** two were roding on 25th June, with four birds present on 3rd July. The **Langsett/Swinden Walls** area produced several midsummer records - on 25th June, one observer had up to 20 sightings of at least four birds and there were many reports of roding and 'squeaking' until at least 23rd July.

As is often the case, the second winter period was more productive than the first. In November, singles were noted at **Outlane GC** on 15th, **Healey Mills** on 26th and **Carlecotes Ponds** on 28th. In December, two were in the **Grimescar Valley** on 21st, followed by one at **Crosland Heath GC** on 28th. In addition, the species was reported as 'present' during the autumn and winter at **Elland GP**.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing. Red listed.

Another poor year in comparison with some recent ones.

A breeding plumage adult of the race *islandica* was at **Scout Dike Res.** on 26th July (RJB, MC, DHP). The only other record involved two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 28th September (GM Smith, via HBC).

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

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
16	7	2	2	2	47	25	68	3	3

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Two flew SW at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 09.15hrs. on 9th March (MLD).

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

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	2

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Records came from six sites and involved 10 to 12 birds. They were fairly evenly split between spring and autumn.

Horbury Strands – two on 27th April (DT).

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 27th April (JB via HBC). Three flew in at dusk on 31st July, and two of these were still present on 1st August (NCD, SG via HBC).

Whitley Common – singles on 30th April and 4th/5th May, possibly involving just one bird (DT).

Royd Moor – one on rough grassland near the quarry by the wind farm on 3rd May (D Butt). Considering the proximity of time and place it seems possible that this record involved the bird (or one of them) seen at Whitley Common (see above).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a single flew W at 08.00hrs. on 31st July (CH).

Rishworth Moor – two on 10th August (via HBC).

(EURASIAN) CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

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

Later than in some recent years, the first to arrive were five in fields NW of **Bilberry Res.** on 27th February and two at **Ingbirchworth** on 28th. At **Blackmoorfoot**, a single on 1st March was followed by seven on 5th, 24 W on 9th, and 35 in the fields to the west of the reservoir between 11th and 21st. The only other report in the first week of March was of a single over **Shelley** on 4th but, as usual, birds became increasingly widespread as the month progressed, notable counts including 10 near **Cawthorne Park** on 9th, nine at **Yateholme** on 14th, up to 10 bubbling at **Harden** on 18th, 16 together at **Diggle** on 23rd, 70 at **Langsett** on 23rd, at least six bubbling in the **Wessenden Valley** on 29th, and then in early April, 21 at Nether Lane, **Digley** on 2nd. However, apart from the Cawthorne Park birds, the only lowland report from this period was of a single at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th March. Later, two visited this same site on 6th May.

There were many reports during April but aside from the aforementioned 21 at Nether Lane, Digley the only one exceeding single figures concerned c.20 pairs in display at **Langsett** on 25th. Otherwise, breeding activity seems to have been very poorly recorded. One or two displaying birds were noted around **Ingbirchworth** and **Broadstones Reservoirs** and in the west of the area breeding probably occurred at **Black Moss**, **Harrop Dale**, and on **Saddleworth Moor**, but no details were forthcoming. In June, a bird was behaving agitatedly at **Blakeley Res.** on 26th, but the only firm evidence of breeding success came from two quarries – the **Isle of Skye** and **Ox Lee** – where single pairs with young were present on 5th and 18th respectively.

Post-breeding movement was seemingly almost entirely confined to **Blackmoorfoot**, and even there it appeared rather light. In June birds were noted flying W on 16th (2), 23rd (2), and 26th (3), and a single was present on the last day of the month. The only July record from here concerned three W on 15th, but passage picked up slightly in August with two on 1st, one on 18th, six on 30th, and finally two on 31st, again all flying W with the exception of the bird on 18th.

Elsewhere, reports became exceptionally sparse as early as the middle of June. During the rest of that month 12 were at **Harden Moss** on 15th and five at **Wessenden Head Res.** on 24th. In July a single remained at **Blakeley Res.** until 20th and two were at **Dunford Bridge** on 23rd but, away from Blackmoorfoot (see above), the only report in August was of a lone bird near **Digley Res.** on 29th.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.



2008 was a good year, with the first appearing during a snow shower at **Scout Dike Res.** on 5th April – the second earliest on record in the Club area – and the last on 3rd October, with birds recorded at a healthy 27 sites in the interim, and a party of fourteen appearing at one site in early August.

After the Scout Dike bird there were none until 14th April, when one was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, with one still at the latter site on 15th. The next reports came from **Horbury Strands** (a single on 18th) and **Wessenden Res.** ('present' on 20th) but the main arrival took place during the last week of the month when reports came from a further seven sites: singles at **Bretton Lakes, Elland GP, Sands Lane GP, Redbrook Res.** ('late returning' on 26th), **Dewsbury SF**, and **Thornhill Millbank**, and three at **Langsett Res.** on 25th.

Breeding was confirmed only at **Deer Hill** (at least one pair, with up to four birds noted regularly between 6th May and 22nd July), **Wessenden Res.**, where two pairs were present and a pair with young were seen on 26th June, and **Dovestones Res.** Although not proven, breeding was strongly suspected at **Yeoman Hey, Langsett, Digley, Bilberry, Winscar, Blakeley, Butterley**, and **Wessenden Head Reservoirs**, and also at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** and at **Harrop Dale**. There were also occasional reports of one or two during May at **Blackmoorfoot Res., Ringstone Edge Res., Dewsbury SF**, and the Trans-Pennine Trail at **Bullhouse**, where a bird was heard calling on 21st.

As usual, several of these sites also hosted the species on autumn passage. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, after a single on 23rd June, up to four (but generally only one or two) were recorded on 32 dates between 3rd July and 28th September. **Dewsbury SF** was similar: a single on 29th June and then one to three on several dates until 11th September, with five on both 15th and 30th July. At **Ingbirchworth Res.**, fourteen were seen flying together on 2nd August before breaking up into smaller groups. Three were then present on 26th August, with two further singles in early September. Other sites included **Marsden**, where one flew high, SW, calling, on 8th August, and **Sands Lane GP**, which held a single on 14th September. The only reports from **Scammonden Res.** all came towards the end of the season: singles on 3rd, 28th/29th September, and 2nd/3rd October, this one being the area's last of the year.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from eight sites, a slight increase on recent years.

Dewsbury SF – another excellent year, with birds reported in all months except for February and June. The only January record concerned a single on 5th, but then two were present on 8th and 15th March and 4th April, with singles again on 16th and 18th April and, finally for the spring, one on 3rd May. Autumn records began with a single on 5th July and continued with three on 10th and singles on 23rd and 30th. In August, two were present on 8th, six on 13th, and five on 20th. September saw two on both 9th and 25th, but the year's high count came on 11th, when there were eight. There were just two reports for October, four on 28th and two on 30th. Two then remained to the year end (DT, JH, JRS).

Thornhill Millbank – in April, singles on 16th and 19th, with two there on 21st and 28th (DT, JRS). As in other years it seems likely that there was some crossover of birds between this site and Dewsbury SF.

Horbury Wyke – one on 20th July (JRS).

Isle of Skye Quarry – five flew E from here at 14.00hrs. on 8th August (DHP).

Ringstone Edge Res – four on 8th August (A Cockroft via HBC).

Scout Dike Res – one briefly on 23rd August (RJB).

Healey Mills – four roosted on an island in the River Calder on 24th August (JRS).

Scammonden Res – one on 26th September, remaining to 29th (DT).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

An exceptionally poor year for this species. The only report was of one flying W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 07.45hrs. on 6th September (CH).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage visitor.

Mirroring the events of the previous two years, **Dewsbury SF** produced the sole record and, as in 2007 it came in spring - a single on 8th May (JH).

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

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

A good series of records in early spring with some evidence of probable breeding, perhaps indicating that all hope is not yet lost, though for the second year running the species failed to breed in the previously favoured Harden/Winscar area.

Sands Lane GP – one or two on many dates between 16th February and 8th March, followed by a single on 23rd March and three on 27th April.

Wholestone Moor – singles on 20th February and 14th March.

Horbury Strands – one on 17th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – records on 27th and 31st March, 30th June, and 9th August, all involving singles flying west. The one in August was the last bird of the year in the area.

Brown's Edge Road – a single on 8th April. A report of one in pouring rain on Whitley airfield on 10th April probably refers to the same bird.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 16th April and 23rd June.

Dewsbury SF – the year's highest count (4) came from this site on 29th May but there were no other reports from here.

Black Moss Res – breeding probably occurred, with a pair present on 6th June and one on 9th June behaving territorially and yelping agitatedly. On this latter date a single, possibly one of this pair, was also present at nearby Brun Clough Res. (GMBRG, P & BB).

Boshaw Whams Res – two in the morning of 31st July.

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

Rare passage visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a bird in summer plumage was present on the north bank on 4th May (JL) and an adult circled the reservoir before departing S at 08.10hrs. on 12th September (MLD, CH).

This is the fifth consecutive year in which the species has occurred in the area.

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

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - an adult on 3rd April (MLD, CH) and an adult flew W at 12.15hrs. on 10th August (CH).

Ingbirchworth Res. - an adult on 13th April (RJB, DHP).

Elland GP - an adult on 4th May (JB).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	5900	6300	nc	nc	nc	nc	47	580	nc	nc	3600	4300

The roosts in the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area received little attention, with most records appertaining to birds foraging in nearby fields. The maxima involved c200 on 6th February and c600 on both 16th February and 6th March.

During the first winter period the only treble figure counts were as follows:

Elland GP - 100 on 3rd January and 160 on 7th February.

Colnebridge SP - 100 on 4th January.

Dewsbury SF - 100+ on 5th January.

Horbury Strands/Wyke - 300 on 22nd January.

Langsett Res. - c.900 roosting on 2nd and 6th February.

Broadstone Lane - c.230 feeding in fields on 6th February.

Bretton Lakes - c.240 on 10th February.

Sands Lane GP - 400 on 24th February.

An interesting series of records from **Marsh** involved flocks of up to 40, but usually less than 10, which occasionally circled a small supermarket during January and February. None were then noted until 12 were present on a single day in July and between September and the year-end up to six were present on a number of occasions. The reason for this behaviour is unknown, but presumably involved a food supply.

During the summer months small numbers (up to 35) were recorded feeding throughout the Club area on fields, playing fields, golf courses etc. No birds were present at the former breeding site at **Little Black Moss Res.** (the last breeding occurred here in 2004).

Numbers began to increase in September, with flocks of up to 100 being recorded from a number of widely scattered locations, the maxima involved 357 at **Horbury Wyke** on 7th September, 400 roosting at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th October, 250 at **Whitley Whams** on 1st November, 330 feeding in fields in the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstone** area on 22nd November with c.250 two days later and 250 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th December.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

There were four records which probably involved three birds.

Golcar – a first-winter was feeding in a field on 6th March (MT).

Horbury Strands – a first-winter on 4th April (P & BB).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – an adult during the morning of 15th October (MLD). What was presumably the same bird was seen in a field near Honley in the afternoon (CH).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	1600	1200	nc	nc	3	7	13	3	11	17	800	1200

Although widely scattered and recorded from a good number of locations during the first winter period, these concentrations rarely exceeded 40, the exceptions being as follows:

Wholestone Moor – 100 feeding in fields on 22nd January and 140 on 8th February.

Langsett Res. – 110 roosting on 6th February.

Ingbirchworth – 100+ feeding in fields on 9th March.

The only records during the summer months, with the exception of those enumerated in the table above, concerned a single at **Shelley** on 25th June, one at **Spicer House Lane** on 14th July and five on **Lindley Recreational Ground** on 31st July.

During the second winter period, as in the first, birds were recorded from a number of widely scattered localities, frequenting fields, golf courses, recreational areas etc., but numbers never exceeded 50. In October, November and December two or three circled a small supermarket in **Marsh** on single occasions during each month (see Black-headed Gull).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

Small numbers were present in the early part of the year and noticeable influxes occurred in late April/May and July/August, after which numbers reduced markedly. The only roost with regular counts was Blackmoorfoot Res., where the following monthly maxima occurred:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	3	2	6	nc	18	9	12	11	46	nc	5	6

Between January and mid April one or two were present on 11 water bodies, the only records in excess involved 19 W over **Bretton Lakes** on 19th January and 11 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th April. Increasing numbers occurred in spring with c.50 flying E over **Wholestone Moor** on 21st April, up to 28 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** in late April and up to 350 in the **Whiteley Common** area between 29th April and 9th May being the maxima.

The autumn build-up in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area was a good two months ahead of previous years and included 280+ on 27th July and, in August, 360 on 3rd, 430 on 10th, 600+ on 17th and 470 on 4th September.

In the second winter period numbers reverted to low single figures but 15 were at **Bretton Lakes** on 3rd October, 266 at **Royd Moor/Scout Dike** on 12th October and there was an easterly movement of c.40 in very loose groups over **Golcar** on 26th December.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	29	12	34	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	11	102

Although recorded from a further 16 localities between January-May and September-December, numbers were generally only in low single figures, the exceptions being:

Bretton Lakes – 10 W on 9th January.

Ingbirchworth Res. – c.15 on 28th January.

Langsett Res. – in February roosting birds were recorded as follows: 52 on 2nd, 33 on 6th and 20 on 7th.

Scout Dike Res. – 16 (6 present + 10 S) on 3rd February.

Whitley Common – 24 on 3rd May.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Records were received from six localities, all between 20th July and 16th September.

Hartcliffe Hill – a second-summer with a flock of Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 20th July (MC).

Hirst Lane – an adult with a flock of Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 26th July (HQ).

Royd Moor/Scout Dike – an adult and a second/third-winter on 3rd August, an adult on 23rd August, a second-winter on 13th September with a second-winter and adult the following day (all RJB). In addition two adults and a second-winter were on **Royd Moor Res.** on 16th September (DT).

Ringstone Edge Res. – in August an adult on 8th, 17th and 19th and again on 3rd September (AC, SG).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – a first-winter on 20th August (MLD, CH) and an adult on 9th September (DHP).

High Flatts – an adult on 6th September (HQ).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

Rare to scarce winter visitor

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a first-winter flew SW with eight Common Gulls at 08.30hrs. on 31st March (MLD, CH).

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

Rare vagrant

A probable third-year which showed characteristics of this race was present in the roost at **Langsett Res.** on 6th February (RJB). This is the first record for the Club area and a full account can be found on page 119.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare to scarce winter visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a first-winter arrived from the E with 13 Herring Gulls at 14.20hrs. on 1st March. After preening for 10 minutes, all 14 birds departed W (MLD, DMO, MS).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

This species appears to be becoming scarce in the Club area and, with the exception of the roosting birds at Blackmoorfoot Res. (monthly maxima outlined in the table below), there were only 15 records from 11 localities.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	13	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	89

Bretton Lakes – 10 W on 19th January.

Langsett Res. – two adults which did not roost on 2nd February and a first-winter which roosted on 6th February.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 26th February.

Booth Wood Res. – six W on 27th February.

Elland GP – two on 12th March and a single on 29th December.

Deer Hill – five second-winters on 2nd April.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a second-winter on 15th April and an adult on 7th September.

Dewsbury SF – a second-winter on 18th April.

Shelley – five E on 21st April and three N on 21st November.

Whitley Common – six on 4th May.

Ringstone Edge Res. – a single on 30th August.

At distance, Kittiwakes looked
sleazy grey, streaky darker than
mantle

Primaries
barely
protruding
part
but are
to middle
wing

Front breast
tinge to tertiaries,
pale grey outer

Mantle paler grey than
and Herring; dark grey
border to lower secondary

Head - Looked rounder
than Herring gull, more
like common gull.

At distance - off white
with dark eye

Bill - 21st pale
olive/dark
yellow
with dark eye
shorter than
Herring
gull

Kuntzen's
Gull

Langsette Res

6.2.08



1978
10

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Following a blank year in 2007, there were records from three localities, the passage at Blackmoorfoot Res. being particularly impressive.

Ingbirchworth Res. – singles on 27th April (DHP, DT) and two on 3rd May (BA).

Scout Dike Res. – a single on 30th April (RJB, JMcl). This bird was considered to be a different individual to the one at Ingbirchworth Res. on the 27th.

Blackmoorfoot Res – had six summer plumaged birds on 8th May: a single which departed W at 08.05hrs. joined three very high flying Commic Terns going in the opposite direction, three flew E at 08.15hrs (MLD, CH) and two which arrived at 10.40hrs. remained until 14.20hrs. (MLD, DHP, DMO). In autumn a summer plumaged bird which showed some white flecking on the head was present for five minutes from 14.40hrs. on 30th August (MLD, DMO) and an immature was seen on 15th September (CH).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Rare passage visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** six adults which were present at 14.05hrs. remained until at least 18.00hrs. on 20th September (MLD, DMO, TP). The eighth record for the reservoir.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from 11 localities, most frequently in the Horbury Strands/Wyke area. Birds were noted between 5th April and 7th September.

Healey Mills – two flew W along the river with an Arctic Tern on 5th April (JRS). This is the earliest ever in the Club area by seven days.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – up to three were seen regularly between 13th April and 8th June. This frequency of records is perhaps to be expected as birds breed just outside the recording area and presumably used the Horbury area for feeding. Birds which may have been on passage concerned an adult and immature on 30th July and an adult and two immatures on 1st August.

Dewsbury SF – two along the river on 18th April and a single on 18th June.

Bretton Lakes – a single on 24th April.

Elland GP – one on 24th April.

Ingbirchworth Res. – a single on 27th April.

Scout Dike Res. – a single on 27th April (perhaps the same as that at Ingbirchworth Res.).

Blackmoorfoot Res. – as in 2007 there was a good run of records: an adult was present on 22nd July. In August a flock of 21 adults flew W at 08.45hrs. and an immature flew W at 15.35hrs. on 17th, a single immature flew W on 26th and two immatures did likewise on 30th. An immature flew W on 1st September and an adult which arrived from the S departed NW on 7th September.

Ringstone Edge Res. – nine on 18th August.

In addition, three Commic Terns at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** flew very high to the E on 8th May (see Black Tern above).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were four records involving seven birds, all in spring.

Healey Mills – a single flew W along the river with two Common Terns on 5th April and two flew E along the river on 13th May (both JRS).

Elland GP – two on 17th April (AC, JB).

Ingbirchworth Res. – two on 21st April (DS).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Despite there being many sightings from a number of locations throughout the area, the only records with counts were from **Blackmoorfoot** where a stubble field to the NE of the reservoir attracted between 60 and 80 from 15th December to the year end with 180 present on 25th and 200+ on 28th. This is the first time that ‘genuine’ birds have been officially recorded from the reservoir, and brings the species total up to 211.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Reported from 27 sites throughout the whole area and in every month.

During the first winter period, flocks were recorded from a number of upland sites, the maxima being c.30 at **Bowshaw Whams** in January, 16 at **Gunthwaite Dam** in February, up to 27 at **Whitley Res.** in February and 42 in a mixed species gull flock on muck spread fields at **Elysium** on 8th March.

Breeding was confirmed in a tree hole at **Shelley** and in a stone barn at **Shepley**. Pairs were recorded at **Lockwood, Deffer Wood, New Mill, Meal Hill, Shelley Roydhouse** and **Bradley** during the breeding season.

By contrast flocks in the second half of the year were very small; six at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th September and five there on 11th December being the largest.

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

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

During the first winter period flocks of 100 or more were only reported from three sites; 100 at **Dewsbury SF** in January, 100 on the **Calder/Hebble near Healey** in February and a maximum of 170 in the Dean Brook Road area of **Holmfirth** on 20th February. The roost at **Kirkburton/Storthes Hall** held several hundred in both winter periods.

Confirmed breeding took place in a **Shelley** garden where a pair raised at least two broods and at **Shelley Whins** where there were one or two pairs. Visits to gardens throughout the year were reported from **Almondbury, Lockwood, Netherthong, and New Mill**.

The largest gatherings later in the year concerned flocks of 120 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 29th July and 150+ at **Farnley Tyas** on 31st October. Visible migration during the second winter period involved 200 SW at **Elland GP** on 4th October, over 500 moving S at **Shelley** on 27th October and 100 W at **Fixby** on 12th November.

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

Although displaying and copulating was observed at **Dalton** in late January, breeding was only confirmed in a **New Mill** garden. Juveniles were recorded in an **Almondbury** garden, and breeding was suspected near to gardens in **Skelmanthorpe** and **Shelley**. Unfortunately unlike 2007, there was no sign of nesting at **Huddersfield Railway Station**. This species was recorded regularly from seven other gardens.

The largest flock reported consisted of 13 at Victoria, **Hepworth** on 1st November.

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

Recorded from 18 sites, a three-fold increase on 2007, which gives hope that this Red-listed species may be making a recovery.

A male at **Brow Grains**, Meltham on 22nd April was the first record for the year (DMP).

Males were heard singing at 11 sites. Two males were heard in the **Little Don Valley** on 4th May and two males summered in the **Deer Hill/Brow Grains** area. At **Shelley** a female was heard 'bubbling' on 10th May and a male was heard singing regularly until late May, although breeding was suspected no proof was forthcoming (SRG).

The final record was from Thick Hollins, **Meltham** area where one was heard from a garden on 7th June (MW).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

A single was seen at **Ainley Top** on 9th February (CCT). There were 10 different sightings of one or two birds between 12th May and 13th September at the site where the species bred in 2007, but no proof of breeding was established.

Two birds were reported to SRG as road casualties in the **Emley** area in July. These were probably young birds near a suitable breeding area with nest boxes.

At **Scout Dike Res.** a single was hunting the fields on the north bank during the afternoon and at dusk on 27th November (RJB). What was probably the same bird was reported by anglers on other dates around this time.

The only other record concerned a single at **Outlane** on 8th December (via HBC).



LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Recorded throughout the year with records stemming from 34 sites, all except three being to the south of Huddersfield.

Probable breeding (8 pairs) took place at **Almondbury** (4 pairs), **Broadstones Res.**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Highburton**, and Sovereign Quarry, **Shepley**, and pairs were reported as being resident at 10 other sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present daily on the walls to the west of the reservoir until the end of September, but during the following three months these birds kept a low profile and were only occasionally seen.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Recorded from 36 sites with records from late January to 4th November, all except four between 23rd March and 4th September.

Breeding was confirmed at **YWT Stockmoor Common** (SRG). Two observers separately confirmed breeding at **Windy Bank Wood**. MW reported a bird sitting on a nest on 5th April and DMP reported two nests with young at the end of April although the outcome was unknown.

Young were recorded at **Golcar** during the summer (TP). A slightly downy individual was making begging calls from the middle of the road at **Harden** on 25th July before being shooed away for its own safety (MC).

Probable breeding was reported from **Mollicar Wood, Barkisland, Emley Moor, Farnley Tyas, Storthes Hall Woods, Langsett and Thornhill Edge**. Up to four individuals were heard regularly throughout the year in the **Meal Hill**, Hepworth area (HQ) and at least three were calling at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 30th July (DHP).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

Records from eight sites with breeding confirmed at four of these made this an excellent year for the species. A minimum of eight young were raised and breeding was suspected at another site nearby but could not be proved. During November a bird was seen nightly perched by the roadside.

At a site in the **Meltham** area a pair were present in a suitable breeding area in late April but were subject to disturbance and the birds soon moved away.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

Singles were seen at eight sites, twice at **Brow Grains** in April (DMP), the remainder being at other moorland sites between late July and the end of the year. A bird was flushed by a Marsh Harrier at **Winscar** on 6th September (DMP).

A pair was observed displaying including wing clapping and also 'barking' and hovering at the observers presence at **Dean Clough** on 14th May (DT). The following day, and also on 5th June, the same observer saw two there at distance but no further evidence of breeding was recorded.

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

Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder. Red listed.

The three records are the first reports of this species since 2002. Two came from the **Langsett** area during June and involved singles over clear fell (MC, BA, DHP). The third undated, and location withheld, from DT who reported "one 'churring' in flight before seen landing in vegetation close by. Odd squealing and other weird noises were heard coming from the same area before either the same, or another, individual was seen wing clapping and heard calling".

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

The first sightings were on 26th April and came from four sites: **Elland GP** (2 birds), **Linthwaite** (1), **Redbrook Clough** (1) and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (1).

Breeding of between five and seven pairs was recorded in Edge Top housing estate **Thornhill**, an unknown number bred at St. Luke's Hospital, **Crosland Moor** and a pair was observed copulating at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 16th May.

Much larger numbers than 2007 were recorded: at **Elland GP** numbers built up from c.30 on 27th April to 150 on 1st May and 210 three days later, 200 were recorded flying E at various locations in the **Winscar** area on 18th May, **Dewsbury SF** had 80 on 6th June, at **Fenay Bridge** 50+ were feeding low over trees and fields all day on 25th June and c.50 flew N over **Shelley** on 6th August.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** numbers present never exceeded 30 until late May. During June and July up to 30 were present with, in June, 40+ on 15th and 50+ on 26th, and, in July, 50+ on 12th and 40+S on 30th.

Smaller numbers were seen at a number of sites throughout August, the latest concerned a single at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 27th. The only September record, which involved two birds, came from **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 7th September (D. Butt).

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

Recorded from 27 sites and during every month, although the majority of sightings were in the periods January to the end of March and again from August to the year end.

A single was present at **Windy Bank Res.** between 1st and 12th January and the same observer saw a single there on 1st September and two on 3rd/4th of that month.

There were fewer records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** than has been usual in the past and no long-stay individuals were recorded. Between 27th January and 23rd April singles were present on 10 days. Later in the year singles were seen on 12 days between 3rd August and 24th December.

Bretton Park had another good year and, although breeding was not confirmed, birds were seen throughout the year with four present in both January and November.

Breeding was confirmed at **Dewsbury SF** where a pair successfully reared two young on the River Calder, **Horbury Strands** where birds were seen visiting a nest hole, **Ravensthorpe** where a pair bred by the weir and **Healey Mills** where two pairs bred near the Sand Martin colony. Probable breeding was reported from **Gunthwaite Dam** and **Scout Dike Res.**

(EURASIAN) **WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*
Rare Visitor. Red listed.

A single reported from **Norland Moor** on 11th September (M. Cowton via HBC) was the first record since 1999 and the tenth for the Club area.

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

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Although widely reported in every month, particularly between January and early June, only one breeding location was confirmed, at **Holme Styes** where two juveniles were seen in mid July (MC). A juvenile was seen at rest on a post at **Hullock Bank** on 27th July, and with frequent 'yaffles' being heard nearby all year, this species undoubtedly bred in the vicinity.

Breeding probably took place at **Bretton Park, Cliffe Wood, Elland GP, and Langsett**. Birds were recorded in suitable habitat in the breeding season at **Butternab Wood, Digley, Carlecotes Ponds, Grimescar Wood, Kirkheaton, Dovestones, Dunford Bridge and Storthes Hall**.

The species was a regular visitor to a garden in **Shelley (JRC)** and a bird calling at **Netherthong** on 23rd September was "my first record from this locality" (SRG).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Another widely reported species from more than 50 sites and throughout the year.

Breeding was confirmed at 13 sites involving at least 19 pairs, including a garden at **Almondbury**, four pairs in the **Longwood/Pighill Wood** area, two pairs in **Windy Bank Wood**, and single pairs at **Ingbirchworth Res., Jenkinson Wood, Mollicar Wood, Deffer Wood, Royd House Wood, Healey Greave Wood, Helme Wood, Langsett, Shelley** and **Healey Mills** where a pair used a Starling nest box but no young were seen.

Drumming was reported from 11 other sites including **Bretton Park** (5 birds), **Cooper Bridge, Horbury Strands, Marsden** (3 sites), **Shelley Whins**, where it was the first drumming record for this site and **Wholestone Moor** where a male was drumming on a mobile 'phone mast on 17th March.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

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

With records from only three sites this represents a collapse in numbers from 2007.

Up to three were reported from **Bretton Park** in mid February (DT, AK, SRG) but several visits during spring failed to produce further sightings. Two were present in a garden at **Elland Park Road** on 11th January with a single there on 22nd January (via HBC). The only other sighting concerned a single in a hedgerow at the roadside at **Jos Lane, Shelley** on 14th December (SRG).

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare Visitor

A single which flew quite low to the E over **Cooper Bridge SP** at 09.45hrs. on 14th February (DS) was the first in the Huddersfield Area since 2006.

With authenticated records in 1947 and 2006, this constitutes the third record for the Club area.

(COMMON) **SKYLARK** *Alda arvensis*

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

Reported throughout the year with breeding occurring at a number of sites.

The only January records involved a single at **Kirkheaton** on 13th and, on 28th, three at **Annat Royd Lane** and a singing male at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** In February/March the species became widely distributed with the largest numbers occurring at **Wholestone Moor** which held 26 on 9th February, 50+ on 31st March and 30 on 8th April.

Breeding was confirmed at **Dick Edge Lane** where young were seen in fields on 14th June. A bird was flushed from a nest with eggs in mid June at the very top of **Deer Hill**. The observer noted this was the first nest he had seen for many years (DMP). Breeding probably took place at **Bullcliffe Wood, Emley Moor and Langsett**.

Singing was recorded at 18 other sites, the largest number being at **Blackmoorfoot** where a census for the BTO 2007-11 Atlas revealed 21 singing males (7 in fields to the east and 14 in fields to the west/Meltham Cop) during June.

Migration was more in evidence than in recent years at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and commenced with a flock of 23 flying W on 9th October. Thereafter up to 43 flew W on a further seven dates up to 22nd December, the only exception being a flock of 11 which flew E on 17th October.

Other sites where significant numbers were observed after the breeding season included 12 and 11 at **Wholestone Moor** on 10th and 11th September respectively; 11 on stubble at Lucy Lane, **Lepton** on 11th September and up to 18 at **Thurgory Lane** on three dates between 2nd October and 1st November.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

The first record was of three at **Elland GP** on 16th March (via HBC), followed by 20+ there on 22nd March.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a non-breeding site, there were fewer records than in 2007. The first of the year were a flock of five on 31st March. One to seven were recorded on nine dates in April, with 16+ on 10th. The only May/June records involved three on 2nd May, and, in June, a single between 26th and 29th and three on 30th. July was more productive with up to six on 11 dates and 13 on 12th/13th. The only August records concerned a single on 11th and two on 21st and 26th.

There were only a small number of records from **Dewsbury SF** which held a maximum of 20 on both 13th June and 22nd July. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** up to 30 were present throughout April, but the only records thereafter involved a maximum of three on 9th June.

At **Healey Mills** the work of volunteers who dug out a new bank in March was rewarded by 30 pairs using the bank for nesting and a total of 16 young were reared (JRS).

Although no birds were seen at the colony at **Horbury Bridge** on 6th May by 8th June six were present and a single nest hole was being used. Five pairs were nesting at a new site at **Horbury**

Strands in June. At **Horbury Wyke** two holes were being visited on 8th June and by 28th June c.25 holes were counted in the river bank but not all appeared to be occupied.

In autumn birds were reported from seven localities in small numbers, the maximum being 20 at **Bretton Lakes** on 19th August. The final record of the year involved 10 flying through at **Ringstone Edge** on 17th September (via HBC).

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

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

The first record was of four heading W at **Broadstones Res.** on 2nd April (HQ) but within the next few days up to eight had been recorded from a further eight sites.

At well watched sites the maxima were 30 at **Bretton Park** on 11th April, 400 at **Elland GP** on 18th April, c.50 at **Horbury SF** on 23rd April and c.200 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28th April.

The first record from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned three on 3rd April. Numbers thereafter were unusually low, never exceeding 20 (usually less than 10), until 80+ flew south on 30th August. In September numbers were again on the low side, but 60+ were present on 6th and 40+ on 21st. The only October occurrences involved two on 1st, one on 2nd and 29 S on 8th.

At **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th April c.60 were seen on the ground (with Sand Martins) which had been recently spread with muck. The birds did not appear to be feeding from the ground but were certainly taking flying insects very close to the ground (D Butt).

Breeding was confirmed at **Cooper Bridge SP, Blackmoorfoot, Emley Moor** and **Shelley**. At **Stocks Moor Common** two pairs probably bred in a nearby farm building. Similarly at Short Horns, **New Mill** breeding probably took place as birds were seen regularly entering a barn and juveniles were seen nearby.

Large groups after the breeding season included a roost of 300 at **Elland GP** on 14th August, 200 flying SE at **Healey Mills** on 31st August, c.60 at **Scout Dike** on 6th September, c.2000 through at **Ringstone Edge** on 12th September and an impressive c.4000 through there on 17th September (via HBC).

A visible migration watch at **Snailsden Res.** on 21st September revealed a total of 83 birds.

With the exception of those at Blackmoorfoot (outlined above), the only October occurrences involved seven at **Scamonden** on 2nd, two at **Honley Moor** on 3rd, three at **Redisher** on 5th and two west at **Shelley** on 7th. The last record of the year involved a single at **Outlane** on 1st November (via HBC).

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

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

The first records, both of two birds, were from **Bretton Park** (SRG) and **Elland GP** (via HBC) on 10th April. By the month end small numbers had been reported from a further 12 widely scattered locations, the maxima being 40 at **Elland GP** on 24th and 50 there on 28th.

Breeding was confirmed at **Almondbury, Crosland Moor**, Black Horse Public House, **Dalton** (26 occupied nests), Holly Bank Road, **Lindley** (on 5 houses), **Marsden** (8 small colonies), **Meltham, Shelley Park Estate, Shelley Roydhouse, Shelley Woodhouse, Stainland, Thornhill** and **Waterloo**.

Numbers throughout the summer months were unusually low at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, up to eight being seen on an almost daily basis until mid July. Numbers then increased slightly with 20 on 20th July, and 45+ S on 30th July and, in August, 20+ on 6th and 29th. Other large counts during August involved 48 at **Windy Bank Res.** on 26th and c.200 in four groups moving SW at **Cooper Bridge SP** the following day. During September numbers declined but c.100 were over **Shelley** on 2nd, c.60 were at **Scout Dike** and 50 were at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 4th, 80 flew E at **Sands GP** on 9th, 60 were at **Wholestone Moor** on 10th, c.30 were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th and c.40 were at **Royd Edge** on 27th.

In October birds were only reported from five locations and, with the exception of 20 at **Elland GP** on 4th, numbers never exceeded three. The last birds of the year (2) were seen at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 6th October.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

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

The year's first record was a calling bird at **Harden** on 10th April (MC), but the first sighting was a displaying male at **Fox Hill, Ingbirchworth** over a fortnight later, with another calling at **Stockmoor Common** on the same day. Curiously, none had been observed at this site in the 2007 survey. The next arrival was a singing male in an elder by **Broadstones Res.** on 29th April. Reports came from six different sites during May, including **Carlecotes Ponds, Langsett, Deer Hill**, and **Holme Styes**. At least four singing males were found at **Swinden Walls** on 20th June, and the only other sightings were one at **Butterley Res.** on 26th July, and finally two migrants over **Scammonden** on 23rd August.

Confirmed breeding was reported from just two sites: at **Langsett**, where a bird was seen carrying food on 14th June, and new broods of three and two were produced in July, and from the familiar site at **Holme Styes** where a pair had at least one successful brood.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

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

Present all year, with up to eight reported from various sites in January and February except for c.20 in fields on **Cheesgate Nab** on 13th February. At **Shelley** the observer commented on an apparent increase in overwintering birds in this area, with groups of 12 and 20 in January and February.

Mid-March saw birds returning to **Blackmoorfoot** in increasingly large numbers, and by the end of the month flocks of 100+ were seen at **Scout Dike Res.** and **Wholestone Moor**; similar numbers were counted at **Blackmoorfoot** in early April. A flock of 60 in a small field at **Wood Nook** on 7th April were thought to have been driven off the moors by late snowfall. In April, three or four singing/displaying males were reported from **Royd Moor Res.**, **Broadstones Res.**, and **Ingbirchworth** on 9th, 26th and 29th respectively, while 20 were counted at **Dewsbury SF** on 19th, and at least 12 on **Deer Hill** on 26th.

Other counts from **Wholestone Moor** involved 26 on 3rd May, and 100 on 6th June, but the only sizeable July count was 40+ at **Bradshaw** on 26th. No specific records of confirmed breeding were forthcoming from any sites, although one observer commented on an apparent slow decline in breeding in the **Wessenden Valley** area.

Records of autumn passage over **Shelley** began with four on 18th August, and continued into November. Several 100+ counts came from some of the abovementioned sites during September, with the most notable being c.300 at **Ringstone Edge** on 19th and 25th, a remarkable tally of 402 flying south over **Snailsden Res.** on 21st and 109 were counted heading south over the **Wessenden Valley** on 27th. **Wholestone Moor** produced the year's last three-figure count on 6th October, and over 30 were still present at the end of November. Between 30 and 40 were feeding on the filter beds at **Dewsbury SF** during November and December, and the last count of the year was 20 on 15th December in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot**.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Three records, the first being identified by call as it passed over **Harden** in the dark on 28th February (MC), with the same observer seeing and hearing his second local bird of the year while on visual migration watch at **Holme Moss** on 15th October. A bigger bird, with an obvious mini-thrush bill, it stood out from accompanying Meadow Pipits. Six days earlier, one flew south over **Blakeley Res** (JMP).

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Rare passage visitor.

One at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th March (DT).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Only one record, also at **Dewsbury SF**, on 28th October (JH).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

The only spring records, all in April, came from **Ingbirchworth**, on 15th (SRG) and 27th (DHP, RJB), and **Dewsbury SF** on 17th (JH, DT) and 23rd (JH).

A bird that flew south from fields near **Winscar Res.** on 8th August was the first autumn sighting (MC). Another was seen on 7th September at **Scout Dike** (RJB), and two, either females or juveniles, were seen at **Royd Moor Res.** on 18th September (DB).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

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

With records from approximately fifty sites this year has seen a very substantial increase in sightings compared with 2007. Confirmed breeding was reported from 14 sites, and probable breeding from a further three.

One or two birds were present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot** and a pair nested along the catchment. Two juveniles were observed at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 29th July. Two pairs were in **Bretton Park**, although they did not seem to overwinter, and juveniles were seen in July and August.

During the breeding season pairs were reported from **Brockholes/Hagg Wood, Cooper Bridge, Dewsbury SF, Digley, Dunford Bridge, Dovestones, Elland GP, Grimescar, Hepworth, Holmfirth, Magdale, Horbury SF, Ingbirchworth Res., Kirkburton/Fenay Beck, Langsett, Marsden** (nine sites), **Millbank Locks, Sands Lane GP, Scout Dike, and Yateholme**. Records of one or two birds also came from **Blakeley Res., Crow Edge, Crosland Moor, Denby Dale, Fixby, Golcar, Horbury, Horbury Bridge, Horbury Strands/Wyke, Huddersfield town centre, Linthwaite, Longwood Beck, Meltham, Outlane GC, Moreton Wood, Blacker Wood, Thunderbridge, Wessenden Valley**, and overflying **Wholestone Moor**. Overwintering birds were noted at **Emley Moor** and **Shelley Moor**.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

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

More records were received than for 2007, with almost as many sites logged as for Grey Wagtail, although the latter less common species obviously attracts more attention!

Breeding was confirmed at just three sites, **Dewsbury SF**, where numbers were described as well down on previous years, **Emley Moor** transmitter and **Blackmoorfoot**. Noteworthy sightings included 52 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 24th January, 20 in stubble near **Healey** on 28th February, 44 in a field by **Annat Royd Lane** on 16th April, six juveniles at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 29th July, 20+ at **Longwood Edge** on 3rd August, at least 30 leaving the **Folly Hall** Hotshots roost on 26th September, and c.20 on the roof of the **Kingsgate Centre** at dusk on Christmas Eve.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Two records, both in spring. Three were observed in fields near **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 31st March (DS), and one appeared at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd May (JH).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

None were seen during the first winter period, but these stunning birds made a welcome return in the last two months of the year, with as many as 150 chancing their luck at **Longroyd Bridge Casino** on 20th December!

Two birds seen briefly in trees at **Scout Dike** on 2nd November (RJB) were the precursors of the influx, with two seen ten days later in **Marsden**, and one in **Elland** on 14th. Nine in **Jim Lane, Marsh** on 21st November had increased to 26 a week later. At the popular **Folly Hall** site in late December 80 birds (118 on 20th) had consumed all the available berries by 22nd, but some lingered in nearby streets to feed on apples. A small flock was seen in **Honley** also on 20th, and between 40 and 50 entertained **South Crosland** observers on 23rd/24th. 30 in **Langdale Street, Elland** on the last day of the year will no doubt have enticed their observer back on the following day. Readers will be kept in suspense until the 2009 report appears.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Reports were received from 24 sites, but breeding was only confirmed from along **Chew Brook** (GMBRG). Pairs probable were at **Thunderbridge** and **Dogley/Fenay Beck** (SRG). Two pairs were observed at **Diggle Brook, Dobcross** (GMBRG), and a probable pair at **Windy Bank Res., Meltham** (DHP). Singing males were reported from the **Lower Grimescar Valley**, and **Shelley Brook, Shepley**.

Birds were regularly observed in the winter months at **Windy Bank Res.**, while five sightings were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, and four, all in the winter months, from **Elland GP**. Frequent sightings were recorded upstream of **Bilberry Res.**, while singles were seen in spring and autumn in **Hagg Wood, Brockholes**, as well as three times on the river near **Holmfirth**.

Reports were also submitted from **Burnlee** millpond, **Dovestones, Golcar, Langsett, Linthwaite, Longwood Beck, Marsden, Milnsbridge, Salter's Brook, Shiny Brook, Slaithwaite, and Wessenden Head**.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Reports came from almost forty sites, which is double the 2007 tally, including three records of confirmed breeding, and one probable.

Two pairs nested successfully at **Dewsbury SF**, where birds were present on every visit. Regular detailed counts at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where birds also nested successfully, refer to three singing males on 29th April, and eight individuals on 26th August. No fewer than 22 singing males were present in **Haigh Woods** in May and June, four birds were observed on four occasions in the breeding season in **Jenkinson Wood, Kirkburton**, while up to eight were found in the same period at **Shelley-Woodhouse**, and at least six were on territory in the **Wessenden Valley** in early June. Seven singing males were counted in April in **Deffer Wood**, and five at **Cooper Bridge SP**, where young were seen in late May. Regular surveys throughout the year in the **Grimescar Valley** yielded up to four birds, and garden records show one or two present all year at **Hollin Avenue, Marsh, at Larks House, Hepworth**, as well as in **Netherton** and **New Mill**, but with no evidence of breeding. One or two birds were also noted at a wide variety of sites across the area.



Wigeon - Meltham Res. 4th February 2008



Common Scoter - Yeoman Hey 1st July 2008



Immature Gannet - found ensnared at Crimble Clough 24th October 2008



Shag - Elland Gravel Pits 6th May 2008



Night Heron - Scout Dike 9th February 2008



Little Ringed Plover – Dewsbury Sewage Farm 6th May 2008



Jack Snipe - Isle of Skye quarry 21st October 2008



Short-eared Owl – Deanhead Clough 2nd June 2008



Dunnock – Shepley 29th August 2008



Common Whitethroat – Broadstones Reservoir 4th May 2008



Wood Warbler – Dovestones Reservoir 4th May 2008



Crossbill - Yeoman Hey 1st July 2008

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As was the case with Wrens, reports were submitted for almost forty sites, twice the 2007 total.

Breeding was confirmed at seven locations and probable for two others. In many instances records referred to garden visitors or residents, and birds were clearly present throughout the year in a variety of habitats. One observer in **Marsh** kept detailed records of his garden birds' activities, with one or two present in all seasons, and young in evidence in June. Up to eight birds were in a **Shelley** garden in the second winter period.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As with Wrens and Dunnocks, 2008 saw a doubling (to almost forty) in the number of records received, with breeding confirmed in five instances, and three probable.

Sixteen were counted at **Shelley-Woodhouse** on 22nd January, nine at **Berry Moor/Silkstone** on 23rd March, five sang at **Cooper Bridge SP** in April and six at **Outlane GC** on 25th May. One observer counted the remarkable figure of 26 singing males in **Haigh Woods** in early May, with 18 still making their presence heard a month later. Seven frequented **Dewsbury SF** throughout October, two having been present during the first winter period, and one pair nested on machinery in the compound. Numerous others preferred garden habitats.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

Sadly, just one record, a 'female-type' at **Deer Hill** on 5th August (TD).

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

The improved picture of the past two years has at least been sustained, with a similar number and range of sightings.

The year's first arrivals were three (including one female) which had returned on 25th April (DT) to the regular site at **Holme Styes**, where a singing male was present for most of May (P & BB, MC). This may well have been the bird seen at nearby **Elysium** on 13th May (WDH). Three males were on territory in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** area on 4th May (JL), while another singing male was found at **Swinden Plantation** on 21st May (DT). **Dovestones** produced the next sighting, another male, on 16th June (GMBRG).

The only signs of local breeding may have been the two recently fledged young at **Helme** on 13th July (MLD), and a juvenile which was seen with a female a fortnight later by the same observer beside the inflow at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the female was apparently still present on 6th August. A record was received of a single bird at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18th August, from HBC, who also reported two migrants flying over **Scammonden** five days later. A female/first-winter bird at **Scout Dike Res.** on 31st August and 4th September (RJB) proved to be the last of the year.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.

Records were received from just eleven sites, which is down on the last two years' figures.

The year's first bird, a male, appeared at **Deer Hill Res.** on 26th April (AK, DT). By 11th May at least six singing males were in this general area, and at least two pairs produced young which were seen at both **Deer Hill** and **Brow Grains**. Further sightings involved singles at **Edge Moor**, **Blackmoorfoot**, on 6th May, and **Redbrook Res.** on 7th, with five territories being located in the latter area. Three territories were located in the **Wessenden Valley**, which represents a reduction relative to previous years. Later in May, a pair with a singing male were recorded at **Deer Hill**, while the species was said to be present in the **Meltham/Millmoor** area at the same time. The only June record was a male on territory in the **Wessenden Valley** on 6th.

A single bird was found at **Blakeley Res.** on 4th July, and recently fledged young were seen two days later at **Castleshaw Res.** Also in July a family party with three youngsters were seen at **Deer Hill** on 13th and one was at **Scout Dike** on 27th. Two late August records featured two birds at **Scammonden** on 23rd, and one at **Scout Dike** on 25th, with a further sighting here on 14th September, while the year's last record was a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 17th September (HBC). For at least two local observers who regularly frequent suitable habitat for this species 2008 was a blank year, with one failing to find any for the first time in nine years.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*
Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Records came in from 36 sites, one more than last year's tally, with reports of confirmed breeding at seven, and probable from one other. Birds were present throughout the year, and detailed records were kept by several observers.

Blackmoorfoot Res. yielded frequent sightings of up to four birds during both winter periods, and regular sightings occurred during the same period in the **Broadstones** area, with five present on 11th February. Males accompanied by females were seen at **Cinderhills** in rough pasture on 2nd January, at **Digley** on 23rd March, at **Dearne Dike Lane** on 13th April, and at **Goodbent Lodge** in November, where one observer judged breeding probable, although no reports were forthcoming of young. Other records include four birds at **Ringstone Edge** on 25th May and at **Dovestones Res** on 2nd June, while a series of sightings from **Wholestone Moor** also featured a foursome on 31st March, with two juveniles seen on 14th June, and two or three birds present until late November. Two pairs were in the upper part of the **Little Don Valley** on 4th May, and pairs were also seen at **Hullock Bank** in early March and in set-aside near **Kirkheaton** in November. Three were seen in the **Isle of Skye** quarry in late September, a single female having been present on several dates in late winter and early spring. Two adults were reported from **Whitley Common/Edge** in early May.

A pair were regularly seen on **Cheesegate Nab**, with at least two young seen in mid-June and at the end of July. Food was being taken to a nest in **Deanhead Clough** on 1st July, a pair were also feeding young at **Pole Moor** on 6th June, and at **Wessenden Head Res.** an adult was seen with a juvenile on the west side, while a pair were seen with a juvenile at the bottom of **Shiny Brook** on 17th. Two young were recorded at **Winscar** on 23rd June. Birds also bred at **Brow Grains**, where many "spotty" young were observed throughout a long breeding season, and as many as ten birds

were counted in October. There were considered to be five breeding pairs in the general **Deer Hill/Meltham** area.

Frequent observations of the successful pair at **Meltham Cop, Blackmoorfoot** produced evidence of three broods. On 30th March nest-building had begun at the western end of Dunnock Lane, and by 18th April four eggs had been laid, with fledged young during the first week of May. A new nest with six eggs was found on 18th May, with two young fledged on 6th June, and a third brood produced five fledged young by the end of July. A family party frequented fields to the west of the reservoir for the rest of the month and, even though the young from these broods soon dispersed, up to seven were regularly present until early September. Between 21st September and 28th December up to three were seen on a total of 24 days.

Single birds were observed at **Horbury Strands, New Dam, Redbrook Clough, Scout Dike, Spicer House Lane**, and in kale stubble near **South Crosland**, and a female at **High Hoyland** on 17th March was the first the observer had ever seen in that locality. A noteworthy sighting in the second winter period featured five at **Booth Wood Res.** on 1st November.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.



Holme Moss produced the year's first arrival on 10th March (SC), followed by another single five days later at **Dovestones**. Three birds appeared at **Ringstone Edge** on 21st, at **Hartcliffe Hill, Penistone**, on 24th, and at **Winscar** on 27th, with singles turning up near **Broadstones** and at **Wood Nook** on the last day of the month, as well as a male and female at **Blackmoorfoot**.

Early April saw the usual spring influx, and by the month's end reports had come in from fourteen more sites with as many as twelve at **Whitley Common/Edge** on 5th and eleven near **Ingbirchworth** on 8th.

Up to six were counted on spring passage at **Blackmoorfoot**, in the **Broadstones** area, and on **Cheesegate Nab**, with seven at **Wholestone Moor**. Smaller groups or singles were recorded at **Cooper Bridge, Digley, Isle of Skye, Millmoor, Snape Res., Upper Heaton, and Wessenden**. Single stragglers were found at **Royd Moor** on 18th May and at **Deer Hill Res.** on 4th June.

Two July records featured a single at **Redbrook Res.** on 2nd, and five the next day at the **Isle of Skye**, followed by a lull until another two sightings in early August with a single at **Blackmoorfoot**, and four at **Deer Hill Res.** Autumn passage began in earnest towards the end of the month, including twelve near **Digley** on 29th, and continued throughout September, with five on **Crosland Hill** airfield on 1st, and smaller numbers at twelve other sites across the Club area, with singles at **Deer Hill** on 26th, **Chew Res** on 27th, and lingering at **Blackmoorfoot** until October 1st, and at **Wholestone Moor** until 4th October (DT), an unusually early date for the last sighting.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce spring passage visitor.

Two records: on May 2nd at **Digley**, six, as well as three separate nominates, presumed to be breeders, (P & BB), and, three days later, at **Ringstone Edge**, two birds considered by the observer to be Greenlanders (HBC).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Birds were reported from thirteen sites, all in spring. Strangely, and sadly, there appear to have been no sightings anywhere in the Club area of autumn passage migrants.

The first records featured three males in the traditional field on **Cheesegate Nab** (HQ) and two at **Digley** on 2nd April (S & HC). At **Blackmoorfoot** an amazing total of 14 (not sexed) were present on Meltham Cop for a short period during the afternoon of 18th April (MS); an hour later only four males remained (MLD, CH, MS). The following day four males were present (the same?) with two males on 20th, three males on 21st and four males on 25th (MLD, TD, CH).

Single males were then found on 5th May at **Whitley Common/Edge** (DT), and **Hartcliffe Hill, Penistone** (RJB), as well as two males at **Royd Edge, Meltham** (DMP). One or two were present in the **Isle of Skye** quarry from 7th to 12th May, including one female on the last date (DHP).

The **Cheesegate Nab** birds remained until 25th April, with as many as seven, of which just one was a female, on 15th. Sightings at **Digley** involved three on 9th April and two on 15th, and a

singing male was found on **Cole Hill, Wessenden** on 14th. Further records in late April included birds at **Wholestone Moor, Deer Hill** and **Annat Royd Lane**.

The observer in the **Little Don Valley** (JL) reported three probable territories on 4th May, and probable breeding was then reported on 12th from **Blackpool Bridge, Digley**, where a pair and another singing male were present. One male appeared at **Swinden Plantation** on 21st May, and a singing male was at **Wessenden Res.** on 8th June. The last sighting of the year was a female near the **Isle of Skye** on 17th June (DHP).

One further undated record of breeding came from the new RSPB reserve at **Dovestones** (GMBRG).

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

As is usually the case with this very common species, many of the records submitted were of birds in observers' gardens, including some reports of confirmed breeding, while overall sightings came from a wide range of habitats. Noteworthy records featured three breeding pairs on the new reserve at **Healey Mills**, where 21 birds were counted on 28th November, with 18 on the same date at both **Bradley Hall Farm** and **Wholestone Moor**. Other counts produced up to 20 at **Shelley Whins** and 30 at **Horbury** on 13th November, and 19 in the **Grimescar Valley** on 14th December. A piebald bird lurked in the shrubbery at **Greenhead College** throughout November and December.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

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

No large flocks were in evidence during the first winter period until 1st March, when 100 headed west over **Outlane**. Another 100-strong group were in a mixed flock with Skylarks and Linnets the next day at **Annat Royd Farm**. What proved to be by far the largest assembly of the year was at **Elysium** on 18th March, when the observer counted 1400 birds (MC). Up to 60 had been counted on various dates from the start of the year at **Blackmoorfoot**, where over 200 were present in the first few days of April, and where a flock of 100 flew over on 6th, heading north: ten were still here on 19th, and one lingered until 27th. The only other substantial flocks in the first three months of the year comprised 50-80 birds in the **Horbury Strands/Balk Lane** area between 22nd and 24th January, and 50 on 5th February in **Bretton Park**, the observer commenting that the numbers were better than in 2007, but still rather small, and 60 at **Ringstone Edge** on the last day of March.

Smaller gatherings were recorded at a number of other sites, including c.20 at **Boshaw Whams** on 2nd January, c.20 on 6th January in a mixed flock feeding in fields at **Lower Cumberworth**, 20 at **South Crosland** on 29th, 15 at **Skelmanthorpe** on 30th, 30 at **Crosland Hill** on 8th February, 26 on **Cheesegate Nab** on 14th, and 15 at **Bilberry Res.** on 14th March.

Larger gatherings in April included 120 at **Broadstones Res.** on 2nd, with c.80 there on 14th, 60 heading west over **Scout Dike** on 5th, and c.30 heading north on 13th, c.40 at **Royd Moor** and c.60 near **Ingbirchworth** on 10th, with c.230 at the latter site three days later, and c.50 in **Jenkinson Wood, Kirkburton** on 14th. At **Ringstone Edge** 400 were counted on 15th, c.35 were

on **Cheesegate Nab** on 16th, c.100 at **Shelley** on 17th, c.25 at **Skelmanthorpe** on 18th and 10 in **Bretton Park** on 24th.



On 4th May one was observed at **Wessenden Lodge**, clearly agitated by the proximity of a Magpie (TD), and it is interesting to note that a juvenile was found in the same area on 26th July (JMP).

The first autumn record was a single calling at **High Hoyland** on 5th October (SRG), but it was another ten days before the real influx began, with c.30 at **Deanhouse** rising to c.90 the next day and over 100 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th, rising to 200 on 18th, with groups of 30, 20, 60+, and 16 on the same day at **Honley**, **TP Woods**, **Deanhead Res.** and **Ringstone Edge** respectively. The 19th October produced 90 at **Horbury Strands**, and 136 heading south over **Snailsden Res.** Over 100 passed over **Crow Edge** on 21st October, 17 were counted at **Thurgory Lane** on 24th, reaching c.90 by 31st, between 100 and 200 were with Redwings at **Windy Bank Res.**, **Meltham** from 25th to 29th rising to c.450 on 30th, 70 were at **Scout Dike** on 26th, followed by 300+ at **Deanhouse**, c.40 at **Miry Lane**, and c.60 flying low over **Honley Wood** on 28th.

November began with c.40 in the company of Redwings at **Booth Wood Res.**, 350+ flying north-west over **Blackmoorfoot**, and 120 moving north over **Marsden** on 1st, followed by 400+ at **Scout Dike** on 2nd. Smaller flocks were reported from **Fixby**, **Shelley**, **Horbury** and **Dalton** in the next few days, while others remained at the aforementioned sites.

December records included 100 in **Bretton Park**, 90 at **Broadstones Lodge**, and 30 at **Kirkheaton** on 7th, 20 in a hedgerow at **Thornhill Edge** on 14th, 15 at **Kirkheaton** brickworks on 15th, and the year's second-largest flock, over 800 in a field behind the Victoria pub at **Crow Edge** on 23rd: c.500 counted on the same day with a few Redwings at nearby **Whitley Common** may well have been part of the same gathering. 200+ were still present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th, as well as c.40 at **Scout Dike Res.**

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing. Red listed.

Winter records involved two foraging in leaf litter at **Lindley** on 6th January, while five were counted in **Haigh Wood** on 12th February, and twos were also found in late winter at **Longwood Beck**, **Horbury Strands**, **Shelley-Woodhouse**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Hagg Wood**, and **Yateholme**.

In total records were submitted from fifty sites, although only four observers were able to confirm breeding, with four pairs at **Blackmoorfoot**, six to ten in **Bretton Park**, one at **Thornhill**, and juveniles present at **Langsett** on 25th May. Breeding was considered probable at **Dogley NR**, in **Lower Stones Wood**, **Stockmoor**, and at **Scout Dike**, where pairs were noted. Males sang from a total of 24 sites at **Marsden**, representing at least 20 territories, and there were reports of singing males from another 19 sites across the Club area, with one making a very early start at **Cooper Bridge** on 1st January. The next dated records of singing males were all in February and featured one in Morrison's car park at **Waterloo** on 7th (which sang until 2nd April), followed by others at **Woodsome Lees** on 9th, Armitage's garden centre at **Birchcliffe** on 11th and one in the observer's garden at **Meal Hill** on 27th. Singing males were also recorded at **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Brighouse**, **Elland GP**, and a **New Mill** garden, where the observer stated that this year had yielded fewer sightings.

Further singing males were in a **Dalton** garden, **Deffer Wood**, **Skelmanthorpe**, **Smith Wood**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Almondbury**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Horbury**, and two were still singing in early August at **Golcar** and in the **Dalton** garden. One observer counted six in **Hagg Wood** on 7th April, while three were regularly present at **Healey Mills**, **Horbury Wyke**, and up to three in an **Almondbury** garden in the winter months. Daily sightings were reported from **Butternab Wood**, and two **Lockwood** sites, as well as winter records from a third, with occasional appearances at **Netherthong**.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

The largest flock during the first winter period was of c.100 at **Almondbury** on 25th February, and although almost fifty records were received from a wide range of habitats during this period most were for single figures, and almost all had left by the end of March, except for two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd April, and two that appeared in **Bretton Park** on 17th April (SRG). There were indeed numerous sightings at both these well-watched sites, with a maximum of 28 counted at the former on 22nd January, and 50 at the latter on 5th February.

Other January records included four in **Slaithwaite** on New Year's Day, c.50 at **Thurgory Lane**, five at both **Colnebridge SP** and **Bradley Hall Farm** on 4th, a single in **Shelley** on 5th, and c.6 in a big mixed flock at **Lower Cumberworth** (v. Fieldfare) on 6th. Six were taking holly berries in a **Lindley** garden on 7th followed by two in **Fixby** on 8th, and c.10 in an area of scrub woodland at

Skelmanthorpe on 12th. A count in **Oldfield** on 14th involved c.50 and the same number were reported from **Almondbury**, as well as five at **Ingbirchworth** on 28th. The next day saw 30 by the **Calder/Hebble Navigation**, and the month ended with two near **Skelmanthorpe**.

Up to three appeared in **Honley** on several dates in February, 20 flew over **Cooper Bridge SP** on 8th, 16 were at **Ainley Top** on 19th, and 35 were counted at **Oldfield** on 26th. A single on 9th February was the only one seen in **Deffer Wood** in this period, and the **Shelley Whins** observer saw none. Records came in from two more new sites in March, with c.25 on 11th at **Shepley**, and nine at **Silkstone/Berry Moor** on 24th.

Returning birds were first noted on 24th September: eight at **Scout Dike Res.** (RJB), a single at **Fixby** (DT) and a flock of 26 on **Meltham Cop, Blackmoorfoot** (MLD, CH, DHP). Three other September records featured six at **Scammonden Res.** on 26th, and singles at **Cooper Bridge** on 27th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th.

In October twenty flew west over **Shelley** on 3rd, followed by 20 heading north on 12th, and 10 at **Thurgory Lane** on 13th. Four days later 50+ appeared at **Meltham/Windy Bank Res.** and c.90 were at **Blackmoorfoot**. Poor weather hampered a visual migration watch at **Isle of Skye** quarry on 18th, although a few small flocks were heard. However, the true extent of this movement was revealed a few hours later by a remarkable count of 2500 heading west at **Blackmoorfoot!** The same day produced counts of 30 in **Lockwood**, 60 in **Fixby**, and 75 at **Scout Dike Res.** On 19th 135 were at **Snailsden Res.** and a small flock was in **Lumb Lane, Almondbury**. Other October records included 37 at **Thornhill Edge** on 20th, 60 + at **North Spring Wood, Storthes Hall** on 30th, and 150 which flew north over **Shelley** on 31st.

Birds continued to be reported from **Blackmoorfoot** in November, with 43 on 13th, while other aforementioned sites also held small flocks on several dates. **Horbury Strands** had 90 present on 19th, when 12 were in a hedgerow at **Healey Mills**. Six made a return visit to Chaucer Close in **Honley** on 23rd and 29 were present there on 21st December, and others were seen in **Greenhead Park** and **Almondbury**.

December counts of 100 came from **Bretton Park** and **Shepley**, and numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** peaked at 90. **Kirkheaton** brickworks had 35 on 9th, nine were seen in **Lindley** and 15 in **Lockwood** on 22nd, and c.40 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 26th. Flocks of up to 50 were also regularly seen in **New Mill** during this period.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

Reports were received from over fifty sites, which represent a very substantial increase on those for recent years. Breeding was confirmed at seven of these, and judged probable at a further seven. Undated records of confirmed breeding came from **Cooper Bridge SP, Langsett, Almondbury, Emley TX, Blackmoorfoot** (3 pairs), **Lockwood**, and **Shelley**, and of probable breeding from **Bullcliffe Wood, Dovestones Res, Ingbirchworth**, and **Shepley**. Males sang from 29 sites, representing at least 13 territories, in **Marsden**.

A singing male was observed at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 12th January, with a pair present two months later, and on 20th April food carrying was noted. Six birds were counted at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 26th February, and at least six were singing at **Shepley** on 11th March: no other counts of more than four birds were reported for the first six months of the year, but records came

from many widely scattered locations. Other singing males were found at **Skelmanthorpe** on 30th January, in **Bretton Park** on 7th February, in **Deffer Wood** two days later, and at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 9th April. One **Almondbury** observer watched a single bird attempting to defend a holly bush in January, ultimately unsuccessfully.

A recently fledged juvenile was seen at **Langsett** on 21st May, and two juveniles were in a **Marsh** garden on several occasions in July. Nine were on **Cheesegate Nab** in July, and 22 were present at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th August, between 15 and 17 were at **Healey Mills** during August. Other sightings for this month featured ten at **Oldfield** on 7th, up to 11 at **Dewsbury SF**, and seven at **Cooper Bridge**. The only September records involved 11 at **Longwood Edge**, and three on passage over **Snailsden Res.**, where two were also recorded on 12th October. Eleven birds were counted in **Lepton** on 2nd October.

Winter songsters were at **Fixby** on 1st November and **Shelley Whins** on 28th, and another was in full song on 26th December in **Golcar**. All the remaining sightings at the end of the year were of singles, some in gardens, except for two at **Cooper Bridge** and **Grimescar Valley**, and six at **Lindley**.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs. Red listed.

This was quite a good year for the species with records from six sites involving at least seven birds, all of which were heard reeling.

The first was heard at **Red Lane, Meltham** on 28th April followed by a single at **Scammonden** the following day. Two were heard at this last mentioned locality on 3rd May, and then one or two were heard regularly through to 13th July. A single was seen and heard in the **Wessenden Valley** on 3rd May and another was found by the same observer at Lane Village in **Holme** on 10th May. **New Hey Farm** held one from 8th to at least 21st June and also on 25th July. A single was located at **Deer Hill** on 13th July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received from six sites, of which **Horbury** was most prominent, involving at least ten birds which is fewer than last year. No positive evidence of breeding at any of these sites was recorded this year.

A singing male at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 27th April was the first and birds were recorded here regularly until 10th July with two singing males and one other being present on 16th May. Elsewhere birds were recorded at **Ringstone Edge** on 5th May, **Dewsbury SF** on 8th and two or more birds were in the **Healey Mills** area, close to Kerry Foods. A male was noted singing at **Cooper Bridge SP** with part of its song clearly mimicking Quail between 21st and 25th May (DS). The last record was of a single migrant seen at **Scout Dike Res.** on 31st August.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

Records were received from only three sites, which is disappointing, with breeding by a single pair occurring at one of these.

Singing males were heard at **Elland GP** regularly from 29th April through to 6th August, which was the last record in the Club area. **Cooper Bridge SP** held at least one pair from 2nd May where nest building activity was seen and young produced by at least one pair during that month. Another two birds were recorded at **Colnebridge** on 17th June.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

A female in a **Lockwood** garden on 27th March, followed by a male two days later and males at both **Bretton Park** and **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st March may have been early migrants, as within the next couple of weeks birds were recorded from a further seven widely scattered locations. Birds were then present throughout the summer months at more than 40 sites, although most of these were from the east of the area, records were received from woods along the moorland edge to the west. Presence was mostly indicated by singing males, but numbers were generally in low single figures with the following exceptions:

Bretton Park – ten singing males on 17th April with 14 there a week later.

Haigh Woods – 15 singing males on 2nd May and 13 on 9th June.

Trans-Pennine Trail – ten singing males between Wortley and Dunford Bridge on 21st May.

Colne Valley – 14 singing males between Hey Green and Netherwood throughout May.

The only confirmed breeding records were from **Shelley Whins** and **Windy Bank Wood**. Only a handful of birds were seen in August/September, the last being two at **Royd Moor Res.** on 18th September and a single at **Shelley** three days later.

The only winter records involved a male in an **Almondbury** garden on 23rd November (AK) and in a **Fixby** garden a female which remained between 26th November and 29th December was joined by a male for the last two weeks of its stay with a second male being present on 24th (DT).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Records were received from 23 sites, which is an increase on previous years by at least 30 birds, many of which involved singing males. Positive breeding records only came from a single site with probable breeding from a further two.

The first record, a singing male, was at **Scout Dike Res.** on 27th April closely followed by a singing male at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 29th and at **Elland GP** where two were singing on the same date. Birds were seen and heard regularly at the latter site up until 8th May when six were present.

May was the month of greatest observed activity with birds being seen as follows: singles on 3rd in **Haigh Woods** and **Healey Mills**, where three young were seen at the month end; **Shelley Whins**, where breeding probably occurred; two singing males at **Storthes Hall** on 8th, **Meal Hill** on 10th, a single at **Ponker Hill**, **Skelmanthorpe** with two at both **Bretton Park** and **Bradley**

Hall Farm on 11th, singles at **Gunthwaite Dam** and **Barnsdale Moor** on 13th, a number at **Horbury Wyke** on 14th, behind John Cotton's in **Mirfield** on 14th; six singing males on the **Trans-Pennine Trail** between Wortley and Dunford Bridge on 21st; **Blacker Wood** on 21st; and a single present in a **Dalton** garden in late May/early June. A pair was recorded as being in a willow coppice at **Horbury SF** between May and August although no breeding evidence was forthcoming.

Fewer records were received for June: two at **Cooper Bridge SP**, two at **Scout Dike Res.**, one at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and two at **Royd Moor Res.** all on 4th; **Haigh Woods** held four singing males on 6th; whilst **Gunthwaite Dam**, **New Dam**, **Langsett** and **Storthes Hall** all had singing males during the month. Later records were few with a single at **Dewsbury SF** on 4th July and one at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6th September being the last record of the year.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports from eleven sites offered some encouragement although once again, no confirmed breeding was reported.

The first sighting was of a singing male in **Bretton Park** on 24th April. This was followed two days later by singles at **Balk Lane**, **Horbury** and **Scout Dike Res.**, whilst **Dewsbury SF** hosted a singing male on 30th. The **Horbury** bird was heard singing on a number of days in May but there were no obvious signs that it had secured a mate. Also in May singing males were recorded at **Cooper Bridge SP** on 4th, **Healey Mills** on 5th, **Millbank**, **Thornhill** on 12th, **Pighill Wood**, **Longwood** between 12th and 15th, and **Flockton** on 25th. In June birds were seen or heard at **Scout Dike Res.** on 4th, **Horbury Wyke** on 8th, and at **Bullcliffe Wood** where breeding was suspected. Up to two were seen together at **Scout Dyke Res.** between 26th and 29th July where sightings continued intermittently until a single on 7th September, the latest in the area. A single was also heard calling in **Dalton** on 6th August.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

This has been an exceptional year, with records from a remarkable 37 sites. Sightings stretched from 26th April through to 15th September and breeding was confirmed at five locations with a total of five broods being reared at one site.

The earliest sightings, all on 26th April, were from five different localities: **Dewsbury SF** (2), **Stoneycliffe Wood** (1), **Horbury** (1), **Elland GP** (2) and **Scout Dike Res.** (2). During the remainder of the month numerous birds, mostly singing males, were recorded and included three at **Horbury Strands** on 27th, three at **Millbank** on 28th, two at **Broadstones Res.** and singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** all on 29th, and three at **Sands Lane GP** on 30th.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** two males then took up territories on **Edge Moor** in May and with their mates raised young, one pair raising two broods. Many other singing males were recorded during May, notably at **Elland GP** (3 on 1st), **Horbury SF** (5 on 3rd), **Healey Mills** (6 on 6th) where a pair were subsequently seen feeding three young, **Horbury Canal** (at least 8 on 6th), **Bradley Hall Farm** (8 on 11th), **Bretton Park** (6 singing males on 15th), **Trans-Pennine Trail** between Wortley and Dunford Bridge (6 singing males on 21st) and **Dalton Bank** (1 on 31st).

Numerous sightings continued during June where successful breeding was also noted at: **Dewsbury SF** (5 broods reared), **Bullcliffe Wood** (2 juveniles), **Sands Lane GP** and **Brockholes Quarry**. Sightings naturally became more sporadic during the summer months and the last record of the year was of a single at **North Street, Lockwood** on 15th September.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Red listed.

Once again sightings of this attractive warbler were few with singing records only and no indications of breeding.

A singing male was at **Hey Green Wood, Lowerhouses** on 10th May but had departed the following day. A male was singing at **Binn Green, Yeoman Hey** between 25th May and 15th June but no signs of a mate were observed and one at **Dovestones Res.** on 2nd June may have been the same bird.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

Record were received from more than 40 sites, the large majority of which were summering birds, indicating once more that this warbler is one of the most common in the Club area as well as, hopefully, a successful breeder. The latter comment derives from the fact that, despite the number of sightings, only a small number of records relating to successful breeding were received.

Overwintering birds were recorded at **Horbury** with a single on 22nd January and two on 8th February. Two birds, one singing, were also seen there on 23rd March. Thereafter followed a number of March sightings of which only two were singing: **Scout Dike Res.** on 23rd, **Meal Hill** (2) on 27th, **Lockwood** on 28th, **Elland GP** (singing) on 29th, **Golcar** on 30th, and **Wood Nook, Cooper Bridge SP** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (singing) all on 31st.

Records were received from virtually every suitable site in the Club area throughout April with the most notable being: **Elland GP** with five singing males on 2nd, seven on 6th, five on 10th and eight on 22nd, **Royd Moor Res.** held four singing males on 10th, **Bretton Park** has long been a haven for this species and this year held 11 singing males on 11th, 19 on 17th and 16 on 24th. Birds were also recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Horbury Strands**, **Throstle Nest**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Birkby Rd.**, **Grimescar Valley**, **Windy Bank Wood**, **Jackson Bridge** (in a garden), **Deanhouse**, **Netherthong**, **Dalton**, **Milnsbridge canal**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Paddock Head**, **Brockholes**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Cooper Bridge SP**, **Shelley Whins**, **Deffer Wood**, **Millbank**, **Digley**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Stockmoor Common**, **Linthwaite** and **Skelmanthorpe**.

Birds remained, presumably on territory, throughout May, June and July but the only confirmed breeding records were from **Shelley Whins** and **Cooper Bridge SP** with three juveniles seen in July. Sites not previously noted include: **Hey Green**, **Haigh Woods**, **Healey Mills**, **Marsh**, **Marsden** (where a total of ten sites with singing males were noted), **New Mill** (in a garden), **Storches Hall**, **Pighill Wood**, **Longwood Beck**, **Jenkinson Wood**, **Butternab Wood**, **Blacker Wood**, **Trans-Pennine Trail**, **Delves Wood**, **Crosland Heath GC** and **Holmroyd Wood**. Sightings were regular throughout the late summer and early autumn months with the latest, a singing male, being heard at **Miry Lane** on 15th October and the last sighting of the year at **Shelley Whins** on 22nd of the same month.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

With more than 140 records from 40+ sites this species easily retains its status as our commonest warbler with its soulful song brightening up a number of dull spring mornings in the field. Main arrival dates this year were noticeably later than normal but when birds did finally begin to arrive they did so with a vengeance. Positive breeding records were received from only four of these sites, but with many juvenile birds seen in the autumn, breeding success seems to have been assured.

The first bird of the year was a singing male at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 3rd April, followed over the next couple of days with birds at **Scout Dike Res.**, **Elland GP** and **Cooper Bridge SP**. Sightings through April were then mainly of singing birds and were well distributed with notable numbers at **Ingbirchworth Res.** (6 singing on 16th), **Elland GP** (10 singing on 22nd), **Rusby Wood** (20 singing in the biomass plantation), **Holme Styles** (20 singing on 25th), **Scout Dike Res.** (24 singing on 26th), **Ingbirchworth Res.** (12 singing on 26th and 29th), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (up to 8 singing by 28th) and **Skelmanthorpe** (11 on 30th). Elsewhere singing birds were present in virtually every available piece of appropriate habitat. In May birds were present throughout the Club area with some outstanding numbers recorded: 41 singing males along the **Colne Valley** between Hey Green and Netherwood, 27 singing males in the **Wessenden Valley**, 20 singing males in the **Little Don Valley**, 19 at **Digley**, 20 at both **Pighill Wood** and along **Longwood Beck**, 22 at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, whilst a stunning 50 were recorded along the **Trans-Pennine Trail** between Wortley and Dunford Bridge on 21st.

Breeding was confirmed in May at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where a number of fledglings were seen being fed, at **Cooper Bridge SP** and at **Healey Mills** where two pairs were seen feeding young. The only other positive breeding records came from **Langsett** in July where three broods were noted.

Many birds were recorded singing through June, July and into August although not in the numbers of the earlier months. Interesting records were those of birds singing on treeless moorland by observers carrying out Twite survey work (BA *et al*). Generally birds had ceased singing by August, but the characteristic contact call often revealed their presence scattered across most woodland and even some gardens. Sightings were regular through September, notably around **Ingbirchworth Res.** and the last record of the year was from this site on 6th October (DButt).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

This widely distributed species was recorded from 28 sites, this being slightly fewer than last year. One positive breeding record was received and three probable breeding records were noted.

Although there were a small number of records during each month with the exception of August, the number of birds involved was generally only in low single figures with the following exceptions:

Haigh Woods – six on 12th February and four singing males on 9th June.

Royd Moor Res. – ten on 16th September.

Scammonden – ten between 27th September and 2nd October with six the following day.

Breeding was confirmed at **Shelley Whins**, and pairs probably bred at **Cooper Bridge SP** (where a pair were displaying and carrying nesting material between mid March and late April), **Midhope, Deffer Wood, Lower Stone Wood** and **Healey Mills** (where two were present throughout the year).

Winter garden records were received from **Dalton, Meltham, Netherthong, Jackson Bridge, Fixby** and **Almondbury**.



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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

Recorded this year from only ten sites:

Farnley Line, Almondbury – two were present in suitable breeding habitat on 11th May.

Wortley – two were noted in suitable breeding habitat on 21st May.

Langsett – a single on 21st/22nd May and two on 23rd June.

Dovestones – a pair on territory on 12th June and a possible breeding record from Binn Green.

Cooper Bridge SP – one on 20th June.

Shelley Woodhouse – one on 30th June.

Law Bottom – one on 18th August.

Scout Dike Res. – one on 25th August.

Norland Moor – one between 13th and 15th September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three near the inflow on 6th/7th September.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

This was yet another poor year for the species with records from only four sites and none of successful breeding.

In a **New Mill** garden a singing male was present on 12th and 18th May (CDA).

In **Cliffe Wood, Langsett** a male was holding territory near to a nest box on 13th and 22nd May (SRG, DT).

At **Stainland** two males were recorded in woodland on 2nd June (HBC).

At **Norland Moor** a single was noted on 13th September (DHP).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

This attractive species was reported from 59 sites throughout the Club area. Successful breeding records were received from at least eight sites and numerous family groups were noted at many others indicating its continuing success. The increase in garden sightings continued.

Autumn and winter flocks generally produced the greatest numbers although the first winter period produced only relatively small flocks of ten or fewer. The following were notable:

Blackmoorfoot Res. – had a maximum of 13 on 22nd September and up to 16 daily between 13th October and 15th November.

Dewsbury SF – 20 on 4th July and 25 on 30th October.

Dalton – 20+ passing through a garden.

Scout Dike Res. – 20 on 11th October.

Grimescar Valley – 27 on 9th November, 24 on 14th and 38 on 21st December.

Healey Mills – c.20 in winter flocks in November and December.

Bretton Park – winter flocks of 30+.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Reported from 33 sites but obviously seen at many more. This ubiquitous bird is generally seen only in relatively small numbers which, added to its familiarity, undoubtedly accounts for the low recording rate. Many sightings, and indeed records of successful breeding, stem from gardens where observations are easy given its relatively confiding nature.

Evidence of breeding was reported from numerous sites including those birds utilising garden nest boxes. In most cases the numbers of birds recorded at any one time was unremarkable but, given their peripatetic feeding habits, undoubtedly results in underestimates of true numbers. Notable records include: 17 at **Shelley Woodhouse** on 25th February and 15 there on 29th April; 14 were singing in **Haigh Woods** on 2nd May.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

This is one of our commonest birds yet it was only reported from 17 locations in the Club area indicating the relative lack of attention that the species receives. Confirmed breeding was reported at only four sites and, as with sightings in general, many of these were gardens with nest boxes.

An **Almondbury** garden hosted a breeding pair that raised two broods and another garden in Lumb Lane had birds breeding in a nest box. Other gardens which hosted the species in nest boxes were at **Fixby** (a single pair) and **Healey Mills** where two nest boxes were successfully utilised.

Significant numbers were reported from:

Fixby GC – 11 on 2nd March.

Grimescar Valley – 13 on 9th and 13th March; 14 on 21st June and 15 on 21st December.

Haigh Woods – 18 singing on 2nd May.

Longwood Res. – 10 on 31st August.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records from 35 sites is a notable increase on last year but shouldn't be taken as a measure of increased success for the species, rather an increase in reporting rates. Nonetheless this appealing bird does seem to be in a healthy situation currently. Of those sites where the species was recorded confirmed breeding was reported from five and probable breeding from four. Many garden sightings were received.

Breeding was reported from:

Dalton (Long Lane) – breeding confirmed in mid-May

Healey Mills – a pair successfully reared three young.

Dovestones – a hole-nesting pair was recorded.

Almondbury – birds were observed feeding young in a garden.

Shelley – a pair in a garden were confirmed to have bred nearby.

Most records were of relatively small numbers with one or two exceptions:

Bretton Park – more than 20 calling on 13th February.

Haigh Woods – 20 singing on 2nd May and 16 on 8th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res. – six on 9th October.

Grimescar Valley – 10 on 19th November.

Binn Green, Yeoman Hey – 25 present in the car park (undated record).

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing. Red listed.

Despite the tenuous status of this bird reports from 17 sites can be taken as encouraging, possibly reflecting greater observer effort. Breeding was reported from two sites with two others noted as possible breeding. Numbers were small in all cases.

Calder/Hebble Navigation – one seen near Healey on 23rd January.

Horbury Strands – two were present between 28th January and 8th February, then two on 3rd June.

Grimescar Valley – two on 9th March and 12th October.

Bretton Park – only two sightings this year: singles on 15th March and 15th May.

Deffer Woods – singles were seen at two separate locations on 15th April.

Scout Dike Res. – a single on 17th April; two on 17th May when breeding was confirmed and nesting observed (MC, RJB); one on 25th August; then six on 11th October.

Royd Moor Res. – two on both 23rd April and 16th September and a single on 21st September.

Ingbirchworth Res. – one or two were seen between 3rd May and 4th June with nest building being observed on two occasions (DS). Five birds seen together on 16th June were possibly a family party. Thereafter groups of four or fewer were seen regularly until the last sighting on 1st December.

Trans-Pennine Trail (Bullhouse) – a new site for the species with a single on 21st May.

Healey Mills – two were observed but with no obvious signs of breeding activity.

Longwood Edge – two on 3rd August.

Gunthwaite Dam – a single on 6th September.

Edgerton – two on 12th October.

Elland GP – had a notable six birds on 19th October.

Netherton (Wakefield) – four on 27th October.

Lower Hopton – two visiting feeders almost daily during November and December.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

Records from 39 sites were a significant fall from the previous year and evidence of breeding was only confirmed from two of these.

A pair noted in **Orange Wood**, Blackmoorfoot on 5th April were inspecting potential nest holes, one of which was subsequently occupied, the pair fledging young in June. Breeding was also confirmed at **Helme Wood**. **Bretton Park** continues to be a notable stronghold with eight observed on 12th/13th February, around 20 on 17th April and at least six singing males on 15th May. All records from other sites referred to no more than two birds.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Reports from 28 sites were on a par with last year. Positive breeding records were received for six nests at five sites, this being a notable increase.

Windy Bank Wood held two nests where breeding was confirmed on 22nd May. At **Gunthwaite Dam** an adult was observed carrying food to young at a nest site on 10th June. Breeding was also confirmed from **Dovestones/Binn Green** and **Yeoman Hey Res.** and two broods were raised at **Helme Wood**.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Recorded from only 43 localities, with a number of probable but only one confirmed breeding record for this secretive species.

Seen on an almost daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with a bird carrying nesting material towards Lake House on 25th April, although no further breeding evidence was forthcoming. The majority of records involved between one to four birds but up to six were present in the second half of April, seven on 20th September and six on 1st November.

Most other records were of one or two birds with small groups on other occasions but a flock of 12 was present in **Haigh Woods** on 12th February.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Far Bank, Shelley**.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

This ubiquitous bird was reported from only 31 sites, which is not surprising given its unremarkable character and breeding records were received from only four sites.

In a garden in **Almondbury** a nesting attempt was aborted due to interference by Carrion Crows but a second attempt was successful. A pair in a **Lockwood** garden fledged young, as did a pair at **Shelley Whins**. Three pairs bred at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

Numbers were generally unremarkable with the greatest being noted in the winter months.

On 5th January 13 were noted playing "follow the leader" in **Joan Roy Lane, Penistone**.

Eland GP had a maximum of 32 on 7th February.

Fixby GC had 14 on 2nd March.

Grimescar Valley had a maximum 12 on 9th November and 15 on 14th December.

North St, Lockwood held 13 on 28th November.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

This species is well distributed throughout the Club area and records from 34 sites are a measure of under-recording although a notable increase on the previous year. Breeding reports from four sites relate mostly to the use of buildings.

Breeding was confirmed in **Slaithwaite, Bretton Park**, on the roof of **Huddersfield Civic Centre** and amongst house chimneys in **New Mill**, but no numbers were forthcoming.

Some reasonable sized groups were reported, the largest gatherings being as follows:

Blackmoorfoot Res. – some 350+ feeding in fields to the NE of the reservoir (with 150+ Rooks) on 25th April and, during October, 230+ in fields on 16th and 500 on 27th.

Millhouse Green – c400 in stubble on 30th July.

Meltham – 115 on 10th November.

Marsden – 110 on 30th November.

Elland area – flocks of up to 200 regular throughout the year.

Lockwood – 100+ in winter roosts.



ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

This commonplace species was only reported from 25 locations, following the normal pattern of previous years. Breeding success from five rookeries was also observed.

As to be expected this species was regularly seen in fairly large aggregations, so only exceptional numbers are noted:

Broadstones Res. had a feeding flock of 86 on 14th January.

Oldfield held 78 on 22nd January.

The only record of note from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned 150+ feeding in fields to the NE of the reservoir (with 350+ Jackdaws) on 25th April.

Jackson Bridge had two rookeries which a total of 23 nests. The rookery at **Station Road, Honley** was seen to be well occupied on late March, but no count was forthcoming; the **Mount**

Road rookery had eight occupied nests; nine nests were occupied at the **Crosland Moor** rookery and two active rookeries were reported from **New Mill**, but no count was forthcoming.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

Reports from 43 sites made a notable improvement on last year with some large groups being recorded, despite "old sayings". Breeding records were limited to two sites.

At **Longwood Edge** 40+ were noted on 1st January.

The only records of note from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned 36 feeding in fields to the E of the reservoir on 22nd January and 60+ on 26th October.

Haigh Woods held 52 on 12th February.

At **Gunthwaite Dam** 62 were seen around the local moorland on 21st March.

Berry Moor, Silkstone hosted 70+ on 24th March.

At **Ringstone Edge** 40+ were noted on 26th May.

Honley held 100+ on 1st September and 40+ on 22nd October.

Grimescar Valley had 44 on 28th September and, in November, 80+ on 9th and 200+ on both 16th and 19th.

A total of 101 were present at **Meltham Mills** on 5th November.

Breeding was confirmed from **Cooper Bridge, Blackmoorfoot Res.** and **Golcar**.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

Recorded from 14 sites, far fewer than last year and which may reflect anecdotal reports of more aggressive keeping in the general region. Reports of breeding attempts were received from two sites, one of which failed to fledge the young due to the death of at least one adult.

Up to five were present in the **Ramsden Clough to Dob Dyke** area of which three passed over Winscar on 5th January.

At **Yateholme** birds were only reported in February (3 on 9th and 2 on 28th) and March (1 on 5th and 2 on 14th).

Holmfirth hosted three on 9th February.

Breeding was noted in the **Holmfirth** region where four young were hatched in March. One of the adults was later found dead, possibly shot, and the young had died in the nest.

Breeding was suspected in the **Dovestones** area where two were observed on 11th April.

A single was at **Harden** on 12th April.

Bradshaw had two on 15th April.

There was a single at **Digley** on 15th April.

Two were heard and seen at **Ingbirchworth** on 29th April.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a single was over Meltham Cop on 2nd September (TD).

Cheesgate Nab had a single on 13th September.

Four were seen in the **Wessenden Valley** on 14th September and a single was present at **Wessenden Lodge** on 27th October.

At **Holme Moss** singles were seen on 15th and 21st October, the bird on 15th was grubbing about in the car park rubbish.

At **Castleshaw** three were seen on 9th November.

Two were seen 'playing' in the wind at **Snailsden Moor** on 16th November.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Historically one of our commonest species yet also least reported in recent years but records from 36 sites, an increase on last year, may indicate that observers are taking a closer interest in the species following its well-publicised decline in fortunes. Specific examples of breeding were quite limited although many juveniles were observed in feeding flocks, offering evidence of extensive successful breeding in the Club area.

Many records were received of garden birds where flocks, although seeming quite numerous, were not of the same size as those which might have been seen in rural areas in times gone by.

Penistone/Hartcliffe Hill hosted c1000 on 3rd February.

Elysium held 800 feeding in local fields on 8th March.

Scout Dike had 250 on 10th June and c.1000 on 2nd November.

Ingbirchworth hosted c.200 on both 26th August and 17th September and, in November, c.1100 on 1st and c.600 on 10th.

At **Blackmoorfoot** there were 1100+ in fields to the E of the reservoir on 26th October with, in November, 2500+ on 8th and 1800+ on 9th/10th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species. Red listed.

Reported from 25 sites, with the majority of records coming from gardens.

In the early months up to 50 were at Millmoor Road Riding School, **Meltham**, and up to 30 were recorded in the early months at Boothroyd Drive, **Crosland Moor**, White Rose Avenue, **Dalton**, and in observers' gardens at **Meltham** and **New Mill**. Also of note were at least 15 in a mixed feeding flock in crops at **Lower Cumberworth** on 6th January.

From July onwards several significant counts included juveniles. The year's highest count was of c.150 at Knotty Lane, **Lepton** on 6th August. Other notable gatherings concerned 24 in the **Shelley/Far Bank** area on 16th August, 50+ at Highfield Lane, **Lepton** and 22 at **Bolster Moor** on 21st August.

Numbers were generally lower in the second winter period, with up to 30 again in a **New Mill** garden and 26 in a garden at Hollin Avenue, **Marsh**. Up to 16 were present at Holly Bank Road, **Lindley**, and the **Lockwood** area. Seven at the rather isolated **Royd Moor View Point** on 17th September were notable.

Confirmed breeding was reported from just three sites: Hollin Avenue, **Marsh** (with up to 16 present in July), **Crosland Moor** and **Kirkheaton**, but it undoubtedly occurred elsewhere.

The regular observer in the **Shelley** area reported that several pairs were resident at Far Bank, and that the population remains relatively stable there, probably helped by regular feeding.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Recorded from 14 sites, with indications of breeding coming from two. The species is apparently doing well in the Stockmoor, Denby and Emley areas, but more details are urgently needed.

Calder/Hebble Navigation - counts of 12 on 23rd and 14 on 29th January, 17 on 27th February, and four on 16th and 12 on 28th April.

Shelley Whins - up to three were present during both winter periods.

Dalton - a single fed with 16 House Sparrows at White Rose Avenue on 5th April.

Gawthorpe Lane - a single on 2nd June and nine on 6th August.

High Hoyland - at Jebb Lane a single was seen on 6th February with four on 30th March and 11th April, when two were noted carrying nesting material into an old barn. At Litherop Lane birds were resident with up to 10 feeding at the kennels. An excellent total of 35 were counted in a hedge near Bretton Park on 6th November (SRG), with 10 there on 14th November and 7th December.

Thornhill - two on 2nd May.

Lepton - one was noted carrying food on 2nd June and there was a good count of 24 on 28th October.

Stockmoor Common - two separate colonies were found close to one another, but no counts were undertaken.

Denby Dale - the colony at Denby Hall Farm was reported to be 'the largest in the area' but unfortunately no actual numbers were submitted.

Emley - birds were reportedly present and breeding in the area, but no details were forthcoming.

Royd Moor Hill - a single on 14th July.

Ing Lees, Marsden - a single calling on 20th July.

Thurgory Lane - nine on 6th August, two on 29th September, five on 12th October and three on 3rd November.

Healey Mills - at least 15 were attending a feeding station during November and December.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

There was a welcome increase in records compared to last year, but it was still only reported by a relatively few observers. Numbers were, once again, unexceptional.

During the winter months significant counts involved c.90 among a mixed feeding flock at **Lower Cumberworth** on 6th January, 27 at **Haigh Woods** on 27th February, 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 28th February, 60 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 2nd November, 20 at **Thurgory Lane** on 10th December and c.100 were regularly feeding in game crop at **High Hoyland** during both periods.

In spring, 20 were at Berry Moor, **Silkstone** on 24th March, and 30 singing males were counted at **Haigh Woods** on 2nd May. The only breeding details submitted concerned two pairs confirmed at **Shelley Whins**, at least seven pairs at **Blackmoorfoot** and at least three pairs at **Cooper Bridge**. Up to 6 juveniles were noted in a **Jackson Bridge** garden during the summer.

In the autumn, after 11 flying S over **Wholestone Moor** on 15th September, 25 were at **Scammonden** on 26th September, with 12 and 21 over **Snailsden Res.** on visible migration watches on 12th and 19th October respectively, and 59 flew SW with 50 grounded at **Marsden GC** on 24th October.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

A very poor year for this species, with just four counts reaching double figures and reports from just 18 sites.

The only double-figure counts in the early months came from **High Hoyland** where 19 were present on 19th January and the **Meltham** area in mid-February, where 50+ were feeding in beeches at Millmoor Road and c.30 regularly came to seed in a garden until mid-April.

One to three were noted from a further eight sites between 1st January and 19th April: **Almondbury**, **Haigh Wood**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Windy Bank Wood**, **Shelley Whins**, **Wessenden Head** and **Yateholme**, when the last two were in a garden at **Thick Hollins** (MW).

The first returning bird was a single in a garden at **Shelley** on 5th October (SRG), followed by a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th. Thereafter, apart from 20 at **High Hoyland** on 6th November and five in the observer's garden at **Harden** from 20th to 31st December, only singles were noted at seven sites to the year end: **Almondbury**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Lockwood**, **Marsden**, **Thick Hollins**, **New Mill** and **Shelley**.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

Common and widespread, but rather under-recorded. There was one case of the 'parrot' disease which has been affecting populations nationally.

The only significant sized flocks were reported from **High Hoyland**, where c.100 were present in both winter periods, and Lane Side, **Kirkheaton** where c.75 fed in harvested oil-seed rape on 21st August. Other double figure counts were as follows: 23 at **Whiteley Res.** on 9th February, 14 at **Longwood Edge** on 17th August, up to 25 visited gardens at Meltham Road, North Street and Winton Street in **Lockwood**, up to 14 in a garden at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** in the autumn, and up to 12 in autumn in a **New Mill** garden.

Singing males and/or song flighting was recorded at **Bretton Park**, **Cooper Bridge**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Skelmanthorpe** and at Forest Road, **Dalton**. Breeding was confirmed in the observer's gardens at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** (where there was evidence of a decline) and **New Mill**, and three broods were raised at **Shelley Whins**. Small numbers of juveniles were noted at **Jackson Bridge** and in the **Horbury** area during the summer, and a juvenile was recorded in garden at **Marsh** in September.

Visible migration watches in October at **Snailsden Res.** produced six on 12th and three on 19th respectively.

Of concern was the drop in numbers at **Shelley**, where no more than 10 birds were recorded rather than the c.40 of previous years. This was attributed to the Trichomonosis outbreak with several corpses being found (SRG). Previously associated with doves and pigeons, the disease was first found in Greenfinches in 2005.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Appears to be doing very well in the area, with signs of an increase, as it was recorded from some 50 sites. A similar showing to last year as regards the larger feeding flocks, with few, but quite sizeable ones, in the early winter months and up to 60 seen in autumn.

In the early months up to 30 in a **Shelley** garden, 30 among a mixed finch flock at **Lower Cumberworth** on 6th January and c.50 at **Scout Dike Res.** were the only double-figure counts. Up to eight, but generally only one or two, were recorded at several other sites in the first half of the year.

The only confirmed cases of breeding were reported from **Cooper Bridge**, **Shelley Whins** and **Blackmoorfoot**, but undoubtedly occurred at many other sites. The Autumn flocks invariably included juveniles, and several were recorded from early August onwards: 60 at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th August, 30+ at **Deanhouse** on 22nd August and c.50 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 28th August. September produced 45 at **Slaithwaite** on 9th, up to 60 (the year's highest count) at **Ingbirchworth (DB)**, 26 at **Wholestone Moor**, c.50 at **Spicer House Lane** and 40+ at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th and 20 at **Scammonden** on 26th. Visible migration watches at **Snailsden Res.** yielded 10 over on 14th and 18 on 21st respectively.

Sightings were well documented at **Blackmoorfoot**, but were typically scarce during the first three months, there never being more than five on a total of 23 dates. From early April through to 9th October the species was seen on a daily basis and a pair fledged young in the SE corner. Generally less than nine were encountered with the following exceptions: in September, 13 on 10th and 40 on 19th/20th. Between 23rd October and the year end birds were again scarce and numbers reverted to low single figures, the exceptions being seven on 27th December.

Elsewhere, numbers were much reduced by October, with a party of 15 at Fenay Crescent, **Almondbury** being the highest recorded. Seven (3 + 4) moved S over **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 18th October. Numbers increased slightly in November, with 25 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 1st, 20 at **Fixby** on 4th and up to 19 at Hollin Avenue, **Marsh**. Birds then became scarce towards the year end, although 19 at **Fixby** on 16th December were particularly notable.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

Reported from some 39 sites, but in contrast to last year, the higher numbers were recorded in the early months; whilst the autumn and winter periods were particularly disappointing. There was an increase in the number of sites which held birds during the breeding season, however.

Significant counts in the early months included the year's maximum of c.120 at **Dovestones** on 27th January (GMBRG per J Smith), with 70 there on 30th. Also of note were up to c.100 at **Elland GP** during January, 30 at **Haigh Woods** and **High Hoyland** on 24th and 28th February respectively, 60 at **Langsett** on 6th March, 40 at **Yateholme** from 8th to 14th March and c.50 in the **Dovestones/Binn Green/Yeoman Hey** area on 5th and 7th April.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were 10 records of between one and three individuals, which fell in the months of January (single on 27th), April (3 W on 3rd), June (1 W on 30th), July (singles on 4th,

21st and 26th), September (single on 28th), October (single on 27th, 2 on 29th) and November (single on 1st).

During the early summer 20 were still at **Langsett** on 21st May. In the breeding season only one or two birds were noted on odd dates from a handful of sites: **Dovestones**, **Langsett**, **Yeoman Hey**, the aforementioned **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and Thick Hollins, **Meltham**.

There were signs of dispersal and local movements in August, with juveniles and five adults seen in a garden at Thick Hollins, **Meltham**. Fifteen at **Blakeley Res.** on 30th August were notable. In September movements became more evident with S and SW migration noted from a number of sites, four over **Dewsbury SF** on 9th, 33 and 75 over **Snailsden Res.** on 14th and 21st respectively, and 10 over the **Wessenden Valley** on 21st being notable. In October migrants were reported flying over only six sites, with a maximum of just four over **Shelley** on 6th and **Wessenden Valley** on 9th, and the largest party of roving birds reported was just six at Tunnel End, **Marsden** - in stark contrast to October 2007. Several sites had up to six birds in November and December, but the largest gatherings were limited to 20+ at **Grimescar** on 29th November, 20 at **Elland GP** on 23rd December and c.50 in a garden at Tennyson Close, **Penistone** during the period.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs. Red listed.

Regularly recorded from the farmlands that it favours, mainly during spring and autumn, but there were fewer records than usual involving autumn flocks. It was recorded from a total of 42 sites this year.

In the first three months of the year double figure counts were typically few: c.20 were among a mixed species feeding flock at **Upper Cumberworth** on 6th January, c.20 were at **High Hoyland** on 19th January, increasing to c.40 by 5th February, c.10 were with Fieldfare and Skylarks at **Annat Royd Lane** on 2nd March and 11 were at Berry Moor, **Silkstone** on 24th March.

In April small parties were recorded at several more sites as birds moved into or through to their breeding areas, the more significant counts being 26 and 34 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 2nd and 29th respectively, and at **Blackmoorfoot**, where the first returning birds were noted on 10th April, 20+ were present between 26th and 30th.

Birds were reported from many localities during the breeding season, including **Marsden** where it was present at 10 sites. Other areas where birds were present included **Shelley Whins**, **Deer Hill Res.**, **Dovestones**, **Winscar**, **Emley Moor**, **Wholestone Moor**, **Crow Edge** and **Blakeley Res.**

Post-breeding flocks began to gather from July with up to 80 (including many juveniles) at **Blackmoorfoot** from 12th to 21st. The number of sizeable flocks in the autumn was poor, with only six double figure counts received: c.75 were feeding on harvested oil-seed rape at **Kirkheaton** on 21st August; 48 at **Healey Mills** on 25th August; 30+ at **Scout Dike** on 25th August included at least one young being fed; 40 were in fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th September and a flock of 26 flew over the observer's house at **Shelley** on 25th September. At the usually productive **Dewsbury SF** the only occurrences concerned six on both 11th and 26th September. Birds became scarce after September, with 12 at **Longwood Edge** on 5th October, eight over **Snailsden Res.** during a visible migration watch on 12th October and flocks of c.40 and c.25 at **Thurgory Lane** on 3rd November and 6th December respectively being the only reports of significance.

The only garden record this year involved a single at **Shelley** on 7th January, which was the second earliest ever there.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs. Red listed.

The Club area currently holds a significant proportion of the English breeding population, and the species continues to be well-monitored. This year, in conjunction with the RSPB, Club members and other observers carried out an intensive breeding survey.

At the key site of **Deer Hill**, where ringing and a feeding programme have been established, 159 birds were caught between January and September, but no ringing was done from 1st May to 1st August. Of this total 123 new birds were ringed and 36 re-trapped. In August and September 69 young were caught and 30 adults (21 males) (S. Grey). Daily totals were generally low, usually less than 10, but up to 20 were present in April, with maxima of 30 on 8th and 40+ on 12th. Up to 11 were still present during the third week in May (DMP).

Elsewhere in spring two were at **Blakeley Res.** on 29th March, **Ringstone Edge** hosted two on 22nd April rising to 20 the following day, 15 were at **Panna Mill Dam** on 15th April and included many birds bearing pink Deer Hill rings, seven at **Harrop Dale** on 3rd May, unspecified numbers were present at **Dovestones** on 14th May and also on this date two colour-ringed birds were found at **Redbrook Clough** (MLD), both of which originated from Deer Hill.

During the summer this species was subject to an RSPB breeding survey.

Six young were fledged from a nest at one site, and a bird was seen carrying nest material at another (DMP). A pair with four fledged young was seen at a third site on 6th July (GMBRG). Also during the breeding season, two were at **Blake Clough** and a single was at **Slaithwaite** on 4th June, two were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 8th June and at least seven fed on bilberries at **Blakeley Res.** on 20th July.

In the autumn 25 at Deer Hill on 28th August had increased to 80 on 30th (SG), three at the former stronghold of **Whitley Common** on 14th September were particularly notable (JL) and three were at **Wessenden Res.** on 27th September. October brought eight to **Boothwood** on 5th, while at **Blackmoorfoot** the number of records of passage birds fell to an all-time low, there being a single record of three on the S embankment on 22nd (MLD). On a more positive note there was a good count of 40 at **Norland Moor** on 28th November (HBC).

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

The only record concerned one with Siskins and Lesser Redpolls at **Bin Green/Yeoman Hey** on 5th April (GMBRG per J Smith).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

A pretty unexceptional year - rather similar to 2007 as regards numbers reported. The majority of records came during the autumn onwards. It was reported from a total of 37 sites.

In the early months between one and six birds were noted occasionally at several sites with double-figure counts of 15 at **Colnebridge SP** on 4th January, 13 at **Golcar/Appleyards** on 30th January and up to 23 at **Elland GP** from 10th to 30th March. In April 20+ were with Siskin at **Binn Green/Yeoman Hey** on 5th and 7th and up to 10 were still at **Elland GP**. One to three were noted at a further five sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were recorded as follows: February (4 on 17th and a single on 24th), June (singles on 14th and 20th/21st), September (a single on 12th), October (a single from 6th to 8th and 13th) and December (a single on 16th).

During the breeding season up to four were noted on odd dates at **Dovestones, Waterloo, Blackmoorfoot, Winscar, Windy Bank Wood** and in suitable habitat at **Langsett, Law Bottom Plantation** and **Carlecotes Ponds**.

None were reported in August but the number of reports increased from early September to late October, mostly involving singles at just nine sites; the exceptions were three at **Marsden** on 15th September, nine over **Snailsden Res.** during a visible migration watch on 21st September and 10 at **Scammonden Res.** on 26th September. Migration was also observed at **Dewsbury SF**, with two S on 26th September, a single plus two over **Shelley** on 21st September and 27th October respectively, two S over **Butterley Res.** on 9th October and a single over **Snailsden Res.** on 12th October.

From November onwards the highest counts concerned 23 feeding in silver birches at **Horbury Strands** on 19th, 20+ at **Windy Bank Wood** on 21st and the year's maximum of 40 at both **Norland Moor** (HBC) and **Bradley Hall Farm** (DT) on 28th. In December 12 were at **Bretton Park** and **Grimescar** on 7th and eight flew over **Horbury Wyke** on Boxing Day. One to six were noted on single dates at five other sites.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

A good year for this charismatic and popular finch, with reports from 15 sites and records from every month bar April.

Yateholme - between 10 and 15 on 19th January (KW).

Langsett - singles heard on 17th February, two on 23rd March, singles on 14th/15th June and three on 26th July (RJB, MC, JL).

Scammonden Res - four on 10th May (HBC).

Swinden Plantation - two on 21st May and 26th June (DT).

Bin Green/Dovestones area - a good run of records commencing with eight on 28th May, then 16 two days later, 21 on 5th June and up to 50 from 6th to 19th June, 40 on 1st July and 30 on 8th and 10 on 13th August, of which several were juveniles (GMBRG per J Smith).

Yeoman Hey - 21 on 5th June (DHP).

Wholestone Moor - three N on 6th June (DT).

Scout Dike Res - three (including a juvenile) on 8th June, three on 26th July and singles on 29th July, 19th October and 6th December (RJB, MC).

Wessenden Lodge - a single high NE on 26th July (JMP).

Winscar Res - two on 30th July, 30 in conifers on the E side of the reservoir on 2nd August and at least 10 from 8th to 11th August (MC, DMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a good run of records at this site: nine flew N at 07.20hrs. on 2nd August, seven flew S at 07.20hrs. on 15th August and a single was in Orange Wood on 22nd August. A single flew N at 09.30hrs. on 26th September (all MLD).

Butterley Res - three over high to the SW on 21st September (JMP).

Snailsden Res - seven flew S during a visible migration watch on 19th October (JL).

Crosland Heath GC - two (one male) in firs on 5th October and seven (3 males) on 16th November (MLD).

Bradley Park GC - two on 25th November (DWB).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

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

A well reported, attractive species with records submitted from more than 50 sites, several of which were in observers' gardens.

Predictably, the vast majority of reports concerned one or two birds. Exceptions involved up to 10 at **Bretton CP** in both winter periods; six at **Shelley** on 26th January, eight in **Blacker Wood** on 30th January; six at **Cooper Bridge** on 9th February, six at **Elland GP** on both 21st February and 8th May, six in **Whitley Woods** on 16th November, six at **Almondbury** on 21st December; six at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 28th December; and 14 at **Fixby** on 27th December - the year's highest count (DT).

At **Blackmoorfoot Res**, two were seen on single dates in January, February, March and April; a pair were present throughout in May and June and may have bred; two were seen almost daily in September but it became much scarcer thereafter, although five were seen together on 1st November.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Grimescar Valley**, **New Dam** and **Shelley Whins**, although juveniles were also noted at **Almondbury**, **Fixby**, **Golcar** and **Thick Hollins**.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs. Red listed.

Little in the way of change for this attractive bunting, which was reported from 38 sites. Numbers remain historically low. Singing males were present at several traditional sites and a few reasonably sized flocks were found in winter.

In the early months 10 were at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 15th January, up to 30 fed in stubble at the **Calder/Hebble Navigation** between 23rd January and 11th March, 25 were at **Shepley** on 7th February and 13 were at Lumb Lane, **Almondbury** on 25th February.

Counts of singing males from April onwards included three in the **Horbury** area, six at **Bradley Hall Farm**, four at **Bullcliffe Wood** on 24th June and three at **Dewsbury SF** on 30th July. One or two singing males were noted during the breeding season at **Bretton CP**, **Farnley Tyas**, **Royd**

House Wood, Fulstone, Ingbirchworth Res., Annat Royd Lane, Kirkheaton, Lepton Great Wood, Royd Moor Res., Scout Dike Res., Shelley Roydhouse, Emley and Shepley.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Gunthwaite/Cat Hill** where an adult was seen taking food to a nest. It was reported from **Bullcliffe Wood** and **High Hoyland** (6 pairs present) but no details were available.

In the later months there were just three double figure counts: 35 and 20 at **High Hoyland** on 6th November and 7th December respectively; and an impressive 50 at **Shepley** on 14th December - the highest count of the year (SRG).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

There were records from 38 sites - the same as 2007, with confirmed breeding at just three of these. Singing males and behaviour indicative of breeding were recorded at several over sites, however.

Numbers were again unremarkable and the only double figure counts involved 10 feeding in stubble in the **Calder/Hebble Navigation** area from 21st to 24th January and an exceptional maximum of 15, including two carrying rings, in a garden at Millmoor, **Meltham** on 28th March (where 9 had been present from mid-March) (DMP). Apart from six at **High Hoyland** on 19th January no more than four were seen together outside of the breeding season.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles, of both sexes, were regularly seen in the SW corner overflow field from 28th February but it was not until 11th May that they were seen together. The pair then raised four young in a nest along the catchment. By the end of July these birds had dispersed and the only records thereafter involved two on 1st August, and singles on 28th September and 19th October. Breeding was also confirmed at **Deanhead Clough**, where two pairs were observed feeding young; at **Crow Edge**, where two pairs were noted food carrying on 15th June and at **Healey Mills**, where four pairs were present and four juveniles were seen in July. Breeding was suspected at **Cooper Bridge** where a single was observed carrying nesting material on 20th May.

Birds were present during the breeding season at **Blue Lagoon, Broadstones Res.** (3 pairs), **Brown's Edge Road, Dewsbury SF, Deer Hill, Digley, Elland GP, the Horbury area, Ingbirchworth Res., Issues Road, Kirkheaton, Red Lane, Meltham, Scout Dike Res., Wessenden area, Wholestone Moor** and at **Marsden**, where 23 singing males were recorded at 13 locations (JMP).

A visible migration watch at **Snailsden** on 21st September produced a single fly-over. The regular observer at **Shelley Whins** had his first-ever record there on 22nd and 23rd March (SRG).

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles at **Boshaw Whams** on 1st January and at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 24th January may refer to the same individual, associating with Canada Geese.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*.

One at **Deffer Wood** on 9th March and one in Bath Wood, **Bretton Lakes** on 11th May.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris*

Five in **Haigh Woods** on 9th June and one at **Scout Dike Reservoir** on 2nd August.

CORRECTIONS TO BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2007

Page 18: GREEN-WINGED TEAL

The paragraph about Bretton Lakes should read: "a male photographed on the Upper Lake on 16th **January** (W. Forrest's blog)".

Page 22: Common Scoter

Delete "first winter" of line 4 under Blackmoorfoot.

Page 75: Ring Ouzel

The line above the illustration should refer to a male, not female.

Page 95: Siskin

Line four of the third paragraph, referring to Blackmoorfoot should read "six on 11th and 12 on 20th".

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

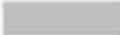
	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2008		EVER		2008	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	14/3	Dewsbury SF	29/9	1969	6/9	Scout Dike
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	5/4	Scout Dike	21/11	1959	3/10	Scammonden Res.
Common Tern	12/4	1996	5/4	Healey Mills	16/10	2001	7/9	Blackmoorfoot Res.
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	22/4	Brow Grains	27/10	1977	7/6	Thick Hollins
Swift	16/4	2000	26/4	Elland GP	8/11	2001	7/9	Ingbirchworth Res.
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	16/3	Elland GP	23/10	1971	17/9	Ringstone Edge
Swallow	10/3	1959	2/4	Broadstones Res.	5/12	1995	1/11	Outlane
House Martin	20/3	2005	10/4	Elland GP/Bretton	27/11	1959	6/10	Blackmoorfoot
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	10/4	Harden	5/10	2000	23/8	Scammonden
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	15/4	Ingbirchworth	24/10	1952	18/9	Royd Moor Res.
Common Redstart	21/3	1942	25/4	Holme Styes	24/10	1976	4/9	Scout Dike
Whinchat	11/4	1949	26/4	Deer Hill	9/11	1999	17/9	Ringstone Edge
Northern Wheatear	1/3	1997	10/3	Holme Moss	4/12	1997	4/10	Wholestone Moor
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	2/4	Choesegate Nab/Digley	25/12	1855		No records
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	28/4	Meltham	29/8	2000	13/7	Deer Hill
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	27/4	Horbury	26/9	1999	31/8	Scout Dike
Reed Warbler	22/4	2002	29/4	Elland GP	29/9	2001	17/6	Colnebridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	24/4	Bretton Park	27/9	1973	7/9	Scout Dike
Common Whitethroat	3/4	1901	26/4	5 locations	12/10	1999	15/9	Lockwood
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	27/4	Scout Dike	24/11	1984	6/9	Scout Dike
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981	10/5	Hey Green Wood	4/9	1956	15/6	Ycoman Hey
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	3/4	Brdley Hall Farm	27/10	1987	6/10	Ingbirchworth Res
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	11/5	Almondbury	16/10	1985	15/9	Norland Moor
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	12/5	New Mill	19/9	1969	13/9	Norland Moor

Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

Note: Blackcap and Chiffchaff dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2008		EVER		2008	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	8/4	1991	1/4	Horbury Wyke	11/9	2007	24/9	Blackmoorfoot
Goldeneye	mid-May	?	19/4	Scammonden Res.	mid-Sept	?	23/10	Baitings Res.
Waxwing	29/4	1991	20/12	Dewsbury SF	24/10	1965	n/a	no reports
Redwing	7/5	1975	25/3	Shepley	27/8	1941	24/9	Shelley
Brambling	13/5	1976	19/4	Thick Hollins	13/9	1983	5/10	Shelley

 Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: in view of the fact that Fieldfare previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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Organisations:

Barnsley Bird Study Group

Greater Manchester Bird Recording Group [GMBRG]

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

RSPB Denby Dale Office

Water Bailiff, Boshaw Whams

BLACK STORK OVER DALTON, 20TH AUGUST 2008

AN ADDITION TO THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST.

On Wednesday 20th August 2008 at 16.45hrs. I was in my house at Dalton, Huddersfield when my attention was drawn to a small flock of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) flying up from the playing fields adjoining my rear garden. The Starlings' behaviour suggested there was a bird of prey in the vicinity. I picked up my binoculars and looked out of the rear window but the birds were passing over my house towards the front.

When I got to the front of the house the Starlings were already dropping back into nearby trees. Looking skywards and expecting to see a Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) I was amazed to see a stork (*Ciconia* sp) drifting northwards from the direction of Round Wood at Waterloo. I could see immediately that it was a Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) with black head, neck and under-wing, the upper parts all black and a white belly. It had a short square tail and projecting legs which appeared to be brownish in colour as did the bill, which suggested to me that it was a juvenile bird.

I called my wife to look at the bird which at this time was circling at no great height over the old Mill Hill Hospital/Kirkwood Hospice site and was starting to gain height; after climbing a little it began to flap its wings a few times then glided, heading towards the Syngenta Works/Dalton Bank, accompanied by several House Martins (*Delichon urbicum*). Once again it began to circle and gain even more height before flapping and gliding out of sight, still heading in a northerly direction. From the initial sighting I watched the bird for approximately three minutes.

I have experience of this species from Yugoslavia, Turkey, Greece and Lesbos.

I contacted Chris Horne and another birding friend and then hoped the bird would drop in somewhere in the area, where other observers might see it and confirm that a juvenile Black Stork was present in the area, but unfortunately it was not to be.

The weather was dry with high cloud and good visibility and the optics used were 10x42 binoculars.

Donald Sykes

GLOSSY IBIS AT BOSHAW WHAMS, 31ST JULY 2008 AN ADDITION TO THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST.

On 31st July 2008, I played the Good Samaritan and gave a close neighbour a lift to Holmfirth for acupuncture treatment on a bad back. After dropping her off in the village I had an hour to kill, so I decided to spend it initially at Boshaw Whams. On another occasion I might have chosen to go to Winscar Res, but in view of the miserable weather plumped for Boshaw where there is at least some shelter.

It was immediately apparent that nothing to cause any excitement was present, just a few Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) and Coot (*Fulica atra*) on the water. I sat in the shelter of the Sailing Club building chatting to the water bailiff whom I had come to know quite well over the years, glancing around regularly to see if anything was flying over, when at 15.30hrs I saw a large dark bird approaching the reservoir from a westerly direction. From its mode of flight and general shape I was expecting it to be a Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), a regular visitor to this trout fishing venue. The flight appeared to be Cormorant-like, interspersed with glides. However, as soon as I raised my binoculars, I realised that the bird was certainly not a Cormorant. For starters it was too small, lacked the bulk of a Cormorant, and the outstretched neck, trailing legs and long, de-curved bill made me certain that it was an ibis sp.

Through the bins I could see that the bird was all dark and cruciform in shape (i.e. the outstretched neck and trailing legs being of a similar length either side of the wings). The bill was long and decurved and appeared slightly deeper and less pointed than on Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), which is a common species in this area. The head was round and bulbous, with something of a "jowl" beneath the chin. The neck was long and narrow, accentuated by the bulbous head, held outstretched in flight in the manner of a stork (*Ciconia* sp) or Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and quite unlike Curlew which flies with its neck "tucked in", the wings relatively broad and more rounded than in Curlew. One of the most conspicuous features was the length of leg and large feet extending well beyond the tail.

Because of the poor light conditions I was unable to age the bird with any degree of confidence, but could not discern any evidence of pale markings on it. However I could see for certain that the plumage was all dark, despite the poor weather conditions, as plumage on female Mallards was easily discernible at the same and greater distances. I did try to make out a brown or green gloss on the bird but in these conditions it appeared all dark, and I was unable to get bill or leg colour.

The bird's flight was similar to that of Cormorant and interspersed with short glides. It made two circuits of the reservoir and appeared as though going to land, but was probably put off by the presence of fly fishermen at the water's edge. It approached to within 100 metres before flying off strongly to the South-West.

The bird was watched for perhaps the best part of two minutes in cloudy, murky overcast conditions, with slight mist and persistent light drizzle through Zeiss Dialyt 10x40B optics.

The bird was accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee as a Glossy Ibis. I have previous experience of the species in Yorkshire in 1989 and in Venezuela (many) in 1996.

Unfortunately my mobile phone was out of power, but as soon as I returned home the news was broadcast to several local birders including Mick Cunningham, whose house it must have almost flown over on its way to Boshaw Whams, in the hope that it would be re-found. What was

presumably the same bird turned up at Allerton Bywater about ten days later, but there were no reported sightings in between.

Brian Armitage

AN AMERICAN NIGHT HERON IN YORKSHIRE?

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Russ Boland, Barnsley and Martin Garner, Sheffield

At around 08.30 hours on Saturday 9th February, after briefly checking nearby Ingbirchworth Reservoir, I arrived at Scout Dike Reservoir, my local patch for the last seven years. I was feeling optimistic for a change, which was probably due to the gloriously sunny conditions and having, albeit briefly, seen a Kumlien's Gull at Langsett three days previously.

I walked down to the water's edge on the northern bank and scanned the res.; the only bird out of the ordinary was a Shelduck which I decided to try and draw (something I have recently taken an interest in and spent lots of time trying to develop), but this soon moved out of view so I switched my attention to the small party of Common and Black-headed Gulls settled on the water. As I sketched I was aware of 'something pale' in trees on the opposite bank, but thought it was probably wind-blown litter or something.

Sometime later I decided to walk along the dam wall and as I approached the south-east corner of the res. I was drawn to the shape in the goat willow overhanging the water's edge to my right. Through bins my first thought was a Grey Heron in an unusually hunched position, but something didn't seem right. Switching to my scope I was stunned to see a solid jet-black cap, black dagger-like bill and striking white under-parts and immediately identified the bird as an adult Night Heron. Now in a state of high excitement - this was far and away the rarest thing I'd found here - I was desperate for others to see this bird and quickly made several anxious phone calls to local birders. How fortunate that I had topped up the mobile just two days ago!

Before the first birder arrived I began to hastily take some notes and make some sketches whilst also keeping an eye out for dog walkers, whose rampaging pets could easily flush the bird. Unsurprisingly a couple did approach with an unleashed terrier and a brief altercation ensued when my polite request for them not to walk past the bird was ignored. The bird remained settled, however, and seemed oblivious to activity on the path only twenty yards or so behind it.

Dave Pearce, who had been birding around nearby Gunthwaite, was the first to arrive followed by Mick Cunningham. I was grateful to be able to grill the bird through 'proper scopes' rather than the tiny Kowa I lug around the patch. With more optical clout I could see two long white plumes which dropped down from the nape and, as MC first pointed out, a slight pinkish or vinous flush to the white under-parts. Initially the bird was perched on only one leg but soon lowered its other; no rings were seen on the rather unhealthy-looking pale pink legs.

As more birders arrived to enjoy this obliging heron, I began thinking about the bird's origin. Being sure Night Herons had occurred in winter before in the UK, I wasn't too concerned about the February date. I mentioned the February Purple Heron at Wintersett in 1991 but, assuming climate change is playing a big part, are first/last dates for migrants losing significance these days?

Shortly afterwards, MC brought up the subject of identifying birds of the American race but I can't remember if the comments were about this bird or Night Herons in general. The fact that there *was* a recognised American form was news to me, let alone how they were identified! Later that afternoon, with the instructive comments of Martin Garner, my education of this form was to begin. MG thought this individual was an excellent candidate for an American bird, although at the time I didn't get the feeling other birders were convinced.

I left with an open mind late in the afternoon and then did a spot of reading up, but only *The Handbook of Bird Identification* offered any information on racial ID. As had been mentioned on site by the well-read, adults of the race *hoactli* may be distinguished from the nominate race by the more extensive white patch on the forehead and a shorter and thinner supercilium. My field sketches show this but some excellent photos were much more revealing, showing an absence of any 'super'.

Whilst searching for images on the internet I came across a photo on Birdguides of an un-ringed adult at Low Barnes NR, Durham on 4th Feb 2007, with a face pattern very like the Scout Dike bird. Another photo of a ringed, and presumed escaped, adult in *Yorkshire Birding*, from Northallerton in Jan 2007 shows, to me, a similar face pattern. Surprisingly, I could only find two previous winter records in Yorkshire: an immature in Nidderdale in January 1959 and, intriguingly, an adult at Staveley NR from 7th to 10th Dec 2002. Any details of the Staveley bird would be welcome.

Unfortunately the bird could not be found the next day despite the presence of a number of birders. What is assumed to be same bird turned up at Mere Sands Wood NR in Lancashire a few days later, being seen again there in mid-March. Along with the opinions that this bird was indeed of the American form will come doubts over the bird's origin. This race has only been suspected to have occurred here, never proven. At the time, the escape possibility really took the shine off the occasion for me but, as Mick Cunningham rightly pointed out, whatever the outcome, the experience had been highly instructive.

Russ Boland

Is it an American Vagrant?

(Martin Garner)

One of those memorable bird-finding events was sitting with a small group on a grassy knoll on the edge of St Mary's airfield in Scilly in October 1985, when the late Peter Grant lifted his binoculars, scanned the distant willows of Lower Moors and said something like "Oh there's a Night Heron"!

This juvenile bird had quite a russet caste to the plumage, especially obvious on the greater coverts. With the remarkable variety of American vagrants on Scilly at that time, there was some debate as to whether this particular individual could have been of the North American form of 'Black-crowned Night Heron' - *hoactli*. As there seemed to be no definitive features, the issue was soon forgotten.

With a growing penchant for pushing the boundaries on finding rare forms, I had become aware in recent years that Night Herons in adult plumage could potentially be identified on the presence or absence of white above the eye. Despite careful observation of some in the field and scrutiny of many more photographed vagrants I have never encountered anything other than a 'European or Old-world type'. That is until February 9th (co-incidentally my birthday) 2008.

On arriving at Scout Dike reservoir, mid afternoon, to see Russ's fabulous find I was quite surprised to see his bird instantly fit my 'search image' for American Night Heron. I did wonder aloud about a thin line of apparent paleness running over the eye, but as Graham Speight perceptively commented that this pale area was in fact just the blue-grey orbital skin, which encircled the whole eye. There really was no white above or behind the eye, it being restricted

essentially to the forehead. The legs were also noticeably pinkish in colour, and not the more typical dirty yellow of most nominate Night Herons at this time of year. I let observers know both on site and subsequently of my suspicions and some ensuing research produced the following interesting information.

Features of American Night Heron

Differences between the nominate Old World form *nycticorax* and the North American form *hoactli* are mentioned in Hancock and Kushlan (1984): "The American *hoactli* is larger than nominate *nycticorax* and the white streak above its eye is narrower; its legs turn salmon-pink rather than red during courtship." Earlier, Palmer (1962) illustrated two examples of adult *hoactli*. One with white extending over the eye, the other with white essentially restricted to the forehead. The text reads that nominate birds differ from American *hoactli* in having "superciliary line all white".

My own preliminary investigations show that North American birds (just as illustrated in Palmer) vary from birds which have obvious white above the eye (and are thus indistinguishable from many Old World birds) to those with white restricted to the forehead and not or only slightly extending over the fore part of the eye. This latter pattern seems not to be present in the European population and therefore seems highly indicative of North American birds. The pink flush over the leg colour of the Scout Dike bird is an interesting feature, which may be significant. The colour is typically found at the height of the breeding season, being pink in *hoactli* and deeper red in nominate *nycticorax*. Some members of the North American population do breed right through the winter in the south of the range (e.g. Florida) with early breeding at the beginning of February being an extreme date for New Jersey (Palmer 1962) whereas most European birds start in April.

Vagrant or Escape?

It seems important to state from the outset that the North American Night Heron is a likely transatlantic vagrant. Breeding as far northeast as Nova Scotia it is well known as both a long distance migrant and dispersive wanderer (away from both breeding and wintering areas) with some individuals spreading north and east of the breeding range. Vagrants have been record on Bermuda and in recent years juveniles recorded in the Azores, very likely to be North American birds, intriguingly show the same strong russet caste seen on the St. Mary's bird of 1985. A precedent for the mid-winter occurrence of Nearctic 'Ardeidae' (Herons and Bitterns) in the Western Palearctic is surely well established with American Bittern, Snowy Egret, American (Great White) Egret, Green Heron, Tricoloured Heron and Great Blue Heron (with Little Blue Heron and Least Bittern in the late autumn at least).

The Edinburgh Zoo factor

There are two free-flying colonies of Night Heron in the U.K. One at Great Witchingham Park, Norfolk is of European stock. The second was at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland, and this one was the only breeding colony of the North American Night Heron in Europe. These birds were brought from Nova Scotia to the Edinburgh Zoo in the 1940s but escaped when a gale took the roof of their aviary. The birds generally remained in the Zoo area, although they foraged at wetlands around the city, and seemed to be reliant on stealing or scavenging fish from the famous Penguin colony and the sea mammal's enclosure. Individuals though were recorded wandering as far away as Somerset. However several years ago the last members of the free flying colony were rounded up and the Edinburgh Zoo population is now officially defunct. Various reports include some

observers visiting the zoo over the last two years and not seeing any Night Herons out of cages, or possibly one ringed bird still at large.

Strikingly, this capture of the free-flying colony has resulted in Night Heron not being seen 'at large' in Lothian subsequently, with the last bird away from the zoo being recorded as long ago as 2001.

(David Kelly, Chris McInerney, Steve Votier and John Sweeney pers.comms.)

In summary research is ongoing into the definitive aspects of racial identification and the final status of the last free flying birds from the Edinburgh colony. At least on present knowledge the head pattern and leg colour of the Scout Dike bird, are spot on for *hoactli*. While it is as yet unknown whether or not some escaped birds of this form may still be at large, transatlantic vagrancy can equally well be argued for. In any event the bird was a great find by Russ and has been highly educational, as Mick Cunningham has already observed!

Acknowledgements

RJB is very grateful to Craig Thomas for promptly supplying Yorkshire records.

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Birdguides (www.birdguides.com)

KUMLIEN'S GULL DESCRIPTION

The following is Russ Boland's successful YNU submission.

Yorkshire Naturalists Union Ornithological section Details of an unusual sighting				
Species	Kumlien's Gull			
Date & time	Wednesday 6 th Feb 2008 16.55 to 17.10 hrs.			
Place	Langsett Reservoir, South Yorkshire			
Direction of flight				
Distance from observer	Bird observed on water at range of c.100 metres			
Period of observation	Approx. 15 minutes.			
Weather & light	SW breeze, scattered cloud and sunshine. Light was good until c17.00 hrs, and then steadily deteriorating.			
Optical aids	Binoculars	Pentax 8 X 43 ED	Telescope	Swarovski HD 65 with 20-60 zoom
Species present for comparison				
a) Alongside the bird	Herring Gull			
b) Nearby	Herring Gull, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull			
Observers who claim the record	Russell Boland (RJB)			
Any who disagrees				
Experience of the species	I have seen only five Iceland Gulls in my time birding (90% of my birding is done on local patches where these birds are now very rare) and have no previous experience of the form <i>Kumlieni</i>			
Experience of similar species				
a) Same day	Gulls roosting included 33 Herring Gulls and c.110 Common Gulls			
b) Previously	<p>Iceland Gull <i>L. glaucoides glaucoides</i> 1st w - Worsbrough CP 1st Jan 1989 1st w - Scarborough Harbor 13th Nov 2001 1st w/2nd w - Swillington Ings 23rd Feb 2003 1st w - Old Moor 19th Dec 2004 Adult - Broomhead Res 28th Nov, 4th Dec 2004.</p> <p>I have nine years experience of watching large gulls locally at both evening and day roosts. My experience of Herring Gulls is restricted to evening roosts in the winter months, but I regularly see Common Gulls throughout spring, autumn and winter at my local patches. Despite lots of time spent watching gulls - and sketching them - 'I have seen very few 'white-winged gulls' locally. I am constantly looking for them but they have become very rare on my local waters.</p>			

On 27th Jan 2008, having heard that a Kumlien's Gull had been seen at Broomhead Res, near Sheffield, the previous evening and, intriguingly, had been reported flying off west, I thought there might be a good chance it may have roosted at Langsett Res, a few Km to the NW. Langsett Res is a water where I have regularly watched gull roosts in past winters, but recent ones have been very poor and warranted little time here.

On Sat 2nd Feb I decided to try the roost and was pleasantly surprised at the numbers of roosting gulls, which totalled 1200 birds and included 52 Herring Gulls which I thought was promising. Nothing unusual was seen but I returned during the late afternoon on 6th. A roost built up to similar numbers to those on 2nd and at about 16.55 hrs. I was about to walk back to my car and call it a day due to the failing light when, during one last scan across the dam wall to the E (the majority of gulls fly in from that direction), four or five birds I initially thought were all Herring gulls flew in and settled on the water just to the left of the main roosting flock. One of these was markedly smaller and paler and definitely warranted a better look. On switching to my scope I was struck by several features that made me think of Kumlien's Gull. In a state of excitement and anxiety (due to failing light) I began to make rough sketches and take notes. I watched the bird almost constantly for the next fifteen minutes or so, only taking a brief look at the associating Common and Herring Gulls for comparison.

Description: Taken from field notes.

Size and structure - about 2/3rds size of Herring Gull but clearly larger and bulkier than Common Gull. It had a more domed, rounder head than Herring; a bit similar to Common Gull in shape.

Upper parts

Head - looked off-white but it was too distant to make out any definite streaking. The eye looked dark.

Bill - looked shorter than Herring, the basal 2/3rds were a dull yellow/pale olive colour and the tip dark.

Mantle and scapulars - noticeably paler grey than adult Herring and clearly paler than on adult Common. The mantle and upper scapulars looked fairly clean but there was a darker grey border to the lower scapulars, which seemed to form a neat band.

Coverts - these looked uniform pale grey, as the mantle.

Tertials - from certain angles these were pale grey with broad white edges, but from another time there was an obvious pale brown tone to them. Obviously an age related feature, due to the light and distance it was very difficult to see the true extent of this, but it was clearly there. There was a generally 'untidy' look about this part of the bird.

Primaries - These were noticeably short; whether it was the way they were held or because the bird was in moult I'm not sure. There was only a very slight projection past the tail. Knowing the importance of this feature on Kumlien's Gull, I tried to look critically at these. On high magnification, before viewing became too difficult to see subtle features, the primaries looked silvery grey with white tips. On lower mag' in fading light they looked uniform silvery grey, and slightly darker than the mantle tone.

Under parts - the bird was only seen sat on the water, and most of the time it was hunched and floating with the wings held close to the water. The breast and belly looked uniform white, as did the flanks when the wings were not covering them. The legs were not seen.

Although the brevity of the sighting left me feeling slightly frustrated (why didn't it arrive to roost one hour earlier?) I was confident of my identification of a sub-adult Kumlien's Gull but

my lack of experience of the form prevented me from specifically ageing the bird. I would not have had problems with a Herring or Lesser-black Back!

Third or fourth year Herring Gull was eliminated due to its larger size, longer bill, darker grey mantle and the dark primaries. Common Gull was eliminated due to its much smaller size and its much darker mantle. The bird was identified as a probable 3rd winter Iceland Gull, with the grey primaries a characteristic of the race *Kumlieni*.

I realise that this race can be very tricky to identify, especially in 1st and 2nd year plumages, but the distinct features on this bird prompted me to contact local birders upon leaving the site. In a way it is strange because I have had long-held desires to find nominate Iceland Gull roosting here, let alone an extremely rare form! I met two local birders the following evening but unfortunately it was a no-show this time, and the roost itself was significantly smaller than on the two previous evenings.

I think it is pertinent to mention that a Kumlien's Gull was reported roosting at Broomhead again on several dates around this period, but there were no reports on the evening of the 6th, when Sheffield birders were present.

The Broomhead bird

Photographs of a bird claimed as a 3rd winter Kumlien's Gull by A. Deighton were posted on the Sheffield Bird Study Group website. I took a close look at these after the sighting, and although the images were taken in less-than-ideal conditions the bird shows, to me, the following features that were consistent with the Langsett bird: the bill colour; the short (moulting?) and primaries and the consequential short-winged look; the greyish tones to the primaries; the brownish tones to the tertials; and the very pale grey mantle colour.

Russ Boland, Barnsley

STRANGE BUT TRUE AN ENCOUNTER WITH A SPARROWHAWK.

Arriving at work at Highfield Gears, Folly Hall at approximately 07.15hrs on Tuesday, 23rd October, a workmate casually remarked to me "I see the pigeons have found their way in again" as he pointed to an adult female Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) which was flying about the upper roof space from one end of the shed to the other. Instantly I realised what had happened, as this was not the first time the species had entered the building. A few years previously a male had chased a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in through the big sliding doors at one end of the shed and out through those at the other end. This female may have been after one of the Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) that would have been leaving the roost or even one of the small bats that I have seen flitting around the street light just in front of the door, overshot its target and ended up trapped, the other door being closed at the time.

The shed can be likened to an aeroplane hangar, a long building constructed of brick and fabricated metal with big, high sliding doors at each end. A ten tonne crane runs the length of the building and above this, in the high roof space, is a complex arrangement of metal roof struts and girders. It is here that the Sparrowhawk decided to set up home for the next twenty days. The bird would not descend below the maze of roof struts, apparently very wary of the workers below, not to mention the noise from all the machines and the overhead ten tonne crane which is in constant use.

At lunchtime on that first day when things were quieter I opened the other sliding door in the hope that the bird would fly out, but it had now perched on one of the roof struts looking exhausted after flying from one end of the shed to the other almost non-stop for four hours. Here it stayed for the rest of the day. As I was leaving at the end of my shift I had a word with Keith, the maintenance man who locks up after everyone else has left, and pointed out the roosting hawk to him. He took an immediate interest and seemed genuinely concerned about the situation, enough to ask what it ate. "Birds!" I said and went home.

Next morning I soon spotted the hawk perched above the crane inspection gantry and still looking quite healthy. Keith had contacted the RSPCA the previous evening. Someone had turned up but could only suggest waiting until the bird was sufficiently weak through lack of food to enable it to be picked up. Nothing was possible while the bird was alert, in such a high roof with so many girders and struts.

Keith had also brought some chicken portions, which I boned to make them lighter, and Keith, who has access to the crane gantry, placed one of the portions on one of the lower struts; amazingly he had scarcely reached the ladder when the hawk pounced upon the chicken portion and dropped to the gantry with it. Although it was then out of sight, I could see its tail lifting above the girder as it ripped lumps off. It fed on the chicken for half an hour at least then flew to its usual perch above the gantry with a bulging crop and stayed there for the rest of the day. I was able to carry on with my normal day's work quite happily.

On the third day of its stay the hawk again became very flighty, and worryingly bounced off the air vents losing feathers in the process, and ended up looking very tattered and dirty. I noticed that its feet had changed colour from yellow to black, caused presumably by its perching on girders covered in years of engineering grime. I was worried that if it started to preen and remove old grease it might end up poisoning itself. I mentioned this to Keith, who was still providing chicken breasts. "No problem" was his answer "I'll take a tray of water up so it can have a wash". O.K. Keith, I thought, doubtless you mean well. On the morning of day five I could not find the bird in

its usual perches and began to fear the worst. Suddenly I became aware of little splashes of water coming over the edge of the crane gantry and saw one very wet but healthy looking Accipiter perched on the gantry rail, its yellow feet and legs back to their former glory. It was the first time in forty years birding that I have actually watched a Sparrowhawk bathing.

The first week passed, Keith seeing to the bird's needs over the weekend, even opening both doors on the Sunday hoping the bird would leave when everything was quiet, but the bird would not descend below the crane inspection gantry. This cycle continued for the next couple of weeks. Apart from Keith and me, the rest of the workforce had become bored with it.

On Wednesday of the third week I suggested to Keith that we starve the bird in an attempt to get it out. I collected some moulted Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) feathers from my garden, took one of the boned chicken portions out of the canteen fridge and made what could only be described as a bizarre, grisly looking shuttlecock. When most of the workforce had gone home we placed this strange creature on top of a pile of pallets in front of the door, where a nice breeze was ruffling the feathers and BINGO!, the hawk flew off into a lovely November afternoon, carrying a shuttlecock.

Production in the factory went up by 15%.

My sincere thanks to our maintenance man Keith Hever for his fantastic contribution to this successful outcome.

Dave Pogson

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the club forum, to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from either Mike Denton or the Club Recorder. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within

the club area. It is by leaving these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES

(Use O.S. Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid Ref.
Ainley Top	117193
Almondbury	170155
Annat Royd Lane	211053
Appleyards, Golcar	101152
Armitage Bridge	130135
Ashway Gap	023043
Aspley	151163
Bairtings Res.	006188
Bank Wood, Emley	263138
Banks Hall	282066
Bare Bones Road	144043
Bargate	096147
Barkisland	055197
Bartin	091072
Beaumont Park	130147
Bell Royd Farm	228048
Berry Brow	141138
Big Valley	130136
Bilberry Res.	102070
Binn Edge	053105
Bird's Edge	202077
Bird's Nest Lane	187066
Birkby	137181
Birks Moss	056078
Black Brook	060177
Black Hill	078047
Black Moss	040085
Blacker Beck	297161
Blacker Pit	299164
Blacker Wood	240111
Blackley Tip	102195
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127
Blake Lee, Marsden	029121
Blakeley Res.	054096
Booth Dam Quarry	018161
Booth Wood Res.	026163
Boothroyd Wood	183118
Boshaw Whams	151057
Bradley	165205
Bradley Park GC	159207
Bradshaw	052144
Bretton Lakes	280127
Broadstones Lodge	203064
Broadstones Res.	195065

Location	Grid Ref.
Brookhouse Bridge	198007
Brown's Edge	195058
Brownhill Res.	114060
Buckstones	010140
Bullcliff Farm	290156
Bullcliff Wood	292152
Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Butterley Res.	050103
Butternab Wood	122138
Cannon Hall	275085
Carlecotes	178034
Carr Wood	180133
Cartworth Moor	138060
Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Castle Hill	152141
Cawthorne	285080
Cawthorne Dike	295089
Cheesegate Nab	175065
Chew Hills	023030
Chew Valley	025025
Choppards	142064
Cinderhills	147075
Clayton West	260110
Clayton West S.F.	266118
Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Clock Face Quarry	044173
Clough Lee	046116
Clough Wood	175114
Cockley Hill	188179
Colne Valley	070140
Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Cooper Bridge	175206
Cowcliffe	139187
Coxley Bank	275168
Coxley Valley	271165
Cranberry	247008
Crimble	085145
Crosland Heath GC	110142
Crosland Hill	115145
Crosland Moor	120150
Crossley's Plantation	125050
Crow Edge	188046
Cubley	245023

Location	Grid Ref.
Cupwith Res.	038141
Dalton	165168
Dean Clough	080067
Dean Rocks	025038
Dean Wood	119134
Deanhead Res.	038152
Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Dearne Head	185076
Deer Hill Res.	070115
Deffer Wood	260090
Deighton	167191
Denby Dale	225084
Dewsbury SF	260198
Digley Bottom	115068
Digley Res.	107070
Dogley NR	187137
Dovestones Res.	018040
Drop Clough	048133
Dunford Bridge	158024
Edge Hill	235016
Edge Moor	104125
Elland GP	125222
Ellentree Brow	142045
Elysium Fields	133055
Emley Moor	225135
Emley Tx	223130
Farnley Tyas	166128
Farnley Wood	164134
Featherbed Moss	044010
Fenay Beck	183152
Fixby	139196
Flight Hill	153042
Flockton	245151
Flouch Inn	198016
Folly Hall	142159
Ford Inn	114084
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027
Fox Clough	136057
Fox Holes, Langsett	190006
Fox House Moss	165042
Fullshaw	210012
Fulstone	175095
Garside Hey	032133
Gawthorpe Green	193168
Gilbert Hill	210007
Gledholt	133170
Golcar	096160

Location	Grid Ref.
Golcar Tip	104156
Grain's Moss	125025
Grange Moor	220160
Green Gate	204060
Green Gate Road	113080
Greenfield Res.	030054
Greenfield Road	103080
Greetland	085215
Grimescar Valley	130190
Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Hade Edge	146053
Hades Green Clough	141052
Haigh	294120
Haigh Clough	023127
Hall Bower	145140
Hall Dike	115118
Hall Ing Road	162115
Hard Hill	056111
Harden	153037
Harden Clough	144039
Harden Edge	158038
Harden Moss	100083
Harden Res.	150037
Hartcliff Hill	221017
Hazlehead	195028
Healey Greave Wood	194116
Healey House	115124
Healey Mills	268193
Helme	101118
Hepworth	164066
Hey Green, Marsden	032122
Heyden Moor	092024
High Hoyland	273102
High Wood	290106
Highburton	193133
Hill Top Res.	074141
Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Hingcliffe Common	194001
Holmbridge	120068
Holme	108060
Holme Moor West	062114
Holme Styes	136054
Holme Styes Res.	141055
Holme Woods	105045
Holmfirth	143082
Holt Head	080123
Honley	138118

Location	Grid Ref.
Honley Moor	116113
Horbury Strands	288177
Horbury Wyke	297172
Houses Hill	199169
Hoylandswaine	265047
Huddersfield	145165
Hullen Edge	100208
Hullock Bank	172075
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Isle of Skye Quarry	093080
Issues Clough	082053
Issues Road	095061
Jackson Bridge	165075
Jebb Lane	280112
Jenkinson Wood	184116
Jubilee Quarries	103128
Kaye Lane	160147
King's Mill Lane	150161
Kirkburton	198128
Kirkheaton	185185
Kirkroyds	156091
Krumlin	056183
Langsett	212005
Langsett Banks	205003
Langsett Res.	210001
Law	158047
Law Slack Ponds	156047
Lepton	203152
Lepton Great Wood	195145
Lindley	120182
Lindley Moor	095185
Lingards	060132
Linthwaite	095145
Liphill Brook	129078
Litherop Lane	273123
Little Black Moss Res.	032087
Little Don Valley	195005
Lockwood	135152
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Longwood	108167
Lower Cumberworth	223095
Lower Hopton	202191
Lower Maythorn	187056
Lower Stones Wood	187106
Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Lowfields, Elland	117219
Lumb Lane	160140

Location	Grid Ref.
Magdale Dam	135124
Magdalen Clough	090082
March Haigh Res.	015130
Margery Wood	275096
Marsden	045115
Marsden Clough	094072
Marsh	125171
Mathewman Wood	182098
Maythorn	186057
McAlpine Stadium	155176
Meal Hill	168070
Mellor Wood	158144
Meltham Cop	093120
Meltham Moor	080093
Meltham SF	112115
Middlestown	267172
Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Millhouse Green	218032
Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Milnsbridge	113158
Molly Carr Wood	160137
Morton Wood	158067
Myers Wood	188125
Mytholm Bridge	154102
Nether End	124081
Nether Moor	117133
Netherthong	139097
Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Netherwood	054127
Nettleton Hill	094170
New Hall Wood	265155
New House Wood	210082
New Mill	164088
Nont Sarah's	048152
Nopper Road	107135
Oakes	120174
Oldfield	136103
Orange Wood	102123
Ossett	290200
Outlane	085180
Ox Lee	168055
Oxygrains Beck	003159
Paddock	125161
Park Mill	260114
Paul Lane	184203
Penistone	245033
Penny Spring Wood	160155

Location	Grid Ref.
Pole Moor	067158
Potato Lane	089125
Pule Hill	033104
Ramsden Res.	115055
Ravensthorpe	222202
Ravensthorpe GP	233202
Redbrook Res.	027098
Reynard Clough	136050
Riding Wood Res.	117050
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182
Ripponden	040197
Rishworth	032182
Roughbircworth	264016
Round Wood	157101
Royd Edge	095097
Royd House Wood	162133
Royd Moor Res.	222048
Ryburn Res.	020188
Salendine Nook	105178
Salters Brook	137002
Sand Ridge Moss	158032
Sands GP.	217196
Sands House	116145
Scammonden	050160
Scissett	248104
Scout Dike Res.	233049
Shelley	204113
Shelley Woodhouse	218110
Shepley	193098
Shore Head	148166
Silkstone	290059
Silkstone SF	295065
Skelmanthorpe	233105
Slaithwaite	080140
Slaithwaite Moor	040143
Smith Wood	179115
Snailsden Moor	135035
Snailsden Res.	135040
Snape Res.	117088
Snittle Road	149050
Snowgate Head	179085
South Crosland	113130
Sparth Res.	055125
Spicer House Lane	205055
Spring Wood	130124
Square Wood Res.	217078
Squirrel Ditch	152154

Location	Grid Ref.
Stainland	077194
Standedge	016098
Stocksmoor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storthes Hall Moor	175112
Storthes Hall Woods	183125
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Swinny Knoll	125097
T. P. Wood	132166
Taylor Hill	135145
Thongsbridge	151097
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorpes	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurgory	191158
Thurlestone Moor	175020
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163038
Totties	157082
Townhead	166028
Tunnel End Res.	039120
Tup Stones	096018
Underbank	144076
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	230072
Upper Greetland	075212
Upper Longdendale	095005
Upper Royd	095095
Upper Stones Wood	185104
Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Waring Bridge	065131
Waterloo	177166
Way Stones Edge	004142
Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Wessenden Valley	055088
West Nab	077088
West Wood, Honley	151123
Wetshaw Edge	147032
Whitegate Lane	128055
Whitley Common	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Wholestone Moor	077167
Will's o' Nats's	090121
Wilshaw	118100
Windle Edge	152017

Location	Grid Ref.
Windleden Edge	142010
Windmill Lane	195072
Windybank Wood	112104
Winscar Res.	150025
Wolfstones	124092
Wood Nook	122106
Wood Top	046113
Woodhead Res.	095002
Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146
Wooldale	155090
Yateholme	115050
Yeoman Hey	033050

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

The following is a list of the 267 species of wild birds, plus one provisional addition, total 268, that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2009. Eleven additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the years in which the birds appeared are also listed.

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

Three new species and one race were added to the Huddersfield List in 2008:

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Scout Dike Reservoir on 9th February).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (flying north over Dalton on 20th August 2008).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (flying over Boshaw Whams on 31st July 2008).

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*, which is a race of Iceland Gull found in arctic Canada (Langsett Reservoir on 6th February 2008).

There is one provisional addition to the list in 2009, subject to acceptance by the BBRC:

Frigatebird *Fregata* species – one flying low SW over Lockwood on 24th November 2009, identified as a juvenile, but not to a particular species. If accepted, this would be only the 6th record of any species of Frigatebird in Britain.

The 'Description required' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or BBRC. Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarcer species, to the Recorder (see inside rear cover).

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Huddersfield area. Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

See the map on page 143 for a definition of the Club recording area.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>				
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>		YNU		
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996	YNU		
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchos</i>				
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		HBC		
	European White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		HBC		
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		HBC		
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>				
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>				
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		HBC		
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>				
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU		
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002			
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
23	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU		
24	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
25	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				
26	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985			
27	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>				
28	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		HBC		
29	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
30	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
31	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>				
32	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				
33	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				
34	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				
35	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>				
36	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>				
37	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				
38	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
39	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				
40	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				
41	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC		
42	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC		
43	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC		
44	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				
45	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
46	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC		
47	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC		
48	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC		
49	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC		
50	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC		
51	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC		
52	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
53	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		HBC		
54	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
55	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC		
56	Non-specific Frigatebird	<i>Fregata sp.</i>	2009	BBRC		
57	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC		
58	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU		
59	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		HBC		
60	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989	YNU		
61	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
62	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
63	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC		
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC		
65	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC		
66	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		YNU		
67	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				
68	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU		
69	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC		
70	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC		
71	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU		
72	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC		
73	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				
74	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
75	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU		
76	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU		
77	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC		
78	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				
79	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU		
80	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				
81	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
82	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
83	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
84	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC		
85	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	HBC		
86	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC		
87	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				
88	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				
89	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC		
90	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
91	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005	HBC		
92	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>				
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
96	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
97	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
98	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				
99	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
100	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
101	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC		
102	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC		
103	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU		
104	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU		
105	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC		
106	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC		
107	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
108	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU		
109	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
110	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>				
111	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
112	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		HBC		
113	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
114	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				
115	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
116	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				
117	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				
118	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	HBC		
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
120	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990			
121	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
122	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
123	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
124	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC		
125	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
126	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
127	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	HBC		
128	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
129	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC		
130	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC		
131	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC		
132	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC		
133	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC		
134	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC		
135	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
136	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
137	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
138	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC		
139	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				
140	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU		
141	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>				
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>		HBC		
142	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>				
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC		
143	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC		
144	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU		
145	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>		HBC		
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	2008	HBC		
146	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC		
147	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
148	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		HBC		
149	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC		
150	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU		
151	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC		
152	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				
153	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC		
154	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC		
155	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2009

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
156	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC		
157	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC		
158	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptex paradoxus</i>	1888	HBC		
159	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)				
160	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				
161	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				
162	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				
163	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
164	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
165	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC		
166	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
167	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
168	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				
169	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
170	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
171	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
172	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU		
173	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
174	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968			
175	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC		
176	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC		
177	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
178	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
179	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				
180	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC		
181	Skylark	<i>Alandia arvensis</i>				
182	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC		
183	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
184	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
185	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
186	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU		
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
188	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
189	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>		HBC		
190	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC		
191	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>				
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		HBC		
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990	HBC		
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				
193	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>				
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC		
194	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>				
195	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				
196	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
197	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
198	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
199	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC		
200	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC		
201	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
202	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
203	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				
204	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
205	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
206	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				
207	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				
208	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				
209	Rodwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				
210	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				
211	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				
212	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
213	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				
214	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
215	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
216	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				
217	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
218	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC		
219	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC		
220	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC		
221	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>				
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC		
222	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
223	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
224	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				
225	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				
226	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
227	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				
228	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				
229	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				
230	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				
231	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>				
232	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC		
233	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				
234	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				
235	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC		
236	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC		
237	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
238	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				
239	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				
240	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				
241	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				
242	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>				
243	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		HBC		

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No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Descr. species	Life √	Year √
244	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				
245	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC		
246	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
247	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
248	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				
249	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
250	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				
251	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
252	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinis</i>				
253	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				
254	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>				
255	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>				
256	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>				
257	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				
258	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	HBC		
259	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
260	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
261	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC		
262	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC		
263	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
264	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>		YNU		
265	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU		
266	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
267	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	HBC		
268	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				

NOTES

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HUDDERSFIELD RECORDING AREA

The bird recording area covered by the Club comprises Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21, together with those parts of SE 02 and SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Farm.

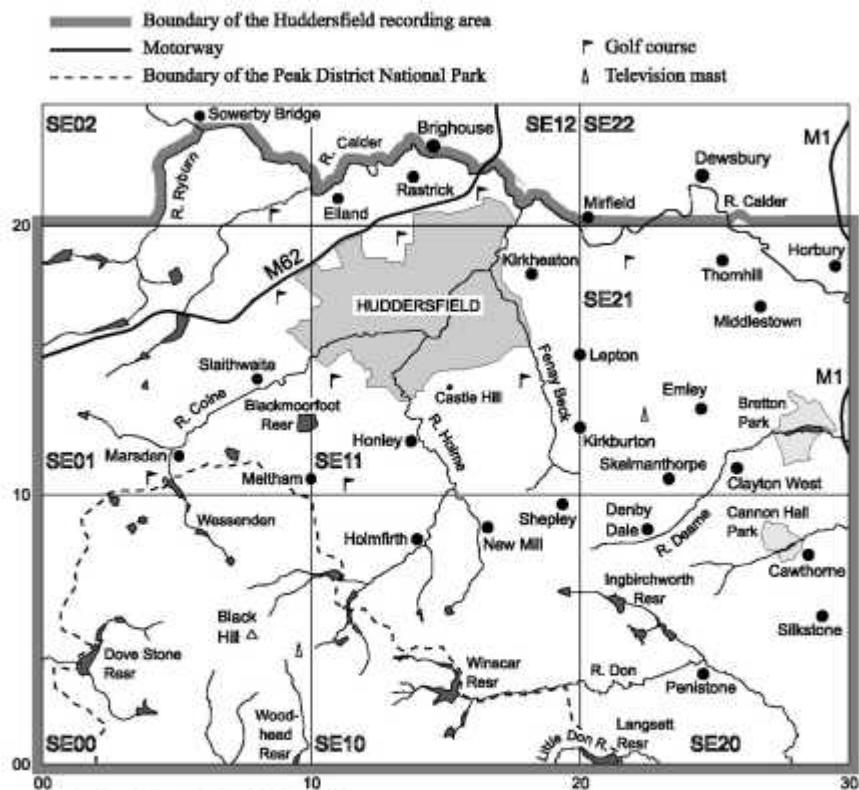


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

INTERESTED IN BIRDS ?

DID YOU KNOW ?

- **The Huddersfield area**
 - **has nationally important breeding habitat for some of Britain's most endangered birds.**
 - **attracts rare and scarce birds every year.**
 - **offers interesting birding all year round, if you know where to look.**
- **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, a registered charity, has been studying the birds of the area since 1966.**
- **Through recording and surveys, the Club helps conserve these important habitats and birds.**
- **"Birds in Huddersfield", published annually, shows all the latest local trends in bird populations and what birds have been seen where and when.**
- **Sales help fund the charity's work.**

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk