

**HUDDERSFIELD
BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB**

**STATUS OF BIRDS IN THE
HUDDERSFIELD AREA
1959 - 1974**

ANNUAL REPORT 1975

PRICE 40p

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1975

By the time these notes appear I will no longer be Club President, but, as the following Report covers my second year in office, I welcome the opportunity presented to write this foreword.

While there have been no major changes or developments in the Club's organisation or day-to-day activities, I do think that we have made good and steady progress, not only in numbers (which still increase) but in enthusiasm, knowledge and friendly co-operation. In particular it is very pleasing to see the keeness and rapidly increasing expertise of a number of junior members. Their presence and general behaviour will do much to enhance the Club's standing in future years.

A full programme of evening meetings has again been well attended and our Secretary is to be congratulated on the hard work he has put in for our benefit.

Good numbers have again supported our Field Meetings and while the weather has not been as kind as in previous years, it has not seriously interfered with our activities, except perhaps for the "Southport Soak".

The Club's finances appear in a healthy state at the year end, but the present constantly rising costs leave no room for complacency. Our "retiring" Treasurer, Joan Senior, has carried out her exacting task for a number of years and earns our real gratitude for the efficient way she has managed our affairs.

A bookcase, at last, houses our library and Mr. D. Barrans is to be thanked for his generous gift. Members are encouraged to make use of the books and magazines therein, which are supervised by Mr. Brian Cocking.

The Report which follows takes a new and enlarged form this year. It incorporates a summary of sighting records over the last fifteen years, as well as specific details for 1975. The estimates of breeding abundance and comparative rarity of the birds of passage and migrants are particularly welcome and give very valuable instruction to all members and form a very useful guide as to the kind of information welcomed by our Recorder. We are indeed greatly indebted to John Dale, who must have spent innumerable hours in compiling this excellent Report, and to Clifford Disbrey, Paul Bray and others who have contributed in varying degrees.

The continued use of the Lecture Room at Ravensknowle and the hide at Blackmoorfoot are greatly appreciated and our thanks are due to Mr. E. M. Aubrook and Mr. W. M. Jollans for these facilities.

May I close by expressing my personal thanks to you all for the support and friendship extended to me during the last two years; it has been very valuable and greatly appreciated. In particular I must thank the retiring Officers and Committee for their untiring efforts for the Club and wish John Dale and his new Committee every success in the future.

BRIAN W. WOODCOCK.

RINGING REPORT

Due to continued illness very little ringing was carried out during the first three months of the year, yet a total of 2,217 birds of 51 species were ringed. Subsequently the Edgerton Blackbird roost and the Lee's Mill Pied Wagtail roost were not worked during this period. The Blackbird roost was worked as normal during the winter months.

Total numbers of roosting Greenfinches at Blackmoorfoot were much reduced during the January - March period, and it is doubtful if many would have been caught had ringing activities been as normal.

Total numbers of House Sparrows in the garden at Crosland Moor were down on last year and subsequently only 424 were ringed. On the other hand larger numbers than usual frequented the Autumn "Sparrow" flock at Blackmoorfoot, and many more were ringed than in previous years.

The June-July flock of Swifts at Deer Hill was not apparent, but this was due to Easterly winds during most of the period and not to a lack of birds (given Westerly winds the birds fly under the East bank and are easily caught.)

Due to the draining (and eventual filling in) of Lee's Mill Dam no Autumn roost of Swallow, Pied Wagtail or Reed Bunting took place, and subsequently ringing totals of this species were affected. With the disappearance of the Swallow roost at Lee's Mill efforts were made to locate a new one; it was therefore necessary to scout the whole of Huddersfield area for a suitable reed bed, and it was not until early September that a new roost was located; this was at Elland Gravel Pit. The roost held some 2,000 birds, and on a total of 5 visits 145 were ringed. It will be interesting to see if any of the ejected Lee's Mill birds use this roost in future years. Later in the year the roost was taken over by Pied Wagtails, but it was found that the birds were impossible to catch, and the roost was therefore abandoned for easier game.

The newest method of catching birds is to lure them into the netting area by playing the species song on a tape recorder. This has been particularly worthwhile with Willow Warblers at Blackmoorfoot and Swallows at Elland G. P.; in fact, were it not for the Swallow tape it is doubtful if many would have been caught. It is obvious that to play the song of any particular species in spring, may drive out any prospective males, and could therefore leave the area void of that particular species. Due to this fact tapes are mainly used during Autumn and Winter (except for areas where the species is known not to breed e.g. Chiffchaff at Blackmoorfoot). Species which have been caught using this method include: Swallow, Blackbird, Willow Warbler, Greenfinch, Linnet.

One new ringing species was handled during the year, the Firecrest at Blackmoorfoot; other interesting species caught included: Fieldfare, Reed Warbler, Wood Warbler and Tree Pipit, all of which constituted only the second ringing records for the area.

Pullus ringed during the year included: 5 Lapwing (Blackmoorfoot), 32 Black-headed Gull (Black Moss), 9 Swallow (Honley), 2 Magpie (Blackmoorfoot), 8 Blue Tit (Waterloo), 2 Mistle Thrush (Penny Hill), 3 Ring Ouzel (Digley), 7 Whinchat (3 Royd Moor, 4 Yateholme), 3 Dunnock (Holmfirth), and 12 House Sparrow (Longwood Edge).

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used:

Age: Pull: nestling or chick not yet able to fly.
 Juv: young able to fly freely.
 I. Y.: bird in its first year of life
 F. G.: Full grown, age uncertain
 A. D.: Adult at least one year old.

Sex: M: Male
 F: Female

Manner of Recovery:

V: Caught or trapped, and released with ring.
 X: Found dead or dying
 XA: Found long dead.
 +: Shot or killed by man.

Date of Recovery: Where this is known the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets. All recoveries of 5kms, or over, are published. The recoveries of snipe (cc91756), Black-headed Gull (EF61278), Swift (SE52269), and Blackbird (CH14424) were received too late for inclusion in the 1974 report.

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDS RECOVERED ELSEWHERE

SNIPE

CC91756	AD	S.11.73	Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield. 53°37'N 1°52'W.
	+	12.12.74	Jerez de la Frontera (Cadiz) <u>Spain</u> 36°41'N 6°08'W.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

EF61278	PULL	14.7.74	Black Moss, Marsden 53°34'N 1°55'W.
	X	13.8.74	Dwyran, Newborough (Anglesey). 53°10'N 4°19'W. 160kms W.S.W.
EF61293	PULL	10.6.75	Black Moss

X (14.8.75) Dinckley, Blackburn (Lancs)
53°49'N 2°29'W
45 kms N.W.

SWALLOW

JP79517 JUV 30.8.73 Blackmoorfoot
SEXED F V 11.9.75 Roggerham, Burnley (Lancs)
53°48'N 2°11'W
30 kms N.W.

FIELDFARE

CH39089 I. Y. M. 18.2.73 Blackmoorfoot
+ 18.12.75 Benassey (Vienne) FRANCE
46°34'N 0°03'E

BLACKBIRD

CJ21162 ADM 1.11.71 Edgerton, Huddersfield
53°40'N 1°48'W
V 29.4.75 Filsham, Bexhill, (Sussex)
50°52'N 0°32'E
CH14424 I. Y. M. 14.1.73 Blackmoorfoot
V 2.2.73 Blackmoorfoot
V 19.2.73 Blackmoorfoot
V 14.1.74 Blackmoorfoot
V 19.2.74 Blackmoorfoot
V 25.2.74 Blackmoorfoot
+ 11.10.74 Myklebust, Eigersund, (Rogaland)
NORWAY
58°28'N 5°56'E
CH39355 ADM 28.10.73 Edgerton
X 29.5.75 Korkiakoski, Ylane, (Turku and Pori)
FINLAND
61°09'N 22°42'E
CH39471 I. Y. F. 5.11.73 Blackmoorfoot
X on nest 22.8.75 Bauserod, Rostanga (Malmohus) SWEDEN
56°03'N 13°03'E

CH39818	I. Y. M.	26.12.73	Edgerton
	V	1.1.74	Edgerton
	X	10.2.75	Fjellerup, (Jylland) DENMARK 56°30'N 10°36'E

WILLOW WARBLER

869736	F. G.	14.8.75	Blackmoorfoot
	X	(a. 26.8.75)	Sturminster Newton (Dorset) 56°56'N 2°19'W 305kms S

PIED WAGTAIL

JP79678	I. Y.	4.10.73	Blackmoorfoot
	X	(17.2.75)	Bristol (Glos.) 51°27'N 2°35'W 250kms S. S. W.

GREENFINCH

BP73562	I. Y. M.	18.11.72	Blackmoorfoot
	X	(4.3.75)	Ashton-under-Lyne (Lancs.) 53°29'N 2°06'W 20kms S. W.

REED BUNTING

JN73568	F. G. F.	8.10.72	Blackmoorfoot
	V	12.7.75	Broadbottom, Hyde, (Cheshire) 53°26'N 2°01'W 22kms S. W.
JP80838	I. Y. F.	20.8.74	Blackmoorfoot
	XA	Nov. 1975	Rochdale Area (Lancs.) ca 53°38'N 2°10'W ca 25kms W

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERFIELD AREA

BLACKBIRD

CH39875	I. Y. F.	6.1.74	Blackmoorfoot
	V	7.1.74	Blackmoorfoot

V	6.12.75	Edgerton 6kms N.N.E.
V	13.12.75	Edgerton

GREENFINCH

BR46094	I. Y. M.	2.5.74	Blackmoorfoot
	V	13.12.75	Edgerton 6kms N.N.E.

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

GM99649	PULL	13.7.68	Walney Island (Lancs.) 54°05'N 3°15'W
	X	30.8.75	Blackmoorfoot 100kms E, S.E.

SWIFT

SE52269	AD	9.5.68	Winterset Res, Wakefield, (Yorks) 53°38'N 1°26'W
	X	7.8.74	Bretton Park, Wakefield. 53°37'N 1°34'W 9 kms W.

SWALLOW

JX55662	PULL	31.8.74	Netherhouses, Armadale, (West Lothian). 55°53'N 3°43'W
	V	15.9.75	Elland G.P. 53°41'N 1°50'W 275kms S.E.

GREENFINCH

BR89390	A.D.F.	23.1.75	Melton Wood, Doncaster (Yorks.) 53°31'N 1°14'W
	V	20.12.75	Blackmoorfoot 45kms W.N.W.

	I. Y. F.	22.2.75	Winterset Res, Wakefield, (Yorks).
	X	7.9.75	Almondbury, Huddersfield. 53°38'N 1°45'W 21kms W.
BS56014	F. G. F.	11.12.75	Melton Wood, Doncaster, (Yorks)
	V.	16.12.75.	Blackmoorfoot 45kms W.N.W.

M. L. DENTON

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

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

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

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

TABLE 1 - RETRAPS

	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>2 yrs.</u>	<u>3 yrs.</u>	<u>4 yrs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Swallow	3				3
Great Tit	1	1			2
Blue Tit	4	5	5	1	15
Wren	1	1		1	3
Mistle Thrush	1				1
Blackbird	6	15	12	7	40
Robin	8	2	2	1	13
Willow Warbler		1			1
Dunnock	3	3	3	1	10
Pied Wagtail		1			1
Greenfinch		3			3
Bullfinch	1	1	1		3
Reed Bunting	1	1			2
House Sparrow	7				7
Tree Sparrow	3				3
					<hr/>
					107

TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>2 yrs.</u>	<u>3 yrs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Swallow	1	1		2
Blue Tit	1			1
Dipper			1	1
Blackbird	1	2	3	6
Duncock	1			1
Pied Wagtail	1			1
Bullfinch	1		1	2
House Sparrow	3			3
				<hr/>
				17

BIRDS RINGED IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 1975

SPECIES

Lapwing	5	Robin	47
Snipe	4	Reed Warbler	1
Jack Snipe	4	Sedge Warbler	4
Black-Headed Gull	32	Garden Warbler	2
Swallow	258	Willow Warbler	117
House Martin	1	Chiffchaff	2
Sand Martin	1	Wood Warbler	1
Rook	3	Goldcrest	19
Magpie	4	Firecrest	1
Jay	1	Spotted Flycatcher	1
Great Tit	17	Duncock	37
Blue Tit	124	Meadow Pipit	3
Coal Tit	6	Tree Pipit	1
Willow Tit	5	Pied Wagtail	2
Long-Tailed Tit	8	Grey Wagtail	1
Treecreeper	4	Starling	88
Wren	27	Greenfinch	175
Dipper	2	Goldfinch	2
Mistle Thrush	10	Linnet	38
Fieldfare	1	Redpoll	14
Song Thrush	15	Bullfinch	18
Redwing	14	Chaffinch	12
Ring Ouzel	3	Reed Bunting	29
Blackbird	226	House Sparrow	601
Wheatear	1	Tree Sparrow	218
Whinchat	7		<hr/>
			2,217 Total

Totals for individual areas included 1,084 (Blackmoorfoot), 573 (Crosland Moor) and 259 (Edgerton).

ECTOPARASITES

Once again Hippoboscidae (flat flies) were collected and sent to Mr. H. Beaumont of Rotherham for identification. This report is therefore based on his findings.

For terms used see RINGING REPORT

ORNITHOMYA AVICULARIA

IM	Crosland Moor	20.7.75	ex	Blackbird	Juv M	(CH94336)
IMF	Crosland Moor	26.7.75	ex	Blackbird	Juv	(CH94339)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	29.7.75	ex	Blackbird	AdM	(CH94172)
IF	Crosland Moor	31.7.75	ex	Blackbird	Juv M	(CH94342)
IM	Crosland Moor	26.7.75	ex	Starling	Juv M	(XV67416)

ORNITHOMYA FRINGILLINA

IF	Blackmoorfoot	26.8.75	ex	Blue Tit	Juv	(869767)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	21.8.75	ex	Robin	I. Y.	(JV20582)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	24.7.75	ex	Willow Warbler	F. G.	(813472)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	28.7.75	ex	Willow Warbler	F. G.	(813484)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	13.9.75	ex	Dunnock	F. G.	(JX64583)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	25.10.75	ex	Dunnock	F. G.	(JV20977)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	13.9.75	ex	Goldfinch	Juv	(JX64589)
IF	Crosland Moor	1.8.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv F	(BS48345)

ORNITHOMYA CHLOROPUS

SMSF	Digley	8.7.75	ex	Ring Ouzel	3 Pull	(CH39994-96)
IMF	Yateholme	30.7.75	ex	Whinchat	Pull	(JV20937)
IM	Blackmoorfoot	21.7.75	ex	Tree Pipit	F. G.	(JV20600)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	23.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv M	(BS48091)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	23.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	AdF	(BS48095)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	23.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	AdF	(BS48096)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	25.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv	(BS48110)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	25.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv F	(BS48113)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	25.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv	(BS48118)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	25.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv	(BS48122)
IF	Crosland Moor	26.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv M	(BS48206)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	28.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv	(BS48289)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	29.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv M	(BS48294)
2F	Crosland Moor	31.7.75	ex	House Sparrow	Juv M	(BS48320)
4F	Blackmoorfoot	23.7.75	ex	Tree Sparrow	Juv	(JV20840)
LM2F	Blackmoorfoot	24.7.75	ex	Tree Sparrow	Juv	(JV20856)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	25.7.75	ex	Tree Sparrow	Juv	(JV20867)
IF	Blackmoorfoot	2.8.75	ex	Tree Sparrow	Juv	(JV20961)

The record of *O. Fringillina* on Dunnock (JV20977) is of interest as records of this species in the second half of October are few. The most interesting records concern the 'flat flies' from the pulli. Although 'flat flies' are well known from game birds and wader chicks their occurrence on passerine pulli is seemingly infrequent as there are few records.

M. L. DENTON

STATUS OF BIRDS IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 1959 - 1975

Introduction

An attempt is being made through this report to indicate the present status of bird species in the Huddersfield area.

The area under consideration consists of the Ordnance Survey ten-kilometre squares S.E.00, 01, 10, 11, 20 and 21 along with the parts of SE 02 and 12 which lie south of the rivers Ryburn and Calder.

The report is set out in the form of a classified list using the order adopted in 'A Species List of British and Irish Birds' (B. T.O. 1971).

The information on each species is normally split up into three sections

First - an indication of the general status and frequency of the species based on the following categories:-

Resident breeder
Migrant breeder
Partial migrant
Winter visitor
Passage visitor

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

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

For passage and winter visitors the number of birds seen in the area on average in the course of a year have been estimated as placed in the following categories:-

Rare	Less than 1 bird per year
Scarce	1 - 10 birds per year
Uncommon	11 - 100 birds per year
Common	101 - 1000 birds per year
Numerous	1001 or more birds per year

In attempting to establish breeding numbers, and numbers of winter/passage birds, particularly in the case of the more common species, it must be realised that the figures are essentially estimates, and any future research which may prove or disprove the accuracy of these estimates will be welcomed.

Second - a summary of all available records for the years 1959 - 1974, with indications of status changes where possible, details of breeding habitat where appropriate and information on exceptional numbers, and limits of arrival and departure dates.

Third - the 1975 records are summarised as in the normal way for the Annual Report, where they are considered to be of significance.

Some 201 species have been reliably recorded between 1959 and 1975 and a further 22 species are on record as having previously occurred, and these are also listed with reference to the year(s) of occurrence only.

Certain species have been seen in the area but were considered to be escapes and have not been included in the classified list. These species are Bahama Pintail, Egyptian Goose and Snow Goose.

Breeding localities for schedule 1 species have in general not been published, except in case of isolated historic records.

Acknowledgements

As recorder for the Huddersfield Naturalists Antiquarian and Photographic Society from 1959 - 1966, and recorder for the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club from 1966-69, Clifford Disbrey compiled records which have provided invaluable material as a basis for this survey. Paul Bray has done considerable research into the records for his own interest, and generously made available his findings, and also gave assistance on the difficult problem of estimating populations in the area. The many individuals who contributed their own records to the above societies, and to the Yorkshire Naturalists Union, have helped to make a meaningful survey possible.

References

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Yorkshire Naturalist Union, Ornithological Reports 1945 - 1974.

Introduction to the 1975 Report

1975 proved to be an exceptional year with 171 species recorded including Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Mediterranean Gull which were new records for the area.

Spoonbill and Great Grey Shrike were noted for the first time this century, and Garganey, Hobby, Black-tailed Godwit, Hoopoe, Reed Warbler and Firecrest each for only the second time in the last 20 years.

Once again a number of observers spent much of their time in their own favourite localities making visits to such places throughout the year, and thus building up a useful record for comparison in future years.

It is anticipated that by the end of 1976 we shall have sufficient data available to complete B. T. O. Habitat Atlas forms for all the significant localities within the Club area. Any information from interesting or threatened habitats will be of value and of use at a later stage.

Finally I wish to thank all members who submit records for their help throughout the year.

CLASSIFIED LIST

BLACK-THROATED DIVER

Rare visitor. Records in 1917 and 1954

1970 1 at Digley Res. 17th July

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Rare visitor. Records in 1900-01 and 1954.

1961 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. 28th October - 8th November.

1962 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 2nd July.

RED-THROATED DIVER

Rare winter visitor.

1961 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 12th February.

1963 1 each (found dead or dying) at Brownhill Res. and Yateholme Res.
6th January, Mirfield S.F. 18th January and Greetland 4th February.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Resident breeder, abundance 1, and uncommon passage visitor. Breeds at Bretton Park, Ingbirchworth and Scout Dike Res. and is seen annually on other waters.

1975 Bretton Park. Present 1st January - 25th November. 2 pairs reared 3 young.

Also bred at Scout Dike Res., and present at Ingbirchworth Res.
31st March - 12th October, and seen at Blackmoorfoot Res., Brookfoot and Royd Moor Res.

RED-NECKED GREBE

Rare passage and winter visitor.

- 1959 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 21st - 29th November.
1966 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. 13th - 17th February, and 1 21st August -
7th September.
1972 1 at Langsett Res. 28th October.
1975 1 at Scout Dike Res. 16th - 17th August (P.B. et al)

SLAVONIAN GREBE

Rare visitor. Record of 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 11th January, 1958.

- 1967 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. 27th - 28th August.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE

Rare passage and winter visitor. Records in 1945 (4), 1949 and 1956 (2)

- 1959 2 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 10th - 11th September, 1 remaining up to
22nd September.
1963 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. 13th - 20th October.
1967 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 26th April.
1975 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. 16th - 24th August (P.B. et al)

LITTLE GREBE

Resident breeder, abundance 1, and uncommon passage and winter visitor.
After the severe winter of 1963 there was no further proof of breeding until
1972 since when sites have included Bretton Park, Gunthwaite, Gawthorpe,
Langsett, Royd Moor and Scout Dike.

- 1975 Bretton Park. Present all year, maximum 16 on 23rd December.
2 pairs reared at least 3 young.
Ingbirchworth. Present early June - mid December with 7 during
August. Juvenile observed but breeding not proved.
Royd Moor. 1 pair reared 3 young (2 broods).
Scout Dike. 2 pairs reared at least 6 young.
Also seen at Blackmoorfoot Res., Broadstones Res., Elland G.P.,
Harden Res., Lockwood and the canal near Deighton.

STORM PETREL

Rare visitor, record of 1 in 1929.

LEACH'S PETREL

Rare visitor. Records in 1895 and 1952 (3)

- 1963 1 picked up in Huddersfield Centre, 30th September, died later.

MANX SHEAR WATER

Rare visitor. Records in 1879 and 1892.

FULMAR

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1956.

1959 1 picked up near Sheepridge on 22nd May was partially oiled and died on 25th May.

GANNET

Rare visitor. Records in 1909, 1912, 1914 and 1956.

CORMORANT

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Since 1960 a total of 31 records, January - May and September - December, including 1 which remained at Bretton Park from 19th October - 14th December, 1972. As many as 4 together have twice been at Blackmoorfoot Res.

1975 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 14th July and 1 at Bretton Park 12th April.

SHAG

Rare visitor.

1969 1 at Brockholes 26th - 27th March.

1974 1 at Scout Dike and Royd Moor Res. 's - 13th October.

GREY HERON

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon but increasing.

Approximate yearly average of sightings has increased as follows:-

1959 - 1965	10	1966 - 1970	20
1971 - 1973	75	1974 - 1975	120

1975 Bretton Park. Breeding attempted for the first time, but failed, the nest being deserted after 26th April.

Possibility of breeding at 2 other localities and sightings of 1 - 6 at 23 other places.

BITTERN

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1891.

BLACK STORK

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1836.

SPOONBILL

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1850.

1975 1 fed at a small pond south of Penistone 7th - 12th June.
(M. S. Booth, G. Shale).

MALLARD

Resident breeder, abundance 2 - 3, common winter visitor.

Breeding in wetlands of all varieties from the river valleys to the moorlands.

Maximum of 307 at Bretton Park on 1st December, 1973.

1975 Maximum counts.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 60 on 21st December.

Bretton Park 190 on 12th January and 220 on 14th September.

Ringstone Edge 63 on 22nd November.

TEAL

Resident breeder, abundance 1, common passage and winter visitor.

Breeds in moorland localities near reservoirs, ponds and streams.

Maximum of 62 at Langsett Res. on 9th September 1973.

1975 Breeding evidence from 4 moorland localities.

Maxima of 29 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th and 36 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 27th August.

GARGANCY

Rare summer visitor.

1966 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 22nd - 23rd September.

1975 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 29th July (M.L.D. et al)

GADWALL

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

12 records, all 1964 - 1972, in the months of April and September - November, plus 1 at Bretton Park 10th January - 9th February, 1971. Maximum 6 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 19th September 1966.

1975 3 at Elland G.P. 15th June (G.S.) and 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 3rd September (F.J.R.)

WIDGEON

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon but regular.

Occurs annually and has been more frequent since 1969.

The majority of the records are between late August and mid April, but there are records for every month.

Maximum 60 at Blackmoorfoot on 8th October, 1963.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. Early in the year small numbers up to 1 on 14th May. Regular in autumn with maxima of 17 on 27th August and 31 on 10th October.

Also at Bretton Park (1 - 7 1st September - 22nd November).

Digley Res. (2 on 23rd March, 6 on 5th and 18 on 10th October and 2 on 12th November), and Ingbirchworth Res. (14 on 10th August, 9 on 28th October, 1 - 2 later).

PINTAIL

Passage and winter visitor, formerly rare, now uncommon.

Irregular from 1959 - 1966, but an increasing number since then mainly at Blackmoorfoot Res. and Bretton Park. With one exception all records are from 18th August - 14th March. Maximum of 17 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th August, 1973.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 9 dates 29th August, - 23rd September (6 on 8th September), 2 on 19th October and 1 on 23rd December.

Bretton Park. 1 on 21st - 28th December; Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 8th - 9th March; and Scout Dike Res. 1 on 16th August.

SHOVELLER

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

Observed annually and has been noted in every month. No apparent change in status. Maximum 12 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th December, 1960.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 4th and 2 on 6th March; 2 on 1st April, 2 on 14th May; 2 on 29th July; 5 on 3rd, 2 on 6th and 3 on 15th August, 2 on 22nd September; 3 on 25th - 26th October and 3 on 25th November.

Bretton Park 1 on 3rd March; Ingbirchworth Res. 5 on 28th July; 2 on 6th August; 1 on 15th, 3 on 23rd and 1 on 30th November.

MANDARIN DUCK

Possible escape. One drake at Bretton Park from 16th November, 1974 to 26th April, 1975.

SCAUP

Passage and winter visitor, scarce. Seven records 1950 - 1958.

Only 6 records 1959 - 1967 since when it has been observed annually.

Records for every month except May mostly late September - March.

Maximum 11 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th October, 1972.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 5th and 1 on 6th November.

Bretton Park 1 on 23rd November.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 5th - 27th December.

TUFTED DUCK

Resident breeder, abundance 1, common passage and winter visitor. Bred at Bretton Park up to 1964 and since 1972 but not always successfully. Maximum 327 at Bretton Park on 23rd November, 1974.

1975 Bretton Park. Present all year with maxima of 124 on 15th January and 120 on 9th November.

Also seen on various dates at Black Moss, Blackmoorfoot Res., Digley Res., Hall Dike, Ingbirchworth Res. (43 on 28th July), Ringstone Edge Res, Royd Moor Res. and Scout Dike Res.

POCHARD

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon - common.

Maximum 154 at Bretton Park on 31st December, 1972.

1975 Bretton Park. Present up to 29th March (61 on 8th January)
and from 16th July. (130 on 9th November)

Smaller numbers at Blackmoorfoot (20 on 18th September). Ingbirchworth
(31 on 23rd November) Ringstone Edge, Royd Moor, Scammonden
and Scout Dike reservoirs.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK

Rare visitor. Records in 1858 and 1947

1964 1 at Bretton Park 20th December.

1971 1 at Bretton Park 7th and 27th November.

1973 1 at Langsett Res. 4th September.

GOLDENEYE

Winter and passage visitor, uncommon but regular.

Most records between early October and late April, with other records,
usually singles, May - September. No change in status. Maximum 22 at
Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th March, 1972.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. Regular up to 24th April (4), one remained
to 21st July, returning on 10th October (3) to year end.

Maximum 19 on 2nd March.

1 - 6 occurred at 15 waters with up to 8 regularly at Bretton Park
January - February, and 10 at Royd Moor on 7th December.

21 were at Langsett Res. on 7th December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK

Rare visitor. Records in 1939, 1950, 1955 and 1956.

1964 1 at Ringstone Edge Res. 12th January

1971 1 at Deer Hill Res. 2nd - 5th May

VELVET SCOTER

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1950.

1960 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 14th March.

1962 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 24th November

1969 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 29th October

1975 2 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 19th July (M.L.D., G.M.Y.)

COMMON SCOTER

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Although it has occurred in every month the majority of records are July -
August. Exceptional flocks occurred as follows:-

72 West over Ossett on 27th July, 1959; 45 West over Kirkheaton on 29th July, 1962, and 90 at Blackmoorfoot on 11th August, 1965. No flocks of more than 7 have been observed since 1966.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 5th June, 2 on 30th August.
 Royd Moor Res. 1 on 27th July.

RED-BREASTED MER GANSER

Rare visitor. Records on 3 dates in 1952 and 1953.

Records of 1 - 2 on 6 dates October - December between 1960 and 1972, plus 1 at Elland G.P. on 26th April, 1970 and 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th July, 1972.

GOOSANDER

Winter and passage visitor, scarce.

Practically annual since 1963 with a notable increase from 1969. Records on 39 dates in the last 7 years all but 3 of which were between 7th November and 19th February.

Maximum 10 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd January, 1969.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 30th January and 2 on 14th December.
 Bretton Park 1 on 3rd, 19th and 25th - 26th January

SMEW

Rare visitor.

1959 1 at Scout Dike Res. 28th December.
1970 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 29th March and 1 on 16th April.
1971 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 1st January and 1 on 21st December.
1974 5 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 8th November.
1975 1 at Langsett Res. 7th December (R.W. et al)

SHELDUCK

Passage and winter visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Less than 10 records before 1959 since when it has become annual with an increase from 1964 to as many as 20 sightings in 1974. Maximum 19 at Digley Res. on 4th December, 1973. Records in every month except June.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 - 6 on 11 dates plus 37 on 3rd September which were flying West.
 Ingbirchworth Res. 8 on 2nd and 16 on 9th September which after alighting briefly, took off and flew West.

GREY LAG GOOSE

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Usually in skeins overhead which sometimes contain both this species and the more frequently noted Pink-footed Goose.

The largest skein was of about 100 flying east over Newsome on 14th December, 1968. 1 - 2 birds (escapes) have remained, sometimes for a few days, on various waters usually during April and May.

WHITE-FOOTED GOOSE

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1957.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Passage visitor, scarce - common.

Although many skeins are not identified the majority of those that are refer to this species. Usually observed between mid October and mid February and predominantly moving west, although skeins have been seen flying east, and to an even lesser extent north and south.

1975, Skeins over Shepley (40 → SE) on 16th November,
Langsett (170 → NW) on 30th November and Salendine Nook
(20 → W) on 8th December.

BRENT GOOSE

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1949.

BARNACLE GOOSE

Rare visitor. Record of 9 in 1891.

Records at Bretton Park in 1963 and Gawthorpe in 1973 - 74 were assumed to be escaped birds.

1966 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 7th - 8th May

1975 3 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 6th October.

1 at Bretton Park. 16th March - 4th April.

CANADA GOOSE

Resident breeder, abundance 1, and partial migrant.

Up to 10 pairs breed annually at Bretton Park rearing over 50 young in some years. Maximum count at Bretton was 178 on 1st November 1970. Regular ringing of this flock has proved that local movements do occur particularly to Nottinghamshire and North Yorkshire, but also 2 ringed in 1966 visited Beaulieu Firth, Invernesshire in 1968 on a moult migration.

1975 Bretton Park. Maximum of 133 on 29th June including 19 juveniles.

MUTE SWAN

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

Spasmodic breeding at mill dams, reservoirs, lakes, canals and rivers.

Maximum herd 18 at Bretton Park during the 1962-63 winter.

1975 Bretton Park. 1 pair reared 4 young.

Also seen at Birds Edge, Denby Dale, Kings Mill Lane and Millfield Flash.

WHOOPEE SWAN

Winter visitor, scarce.

Small parties of 1 - 10 annually most frequently in December and January.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 7 on 17th - 18th January.

Bretton Park. 1 on 22nd November.

BEWICK'S SWAN

Winter visitor, uncommon.

Observed annually sometimes in reasonable sized herds such as 66 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 2nd March, 1964 and up to 49 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th - 10th January, 1971 and 31 - 32 at Ingbirchworth Res. on the same date.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 2nd, 4 on 5th, 23 on 9th - 10th, 5 on 11th, and 4 on 25th November.

Digley Res. 6 on 24th November.

Scout Dike Res. 2 on 1st - 5th January.

BUZZARD

Passage and winter visitor, rare.

Records of 1 - 2 in 8 of the years 1960 - 1972.

1975 1 at Holme Moss on 10th May (T.W.F.); 1 in the Elland - Brighouse area during August, 1 at Shelley on 2nd October (D.Ba) and 1 at Emley Woodhouse on 16th November (D.P.)

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD

Winter visitor, rare. One earlier record only, before 1915.

1974 Singles seen at Fulshaw 15th February, Swinden Plantation 20th March, and over Langsett Res. 16th November.

SPARROWHAWK

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

Formerly not scarce with up to 10 sites occupied in 7 localities in both coniferous and deciduous woodlands. Breeding numbers decreased through the '60's and in the years '68 - '69 and '71 - '73 no evidence of breeding was recorded.

1975 Sightings from 10 localities showed as in 1974 an increase over earlier years. Pairs were present at 2 localities with successful breeding at one of these.

GOOSHAWK

Rare visitor.

1966 1 at Grimescar Wood on 11th June and Castle Hill on 16th June.

1967 1 at Farnley Line on 26th August.

1974 1 at Tinker Hill on 15th September.

These records may refer to birds lost by falconers.

HONEY BUZZARD

Rare visitor. Records in 1859 or 1860 and 1874.

HEN HARRIER

Passage and winter visitor, rare. Records of 3 singles 1950 - 1956.

Records on 7 dates of singles 1960 - 1974 usually in moorland localities.

1975 Withens Brook 1 on 2nd February (D.W.Y.)
 Fulshaw 1 on 23rd February (J.E.D.)
 Slaidwaite Moor 1 on 30th November (B.W.W.)

MONTAGUS HARRIER

Passage visitor, rare. Record of 1 in 1882
1961 1 at Deerhill on 24th - 25th August.

OSPREY

Passage visitor, rare. Record of 1 in 1952.
1965 1 at Brownhill Res. 22nd September - 13th October.
1971 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 9th May.

HOBBY

Passage visitor, rare. Records in 1858, 1883 and 1954.
1964 1 at Broadstones 23rd June.
1975 1 at Royd Moor 13th July (P.B.)

PEREGRINE

Passage visitor, rare. Record of 1 in 1952.
Singles overhead at Linthwaite on 23rd April, 1972 and Lindley Moor on
1st July, 1973.
1975 Probable escape in Meltham - Marsden area during the second half
 of the year.

MERLIN

Resident breeder, abundance 1 and partial migrant.
1 - 3 pairs have bred annually at moorland localities with regular sightings
elsewhere in autumn and winter.
1975 At known breeding sites one pair reared 2 young, but at another
 site the eggs were smashed.
 Singles were at 5 other localities January - April and October - December,
 whilst singles were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th January, 19th February,
 5th - 27th September (5 dates), 30th November - 31st December (10
 dates).

RED-FOOTED FALCON

Rare visitor.
1968 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. 5th June.

KESTREL

Resident breeder, abundance 2.
Widely distributed in a variety of habitats with breeding sites in woodlands,
copses, crags, quarries and buildings.
1975 Breeding evidence, mainly successful, from 18 localities.

RED GROUSE

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

Thinly distributed on moorlands mainly above 1000', usually in heather, which is lacking in some moorland areas.

1975 Over 50 on Slaithwaite Moor on 22nd November.

BLACK GROUSE

Scarce visitor.

1972 1 pair in the Yateholme area on 24th September.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Resident, breeding not proved. Records in 1956-57.

Records from High Flatts and Ingbirchworth (1963, 1971, 1973-74), Bradley (1968-69) and Midgley (1974)

1975 Whitley Common 1 on 9th, and 14th May (T.W.F.)
Bank Wood, nr. Midgley 1 on 15th June (D.By)

PARTRIDGE

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Breeds on farmland at all altitudes including moorland fringes.

1975 Reports from 10 localities with breeding evidence from 3.

QUAIL

Summer visitor, rare. Casual breeder. - last confirmed in 1947.

Usually records are only of singles but 2 - 3 were at Ingbirchworth June - August 1964, and at least 2 at Crosland Moor 12th June - 17th July, 1969.

1975 Bank Wood, Midgley 1 on 13th July (J.B., D.By).

PHEASANT

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Thinly distributed in farmland and woodland mainly in the east of the area.

1975 Breeding reported from Bretton and Shepley.

WATER RAIL

Winter visitor, and possible breeder.

Most records are from Bretton Park, but also Kirkburton S.F., Lees Mills, Longwood Res. and Ossett S.F. all between September and April.

1975 Bretton Park. 2 records of singles in each of the months February, October and November.
Elland G.P. 1 - 2 regularly August - December.

CORNCRAKE

Rare summer visitor. Bred in the area up to 1947.

Heard calling as follows:-

1959 Ingbirchworth; 1961 at Woodsome in May; 1963 at Lumb Lane, Almondbury in July and 1965 at Farnley Tyas in June.

BAILLON'S CRAKE

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1874.

MOORHEN

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

Breeding in wetland areas of all types from lowland sites by rivers and canals up to high moorland reservoirs such as Black Moss and March Haigh.

COOT

Resident breeder, abundance 2, and winter visitor uncommon - common, Bretton Park is a regular breeding locality for up to 20 pairs, and during the last 10 years a slow spread to other waters particularly in the Ingbirchworth area has occurred. Maximum of c.350 at Bretton Park on 24th November, 1973.

1975 Bretton Park. Maxima c.260 on 8th January and c.330 on 7th December. Bred successfully but no details recorded. Bred also at Elland G.P., Canthwaite Dam, Royd Moor Res. (1 pair each), Scout Dike Res. (2 pairs) and a pair present at Ingbirchworth Res. in August and September.

OYSTERCATCHER

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon.

1959 - 1969 only 2 - 3 records annually of 1 - 3 birds mainly in July and August. 1970 - 1974 period showed a notable increase with from 4 - 9 records annually including several February - April.

Maxima of 11 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17th August 1970 and 30th July 1974.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 17th and 1 on 24th July; 3 on 15th, 1 on 26th, 2 on 30th and 1 on 31st August, and 2 on 12th October.
Bretton Park 1 on 12th June. Marsden 4 west on 24th July.

LAPWING

Resident/migrant breeder, abundance 3, and winter visitor, numerous. Breeds on farmlands, rough pastures and occasionally on moorlands at all altitudes up to 1300' but is most common on moorland fringes at 700' - 1100'. The largest flock recorded was one of at least 5,000 near South Crosland on 19th August, 1970.

1975 Flocks of 1,000+ near Broadstones on 27th July, and 1550 at Blackmoorfoot on 24th August.

RINGED PLOVER

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon, at reservoirs.

Numbers and frequency fluctuate considerably, six or fewer records per year

1960 - 1966, 1968, 1972 - 73, more frequent in the other years. Of more than 200 records 90% were between 19th July and 15th October, about 10% April - June and 2 records only in November. Maxima of 25 on 17th August, 1974 at Blackmoorfoot Res.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. Frequent 19th July - 2nd October, with 11 on 5th September.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 10th and 1 on 17th June.

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 31st July Scout Dike Res. 1 on 17th August.

Ingbirchworth Res. 2 on 31st August, Royd Moor Res. 1 on 28th September.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Summer visitor, breeding evidence in some recent years, and scarce passage visitor. First record was 1 at Cupwith Res. on 6th May, 1966. Annually since then, with breeding at one site with variable success since 1967, and in 1971 a pair reared 2 young at Deer Hill Res.

1975 1 - 3 birds present at the breeding site.

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 15th - 16th June. Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 6th August, Scout Dike Res. 1 on 6th September.

GREY PLOVER

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Record of 1 in 1940.

One record in each year 1969 and 1971, three records each year 1972 - 1974 the months being February, May, August - October and December.

1975 1 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 31st July (N.L.)

GOLDEN PLOVER

Migrant breeder, abundance 2 - 3, passage and winter visitor, common.

Breeds on high moorlands mainly in areas of peat bog and cotton grass.

Visitor to open farmlands and reservoir margins.

1975 A flock of 550 at Whitley Common on 16th March was mainly of the Northern sub-species. Blackmoorfoot Res. maximum was 400 on 22nd September. Other smaller flocks early and late in the year at Ringstone Edge and the Ingbirchworth area.

DOTTEREL

Rare visitor. Records in 1914 and 1958.

1959 1 near Ingbirchworth 2nd May.

TURNSTONE

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Records in 1937 and 1952.

A total of only 9 records in the years 1961 - 1972 was followed by 8 records in 1974.

There were 3 records for early May but the remainder were between 10th July and 22nd September.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 11 on 18th, and what were probably separate parties of 5 and 10 on 19th and 8 on 30th August.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 21st September.

SNIPE

Resident breeder, abundance 3 and passage/winter visitor common. Breeds mainly in marshy upland pastures and on moorlands. Largest gatherings at reservoir margins in the autumn such as Blackmoorfoot Res. where the maximum of 85-90 occurred in November 1972 - 74.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 92 on 1st November;
Ingirchworth Res. 50+ 2nd - 8th November and
Ringstone Edge Res. 60+ on 6th November, were the highest counts at reservoirs, and there were 37 near Hall Dike on 28th December.

JACK SNIPE

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Records annually usually of 1 - 2 birds between early October and late March. Localities such as Colne Bridge, Cooper Bridge, Elland and Ossett S.F.s, Blackmoorfoot Res., Bretton Park, Dean Wood and Harrow Clough have been frequented.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 18th and 2 on 25th October,
1 on 1st and 2 on 8th November.

WOODCOCK

Resident breeder, abundance 1, and winter visitor uncommon. It is unlikely that we have a true picture of this species' breeding distribution in the area, but over the years roding has been noted at 15 localities, and winter records show an even wider distribution.

1975 Roding observed at Bullcliffe, Fulshaw, Langsett, Shepley and Yateholme. Other records of singles were at Edgerton, Blackmoorfoot, Bretton Park (2 on 22nd November), Grimescar, Hall Dike, Royd Moor and Home Styes.

CURLEW

Migrant breeder, abundance 2 and passage visitor, common. Breeding birds usually return to the high moorlands and rough pastures in early March remaining until August. Scarce in winter. Largest flock recorded 40 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17th August, 1962.

1975 First records in several areas on 2nd March, last at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd October. 33 at Yateholme Res. at dusk on 6th April.

WHIMBREL

Passage visitor, scarce.

No records in the years 1961 - 63, 1965, 1968-69 otherwise annual with a small number of spring records 25th April - 21st May, an exceptional record on 14th June, and 80% of records between 19th July and 10th September.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 19th and 20th, and 2 on 29th July;
a flock of 19 flying S. on 6th and 3 present on 9th August.
Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 28th July.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1940.

1974 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 14th August.

1975 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 19th August (B.A., J.E.D. et al)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Records in 1941 and 1958.

No records from 1959 until 11th November, 1967 when 23 flew west over Blackmoorfoot Res. The years 1969 - 72 and 1974 averaged 2 records per year all between April and October.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 19th and 1 on 22nd July; 2 on 6th and 1 on 8th and 9th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Recorded annually with records for every month except May.

Can be found in any type of wetland habitat, and individuals have wintered in localities such as Bretton 1959 - 60 and 1964, and Cawthorne 1961. 5 at Deerhill Res. in late August 1959.

1975 Singles at the following localities:-

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1st, 10th, 23rd and 27th August;

Ingbirchworth Res. 28th March; Yateholme 6th August;

Royd Moor Res. 16th and 19th August and 8th November;

Lindley Moor 29th August; Scout Dike Res. 12th October.

WOOD SANDPIPER

Rare passage visitor. Records in 1939, 1952 and 1954.

Records at Ossett Healey S.F. 27th July - 3rd August and 2nd - 3rd September, 1959, Horbury S.F. 7th - 15th July, 1960, Ingbirchworth Res. 8th - 9th August 1960 (2) and Blackmoorfoot Res. 13th August 1961 and 6th August 1965.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 5th August came in from east and departed west 1 minute later (J.E.D., M.L.D.)

COMMON SANDPIPER

Migrant breeder abundance 2, and passage visitor uncommon.

Usually arrives about 20th April and is last seen at end of September.

An exceptionally early date was 7th March 1964 at Horbury Bridge, and 2 late birds were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th November, 1970.

1975 First 2 at Ingbirchworth Res. 20th April, and last 1 at Royd Moor Res. on 28th September. One was seen by the R. Calder near Elland G.P. on several dates from October to December.

REDSHANK

Migrant breeder abundance 2, and passage visitor uncommon.

Breeding on moorland pastures and marshes and visits other wetlands of all types. Usually present in the area from March to mid September with a few records outside these dates notably 1 - 2 at The Wyke, Horbury, in December, 1973.

1975 First 1 at Ringstone Edge on 2nd March. Late records of singles in the Ingbirchworth area from late November to the year end, and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st December. Breeding evidence with numbers of pairs as follows:- Black Moss (3), Cupwith (1), Deanhead (1), Ringstone Edge (1), Rishworth Moor (1) and Whitley Common (1 - 2).

SPOTTED REDSHANK

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Records in 1949, 1951 and 1955.

Only 6 more records in the years 1959 - 1971 since when there has been an increase in sightings to 4, 6 and 7 respectively in the years 1972 - 74.

Maximum 4 at Horbury on 16th September, 1973.

Records all between 1st August and 18th September with the exception of 1 June and 1 October record.

1975 Ringstone Edge Res. 1 in summer plumage on 16th June (J.E.D., S.M.D.)

GREENSHANK

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Of annual occurrence usually mid July - late September with a scattering of records outside this period the earliest being 1 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 1st March, 1959 and the latest 2 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 14th October, 1962. Maximum 8 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th August, 1974.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 - 3 on 13 dates 15th July - 10th September.
Ingbirchworth Res. 2 - 3 21st - 31st August (5 on 31st), 1 on 3rd 2 - 4 on 6th - 9th, singles on 13th - 14th, 20th - 21st, 27th - 28th September.

Royd Moor Res. Singles on 9th and 28th August and 6th September.

Yateholme Res. 1 on 6th August; Ringstone Edge Res. 4 on 18th August.

KNOT

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Record of 1 in 1938.

Records of singles in 1959 and 1969, since when it has become more frequent with 2, 5, 2 and 3 records respectively in the years 1971 - 74. Most records late July - late September with a few autumn records up to 6th December, and one spring record only of 2 on 25th May, 1971 at Deerhill Res. Maximum 10 flying west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd September, 1973.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 12th September (M.L.D.)

PURPLE SANDPIPER

Rare visitor. Two records only, one before 1915 and one in 1954.

LITTLE STINT

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Six records 1939 - 1957.

Twelve records only in the years 1959-60, 1970-71 and 1973 of 1 - 3 birds between 25th July and 12th October.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 22nd and 1 on 23rd August
Deerhill Res. 1 on 30th August.

TEMMINCK'S STINT

Rare visitor. Records of 7 and 1 in 1939.

DUNLIN

Migrant breeder abundance 2, passage and winter visitor uncommon.

Breeds amongst moorland peat bogs, and as a visitor is seen mainly on reservoir margins, but also by rivers, sewage farms and gravel pits.

Passage birds mainly mid July - late October, but has been noted in every month, and breeding birds return during April.

1975 The earliest record was as late as 7th May when 2 were at Cupwith Res. where 3 pairs bred later. Breeding records also from Black Moss. 22 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd July, and 4 there as late as 22nd December. Small numbers at other reservoirs with 3 - 5 at Ingbirchworth and Broadstones from late November - mid December.

CURLEW SANDPIPER

Rare passage visitor. Records in 1943, 1946, 1951 and 1952.

1959 1 at Ossett S.F.

1966 1 at Cupwith Res. 20th August.

1969 2 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 4th September.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 10 on 25th August came in from east and continued westwards after circling for two minutes (M.L.D., J.E.D.) and 9 landed on the west bank on 8th September before flying westwards one minute later (P.B., M.L.D.).

SANDERLING

Passage visitor, rare - scarce.

Single records only 1959, 1961 - 62, 1964 and 1967 but 7 records in the years 1970 - 73, and an exceptional total of 11 records (all Blackmoorfoot Res.) in 1974. Most records July - September, maximum 4 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 10th August 1970.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 15th, 3 on 23rd, 1 on 24th and 3 on 26th July; 1 on 16th August and 5 on 26th September.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Rare visitor.

1975

This was a new species to the area during an autumn in which an unprecedented number of these birds visited Britain.
Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 first seen at 18.00 hours on 28th August (G.M.Y., M.L.D.) feeding on the western shore where it remained until 07-20 hours on 29th, when it flew west to Deerhill Res. where it remained until 18.30 hours before flying west after being disturbed (J.E.D.)
What was probably another individual was seen first at 17.30 hours on 15th September (F.J.R.) on the east bank and seen again in the same area on the 17th September.
Accepted by B.B. Rarities Committee

RUFF

Passage visitor, rare - scarce.

Only 5 records 1959 - 1968, but more frequent since 1970 with 27 records in the 1970 - 1974 period. Except for 1 at Deerhill Res. on 23rd June, 1973 all were between 3rd August and 25th September. Maximum 6 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th September 1974.

1975

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 5th, 11th, 15th and 22nd August, 3 on 1st, 1 on 9th, 10th, 12th and 17th September.
Scout Dike Res. 1 on 16th - 18th August. Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 3rd September.

GREY PHALAROPE

Rare visitor.

1969

1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 28th - 29th November.

STONE CURLEW

Rare visitor. Record in 1865 and one other record.

1964

1 at Cooper Bridge S.F. 2nd September.

ARCTIC SKUA

Rare visitor.

1969

3 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 13th September.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Winter visitor, uncommon - common.

A big increase in the numbers observed at the Blackmoorfoot Res. roost has been noted during the period. 50 was the largest count before 1970 and the maximum for the years 1971 - 1974 has been in the region of 400 - 600. The roost numbers build up during October and reach their maxima during December - January declining steadily to end March. Small numbers occur in April and the species is usually absent to mid September.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maximum about 600 on 1st January
Ringstone Edge roost about 100 on 20th December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Passage and winter visitor - numerous

Present throughout the year with peak numbers occurring at the Blackmoorfoot roost March - April (maximum 700 in April 1973), and July - November (maximum 1,000 in September 1972). A few birds of the Scandinavian race have been noted in recent years.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maxima of 350, March - April and 750 in August.

HERRING GULL

Winter and passage visitor, numerous.

Whilst the numbers wintering in the area have undoubtedly increased considerably since 1959 the records prior to 1970 are rather scanty, and the maximum noted in the Blackmoorfoot Res. roost before 1970 was 350 in January 1965. Substantial numbers (300+) are at the roost from October to April, the maximum being noted in January, and the highest figure of about 2,000 was recorded on 1st January 1973 and 1974.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maximum 1,300 on 24th January.

COMMON GULL

Winter and passage visitor, numerous.

A significant increase in the annual maximum in the Blackmoorfoot Res. roost has occurred from 200 in March 1963 to 1,200 in March 1974. Numbers build up from August - December remaining fairly high (800) to March, and declining during April. Occasional records May - June, and more regular in July.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maximum 1,300 on 18th February.

GLAUCOUS GULL

Winter visitor, rare - scarce. Record of 1 in 1954.

With the exception of singles at Ringstone Edge Res. on 26th November 1967 and 14th January, 1973 all the records have been at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 1 on 23rd January 1965 to regular sightings of 2 - 3 individuals annually from 1970 - 1974.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 in 1st winter plumage 9th April (P.B., M.L.D.)

ICELAND GULL

Winter visitor, rare - scarce.

All the records have been at Blackmoorfoot Res. commencing with singles in 1960, 1965 and 1968, followed by regular sightings since 1970, when at least 7 individuals were involved (as in 1974) and 2 - 3 individuals in the years 1971 - 1973.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult on 8th January, and 1 1st winter on 8 dates 29th March - 9th April.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

Rare visitor.

1975 1 immature observed on the shore at Blackmoorfoot Res. at 20.00 hours on 4th August for 10 minutes before it departed westwards (P.B.) First record for the area.

LITTLE GULL

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Records in 1951, 1957 and 1958. With the exception of 1 at Heaton Lodge S.F. on 5th September 1971, all the records were at Blackmoorfoot Res. and were mainly of singles with one for each month March - May, nine records 2nd August - 22nd October, in the years 1961, 1963-64, 1971, 1973-74 plus 1 on 20th December, 1969.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Resident breeder abundance 2, passage and winter visitor numerous. The numbers in the breeding colony at Black Moss have fluctuated considerably but it has not been fully studied and the numbers for 1975 are the best on record. The Blackmoorfoot Res. roost maximum has shown an increase from 2,500 in December 1963 to 7,000 in January 1971. Numbers at the roost 1971 - 1974 from October to March have usually be in excess of 2,000 with a peak of 5,000+ in January.

1975 Maximum count at Blackmoorfoot Res. c.7,000 on 18th January. At least 70 pairs nested at Black Moss and 220 flying young were counted in early July. Ringstone Edge Res. roost c.2,000, 20th December.

KITTIWAKE

Passage visitor, rare - scarce. Records in 1911, 1943, and 1952. A total of 14 records 1962 - 1974, of 1 - 4 birds, January - May, August, October - November, at Blackmoorfoot, Brownhill, Digley and Ingbirchworth Res.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult on 22nd February.

BLACK TERN

Passage visitor - scarce.

Almost annual, with 3 May records but most frequent 31st July - 27th September. Maximum 18 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th August 1962.

1975 Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 19th July; 1 on 13th, 3 on 16th, 2 on 17th, 1 on 18th - 25th and 29th August, and 1 on 8th September. Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 4th and 7th August.

COMMON TERN/ARCTIC TERN

Passage visitor, scarce - uncommon.

As these species are not always specifically identified particularly in autumn, they have grouped together. They are of annual occurrence with a few early records (average 2 per year) 19th April - early July, but the majority (up to 20 records per year) late July - mid September, and scattered records in October. The largest parties have occurred at Blackmoorfoot Res., where they are usually observed moving westwards, and there were 33 of either or both species on 26th August, 1974, and of those specifically identified the largest number was 15 Arctic Terns on 17th August, 1970.

1975 1 at Slaithwaite on 1st May.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Small numbers regularly 21st July - 2nd October with 15+ on 16th, 13 (12 Common Terns) on 17th and 24 on 19th August.

Hall Dike. 2 on 8th August; Deerhill 1 on 30th August

Outlane c.30 flying west 30th August. Skelmanthorpe 1 on 12th September.

LITTLE TERN

Rare visitor.

1974 Elland G.P. 1 on 9th - 15th September with 2 on 10th
First record for the area.

SANDWICH TERN

Rare visitor. One record in 1957.

1970 Bretton Park 1 on 17th August.

1975 Bretton Park 2 on 7th September.

RAZORBILL

Rare visitor. Records in 1907 and 1911.

LITTLE AUK

Rare visitor. Records in 1935 and 1948.

GUILLEMOT

Rare visitor.

1964 Lindley Moor. 1 picked up alive on 26th September died a few days later.

PUFFIN

Rare visitor. Records in 1921 and 1958.

PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE

Rare visitor. Record of a small flock in 1888.

STOCK DOVE

Resident breeder, abundance 2 - 3

Winter flocks of 70 - 80 on Royd Moor in January 1971 and 65 on Outlane Moor in January 1972 were exceptional.

1975 Breeding sites in 10 different localities included quarries, old Buildings and holes in mature trees.

WOODPIGEON

Resident breeder abundance 4, winter visitor - numerous.

Breeds in woodlands and copses of all varieties throughout the area. Large flocks annually October - April, the largest being of over 2,000 near West Bretton in December 1973.

1975 Breeding proof from many localities but no flocks of over 500 reported.

TURTLE DOVE

Migrant breeder, abundance 1.

Pairs occur annually at woodlands on the east of the area but little conclusive proof of breeding has been obtained.

Earliest record 2 at Dalton on 10th May 1972, and latest 1 at Ossett S.F. on 12th October, 1971.

1975 Deffer Wood, 1 - 2 singing 10th May - 21st June; Digley 1 on 29th June; Midgley 1† on 21st May.

COLLARED DOVE

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

The first records in the area were at Bretton Park in 1963, and at Grimescar, Salendine Nook and Ossett in 1964. The frequency and distribution of records increased, and breeding was first confirmed in 1969 at Edgerton and Kirkheaton, although may have occurred earlier in the north east of the area. The species has continued to spread and is being seen in larger flocks outside the spring and summer months. 103 were at Horbury on 5th December, 1973.

1975 Widely distributed in central and eastern parts of the area. Largest gathering reported was 24+ at Edgerton on 7th December.

CUCKOO

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

Although no really satisfactory evidence is available there is a general impression of a decrease in numbers, particularly in the built up and low lying areas, which commenced in the 1950's and continued to the mid 1960's since when there has been no marked change. Now most frequently recorded from valleys adjacent to moorlands and wooded areas in the east of the district.

Earliest record 10th April, 1959 at Cowcliffe, latest 14th September 1973 at Royd Moor.

1975 First 1 at Crossleys Plantation on 26th April, and last a juvenile on 4th September at Blackmoorfoot. Up to 4 in the Digley area and 2 at Yateholme, April - July, and 2 at Hall Dike all summer with isolated reports from 13 other localities.

BARN OWL

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

It is doubtful if the records up to 1972 (which averaged less than 2 sightings per year) really reflected the status of the species. However since that date breeding at 3 sites has been confirmed almost annually, and from the accumulation of records at other localities at least 8 more pairs could be in the area.

1975 Two pairs reared 4 and 2 young respectively and reports of singles were received from 7 other localities.

EAGLE OWL

Rare visitor. Record of 1 only in 1885.

LITTLE OWL

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Widely distributed in the area at altitudes up to 1200' favouring the more open country and nesting in a variety of sites including old buildings, stone walls and old trees in fairly open situations. From the records received over the 16 years about 40 pairs are probably present annually,

1975 Records received from 27 localities with evidence of breeding or birds holding territory at 14 of these.

TAWNY OWL

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

A bird which due to its nocturnal habits is rather less well recorded than the previous species although it is more widely distributed, and probably rather more common. Occurs in woodlands and copses of all types, and is quite frequently found in residential areas with mature trees.

1975 Breeding evidence from 8 localities, and records from 14 other localities.

LONG-EARED OWL

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

A record of 1 at Deffer Wood on 17th April 1960 was the last until 1 was caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd September 1972. The discovery of successful breeding pairs at one locality in 1973, which was confirmed in 1974 (2 pairs, at least 3 young each) suggested that the species may have bred undiscovered for some years.

1975 Situation uncertain, but at least 2 pairs each reared 1 or more young birds.

SHORT-EARED OWL

Resident and migrant breeder, abundance 1.

Records have been annual, and not infrequent, covering all months of the year despite which no proof of breeding was on record before 1975. A maximum of 5 were at Scammonden on 24th February, 1973.

1975 A pair reared 2 young from a nest in bracken at a moorland locality, and there was an unconfirmed report of a pair at another similar site. Other records from Scammonden (9 sightings, 1 - 2), Wessenden (3 sightings, 1 - 2) and Deerhill (1 sighting).

NIGHTJAR

Summer visitor, scarce.

Probably has been a sporadic breeder, but no proof ever established. Records of singing males during the period from Grimescar/Fixby, High Hoyland, Houses Hill/Whitley Beaumont and Langsett. An early migrant was seen in a Lockwood garden on 29th April 1964.

1975 Heard at Fixby during June.

SWIFT

Migrant breeder, abundance 3.

The earliest record is of 1 at Thunderbridge on 22nd April 1962, but numbers do not usually arrive until mid May. Except for 1 picked up freshly dead at Brockholes on 28th October, 1961 the latest was 1 on 23rd September 1964 at Milnsbridge. It is difficult to establish the true extent of the breeding population due to the inaccessible nature of most of the breeding sites on tall buildings such as mills. Weather movements are fairly frequently noted such as 380 moving west at Blackmoorfoot on 28th May 1972.

1975 First records of singles on 3rd May at Bretton, and Hall Dike where the last was seen on 8th September. 100+ were over Bretton on 3rd June, but no other large numbers or movements were reported.

ALPINE SWIFT

Rare visitor. Records in 1872, 1881 and 1892.

KINGFISHER

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

Records were very few in the early years of the period and a decline certainly took place during the severe winter of 1962-63. However the species continued to be observed annually at Bretton Park where breeding has been confirmed during the 1970's. Breeding also confirmed at Cawthorne and Kirkburton, and probable near Linthwaite.

1975 2 pairs bred near Bretton Park although 1 nest was destroyed, and 1 pair near Elland reared 3 young. Other records from Hagg Wood, Blackmoorfoot and Golcar by the canal.

ROLLER

Rare visitor.

1968 1 at Bretton Park, 31st August - 1st October.

HOOPOE

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1911.

1960 1 at Fixby on 3rd May found dead having been recently shot.

1975 1 at Cawthorne on 8th September (Mrs. R. Dugmore).

GREEN WOODPECKER

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

By the early 1960's the species had recovered from the setback of the severe 1947 winter, and was well distributed in more open localities with mature deciduous trees. Numbers were very much reduced after the 1962-63 winter and sightings rather infrequent up to 1966. A notable increase in records and breeding proof had taken place by 1973 - 74, but the species is still missing from some former breeding areas of the late '50's - early '60's.

1975 Breeding evidence from Digley, Hall Dike and Hagg Wood and regular sightings at Booth Wood, Bretton Park and Stones Wood.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Resident breeder abundance 2.

Well distributed in the eastern and central parts of the area occurring in mature woodlands of all types, but less common in the moorland approaches of the west.

1975 Although recorded at 18 localities (some of them regularly) breeding proof was only obtained at Beaumont Park, Bretton Park and Hagg Wood.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Resident breeder abundance 1.

Sightings of 1 - 3 birds at Bretton Park have been almost annual up to April and after October, but of rare occurrence whilst the trees were in full leaf. Breeding was confirmed only in 1972 but doubtless took place in other years. The only other localities on record are 2 at Denby Dale in June 1960, 1 at Mollicar Wood in April 1964 and 1 at Deffer Wood on 6th July 1972.

1975 Bretton Park 1 - 2 on 10 dates up to 7th May, and 1 - 2 on 4 dates from 12th October.

Hagg Wood 1 on 22nd March, Edgerton 1 on 26th October and 9th November.

WR YNECK

Rare visitor, one record in 1947.

WOODLARK

Rare passage visitor, record of 2 in 1947.

SKYLARK

Resident breeder abundance 4, partial migrant.

Widely distributed throughout the area in the breeding season in open country including high moorlands, but most frequent on upland pastures. The species is present all the year, and under favourable conditions away from the high moors can be heard singing from January onwards. Although less common during the winter months flocks such as 400 at Dewsbury S.F. on 1st December 1965, and 200 at Emley Woodhouse on 2nd December 1973 have been noted. Autumn migration is not regularly observed but 445 and 384 moved S. over Blackmoorfoot on 23rd and 24th October 1971 respectively. Weather movements are noted regularly during severe winter weather and 1100 flew S.S.W. over Ossett in 2½ hours on 31st December 1961.

1975 Flocks of 150 on Whitley Common on 2nd November and 100 near Shepley on 24th December.

SWALLOW

Migrant breeder, abundance 3 - 4, and passage visitor, numerous. Normally arrives in mid April, but there are a number of March records notably 1 on 10th at Elland in 1959. The species breeds on buildings of many types in a variety of habitats except for the most densely built up areas, and the moors above 1200'. A roost in Great Reedmace at Lees Mill, Lighthwaite was discovered in 1972, and held up to 3,000 in late August - early September with similar numbers in 1973. The majority have left the area by early October, but some were exceptionally late in 1974 as 2 pairs were still feeding young at Cannon Hall on 31st October, and 1 was at Holmbridge on 9th November.

1975 First at Bretton on 12th April, last near Langsett on 22nd October. Roost at Lees Mill deserted due to drainage, but a roost in Great Reedmace at Elland G.P. contained 2,000 in early September.

HOUSE MARTIN

Migrant breeder abundance 3, and passage visitor, common.

A steady increase in numbers in the area as a result of colonisation of various residential districts was noted from about 1965 - 1972. The normal time for arrival is late April the earliest being at Bretton Park on 15th April 1972. They tend to remain rather later than the previous species regularly having young in the nest in October. There have been November records in 4 years the latest being on 27th at Gawthorpe in 1959.

1975 First at Marsden on 18th April, and last at Brighthouse on 20th October. About 100 were at Bretton Park on 28th September.

SAND MARTIN

Migrant breeder, abundance 2, and passage visitor, uncommon.

The first arrivals are usually seen over larger waters by mid April, but the earliest on record was at New Mill on 27th March, 1968. Small colonies of

less than 20 pairs have occurred at Bretton Park (2 sites), Elland G.P., Mirfield, Hall Dike and by the R. Colne at Linthwaite and near I.C.I. Most birds leave by early September, but the latest on record is 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd October, 1971. Largest number noted was about 100 at Bretton Park on 17th April, 1968.

1975 First 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 13th April, and last about 15 at Bretton Park on 23rd September. Successful breeding at Bretton, but no reports received about the colonies elsewhere.

CARRION CROW

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

In the twenty years prior to the period under consideration the species was much less common and confined to certain mature woodlands such as Grimescar, near Almondbury, Bretton and Cawthorne. They certainly became more widely distributed during the 1960's and numbers have been maintained in the 1970's and can now be found in a variety of habitats, away from built up areas, including the moorlands. No roosts have been reported, but 45 were at Cawthorne Park on 23rd December, 1972.

1975 Breeding pairs observed throughout the area, and 21 birds were noted on 5th October feeding on the shore of Ingbirchworth Res. Hooded Crow - has occurred as a rare visitor as follows:-
1964 1 at Ossett on 5th June; 1969 2 at Bretton Park on 6th April;
1973 1 at Fulshaw on 12th October; 1975 2 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 14th September, 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th October and 10th December.

ROOK

Resident breeder, abundance 5.

Censuses of the local rookeries were made in 1964 and 1973. That of 1964 was unfortunately incomplete, but for 34 rookeries counts were available for both years with figures of 1612 and 1724 nests respectively. These same rookeries had 1922 nests in 1975. Gatherings for roosting purposes during the winter months (November - February) of up to 4,000 birds were noted during the 1970's at Denby Dale, High Flatts and Bretton Park. There were usually smaller numbers of Jackdaws (up to 1,000) with these flocks.

1975 A census of all the rookeries in the club area revealed 4,369 nests in 78 rookeries. Roost gatherings of over 3,000 were at Scissett on 21st December and over 2,000 at Bretton Park on 16th November.

JACKDAW

Resident breeder, abundance 4.

Nesting throughout the area; usually in holes in mature trees, but also quite frequently on buildings, in all habitats except the higher moorlands.

1975 Near Hall Dike 23 pairs bred in an old quarry.

MACPHEE

Resident breeder, abundance 4.

As with the Carrion Crow a considerable increase in the numbers breeding in the area took place between the 1940's and 1960's. The birds quite frequently breed in industrial and built up areas, and at the other extreme occur in high moorland valleys, and can in fact be found almost anywhere. Roosts of over 100 have been regularly reported the largest being 130 at Old Lindley in February 1967, and 120 at Blackmoorfoot in March 1973.

1975 Roosts of about 70 at Blackmoorfoot in March and at Hall Dike in October.

JAY

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Breeds in the more extensive woodland areas of both deciduous and coniferous trees.

1975 Records received from 12 woodland areas indicating breeding of over 20 pairs.

GREAT TIT

Resident breeder, abundance 4.

Widely distributed through the area, nesting in woodlands and hedgerows of all types as well as parkland and gardens. Winter flocks are occasionally observed such as 2 flocks at Bretton Park totalling 80 birds on 25th February, 1965.

BLUE TIT

Resident breeder, abundance 5.

As widely distributed and rather more numerous than the previous species, and can be found even in woodlands on the fringe of the moors such as Crossley's Plantation at 1300'.

1975 Large wintering flock at Bretton Park in January appeared to be of about 100 birds, but as over 150 individuals were ringed during that period, may have been considerably larger.

COAL TIT

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

Less common than the two previous species, it is proportionately more frequent in coniferous woods, but also breeds in deciduous woodlands and copses in many localities, but is however absent from some apparently suitable woodlands.

MARSH TIT

Visitor, rare - scarce.

Whilst this species formerly bred in the north-east of the area, before the period under consideration, its present status seems to be that of a rare visitor. Many of the records submitted have been by observers who have not been absolutely certain of the birds' identity, so in fact the occurrence of the species may be more frequent than the 8 accepted records would suggest. The largest party was of 6 moving west through Bretton Park on 27th March 1967.

1975 Singles at Bretton Park on 20th April (A.N.H.) and Crosland Hill on 27th August (J.E.D.)

WILLOW TIT

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Breeding pairs in woodlands near the districts of Middlestown, Bretton, Cawthorne, Gunthwaite, Denby Dale, Kirkburton and Honley.

1975 Breeding at Bretton Park, Deffer Wood and Hall Dike (2 - 3 pairs each) and probably at Royd Moor, Kirkburton, Shepley and Shelley. Records also received from less usual localities such as Digley and Lindley Moor.

LONG-TAILED TIT

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

The species has been reported far more frequently during the 1970's than the middle and late 1960's doubtless due to its recovery in numbers following the severe 1962-63 winter. Breeds in woodlands and copses in the east and centre of the area being less frequent or absent in the west and south. Family and winter parties occur, the largest reported being 24 at Bretton Park on 18th November, 1973.

1975 A very good season for this species with 1 - 4 pairs reported from 18 localities including Digley and Holmbridge which were new sites. There were over 20 in Deffer Wood on 15th June (4 parties) and in Dean Wood on 20th December.

NUTHATCH

Resident breeder, abundance 1.

Records have been annual since 1959, but breeding proof was not obtained until a pair nested near Denby Dale in 1968, and records did not increase in frequency until 1972 since when the species has appeared in new localities, and bred at Hagg Wood in 1974. Other localities at which the species has been sighted more than once are Bretton Park (over 50 records), Woodsome, Beaumont Park and Cawthorne.

1975 Bretton Park. Present all the year, 1 pair reared 2 young.
Hagg Wood. 1 pair nesting reared at least 1 young.
Cawthorne Present during the breeding season.

TREECREEPER

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Widely distributed in small numbers in mature deciduous, and mixed woodlands throughout the area.

1975 Reports from 11 localities all of which were known breeding areas.

WREN

Resident breeder, abundance 5.

Present in all types of habitat throughout the area including high moorland cloughs, and only absent from the moorland plateaux.

The species decreased after the severe winter of 1962-63, but the reduction was not as marked as in 1947, and by the early 1970's it was probably as common as at any time in the last 100 years.

DIPPER

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Found mainly on the moorland and upland streams in the west and south of the area, but have also bred as far east as Denby Dale. Some local movement takes place during the winter, birds being seen by lower lying waters away from breeding areas.

1975 Pairs known to have reared young at Black Brook, Booth Dean, Digley and Hall Dike, and birds were also seen at 6 other localities.

MISTLE THRUSH

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

Well distributed in open woodlands, parkland and farmland with scattered trees, as well as gardens with larger trees. Autumn flocks are frequently seen, but 52 over Lindley Moor on 22nd June 1973 were exceptionally early, and 130 near Grimescar on 4th October 1967 was the largest flock reported.

1975 Over 21 at Yateholme at dusk on 17th June and about 30 at Digley on 16th July were the largest numbers noted.

FIELDFARE

Passage and winter visitor, numerous.

The species usually arrives in mid October and good numbers are present by November, but there are a few September records the earliest being 2 at Digley on 13th September 1972. Flocks of up to 400 feeding in the area are not infrequent up to December, with rather smaller numbers present in January - February. Visible migration in the autumn has been noted in most years with birds moving west and south through the area in October and November. Examples of these movements are of 1,000 over Dalton and 650 over Lindley Moor on 21st October 1972 and 1,200 over Blackmoorfoot the following day. With the return spring movement numbers increase in the area during March and April and over 1,000 roosted on Royd Moor on 23rd March 1974. Visible migration has been observed to a lesser extent such as 250 flying north over Bretton on 29th April, 1973. May records are not unusual, but involve small numbers only, the latest being 1 at Digley on 16th May, 1974.

1975 The last record was at Hall Dike on 28th April, and the first 14 moving west at Langsett on 28th September. Roosts of 200-300 at Emroyd Common (October), Cawthorne and Bretton (November - December), Hall Dike and Homestyes (March). Flocks of up to 300 on various dates at Ingbirchworth, Royd Moor, Digley, Austonley and Shepley. On 10th March 700 - 800 flew north west over Oakes.

SONG THRUSH

Resident breeder, abundance 4, and partial migrant.

Breeds in well wooded and sparsely wooded habitats of all types away from the moorlands and upland pastures. Little real evidence of migration although the species decreases in numbers in areas such as Bretton Park in mid winter.

REDWING

Passage and winter visitor, numerous.

The earliest records of arrivals are on 25th September 1966 at Fartown, and 25 at Beldon Valley on the same date in 1967. The only May record is of 1 at Crimble on 6th May 1973. Movements, flocking and roosting occur at similar times to those of the Fieldfare. An Edgerton roost held 600 on 18th November, 1967, and exceptional movements included 1250 west over Lindley Moor on 21st October 1972 and over 1500 south and west at Blackmoorfoot the following day, and 1000 east over Lindley Moor on 27th March, 1960.

1975 Last at Hall Dike on 7th May where the first occurred on 8th October, as well as at Blackmoorfoot. Roosts of 300 at Emroyd Common (26th October), 250 at Edgerton (December), and 200 at Bretton (January - February).

RING OUZEL

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

Breeding sites located are all in moorland cloughs and valleys at Rishworth Moor, Scammonden, March Haigh, Wessenden, Deerhill, Digley and Yateholme. Usually appears at the end March the earliest being on 21st at Buckstones in 1967 and Digley in 1972. Occasional birds are still near breeding sites in October the latest being 3 at Digley on 6th in 1973. 1 was at Ossett on 15th November 1965. Spring gatherings at Digley have been regular with 15 on 18th April 1974 as maximum.

1975 First at Digley on 26th March, and last (rather early) 23rd August. Breeding at Rishworth, Digley, Wessenden and Upper Little Don valley.

BLACKBIRD

Resident breeder abundance 5, and winter visitor numerous.

Breeds in the full variety of woodland habitats, suburban gardens, farmland and uplands, and even in some moorland cloughs alongside Ring Ouzels. A roost at Edgerton regularly holds up to 300 birds during the winter and ringing at this roost has proved that many of these birds originate from Scandinavia.

WHEATEAR

Migrant breeder, abundance 2 - 3.

First arrivals usually late March the earliest being on 21st at Ossett Spa S.F. in 1959 and Digley in 1974. The latest record is of 1 at Ingbirchworth on 18th October 1970. Migrating parties are sometimes noted in April such as 22 at

Blackmoorfoot on 17th in 1971.

Breeds on rocky moorlands and upland pastures with dry stone walls. Localities included Rishworth Moor, Scammonden, Slaitwaite Moor, March Haigh, Wessenden, Deerhill, Black Moss, Crosland Hill, Ingbirchworth, Digley, Holme and Ringstone Edge.

1975 First and last at Digley on 7th April and 21st October respectively.

STONECHAT

Passage and winter visitor, rare - scarce, and rare breeder. Prior to the period under consideration the species was recorded only rarely in the area, and generally in the autumn. There were single records for the years 1959 - 62, and then no further records until 1967. But from 1968, when there were sightings on 3 dates for the first time, the frequency of records increased steadily. In July 1972 a male was seen feeding young at Yateholme. Young birds were also seen on Lindley Moor in 1974 and there was a summer record that year of 1 at Bentley Springs on 20th June.

1975 Sightings at 13 localities mainly January - early April and October - December of 1 - 3 birds followed the trends of the previous 3 years. In addition a pair reared 2 young at Wessenden and birds were seen in all months at Elland G.P.

WHINCHAT

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

Breeding localities included Rishworth Moor, Scammonden, March Haigh, Wessenden, Deerhill, Royd Edge, Digley, Yateholme, Ingbirchworth/High Flatts, Emley Moor and Upper Heaton. First arrivals usually late April the earliest being at Wessenden Head on 15th in 1972, and the last record generally at the end September except for 1 at Lindley Moor on 26th October, 1968.

1975 First at Digley (1) and Ingbirchworth (3) on 23rd April, last at Skelmauthorpe (2) on 9th October.

REDSTAR T

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

In the early part of the period was reasonably and well distributed in mature woodlands and conifer plantations throughout the area. A decline during the late '60's and early '70's became apparent as at Bretton, where there had regularly been 6 or more pairs, down to 1 pair in 1971. Some localities lost the species altogether, but a general increase in records in 1974 suggested some recovery. Earliest record on 5th April, 1965 at Bretton Park, and latest at Oakes on 7th October 1974.

1975 First at Hall Dike on 18th April, and last at Langsett on 18th October.
Records from 12 localities, all probable breeding areas.

BLACK REDSTART

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1954.

1973 1 at Scammonden on 18th April.
1974 1 at Digley on 11th August and 10th - 29th September.
1975 1 at Elland G.P. on 12th April (T.K.) and 1 at Digley on 13th November (E.P.)

ROBIN

Resident breeder, abundance 5.
Distributed throughout the area in all varieties of woodlands, copses and gardens.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Migrant breeder, abundance 1.
Records usually of singing males have been almost annual but breeding proof was only obtained at Stock's Moor in 1965. The species was regular at Bretton 1966-70 and Gawthorpe/Whitley Beaumont 1968-72, and breeding may have been overlooked. There have been regular records at other localities in the north-east but very few in the west. Earliest was 1 at Bretton on 22nd April, 1967 and latest 1 at Gawthorpe on 14th August, 1970.

1975 One at Bank Wood during June.

REED WARBLER

Rare passage visitor. Record of 1 in 1952.

1974 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 13th May, and 2 at Caxley Wood on 15th May.

1975 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th June caught and ringed (M.L.D.)

SEDGE WARBLER

Migrant breeder, abundance 1.

It is probable that breeding of this species in the area has long been overlooked, proof not being obtained until 1975, the reason being that likely localities in the Colne and Calder valleys are rarely visited. Away from the rivers the majority of the records are of singing birds at Bretton Park. Earliest record 28th April, 1968 near Holywell Green, and latest 13th September 1972 at Lees Mill.

1975 Elland G.P. 1 pair reared 4 young.
Scout Dike. 1 on 10th May
Digley. 1 on 29th June.
Blackmoorfoot 1 on 11th, 2 on 14th, 1 on 28th August and 1 on 4th September.

BLACKCAP

Migrant breeder, abundance 3.

Well distributed particularly in the woodlands of the eastern parts which have good ground cover, less common in the west. Earliest record 2nd April 1967 at Bretton, but difficult to determine departure dates as birds remain to winter, the latest seen being 18th December 1966 at Bretton, and 20th December 1970 at Crosland Moor.

1975 A wintering female at Gawthorpe on 23rd February, and a male at Lockwood on 13th February. 1 at Oakes on 7th April, but main influx noted 24th - 26th April. Last 1 on 4th October at Salendine Nook.

GARDEN WARBLER

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

Cawthorne, Deffer Wood, Bretton and woods around Skelmanthorpe and Middlestown are regular breeding localities, but elsewhere occurrences fluctuate though the species has been noted regularly near Kirkburton and Netherton with a few records further north and west. Earliest at Magbridge on 25th April 1968, latest at Edgerton on 5th October 1968.

1975 First 2 at Bretton Park on 13th May, and last at Royd Moor on 9th August. Records also from Bank Wood, Deffer Wood and Yateholme.

WHITETHROAT

Migrant breeder, abundance 4, but only abundance 2 since 1968. Formerly a common breeding species it declined locally in 1969 in line with the national decline, and has been absent from many sites and reduced in others since then.

Earliest records on 19th April 1968 at Grimescar and Lindley Moor, and latest 25th September at Toothill in 1967, and Kirkburton in 1972.

1975 Records from 10 localities with the earliest at Deffer Wood on 4th May, and latest Salendine Nook on 20th September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Migrant - possibly breeding, rare.

A total of 5 records only in 1967, 1971 - 72 was followed by the regular occurrence of the species at Deighton in 1973 - 74 with further sightings at Bretton and Coxley Valley/Emroyd Common area.

Earliest 27th April 1966 at Bretton, and latest 27th September, 1973 at Deighton.

1975 First on 28th April at Deighton where 1 - 2 were present up to 3rd July, last at Denby Dale on 25th August. 1 male at Bretton on 25th May and 3rd June, and in the Coxley Valley a male was seen on 21st May, and an adult food carrying on 16th July.

WILLOW WARBLER

Migrant breeder, abundance 4.

Usually arrives by mid April the earliest being on 3rd at Bretton Park in 1965, and the latest sighting being on 29th September 1967 at Grimescar. Breeds throughout the area in woodlands and copses of all types, as well as in open country with hedgerows and in larger suburban gardens. Breeds in Crossley's Plantation at over 1300' above sea level.

1975 First at Hall Dike on 16th April with a fairly general arrival by 24th April. Last record on 28th September at Fulshaw.

CHIFFCHAFF

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

Principally a bird of the eastern part of the area breeding at Deffer, Bagden, Cawthorne, Bretton and Coxley Valley. Scattered reports from many localities further west where breeding is only sporadic such as at Beaumont

Park in 1974. Birds have wintered such as 1 at Bretton Park on 23rd - 24th January 1965 and at Dalton on 14th December, 1974. Earliest records 20th March at Ossett S.F. in 1960 and Armitage Bridge in 1966. Latest records not easy to determine as there have been 4 years with November records which may have been wintering birds.

1975 Early records of 1 at Beaumont Park on 26th January and 1 in song at Scissett on 30th January, and 1 at Horbury on 26th March. 1 at Elland G.P. on 9th November and 2 phylloscopies warblers at Bretton on 25th November were probably this species.

WOOD WARBLER

Migrant breeder, abundance 1 - sporadic, not annual. The species was proved to breed at Dean Wood in 1964 and Denby Dale in 1972, and probably bred in these localities in other years, as also at Grimescar where it has occurred fairly frequently. Singles have occurred in other woodlands in the area usually in May or June but not with any consistency. Earliest at Grimescar and Mollicar Woods on 29th April 1967, and latest at Fixby on 27th August 1965.

1975 First at Stones Wood on 30th April for 4 days, with a pair near Shelley on 16th May, 1 male at Hagg Wood on 18th May, 1 male at Hall Dike 8th - 11th July, and 1 ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 21st July.

GOLDCREST

Resident breeder abundance 3, and passage visitor, common. Breeding mainly in coniferous but also mixed woodlands, the main population being in the Cawthorne, Deffer, Bagden, Bretton, Bullcliffe area but also at Yateholme and Boothroyd Wood. Peak numbers are usually seen on passage in September and October with smaller numbers in March and April. During these periods they may be seen in woodlands throughout the area and are often observed in hedgerows and gardens.

1975 The usual increase in numbers was noted in spring and autumn. A pair was found breeding at Hall Dike which was a new breeding area.

FIRECREST

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1874.

1960 1 at Coxley Valley on 13th March.

1975 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th October was caught and ringed (M.L.D., G.M.Y.)

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Migrant breeder, abundance 2 - 3

Breeding pairs scattered widely and thinly in woodlands throughout the area, including woodlands on the edge of the moorlands.

First and last records both at Bretton Park on 29th April, 1973 and 1st October, 1967 respectively.

1975 First at Hall Dike on 6th May, last at Deighton on 24th September. Reported from 14 localities all of which were probably breeding areas.

PIED FLYCATCHER

Rare visitor, has bred (1958)

In 1960 a pair bred at Hopton Mill, nr. Mirfield, but otherwise sightings were of passage birds. There were only 10 records in the years 1964 - 1973, between the dates 26th April and 23rd August,

DUNNOCK

Resident breeder, abundance 5.

Widely distributed throughout the area wherever cover is available in the form of bushes or dense vegetation including industrial sites and small gardens, all types of open country, woodland fringes and copses and bracken patches on high moorland.

MEADOW PIPIT

Resident breeder, abundance 4, and partial migrant.

Although the species is present throughout the year the degree to which breeding birds remain in the area is not known, as the moorland and upland pasture areas where it is most frequent are deserted in all except the most mild winter conditions when odd birds can be found.

During the winter months they can be found in the river valleys and on lowlying farmland, but in very severe spells may leave the area completely. Winter roosts and migrant flocks pre and post breeding season reach reasonable numbers such as 200 on Lindley Moor on 30th March, 1968.

1975 An influx of about 120 to the Hall Dike area during October, and at least 50 on Lindley Moor on 20th September were the largest numbers reported.

TREE PIPIT

Migrant breeder, abundance 3.

Widely distributed throughout the area in habitats offering scattered trees, woodland fringes - coniferous or deciduous, copses even up to about 1200' at the edge of moorlands. The earliest arrival was 1 at Langsett on 14th April 1973, and the latest record 2 at Grimescar on 7th September 1969.

1975 First at Deffer Wood on 26th April, and last at Skelmanthorpe on 31st August. Particularly common in the Coxley Valley where there were 14 singing males on 21st May.

ROCK PIPIT

Rare visitor.

1965 1 at Dewsbury S.F. on 1st December.

1972 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd and 21st October.

WATER PIPIT

1 on Slaithwaite Moor on 25th December 1973 and 20th January 1974.

PIED WAGTAIL

Resident breeder abundance 3, partial migrant.

During the breeding season can be found at all types of wetland habitats from riversides in the lowlands to moorland streams. As with Meadow Pipit small numbers can be found in the area throughout the year, but the numbers are much reduced in winter, and ringing has given evidence of movement to southern England during the winter.

A winter roost in Great Reedmace at Linthwaite had 120 on 28th February, 1973, and an autumn roost at Waterloo had 183 on 6th October 1970.

White Wagtail Individuals of this subspecies have occurred in a number of years between mid March and mid May and once in September.

1975 Autumn roost of 181 at Elland G.P. on 23rd October, and 40 roosting at Yateholme on 26th March. White Wagtails at Bretton on 7th April and Ingbirchworth on 23rd April.

GREY WAGTAIL

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

This is another species that was hard hit by the 1962-63 winter and sightings were rare in 1964-65, but a recovery has been made and it now breeds somewhat sparsely by streams in moorland and upland localities, and rivers in the main valleys.

1975 Records came from 18 localities but many of these were outside the breeding season, and although probably breeding quite widely proof came only from Bretton Park, Denby Dale, Hey Clough and Hall Dike.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Migrant breeder, abundance 2.

Breeding pairs in localities not regularly frequented are probably overlooked, but pairs have bred at Cawthorne, Bretton Park, Emley Woodhouse, West Bretton, Cooper Bridge, Ingbirchworth, Grimescar and Blackmoorfoot, though not necessarily at each locality every year. The earliest records were on 13th April at Colne Bridge in 1969 and Bretton in 1974, and the latest at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd September 1969.

Blue-headed Wagtail 1 of this sub-species at Ossett in early May 1959.

1975 First at Bretton and Hall Dike on 26th April, and last at Elland G.P. on 24th September.
Apart from these localities birds were seen in the Ingbirchworth area, Blackmoorfoot, Digley and Bullcliffe.

WAXWING

Winter visitor, rare - uncommon.

Small numbers have been observed in practically every winter, but a larger number of sightings were recorded in 1959-60 and 1965-66, and

quite substantial invasions took place in the winters of 1970-71 and 1974-75. The earliest on record were 6 at Crosland Moor on 30th October, 1970, and the latest 2 at Netherton on 21st April, 1971. The largest flock was of 61 at Birkby on 9th December 1974. The majority of the sightings were in suburban localities within 3 miles of the centre of Huddersfield, but the species can appear anywhere where the berry crop is adequate.

1975 Good numbers remained in the area early in the year until the last sighting of 10 at Bradley Wood on 23rd March. Although reported from many districts the majority were in the Moldgreen/Dalton/Kilner Bank area with maxima of 40 on Smithy Lane on 24th and over 40 on Kilner Bank on 25th January. Autumn records of 1 - 3 only at Fartown, Outlane, Thongsbridge, Shepley and Lepton.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1870.

1975 Stoneleigh, Edgerton. 1 on 23rd January (J. M. D.)
Deffer Wood. 1 from 18th - 25th October (J. M. L., M. A.)

RED-BACKED SHRIKE

Former breeder - last record before 1906, now rare visitor - 1 in 1954.

STARLING

Resident breeder abundance 5, and winter visitor, numerous. Widely distributed breeding on buildings, in rock cavities and trees, in all habitats except for the moorlands. The large roost in the town centre, of which no serious count has been attempted since 1955, could contain up to 15,000 birds at its maximum. Ringing recoveries have proved that some of our winter population comes from Scandinavia.

1975 Nearly 7000 flew west over Lindley Moor in 15 minutes at daybreak on 14th February, moving out of their roost to feed on upland pastures. At least 12,000 were on Whitley Common on 17th February.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING

Rare visitor. Record of 1 in 1859.

HAWFINCH

Rare visitor. Former breeder - last record in 1951.

1971 1 at Crosland Moor on 31st March.

GREENFINCH

Resident breeder, abundance 4.

In the breeding season it is widely distributed in localities with adequate trees and bushes such as gardens, shrubberies, copses, woodland borders and farmland. Outside the breeding season large flocks of 200 - 500 are not infrequently found on arable land. Communal roosts of similar size are used, the largest on record being about 1,000 at Cannon Hall in December 1966.

1975 Roosts at Bretton (200 in February), and Blackmoorfoot (100 in November) were the only ones noted.

GOLDFINCH

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

During the years 1959 - 66 few breeding pairs were located, and autumn flocks were usually of less than 10 birds. However, although not numerous anywhere breeding pairs were, by 1974, scattered throughout the area from the lowlands to moorland fringes, in habitats with some trees or small woodlands, and also gardens and parkland. An increase in size of autumn flocks from 1967 onwards was also noted. The largest so far recorded being 90 at Lindley Moor on 7th October 1972, and 80 at Bretton on 3rd October 1973.

1975 Flocks of 10 - 20 were reported from many localities even near the town centre. Larger flocks of 60 at Hall Dike on 23rd September, 50 - 60 at Bretton Park in September and October, and 40 near Booth Wood on 20th September, were typical of recent autumns.

SISKIN

Winter visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Occurs annually in favoured localities usually containing alders, the numbers being rather variable. Bretton Park, where the species is fairly regular, had the largest flock noted of about 100 on 19th November, 1972. The earliest arrival was 1 at Birkby on 1st October 1961, and latest record 1 at Beaumont Park on 2nd May 1970.

1975 Bretton Park 1 - 10 on 3 dates in January; 8 on 2nd November, and 40 - 50 from 22nd November - 14th December.
Holmfirth 1 on 8th March
Coxley Valley 60+ on 22nd October
Deffer Wood 40+ on 23rd November
Blackmoorfoot 1 on 29th, and parties of 5 and 4 on 30th November.

LINNET

Resident and partial migrant breeder, abundance 4.

Frequents young plantations, gardens, hedgerows, rough ground and common land with adequate bushes for cover during the breeding season. Found at all altitudes with isolated pairs even breeding on moorlands amongst bracken alongside Twite colonies. The bulk of the population is absent from October - March although winter flocks occur on the lowlands such as 500 near Ossett on 26th December 1961. Spring flocks regularly reach about 100 birds, but autumn flocks are much larger such as 500 at Ossett Spa in September 1961, and 1,000 at Horbury in late December 1970.

1975 The largest numbers noted were 110 at Royd Moor (roosting) on 30th July, and 160 at Hall Dike in September.

TWITE

Resident and partial migrant breeder, abundance 3.

Small breeding colonies, some of up to 20 pairs, occur on moorland slopes and valleys on Rishworth Moor, at March Haigh, Slaithwaite Moor, Wessenden, Deerhill, Deanhead, Royd Edge and Digley. As with the Linnet much of the population is absent during the winter when the species is only infrequently recorded although a flock of 50 - 80 remained on Outlane Moor from late December 1967 to late March, 1968. Autumn flocks of over 100 are not infrequent

at Ringstone Edge, Scammonden valley, Deerhill and Blackmoorfoot, but the largest recorded was 200 at Whitley Common on 15th August, 1973.

1975 No winter records, the first being seen near Booth Dam on 23rd March, and the latest record being 2 on Whitley Common on 2nd November. Ringstone Edge had a flock of about 200 on 21st August, 100 were near Booth Wood on 20th September, and 75 on Whitley Common on 12th October.

REDPOLL

Resident breeder, abundance 3, and partial migrant.

At the beginning of the period the species was far from common, and only bred in a few favoured localities. A steady increase has occurred and it now breeds in reasonable numbers in conifers at Cawthorne, Deffer and Yateholme, and is widespread in smaller numbers in other mixed woodland habitats throughout the area.

At least 100 at Riding Wood on 20th April, 1971 is the largest flock observed, whilst smaller flocks of up to 50 have occurred at a number of localities mainly October - March.

Mealy Redpolls have been observed on 3 occasions only at Ossett on 5th November, 1966, and at Bretton on 30th October, 1972 and 14th January, 1973 (3).

1975 Flocks at Coxley Valley of 50 on 5th February and 40 (1 - Mealy) on 10th December; at Hall Dike on 16th March (46); and 100+ at Stock's Moor Common on 26th November.

BULLFINCH

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

This is another species which has increased steadily particularly during the early and middle 1960's, and at the same time widened its distribution in the area. Habitats offering dense cover are preferred, and this includes woodlands up to the moorland fringes.

1975 23 at Hall Dike on 27th April, and parties of 10 or more at Bretton Park early and late in the year, were the largest numbers reported.

CROSSBILL

Passage and winter visitor, rare - uncommon.

The species was recorded in the years 1962 - 63, 1966, 1971 - 73 mainly in coniferous, but sometimes in mixed woodlands usually between the months of July and December. Flocks of 24 were at Langsett in December 1962, and Bretton in August 1963, whilst up to 50 were in the Swinden Plantation/Langsett area in July - August 1972 during a notable invasion. In 1973 smaller numbers remained in the Langsett area in the spring, and also 7 were seen on 9th June.

1975 Single males at Bank Wood on 15th June (D.By) and
 at Deffer Wood on 22nd September (D.Bu).

CHAFFINCH

Resident breeder, abundance 4, and passage and winter visitor.

There is a general impression of a decrease in breeding numbers in the area, away from coniferous woodlands, since the 1950's but unfortunately very little data to support or contradict this, except for evidence from Harrow Clough - a typical clough with deciduous trees - where from 8 pairs during the 1950's a reduction to 1 pair by 1968, and little change (1 - 2 pairs) since that date. Winter flocks usually of 100 - 200, mainly in woodlands and parkland but sometimes on stubble, are noted annually. Early morning movements were observed over Blackmoorfoot in October 1971 (21st - 31st) with approximately 400 birds moving south and west on 21st, 23rd and 24th as the maximum.

1975 70 - 80 in the Shepley area on 16th February, 54
 at Holmbridge on 18th February, and 50+ at Edgerton
 on 6th December were the largest numbers noted.

BRAMBLING

Winter visitor, uncommon - common.

Present in fluctuating numbers usually October - April, the earliest record being 1 at Holmbridge on 2nd October, 1972, and the latest 2 at Farnley Tyas on 29th April, 1967. Bretton Park has been a regular wintering area with exceptional flocks of 500 in December, 1968, and over 300 in December 1974.

Elsewhere the species was observed fairly regularly in many localities both in parkland and open country with some trees or woodlands nearby, and on stubble. The largest flocks were 200 at Grimescar in October, 1966, and 250 at High Hoyland in November, 1966, and at Stoneleigh, Edgerton up to 400 roosted in March, 1967.

1975 Bretton Park. Up to 500 from 1st - 26th January with only singles in February to the last 1 on 30th March. A few present on October, 12th. Over 150 were roosting at Deffer Wood on 1st January, and the only other notable flocks early in the year were 20 at Royd Moor on 17th February, 35 at Austonley on 29th March (last here 5 on 18th April) and about 50 in the Shepley area in March. In the autumn small numbers were at 5 localities, and near Broadstones on 14th December 60+ were feeding in a turnip field.

YELLOWHAMMER

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

Well distributed throughout the area, breeding at the edge of woodlands, in hedgerows and bushes in open country and in open parts of woods. Small flocks noted during the winter, up to 50 being observed on stubble at Netherthong 25th February, 1968, Holmbridge 10th March 1971, and Bretton 25th February, 1973.

1975 Hall Dike area had a roost of about 80 in September.

CORN BUNTING

Resident breeder, abundance 2.

Some decline in total numbers and in actual breeding localities has taken place after a peak which occurred 1964-67 when the species was fairly well distributed and reported from up to 30 localities with from 1 - 9 singing males each. The chosen habitat was usually open farmland with drystone walls or fences etc. used as singing posts. In more recent years it has been reported from fewer localities, these being mainly in the north-east of the area, and also Outlane Moor, Crosland Moor and High Flatts/Ingbirchworth areas. There are very few winter records although singing males have been noted in January. 30 were at Netherthong on 25th February, 1968.

1975 First record on 8th February, last on 15th November. From the number of males in song at Outlane, Crosland Moor and Ingbirchworth which totalled about 14, numbers were normal in these areas.

CIRL BUNTING

Former breeder, 1859 being the only year on record.

REED BUNTING

Resident breeder, abundance 3.

Breeds in a variety of wetland habitats from stream and reservoir banks in the moorlands, to the banks of rivers, canals and streams in the lowlands. Winter flocks have only numbered from 10 - 25, and the only roost of note was in Great Reedmace at Lees Mill where there were about 40 in February - March 1973.

LAPLAND BUNTING

Rare visitor.

1969 1 near Cupwith Res. on 26th January.

1973 1 near Cupwith Res. on 6th January.

SNOW BUNTING

Winter visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Most frequently noted on the high moorlands during mid winter particularly on Slaithwaite Moor where flocks of from 20 - 60 occurred in the winters 1959 - 60, 1961 - 62 with smaller numbers in other winters of 1962 - 1966, since when, apart from 10 at March Haigh on 26th November, 1967, all the records have referred to singles. Singles have also been noted at lower altitudes, at Blackmoorfoot, Crosland Hill, Fanley Tyas, Thornton Lodge and Kirkburton.

1975 1 at Middlestown on 26th March (D.P.) and 6 near Cupwith Res. on 22nd November (J.E.D.)

HOUSE SPARROW

Resident breeder, abundance 5.

Extremely common in the more densely built up areas, and widely distributed wherever there are human habitations. Large autumn flocks commonly occur on cultivated farmlands and to a lesser extent on upland pastures and often number up to 500 birds.

TREE SPARROW

Resident breeder, abundance 4.

Formerly rather localised in distribution, being most common in the north-east, it became during the mid '50's - mid '60's more widely distributed breeding in woodlands, copses and hedgerows with mature deciduous trees. Flocks of up to 200 are often found outside the breeding season, the largest on record being 300 at South Crosland on 22nd January 1967.

1975

Flocks of about 100 at Royd Moor (Feb.), Blackmoorfoot (mid Aug.), Shepley (Aug. - Sept.) and Ingbirchworth (Nov. - Dec.) and over 200 at Kirkheaton in early November.

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