

**HUDDERSFIELD  
BIRDPWATCHERS' CLUB**

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**ANNUAL REPORT 1976**

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**PRICE 50p**

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1976

This turned out to be the last full year in office for our Secretary, Walter Slater, who has served the Club well for five years, and has annually compiled an interesting and entertaining series of evening meetings. All his efforts, his friendly approach to members and the hospitality shown to the committee at his home were much appreciated.

Amongst the meetings, one of the highlights was the successful joint meeting with the Wildfowl Trust held in the Huddersfield Town Hall. The Trust films were ably presented by Eric Soothill and Peter Whitehead, and an attendance of over 400 gave an indication of the degree of interest nowadays in wildlife films.

The Field Meetings now organised by Donald Haigh continue to be extremely popular and 'new ground' was broken by a visit to Thorne Moors early in the year.

Our financial situation continues to be satisfactory and I thank Thomas Cantwell, our Treasurer, for keeping an eye on things. However, costs continue to rise at an alarming rate so we have to be prepared for changes in the future.

Willie Slater has once again helped to preserve one of the club's main assets, the Blackmoorfoot hide, by applying a coat of creosote, a task which he has undertaken voluntarily every year. I extend the sincere thanks of all members for this most useful service. The hide is as sound as it was when first put into position in February 1970, and much useful work has been done here and considerable pleasure obtained by many members.

The Jollans family and the Water Board continue to make us welcome at Blackmoorfoot, and Mr. Aubrook and his staff allow us to use the facilities at Ravensknowle. Without these two bases the club's life would be very different.

Bretton Park is now a nature reserve run jointly by the College and the Yorkshire Naturalists Trust. By arrangement with the chairman of the reserve committee, Michael Brook, twenty permits have been allocated to members for visiting the reserve, which is one of the most interesting habitats in the area.

Thanks are also due to the committee members who help in the running of meetings and of the club generally and to Michael Denton for the careful preparation of the Ringing Report.

JOHN E. DALE

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST FOR 1976

For the third successive year the water levels of the reservoirs in the area, particularly at Blackmoorfoot, fell considerably during the summer, thus exposing substantial areas of mud which formed suitable feeding habitat for migrant waders. This factor, allied to the increased activity of members, especially some of the younger ones, accounts for another high total of 169 species observed in the area during the twelve months.

Red-crested Pochard was the only new species added to the list, but several occurred for the second or third time only, which were Garganey, Purple Sandpiper, Arctic Skua (more inland records than usual in Yorkshire in 1976), Mediterranean Gull (now observed more frequently inland), Little Tern, Wryneck and Rock/Water Pipit. Also of interest amongst less common species were increased numbers of Black Redstart, which now breeds as near as Sheffield, and Great Grey Shrike, which has for long wintered just outside our area.

As in the 1975 Report, the status of each species has been indicated by one or more of the following classifications:-

Resident breeder  
Migrant breeder  
Partial migrant  
Winter visitor  
Passage visitor

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

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

The passage and winter visitors have each been allocated a category stating their degree of frequency of occurrence. For passage visitors this usually indicates the number seen during the year, whereas for winter visitors an estimate has been made of the highest number present in the area on any one day during the year.

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

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

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

Many of the more common species that were present during 1976 have been listed without further comment other than an indication of their present status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences readers should refer to the 1975 Report.

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

JOHN E. DALE  
RECORDER

#### CLASSIFIED LIST 1976

##### RED-THROATED DIVER

Rare winter visitor.

One apparently weak bird found at Clayton West on 18th November was taken to Bretton Park where it showed signs of recovery and remained until at least 21st November.

1975 Addition - One at Elland G.P. 1st-2nd January which had been present from 22nd December 1974.

##### GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Resident breeder (1) and passage visitor, uncommon

Bretton Park Present up to 12th December with a maximum of 8 on 21st March. 1 pair reared 1 young which represents the least successful season since 1959. Scout Dike 2 pairs reared 3 and 1 young respectively.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1-3 from early April to 17th October with 1 juvenile, present in August and September.

An increase in records elsewhere with 1-4 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23 dates from 8th February - 29th October, and singles at Elland G.P. (January, March and 2 in April), Royd Moor (August) and Ringstone Edge (28th July)

##### LITTLE GREBE

Resident breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Bretton Park Present all year; maxima: 16 on 2nd January and 19th February and 11 on 4th - 5th December. At least 4 young reared by 2 pairs.

Royd Moor At least 3 young reared from 2 broods. Maximum 8 on 28th August.

Scout Dike Present all year. 2 pairs bred successfully. Maximum 12 on 5th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 - 3 from 27th March - 7th November.

Also seen at Elland G.P. (Jan. - March, maximum 6 on 29th February and Nov.-Dec.)

Blackmoorfoot Res., Bilberry Res., Nr. Hagg Wood, Gunthwaite, Push Dam at Shepley (1 pair bred) and at Deighton.

#### CORMORANT

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 and 2 separately on 3rd and 4 on 18th April; 1 on 16th May and 1 on 16th October.

Royd Moor Res. 1 on 3rd April.

Digley Res. 1 on 4th April.

Elland G.P. 1 on 14th-15th April and 1 on 9th December.

#### GREY HERON

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

Nest built again at Bretton Park but no evidence of success. Sightings at 18 other localities with a maximum of 5 at Gunthwaite on 18th January and a further increase in bird days at Blackmoorfoot Res. to a total of 34.

#### MALLARD

Resident breeder (2-3) and winter visitor, common.

Maximum counts:- Blackmoorfoot Res. 84 on 14th November and 19th December.

Bretton Park 154 on 11th January; 168 on 16th October and 190 on 31st December

Scammonden Res. 91 on 25th January and 110 on 5th December.

#### TEAL

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

Breeding evidence from 2 moorland localities. Exceptional numbers at Blackmoorfoot Res. in Autumn with 51 on 16th and 54 on 26th October and 32 on 15th December. Numbers elsewhere lower than usual with 21 at Deer Hill Res. on 4th September, 18 at Bilberry Res. on 16th August and 17 at Deanhead on 16th September.

#### GARGANEY

Summer visitor, rare.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 from 8th-13th July (M.L.D. et al) 3rd record for the area.

### GADWALL

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 11th July (G.M.Y.) and 2 on 30th December (N.S.)

Scout Dike Res. 2 on 4th September (P.B.)

Bretton Park 2 on 26th September (D.P.) and 1 on 16th October (S.H.)

### WIDGEON

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon-common.

An increased number of records throughout the area.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Frequent from 29th January-30th March (maxima 53 on 29th January and 54 on 5th February) and from 25th August-25th November up to 10, with 3-10 on 3 days in December plus an exceptional flock of 165 on 13th December (T.C.)

Bretton Park Singles on 9 dates 11th January-21st April; 2 on 19th and 10 on 26th September, and singles on 17th October and 4th December.

Elland G.P. 6 on 31st January up to 8th February when 8 were present.

Ingbirchworth Res. 2-16 on 14 dates 4th January-13th March (with a maximum of 33 on 31st January) and 3 on 6th and 22nd September.

Scout Dike Res. 27 on 15th and 10 on 28th February.

From 2-8 September-December on occasional dates at Digley, Langsett, Ringstone Edge and Royd Moor reservoirs.

### PINTAIL

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 25th January; 3 on 18th February; 2 on 26th August; 5 on 21st September; 2 on 1st, 4 on 2nd, 2 on 4th and 3 on 12th, 5 on 13th and 4 on 15th October and 1 on 17th November.

Bretton Park Singles on 3rd and 11th January and 4th March.

Langsett Res. 3 on 17th October.

Royd Moor Res. Singles on 12th and 23rd September.

Ingbirchworth Res. 2 on 22nd September.

### SHOVELER

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. An increased number of records as follows:-

1 from 31st July-5th August; 10 on 6th and 7 on 7th August; 3 on 4th October, 5 on 7th, 4 on 16th and 2 on 19th November and 1 on 13th December.

Bretton Park 1 from 17th-25th January; 2 on 24th February; 1 on 14th and 21st March; 2 on 8th April; 2 on 26th September; 1 from 16th-23rd October and 2 on 14th November.

Crosland Moor 5 flew S.E. on 7th August and Ingbirchworth Res. 3 on 19th September.

### RED-CRESTED POCHARD

Rare visitor.

Bretton Park 1 female 26th September - (H.L., D. By et al)

First record for the area.

### SCAUP

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 10th August and 3 from 1st-5th, 10th-13th, 16th and 18th December.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 25th August.

Scout Dike Res. 4 on 26th December.

Digley Res. 1 on 28th December.

### TUPTED DUCK

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

Bretton Park Maxima of 65 on 18th January, 188 on 23rd October and 259 on 5th December, 3 broods of young observed with adults, but final success not known.

Scout Dike Res. 6 broods reared and 22 young of various ages present from 31st July-14th August.

Seen on various dates at Blackmoorfoot Res. (48 on 18th September), Black Moss, Deer Hill Res., Elland G.P., Gunthwaite, Ingbirchworth Res. (29 on 11th July) and Royd Moor Res.

### POCHARD

Passage and winter visitor, common.

Bretton Park Present up to at least 3rd April (49 on 18th January) and from 25th July (35 from 26th-29th September)

Elland G.P. Regular from 1st January-30th March (max. 9) and 20th November - 31st December with 35 on the last date.

Smaller numbers at Blackmoorfoot Res., Deernhill Res., Ingbirchworth Res. (20 on 31st January), Ringstone Edge Res., Royd Moor Res. and Scout Dike Res.

### GOLDENEYE

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Up to 10 early in year until last 3 on 6th May.

An immature male 3rd-4th July and a female 4th, 17th-26th July and 8th and 15th August. Regular from 15th October (5) with up to 15 to year end, and isolated peak of 21 on 13th December. 1-5 at 14 other waters with a maximum of 7 at Bretton Park on 11th January where 20 flew west on 12th December.

### COMMON SCOTER

Passage visitor, scarce-uncommon.

More records than usual.

Ringstone Edge Res. 3 on 25th April.

Elland G.P. 1 from 7th-22nd May.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 12th, and 3 on 27th May; 1 on 20th and 10 on 27th June; 1 from 27th July-2nd August and 1 on 7th August; 5 on 17th September and 2 on 10th and 30th October.

Langsett Res. 6 on 7th August.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 31st October.

#### RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Scarce visitor.

More records than in any previous year.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 25th April (M.L.D.); 2 on 21st July (P.B.); 3 on 30th October (M.L.D.) and 3 on 1st November (P.B., P.B.)

Redbrook Res. 1 on 9th June (A.G.)

Scout Dike Res. 1 on 31st October and 1 on 7th November (P.B.)

#### GOOSANDER

Passage and winter visitor, scarce - uncommon.

Much more frequent than in previous years.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 24th March; 4 on 7th, 11th-14th, 16th and 28th November with 2 on 20th and 24th November and 2 on 1st and 27th and 2 singles on 24th December.

Elland G.P. 4 on 13th November; 1 on 4th, 5th and 21st, 22nd December.

Royd Moor Res. 2 on 13th November.

#### SMEW

Rare visitor.

1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th April (T.C.)

#### SHELDUCK

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 9th, 2 on 18th, 22 on 29th and 9 on 30th January, 3 on 28th February; 1 on 9th April; 1 on 9th May; 1 on 29th August; 1 on 22nd September; 1 on 7th and 5 on 15th November and 15 on 13th December.

Langsett Res. 1 on 18th January.

Scamonden Res. 5 on 18th January.

Digley Res. 3 on 12th February.

Elland G.P. 2 on 21st February.

Ramsden Res. 1 on 10th April.

Ingbirchworth Res. 8 on 16th September.



### GREY LAG GOOSE

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 5 on 20th October; 1 on 18th and 17, flying east, on 25th December.

### PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Skeins in flight, in various directions as indicated:-

Midhope (18→SW) on 4th January; Bretton Park (230→NW) on 15th and Hall Dike (34→W) on 18th February; Lindley Moor (66→W) on 18th and Blackmoorfoot (3→E) on 27th December.

### CANADA GOOSE

Resident breeder (1) and partial migrant.

Bretton Park Maxima of 108 on 18th January; 125 and 25 goslings on 7th July and 130 on 23rd October.

1 flew north-east over Wholestone Moor on 12th April.

### MUTE SWAN

Resident breeder (1)

Breeding not proved at any site.

Bretton Park 8 on 18th January, otherwise 2 throughout the year with 4 from 24th October. Also seen at Birds Edge, Cannon Hall, on River Colne, Gunthwaite, Langsett Res. and Scout Dike Res.

### WHOOPEE SWAN

Winter visitor, scarce-uncommon.

Elland G.P. 2 on 22nd March;

Hall Dike 1 to NW on 7th November.

Ringstone Edge Res. 11 on 4th December.

Ryburn Res. 1 on 5th December and

Blackmoorfoot Res. 8 to NW on 5th December.

### BEWICK'S SWAN

Winter visitor, uncommon.

Elland G.P. 9 on 7th February.

Royd Moor Res. 3 on 24th February.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 22 on 16th and 17th March, 1 on 16th November and 10 to W on 4th December

Inghirchworth Res. 2 on 12th and 39 on 31st December.

### BUZZARD

Passage and winter visitor, rare.

One seen near Shelley on 8th January (D.Ba)

### SPARROWHAWK

Resident breeder (1)

There was a further increase in sightings at many localities, with birds present at 4 sites in the breeding season, at one of which young were reared.

### GOSHAWK

Rare visitor.

Four sightings in the area between September and December.

### HEN HARRIER

Passage and winter visitor, rare

One near Langsett on 27th November (H.L.)

### OSPREY

Passage visitor, rare.

One at Ingbirchworth on 1st June (R. Fisher)

### PEREGRINE

Passage visitor, rare.

Large falcon seen on 2 dates at Blackmoorfoot was probably of this species, and most likely to be the escape which had been reported.

One at Yateholme on 5th December (G.E.W.)

### MERLIN

Resident breeder (1) and partial migrant.

At the known nesting sites one pair lost its first clutch (stolen) and a second clutch failed, and at the second site a female was present but there was no evidence of breeding. Singles at 4 other localities in February and October and at Blackmoorfoot on 4th January, 13th February and on 16 dates from 27th August to 29th December with two on 13th September.

### KESTREL

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding evidence from 12 localities and birds present in the breeding season at 4 other localities.

RED GROUSE

Resident breeder (3)

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Status not certain - recorded mainly between March and August.

Singles at Midgley on 11th April (J.M.D.) and at Ealey Moor on 18th May (G.S.) and 2 at Ingbirchworth on 25th June (T.W.F.)

PARTRIDGE

Resident breeder (2)

Reports from 9 localities during the breeding season.

QUAIL

Summer visitor, rare.

Singles heard at Far Swinden on 28th June (J.E.D.), Broadstones on 23rd July (P.B.) and Ingbirchworth from 23rd to 28th July and 3rd August (P.B., J.E.D., H.C.L.)

PHEASANT

Resident breeder (2)

WATER RAIL

Winter visitor and possible breeder.

Eliand G.P. 1-3 up to 1st April, and singles near Hepworth in January; Sleithwaite on 7th February and 3rd March; and Bretton on 7th March, and up to 3 present on the canal between Golcar and Linthwaite from January to March.

MOORHEN

Resident breeder (3)

COOT

Resident breeder (2) and winter visitor, common.

Bretton Park Maxima c.250 on 2nd January and c.325 on 21st December  
7 pairs reared 26 young plus a late brood of 3 young.

Breeding also successful at Ingbirchworth (2 pairs, 7 young),  
Royd Moor (1 pair, 1 young) and Scout Dike (1 pair, 2 young)

### OYSTERCATCHER

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 3rd January; 2 on 22nd April; 1 on 6th May; and 3 on 2nd and 4th August.

Elland G.P. 1 on 14th February

Langsett Res. 1 on 7th August and

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 7th and 14th August.

### LAPWING

Resident/migrant breeder (3) and winter and passage visitor, numerous.

Flocks of 600 at Ingbirchworth on 18th January

900+ at Ringstone Edge on 19th August and

775 at Blackmoorfoot on 29th August were the largest recorded.

### RINGED PLOVER

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 on 25th May and 1 on 30th June and from 1-7 on 21 dates between 17th July and 16th October, plus 13 on 2nd and 11 on 14th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 7th, 8th, 12th and 18th and 2 on 24th and 31st August, and 1 on 26th September.

Deer Hill Res. 1 on 28th August.

### LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Summer visitor and scarce passage visitor.

One only April-May at the breeding site; 2 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th July and 5th August with 1 on 9th August, and 3 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 3rd and 1 on 9th August.

### GREY PLOVER

Passage visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 8th, 2 on 11th, 1 and 2 separately on 18th and 1 on 19th-23rd September; 1 on 1st October and 1 on 31st December.

### GOLDEN PLOVER

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

Up to 200 were at Blackmoorfoot in early January and the same flock numbered about 300 at South Crosland on 28th January and over 200 were at Flockton on 14th February. Spring flocks which were mainly of the Northern sub species reached their peak numbers in April with 375 at Whitley Common on 3rd and 354 at Ringstone Edge on 7th. The autumn flocks included the record number of 700 at Blackmoorfoot on 6th August and 500 on 18th September. Elsewhere there were 548 at Ingbirchworth on 31st July, and 450 at Ringstone Edge on 28th September and later flocks included 272 at Midgley on 31st October and 212 at Ringstone Edge on 28th November.

### TURNSTONE

Passage visitor, rare-scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 2nd August (S.H. & R.J.W.)

### SNIPE

Resident breeder (3) and passage and winter visitor, common.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 50 on 17th January and 70 on 4th October.

Elland G.P. 40 on 23rd February and 42 on 27th November.

Ingbirchworth Res. 42 on 18th January and c.30 on 17th August.

### JACK SNIPE

Passage and winter visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 1st January and 1st and 7th February.

Elland G.P. 1-2 from 11th January to 1st April and 2 on 27th November and 1 on 24th December.

Singles at Royd Moor Res. (8th February) and Cooper Bridge (29th December)

### WOODCOCK

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor, uncommon.

Roding observed in May and June near woods at Bretton, Denby Dale, Bullcliffe, Deffer, Langsett, Stock's Moor and Yateholme

### CURLEW

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor, common.

First records were at Blackmoorfoot (27th February) and Whitley Common (29th February) and after September there were scattered records at Blackmoorfoot with 3 on 1st November and 2 on 24th December.

Breeding evidence from Rishworth, Slaithwaite, Wessenden, Wessenden Head and Langsett moors and Whitley Common.

### WHIMBREL

Passage visitor, scarce.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 1st May

Blackmoorfoot Res. More sightings than usual and all in July as follows:-  
1 on 4th and 6th, 2 on 8th and 10th, 1 on 14th, 16th, 18th and 20th and 2 on 26th.

### BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Passage visitor, rare.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 20th July and 1 on 17th August (M.L.D. et al)

### BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Passage visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 10th and 1 on 18th July; 3 on 1st and 1 on 14th August and 1 on 18th and 22nd September.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 14th August.

Scout Dike Res. 2 found on 13th September, 1 dead and 1 injured which was taken to Leighton Moss.

### GREEN SANDPIPER

Passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 19th and 27th July; 1 on 8th and 1 and 2 on 13th and 1 on 24th August.

Bretton Park 2 on 9th and 1 on 25th August.

Bilberry Res. 1 on 16th and 1 on 19th August.

Grimescar-Edgerton 1 overhead on 20th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 13th and 1 on 25th August.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 22nd and 3 on 24th August and 1 on 4th, 5th September.

Royd Moor Res. 2 on 23rd-26th September and 1 on 2nd October.

### COMMON SANDPIPER

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor, uncommon.

The bird that had remained at Elland G.P. in 1975 was still present up to 25th February. First migrants to return were at Blackmoorfoot and Elland G.P. on 18th April and the latest were 2 at Blackmoorfoot on 30th September.

### REDSHANK

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor, uncommon.

Singles were at Ingbirchworth in early January and at Elland G.P. and Cooper Bridge 31st January-7th February. Breeding birds began to return on 17th March and, as in 1975, there were a few late records with singles at Blackmoorfoot (21st November and 18th December) and at Cooper Bridge (4th November) and Elland G.P. (13th November)

### SPOTTED REDSHANK

Passage visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 17th June (T.C.); 2 on 20th July (M.L.D., G.E.W.) and 2 on 8th September (P.B., M.L.D.) and 2 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 12th August (B.H.)

## GREENSHANK

Passage visitor, uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. an increase on previous years - 1 on 6th July; 6 on 8th August and 1-4 on 12 dates 9th-30th August with 1 on 6th and 1 on 20th September.

Ingbirchworth Res. Singles on 5 dates 13th-30th August; 2 on 6th and 26th and singles on 5 dates up to 29th September.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 10th and 4 on 25th August and 2 on 26th September  
Singles at Elland G.P. (17th-25th July), Digley (19th August), and Royd Moor (23rd September) and 2 at Push Dam, Shepley on 19th September.

## KNOT

Passage visitor, scarce.

Elland G.P. 3 on 29th January (I.M., V.S.C.)

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 2nd August and 5 and 1 separately on 11th September.

## PURPLE SANDPIPER

Passage visitor, rare.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 12th-14th and 17th-18th August (probably present throughout these dates) was the first since 1954 and only the third record ever (D.By. et al)

## LITTLE STINT

Passage visitor, scarce-uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. an unusually large number of records -

1 on 25th August, 1 on 22nd, 1 on 24th-25th, 3 on 26th, 2 on 28th, and 6 on 29th September; 4 on 2nd and 1 on 3rd and 4th October.

All other records were on 26th September at Deer Hill Res. (3), Ringstone Edge Res. (2) and Royd Moor Res. (3)

## DUNLIN

Migrant breeder (2), passage and winter visitor, uncommon.

More records than usual early in the year as follows:-

Elland G.P. 1 on 10th and 17 on 31st January, 11 on 1st and 8 on 5th February and singles at Bretton Park and Healey House on 1st February. Noted on Slaithwaite and Wessenden Moors during the breeding season. Larger numbers than usual at the reservoirs during the autumn the September peaks being 35 at Blackmoorfoot on 17th, 14 at Ringstone Edge on 21st and 11 at Deer Hill on 26th. Smaller numbers at Blackmoorfoot up to 31st October and also 2 there on 31st December.

### SANDERLING

Passage visitor, scarce.

Ingbirchworth Res. 2 on 14th May

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 singles on 20th and 2 on 30th July, 1 on 1st August and 1 on 22nd September.

### RUFF

Passage visitor, scarce.

Digley Res. 1 on 6th May

Blackmoorfoot Res. 6 on 17th, 2 from 18th-29th with a 3rd on 19th, 24th and 26th September.

### ARCTIC SKUA

Rare visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 dark phase adults drifted westward overhead on 12th September (M.L.D. et al) 2nd record for the area.

### GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Winter visitor, common.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Roost maximum of 575 on 7th January with only single figures after 50 on 15th February. Absent April-June, the singles July-August and less than 10 until 16 on 20th October. December maximum of 145 on 27th was much lower than usual. Smaller numbers elsewhere in the area with 52 at Ringstone Edge on 19th December.

### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Passage and winter visitor, numerous.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Numbers lower than usual through much of the year with maxima of 180 on 2nd March and 325 on 20th October.

### HERRING GULL

Winter and passage visitor, numerous.

Blackmoorfoot Res. C.1000 on 22nd January, but much smaller numbers than usual late in the year, the maximum being on 225 on 11th December.

### COMMON GULL

Winter and passage visitor, numerous.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Maximum actually counted was 800 on 24th January, but well over a 1,000 was estimated to be present in the roost in late February. Year end maximum of 600 on 30th December.



### GLAUCOUS GULL

Winter visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult on 16th and 19th February (J.E.D., M.L.D.) and 1 2nd winter on 6th-7th March (P.B.)

### ICELAND GULL

Winter visitor, scarce.

Kirkheaton Tip 1 2nd winter on 8th January (D.S.)

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 adult on 14th January (G.M.Y.); 1 1st winter on 11th (G.M.Y.), 1 adult on 15th (J.E.D.) and 1 2nd winter on 22nd and 27th February (P.B., J.E.D.); 1 1st winter on 8th (J.E.D., M.L.D.), 1 2nd winter (P.B. et al) on 22nd March and 1 adult on 12th December (P.B., D.Man)

### MEDITERRANEAN GULL

Rare visitor.

One 1st winter bird flying east over Elland G.P. on 31st January (J.E.D.) and 1 immature at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd September (M.L.D., P.B. et al), 2nd and 3rd records for the area.

### LITTLE GULL

Passage visitor, scarce-uncommon.

Blackmoorfoot Res. (an exceptional number of sightings) single adults being present on 18th July, 11th September and 15th October and single immatures being present on 14th and 19th with 4 on 30th August; and 1 from 14th-16th September.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 immatures on 23rd August.

### BLACK-HEADED GULL

Resident breeder (3), passage and winter visitor, numerous

Blackmoorfoot Res. Roost not counted regularly early in the year but 2,200 on 26th January and later numbers were higher with 5,500 on 27th October and 4,000 on 28th December.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1,350 on 12th December and Langsett Res. 744 on 8th February. Small colony formed at Cupwith Res. where 3 birds were sitting late May-June and 160+ birds were sitting at Black Moss on 24th May, and about 220 young were present in June.

### KITTIWAKE

Passage visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 13th February; 1 on 25th March; 1 on 7th and 3 on 11th August, and 3 on 11th September.

Elland G.P. 1 on 30th March

### BLACK TERN

Passage visitor, scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Singles on 8th May, 25th September and 2nd October.

### COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

Passage visitor, uncommon.

So few were specifically identified in 1976 that all have been grouped together.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1-2 on 6 dates 25th April-25th May and small numbers, usually singles, on 17 dates 28th July - 7th October with maxima of 13 on 11th and 11 on 12th September.

Digley Res. 1 on 19th April.

Elland G.P. 3 on 13th May.

Ingbirchworth Res. 3 on 25th May, and on 12th September 1 at Bretton Park, 3 at Royd Moor, 5 at Langsett and 3 at Scout Dike where there was also 1 on 19th September.

### LITTLE TERN

Passage visitor, rare-scarce.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 9th May (M.L.D.); 9 on 20th (B.A., M.L.D.), and 1 on 30th September (P.B.), 2nd-4th records for the area.

### STOCK DOVE

Resident breeder (3)

### WOOD PIGEON

Resident breeder (4), winter visitor, numerous.

Considerable weather movements were noted over the area from 23rd-31st December at many localities mainly westerly, but some southerly and even easterly movements. About 1,000 at Liley Wood on 31st December.

### TURTLE DOVE

Migrant breeder (1)

After 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 25th May more than usual were noted with singing males during June at Bretton Park (1), Bullecliffe Woods (2), Cawthorne Park (3-4), Coxley Valley (1) and Deffer Wood (2) and during July at Langsett (1).

### COLLARED DOVE

Resident breeder (3)

Flocks of 18-26 at Edgerton, Kirkburton and Highburton and 51 at Scout Dike on 12th December.

### CUCKOO

#### Migrant breeder (2)

The first 2 at Denby Dale on 8th April were exceptionally early, being the earliest ever for the area, more widespread records occurring from 20th-27th April. The last was at Hall Dike on 16th August.

### BARN OWL

#### Resident breeder (1)

Successful breeding proved for one pair which reared 2 young. Sightings from 7 other localities but only one of these was during the breeding season.

### LITTLE OWL

#### Resident breeder (2)

Sightings at 21 localities with evidence of breeding at 5 of these.

### TAWNY OWL

#### Resident breeder (2)

Probably underrecorded as usual. Breeding evidence from 6 localities only.

### LONG-EARED OWL

#### Resident breeder (1)

A small roost of 3 birds found near Bretton Park in January may have been of migrants from Europe. Three pairs, nesting in quite widely separated localities; each reared at least 2 young each.

### SHORT-EARED OWL

#### Resident and migrant breeder (1)

A pair reared 2 young at a moorland locality, and singles were seen at Denby Dale on 4th March and 4th September; Scammonden on 16th and 23rd September and Deer Hill on 18th September.

### SWIFT

#### Migrant breeder (3)

First 1 at Outlane on 4th May and last at Thongsbridge on 15th October after other late birds at Waterloo on 6th and Elland on 12th October. 100+ were over Scammonden Res. on 19th June and 300+ at Bretton Park on 1st August, and very large numbers (possibly up to 2,000) were feeding over Deer Hill Res. one morning in mid-August (P.D.B.)

### KINGFISHER

Resident breeder (1)

Evidence of breeding at Bretton and Elland only, but an increased number of records from 8 other localities mainly along the Rivers Dearne and Colne, and Fenay Beck.

### GREEN WOODPECKER

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding evidence from Brockholes, Hall Dike and Honley Wood and regularly seen or heard at 6 other localities.

~~Great~~

### ~~GREEN~~ SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Resident breeder (2)

Bred at Deffer Wood and Hall Dike (2 pairs) and noted regularly at Bretton Park, Beaumont Park and Hagg Wood, and less regularly at 10 other localities.

### LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Resident breeder (1)

Bretton Park Singles on 8 dates up to 1st May and on 5 dates from 19th September.

Gregory Spring Wood 1 on 31st October.

### WRYNECK

Rare visitor.

One at Langsett in woodland near reservoir on 29th September (R.W.)  
2nd record for the area.

### SKYLARK

Resident breeder (4), partial migrant

Flocks of 80 at Whitley Common on 4th January and 64 flew north over Hall Dike on 26th October and 50+ were at High Hoyland on 3rd December.

### SWALLOW

Migrant breeder (4), passage visitor, numerous.

First singles at Elland G.P. on 14th and Bretton on 15th April, and the last 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 20th October. The roost at Lees Mill was occupied again with a maximum of over 1,200 on 26th August.

### HOUSE MARTIN

Migrant breeder (3), passage visitor, common.

First at Bretton on 14th April where the two latest records were 2 on 1st, and 1 on 14th November. There were 300 at Blackmoorfoot on 26th August.

SAND MARTIN

Migrant breeder (2), passage visitor, uncommon.

First 2 at Bretton on 11th April where the colony was again occupied and over 300 birds were seen in the area on 1st August. 32 nests in three colonies near Elland were also successful. Last record of 8 at Blackmoorfoot on 5th September.

CARRION CROW

Resident breeder (2)

HOODED CROW

1 at Broadstones on 3rd January (P.B.) and 1 at Bretton Park on 30th January (D.By)

ROOK

Resident breeder (5)

JACKDAW

Resident breeder (4)

MAGPIE

Resident breeder (4)

Roost maxima of 85 at Hall Dike on 29th January and 60 at Blackmoorfoot on 9th February.

JAY

Resident breeder (2)

The exceptional number of 21 seen together near Langsett on 7th August.

GREAT TIT

Resident breeder (4-5)

BLUE TIT

Resident breeder (5)

Flocks of 50+ at Holywell Brook on 19th and Bretton Park on 21st December.

COAL TIT

Resident breeder (3)

WILLOW TIT

Resident breeder (2-3)

LONG-TAILED TIT

Resident breeder (2)

Family parties reported from 11 localities with flocks of about 20 at Hall Dike, Coxley Valley, Bretton Park and Thunderbridge mainly September-December.

NUTHATCH

Resident breeder (1)

Bretton Park 1-3 regularly all the year, but the only known nesting attempt failed.

Elsewhere 2 at Wood Bottom, Mirfield on 24th January, 1 at Denby Dale on 4th March and 1 at Liley Woods on 18th August.

TREECREEPER

Resident breeder (3)

WREN

Resident breeder (5)

DIPPER

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding evidence from Booth Dean Clough, Hall Dike, Denby Dale, Upper Little Don with breeding season sightings at 3 other localities. At least 5 were in Dean Wood January-April.

MISTLE THRUSH

Resident breeder (3)

26 flew south over Hall Dike on 26th August.

FIELDFARE

Passage and winter visitor, numerous.

The last records included c.700 at Emley Moor on 25th April and 110 at Holmbridge on 3rd May. Flocks of 600 or more were at Ingbirchworth on 29th February, Yateholme on 8th April and Dean Wood on 15th April and 240 roosted at Hall Dike in March.

First of the autumn were 2 at Langsett on 18th September.

The main influx was late, being from 31st October.

Over 500 were at Digley on 13th November and 750 roosted in rushes at Ringstone Edge on 27th November.

### SONG THRUSH

Resident breeder (4)

### REDWING

Passage and winter visitor, numerous.

Numbers were generally low early in the year although up 250 roosted at Edgerton and 200 at Bretton in January and February. None were seen after early April apart from 14 on Emley Moor on 4th May. First of the autumn were 2 at Digley on 28th September, but it was not until the last week of October that a flock of more than 100 was seen. Over 350 roosted at Edgerton in mid-November and over 600 at Bretton Park in late November and over 1,200 were feeding on hawthorns near Horbury on 8th December.

### RING OUZEL

Migrant breeder (2)

First on Rishworth Moor on 20th March and at least 5 near Elland G.P. on 28th March. There were 9 at Digley on 26th April where breeding was proved as well as at Wessenden and Rishworth Moor. After the record of 1 at Scammonden on 6th September, there were none seen until a remarkable late movement in which the following were recorded:-  
30th-31st October - Snailsden (1), Digley (2), Scammonden (2)  
and Wessenden(2)

### BLACKBIRD

Resident breeder (5), and winter visitor, numerous.

### WHEATEAR

Migrant breeder (2-3)

First at Digley on 23rd March with 2 at Elland G.P. on 28th and 1 on Outlane Moor on 30th March. A build up on Whitley Common totalled 12 on 7th April. There was breeding evidence from all the usual localities listed in the 1975 report. 23 were at Deer Hill on 5th August. There were late records of singles at Redbrook Res. and Rishworth Moor on 23rd and Ingbirchworth on 24th October.

### STONECHAT

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

Sightings of 1-2 at 4 localities January-early April and 1-2 at 5 localities September-December. A pair reared 4 young in the Scammonden Valley, where 1-2 were seen to the year end.

### WHINCHAT

Migrant breeder (2)

The first was at Digley on 4th May and the last 2 at the same place on 23rd August. There was evidence of breeding at Scammonden, Wessenden, Deer Hill, Digley, Yateholme, Broadstones, Royd Moor and Upper Little Don.

### REDSTART

Migrant breeder (2)

First at Bretton on 14th April and late records of singles at Deighton on 13th and Deer Hill on 24th October. There was evidence of breeding of from 1-5 pairs at 8 different localities.

### BLACK REDSTART

Passage visitor, scarce.

There had been only 5 records between 1954 and 1975, but at least as many individuals were seen in the area in 1976.

Elland G.P. 1 male on 14-15th April (S.H. et al)

Wessenden 1 female/imm. male on 18th April (P.B.)

Digley 1 female/imm. male on 19th April (M.L.D.) and 1 in similar plumage on 28th September (N.L., D.Man)

Emley Woodhouse 1 male on 26th June (G.B.S.)

Brown's Edge, Langsett 1 female/imm. on 31st October (L.L.-E)

### ROBIN

Resident breeder (5)

### GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Migrant breeder (1)

1 at Elland G.P. from 9th May to early June; 1 at Bretton on 11th May; 1 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 22nd May and 1 near Swinden Plantation on 29th June.

### REED WARBLER

Passage visitor, rare.

1 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 28th May (M.L.D.)

### EDGE WARBLER

Migrant breeder (1)

First Elland G.P. on 24th April where 2 were present until July and probably bred and last at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd September where 15 were caught and ringed from 28th July to 17th August. A pair bred successfully at Bretton Park and singles were at Hagg Wood 28th April-8th May, Coxley Valley 6th May and Lees Mill (1-2) 26th-30th August.



### BLACKCAP

#### Migrant breeder (3)

First record was of 1 male at Bretton Park on 11th April and there were several late records as follows:-

- 1 at Bank Wood on 31st October; 1 male at Bretton on 13th November;
- 1 male found recently dead at Birkby on 21st November;
- 1 female at Blackmoorfoot on 1st and 1 male at Dalton on 20th December.

### GARDEN WARBLER

#### Migrant breeder (2)

First at Denby Dale on 3rd May, and last at Blackmoorfoot on 15th August. Present, with evidence of breeding at most localities, at Bretton Park, Deffer Wood, Stock's Moor, Coxley Valley, Bullcliffe Wood, Cawthorne Park, Hall Dike, Dean Wood, Honley Woods and Butternab.

1975 addition. First at Deffer Wood on 4th May.

### WHITETHROAT

#### Migrant breeder (2)

First at Denby Dale on 23rd April and last at Hall Dike on 14th September. At least 16 pairs present at 11 localities.

### LESSER WHITETHROAT

#### Migrant breeder (1)

First 1 on 28th April at Deighton which was last seen on 28th June, and last 1 at Royd Moor on 14th August, 1 at Elland G.P. on 13th May; 1 at Denby Dale 13th-20th May; 1 at Bretton 27th May and 30th June; 3 at Bank Wood on 20th June and 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 4 dates from 14th July - 11th August.

### WILLOW WARBLER

#### Migrant breeder (4)

Singles at Blackmoorfoot and Elland G.P. on 10th April were the first; the main influx followed from 16th-20th April. On 19th April there were c.20 at Deffer Wood and c.30 at Digley and at Coxley Valley on 6th May 67 males were counted. In an exceptional day of ringing at Blackmoorfoot 37 were caught (6 retraps) and the last record was also here on 25th September.

### CHIFFCHAFF

#### Migrant breeder (2)

First 1 at Bretton on 1st April, the main influx being from 10th-15th April. 3-4 pairs were present at Bretton Park and Deffer Woods and 1-2 were at Denby Dale, Elland, Screamer Wood and Hall Dike. The last was at Blackmoorfoot on 13th October.

### WOOD WARBLER

#### Migrant breeder (1)

Singles at Bretton Park and Longley Wood on 7th May; Booth Wood on 6th June and Denby Dale on 20th June were all singing males, whilst juveniles were caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 7th and 14th August. 3 pairs bred at Langsett and Little Don Valley, and a single was seen in Deffer Wood during June.

### GOLDCREST

Resident breeder (3), passage visitor, common.

14 were ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 10th April, and c.20 were at Edgerton on 10th and 15 at Bretton on 27th October which gave some indication of the typical spring and autumn movements.

### SPOTTED FLY CATCHER

#### Migrant breeder (3)

First at Hall Dike on 9th May, last at Deighton on 28th September. A generally successful breeding season was noted as indicated by a total of over 20 at Bretton Park on 25th August.

### PIED FLYCATCHER

Passage visitor, rare-scarce.

1 male in Swinden Plantation on 5th June (R.W.), a juvenile ringed at Blackmoorfoot on 8th August (M.L.D.) and a female/immature at Bretton Park on 12th September (J.E.D.)

### DUNNOCK

Resident breeder (5)

### MEADOW PIPIT

Resident breeder (4-5) and partial migrant.

At least 200 were at Elland G.P. in early February, and 50 at Blackmoorfoot on 4th September.

### TREE PIPIT

#### Migrant breeder (3)

Single males at Denby Dale on 15th and Deffer Wood on 19th April with the main influx from 2nd May. Last 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 5th September.

### ROCK PIPIT

Rare visitor.

2 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd October (P.D.B.) 3rd record for the area.

### WATER PIPIT

Rare visitor.

A bird showing characteristics of this race at Elland G.P. on 14th-15th February (D.I.C. et al) 2nd record for the area.

### PIED WAGTAIL

Resident breeder (3-4) partial migrant.

The roost at Elland G.P. had about 400 on 24th January, and c.35 roosted in bracken at Yateholme on 15th April. A remarkable build up of a feeding flock at Bretton Park occurred with 30 on 29th July reaching 124 on 10th August, and 51 still present on 26th September.

### WHITE WAGTAIL

Singles of this race were at Elland G.P. on 16th March, 9th-16th April and 9th May and at Coxley Valley on 24th April.

### GREY WAGTAIL

Resident breeder (2)

Proof of breeding at Bretton Park (3 pairs, 2 pairs were double brooded) and Denby Dale, and records from 6 other localities during the breeding season.

### YELLOW WAGTAIL

Migrant breeder (2)

First 1 at Bretton Park on 24th April and last at Blackmoorfoot on 13th September. There were over 20 at Bretton Park on 25th August where at least 1 pair bred, and was also noted at 6 localities but breeding proof from Hall Dike only.

### WAXWING

Winter visitor, rare-uncommon.

8 at Mirfield on 1st and 3rd February, 1 at Kirkheaton on 8th February, 1 at Golcar on 27th January and 1 at Beaumont Park on 10th December.

### GREAT GREY SHRIKE

Scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot 1 on 18th February (F.A. Wardman)

Elland G.P. & Elland Wood Bottom 1 from 8th-28th February.

(J.B., D.I.C. et al) and 1 on 29th March (D.J.S.)

Bretton Park 1 on 4th December (D.By)

1975 addition - 1 at Langsett on 6th December.

Assuming the Elland records all refer to the same bird, this now brings the total of records in the area to 7.

### STARLING

Resident breeder (5), winter visitor, numerous

### GREENFINCH

Resident breeder (4)

Roosts at Edgerton (125+ in February), Bretton Park (80+ in January) and Blackmoorfoot (100+ on 30th January) were not very large and flocks of 100 at Whitley Common on 10th January and Ingbirchworth on 16th October were the largest noted.

### GOLDFINCH

Resident breeder (2-3)

A flock feeding on waste ground just off Bradford Road numbered 32 on 19th March. The largest autumn flocks were 68 at Hall Dike on 27th September, 80 flying west at Digley on 28th September and 118 at Bretton Park on 27th October.

### SISKIN

Winter visitor, scarce-uncommon.

Only one record in the early part of the year which was of 2 feeding on nuts in a Moldgreen garden on 14th-15th February. On 10th April, 1 male was in song at Bretton Park, and on the 19th a flock of 20+ at Digley included a few singing males. A flock of about 40 was at Westwood Edge on 13th October and during December there were 13 at Kirkburton on 27th and 13 at Liley Wood on 31st.

### LINNET

Resident and partial migrant, breeder (4)

Flocks of 150+ at Scout Dike on 24th August and 234 at Hall Dike on 19th September, and a maximum of 90 at Blackmoorfoot on 1st October.

### TWITE

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3)

Although winter flocks are not without precedent, 25 at Scamonden on 27th January were unusual. 2 were on Whitley Common 29th February and there were scattered reports during March before the general influx in April. Autumn flocks maxima were 200 in late July at Blackmoorfoot Res. 120+ at Scamonden on 8th August and c.100 at Ringstone Edge on 18th September. The last record was of 30 at Blackmoorfoot on 16th October.

### REDPOLL

Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant and winter visitor, uncommon. The largest flocks noted were 60+ at Horbury on 17th November and 80 at Coxley Valley on 22nd December.

Nealy Redpoll A flock of 30+ Redpolls at Elland G.P. included 3 of this variety. These were seen first on 3rd January and last on 2nd March. One of these birds had an extremely white rump and underparts showing plumage characteristics of Arctic Redpoll (J.E., S.H.)

### BULLFINCH

Resident breeder (3)

### CROSSBILL

Passage and winter visitor, rare-uncommon.

Near Langsett 4 were seen on 29th June and 1 heard on 1st August (J.E. & S.M.D.)

1975 addition - near Langsett 11 on 26th and 7 on 28th June.

### CHAFFINCH

Resident breeder (4-5) and passage and winter visitor, numerous.

The only large flock was at Bretton Park in the autumn where numbers rose from c.100 on 16th October to over 300 on 16th December.

### BRAMBLING

Winter visitor, uncommon-common.

Only single figures at 6 localities early in the year, the last being 1 ♂ at Coxley Valley on 13th May. 1 at Digley Wood on 8th October was the first of the autumn; others were there later and at Hall Dike and Cowcliffe in December. At Blackmoorfoot after the first on 3rd November (3) there were 50+ on 5th November and 70 overhead on 4th December. At Bretton Park 2 were present on 16th October, over 50 during November, and a maximum of c.120 on 21st December.

#### YELLOWHAMMER

Resident breeder (3)

Flocks of about 30 at Castle Hill in January and Gunthwaite and Elland G.P. in December.

#### CORN BUNTING

Resident breeder (2)

Singing males noted near Outlane (2), Grange Moor, Midgley, Hall Dike, Bulleliffe (1 each) and Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor etc. (6 at least).

#### REED BUNTING

Resident breeder (3)

63 at Elland G.P. on 12th December.

#### SNOW BUNTING

Winter visitor, scarce-uncommon.

Singles at Wassenden Head on 15th February (D.By) and at Castle Hill on 3rd and 5th November (R. Knight)

#### HOUSE SPARROW

Resident breeder (5)

#### TREE SPARROW

Resident breeder (4)

Flocks of 300 at Kirkheaton (4th January), 150 at Ingbirchworth (late February), 200 at Blackmoorfoot (28th July) and 200 at Armitage Bridge (19th December)

To the members who spend time in the field and later indoors compiling their records, I give my thanks, and in particular to Paul Bray for analysing the Blackmoorfoot log sheets for use in the classified list.

I also thank fellow recorders from Halifax, Wakefield, Barnsley and Sheffield for additional records supplied.

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also a number of other observers who visited the hide at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

## SURVEYS

For information this brief review of surveys with which the Club has assisted, and is continuing to assist, are listed below.

### Wildfowl Counts

These have been carried out at Bretton Park since 1966 and at Blackmoorfoot and the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs since 1970. The counts are undertaken monthly between September and March.

The compilation of our local records is dealt with by Dennis Manchester, who is also one of the counters.

B.T.O. Surveys Since the completion of the work for the Atlas of Breeding Birds 1968-72 the Club has assisted with the following enquiries:-

Gull Roosts	1973
Rookeries	1975
Great Crested Grebe	1976
Habitat Sites Register	1974-76 (work nearly completed)
and Wintering Golden Plovers	1977 will be supported



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## RINGING REPORT

1976 was an exceptional year in that 4,108 birds of 64 species were ringed, seven of these for the first time in the Huddersfield area. These were the Great Crested Grebe (found Fenay Bridge released Bretton), Barn Owl (Blackmoorfoot), Ringed Plover (Blackmoorfoot), Common Gull (Crosland Moor), Wood Pigeon (Edgerton), Collared Dove (Edgerton) and Pied Flycatcher (Blackmoorfoot)

All the Twite (328) were ringed during an eleven day period at the end of July. The large total of Greenfinch ringed at Blackmoorfoot was due to the introduction of a peanut basket and not to roosting birds, as has been the case in previous years. The ringing of House Sparrows has been discontinued.

During the year, 133 pullus were ringed, these were; Mallard (3 Blackmoorfoot), Kestrel (5 Wessenden), Black-headed Gull (72 Black Moss), Wood Pigeon (3 Edgerton), Swallow (3 Bolster Moor, 6 Honley), Mistle Thrush (8 Edgerton), Song Thrush (4 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Crosland Moor, 9 Edgerton), Blackbird (4 Blackmoorfoot, 3 Crosland Moor, 5 Edgerton) and Duncock (4 Blackmoorfoot)

## 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  
Ad.: 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  
+ Shot or killed by man

Date of Recovery

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets.  
 All recoveries of 5 Kms. or more are published. The recovery of Blackbird  
 CJ49192 was received too late for inclusion in the 1975 report.

Huddersfield Birds Recovered ElsewhereSWALLOW

KK62318	Juv.	7.9.76	Blackmoorfoot, Nr. Huddersfield 53°37'N 1°52'W
	V	9.9.76	Comstall Marple (Cheshire) 53°25'N 2°03'W 27 Kms SW

BLACKBIRD

CJ49192	I.Y.M.	8.1.72	Edgerton, Huddersfield 53°40'N 1°48'W
	X	0.6.75	Palojoki, Nurmijarvi (Uusimaa), Finland. 60°26'N 24°52'E
CH39303	I.Y.F.	22.10.73	Edgerton
	X	24.3.76	Bardsey Island (Caernarvon) 52°46'N 4°48'W 225 Kms WSW

REED WARBLER

JV20508	Ad.	18.6.75	Blackmoorfoot
	V	23.7.76	Silverdale, Carnforth (Lancs.) 54°10'N 2°49'W 85 Kms. NW

GREENFINCH

BH36881	I.Y.M.	17.1.76	Edgerton
	X	Mid 4.76	Worksop (Notts.) 53°18'N 1°07'W 55 Kms. SE
BB83954	I.Y.M.	21.2.76	Edgerton
	X	5.6.76	Congleton (Cheshire) 53°10'N 2°13'W 60 Kms. SSW

TWITE

KA49237	I.Y.	24.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
sexed M	V	5.11.76	Koksijde, (West Flanders), <u>Belgium</u> 51°06'N 2°39'E
KA49249	Ad.F	24.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	30.10.76	Sparregat, Wassenaar, (Zuid Holland), <u>Netherlands</u> 52°08'N 4°20'E
KA49338	I.Y.	25.7.76	Blackmoorfoot
sexed M	V	1.11.76	Brecht, (Antwerpen), <u>Belgium</u> 51°21'N 4°38'E

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREASONG THRUSH

CH39982	I.Y.	26.9.74	Blackmoorfoot
	X	29.10.76	Thongsbridge, Huddersfield 53°35'N 1°46'W 6 Kms. SE

BLACKBIRD

CH39589	Ad.F	18.11.73	Edgerton
	X	19.3.76	Shepley, Huddersfield 53°36'N 1°42'W 9 Kms. SE
CH39875	I.Y.F.	6.1.74	Blackmoorfoot
	V	21.2.76	Edgerton 6 Kms. NNE

ROBIN

JX64783	Juv.	19.6.76	Blackmoorfoot
	X	15.7.76	Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury 53°40'N 1°38'W 15 Kms. ENE

PIED WAGTAIL

JP79706	I.Y.	5.10.73	Blackmoorfoot
	X	3.4.76	Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield 53°38'N 1°43'W 9 Kms. ENE

GREENFINCH

BP94990	Ad.M	16.2.73	Blackmoorfoot
	V	7.2.76	Edgerton 6 Kms. NNE
BS48472	I.Y.M.	29.11.75	Blackmoorfoot
	V	17.1.76	Edgerton 6 Kms. NNE
BH36890	Ad.F	24.1.76	Edgerton
	V	6.11.76	Blackmoorfoot 6 Kms. SSW

GREENFINCH (Cont.)

BH36994	Ad.M	21.2.76	Edgerton
	V	1.3.76	Blackmoorfoot 6 Kms. SW
BS48664	Ad.M	9.4.76	Blackmoorfoot
	V	12.12.76	Edgerton 6 Kms. NNE

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELDSWALLOW

JP92787	Juv.	18.8.74	Brough, Humber, (Yorks.) 53°44'N 0°38'W
sexed. F	V	5.9.76	Blackmoorfoot 80 Kms. WSW

BLACKBIRD

CP60041	I.Y.M.	7.11.75	Bardsey Island (Caernarvon) 52°40'N 4°48'W
	V	6.3.76	Edgerton 225 Kms. ENE

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 number 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>YEARS</u>									<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	
Swallow				1						1
Jay	1									1
Great Tit		1		1	1					3
Blue Tit	11	2	3	3	1					20
Coal Tit	3									3
Treecreeper	1	1								2
Wren	1	1								2
Dipper	1									1
Song Thrush	1	2								3
Blackbird	16	28	21	18	5	1		2	1	92
Robin	7	5	1	3	2					18
Willow Warbler	1									1
Dunnock	4	1	2	5						12
Meadow Pipit	1									1
Starling	1									1
Greenfinch	10	2	2	4						18
Linnet	1									1
Redpoll	1									1
Bullfinch	3	4	1							8
Chaffinch	1			1						2
Reed Bunting	2	1								3
House Sparrow	6	2								8
Tree Sparrow	3	1	1							5
										<hr/>
										208

TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>2 yrs.</u>	<u>3 yrs.</u>	<u>4 yrs.</u>	<u>5 yrs.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Great Tit		1				1
Blue Tit	2		1			3
Mistle Thrush				1		1
Song Thrush		1			1	2
Blackbird	3	2		2	2	9
Robin					1	1
Pied Wagtail			1			1
Starling	1					1
Greenfinch	1					1
Bullfinch		1				1
House Sparrow	4					4
						<hr/> 25

M.L. DENTON

BIRDS RINGED IN HUBBERSFIELD 1976

Great Crested Grebe	1	Song Thrush	68
Mallard	3	Redwing	136
Teal	2	Blackbird	510
Kestrel	5	Redstart	2
Ringed Plover	1	Robin	106
Snipe	2	Grasshopper Warbler	1
Common Sandpiper	1	Reed Warbler	1
Dunlin	1	Sedge Warbler	15
Common Gull	2	Blackcap	3
Black-Headed Gull	73	Garden Warbler	2
Wood Pigeon	3	Whitethroat	1
Collared Dove	4	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Barn Owl	1	Willow Warbler	263
Tawny Owl	2	Chiffchaff	6
Swift	5	Wood Warbler	2
Skylark	4	Goldcrest	53
Swallow	493	Spotted Flycatcher	1
House Martin	5	Pied Flycatcher	1
Sand Martin	1	Dunnock	82
Rook	1	Meadow Pipit	12
Magpie	2	Pied Wagtail	33
Jay	1	Starling	74
Great Tit	50	Greenfinch	602
Blue Tit	192	Goldfinch	2
Coal Tit	3	Linnet	84
Willow Tit	3	Twite	328



BIRDS RINGED IN HUDDERSFIELD 1976 (Cont.)

Long Tailed Tit	5	Redpoll	21
Treecreeper	4	Bullfinch	53
Wren	64	Chaffinch	94
Dipper	1	Brambling	5
Mistle Thrush	15	Reed Bunting	25
Fieldfare	1	Tree Sparrow	570
			-----
			4108

Totals for individual areas include 2931 at Blackmoorfoot and 1024 at Edgerton

ECTOPARASITES

The 1976 batch of Hippoboscidae sent to Mr. H. Beaumont of Rotherham do not call for special mention, except for a STENEPTERYX HIRUNDINIS taken from a Swallow at Blackmoorfoot on the 30th August. This is the first record since the three similar records three years ago.

Species hosts for 'flat flies' during 1976 compared with 1971-75

1976ORNITHOMYA AVICULARIA

Blackbird  
Linnet  
Tree Sparrow

ORNITHOMYA FRINGILLINA

Wren  
Robin  
Willow Warbler  
Duncock  
Reed Bunting  
Tree Sparrow

1971-75ORNITHOMYA AVICULARIA

Blackbird  
Robin  
Pied Wagtail  
Starling  
House Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow

ORNITHOMYA FRINGILLINA

Blue Tit  
Tree Creeper  
Wren  
Robin  
Willow Warbler  
Duncock  
Goldfinch  
House Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow

1976

ORNITHOMYA CHLOROPUS

Kestrel  
Skylark  
Robin  
Meadow Pipit  
Pied Wagtail  
Starling  
Linnet  
Twite  
House Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow

1971-75

ORNITHOMYA CHLOROPUS

Swallow  
Great Tit  
Ring Ouzel  
Whinchat  
Robin  
Willow Warbler  
Dunnock  
Meadow Pipit  
Tree Pipit  
Pied Wagtail  
Linnet  
Bullfinch  
Reed Bunting  
House Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow

STENEPTERYX HIRUNDINIS

Swallow

STENEPTERYX HIRUNDINIS

Swallow  
House Martin

CRATAERINA PALLIDA is host specific and has therefore only been found in swifts.

EXTREME DATES

The following list simply gives the earliest and latest dates for the species over the six year period.

ORNITHOMYA AVICULARIA

1971 - only 2 records, both 18th August.

1972 - 5th August and 25th November (9 records)

1973 - 8th August and 22nd October (2 records)

1974 - 28th June and 24th August (3 records)

1975 - 20th July and 31st July (6 records)

1976 - 25th July and 6th August (6 records)

ORNITHOMYA FRINGILLINA

- 1971 - 12th August and 10th October (4 records)  
1972 - 9th August and 12th September (7 records)  
1973 - only 1 record, 25th July  
1974 - 29th July and 14th September (4 records)  
1975 - 24th July and 25th October (8 records)  
1976 - 20th July and 9th October (12 records)

ORNITHOMYA CHLOROPUS

- 1971 - 12th August and 28th August (2 records)  
1972 - 2nd August and 25th August (12 records)  
1973 - 16th July and 13th August (6 records)  
1974 - 12th July and 27th August (19 records)  
1975 - 8th July and 2nd August (34 records)  
1976 - 10th July and 6th August (57 records)

STENEPTERYX HIRUNDINIS has only been recorded on seven dates, the earliest being 16th June 1974 and the latest 7th September 1972.

CRATAERINA PALLIDA has only been recorded three times, twice on 18th June 1974 and on a later date of 11th July 1972.

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