



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield 2003



Registered charity no 1098296

‘Birds in Huddersfield 2003’ is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers’ Club and the latest in an unbroken series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club is a registered charity (no 1098296).

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Front cover illustration: Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) by Stuart Brocklehurst.

ISSN 0962-5925

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Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2003

compiled by Brian Armitage

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by Stuart Brocklehurst (SB) & Trevor Sutton (JTS)

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ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 38 years, an invaluable source for showing the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking this kind of ornithological research and *Birds in Huddersfield 2003* is the latest in an unbroken series of such reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off work, including in 2001 an *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area* and, in 2004, *Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003*.

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

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

We run a lecture and meeting programme between September and May each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography.

Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:

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

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust, English Nature, Peak District National Park, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and The Friends of Beaumont Park. We also advise Kirklees Council on bird life issues through our representation on two of its conservation committees.

Our research is undertaken wholly by un-paid volunteers and the Club relies entirely upon the generosity of its members and upon voluntary donations to continue its work.

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (see inside rear cover) for more information.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again it gives me much pleasure to write the President's Report in "Birds in Huddersfield". This latest Annual Report for 2003 has once more been compiled by Brian Armitage. The slightest glance at its contents will convince anyone that it is a formidable task to undertake. Reports from our diligent observers arrive throughout the year, are then recorded and classified, and finally shaped for publication. Brian gives most generously of his time and draws upon his first-rate knowledge to produce an informative record, including comparisons with earlier years. He can be proud of his work and we can only say how grateful we are to him, to Stuart Brocklehurst and Trevor Sutton for the enhancing illustrations and to his loyal informants. He has once again been ably assisted by Mike Wainman, who has arranged the printing. I know readers of this Report will enjoy studying it as much as I have.

In the previous Report I spoke of some of our national problems. One of the enduring concerns birdwatchers have had is the influence of certain farming practices on various bird populations. It is therefore something of a relief to learn that from April 2005 new inducements are available from the government for farmers to preserve and provide bird-friendly habitats such as hedgerows (not so long ago there were payments to destroy them!), field margins, water meadows, beetle banks, bare patches in cornfields and so on. Perhaps we have seen the end of the destruction of so much that many farmland birds need to flourish. We shall all be eager to see what happens.

In our own small way Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club contributes to research on bird populations. Recently we conducted a survey of our SW area, which has been relatively neglected, and hope to do a follow-up. We have just completed a rook survey involving a good proportion of our members and are at present carrying out a bird survey for The Friends of Beaumont Park. Recently, too, we published another splendid report, Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003, compiled by Mike Denton and illustrated by Mike Pinder. Some of our members also undertake surveys for other bodies such as BTO or represent us on Kirklees Wildlife Forum. On the latter body we have been exercised by the effects of tree planting on habitats for such moorland birds as Twite, an interesting case, since it might be natural to think that birdwatchers would want to see as many trees as possible. We are grateful to all who contribute in any way to these activities.

The Club continues to thrive. Its membership holds up well, with a very good number able to attend a strong, varied programme of lectures. The lectures, whether they be about one particular species, or a local or neighbouring area, or another country, or an aspect of birdlife are always informative and attractive. Our Local Patch Outings have been better supported this year, giving us hope that they will continue. From my own experience, or from report, I can say that they have been excellent, and the leaders of all deserve thanks for their time and effort.

The Committee continues to do its work most efficiently and without fuss or show. But for their initiative and support, the Club would be all the poorer and my task impossible. As ever, the membership, by continuing its support, endorses the direction of the Club. We are fortunate in having so many loyal and enthusiastic members.

Michael Rayner

SOME FEATURES OF THE BIRDING YEAR

After the excesses of last year when three species new to the area were found (the American Wigeon at Dewsbury SF on 9th December was accepted by the YNU Rarities Committee), 2003 produced no new additions in the 175 species reliably reported.

The year began well for one observer with the discovery of a female Black Redstart at Horbury SF on 1st January; its stay of more than a week enabled several others to get an excellent year tick. January produced the only record of the year of Hawfinch, but large numbers of Common Crossbills were in evidence from mid-month at several sites and breeding occurred in at least one area and probably in others. Good numbers of Bramblings remained from 2002 in the early months, several sites had three figure counts of Siskin, and Mealy Redpolls accompanied their Lesser relatives at five localities. The only Glaucous Gull of the year was found at Blackley Tip on 17th January and a Kittiwake flew through Dewsbury SF on 27th. February produced a Corn Bunting at Lepton from 18th to 27th, only the second record since 1997 of this once common and widespread breeding species. Waxwings were a source of delight for many between 3rd January and 22nd April, but passage of Pink-footed Geese in the early months was well below average.

Whooper Swans on return passage were recorded at four sites in March, which also produced some early migrants on typical dates, Chiffchaff on 13th, Sand Martin on 15th, Wheatear on 21st, Ring Ouzel on 23rd, a very early Willow Warbler on 24th and Blackcap on 31st, but adverse weather conditions in April halted early arrivals until south-easterlies from mid-month allowed a further influx. Most species had arrived by the end of the month, but it was not until May that Tree Pipit, Reed Warbler, Wood Warbler, and Spotted and Pied Flycatcher were reported. There was a good spring passage of White Wagtails.

For the summer visitors, fortunes were mixed. There was a huge increase in numbers of singing Chiffchaffs to over 150, and Whinchat and Blackcap appeared to increase. Although nationally Willow Warbler is on the decline and this is also suspected in our area, over 360 singing males were located. Also on the plus side, a new colony of 60+ Sand Martins was found. Things were not so good for most other summer visitors however and Tree Pipit, Redstart, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Sedge Warbler, both Lesser and Common Whitethroats and Garden Warbler were all reported in reduced numbers. Even more disastrous were the declines of Wood Warbler, with just one singing male reported on five dates in May, and Pied Flycatcher with only a single pair breeding and only one other singing male recorded. No breeding proof was obtained for Yellow Wagtail or for Grasshopper and Reed Warblers.

Resident breeders also had varying degrees of success; there were only four reported sightings of the elusive Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, reports of both Kingfisher and Dipper were reduced in number, but Stonechats had their best year on record, Willow Tit bred in at least three of the twelve sites where they were recorded and Nuthatch continued to spread its range with birds at more than sixty sites. Tree Sparrow was reported from four new sites, but appears to have deserted two other traditional areas. Our "star" bird, the Twite, benefited from seed put down and up to forty pairs bred, and records of Yellowhammer increased significantly as did those of Reed Bunting.

In May two Little Egrets enlivened a site between Elland and Brighouse on 5th, providing the area with its second record of the species hot on the heels of the first in 2002, a Dotterel graced the same field at Blackmoorfoot as in the previous year on 15th/16th, and a Black-necked Grebe took up residence at Blackmoorfoot Res on 27th, remaining to 27th July,

providing excellent views for all who made the effort to see it in by far the longest stay of this species in our area. A Quail called nearby from 17th to 26th June.

Twelve species of diurnal raptor occurred during the year and included single Honey Buzzard and Hen Harrier, two Marsh Harriers, five Ospreys and four Red Kites. Sparrowhawk continued to do well and many more Kestrel records were submitted. Sightings of Common Buzzard also continued to increase and it can surely not be long before it is added to the list of breeding species. Goshawk records came from traditional sites as well as a new locality, but information on Merlin and Peregrine in the breeding season was sparse, and although Hobby records increased again, breeding was not suspected anywhere. Amongst nocturnal raptors, both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls had very good years, and Barn Owl was reported reliably for the first time since 1998, from four sites.

Although wader passage was not heavy, Knot, Sanderling, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Black-tailed Godwit all occurred and good numbers of Ringed Plover, Whimbrel and Greenshank were logged. Oystercatchers bred again and Little Ringed Plovers made attempts at five sites. All the expected gull species put in an appearance, Mediterranean Gull at five sites, Little and Iceland at two, and there was a good showing by Yellow-legged Gull mainly in July to September, but a single Sandwich Tern was the only one of the family reported apart from Common Tern. Two drake Garganey at Langsett Res on 9th September were an exciting find.

An exceptionally early Fieldfare was reported from Baitings on 26th August, more than six weeks earlier than the next of its kind, a Gannet was a surprise to its single observer on 14th September as it flew up the Colne Valley, three different Black Redstarts were found between October and December, a Firecrest was watched for five minutes on 26th November and Waxwings began to arrive from 6th December. At least two Water Pipits graced Dewsbury SF from 6th November to the year end and into 2004, and there was a small but significant arrival of wildfowl on 9th-11th November, mainly Wigeon, but also involving small numbers of Gadwall, Teal, Shoveler, Scaup and Red-breasted Merganser. Finally a Snow Bunting near the Pennine Way on 25th December provided an unexpected but most welcome present for two lucky observers.

Yet again I must thank all those who submitted records, especially the army of local patch watchers. Mike Denton provided monthly summaries of sightings from Blackmoorfoot Res, where logsheets were completed for an incredible 363 days, only single dates in January and December going unreported. Stuart Brocklehurst again supplied an impressive array of illustrations that enliven and enhance this report, apart from the atmospheric sketch of soaring Common Buzzards by Trevor Sutton. Paul Bray is to be congratulated on his excellent paper on two much under-recorded species, Jackdaw and Rook, the result of many hours of careful observation and recording. Thanks are again due to Judith Smith of Greater Manchester Ornithological Society and to Nick Carter and Nick Dawtrey of Halifax Birdwatchers' Club for exchanging records for our areas of overlap. Mike Wainman, as well as providing a summary of the Marsden Moor NT Survey, once again has given tremendous help with organising material for this report and for seeing it through the production and printing processes, making the recorder's job much less onerous, and he is deserving of enormous gratitude.

Brian Armitage
(Recorder)

THE WEATHER IN 2003

In the first week of January easterly or northerly winds produced very cold conditions with snow lying into the second week. Mild south-easterlies brought a much warmer spell before cold northerlies again resulted in cold conditions at the month end extending into the second week of February. After fluctuating temperatures for most of the rest of the month, dry east to south winds then dominated. Similar conditions prevailed to mid March, after which high pressure prevailed. Nights were cold and clear, with hoary frosts and plenty of sunshine after morning fog. Light southerly winds produced some early summer migrants.

April started off cold and wet, followed by fine but still cold days to mid-month after which warm south-easterlies brought an influx of migrants before cold easterlies returned over the Easter weekend and put a temporary halt to arrivals. During May strong variable winds brought more rainfall until the last week when high pressure began to dominate, creating dry settled weather which lasted to the middle of June, but this changed as the month came to a close with continuous heavy rain to finish the month.

July was characterised by very high temperatures and light, mainly southerly, winds, after light showers early in the month. August was even hotter with less rain and winds generally from the west. September similarly saw high pressure dominating with continued high temperatures and very little rain, but ending with fresh northerlies.

The first half of October saw the dry weather continuing with winds mostly from a westerly quarter, after which easterlies dominated to 24th followed by more variable conditions. November continued to be mild until colder weather took over in the last quarter with some heavy frosts occurring; these conditions continued throughout December, which ended with snow and a freeze-up at many local waters.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

The list mostly follows the sequence and scientific nomenclature of Prof. K. H. Voous (1977. List of Holartic Bird Species), although, in the light of recent findings, some previously considered races have been given specific status.

The status of each species has been indicated by one of the following classifications:

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

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

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

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

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

A complete list of all species recorded in the area up to the end of 2005 appears on page 118.

Abbreviations: the following have been used in order to keep the text as short as possible:

c.	-approximately	N	-North
F	-female	S	-South
M	-male	E	-East
ad.	-adult	W	-West
imm.	-immature	CP	-Country Park
juv.	-juvenile	F&M	-Foot & Mouth
1 st W.	-first winter	GP	-Gravel Pit
1 st S.	-first summer	NR	-Nature Reserve
2 nd W.	-second winter	SF	-Sewage Farm
2 nd S.	-second summer	SP	-Sludge Plant
3 rd W.	-third winter	Res.	-Reservoir
max.	-maximum/maxima	r.h.	-redhead
min.	-minimum	v.m.w.	-visible migration watch/ing

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2003

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Partial migrant breeder (1)

There was a very small increase, to 18, in the number of sites from which the species was reported, with breeding attempts recorded at seven of them.

Elland GPs – present in all months, with max. of four on 3rd and 29th March and five on 13th June and 11th Oct. At least one pair bred, young being seen from 13th June to 4th Aug.

Ingbirchworth Res – present throughout the year, with max. of seven in March, eight in Aug and nine in Sept, five remaining into December. Breeding confirmed by at least one pair.

Boshaw Whams – regular sightings included two pairs on 15th April and up to three juvs. in June. Two still present on 25th Oct.

Tunnel End Res – singles present in Jan and from Oct-Dec. A pair was in residence from 30th March to 27th July, during which time three unsuccessful breeding attempts were made, one of them coming to within a day or two of hatching.

Winscar Res – a pair present from at least 19th April and two breeding attempts were made; on 29th June an adult was on a nest which was washed out on 30th and nest building was taking place again on 13th July but was again unsuccessful.

Scout Dike Res – several sightings of up to three birds during the summer months with an adult and a juv on 26th Sept; three birds still present on 18th Dec.

Meal Hill, Jackson Bridge – one or two regularly all year, with three on 21st April, and probably bred.

Gunthwaite Dam – breeding was reported but no evidence forthcoming.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the first of the year did not occur until 3rd June, after which birds were present in all months and continuously from 23rd July to 5th Oct, normally up to three, but max. of six on 2nd/3rd Sept and four from 1st to 5th Oct. Scarce at the year end.

Elsewhere birds occurred at **Bretton Lakes**, with two on 5th Jan and six on 10th Oct, at **Horbury** singles on the R.Calder on 6th Jan and 23rd Nov with two on 8th Dec, at **Denby Dale** two from 3rd to 22nd Jan, one on 4th April and a juv. on 15th Sept, on the R.Calder at **Dewsbury SF** one on 7th Feb, two on 25th March, one on 10th Nov and three from 28th Nov to the year end, **Colnebridge SP** one from 19th March to 13th April, **Broadstones Res** a max. of two in April and singles on 23rd May and 10th Aug, one at **Coxley Dam** on 1st and 11th June, an adult on a small pond at **High Hoyland** on 10th June and at **Carlecotes Ponds** there were singles on two dates in April and up to two regularly from 27th June.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident breeder (1)

An even worse year for this species than 2002 with breeding attempts reported from only two sites and no young reared.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds present all year, though scarce in Jan and Dec. Monthly max. of two in Jan, five in Feb, seven in March, nine in April, 12 in May, 16 in June, 12 in July, 11 in Aug and Sept, six in Oct, nine in Nov and two in Dec. Three breeding attempts failed in June, when nests in willows on the west bank were left high and dry by mid month.

Scout Dike Res – six birds were present on a regular basis from 15th April to 27th May with a peak of nine on 20th April. Two pairs attempted to breed, one pair deserting due to falling water levels, whilst a second pair produced one young which did not survive, possibly as a result of predation by Carrion Crows. Five were present on 14th September.

Elland GPs – after the first on 11th Jan, one or two were present to 13th May and singles on 20th June and 26th Aug (imm).

Ingbirchworth Res – very few records once again, with max. of two in March, three in April/May, two in June/July; after that just one on 7th Sept.

Baitings Res - up to two birds late March to mid April, three from 21st to 26th Aug, then two to 3rd Oct.

Ringstone Edge Res – present daily between April and Oct, with max.of five on 12th and 23rd May and 14th July.

Other sites from which birds were reported were **Bretton Lakes**, one on 5th Jan and c.20 on 9th Dec, but none there in freezing conditions on 18th Dec, **Scammonden** singles on 5th Jan, 16th Feb and 17th Aug, **Royd Moor Res** one on 4th May, **Broadstones Res** two on 15th June, **Butterley Res** an adult on 26th Aug and **Ryburn Res** one on 16th Nov.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare visitor

A bird in full summer plumage appeared at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 27th May and remained to 27th July (MLD,KH et al). This is by far the longest staying individual ever recorded in the club area, the previous record being continuous presence of up to four birds at the same site from 26th Aug to 17th Sept 1999.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Rare visitor

An immature bird flew up the **Colne Valley** at 0730hrs on 14th Sept (CH), the first since 1998 and only the seventh since 1914.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Passage and winter visitor

Birds were again recorded in all months, most frequently and in highest numbers in the autumn and winter months, with double figure counts at two sites. Blackmoorfoot Res, the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs and the Calder Valley provided the majority of the sightings.

Monthly numbers of Cormorants

(excluding Colnebridge SP, Dewsbury SF, Elland GPs and Royd Moor/Scout Dike Res's)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	12	7	2	5	8	9	7	14	10	3	11

In the Calder Valley, **Elland GPs** had birds in all months except August, with max. of seven in Jan and Feb, four in March and May, one in April, June and July, three in Sept and Nov,

five in Oct and six in Dec. **Dewsbury SF** had birds flying over or on the river daily, with max. counts of eight on 13th Jan, seven on 13th Aug and 13 on 13th Feb. Between these two sites, at **Colnebridge SP**, birds were noted flying up or down river on eight dates. Over **Horbury** up to two birds were seen in Jan, Feb, May and Dec.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res** birds were present on 19 dates from 29th May to 31st Dec, mainly as singles, and a max. of three on 14th Oct.

The **Ingbirchworth** group of reservoirs had birds on approx. 30 dates in seven months with high peaks in Dec of eight on 21st and 12 at **Scout Dike** on 24th.

Smaller numbers, mostly singles, were recorded at **Baitings Res** (singles in Jan and March and a max. of three in Sept), **Broadstones Res**, **Hade Edge**, **Hall Dike**, **Jebb Lane**, **New Mill** (six over on 2nd June), **Ramsden Res**, **Ravensthorpe**, **Ringstone Edge Res** (max. three in July, one in Aug, four in Sept, one in Oct), **Ryburn Res** (max. Jan/Feb three, Mar and May two, Aug and Nov one) and **Taylor Hill** (two over on 31st Dec).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor

The area's second record followed quickly on the heels of the first in Nov 2002.

Two birds, first seen circling over **Elland GPs** at 0900hrs on 5th May by a Halifax Birdwatchers' Club member were later located in a field to the east and south of the canal and R. Calder, at **Lillands** between the gravel pits and Brighthouse and remained for the rest of the day (HBC, JED).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

This species can be seen almost anywhere in the club area and was reported from over 30 localities, with frequent records of flyover birds at several sites. Most reports referred to single birds, but higher counts were of five on 30th March and six on 3rd July at **Ringstone Edge**, a party of five flying SW over **Fixby** on 13th June, eight at **Scout Dike** on 13th July and 7th Aug and nine at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th June, with counts of five there on a further nine dates in June and four dates in July.

An interesting observation was the presence during January of a daytime roost in fields by the canal at **Lowestwood**, **Golcar**, birds gathering in the morning and dispersing in the afternoon. Three to six birds were usually involved, occasionally seven and a max. of nine on 23rd. One or two remained to the end of February, but none by mid March. Birds returned from late September, with max. of six on 26th Sept and nine on 12th Nov (PB).

The heronry at **Bretton Lakes** contained 56 nests, 34 on the lower lake, 22 on the upper lake. No information was received relating to breeding success.

At **Scammonden** eight nests were occupied by early April and several young were raised, but accurate counts were not possible. At least seven nests were still in use in mid May with young in a minimum of four of them, with a fifth nest also having young on 25th May.

Yet again breeding was suspected at a private site near **Lepton Great Wood**..

One was on a house roof at **Taylor Hill** on 28th Dec.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Resident, occasional breeder (1)

Reported from eight sites, four of them in the **Calder Valley**, but no proven breeding took place this year.

Blackmoorfoot Res – on 1st March four flew SSW over Meltham Cop, only the tenth record for the site.

Elland GPs – a pair was present in the area all year, but no breeding activity recorded.

Horbury area – two adults were present all year. A local said that a pair attempted to nest but the eggs did not hatch; a disused nest was located on the canal adjacent to the Strands on 13th July. Two adults and an immature were noted on 9th Feb.

Colnebridge – a pair on the canal on 2nd Feb. At the Sludge Plant a male was nest building on 2nd March, continuing occasionally to 24th, when it left the site.

Thornhill – two adults, one bearing a red plastic ring on its left leg, were on the canal on 21st June.

Black Brook – one on the mill dam on 28th Sept.

Boshaw Whams – two on 18th Nov.

Bretton Lakes – two immatures present all year.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce winter visitor

Another good year for the species with records from six sites, mainly in the first winter period.

Marsden – a party of 37, followed by three laggards, flew NW calling towards Buckstones on 13th March (KH).

Blackmoorfoot Res – seven adults on 17th March (PB,CH).

Winscar Res – four on 22nd March (MC).

Scout Dike Res – two ads. on 27th March (SRG).

Langsett Res – 19 flew SE at 1650 hrs. on 1st Nov (RJB).

Bretton Lakes – four ads. on 11th Nov (SRG).

In addition two *Cygnus* sp. which flew over **Golcar** at 0915 hrs. on 12th Jan were probably this species.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Uncommon to common passage visitor

In the early months passage was very much reduced from the previous year, with a total of only 1777 birds recorded (cf. 5255 in 2002). Only two significant movements occurred with 850 birds on 24th Jan out of a monthly total of 892, and 660 between 10th and 13th Feb from a total of 880 during the month. Movement virtually ceased after 22nd Feb. With the exception of 16 flying SE at **Dewsbury SF** on 14th Jan and 100+ south over **Golcar** on 22nd Feb the direction of flight of all skeins was between west and NW and most were recorded between 1000 hrs. and 1130 hrs, with just two reports after midday.

4th Jan – 23 flew NNW at 1055hrs at Ingbirchworth Res.

14th Jan – 16 SE at Dewsbury SF.

24th Jan – 300 over Almondbury at 1100 hrs., 60 over Emley at 1110 hrs., c.210 West at Crosland Moor at 1115 hrs., 75 NW at Bradley Park GC at 1130 hrs., 95 NW over Marsden GC at 1600 hrs., 50 NW at Wooldale and 60 over Elland GPs.

31st Jan – three west at Blackmoorfoot at 1540 hrs.

“Grounded” birds were at Blackmoorfoot on 4th (one) and 27th/28th (three).

6th Feb – c.120 west at Denby Dale.

10th Feb – c.300 NW over Dalton at 1005 hrs.

12th Feb – 20 west over Broadstones at 0930 hrs.

13th Feb – 100 NW over Bradley Park GC at 0920 hrs. and 240+ west over South Crosland at 1000 hrs.

22nd Feb – 100+ south over Golcar at 1400 hrs.

25th Feb – two “grey” geese over Golcar at 1100 hrs.

Birds were grounded at Blackmoorfoot on 2nd (three) and 22nd (one) and a max. of 20 associated with the Canada Goose flock at Scout Dike Res from 22nd Feb to 9th March.

In March the only records were of single birds grounded at Blackmoorfoot on 5th and in the Longwood Valley on 23rd.

April produced two records, three (grey geese) over Hullen Edge on 6th and two with Canadas at Winscar Res on 30th.

At the year end passage was first noted on 20th September and continued on a further four dates during that month, three dates in October, four in November and two in December and totalled a minimum of 1730 birds, significantly more than in 2002 when passage was light. The heaviest passage was on 10th December, when 450 were reported. Grounded birds were more frequent than usual.

20th Sept – 25 east at Blackmoorfoot at 1015 hrs.

21st Sept – 16 SE at Baitings.

25th Sept – c.60 east over Pole Moor/Wholestone Moor at 0825 hrs.

27th Sept – six west over Shelley at 0730 hrs. and 35 north at Scout Dike at 0940 hrs.

28th Sept – c.50 east over Shelley at 0830 hrs. and 31 east over Grimescar at 0835 hrs.

One was grounded at Royd Moor on 21st September.

3rd Oct – 230+ “grey” geese over Elland GPs at 1730 hrs.

5th Oct – c.250 NE at Scout Dike at 0840 hrs.

12th Oct – 30 over the Little Don Valley.

Grounded birds were at Blackmoorfoot (one), in the Longwood Valley (one) and at Royd Moor Res (two) on 13th, Baitings (one) on 18th and Ringstone Edge (two) on 28th.

10th Nov – c.45 east, either Pinkfeet or Greylags (grey forewings apparent) over Crosland Heath GC, but too distant for specific identification.

13th Nov – 150 east over Shepley.

16th Nov – two skeins NE over Butterley Res, the first at 0805 hrs. heard only, the second only partially seen, with c.40 counted at 0905 hrs., eight north at Blackmoorfoot at 1440 hrs., 197 over Baitings and two over Ryburn.

One was grounded at Royd Moor on 11th November and a max. of three on five dates during the month at Ingbirchworth Res.

10th Dec – the most significant passage date of this winter period, with 100 NW over Gledholt at 1145 hrs., 200+ west over Marsh and 150 west at Shepley.

12th Dec – c.90 WNW over Lindley Moor at 1515 hrs.

Grounded birds were noted at Ingbirchworth Res on 7th (two) and 26th (six), Blackmoorfoot (two) on 8th, Cannon Hall Park (four) on 15th, Ringstone Edge on 24th (eleven, with three remaining on 27th) and on 24th at Royd Moor (six – probably same as Ingbirchworth).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon passage and feral visitor

Reported from nine sites mainly at the year end. In view of the large numbers of feral stock of this species elsewhere in the county it is impossible to know if any of these records refer to genuine wild birds.

Bretton Lakes – three on 13th March, one on 9th Dec.

Baitings Res – one on 5th April.

Scout Dike/Royd Moor – in April two on 6th, four on 12th and two on 22nd, one from 15th Oct to 15th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – two west on 14th April, one on 27th May and an adult on 27th June.

Elland GPs – in April two on 16th, three on 17th, one on 26th; nine flew over on 3rd Dec.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two arrived from the south at 1050 hrs on 5th October.

Ingbirchworth Res – one on 12th/13th Oct (same as Scout Dike/Royd Moor?), two in Nov and one on 7th Dec.

Langsett Res – 17 on 16th Nov.

Cannon Hall Park – three on 15th Dec.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Resident breeder (2)

Once again few breeding reports were received and there were no counts from **Bretton Lakes**.

Breeding occurred at **Royd Moor**, where a pair raised five young, in the **Wessenden Valley**, where there were 15 juvs on 25th May and eight young on 1st June, on the R.Calder near **Dewsbury SF**, where two pairs each had four young, and was also recorded at **Bretton Lakes**, **Booth Wood Dam** and **Elland GPs**. Other sites where breeding probably took place were **Boshaw Whams** and **Deer Hill**, both of which held two pairs in the breeding season, and **March Haigh** and **Dovestones Reservoirs**. Doubtless there were other sites too.

Some very large numbers were present in the winter months, with record counts at the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs in Nov/Dec, presumably involving the same birds at the different waters.

Monthly max. at regularly counted sites:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	83	118	47	2	4	2	54	128	113	147	151	168
Boshaw Whams	41	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	28	84	96
Royd Moor/S.Dike	170	300	405	50	18	nc	nc	353	387	390	480	500
Ingbirchworth	170	400	nc	nc	nc	1	1	nc	330	250	500	4
Scammonden	46	nc	26	nc	nc	27	33	43	42	55	46	nc

It would be interesting to know where all these birds spend the summer months.

Max .at other sites where counts were less frequent were:-

Broadstones Res – 100+ on 10th Aug.

Cannon Hall – 360 on 29th Jan, 340+ on 15th Dec.

Dovestones Res – 163 on 14th March.

Horbury Wyke – 130 on 9th Feb.

Longwood Valley – 45 on 23rd March, 61 on 19th Aug, 48 on 13th Oct.

Ringstone Edge Res – 111 on 18th Aug, 43 on 14th Sept.

Wessenden Valley – 46 on 13th July.

Yateholme – 32 on 12th March.

Smaller numbers were reported from a further eight sites.

Birds were noted flying over **Dewsbury SF** – 16 high to the west on 7th Feb, 13 west on 28th Aug, 12 west on 22nd Sept, and at **Shelley** where c.20 flew north on 2nd June.

Leucistic individuals were reported at **Elland GPs** on 18th Jan, **Digley Res** on 24th March and **Ryburn Res** on 27th July.

Hybrids were at **Royd Moor** on 15th and 21st Aug (Canada x grey goose sp), 3rd Sept (probably Canada x farmyard goose) and on 7th Dec which appeared to resemble a Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*, and at **Bretton Lakes** probably Canada x Barnacle on 9th Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor and occasional feral breeder

Reported sightings continued to decrease with records only from **Bretton Lakes**, where there two on 5th Jan and three on 9th Dec, and from **Ingbirchworth Res**, where one left the roost at dawn on 26th Dec.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage visitor

Birds were reported in all months except February and November, with small peaks in late May and late August.

Elland GPs – two on 3rd Jan, one on 3rd Dec.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two on 2nd March, singles on 6th April and 9th May, eleven from the east at 0800 hrs. leaving to the west at 0805 hrs. on 25th May, six on 7th June, five juvs for five minutes on 15th Aug, four on 23rd Aug from the east at 1025 hrs. departing to the west at 1929 hrs., in October three on 13th and one on 21st and finally five on 11th Dec.

Ringstone Edge Res – five on 5th April, four on 3rd July, two on 2nd and one on 5th/6th Aug, four on 22nd Sept.

Deer Hill Res – three on 21st May.

Dewsbury SF – two on 21st May.

Langsett Res – six on 23rd Aug.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare feral visitor

Once again the regular male was present in the **Elland** area from 4th January to 31st May and from 20th August to 31st December. It was joined by a second male on 16th November and 27th December; both males and a female were present on 28th December (HBC).

At **Bretton Lakes** on 28th March a pair flew onto the upper lake and copulated in front of the hide before swimming behind the island out of sight (CDA).

A male was at **Pioneer CP, Holmfirth** on 17th Jan (RD&SEH).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Common passage and winter visitor

Birds were reported from 15 sites during the year, with records in the first winter period between 9th Jan and 15th April, being very scarce at the start of the year, and from late August to the year end. There were also two records in July and one in mid August. A small but significant arrival took place between 9th and 11th November, when birds were present at seven sites.

Ingbirchworth Res – male and female on 12th Jan, five female types on 29th Aug, at least five on 14th Sept, ten on 13th Oct which were attacked by a stoat as they rested on the shore, and a max. of two in Nov.

Scout Dike Res – in Jan three on 9th, seven on 11th.

Boshaw Whams – a female on 23rd Jan.

Blackmoorfoot Res – four on 17th March were the first of the year here, then two on 20th and four again on 21st. Four on 5th and five on 6th April, two on 10th July, one on 18th Aug, then fairly regularly from 13th Sept, with five on 26th Sept; occurred on 12 dates in Oct, max. six on 8th, on nine dates in Nov, max. eight on 9th, otherwise no more than three in either month, and in Dec five on 5th and one on 11th.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 5th April, ten on 12th Sept, two on 27th Sept and 30th Nov.

Broadstones Res – a female on 15th April and a male on 10th Nov.

Dewsbury SF – one on the R. Calder on 24th July.

Langsett Res – 14 on 22nd Oct.

Royd Moor Res – 19 on 25th Oct and up to 23 from 9th Nov to 30th Dec.

Scammonden – a male on 7th Nov.

Elland GPs – in Nov one on 7th and four from 14th to 29th.

Colnebridge SP – female on 10th Nov, nine on 16th Nov reducing to three on 22nd.

Deer Hill Res – a male on 11th Nov.

Bretton Lakes – 12 on 11th Nov.

Baitings Res – one on 7th Dec.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

A better than average showing with birds at five sites.

Bretton Lakes – two males present in the first winter period and one observer reported ten birds in Nov (BA,SRG).

Ingbirchworth Res – single females on 31st Jan and 17th Oct (RD&SEH).

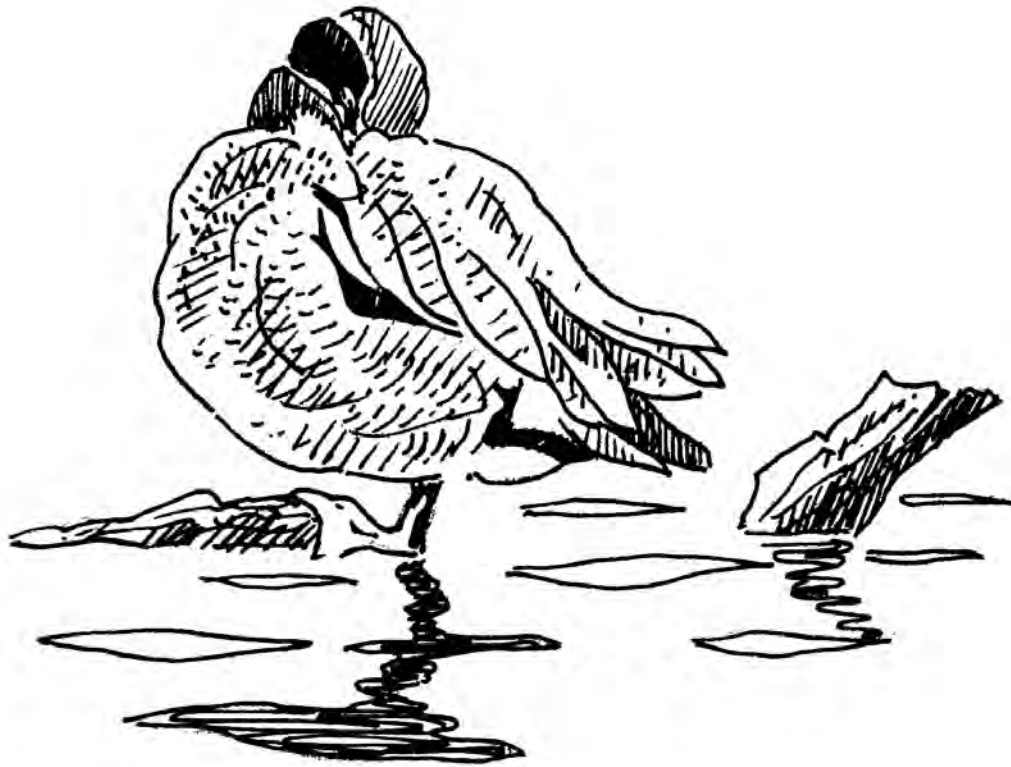
Scout Dike Res – a pair from 13th to 26th April (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 26th Sept (PB,DMP) and an eclipse male on 23rd Oct (MLD).

Royd Moor Res – a male on 9th Nov (RJB).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Resident breeder (1) and common passage and winter visitor



Birds were reported from 21 sites but only in relatively small numbers, especially in the **Calder Valley**, where information was not received from some regular sites.

Breeding was proved at two sites – **Cupwith Res**, where a nest with nine eggs was located on 23rd May and young present in June, and from **Rishworth Moor**, where a female gave injury feigning distraction display in defence of three small chicks on 17th August. Two females skulked in waterside vegetation on 31st July at **Little Black Moss Res**, where breeding has occurred in the past.

The more significant counts of the year were:-

Blackmoorfoot Res – present on only four dates up to the end of March with one on 18th Jan, two on 22nd Feb, two on 3rd and five on 31st March, a max. of ten in April on 6th, three on 6th May, one on 31st July, up to seven on eleven dates in Aug, on eleven dates in Sept, max. ten on 30th, 13 days in Oct including 14 on 14th otherwise no more than five, in Nov on four dates with 20 on 20th and on just two dates in Dec, including the highest count of the year, 24 on 10th.

Bretton Lakes – present in both winter periods, max. 14 on 5th Jan and up to 20 in Nov.

Cannon Hall – 23 on 15th Dec.

Dewsbury SF – 21 on 6th Jan reducing to eight by 18th Feb; one on 27th Aug, ten on 10th Sept, then max. of c.40 on 20th and 42 on 28th Nov, 69 on 2nd and 28 on 27th Dec.

Elland GPs – max. of eight in Jan, four in Feb/March, one in April, seven in Aug, 12 in Sept, one in Oct, four in Nov and 20 in Dec.

Horbury area – max. of five in Jan, c.25 in Feb, 18 in March, 16 in April, one in Nov.

Ravensthorpe GPs – 30+ on 11th Jan, 18 on 9th Feb.

Royd Moor Res – max. 26 on 5th Jan, 27 on 8th March, eight on 23rd April, seven on 11th Nov.

Occasional sightings were also made at **Millbank Thornhill** four on 17th and 25th March, **Kirkheaton** male and female on pools at the old brickworks on 17th March, **Ringstone Edge Res** two on 28th March, eleven on 5th Sept, **Broadstones Res** male and female on 6th April, **Deer Hill Res** male on 16th June, **Woodhead Res** eight on 4th Sept, **Ingbirchworth Res** max. of three in Sept and five in Oct, **Colnebridge SP** female from 26th Sept to 25th Oct, two males on 8th Nov, one male 11th to 20th Nov, **Langsett Res** seven on 22nd Oct, **Wessenden Valley** two females on 9th Nov.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeder (3) and common winter visitor

Breeding was reported from 16 sites, with the first brood of ducklings observed on 12th April, as follows:-

Blackmoorfoot Res – 19 ducklings from a total of 77 reached the flying stage, a success rate of 24.7%, which compares very favourably with previous rates of 7.7% in 1998 and 1999, 3.1% in 2000, 10.5% in 2001 and 13% in 2002.

Bretton Lakes – bred but no details.

Broadstones Res – female with eight young on 16th and 20th April.

Cliff Wood – a female with young on 12th May.

Colnebridge SP – a pair with 13 young at the plant and two pairs on the R.Calder with eight and nine young respectively.

Cupwith Res – two pairs, one with nine young, one with ten young, in May.

Deer Hill Res – females with eight and nine young on 11th Aug.

Denby Dale Mills – breeding reported but no details.

Dewsbury SF – 16 broods were counted between 16th April and 28th Aug totalling 117 young.

Holmfirth – a female with eleven small young on the R.Holme on 12th April, and females with three and five young on 14th April and 12th May respectively.

Horbury Wyke – two females with a total of ten young on the R.Calder on 13th July.

Ingbirchworth – bred but no details.

Royd Moor Res – a female with 12 ducklings on 19th April.

Scammonden/Deanhead – at least three pairs with young.

Scout Dike Res – one pair raised eight young, but a brood of eleven on the overflow on 18th July had all died by 21st.

Winscar Res – female with four young on 30th April.

Breeding doubtless occurred at many other sites.

Max. numbers at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	11	14	8	13	14	27	43	57	62	37	34	41
Elland GPs	55	62	39	31	35	26	30	70	50	36	37	158
Ingbirchworth	68	42	9	2	5	14	20	65	126	87	66	63
Royd Moor	52	nc	7	nc	nc	nc	nc	57	53	78	70	80
Scammonden	43	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	10+	38	34	nc
Scout Dike	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	19	21	33	35	nc	nc	nc

Significant counts from other waters were c.150 at **Bretton Lakes** on 8th Jan, 64 at **Yeoman Hey Res** (where there are usually none) on 12th Jan, 48 on the Fenay Beck at **Waterloo** on 20th Jan, 62 at **Dovestones Res** on 29th March, 80 at **Cupwith Res** on 20th July, 117 at **Pioneer CP, Holmfirth** on 26th Oct, 88 by the R.Colne at **Marsden** and 50 on the canal at **Slaithwaite** on 13th Nov and 32 at **Broadstones Res** on 7th Dec. Smaller numbers occurred at many other waters.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

All records except one were in autumn and came from Blackmoorfoot.

Blackmoorfoot Res – six (three males) on 22nd Feb, two arrived from the SE at 1845 hrs. on 8th Sept and three arrived at 1820 hrs. on 20th Sept; two on 1st Oct.

Royd Moor Res – a female type flew in at 1000 hrs. on 19th Sept.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer migrant

Two drakes at **Langsett Res** on 9th Sept were an excellent and unexpected find (MCW).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

A much better showing this year, with birds at six sites, though there was some overlap. Blackmoorfoot had the lion's share.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 20th and four (three males) on 29th March, male and female on 6th April, three on 31st July, singles on 23rd Aug and 6th Sept, two on 17th Sept; in October one on 9th and 11th, five (two males) on 14th and two on 11th Nov.

Winscar Res – a male on 29th March and male and female on 13th April.

Boshaw Whams – male and female on 15th April, possibly same as above.

Scout Dike Res – a pair on 13th April (see also Winscar) and an eclipse male on 30th Aug.

Royd Moor Res – same eclipse male as Scout Dike on 31st Aug; three female types on 19th Sept.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor

This species appears to be in serious decline as a visitor to our area. The only records were in January/March and September/December and there was only one double figure count.

Elland GPs – one present from 4th Jan to 1st March, joined by a second bird on 5th Jan and 6th and 23rd Feb; one on 1st Oct.

Bretton Lakes – five on 5th Jan, 16 on 9th Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res- two on 12th and one on 19th Jan, three in Feb and a male on 7th Dec.

Boshaw Whams – one on 19th and 23rd Jan.

Denby Dale – two males on Square Wood Res on 28th Feb.

Blackmoorfoot Res – present on only 13 dates in the year and none until September. Singles on 7th and 17th Sept, 14th and 27th Oct, 11th/12th Nov. Three on 30th Sept, two on 22nd Oct and 22nd Nov, four on 5th Nov, nine on 6th Nov, five on 13th Nov and 10th Dec.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 21st Oct.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1) and common passage and winter visitor

The species was recorded at 22 sites. Numbers at the major sites were similar to last year.

The only confirmed record of breeding, at **Scout Dike Res**, where a pair attempted to raise young on the overflow, was unsuccessful, the young dying soon after hatching. Pairs were also present all year at **Bretton Lakes**, from April at **Carlecotes Ponds** and from early May to late August at **March Haigh Res**, and breeding attempts may have been made at these sites.

Monthly max. at selected sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	4	8	8	5	4	10	14	14	10	5	6	7
Elland GPs	10	11	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	6
Ingbirchworth	17	32	19	10	8+	13	14	4	3	3	0	7
Scammonden	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	9	4	4	0
Scout Dike	5	nc	24	27	nc	nc	15	22	10	3	3	3

The highest numbers elsewhere were eight at **Bretton Lakes** on 8th Jan (the only count received from this site), and at **Boshaw Whams** eight on 19th and nine on 23rd Jan, otherwise no site reported more than five birds. Waters involved were **Baitings Res** (three in July, five in Aug), **Bilberry Res** (five in Apr), **Blakeley Res** (three in July, five in Aug, all males), **Booth Wood Res** (one in Apr/May), **Brownhill Res** (three in Feb), **Clough Lea, Marsden** (three in March), **Denby Dale** (two in March, June and July), **Dewsbury SF** (pair in April), **Gunthwaite Dam** (two in April), **Horbury** (pair on the river in May), **Ringstone Edge Res** (two in Aug, one in Sept), **Royd Moor Res** (four in April) and **Ryburn Res** (three in Jan, two in August).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There were three records.

One at **Broadstones Res** on 28th March (JMcL), a juvenile briefly at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 15th July (PB) and a party of six female types which arrived in heavy rain at **Blackmoorfoot Res** at 1525 hrs. on 9th Nov (PB,MLD), a date when several duck spp. arrived in the area.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor, mainly in summer.

A below par year, the only records being at **Blackmoorfoot Res**, where a male and a female were present on 6th April (JL), four males on 19th June and a male and a female on 18th July (PB), and at **Redbrook Res**, where two males dived continuously on 31st July (PB).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Regular, but uncommon, winter visitor

Birds were reported from 15 waters between 2nd Jan and 5th May, and from 11th Oct to the year end in small numbers, with just one double figure count. Few sites away from Blackmoorfoot had the species with any regularity.

Blackmoorfoot Res – on 14 dates in Jan, max. two, almost daily in Feb with three as max., peak of five in March, daily in April with six on 4th and including a 1st year male from 17th which remained to 5th May. The first returning bird was on 11th Oct then on most dates to the month end, with a max. of four on 13th, max. of four in Nov and two in Dec.

Dewsbury SF – in Jan on the R. Calder ten present on 6th, seven on 7th, eight on 8th, two on 18th Feb and seven on 31st Dec.

Boshaw Whams – three on 2nd and one on 23rd Jan, five on 18th Nov, one on 23rd Dec.

Elland GPs – max. of five in Jan, one in Feb-Apr and Oct-Dec.

Langsett Res – two on 7th Apr, 22nd Oct and 29th Dec.

Ringstone Edge Res – max. of one in Feb, two in March and two in Nov.

The only other records were as follows:-

Two at **Harden Res** on 9th Jan, one in Jan at **Ryburn Res**, at **Digley Res** two on 21st Feb, one on 12th Apr, **Booth Wood Res** three in March, **Scammonden** two on 23rd March, **Bilberry Res** one on 3rd Apr, **Royd Moor Res** one on 16th Apr, **Ingbirchworth Res** one on 7th Dec and **Cupwith Res** three on 16th Dec.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Rare visitor

The only record was of one, probably a 1st year bird, at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 18th Dec (CH, KH, PB et al).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor

After a blank year in 2002 there were three records. The first was a male at **Boshaw Whams** on 14th April (DHP), the others an eclipse male at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 24th Sept (PB,DHP et al) and at the same location two female types which arrived at 1655 hrs. on 10th Nov (MLD).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Regular passage and winter visitor

There was a very considerable reduction, from 23 to 14, in the number of sites from which the species was reported, but no fall in numbers at the three main sites with the possible exception of the **Elland** area. Apart from a male on the R.Calder at **Dewsbury SF** on 20th May there were no records between 14th April and 9th September and none were recorded on the R.Holme.

Max. numbers reported at regular sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	25	31	16	2	0	0	0	0	1	12	10	28
Bretton	27	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	61
Dewsbury SF	8	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Elland GPs	23	21	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	32
Ringstone Edge	nc	3	5	nc	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	nc

Birds were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res** between 1st Jan and 14th Apr on 86 dates, continuing the increased occupancy reported in 2002, and on 81 dates from 21st Sept to the year end in the second winter period, a very significant increase on the 50 dates in 2002 and numbers were also slightly up on previous years.

Numbers at **Elland GPs** were reduced in the early months and the only counts at **Bretton Lakes** were in January and December.

Elsewhere in the **Calder Valley** small numbers were recorded regularly flying upriver and six were present on the river adjacent to **Colnebridge SP** on 31st Dec and two were on the river at **Horbury** on 6th Jan.

On the **R.Colne** two were by the weir at **Folly Hall** on 19th Nov and two flew upstream at **Aspley** on 29th Dec.

The only other reports were of 15 at **Windybank Wood Res** on 20th Jan and three there on 13th Feb, a pair at **Scammonden** (where birds occurred in four months in 2002) on 23rd March, a male on **Ramsden Res** on 24th March and occasionally at **Baitings** and **Booth Wood Res's**.

Yet again the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs produced just one record, a male at **Broadstones Res** on 10th Nov.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Irregular breeder (1) and infrequent visitor

This species is becoming increasingly scarce, presumably as a result of the cull that is taking place elsewhere in the country.

Singles were reported in the early months at **Bretton Lakes**, with one on 6th May and the remaining records all came from **Scout Dike Res** where there was a female on 15th March, a male on 22nd March and 15th April, a female from 17th to 19th October, and from **Royd Moor Res** where there were two female types on 12th Oct.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare passage visitor

One flew over **Baitings Res** on 3rd Sept (HBC).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor

In view of this species' spectacularly successful breeding exploits in recent years elsewhere in the county, it seems likely to occur on a more frequent basis in our area; this year may well have seen the start of such a trend.

One flew over **Kirkheaton Church** towards Almondbury on 14th April and was being mobbed by corvids (RA). A wing-tagged individual, also mobbed by corvids, was at **Deer Hill** at 1100 hrs. on 21st April (DMP), disappearing over Shooter's Nab. There were also two undated records between Thornhill and Middlestown, west of Emroyd Common, by an observer considered to be reliable (via PNB).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare visitor

As in 2002 there were two records of this species. The first was a cream-crown hunting along the west bank of **Blackmoorfoot Res** for ten minutes on 9th Aug before departing to the west (MLD,DHP). At **Deer Hill** on 28th Sept a juvenile was mobbed by corvids and grounded before leaving to the west near the Rifle Range (SP).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare visitor

On 3rd April a superb male quartered rough ground below the eastern flank of **Deer Hill Res**, twice landing in full view. It was once followed by a Short-eared Owl, then vanished over the reservoir in the direction of West Nab. (TD ,DMP).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Sporadic breeder and uncommon visitor

Displaying birds were reported from three traditional sites in March and April, but no breeding evidence was submitted. At one of the sites a male was seen to chase thrush-sized prey and plumage details were observed in a close view.

At an additional site up to four birds were seen. The first sighting was on 10th Feb and there were many subsequently, including four accipiters together on 14th March, two of which were definitely male and female Goshawk, the others believed to be an additional male and female. There were three certain Goshawks on 31st March and a fourth bird that was probably a male of this species. On this latter date a male chased (unsuccessfully) a Red-legged Partridge into a hedgerow. Other sightings were made on 20th May (two displaying “at” each other), 30th May (male rose from woodland then returned), 1st June (female displaying before making a vertical dive into woodland), male hunting on 22nd and 26th June and singles on 18th and 28th July (PB,JTS)

Away from possible breeding areas, one was in the **Little Don Valley** on 12th Oct (TM), one appeared over **Dewsbury SF** from the north, continuing south, on 12th Nov (JH) and an adult over the south bank at **Blackmoorfoot Res** departed towards Meltham Cop on 6th Dec (TD).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Resident breeder (2)

The species was reported from just over sixty localities, the same as in 2002. Dated records, totaling 209, were distributed throughout the year as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	23	24	26	8	8	15	24	19	15	13	13

Several observers reported regular sightings throughout the year at favoured sites without supplying dates and these are not included in the above totals. The lower numbers observed at the height of the breeding season from May to July, when birds become more unobtrusive and females are presumably on nests, are again obvious.

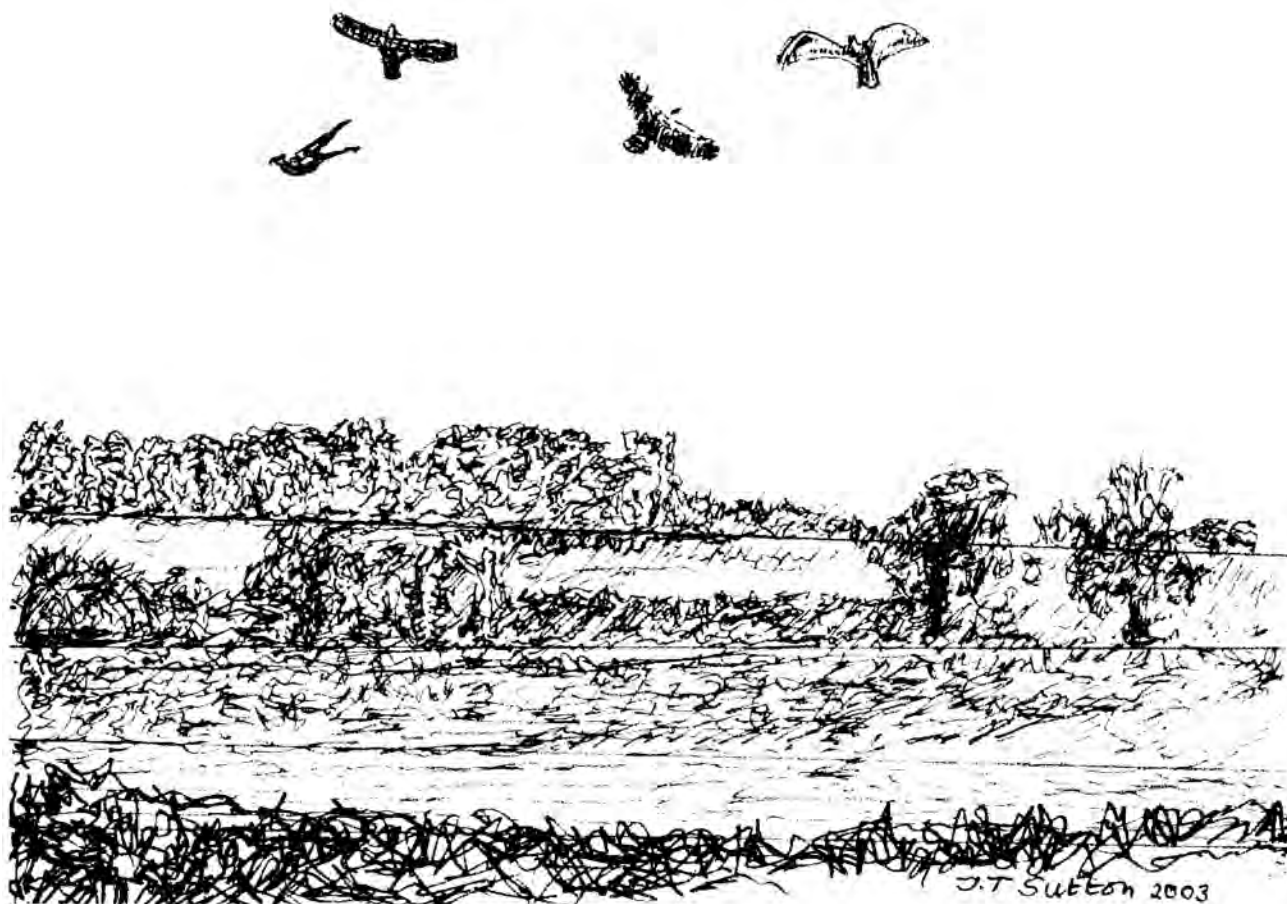
Up to four individuals were reported soaring simultaneously in the **Cawthorne Park** area, otherwise records mainly referred to one or two birds.

Breeding was confirmed at **Carlecotes**, **Cawthorne Park**, **Horbury** and **Winscar** and probable breeding/displaying birds at **Almondbury**, **Black Brook** (two pairs), **Bretton**, **Dean Wood**, **High Wood**, **Honley Wood**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Margery Wood**, **Penny Spring Wood**, **Scout Dike**, **Yateholme** and **Yeoman Hey**.

Birds visited gardens in **Almondbury** (two sites), **Golcar**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Lindley Moor**, **Longwood**, **New Mill**, **Shelley**, **Taylor Hill** and **Wooldale** and prey items recorded were Collared Dove (one) and Blackbird (four).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Regular visitor, becoming increasingly frequent



Sightings continued to increase with birds at 29 sites. September, when birds were presumably on passage, provided the largest number of records, followed by May and June of birds in potential breeding areas. The winter months of January/February and November/December produced only four records in total.

Ingbirchworth – an adult flew east on 4th Jan (BA,MC,RJB), one flew low across the road on 6th April (SRG), two over on 1st Sept (JKP) and one was nearby on 3rd Sept (PB).

Yateholme – two soared together above Ramsden Clough on 15th Feb and were joined by two Peregrines and two Ravens (DMP,SP,KW).

Holme Woods – one flying over mobbed by corvids on 3rd March (DMP).

High Hoyland area – on 7th March one was seen hunting, then at least three, probably four birds became visible, and four were in the air together on 12th March. One dropped into trees carrying a two-foot twig on 20th April, three birds were in the air together on 23rd and included a male and a female which rose out of woodland, the female having a small gap in the secondaries of the right wing; a second pair had both sexes with wings fully intact. Copulation was observed on 8th May and three birds were again together on 10th. Later that month two were observed closely on 19th, while one was seen almost certainly carrying food on 23rd, two were also present on 26th and a female was seen hovering, soaring and hunting on 30th. In June one of the pairs was over woodland on 1st and on 11th a female indulged in a stiff, slow display flight and three were watched nearby in the air together in a new location for activity; a male was seen on 18th and on 24th and 26th a female went into and out of the

previous twig-carrying area. By 13th Aug attachment to the woodlands was dwindling and two birds were seen drifting SE before disappearing and descending to the southwest. The area was not visited by the observers after this date (PB,JTS).

Standedge – one over on 20th March (DF via JMP).

Colnebridge SP – one flew south on 23rd March (DS).

Shelley – singles drifted to the SW on 30th March, in early May, NE on 4th Sept, NW on 16th Sept (SRG); two seen distantly over Shelley Wood from Clough Wood on 29th April (BA).

New Mill – one flew low to the east over the A635 on 31st March and was buzzed by a Carrion Crow (PB).

Winscar – two present on 3rd April (KH).

Black Hill – two together at Issues Clough on 13th April before departing, one to the west and one to the south (PB).

Haigh Wood – a pair on 18th April, with much mewing, one of the pair having feathers missing from both wings, one on 9th May, two on 9th June and one on 6th July (PH,DW,DP).

Elland GPs – one flew west on 11th May (HBC).

Holme Moss – one on 24th May (MC).

West Bretton – one circling near the roundabout on 4th June and one going to roost to the east on 14th Dec (SRG).

Hullen Edge – one flew over on 10th Aug (HBC).

Ripponden – one present about 30th Aug (HBC).

Emley Moor – one flew east past the TV mast on 3rd Sept (SRG).

Waterloo – one soaring and drifting east on 4th Sept (BA).

Lepton – singles to the north of Thurgory Lane mobbed by corvids on 6th Sept and 16th Oct (DHP) and one in the Pond Lane area on 14th Sept (PNB).

Langsett - one on 7th Sept (TM).

Longdendale – one in the upper valley on 14th Sept (HQ).

Scout Dike Res – a very pale bird over on 17th Sept (JKP), one NE on 4th Oct and two high to the north on 17th Oct (RJB).

Isle of Skye quarry – one on 23rd Sept, mobbed by a Kestrel (DHP).

Dalton – a very dark bird NE on 27th Sept (BA).

Shepley – one over on 18th Oct (TM).

Crossley's Plantation – two over approx. 23rd Oct (JMD).

Bretton Park – one calling on 27th Nov (SRG).

Bullcliff North Wood – one on 30th Nov (JHod).

Nether Moor – one flew towards Honley Moor on an unspecified date (DBy).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant

Not quite as prolific as in 2002, but still a good showing.

Greenfield Brook – one appeared over the head of the valley, drifted west to Greenfield Res then north on 2nd Apr (PB).

Dalton – one flew over high to the NE at 1250 hrs. on 11th Apr (BA).

Will's o' Nat's – on 7th Sept one flew SE disappearing on a thermal over Farnley Tyas (SP).
One appeared just south of our area later in the day at Midhope, exactly mirroring events on the same date in 2002.

Scout Dike Res – one flew south at 1000 hrs. on 21st Sept (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew east at 1615 hrs. on 24th Sept (SP).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder (2)

Perhaps as a result of the comments made in the 2002 report there was a huge increase in records of this species. Twentyfive observers (cf. 14 in 2002) submitted records from over 80 localities (40 in 2002) at more than thirty of which some form of breeding activity was registered. Obviously the species is in a healthier state locally then recent evidence would imply and has been under-recorded in recent years.

Breeding was confirmed at **Baitings** (two young fledged), **Bilberry Res** (male feeding juv), **Blackmoorfoot** (four young), **Brookfoot** (three young), **Carlecotes** (at least three young), **Colnebridge SP** (four young fledged), **Deer Hill** (young calling and ad carrying food on 26th June), **Digley** (food being taken into nest site), **Harden/Winscar** (four young), near **Holme Moss** (family party of five birds on 5th July), **Kirkheaton** (three juvs 10th-13th July), **Leeds Road** (young being fed on roof of B&Q superstore), near **Meltham SF**, **Millmoor Road Meltham** (four young fledged), **Scout Dike Res** (at least two young fledged) and at the bottom of the **Wessenden Valley** (young seen).

Evidence of probable breeding was also obtained at **Booth Wood Res** (mating on 5th April), **Bretton Lakes**, **Emley Moor**, **High Wood**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lindley village** (food carrying on 6th June), **Lindley Moor** (food carrying to north over M62 in spring/summer), **Margery Wood** (two pairs), **Oxygrains Beck** (food carrying on 2nd July), **Redbrook Res** (food carrying on 19th June), **Scammonden** (at least four including two juvs in August), **Thornhill Millbank** (mating on 17th March), **Woodsome GC** and **Yateholme** (pair over traditional nest site on 14th March).

At **Elland GPs** one was watched catching a dragonfly in the manner of a Hobby and one ate a small rodent on the wing there. One was still hunting at **Harden** at 2155 hrs on 7th July.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Partial migrant breeder (1) and scarce visitor

Almost 50 sightings were reported from 27 sites and covered all months.

Although breeding was not confirmed, circumstantial evidence seems to indicate that one pair bred at a traditional site, where male and female were present on 1st May, the female seen again on 26th May and one was carrying food on 21st June. At two other known recent breeding sites a pair was holding territory on 13th April with the female buzzing a Peregrine nearby on 9th June and a female was hunting at the second site on 29th April. At a fourth site a pair was present on 4th April, but only the female was seen thereafter, on 10th, 13th and 22nd April.

Away from these areas singles were at **Harden** on 11th Jan, 13th and 19th April with two present all day on 11th April, at **Ingbirchworth** singles were seen on 12th Jan (f/imm), 23rd Feb and 4th May (f), a 1st W was at **Hartcliff Hill** on 9th Feb, at **Baitings** one on 10th March and one flying north on 20th Sept, one at **Elysium** on 12th April, singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th April (f), 20th July (f/imm) and 2nd and 17th Sept, **Scout Dike** a male chasing Swallows on 19th April and singles on 5th Aug and 27th Sept, in the **Wessenden Valley** on 26th May (f), 4th Oct and 16th Nov, a male at **Winscar** on 27th May, a f/imm hunting at the Sand Martin colony at **Horbury** on 13th July, one hunting at **Carlecotes** on 19th July, when a female

chased Swallows at **Elland GPs** and a f/imm at the latter site on 5th Aug, singles at **Snowgate Head** on 23rd July, **Royd Moor** (f/imm probably same as Scout Dike) on 19th Aug, **Upper Denby** on 29th Aug, **Scammonden** on 25th Sept (m), f/imm at **Langsett Res** on 29th Sept, **Shepley** on 3rd Oct, female at **Denby Dale** on 15th Oct, over **Lindley Moor** on 6th Nov and the last of the year a male flying west at **Meltham Cop** on 7th Dec.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Occasional migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor

Although breeding was not confirmed there was a big upsurge in records, most welcome after the disappointing showing in 2002.

The first of the year were singles in June over **Shelley** on 1st (SRG), **Shepley** on 16th (TM) and **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd (MLD). In July one flew south through the centre of **Holmfirth** on 6th (JMD) and one moved west, pursued by about a dozen Swallows, at **Dewsbury SF** on 26th (JH). One flew low to the west at **Broadstones Res** at 0920 hrs on 10th Aug (BA), one probably a 1st S bird was at **Ingbirchworth** the following day (JKP) and one probably adult at **Hartcliff Hill** on 12th (PB). In September one hunted Swallows at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th, one flew over **Denby Dale** on 8th (TM) and one went north over the A629 between **Hoylandswaine** and **Scout Dike** on 14th (RJB). There was also an undated autumn record of an adult watched for twenty minutes near the **Bretton** car park (JMD).

It is likely that the same individuals were involved in several of these reports.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Rare breeder (1), increasing



Out of a minimum of five pairs located, two are known to have made breeding attempts, but young were reared at only one site, where a fresh juvenile was seen at a cliff face with both parents on 21st May. At a second well-known site four eggs were laid but the nest was robbed at the very late egg or early young stage. At the remaining three sites pairs were present but no breeding activity was reported. Juveniles were seen in three other areas in late spring/early summer and may have been reared locally.

Other sightings came from :-

Hartcliff Hill – one flew over towards Millhouse Green on 1st Jan.

Ingbirchworth – a juv on 21st Jan, one south on 17th Aug and one harassing Mallards on 22nd Aug.

Elland Park Wood – one over on 25th Jan.

Nether End – one flew over the A635 on 7th Feb.

Dewsbury SF – one west on 15th Feb.

Deer Hill area – one SE on 18th Feb, one at Shooter's Nab on 18th March, male hunting near Brow Grains on 23rd April and two, one of which was in very juvenile plumage, over on 16th June.

Little Don Valley – one on 23rd March.

Carlecotes – one on 25th March.

Black Hill – one near Issues Edge on 10th April.

Harden – a moulting 2nd calendar year bird, mobbed by a Kestrel, on 23rd May.

Langsett - imm on 10th Aug.

Royd Moor – a juv over high on 5th Sept.

Shelley – one over mobbed by Rooks on 29th Sept.

Blackmoorfoot – ad female on 9th Oct.

Bradley Park GC – one over on 16th Oct.

Cheesegate Nab – one over on 2nd Nov.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3)

There was a welcome increase in the number of sites from which this species was reported and snow cover in the early days of January enabled some accurate counts to be made and a more realistic idea of numbers achieved.

Birds suddenly appeared on territory at **Harden** on 28th Feb. Breeding was proved at **Hingcliff Hill**, females accompanied by six, five and five half-grown young respectively on 5th June, at **Windle Edge** (three half-size flying young on 5th July) and at **Dean Clough**. Calling males were also present in the breeding season at **Greenfield Road, Wessenden, Deer Hill, Harden Moss, Magdalen Clough, West Nab, Winscar, Slaithwaite Moor** (but only very low numbers here), **Way Stone Edge, Dovestones** and **Tinker Hill**.

In the **Winscar** area 83 birds were counted at **Harden/Snailsden** on 3rd Jan and at least 50 in a small area on 5th, when birds stood out prominently against the snow-covered ground. Sixteen, mainly in ones and twos, were at **Deer Hill** on 16th July, at least 51 in coveys of up to nine at **Hingcliff Hill** on 12th Aug and there were seven together at both the **Isle of Skye quarry** and **Deer Hill** on 19th and 30th Sept respectively.

It would be interesting to obtain from gamekeepers details of “bags” achieved during the shooting season to get a more accurate assessment of grouse numbers.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1)

A much better year than 2002, with reports from nine sites and a concentration in the east of the area. It is not possible to ascertain how many refer to released birds.

High Hoyland – five birds to the south and east on 14th March in groups of two and two and one “chucking”; two singles on 25th March and singles on 20th and 24th April. Two near High Wood on 28th July and four singles on 15th Dec (PB).

Scout Dike Res – two on 15th March, one on 18th April (RJB).

Yeoman Hey – one on 2nd April (PB).

Dovestones – one on 7th April (SRG), same as above?

Denby Dale – one on 9th April (TM).

Haigh Wood – one on 18th April (PH,DW,DP).

Great Dovestones Rocks – singles “chucking” on 21st May and 4th June, one seen on 17th June (PB) – see above.

Cawthorne Park – one “chucking” on 1st June (PB).

Deer Hill – two on 2nd Oct (KW).

Cannon Hall – adults and young dust bathing nearby on 24th Oct (SRG).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2)

Sites from which reports were received numbered twentyfive, a slight increase on 2002, and breeding occurred at a minimum of five localities, and judging by numbers of birds after the breeding season, probably at seven others.

Breeding was confirmed at **Carlecotes Ponds** (on 15th July a pair and c.15 half-grown flying young, of which at least eight were reared successfully), **Dewsbury SF** (ad + ten young on 4th Sept), **Emley**, **Flockton** and **New Mill/Hirst Lane** (ad + five young on 15th July).

Probable breeding was indicated by counts of seven birds regularly in Aug/Sept at **Honley Moor/Swinny Knoll**, seven at **Deer Hill** on 16th Sept, 20 on 16th and 14 on 19th Oct at **Baitings**, 15 on 26th Sept and 10+ on 12th Oct at **Scout Dike**, 18 at **Broadstones** on 25th Oct, 12 at the old **Bullcliff Pit** site on 14th June, 15 at **Denby Dale** on 17th Sept and nine at **Shepley** from 18th Oct. Pairs or calling birds had been present at all these sites earlier in the year and the higher numbers later in the year were presumably not birds released for shoots.

Smaller numbers (with max counts) were also reported from **Annat Royd Lane** (four in Jan), **Binn Edge** (one calling in June), **Blackmoorfoot** (five in Oct), **Brown's Edge Road** (pair in April), **Dunford Bridge** (pair in April), **Edge Moor** (three in July), **Horbury** (five in Nov), **Ingbirchworth** (two in Feb and May), **Magdalen Clough** (two in March), **Netherwood** (one in March) and **Shelley** (two in Feb) and breeding could also have occurred at some of these sites.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder

A male called in fields off **Potato Lane** to the west of Blackmoorfoot Res from 17th to 21st June (DHP,CH,DMP,PB et al).

First record since 2000.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

The number of localities from which reports were received this year rose from 21 in 2002 to almost 40. Birds raised for shooting continue to cloud the picture. Sightings came from all parts of the area, from the lowlands of the north and east to the moorland fringes of the south and west.

Breeding was reported at **Bretton, Dovestones, Elysium, Farnley Tyas and Woodsome** and pairs or males with harems were at **Blacker Beck, Golcar, High Wood, Margery Wood, Penistone and Scissett**.

Large gatherings of c.50 juvs at **Cawthorne Park** on 13th Aug and of 54 at the old **Bulcliff Colliery** were almost certainly released birds and there were many such, including some black variants, at **Yateholme** in March and April. Fourteen birds counted in the **Chew Hills/Dovestones** area on 14th March included twelve females.

The species was a garden visitor in **New Mill** with a male from 17th Nov to 15th Dec, and at **Almondbury** which had a female in the early months then a male from May to December.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Feral introduction

Survives at **Bretton Lakes**, a female on 10th April and two males from 9th to 31st Dec (SRG).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

A very poor year for this species by any standards.

The only records were of singles near the old boathouse at **Bretton Lakes** on 5th and 8th Jan and from 9th to 31st Dec (HQ,BA,DM,SRG) and at **Elland GPs** on 26th Jan, 2nd Feb and 23rd Nov (HBC).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Reported from just over twenty sites with confirmed/attempted breeding at nine of them, a similar situation to last year.

Details of breeding were as follows:-

Almondbury – a pair raised two broods on a garden pond in Lumb Lane.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a nest on the west bank had been flooded out by 18th May and a replacement nest in the SW corner overflow field had been destroyed by 2nd June; the pair was not seen after 5th June.

Colnebridge SP – about five adults hatched ten young, but not all survived.

Dewsbury SF – at least 18 records of newly hatched chicks, totalling 45 young, to the end of July and three newly hatched young on 24th Aug.

Elland GPs – bred but no details.

Ford Mill, Wooldale – a pair bred, no details.

Hey Green, Marsden – a pair bred, ad + seven juvs on 28th June.

Ingbirchworth Res – bred, no details.

TP Wood – a pair bred successfully.

Elsewhere birds were present at **Sparth** and **Tunnel End Reservoirs** from March to December, and at **Bilberry Res, Bretton Lakes, Carlecotes Ponds, Gunthwaite Dam, Holme Styes, Lepton Great Wood** and **Shelley Beck** during the breeding season.

The highest counts reported were 25+ on 9th Feb and c.30 on 30th Nov in the **Horbury** area, seven at **Ingbirchworth** in Sept, nine in Feb and Oct and eleven in Dec at **Elland GPs** and 54 at **Dewsbury SF** on 21st Nov.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Resident breeder (2)

The fortunes of this species give cause for concern, with birds reported from only eleven sites, although breeding evidence was submitted from seven of them (cf. five from fifteen sites in 2002) as follows:-

Bretton Lakes – bred but no details.

Carlecotes Ponds – five pairs in April; a pair and one juv in July.

Colnebridge SP - two pairs raised four young.

Elland GPs – one was sitting on a nest on 31st March and 3rd May, with additional nest building taking place on 27th April.

Gunthwaite Dam – three birds, including one on a nest, on 20th April.

Horbury – a brood of three young on 13th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – bred but no details.

Breeding almost certainly occurred at **Scout Dike Res**, probably also at **Dovestones Res** and possibly at **Boshaw Whams**.

Max monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	0	0	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	1	0
Elland GPs	8	19	7	9	12	7	4	3	3	0	3	6
Ingbirchworth	7	12	6	4	6+	7	15	15	11	?	?	?

The only record away from sites already mentioned was of a single bird on the R.Calder at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th Nov.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Rare breeder (1). Uncommon passage visitor

Birds were present in the area between 9th Feb and 29th July, with the great majority of sightings in April and May.

A pair returned for the fifth consecutive year to breed at **Winscar**. After the first sighting there of two on 22nd March, mating was observed on 8th April and by 16th April a second pair was established at the site. One pair had two young by 28th May, a half-grown juv was seen on 1st-6th June, and one juv was still present on 15th. The last sighting of the year here was on 11th July.

Birds were also present at the following sites and several of these records could refer to the Winscar birds, particularly those from the Broadstones/Ingbirchworth area.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one on 9th Feb and one west on 25th March. One on 23rd April left to the NE at 0900 hrs and singles were also present on 19th May and 1st June.

Elland GPs – one on 21st Feb, three on 2nd July.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 31st March, one on 3rd and two on 14th, 18th and 21st April, one on 17th May.

Broadstones Res – one flew east on 3rd April, two on 6th April, in May three on 23rd, two on 24th/25th and one on 26th, one on 15th June and an adult on 10th July, one on 29th July.

Ringstone Edge Res – in April one on 14th, two on 5th, 8th, 10th, 18th, then one on 20th May.

Deer Hill Res – two on 13th April which left to the west, four on 15th and one on 27th May, adult on 26th June.

Dewsbury SF – three on 15th, singles on 16th and 18th April, 8th May, 10th and 26th June and 6th/7th July.

Royd Moor Res - one on 16th April.

Colnebridge SP – singles over on 17th April and 5th July, two over on 24th July.

Flight Hill – one on 30th April.

Dalton – one over calling to the SE at 2305 hrs on 30th April.

Harden – one on 22nd May.

Carlecotes Ponds – two on 27th June.

Oxygrains – one flew east on 4th July.

Lindley – one flew SW over Holly Bank Road calling at 2115 hrs on 15th July.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

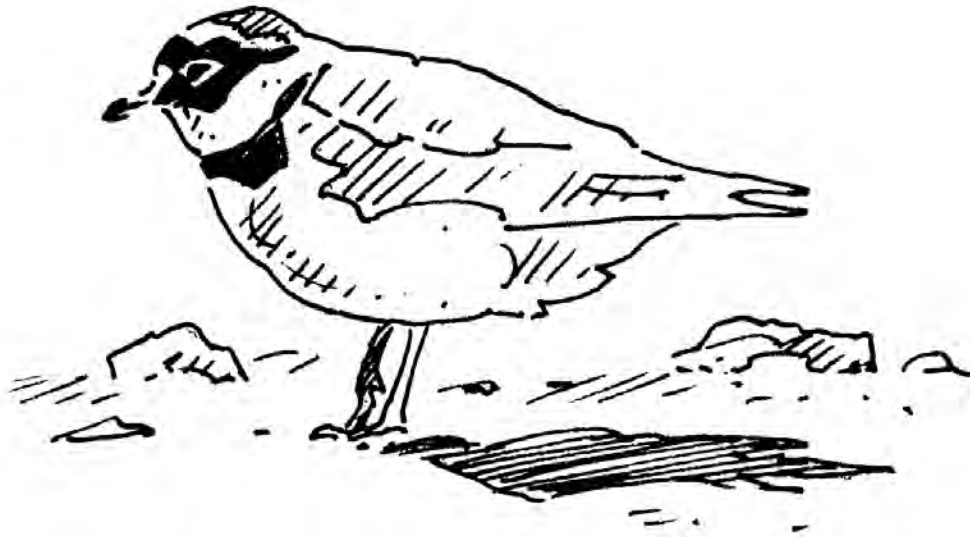
Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder

A much better year for the species, recorded at 13 sites, with breeding attempted at a minimum of five of these. Record numbers occurred at **Dewsbury SF** in July.

Site A – displaying birds were first discovered on 27th May, with song the following day and three birds displaying on 1st June. A subsequent breeding attempt was sadly washed out later on.

Site B – birds were present from 28th March (three) and mating observed on 24th May. Three adults were seen on 26th May and 15th June and at least four birds on 15th July included adults and well grown juveniles. On 19th July two adults with one very recently hatched chick were present and again on 24th and 29th July. It is possible that two pairs bred.

Site C – an adult first seen on 6th and 8th June, with alarming and occasional song on 18th July. An adult and a flightless young bird were present on 20th July and an adult on 26th.



Site D – an adult was brooding a full sized juvenile under its wing and body for several minutes on 14th July on the only visit to this site.

Site E – three pairs hatched young.

Dewsbury SF – the first of the year arrived on 22nd March; in April two on 14th, three on 15th, then four from 16th to 9th June. Record numbers occurred in early July with 18 on 3rd, 16 on 5th, seven on 7th then down to three on 10th and four on 23rd.

Royd Moor/Scout Dike/Ingbirchworth Res's – singles on 12th, 16th, 19th and 22nd April, two on 31st May and a max of six in mid July, but no breeding evidence. Singles on 2nd and 5th Aug.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 21st April, 2nd and 17th June and a juv from 3rd to 6th Sept.

Wessenden Head Res – singles on 11th and 25th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one flew west on 21st June, juv on 7th Sept.

Carlecotes Ponds – three on 25th June and at least two on 27th with vigorous alarming but none on later visits.

Clockface Quarry – one chasing a Kestrel on 15th July.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage visitor

A relatively good year, with reports from nine sites, mainly in autumn.

Dewsbury SF – one on 19th/20th March, two on 5th and three on 19th May, one on 25th June; in July singles on 2nd and 4th with three on 5th, singles on 26th/27th Aug and on 19th/20th Sept (JH,BA).

Redbrook Res – one on 23rd March was most unexpected (JMP).

Broadstones Res – two on 23rd and 25th May, with one on 24th; juv on 26th Aug (MC,DHP).

Royd Moor Res – five on 31st May (JKP), one SW on 14th Aug (RJB).

Deer Hill Res – two on 22nd Aug (PDB).

Baitings Res – one on 23rd Aug (HBC).

Scout Dike Res – a juv from 23rd to 26th Aug and one on 15th Oct (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res – one on 8th Sept (PB).

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 16th Oct (HBC).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage visitor

One appeared in the same sheepfield in **Potato Lane** to the west of Blackmoorfoot Res as in 2002. Found on 15th May (PDB,CH et al), it remained to the following day, when it was still present at 1715 hrs but had departed by 2000 hrs (PB).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing

Birds were present at only two sites in January, **Ringstone Edge** which had a max. of 60, and near **Blackmoorfoot** where there were 69 on just one date, 31st. A significant increase occurred in February when numbers at **Ringstone** rose to a max. of 350, **Blackmoorfoot** had up to 87 birds almost daily, with an isolated peak of 110+ on 16th; 125 were at **Norland Moor** on 21st when 105 were also at **South Crosland** and c.120 were at **Hartcliff Hill** on 15th. Smaller numbers, up to 30, were at **Dewsbury SF**, **Shepley**, **Storches Hall Moor** and on **Wessenden Moor** (in frozen conditions).

The expected influx, which is usual in March, did not happen with fewer numbers, at only five sites, than in February. Two were at **Brown's Edge** on 11th, the first returning bird arrived at **Harden Edge** on 15th, c.50 were at **Flight Hill** on 16th, **Blackmoorfoot** had a max. of 35 on 22nd and **Ringstone Edge** had up to 34.

April saw a big upsurge in records with the **Broadstones** area traditionally coming into its own, although there were very few reports before mid month. After 80 on 6th numbers in the **Broadstones** area increased to at least 400 on 20th before reducing to c.80 on 26th and only 14 by 29th. At other sites max. were 175 at **Dearne Head** and c.200 (mainly "Southern" birds) at **Deer Hill** both on 13th, down to eight on 30th at the latter site, 80+ including c.12 "Northern" birds near **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd, 61 at **Ringstone Edge**, 38 at **Elysium** probably "Northern" breeders from 12th to 14th, and 35 near **The Flouch** on 6th.

The largest congregations reported in May were 18, probably non-breeders, at **Whitley Edge** from 4th to 16th, 45+ near **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th, 55 at **Whitley Common** on 30th, 15 at **Issues Road** and eleven at **Deer Hill**.

In the breeding season birds were recorded at **Black Moss/Swellands** (five territories on 2nd July), **Cupwith** (on territory on 8th May), **Deer Hill Moss** (three pairs on 16th June), **Dovestones** (two on territory on 14th March), **Featherbed Moss** (six pairs), **Harden/Snailsden** (six pairs) and **Way Stone Edge** (six birds on 4th April and a nest with eggs, later successful, on 4th May).

Birds were extremely scarce from June to mid October, the only double figure counts being at **Blackmoorfoot**, which had max. of 23 in June and 12 in July, **Thurgory Lane**, **Lepton**

c.40 on 14th Oct, and at **Royd Moor** where 14 flew south on 13th Oct. Only five other sites reported the species in low single figures in this period.

In November **Ringstone Edge** had its highest count of the year at 380, c.50 were at **Broadstones** on 10th, 82 near **Dewsbury SF** on 17th, max. at **Blackmoorfoot** of 110 on 27th and 90 at **Crosland Hill** on 28th.

In complete contrast to December 2002 when the species was almost completely absent from the area, the last month of 2003 produced the biggest flocks of the year. Numbers in the **Farnley Tyas/Thurstonland** and **Broadstones** areas reached 600, at the former site on 10th, at the latter on 24th but quickly reducing here to c.150 on 29th. 400+ were in the **Crosland Hill** area on 20th and 250 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th. Maxima elsewhere were 27 at **Scout Dike** on 21st and 45 moving east there on 26th, at least 63 in **Windmill Lane** on 26th, 52 flew west at **Dewsbury SF** on 31st and **Ringstone Edge** numbers peaked at 60.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident breeder (3). Numerous passage and winter visitor

Following the censuses of this species in 2001 and 2002, reports for the breeding season were much fewer with no such survey undertaken this year. Breeding was recorded at most of the sites surveyed previously, but observations were not as concentrated as in the survey years. Chicks were reported at **Annat Royd Lane**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Clock Face Quarry**, **Harden** and **Issues Road**, with pairs/sitting birds at **Boshaw Whams**, **Cooper Bridge**, **Crosland Hill**, **Crossley's Plantation**, **Deer Hill**, **Elysium**, **Harden Edge**, **Harden Moss**, **Lepton**, **Meal Hill Road**, **Springs Road**, **Whitley Common** and **Windmill Lane**.

There was some encouraging news in that birds returned to breed at **Blake Clough** for the first time in ten years, and a pair bred successfully at **Red Hill**, between Kirkburton and Shelley, for the first time for several years. Two new breeding colonies were also reported at **Bullcliff**, with six pairs to the north of Bullcliff North Wood and three pairs at Bullcliff Pit Head. In contrast, numbers were down in the Elysium area and a sitting bird was killed on the nest by two Stoats at Carlecotes Ponds on 12th July, after young had been seen there on 8th/9th.

Two observers expressed the opinion that the breeding season might have been a poor one. Fifteen adults at **Broadstones Res** in late May suggested early flocking behaviour, perhaps caused by early silage killing young. A build-up of two or three roving flocks about 100/150 strong in the **Harden/Whitley** area might also indicate few young being raised as a result of the early cutting of fields. At **Blackmoorfoot** also, a max. count in June of 307 birds on 25th was composed entirely of adult birds, with no juveniles at all, a disastrous situation.

Breeding records aside, numbers generally were below average throughout the year. The highest counts at favoured localities were as follows:-

Annat Royd Lane/Ingbirchworth – no more than 12 in Jan, 200 in Feb, 70+ in March, 62 in April, 127 in June, 220+ in July, 200 in Sept, 300+ in Oct, 200 in Nov, 40 in Dec.

Blackmoorfoot – max. Jan 119, Feb 177, March 40, June 307, July 375, Aug 227, Sept 208, Oct 350, Nov 160, Dec 250.

Broadstones -80 west on 21st Jan, March 120+, May 15, June 150+, Sept 150+, Nov c.200, Dec c.200.

Colnebridge SP – 38 on 26th Aug and 86 on 8th Sept included an albino.

Crosland Hill – max. 208 in Oct, 260 in Nov.

Deer Hill – a flock of 50 on 2nd March when others on territory, 30+ in Oct.

Dewsbury SF – 160 in Jan, 99 in Feb, 182 in July, 110 in Sept, 28 in Oct, 37 in Nov, 243 in Dec.

Hartcliff Hill – c.120 in Feb, 50 in Sept.

Ringstone Edge – max. 120 in March, 12 in May, 50 in June, 70 in July, 150 in Aug, 130 in Sept, 71 in Oct, 448 in Nov.

Scout Dike – 90 in Jan, c.200 in Feb, 17 in June, 54 in July, 121 in Nov.

Other counts were c.120 in snow-covered fields at **Bird's Edge** on 4th Jan, 50 at **Wholestone Moor** on 30th Jan with 60 there on 3rd Feb, 50 over **Shepley** on 16th Feb, up to 30 at **Thurgory Lane** in Feb/March, 120 moving SW over **Penistone G.S.** on 17th Aug, 40 at **Scammonden** on 12th Sept; in December 28 at **Windmill Lane** on 6th and 150+ in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 7th, with smaller numbers at a handful of other sites.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare visitor

A juvenile at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 24th Aug (MLD,DMO) was still present at 2000 hrs (PB).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare visitor

A bird at **Deer Hill Res** on 19th May was still in winter plumage (DHP,PDB).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Rare passage migrant

A juvenile at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th Aug (JH,BA,DM) was the first since 1998.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Rare passage migrant

An adult in almost full winter plumage was discovered at **Scout Dike Res** at 0735 hrs on 26th Sept (RJB) but had departed by 1030 hrs.

The first record since 1996.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Migrant breeder (1-2). Uncommon passage visitor

Recorded between 24th April and 22nd December. Reports were received from only one breeding site, where in May at least six birds were present on 9th and at least four pairs on 30th.

Blackmoorfoot - singles on 24th and 28th April, five from 20th to 24th May in fields to the west of the reservoir, a party of five west on 29th Sept and three west on 22nd Dec.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 2nd May and 2nd Aug.

Scout Dike Res – an adult briefly on 6th May and a juv on 23rd Sept.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 19th May and 16th Oct, two on 14th Nov.

Broadstones Res – two adults on 23rd May.

Baitings Res – two over on 23rd Aug.

Scammonden – one on 28th Sept.

Butterley Res – one flew SW on 18th Oct.

South Crosland – on 27th Nov a flock of 30 birds was discovered in fields adjacent to Whitehead Lane. When flushed they flew towards Blackmoorfoot Res but could not be relocated (PB). A quite remarkable record.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor

As last year birds were reported from three sites in autumn.

A juv was at **Ringstone Edge** on 11th and 16th Aug (DHP) with two there on 3rd Sept (HBC). A juv male and a juv female fed at **Dewsbury SF** from 26th Aug to 4th Sept (JH,BA,DM,PB) and male and female flew around at **Royd Moor Res** on 3rd Sept before leaving to the NW (PB).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Birds were again reported from six sites, four of which were the same as in 2002.

Elland GPs – in January three on 18th and five on 26th, in March four on 2nd, one on 11th and three on 19th (HBC).

Deer Hill – one in the usual rushy field on 18th March (PB).

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 30th March and 6th April (HBC).

Colnebridge SP – one from 31st March to 13th April (DS).

Dewsbury SF – in October one on 22nd/23rd, four on 27th, then from 28th daily to 12th Nov (JH).

Scout Dike Res – one on 16th Nov (RJB).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

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

At the beginning of the year prior to the breeding season, birds were reported from thirteen sites, with large counts at two of them. The highest numbers were at **Ravensthorpe GPs**, where 70+ were flushed on 11th Jan and 60+ on 9th Feb, and at **Healey Mills** with 38 flushed on 2nd March.

Elsewhere numbers were much smaller, with up to eleven in fields at **Golcar** between 11th Jan and 8th March, 12 at **Elland GPs** on 18th Jan, eleven in a field at **Deer Hill** on 13th March, seven at **Dewsbury SF** on 7th Feb, two feeding in kale stubble at **Arborary Lane** on 10th Jan and two at **Crosland Hill** on 21st Feb, singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on seven dates in Jan, at

Ingbirchworth in Jan and March, **Shelley** and **Scout Dike** on 22nd Feb and **Horbury Wyke** in March.

Numbers of displaying birds at about twentyfive were down on the total of c.35 in 2002. Drumming/chippering was first reported from **Cupwith Hill** on 26th March, **Deer Hill** on 27th and **Flight Hill** on 29th and continued until mid June. Breeding was proven at **Cupwith Hill**, a nest with four eggs on 30th April had hatched by 23rd May, at **Flight Hill** when a bird was watched back to a nest in rushes on 20th May, and at **Buckstones** where a nest found on 28th May was later predated by a mammal.

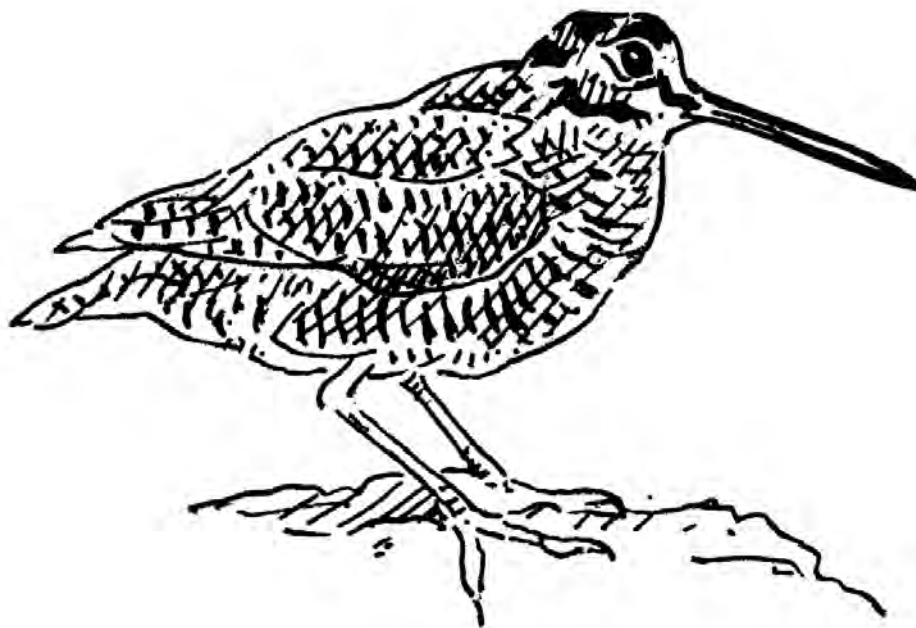
Displaying birds were present at **Bradshaw** (1+), **Broadstones**, **Buckstones**, **Cupwith** (2), **Deer Hill** (3+), **Digley** (5), **Elysium**, **Flight Hill** (several on 3rd May), **Greenfield Road/Marsden Clough**, **Harden**, **Law** (pair on territory), **Pule Hill** (2), **Rishworth Moor**, **Upper Windleden Res** and **Wessenden**.

Post-breeding season numbers were low and birds reported from only a small number of sites. **Blackmoorfoot** had birds on 23 dates from 27th Aug to 31st Dec, max. five on 29th Sept, **Dewsbury SF** a max. of four in July, six in Aug, three in Sept/Oct, seven in Nov and nine in Dec, **Broadstones** max. of five on 5th Oct, **Ringstone Edge** max. nine in Aug/Sept and six in Nov, **Carlecotes Ponds** three in July, **Golcar** three in Dec, with singles at **Colnebridge SP** and **Winscar Res**.

An unusual record was of seven flying west over **Farnley Tyas** on 8th Oct (CH).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2) and uncommon winter visitor



Partly as a result of survey work for the BTO, records were received from more areas than usual in the breeding season, but there were negative results from some sites.

In the first winter period two in **Upper Stones Wood** on 4th Jan were the only ones reported.

Roding birds were noted from 6th April to 14th July at the following sites:-

Carr Wood/Woodsome Lees (3), **Crossley's Plantation**, **Holme Styes** (two on 19th June, one on 13th July, but none on 5th and 15th May and 1st June), **Holme Woods** (1+ on three dates, including one perched on a wall at close range on 14th May), **Jenkinson Wood**, **Reynard Clough** and **Yateholme** (at least three, probably four). None were found in the **Brockholes/Thongsbridge** area on 10th and 26th May.

There was quite a spate of records of single birds in the late months. One was flushed at **Elland GPs** on 23rd Oct, at **Bank Wood, Wilshaw** on 11th Nov and in December one flew through a garden at **Shelley** on 18th, over **Birkby** at just above roof top level on 29th and one was in a **Fixby** garden on 31st.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage visitor

A bird in summer plumage flew west at 0945 hrs. on 7th June at **Blackmoorfoot Res** (MLD) and one was at **Ringstone Edge Res** on 3rd Aug (HBC).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

This was the best year for this species for some time, with both spring and autumn records.

Broadstones - in April two on 22nd, one on 23rd/24th and two again on 26th; one on 23rd May (DHP,RJB).

Brown's Edge – two on 23rd April (JED).

Bird's Nest Lane – three on 23rd and two on 26th April (MC,JMcL,RJB,BA).

Whitley Common – two on the airfield on 26th April (MC).

There is probably considerable duplication of records from the above sites.

Harden – one flew north calling on 26th April (MC).

Blackmoorfoot – one west on 8th May (MLD), one west on 16th July, one south on 17th July and one west on 28th July (PB), one west on 25th Aug (CH).

Winscar – five south at dusk in a tight flock on 5th July (PB).

Scout Dike – in August one south on 7th and three SW on 10th (RJB).

Deer Hill Res – two flew off towards Blackmoorfoot on 10th Aug (DMP).

Baitings – one over on 27th Aug (HBC).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Migrant breeder (2) and common passage visitor

Birds did not start to return to the area until the beginning of March, with singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 3rd and two on 4th all moving west, and movement continued then in small numbers to the month end and into April.

Large arrivals began with a flock of 26 in the valley at **Digley** on 6th March, followed by additional flocks on 9th of 20 at **Broadstones** and 27 there on 11th, 31 which landed together in a field at **Ingbirchworth** on 10th, 21 at **Deer Hill**, 15 by the **Greenfield Road** and 12 at **Greenfield Res** on 12th, nine at **Pole Moor** on 13th, c.30 at **Flight Hill** and 13 at **Tinker Hill** on 16th, but all these were eclipsed by a count of 110, almost all females, in a nervous loose flock in the **Broadstones** area on 17th March. Presumably, although there is no evidence to support the suggestion, the earlier arrivals were predominantly males. Occasional parties were still present in April, e.g. 15 and 21 in the **Maythorn/Bird's Nest Lane** area on 20th.

As in 2002 about 40 pairs/displaying birds were located at about thirty sites, with largest concentrations in the **Digley** and **Wessenden** areas. The local observer reported very few in the **Harden** area, with only two pairs clearly on territory in late May compared to double figures normally.

Breeding was proved by the presence of chicks/juveniles at **Butterley Res**, **Harden**, **Hingcliff Hill**, **Netherley Brow** and **Upper Windleden Res**. Displaying/singing birds were reported from **Black Moor**, **Broadstones**, **Buckstones**, **Carr Clough**, **Deanhead**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley**, **Dovestones**, **Dunford Bridge**, **Greenfield Road**, **High Flatts**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Marsden Clough**, **Pule Hill**, **Shooter's Nab**, **Snittlegate**, above **Wessenden** and **Yeoman Hey**. There was also a significant presence at lower altitudes, with pairs located at **Bulcliff**, south of **Cawthorne Park**, **Flockton**, **Haigh Wood**, south of **High Wood** and **Stockmoor Common**.

There were very few records after the end of June and all except one flying west at **Dewsbury SF** on 10th July and three at **Deer Hill** on 30th July came from **Blackmoorfoot** – in July one on 5th, four west on 8th, three west on 31st, in August one west on 24th and one east on 26th, with the last singles on 3rd and 16th October.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Migrant breeder (1)

After the first two of the year at **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd Feb, the next was a bird which returned to territory at **Harden Edge** on 10th March, followed later in the month by one at **Brown's Edge** on 11th, at **Thornhill Millbank** on 17th and 25th, further singles at **Dewsbury SF** on 21st and 23rd, at least three at **Winscar** on 22nd, at **Bent Road Farm** on 23rd (and again on 3rd May) and at **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** from 29th to 14th April. April saw two at **Winscar** on 8th and 30th, one at **Broadstones** from 14th to 18th, two at **Boshaw Whams** on 15th and another at **Dewsbury SF** on 17th.

Breeding was confirmed at **Black Moss**, where two juvs with primaries not fully grown and capable of only weak, floppy flight were seen on 2nd July, and almost certainly occurred at **Harden** and at **Law**, both sites having very agitated pairs, presumably with young, in late May.

Singles were present at **Winscar** on 15th June and 3rd July and two at **Scout Dike** on 20th July with one there on 26th Sept. Occasional birds occurred on passage at **Ringstone Edge**, singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th Sept and **Deer Hill** on 24th Oct and at **Dewsbury SF** after one on 28th Dec, two remained from 29th to the year end.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage visitor

More numerous than last year's very poor showing: all records were in autumn.

Dewsbury SF – singles on 16th and 31st July and 12th Sept (JH).

Deer Hill Res – one on 30th July (DHP).

Scout Dike Res – one from 5th to 14th Aug (RJB,DHP); a moulting adult which flew west on 10th Aug may have been a different individual (MC).

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 9th and 17th Aug (DHP,HBC).

Butterley Res – one on 12th Aug (JMP), an unexpected species at this site.

Blackmoorfoot Res – five arrived at 1925 hrs and left to the west at 1930 hrs on 26th Aug (PB).

Harden Res – one on 9th Sept (MC).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor

Another excellent year for this species at **Dewsbury SF** with birds present in all months except May, but very scarce elsewhere.

Dewsbury SF – two present from 17th Jan to 17th April; two birds reappeared on 30th June increasing to five on 2nd July, then four from 22nd to 28th July, three from 31st July to 6th Aug, five on 23rd and six on 26th Aug, three from 8th Sept to 4th Nov, five on 5th/6th Nov, then three again from 10th Nov to 31st Dec, apart from four together on 20th Nov (JH,DHP,PB,BA).

Thornhill Millbank – one on 25th March was probably one of the Dewsbury SF birds (DHP).

Carlecotes Ponds – one flushed from a small pool on 4th July (MC).

Tunnel End – one on the inflow stream on 14th Aug (RDW).

Elland GPs – one on 15th Nov (HBC).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2)

The first of the year was one at **Elland GPs** on 13th April, followed by singles on 14th at **Broadstones** and **Winscar Res's**, on 17th at **Butterley Res**, on 22nd at **Deer Hill** and **Ingbirchworth Res's** and at six other sites by the end of the month.

During the breeding season pairs or displaying birds were located at **Broadstones Res**, **Butterley Res** (2 pairs), **Cupwith Res** (bred successfully), **Deanhead Res**, **Deer Hill Res** (small young on 16th June), **Greenfield Res**, **Langsett Res**, **Little Don Valley**, **Wessenden Res** (2 pairs), **Wessenden Head Res** (adults giving alarm calls on 25th June) and **Winscar Res** (1+ pairs).

After the breeding season, passage birds occurred at **Dewsbury SF** from 25th June to 27th Aug peaking at five on 5th July and four on 7th July and from 15th to 26th Aug, at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 17 dates from 4th July to 25th Aug with a max. of two, at **Langsett Res** three on 9th July, regularly at **Scout Dike Res** with max. of four on 20th July and three on

15th Aug, at **Ringstone Edge Res** one or two on many dates in August and one on 5th Sept, and at **Scammdon** singles on 20th July and 25th/26th Sept, the last of the year.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

Reported from four sites, but there was probably considerable overlap involving the same birds.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult in the roost on 12th, 18th, 20th/24th and 29th Jan and 3rd/4th Feb. Presumably a different adult with a 75% complete black hood was present from 1st to 4th March (PB,MLD,MC et al); a 2nd W from 4th to 6th Nov (PB,MLD).

Honley Moor – an adult on 21st Jan (DHP), presumed the Blackmoorfoot bird.

South Crosland – an adult in winter plumage in fields on 22nd Jan (PB), as above.

Langsett Res – an adult in the roost on 25th Jan, 1st and 9th Feb and 1st March (RJB,MC).

The only date which overlaps in relation to roosting birds at Blackmoorfoot and Langsett Reservoirs is 1st March, when there were certainly two different birds. In the absence of plumage descriptions one individual could be responsible for all the other sightings at the two roosts.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage visitor

A good year for this species.

Elland GPs – a 2nd S/ad was present on 21st April (HBC,DHP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – four different birds occurred. A juv on 15th Aug left at 1925 hrs. (PB), another juv arrived at 1850 hrs. on 14th Sept, remained throughout 15th and departed east at 1040 hrs. on 16th (PB,MLD,CH et al), a third juv/1st W roosted on 16th Sept (PB) and a 1st W was present on 11th Oct (PB).

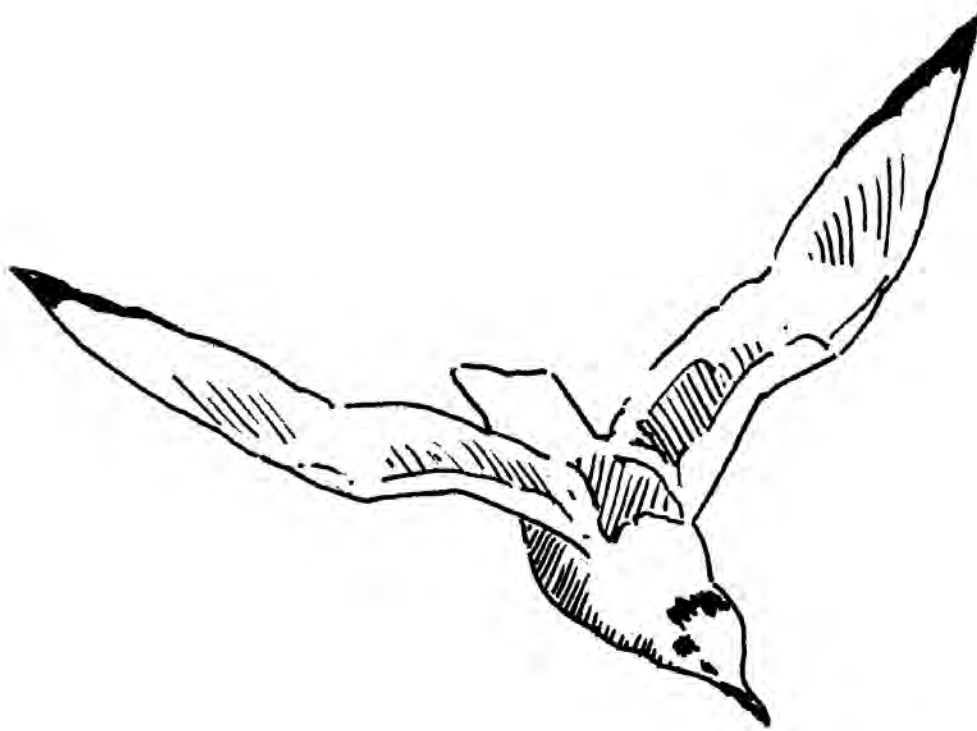
Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor and occasional breeder (1)

After an absence of many years, birds bred again at **Little Black Moss Res.** On 2nd July 15+ adults were present, several demonstrating breeding behaviour, along with a brown juvenile and a brood of four chicks several days old. A pair and four free-flying young were present with two other adults on 31st July (PB).

Birds roosted in large numbers at **Blackmoorfoot Res**, but few counts were received from the **Langsett** roost. Max monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	4200	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	27	800	1100	1800	1900	nc
Elland GPs	350	65	37	0	3	2	9	11	18	24	22	55
Hartcliffe Hill	280	300	400	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth	130	130	48	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	46	52	143



Combined counts for this species and Common Gull at **Blackmoorfoot** produced the following maxima – Jan 6300, Feb 5700, Mar 6600, Apr-Sept no counts, Oct 2650, Nov 4550, Dec 5450.

Counts elsewhere included 80+ feeding on **Lindley Rec** on 21st Jan and 150 at **Blackley Tip** on the same date, at **Dewsbury SF** 7500 on 13th and 2200 on 27th Jan, 1800 on 7th Feb moving upriver from the roost at Pugney's CP, at **Scout Dike** the only noteworthy numbers were 60 on 8th March and c.230 on 26th Dec, at **Langsett Res** c.1000 on 1st Nov and c.750 on 21st Dec, at **Ringstone Edge Res** max of 200 in March, 400 in August and 80 in September, and a regular presence of 30/40 at **Colnebridge SP**.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Very few records were received apart from roost counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res**, where there was a steady increase from August to the year end.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot*	960	2100	nc	2	1	1	6	27	120	590	640	880
Elland GPs	nc	nc	nc	10	0	0	1	nc	nc	30	nc	100
Ingbirchworth	22	9	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6

* See Black-headed Gull for combined counts of the two species.

Other counts were 2100 west on 9th Jan and 22nd March at **Dewsbury SF**, c.240 on 15th Feb and 40+ on 22nd Nov the only notable counts at **Langsett Res**, at **Broadstones Res** c.50 on 12th Jan, 100 on 12th Feb, 170 on 12th March, three in July and one in August, at **Shepley** 50 on 12th March and 45 on 17th Dec, up to 25 at **Kirkheaton** on many dates in autumn/winter, with single figures reported from **Colnebridge SP**, **Lindley**, **Marsh**, **Royd Moor**, **Wilshaw** and **Woodsome**.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor

The established pattern of occurrence continued with birds very scarce at the beginning and end of the year, and highest numbers in the period from July to October.

Numbers at **Blackmoorfoot Res** were unusually low during spring passage, the total number of birds present in March was only 40 and in April none until two on 27th. Monthly max were Jan three, Feb seven, March 22, April seven, May 12, June nine, July 19, Aug 41, Sept 84, Oct 93 (on 1st), Nov 51, Dec eight.

At **Scout Dike** spring passage began on 22nd Feb with a max. of 23 on 26th April, the only other significant count being a party of c.120 which moved south on 21st Aug. The first passage birds were noted at **Shelley** on 17th March, after which there was a regular trickle in March/April and from August to October.

Elland GPs had max.of one in Jan, four in Feb, two in March, 24 in July and 14 on 23rd Dec. The large numbers formerly associated with **Royd Moor Res** seem to be declining, with max. in August of 91, in September 137, in October 29 and three in November. **Langsett Res** had 210 on 31st May, 140 on 26th Oct, c.300 on 1st Nov reducing to just three on 16th. At least 120 were in fields near **Ingbirchworth Res** on 23rd July and 30+ at **Broadstones Res** on 31st July included an adult with very obvious darker upperparts, possibly assignable to the race *intermedius*. The only other site with any significant numbers was **Ringstone Edge Res**, where 50 on 6th and 12th Aug increased to 127 on 27th before falling to 20 on 15th Sept.

Very small numbers of birds were noted passing over **Dalton** in April and August, **Maythorn** and **Cheesegate Nab** in April, **Deer Hill** and **Taylor Hill** in May and 15 flew west at **Harden** on 24th May.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor

Apart from the counts at **Blackmoorfoot Res** very few records were received. The vast majority of reports were in Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec, with very small numbers in other months and none in June/July.

Numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** fluctuated in January from a high of 483 on 10th to a low of 36 on 26th, in February from 67 to 157, then six in March, none in April, one (a 1st S) in May, none in June/July, one (a juv) in August, in September a juv on two dates, in October a gradual increase to 23 on 31st, with a further increase in November to 174 on 21st and a peak of 518 on 16th Dec.

The highest numbers at other sites were c.300 on 4th Jan and in December c.280 on 13th down to 130 on 28th at **Langsett Res**, 31 at **Elland GPs** on 4th Jan then max. of eleven in February, three in April, five in November and ten in December, 100+ at **Blackley Tip** on 21st Jan, 92 at **Hartcliff Hill** on 26th Jan and 20 flying east at **Horbury Wyke** on 9th Feb. Single figures were recorded at **Bretton Lakes**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Shelley** and **Shepley**.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus argentatus michahellis*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor

Birds were reported from six sites, mainly in the period from July to September.

Langsett Res – an adult and a 1st W roosting on 1st Jan, an adult on 31st Aug, four (3 ads, one 1st/2nd yr) on 1st Nov and an adult on 9th Nov (RJB,MC).

Broadstones Res – a 2nd S in adjacent fields on 5th July, adult on 24th and 31st July and 2nd Aug (MC,DHP).

Ringstone Edge Res – an adult on 5th July and 3rd Aug, two adults regularly between 5th and 26th Aug, adult on 29th Aug, 2nd and 15th Sept (HBC,JED,DHP).

Law – an adult in a newly ploughed field with Lesser Blackbacks on 31st July, probably same as Broadstones bird (MC).

Royd Moor Res – adult on 15th, 17th and 31st Aug (PB,RJB,BA); in September a juv/1st W on 3rd, five (2 ads, 1st S, 2nd yr and 1st/2nd yr) on 6th/7th (MC,RJB) and an adult on 10th (PB). An adult on 12th Oct (BA).

Blackmoorfoot Res – adult on 29th Aug, then in September an adult from 1st to 3rd, an adult and a juv/1st W on 5th and 12th, 3rd W on 19th, adult on 21st, 3rd W on 23rd, adult on 24th and 29th and on 1st and 31st Oct. There were at least seven different individuals in all (PB).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor

An adult flew east down the R.Calder at **Dewsbury SF** at 0815 hrs. on the early date of 11th Nov (JH).

There were four records from **Blackmoorfoot Res**, all in December – an adult on 12th (PB), a 2nd W on 29th, a different 2nd W on 30th (PDB) and a 1st W on 31st (PDB,MLD,JKP), i.e. three different birds in three days.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor

In a very poor year for the species the only record was of an adult at **Blackley Tip** on 17th Jan (HBC).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor

Reported from seven sites but only regularly from **Blackmoorfoot Res**, which had monthly max. of

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
167	51	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	22	163

Elsewhere, **Elland GPs** had in January 30 on 1st, 42 on 4th and five on 11th, two flew west on 11th April and in December four present on 8th and three on 28th, at **Dewsbury SF** 52 flew west on 7th Jan, over **Shelley** four on 15th Jan, 100+ at **Blackley Tip** on 21st Jan, four east at **Baitings** on 10th Sept and 39 at **Langsett Res** on 28th Dec were the only other records.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage visitor

There were again two records, one flying west past **Dewsbury SF** on 27th Jan (JH) and an adult at **Elland GPs** on 2nd March (HBC).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce passage migrant

One flew west at **Royd Moor Res** at 0845 hrs. on 20th April (RJB), the fourth consecutive year in which this species has appeared.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage and summer visitor, increasing

The expected increase in records of this species does not seem to be happening. Birds were reported from seven sites, the great majority of occurrences being in the Calder Valley.

Elland GPs – in April singles on 18th and 28th, with five on 27th; in May one on 5th, 8th and 9th with two on 7th, one on 24th June, two on 2nd and 7th July and three on 12th July.

Dewsbury SF – two on 22nd April, singles on 25th May and 2nd July.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 20th May.

Horbury area – regular sightings in June/July of one or two birds.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult which arrived at 0930 hrs. on 27th June departed to the west ten minutes later.

Scout Dike Res – an adult briefly on 28th Sept.

Booth Wood Res – three on 30th Sept.

In addition three terns at **Scammonden** on 11th May were not specifically identified, but were either this species or Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3)

No significant records received.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (2-3)

A considerable increase in records compared with last year, with birds reported from over 35 localities.

In the early months there were some very respectable counts, particularly in the **Ingbirchworth** area. Double figures were achieved at **Hey Green**, with ten on 12th Jan, **South Crosland** eleven on 27th Jan and 11th Feb, at **High Hoyland** 13 on 29th Jan, in the **Blackmoorfoot** area, where the species was seen on well over a hundred dates, a flock of 46 on 25th Feb was the highest count for many years, and there were 18 on 14th March. At **Harden Moss Lodge** an exceptional count of at least 147 was made on 13th March, but owing to the configuration of the land, this was probably on the conservative side (DMP). The largest numbers however were in the **Ingbirchworth** area in April, with 74 on plough on 1st, 37 on 19th, 120+ on 23rd and 50 off **Annat Royd Lane** and an additional flock of 220 feeding in fields off **Dearne Dike Lane** also on 23rd (JED).

Breeding was confirmed only at **Orange Wood**, where a pair raised two broods in the old pump house. Additional pairs/singing birds were located at **Blacker Beck** (2), **Bretton Lakes**, **Bullcliff Farm**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Dovestones**, **Emley Moor/Shelley** (2/3 pairs in a farm building), **Hard Hill**, **High Wood**, **Jackson Bridge**, **Jubilee Quarries**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lindley Moor** (at three farms north of the M62), **Lower Stones Wood**, **Lumb Lane** (several), **Margery Wood**, **New Mill**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Shooter's Nab** and breeding probably occurred at many of these sites.

The highest counts later in the year were at **Dewsbury SF** 32 on 2nd June and 15 on 21st Nov, in the **Blackmoorfoot** area in June 23 on 10th, 30 on 12th, 13 on 13th and 32 on 20th and in October eleven on 15th and ten on 21st, 20 at **Cockley Hill**, **Kirkheaton** on 4th Sept, "many" in a mixed flock with Woodpigeons in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 13th Oct and 21 at **Shepley** on 17th Dec.

Several other sites had smaller numbers throughout the year.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder (4) and numerous winter visitor

Nearly all the records received referred to sightings in Jan/Feb with just one report on breeding and two reports in the late months.

The large roost in **Honley Wood** at the end of 2002 disappeared early in 2003, with numbers down to c.300 on 22nd Jan and none by 4th Feb. In January c.100 were at **Birks Bottom**, **Lockwood** on 1st, 150 at **Brookfoot** on 4th, many hundreds at **Bretton Lakes** on 5th, there was a regular SE movement over **Lindley Moor** with 500+ counted passing at 1620 hrs. on

10th, 178 at **Hey Green** on 12th, 300 west on 13th at **Dewsbury SF** and 550 south there on 7th Feb, c.100 in **Shelley**, and on 8th Feb a flock of 250+ at **Blacker Beck**.

The largest numbers however were in the **Storthes Hall/Farnley Tyas/Woodsome** area. Two woodlands had large roosts. At **Smith Wood** on 15th Jan ample evidence of roosting was found and 800+ were observed heading there from the west in the late afternoon; on 5th Feb a minimum of 1800 were in the trees at dusk. Nearby, c.2 km to the north, was another traditional roost in **Carr Wood**. On 10th Jan 2500+ were seen over Hey Wood and Farnley Tyas heading in this direction at sunset, while on 15th from a watchpoint by North Spring Wood (opposite Storthes Hall) 3100+ were seen to arrive from the southwest and go into the Carr Wood roost. On 5th Feb 4117 birds arrived between 1530 and 1630 hrs., mostly from the SW, some from the west and a few from the south; the birds were roosting out of sight over the brow of the hill adjacent to Woodsome Hall GC and arrivals from the NW and north would not have been visible, so the total of roosting birds could have been considerably higher (PB).

A failed breeding attempt in a **Fixby** garden was the only one reported.

At the end of the year 125 flew south over **Dewsbury SF** on 6th Nov and large numbers were again reported to be roosting in **Storthes Hall Woods**.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Resident breeder (3)

A very much under-reported species with only about a dozen records received.

A pair bred in the garden of the observer's neighbour at **Lindley Moor**, a first record, and two grown young were with the adults in August, although breeding has been occurring c.300/400 metres away for ten years.

Max. counts reported were up to 20 in **Shelley** in the second winter period, 16 in the **Blackmoorfoot** area on 21st Nov and eleven in an **Almondbury** garden in September. Two pairs were at **Colnebridge SP**, the species is common in the **Dalton/Almondbury** area, regular in gardens at **Taylor Hill**, **Wooldale** and **New Mill** (six feeding on a patio on 6th Dec) and was also reported from **Holly Bank Road** and **Holme Styas**.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
Rare feral visitor

One at **Crosland Moor** on 12th July (MLD).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Migrant breeder

There was a further very slight, but not significant, increase in the number of sites from which reports were received. Nine singing males were located, mainly on the moorlands and their fringes, but three were at lower altitudes. There were two April records and one in early May, but no new sightings then until the late date of 24th May.

The first was in the **Chew Valley** on 23rd April followed by a male at the **Dunford Bridge Trail** on 29th and one at **Scout Dike** on 4th May, the observer's first at this site in four years of very regular coverage. The next were not until three weeks later when birds appeared at four sites, **Digley, Meltham, Shepley** and **Thurlstone Moor** on 24th May, and then on 26th at **Marsden Clough**, on 27th at **Blackmoorfoot**, on 28th at both **Deer Hill** (male and female) and **Elysium** (remaining to 5th June) and at **Holme Woods** on 29th.

In June two singing males, one flying off towards **Blackmoorfoot**, were in the small plantation at **Deer Hill** on 1st, but not after this date, when was also at **Winscar**. Two were at **Elland GPs** on 7th and one in the **Little Don Valley** on 21st.

A strongly rufous-coloured juvenile or female was at **Margery Wood** on 7th July and a normal juvenile took up residence at **Dewsbury SF** from 17th July to 1st August. The last of the year was a juvenile food-begging on fence posts below the dam at **Winscar** and being fed by Meadow Pipits and Robins on 2nd August.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor, formerly resident breeder

Four reliable records of this species (the first since 1998) were very welcome and perhaps augur well for the return of this charismatic species to our area.

The first was one on a post near **Four Lane Ends, Oxspring** on 23rd March (TRC); two others were undated, the first at **Shelley Woodhouse** early in the year, the second near the old **Park Mill Colliery** at **Emley** a little later (AS). The remaining record consisted of a freshly moulted feather picked up near **Upper Denby** on 18th Sept (TM).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2)

Fewer records were submitted than in most recent years, but the species was still reported from nearly forty localities. Unfortunately no information was received from some of the species' strongholds in the south-east.

Breeding was confirmed only at **Royd Moor**, where a juvenile was present with two adults on 8th July, and near **Netherthong**, but birds were observed in the breeding season at **Blackmoorfoot, Bretton, Broadstones, Castle Hill, Cheesegate Nab, Digley, Elysium, Farnley Tyas, Ford Inn, Golcar, Harden, Highburton, Holme, Holme Styes, Kirkheaton, Lumb Lane, Millbank, New Mill, Sands House, Scammonden, Shelley Woodhouse, Shepley, Wessenden** and **Wooldale**.

A further ten sites had birds at other times of the year.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Again reported from about forty sites, several of these referring only to calling birds.

Breeding was proved at **Holme Styes** (3 pairs), **Honley Moor** (in a nestbox), **Reynard Clough** (3 juvs on 9th July), **Shepley/Shelley** border (one young early May), **TP Wood** (a pair and 3 recently fledged young on 17th April) and **Upper Stones Wood** (the wing of a recently fledged young bird found on 29th May).

Birds were also reported in the breeding season from **Bare Bones Road, Barkisland, Birds Edge, Blacker Beck, Bretton, Bulcliff Wood, Cheesegate Nab, Denby Dale, Elland GPs, Farnley Tyas, Fixby, Grange Moor, Holme Woods** (at least four birds on 7th May), **Langsett, Lepton Great Wood, Little Don Valley, Margery Wood, Meal Hill, Molly Carr Wood, New Mill, Stockmoor, Storthes Hall Woods, Thongsbridge, Upper Cunberworth and Wooldale** and doubtless bred at several of these sites.

One was found dead at **Broadstones** on 30th Aug.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1)

It was a very good year for this species, with breeding proven at five sites, two of them new, and all in coniferous plantations.

At one well-established site, four pairs were located in different nesting territories on 28th May, one of them already having two or three well-grown young. Adults were observed hunting regularly in June and July from 2040 hrs. onwards.

At a second site an adult was on territory on 11th April and a juvenile seen on 5th July on wires and trees at the roadside. Two pairs were probably in this area.

A juvenile was heard squeaking at a third site on 5th July. Birds have bred previously at this location but have not been reported here for a number of years.

A fourth and new site was discovered when an adult was located in broad daylight at 1400 hrs. on 1st May on a fence post adjacent to a very small stand of mature conifers. Subsequently an adult and two or three young were found on 30th June and on 1st July adults were bringing voles to at least two well-grown young at 1255 hrs. This behaviour was repeated on 4th July when three young were seen, on 5th July a juvenile was sitting on a stump at 1105 hrs. and on 9th three large young were still being fed.

The above sites are all within a radius of 2.5 kms of each other, but the fifth site is totally isolated from them. At this last locality a juvenile was heard squeaking in dense conifers on 11th June.

It would appear that any area of coniferous woodland would be worth searching for this species when birds are calling in early spring or when young might be expected to be making their hunger calls later in the year.

A very interesting and obviously hugely entertaining sighting was made at **Harden** on 17th June, when a bird in the observer's driveway at 2300 hrs. was watched jumping from a "sitting" position to catch moths attracted by street lights. Two days later the same or another bird was perched in the road outside his house (again catching moths?), sitting and blinking in the observer's car headlights (MC).

Away from breeding areas one, probably a juvenile, was seen in full daylight from 22nd to 25th Aug at **Deer Hill** and probably had been present for several days, according to the local farmer (TD,DMP). At **Denby Dale** freshly moulted feathers of this species were found on two dates in August and two were seen on 1st Oct (TM). One hunted the roadside at **Flight Hill** at 0500 hrs. on 14th Sept (MC).

There is also an unconfirmed breeding season report of a pair hunting bats along woodland edge at dusk in another locality (SRG).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Resident/migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage visitor

There was a pronounced increase in sightings of this species this year, with birds reported from over a dozen localities and breeding occurring at five sites at least.

In the **Cupwith/Garside Hey** area a pair was seen regularly, displaying and hunting, from 17th March. A nest was found and in mid April had six eggs, which hatched but probably failed at the young stage. A second pair had a nest on 21st April and this was successful.

At **Harden** the first bird of the year appeared on 23rd March and by 11th April at least six were in the general area. One or two birds were observed hunting in May and June, often all day and in bad weather and carrying food, indicating that young were probably being fed.

After four birds were sighted on 12th April, the **Winscar to Salter's Brook** moorland held at least three pairs and fledged young were observed in July at two sites.

Further west two pairs in the **Holme Moss/Heyden Moor** area raised three and four young respectively, and a little to the south two broods, just out of the nest, were seen in early May in the vicinity of **Tup Stones/Heyden Moor**.

A pair was hunting and displaying in the **Deer Hill** area on 30th March and on several subsequent days to at least 23rd April, but often proved extremely elusive, whilst at **Oxygrains Beck** one barked over the observer on 2nd July before moving off and one was observed hunting here for over an hour on 4th July, but there were no more sightings. Both these sites are potential breeding areas.

Elsewhere singles were at **Broadstones** on 19th Jan, 25th April and 4th May, two were in the **Standedge** area in Feb/March, singles at **Ellentree Brow** on 20th April and 1st Sept, at **Carlecotes Ponds** and **Thurlstone Moor** on 17th May, **Law Slack Ponds** and the **Victoria** area on 27th May and at **Sailgate Road** on 14th July.

None were seen in the late winter months, the last sighting of the year being one at **Harden** on 3rd Sept.

Swift *Apus apus*
Migrant breeder (2-3)



In contrast to last year when birds were generally late in arriving, there was a whole spate of early arrivals, with birds at twelve sites in the last week of April and at a further six by the end of the first week of May. Not only was the earliness of the arrivals noteworthy but the number of birds involved in the influx was also quite outstanding.

The first of the year were seven at **Elland GPs** on 24th April, with 30 on 26th, 50+ on 27th and as many as 50+ in the first week of May. At **Blackmoorfoot** after one on 25th and two on 28th, 15 were present on the evening of 29th and two again on 30th. On 26th singles were at **Scout Dike** and **Skelmanthorpe** with eight at the former site on 29th, singles were at **Dalton** and **Outlane** on 27th and there was a mass arrival at an additional five sites on 29th – 20+ at **Ingbirchworth**, 15 over the Fenay Beck at **Fenay Bridge**, at least four at **Thunderbridge**, eight at **Brockholes** and one at **Crosland Moor**. Four flew west at **Dewsbury SF** on 30th.

In early May, further arrivals were noted at **Swinny Knoll** (c.20) on 1st, **Longwood** (1), **New Mill** (20) and **Shelley** (1) on 2nd, **Lindley Moor** (1) on 3rd and **Lindley village** (1) on 6th.

Only one report related to breeding, with more than 20 birds in family parties, over a traditional breeding site at **Dalton** on 14th July, and there were few reports of any larger numbers after the initial influx except for 30 hawking insects over **Dalton** on 30th May, 50 over **Greetland** on 29th July and counts of up to 30+ daily at **Blackmoorfoot** in May, max. of 40+ there in June and 60+ in July. The same site had 17 on 1st Aug, then single figures on

a further fourteen dates in the month, with late records in September of three on 1st and singles on 7th and 21st, the last of the year in the club area.

At **Dewsbury SF** movements were noted in June of 39 on 11th and 42 on 12th all going west, and in July the highest numbers of the year included 220 on 14th and 82 on 22nd, again all flying west.

Birds had become very scarce by mid August, with the only later records being singles at **Dalton** on 19th and 27th with two on 24th, one at **Denby Dale** on 22nd, 2+ at **Dewsbury SF** on 27th and one at **Scout Dike** on 30th. Apart from the Blackmoorfoot records the only other September sighting was one flying west over **Dalton** on 2nd.

An aberrant bird at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th May displayed a predominantly white breast, belly and undertail coverts (MLD).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident breeder (1)

This species may well be in decline with a drop in sites with records and most sightings were outside the breeding season.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Elland GPs**, where food was being taken to a nest-hole in June and July. At **Dewsbury SF** birds were present in all months on the R.Calder and a bird was seen entering a nesting burrow on 16th April, but the site was destroyed later in the month as a result of high river levels and no second attempt was apparent.

The only other records in the breeding season came from **Horbury** on 26th May, **Golcar** and **Wooldale** on 26th June, and **Lockwood**, where singles were seen in March and on three dates in June. There were no reports from several other localities where breeding has occurred or been suspected in recent years. Worryingly, at **Bretton Lakes**, where two or three pairs have been in residence for several years, the species was reported as being scarce until the second winter period, when three were seen on 18th Dec, although this site no longer receives the extensive coverage of former years.

Single birds were at **Blackmoorfoot Res** in January, February, September, October and December, with two on 1st Oct. Elsewhere, outside the breeding season, birds (all singles) were seen at **Barkisland**, **Colnebridge**, **Cooper Bridge**, **Golcar** canal and R.Colne, **Hill Top Res**, **Ingbirchworth Res**, **Lockwood**, **Ringstone Edge Res**, **Rishworth**, **Slaithwaite** on the R.Colne, **Tunnel End Res**, **Waterloo** and **Wooldale**.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Resident breeder (1-2)

2003 was a very encouraging year for this species. There was a 40% increase from 40 to 56 in the number of sites from which it was reported and, after a year in which no breeding proof was obtained, breeding mainly in the form of sightings of juveniles, was confirmed at seven localities. A pair bred successfully in a live tree at **Flockton**, the young leaving the nest on 29th June; in July juveniles were seen, sometimes in the company of adults, at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 1st and 7th, at **Honley Wood** on 3rd, **Ingbirchworth** on 8th,

Colnebridge on 15th and **Horbury Strands** on 27th, and later at **Scout Dike** in September/October (possibly same as Ingbirchworth).

Additional breeding season records, many in potential breeding areas, came from **Blacker Beck, Bretton Lakes** (three on 5th April), **Bullcliff Wood, Butternab Wood, Carr Wood, Denby Dale** (three on 11th April), **Dovestones, Elland** (three on 22nd March), **Golcar, Grimescar Valley, Harden Moss, Lower Fell Greave Wood, Lumb Lane, Magdale, Meal Hill, New Hall Wood, Shelley, Spring Wood, Stoneycliffe Wood, Thornhill Millbank** and the **Woodsome Valley**. Several of these reports referred only to birds yaffling.

A **Fixby** garden was visited regularly between 1st Jan and 25th March. The most bizarre sighting of the year was of a bird in Holset's car park in St. Andrew's Road, **Turnbridge** on 1st July (JKP).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2-3)

As with the previous species there was a huge rise in reported sightings from about 80 sites, an increase of 45%.

Proof of breeding was obtained at **Almondbury, Beaumont Park, Blacker Beck, Cawthorne Park, Cliff Wood, Coxley Valley, Denby Dale, Haigh Wood, Lumb Lane, Margery Wood, Meal Hill, New Mill, Orange Wood, Shelley, Taylor Hill, Tunnel End** and **Windybank Wood**.

Many other potential breeding areas were occupied at the appropriate time of year and nesting probably occurred at many of them, i.e. **Boothroyd Wood, Bretton Lakes** (seven birds on 5th April), **Crosland Moor, Deffer Wood, Fixby, Golcar, Hartley Bank Wood, Healey Greave Wood, Horbury, Lepton Great Wood, Longwood Valley, Lower Stones Wood, "Greater" Marsden** (nine localities), **Molly Carr Wood, New Hall Wood, Penny Spring Wood, Royd Edge, Royd House Wood, Stoneycliffe Wood, Thongsbridge, Totties, Upper Stones Wood, Wessenden** and **Yateholme**.

Feeding stations were visited in gardens in **Almondbury, Fixby, Lindley Moor, Longwood, Lumb Lane, Meal Hill, New Mill** and **Shelley** as well as at **Dewsbury SF**.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1)

The reduction in reports progressed apace, with only four sightings during the year.

One was singing and drumming at **Butternab Wood** on 21st Feb, a male was in **Clough Wood, Stockmoor** on 2nd March, an adult female in worn plumage was located in **Margery Wood** on 2nd June and a second bird was suspected, and one was in canal-side trees at **Horbury Wyke** on 23rd Nov.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Partial migrant breeder (3)

In January and early February up to forty were feeding in kale stubble to the east of **Blackmoorfoot Res** with one making a half-hearted attempt at a song flight on 15th Jan. Nearby at **Crosland Hill Airfield** 21 birds were present on 11th Feb, most of them in song on a calm, sunny and mild morning. Two were in stubble at **Annat Royd Lane** on 12th Jan. In February 18 were in stubble at **Shepley** on 4th and 42 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th, with 18 there on 18th, but the largest numbers were in the **Thurgory** area of Lepton, increasing here from c.50 on 18th to a max. of 120+ on 24th and over 100 to 27th after which there was a sudden exodus and only about five remained on 28th and two singing males on 12th March. The **South Crosland** area held 37 on 1st and 25 on 12th March.

Song was noted from 7th Feb and continued into early July, with a total of about fifty reported, largest numbers being in the **Blackmoorfoot/Deer Hill, Buckstones, Crosland Hill** and **Digley** areas, but this figure is probably a gross underestimate of the real total. At lower altitudes birds were on territory at **Blacker Farm, Dewsbury SF, Elland GPs** and **Shelley**. Young were being fed in June at **Black Moor, Cupwith** and **Crosland Hill**.

The only evidence of passage was reported from **Shelley** where there was a small but steady movement in late September/October.

In the later months 30+ fed in stubble at **Thurgory Lane** in late October, c.40 were off Bellstrings Lane, **Kirkheaton** on 4th November, a flock of 20 was at **South Crosland** on 27th Nov and in December seven were at **Bradley Hall** on 10th and c.30 again in stubble at **Annat Royd Lane** on 23rd.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Migrant breeder (2)

It was a much better year for this species, with an increase in the number of sites from which records were received and a substantial new colony discovered.

The first bird of the year appeared on 15th March at **Elland GPs**, but there were no more records at this site until 13th April. Two flew west at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd March, followed by two north next day at the unlikely locality of **Harden** and one was over the lower lake at **Bretton** on 28th March.

In April one was at **Blackmoorfoot**, two flew west at **Dewsbury SF** and two had returned to the breeding site at **Ravensthorpe GPs** all on 9th, seven were at **Brighouse SF** on 12th, five on 13th at **Elland GPs** where birds then occurred daily from 20th to 30th with a max. of eight on 21st, one at **Royd Moor Res** on 16th, two flying east at **Cawthorne Dike** on 18th, at least one at **Scout Dike Res** on 20th, one NE at **High Hoyland** on 23rd and one at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 26th. The only remaining spring records came from **Blackmoorfoot Res** with singles on 3rd and 6th and two on 18th May, **Elland GPs** where there were five on 5th and one on 8th May, and **Harden** which had one on 26th May.

A new breeding colony was discovered on 15th June on a thirty-metre stretch of the R.Calder at **Horbury**. The nests were in two main groups of 45 and 15+ and most or all were occupied, with juveniles visible in some holes. On 13th July 60+ nest holes were still visible

and there was much activity. At the **Ravensthorpe** site some nests were still occupied on 24th Aug and on the same date c.60 nest holes were counted at **Sands GPs**, but no birds were in evidence. Unfortunately no further details were submitted for these two sites.

The only movements of any size occurred in July at **Dewsbury SF**, where 150 on 5th and 141 on 21st were all moving west, with a straggler there on 9th Sept. One flew north over **Dalton** on 16th June. **Blackmoorfoot** had a max. Of two on four dates in July and up to three on six August dates, two on 1st and 2nd and one on 10th and 11th Sept, the latest of the year. Elsewhere up to two were at **Ringstone Edge Res** on four dates in August and one on 3rd Sept, at least one was at **Ingbirchworth Res** on 10th Aug and one flew west at **Baitings** on 29th Aug.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Migrant breeder (4)

The first to arrive, at a breeding site in **New Mill** on 3rd April, was almost a week earlier than the next at **Paul Lane, Lower Hopton** on 9th. These were followed by three at **Elland GPs** on 10th, singles at **Cawthorne** and **Castle Hill** respectively on 11th and 12th, at **Bilberry Res** (two) and **Harden Moss** on 13th, **Blackmoorfoot** (three) and **Denby Dale** (four) on 14th, **Oldfield** (three), **Bretton Lakes, Broadstones, Crosland Hill, Law** (two) and **Will's o' Nat's** on 15th, **Birds Nest Lane** (two) and **Ingbirchworth** (two) on 16th. There was then a gap until 20th when 50+ were at **Scout Dike** and birds appeared at a further nine sites by the end of April.

The highest spring counts were made at **Elland GPs**, which in April had 100 on 21st, 80 on 27th and 100+ on 28th, and in May 70 on 5th and 100 on 12th. The only other double figure scores in April were ten at **Ingbirchworth** on 20th and ten on 27th and 14 on 29th at **Blackmoorfoot**, and in May 50 on 2nd at **Ingbirchworth** and max. of 20+ on 6th and 25+ on 13th at **Blackmoorfoot**.

Breeding/territorial behaviour was reported only from **Birds Nest Lane, Cheesegate Nab, Deer Hill, Eastergate, Emley Moor, Gunthwaite, Lepton, Lindley, Lumb Lane, New Mill** and **Shelley**, but was obviously greatly under-reported. Birds were still on territory at **Lepton** on 20th Aug and young were still being fed out of the nest at **Lindley** on 30th Aug and 20th Sept.

From mid July onwards the largest gatherings reported were at **Elland GPs**, where 200+ roosted on 17th July and 100+ on 22nd Sept, at **Scout Dike** c.50 on 27th July and c.100, mostly juveniles, on 7th Aug, at **Lumb Lane** c.40 were on wires on 9th Aug, at **Ringstone Edge** 25 on 24th Aug and 30 on 7th Sept, at **Blackmoorfoot** 60+ on 24th/25th Aug increasing to 120+ on 26th then 60+ from 3rd to 5th Sept and 90+ on 6th, 50 on wires at **Gawthorpe Green** on 25th Aug and 100 at **Upper Greetland** on 4th Sept.

Evidence of birds departing came from the **Wessenden Valley**, where a total of 149 moved south between 30th Aug and 14th Sept with a peak of 62 on 11th, hundreds moved west at **Harden** on 3rd Sept, 222 passed WSW at **Blackmoorfoot** between 0900 and 1000 hrs. on 12th Sept, 100 west at **Baitings** on the same date and a party of seven flew west at **Winscar** on 26th Sept.

Several sites retained small numbers to the end of September, and in October **Blackmoorfoot** had seven on 1st, two on 3rd and singles on 8th, 9th and from 13th to 15th, one was at **Shepley** on 6th, six at **High Hoyland** on 8th, two flew west over **Greenfield Road** on 10th and at **Bradley Park GC** seven were present on 11th and three on 16th, the last of the year.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Migrant breeder (3)

The first of the year were two at **Brighouse** on 12th April (and a possible at **Booth Dean Clough** on the same date), then at **Shepley** (four) and **Tunnel End** on 16th, **Dewsbury SF** (three) on 17th, **Elland GPs** (12) on 19th and **Ingbirchworth** (one) and **Scout Dike** (5+) on 20th. It was not until late in the month or into May, that birds became more widespread. **Golcar** (two) and **Shelley** each received birds on 23rd, **Blackmoorfoot** had its first (two) on 24th then daily from 26th but with a max. of only five, **Ingbirchworth** on 26th (five), when twos also appeared at **Crosland Moor**, **Jackson Bridge** and **Lindley**, on 27th at **Linthwaite**, on 29th at **Helme** and **Thunderbridge** (12) and on 30th at **New Mill** (five); the largest numbers however were at **Elland GPs** which had 40 on 26th, 50+ on 27th and 100 on 28th. In May sizeable counts were made at **Blackmoorfoot**, which had 25+ on 8th and 60+ on 13th and at **Elland GPs** where there were 50+ on 8th, 100 on 12th and 30 on 22nd.

The only breeding colonies reported were all quite small ones, with eight nests at **Elland** the largest, and others on five houses in **Holly Bank Road**, **Lindley**, at four sites in **Marsden**, two sites in **Shelley** and at **Baitings** and **Dalton**. *All breeding records for this species would be appreciated for future reports.*

No significant numbers occurred in June and the highest counts reported for July were 40 at **Ingbirchworth** and 50 at **Royd Moor** on 8th and 40+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th. Numbers increased from August onwards and there was evidence of movement at several sites, particularly in September, as follows:- at **Ringstone Edge** 100 on 9th and 60 on 24th Aug, 50 on 23rd Sept, at **Royd Moor** c.160 on 10th Aug, at **New Mill** 50+ from 23rd Aug to early Sept, at **Scout Dike** c.100 on 25th Aug, at **Blackmoorfoot** 80+ on 26th Aug and 53 south on 22nd Sept, at **Dewsbury SF** 120 east on 27th Aug, in the **Wessenden Valley** 20 south on 30th Aug and 30 south on 7th Sept, at **Colnebridge SP** 50 east on 19th Sept. By far the largest counts, however, were made at **Baitings** where, after 119 on 26th Aug, September produced totals of 150 south on 5th, 73 west on 12th, 216 west on 13th and 564 south on 29th.

The only October records were two at **Blackmoorfoot** and several at **Shelley** on 1st, and parties of ten to fifteen moving east during the morning of 26th at **Colnebridge SP**.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder (1)

The species was late in arriving this year with none in April. About ten singing males were located but some of the normally favoured areas again received little coverage.

Deer Hill – singing male(s) on 3rd and 27th May.

Langsett – singing male on 5th May, one on 7th Sept, the last of the year.

Holme Styes – a singing male on 11th May; subsequently at least three, possibly four, singing males in the area.

Scammonden – one, possibly two, on 11th May.

Holt Head – singing male in a young plantation on 27th May.

Digley – singing male on 11th June.

Carlecotes Ponds – two singing males in July and two birds still present on 21st Aug.

Denby Dale – a party of four flew over calling on 15th Aug.

Ringstone Edge – one over on 17th Aug.

Broadstones Res – one flew SW calling on 21st Aug.

Scout Dike Res – one flew SE on 23rd Aug.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Partial migrant breeder (4-5)



The increasing tendency for birds to overwinter in the area was again apparent with the species present at eight sites in January. By February some were on territory, others wintering and yet others occurring on passage.

Not surprisingly the majority of wintering records came from sewage farms where insect food is obviously more plentiful than elsewhere. At **Meltham SF** c.10 were present on 3rd Jan, at **Dewsbury SF** 51 on 6th with many at **Horbury SF** on the same date and a count of 40+ there on 9th when 25+ were also at **Clayton West SF**. Elsewhere two to six were in kale stubble to the northeast of **Blackmoorfoot** from 1st to 7th, with one remaining throughout February, eleven at **Bradley Hall** on 1st, six scattered singles in the **South Crosland** area on 22nd and three near the **Will's o' Nat's** on 27th.

In February at least ten were in fields at **Golcar** on 1st, at **Dewsbury SF** 52 on 8th and 43 on 16th, near the **Will's o' Nat's** eight on 13th and a flock of 32 on 27th, at **Storthes Hall Moor** five on 15th, at **Lepton** one on 18th, to the northeast of **Blackmoorfoot Res** 22 on 21st and 13

on 25th, and 14 on spring passage on 28th at **Harden**, when several birds were already on territory there.

March saw a big increase, both of grounded and passage birds, particularly towards the end of the month. Sixty were on plough at **Hall Dike** on 11th, **Scout Dike** had good numbers with 15 on 15th, 60+ on 22nd, 50+ on 29th and 70+ west on 5th April, **Blackmoorfoot** had small numbers from 10th with max. of 25+ on 31st, **Shelley** had its first passage bird on 20th then up to 50+ daily to early April, 30 were grounded at **Wessenden** on 22nd but none were singing, 100+ were in fields at **Farnley Tyas** on 23rd, **Dewsbury SF** had its max. of 100 on 25th, 52 were at **South Crosland** on 28th and at **Royd Moor** c.90 were grounded and 50 moved west on 29th. Forty were still at **Meltham SF** and 30+ at **Digley** on 3rd April, after which no flocks or passage were noted until post-breeding dispersal began in July.

The species tends to be forgotten during the breeding season, the only report being of a bird carrying food at **Holme** on 29th June.

On 30th July 30 moved west in post-breeding dispersal at **Harden** and the only reports in August were from **Scout Dike** where c.30 were present on 3rd and 40+ on 17th. Passage began in earnest in September, with small numbers over **Shelley** from 2nd to early October, 10+ were in the observer's garden at **Harden** on 4th, a total of 477 were counted moving south at **Wessenden** between 11th Sept and 19th Oct with a peak of 158 on 21st, at **Baitings** 115 on 13th and 400 moved south on 21st, the month's max. at **Dewsbury SF** was 15 on 15th, c.200 moved S/SE at **Scout Dike** on 20th, when 522 passed south at **Blackmoorfoot** between 0845 and 1015 hrs., and at this last site between six and 76 were noted daily moving south between 0800 and 0900 hrs. At least 20 were grounded at **Lower Maythorne** on 26th.

After September very few were noted. Thirty fed in the **Isle of Skye** quarry on 24th Oct, **Dewsbury SF** had monthly max. of 35 on 8th Oct, c.10 on 18th Nov and 30 on 17th Dec, twelve were at **Horbury SF** on 23rd Nov and a party of c.40 was at **Cheesegate Nab** on 6th Dec. Small numbers were reported to be wintering near **Castle Hill** and on **Emley Moor**.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare winter visitor

A minimum of two birds were present at **Dewsbury SF** from 6th Nov to the year end (JH,PB,DHP,BA), the first definite occurrence since 1996 at the same site and covering a very similar period.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Occasional migrant breeder (1) and passage migrant

Reported from nine sites, mainly in autumn, but there was no evidence of breeding this year.

In spring one was down in a cereal field at **Scout Dike** on 27th April (RJB) and one flew over **Royd Edge Clough** calling on 4th May (DMP). Singles were at **Ringstone Edge** on 30th May, 14th June, 3rd Aug and 7th Sept (HBC).

The usually reliable **Dewsbury SF** produced only three records, singles on 19th July, 4th Aug (male) and 13th Aug (female) (JH). At **Deer Hill Res** a female type was present on 4th Aug (PB) and two were on a farm track on 14th Sept (SP). Singles flew over **Scout Dike** to the

SW on 16th (RJB) and 31st Aug (BA). Two flew calling over **Shepley** on 24th Aug (TM) and two juveniles were at **Baitings** on 26th Aug (HBC). One was at **Langsett Res** on 7th Sept (TM) and the last of the year were four in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res** before flying off south on 2nd Oct (CH).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2)

Reported from about 45 sites well spread throughout the area.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Lakes, Deanhead Res, Elland GPs, Holme Stykes**, on the R.Holme in **Holmfirth, Horbury Wyke, Lockwood** and **Thunderbridge**. An interesting observation near the Land Rover Centre in **Lockwood** on 18th June involved a Pied Wagtail feeding one of a brood of four juveniles of this species.

Birds were also present in suitable habitat in the breeding season near **Almondbury**, at **Armitage Bridge, Cliff Wood, Deer Hill, Dewsbury SF, Dogley NR, Dovestones (2 pairs), Eastergate, Golcar, Ingbirchworth, Jackson Bridge, Langsett, Little Don Valley, Longwood Valley, Millmoor catchment, Milnsbridge (R.Colne), Royd Edge Clough, Shelley, Slaithwaite, Thornhill, Tunnel End Res, Upper Stones Wood, Wessenden, Winscar, Woodsome** and **Yateholme**.

The largest parties reported were six at **Elland GPs** on 22nd July with five there on 29th June, and five also at **Horbury SF** on 9th Jan, **Dewsbury SF** on 5th Aug and at **Bradley Hall** on 14th Sept.

A further eleven sites had birds outside the breeding season.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Resident breeder and passage migrant/winter visitor

Breeding season records for this species remain very scarce. Pairs were reported at **Birds Nest Lane, Broadstones, Cartworth Moor, Deer Hill, Dovestones, Gunthwaite Dam, Lumb Lane, Millmoor, New Mill, Skelmanthorpe** and **Winscar**, with proven breeding only at **Emley Tx, Jagger Lane (Emley)** and **Lindley**.

Few counts were received for the early months, the only ones of note being at **Meltham SF** which in March held 53 on 6th, 20 on 17th and 25 on 22nd, down to ten on 3rd April and only one by 15th. The spring max. at **Royd Moor** was 19. At **Blackmoorfoot** fifteen flew NW in two parties at dusk on 1st April.

There were many more counts of post-breeding season numbers. In July **Colnebridge SP** had 19 on 8th, **Dewsbury SF** 18 on 10th, but numbers were much reduced here on recent years with peaks of only 16 in September and ten in October. In September **Ringstone Edge** had 22 on 3rd and 25 on 5th, **Baitings** 35 on 5th, 45 on 7th and 35 again on 21st, 70-80 were on the roof of the Civic Centre in **Huddersfield** on 23rd and **Royd Moor** had its autumn max. of 22 on 25th. **Blackmoorfoot** had a max. of 12 on 16th Oct, **Ingbirchworth** 30+ on 31st Oct and the only sizeable count later was of 35 at **Horbury SF** on 8th Dec.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant

It was a very good year for sightings of this race. As in previous years all records were in spring, racial identification being very difficult in autumn.

One near **Broadstones Farm** on 11th March (DS) was early as was a male at **Winscar** on 23rd (MC). In April singles were at **Broadstones** (female) on 16th (DHP), **Royd Moor** on 17th (RJB), **Elland GPs** on 18th (HBC), **Annat Royd Lane** (male) on 19th (RJB,MC) and at **Blackmoorfoot** from 28th to 30th (MLD). A “straggler” was at **Dewsbury SF** on 15th May (JH).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Eruptive winter visitor, rare to uncommon

After a blank 2002 it was very gratifying to receive influxes of this charismatic species to our area at both ends of the year.

In the early months birds were seen at eleven sites between 3rd January and 22nd April, but were not present at any locality for longer than two weeks.

Netherton – one near Hinchliffe’s Farm on 3rd Jan was the first.

Upper Cumberworth – one flew west calling on 6th Jan.

Horbury Wyke – one dropped briefly into a treetop before carrying on up the valley of the R. Calder on 6th Jan.

Marsh – appeared in Jim Lane on 7th Jan when 29 were present at 1515 hrs. Numbers then fluctuated between 5 and 45 on many dates to the last one on 20th Jan; max. of 45 on 12th Jan.

Dalton – one on 12th Jan and seven feeding on rose hips on 12th Feb.

Elland – 50 on 31st Jan; in February 40 on 1st, 42 on 3rd and 14 on 5th.

Holmfirth – ten on 18th March, 40 on 22nd and up to 30 on intervening days in the village centre.

Shepley – in March 55 on 24th, 32 on 25th and 15 on 26th/27th.

Leeds Road – 30 on 10th and ten on 11th April at MacDonalds.

Winscar – c.50 came in to roost at 1800 hrs. on 1st April, c.60 the following day at 1845 hrs. and ten perched in an oak tree on 14th.

Fixby – 20 perched from 1620 to 1640 hrs. on 22nd April.

At the end of the year birds appeared at four sites from early December.

Huddersfield Sports Centre – one briefly on 6th Dec flew towards the town centre at 1415 hrs.

Marsh – eight flew over Jim Lane on 8th Dec, then 15 on 14th, 40 on 15th, 21 on 18th and 12 on 19th.

Paddock – 34 in Beech Street on 16th Dec, probably same as Marsh birds.

Lockwood – 12 in a garden on 24th Dec.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2)

A far from healthy situation is revealed by records of this species this year. The number of pairs proved breeding was down from ten to seven and only a further three pairs were located, although single birds were found at another nine sites during the breeding season. No information was submitted for some known sites in the south of the area, but worryingly the survey of the **Marsden Moor NT Estate** produced no records in the **Wessenden Valley**, normally a stronghold of the species.

Nests were found at **Dovestones**, **Oxygrains Beck** and on the catchment at **Millmoor** and adults with juveniles were present at **Elland GPs**, **Hey Green** and **Redbrook Clough** (two pairs). Additional pairs were on territory on the canal at **Golcar**, at **Haigh Clough** and **Thunderbridge**.

Elsewhere in the breeding season single birds were seen at **Brow Grains**, **Greenfield Brook**, **Holmfirth**, **Honley Bridge**, **Lockwood**, on the **R.Colne** at **Milnsbridge**, **Shelley Brook**, on the canal between **Slaithwaite** and **Marsden** and at **Yateholme**.

In the winter months singles were also present at **Blackmoorfoot**, on the **R.Calder** at **Bradley Hall**, **Clough Lee**, **Horbury Bridge**, **Kirkroyds/New Mill**, **Moreton Wood**, **Waring Bridge** and **Yeoman Hey Res**.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (4)

A little more information was submitted than in previous years for this much under-reported species.

Song was noted at **New Mill** from 21st Jan and breeding was confirmed at **Elland GPs**, **Fixby**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lumb Lane**, **Penny Spring Wood** and **Shelley**, with other pairs at **Broadstones**, **Colnebridge SP** (at least four), **Deanhead**, **Dovestones**, **Dunford Trail**, **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Harden Moss**, **Hepworth**, **Holme Styes** (four singing males), **Langsett**, **Ox Lee**, **Royd Moor** (four singing males), **Scholes** (six singing males on 24th April), and **Wooldale**. These obviously represent only a very small fraction of the real situation.

Counts at **Elland GPs** revealed six birds on 16th March, nine on 18th April and 5th May, and eight on 16th Nov.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (4)

Once again the very few records submitted give no real indication of the species' status in the area.

Garden records came from **Almondbury** (max. three in March), **Lindley**, **Meal Hill** (up to five all year), **New Mill** (up to four, with young present between 31st May and 2nd Aug) and **Shelley** (max. five in winter months).

Breeding was only confirmed at **Baitings, Colnebridge SP** (at least four pairs), **Emley Tx** and **Shelley**, with other seasonal reports from **Broadstones, Dovestones, Dunford Trail, Gunthwaite Dam, Hepworth, Royd Moor** and **Wooldale**.

The species has declined nationally in woodland by 58% between 1966 and 1999, suggesting that more records should be submitted for these habitats.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (4-5)

Yet another very common but little reported species.

Breeding was reported at **Almondbury, Blacker Beck** (failed at the large young stage), **Emley, Fixby, Lumb Lane, New Mill, Shelley** and at **Colnebridge SP**, where there were three pairs and young were feeding on blackberries in July.

Counts of singing males revealed eight at **Holme Woods** on 29th May, three at **Dovestones**, seven at both the **Dunford Trail** and **Elland GPs**, five at **Holme Stykes**, three at **Royd Moor** and three at **Thongsbridge**.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor

An excellent year for records of this species, with reports from five sites.

A female on 1st Jan at **Horbury SF** was a most welcome New Year present for the finder (JRS); it remained to at least 9th Jan (BA,DM,DHP). A female or immature male was at **Baitings** on 27th July.

The remainder were towards the end of the year, with one, probably a 1st year male, at **Wessenden Lodge** on 19th Oct (JMP), a male watched for 30 minutes near the shooting lodge at **Deer Hill** on 23rd Nov (DMP) and finally a female type in the northeast corner at **Blackmoorfoot Res** on 24th Dec (JL via MLD).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder (1-2)

The situation was very similar to that of the previous year with seven singing males located, but information from the south of the area, traditionally a stronghold of the species, was very patchy. Birds were present between 23rd April and 9th September.

Little Don Valley – single males on 23rd April and 25th May.

Cliff Wood – singing male on 12th May.

Elysium – a male at the farm from 17th to 31st May.

Crossley's Plantation – a male on 31st May only. (Two pairs bred here last year).

Holme Stykes – present at three sites on 13th June; a singing male was in Fox Clough, and different pairs were taking food into nest holes in walls near the waterworks buildings below the dam and at the southern end of the reservoir.

Scout Dike Res – single female types were observed regularly between 13th July and 30th Aug, and two moulting males were present on 9th/10th Aug.

Winscar – a newly fledged spotted juvenile shared a fence with a juvenile Cuckoo on 2nd Aug. It would be intriguing to know where it originated.

Baitings – a 1st W on 3rd Sept.

Blackmoorfoot Res – one was in the northeast corner on 9th Sept.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2) and passage visitor

Largely as a result of the extensive coverage of the **Marsden Moor NT Estate**, a minimum of 31 pairs and an additional six singing males were located. Extreme dates were 17th April and 24th Sept.

Deer Hill – the first was a male on 17th April but none then until 3rd May, with the same or another singing male. A pair including a singing male was present on 28th May but not after this, although two males were singing in different areas on 16th June. Singles were seen on 27th Aug and 24th Sept.

Scammonden – two singing males on 30th April, one male on four dates in May and an undated record also in May of a female.

Scout Dike – three (two males) on 27th April, two on 12th Aug, one on 6th Sept.

Rishworth Moor – present in suitable breeding habitat.

Dovestones – one pair resident.

Marsden Moor NT – twentyfive territories were located, the majority (15) in the upper Wessenden Valley. All were associated with large areas of bracken; at least five pairs bred successfully and the last sighting was on 12th Aug.

Winscar – after the first report of a male on 29th May one was seen taking food into bracken on 15th June.

Royd Edge Clough – a female on 2nd and a male calling agitatedly on 26th June.

Ashway Gap – singing male on 4th and 17th June.

Harden Clough – two singing males at the western end of Harden Res on 13th June.

Millmoor Road – male and female on the catchment on 21st June.

Meltham Moor – a family party of a male and five imms. at Oldfield Hill on 5th Aug.

Blackmoorfoot – one in fields to the west on 5th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – an imm. on 17th/18th Sept.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Occasional breeder (1) and passage and winter visitor, increasing

There were few reports in the very early part of the year, with just one at **Broadstones Res** on 5th and 21st Jan, three at **Deer Hill** on 5th Jan and one at **Coal Gate, Slaithwaite** on 20th Feb.

More appeared in March however, with a male at **Langsett** and a female at **Scout Dike** on 2nd, a female at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th and a male in **Birds Nest Lane** on 9th. Birds were much in evidence later in the month at sites where breeding took place or was probable.

Breeding was confirmed at seven sites and involved at least ten pairs, with another 18 pairs on territory, making this easily the best year on record for the species.

Confirmation was obtained at the following sites:-

Buckstones – one pair raised at least two broods.

Deer Hill – at least four breeding pairs were found, with nests and eggs and fledged young all seen. A juvenile was still being fed by adults here in September, indicating the probability of second or even third broods at this site.

Oldfield Hill – a family party present on 5th Aug.

Rishworth Moor – at least one pair bred.

Royd Edge Clough – at least three young juvs on 4th June.

Wessenden Valley – at least two pairs with fledged young on 4th June and 21st Sept at different locations.

Further pairs or territorial males were present at an additional nine sites, including six pairs at four sites covered by the Marsden Moor NT Survey. The remaining pairs were at **Ashway Gap**, **Broadstones**, **Dovestones** (three), **Isle of Skye quarry**, **Oxygrains** and **Winscar**, with singing males at **Harden Clough** on 13th June and in the **Little Don Valley** on 21st June.

Once again there was no large influx in October, the high numbers in the **Deer Hill** area probably being accounted for by local breeders and their offspring. Birds were reported from September onwards at eight sites; at **Deer Hill** there were 15+ on many dates in September, up to eight regularly in October, including one with a BTO ring on 6th, six on 24th Nov down to just two in December. In the **Wessenden Valley** there was a pair with four juvs on 21st Sept, one on 27th Sept and singles on 11th and 26th Oct, a male at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th Sept and one nearby at **Meltham Cop** on 30th Nov, when one was also at **Scammonden**, where a male was present on 12th Oct and a pair on 19th and 26th Oct with one also in early December. Two were at **Broadstones** on two dates each in both October and December and singles in December at **Brown's Edge** on 18th and in the **Little Don Valley** on 29th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder (1-2) and passage visitor

The first arrivals occurred on the fairly typical date of 21st March and by the end of the month had appeared at seven sites. Two were at **Digley** and a male at **Deer Hill** on 21st, one at **Greenfield Road** above **Holmfirth** on 22nd, males at **Digley** again and **Pule Holes**, one at **Buckstones** and male and female at **Hartcliff Hill** all on 23rd, and several including a female were reported at **Winscar** on 29th.

In April birds were reported from fifteen sites with significant, but not very large, arrivals early and late in the month. Two were at **Dovestones** on 2nd then on 3rd three males at **Digley** and nine on the airfield at **Brown's Edge Road** with four remaining the following day. New locations which produced birds in ones and twos were **Blackmoorfoot**, **Boshaw Whams**, **Harden**, **Scammonden** and **Scout Dike**, but numbers increased in the last week with up to five daily in **Snape Reservoir** field from 26th to 1st May, five at **Scout Dike** on 29th, then on 30th four at **Buckstones** and another eight at **Brown's Edge**.

These arrivals continued into early May and were noticeable particularly at **Blackmoorfoot** where, after a max. of three in late April, 8+ were present on 1st, 3rd and 4th, then nine on 11th, seven on 15th and eight on 18th. Six (a pair and four males) were at **Springs Road, Digley** on 1st, eight males in the **Cheesegate Nab** area and three at **Broadstones** on 5th, and five at **Scammonden** and eight at **Buckstones** on 9th. Although no definite claims were made, it is probable that many (or all) of these birds were of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoa*, the

dates being typical for this subspecies. Later in the month a female at **Brown's Edge** on 20th was considered a probable Greenlander and there was a male with two females definitely of this race at this site on 24th (MC).



From April onwards it is difficult to know which birds are on passage and which are local breeders, especially as passage birds also turn up regularly in suitable breeding habitats such as the Digley area. Breeding was confirmed and other birds were on territory at a small number of sites. During the **Marsden Moor NT** survey five pairs were located at three sites – two pairs bred at **Buckstones**, two pairs were located in **Redbrook Clough** and one pair at **Holme Moor West**. Elsewhere a male was taking food to a nest hole at **Great Dovestones Rocks** on 17th June and a “spotty” juvenile was nearby at **Ashway Gap** on the same date. At **Pule Holes** just outside the Marsden Moor survey area a pair was found on 1st June, the female carrying food, and there were two additional singing males in the area. A pair was at **Deer Hill** on 13th with several sightings of both birds between May and July, and a juvenile was seen there on 23rd July. A pair also appeared to be on territory at **Harden Res** on 15th April and there were several sightings of a pair at **Digley**. Juveniles at **Wessenden Res** on 13th July, **Broadstones** on 17th July and the **Isle of Skye quarry** on 26th Aug could have been raised locally or exemplifying post-breeding dispersal, which was the likeliest scenario for a juvenile near **Lepton** on 9th July and another at **Denby Dale** on 14th Aug.

After the breeding season birds were reported from nine sites, with the majority of records coming from fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot Res**. In August singles were at **Scout Dike** on 12th and **Broadstones** on 15th, and three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th and 29th. This last site then had one from 5th to 9th Sept, two on 12th, three on 13th, ten on 16th (the only

double figure count of the year in the club area), three on 23rd and two on 24th. Elsewhere single birds occurred at **Deer Hill** on 1st, 8th and 14th Sept, **Horn Lane** on 5th, **Issues Road** and **Black Hill** on 7th, with the same or another at the latter site on 13th, at **Wilshaw** on 19th and there were two at **Scout Dike** on 6th.

The only October record came from **Denby Dale** on 3rd and was identified as belonging to the Greenland race.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder (1) and scarce passage migrant

After the slightly more encouraging situation last year, 2003 proved to be disappointing with breeding confirmed at only one site and no evidence elsewhere beyond singing males. Passage was apparent in April. The species was present between 23rd March and 26th Aug.

Digley/Bilberry – a pair on 23rd March, one on 27th March, a party of seven passage birds on 12th April and a male the following day.

Deer Hill – a singing male on 27th March and 3rd April and a second male on 21st April. One pair bred successfully, a nest with young being located. After the young fledged the male began to sing again, probably indicating an attempt at a second brood.

Little Don Valley – a male on 5th April and three males on 25th May held promise of breeding at this site, but no further observations were made.

Marsden Clough – a male on 13th April.

Garside Hey – a male on a fence post on 15th April.

Broadstones Res - a passage male on the north bank on 15th April.

Wessenden Valley – two males and a female on 16th April, and a male seen and another bird calling at the Lodge on 26th Aug, the only autumn record in the club area.

Cheesegate Nab – a loose party of eight (six males) on 20th April, five the following day and a male on 26th were certainly on passage and possibly Scandinavian birds.

Royd Edge Clough – a singing male and two other birds flying over calling on 2nd June, but nil on both 4th and 26th June.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

Counts in the early months revealed 19 on 4th Jan and 15 on 15th Feb at **Brookfoot** and up to eight in gardens at **Jackson Bridge** and **New Mill**.

Successful breeding was reported at **Almondbury**, **Colnebridge SP** (where eight pairs were suspected), **Fixby**, **Lindley**, **New Mill**, **Shelley**, **Taylor Hill** and **Wooldale** and at an altitude of 380m. at **Harden**. The failure of five nests found in the **Horbury/Blacker Beck** area gives rise to concern.

Influxes were noted at **Lindley Moor** between 10th and 20th October, when up to ten were in the observer's garden and at **Fixby** on 12th October when a large increase in garden numbers took place overnight. Good numbers were reported moving through **Shelley Whins** and in the **Horbury** area in November. A significant increase in numbers in an **Almondbury** garden occurred in December, with max. of 12 and 15 and up to seven in a **Dalton** garden on

23rd was noteworthy. A minimum of eight was present at the bottom of **Victoria Road, Lockwood** on 7th Dec and 23 were counted at **Elland GPs** on 8th.

One was taken by a male Sparrowhawk at the last site on 7th Feb.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred

Numbers increased significantly in the early months after the species had become very scarce in December 2002 with eight three-figure counts, contrasting markedly with the same period in the previous year.

January – In the early part of the month large movements were recorded at **Dewsbury SF** with 180 north on 6th and 550 and 540 all south on 9th and 10th. Three-figure counts were also achieved at **Bradley Park GC** which had c.300 on 7th, 200 were at **Bretton** (mixed with Redwings) on 8th, c.100 at **Horn Lane** on 12th, 120 on **Storthes Hall Moor** and 800+ at **Broadstones** on 19th and “hundreds” were reported during the month in **Arborary Lane**. Numbers elsewhere did not exceed fifty and several sites had only single figures.

February – reported from ten sites with three figure counts at **Potato Lane** which had 400 on 10th, c.100 near the **Ford Inn** on 14th, 100 at **South Crosland** on 18th, 100 at **Digley** on 19th and 125 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 23rd. At the last site numbers exceeded 50 on a further four dates and 50 were also at **Shepley** on 4th and 6th and at **Storthes Hall Moor** on 26th.

March – there was a slight increase in both the number of sites involved and the numbers of birds reported, maxima being 100 at **Scout Dike** on 9th, 150+ at **Brown's Edge** and 100+ in **Dearne Dike Lane** on 11th, c.200 at **Broadstones** on 16th, 220 at **Deer Hill** on 18th and 200+ at **Harden Moss** on 20th. Elsewhere 85+ were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st and 90+ at **Crosland Heath** on 29th/30th.

April – the very high numbers of some recent years were not repeated in 2003, although there was a considerable increase in both numbers of sites and birds recorded. The largest totals were only 100+ NE over **Dalton** on 5th, 100 at **Denby Dale** on 9th, 190 at **Dewsbury SF** on 11th, 150 near the **Flouch Inn** on 12th, c.100 in **Wareham Wood** on 18th and c.200 feeding in fields near **Penistone GS** on 20th. Maxima at other sites were 65+ at **Crosland Moor** on 4th, 30+ at **Stockmoor Common** on 5th, 93 at **Crosland Hill** on 9th, 60+ at **Red Lane, Meltham** and 70+ at **Brown's Edge** on 14th, c.40 at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 16th, 70+ at **Broadstones** on 17th and 54 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st. Small northerly movements took place over **Scout Dike** and **Shelley** on 6th. The last of the month were three at **Baitings** on 26th.

May – two birds showing an interest in a small woodland near **Holmfirth** on 1st aroused interesting possibilities, but no further sightings were obtained.

Autumn began with an exceptionally early individual flying over **Baitings** on 26th Aug with the next arrivals not until 11th October, a fairly typical date, after which birds appeared on a regular basis throughout the month and in very respectable numbers.

October – nine were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th and nine at **Crosland Heath** on the same date (same birds?), eleven flew south at **Scout Dike** on 12th and birds were recorded flying

over three sites on 13th – 221 SW at **Royd Moor**, 160 SW at the **Isle of Skye** quarry and 21 south at **Dewsbury SF**. Further sightings were made on 14th of 46 at **Blackmoorfoot**, 37 at **Crosland Moor** and on 15th when 118 passed SE at **Blackmoorfoot**, c.160 east at **Scout Dike**, 20 over **Shelley**, 17 at **Crosland Moor** and 15 at **Cheesegate Nab**. The first of the season reached **Marsden** on 17th, when the year's highest count of 800+ was made at **Digley**, and 56 moved SE at **Blackmoorfoot**. After these the highest numbers were 136 at **Baitings** on 18th, 70 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st, c.60 at **Royd Moor** on 23rd, 50+ at **Crosland Hill** on 20th, 500+ at **Broadstones** on 25th and c.50 flying east at **Oldfield** and 75 SE at Dalton on 30th.

November – reported from eleven sites, but there were only two counts over a hundred, c.200 at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th and 110 at **South Crosland** on 27th, otherwise max. were 60 at **Upper Midhope** and 83 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th, 50 at **Dogley NR** on 13th when 70+ were also at **Blackmoorfoot**, which had the species on just nine dates.

December – following the established pattern, birds were very scarce, being present at only four sites and max. of only 31 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th and 38 at **Scout Dike** on 21st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* Resident breeder (3)

The situation is very similar to that of 2002. Birds were reported from about fifty sites, the great majority in the breeding season. Numbers were not submitted for some sites which have recently held large populations, so the figure of about seventy pairs/singing males is well below the real number the area supports.

Breeding was confirmed at just six sites – **Birchencliffe**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Lindley Moor** (in the observer's neighbour's garden, the first recorded breeding within 400m. for several years), **Old Lindley**, near **Penistone GS** and **Shelley**.

In mid October a few migrants were reported from **Shelley**, otherwise no evidence of movement was submitted.

In the winter months three were at both **Horbury SF** and **Dewsbury SF** on 6th Jan and at the latter site on 28th Nov, and four frequented an **Almondbury** garden in January.

A pile of broken snail shells on a hard garden path at **New Mill** suggested an “anvil” and one was watched attempting to open a snail shell at **Netherton** on 29th June.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Numerous passage and winter visitor

Although reasonable numbers remained at the end of 2002, birds were quite scarce in early January and became even scarcer after mid-month. February saw an increase, but few were seen after mid March and were almost non-existent in April.

January – in the first ten days of the month birds were present at ten sites, mainly in single figures but were described as numerous in the town centre on 7th and in their hundreds at **Arborary Lane**. At **Dewsbury SF** 120 flew north on 6th and at **Bretton** there was a mixed

flock with Fieldfares of c.200 on 8th. Gardens were visited by small numbers in **Almondbury**, **Dalton** and **Lockwood**. From mid month onwards, apart from **Blackmoorfoot** which had a total of 475 birds on eight dates with max. of 155 on 17th and 114 on 21st, the highest numbers reported were 30 at **Emley Moor** on 14th, 80 at **Storthes Hall Moor** on 15th, 20 at **New Mill** on 17th, 40 at **Lindley** on 19th, 100+ at **Golcar** on 25th with c.20 at **Lockwood** on the same date.

February – the highest numbers were at **Shepley** which had 200 on 4th and 150 on 6th, 100+ at **Golcar** on 1st, 100 at **Lepton Great Wood** and c.100 west over **Lindley Moor** on 7th, 120 at **Dean Wood** on 9th, 32 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th, 40 at **Ainley Top** and 23 at **Oakes** on 13th, 60 at **Upper Clough** on 14th, 60 at **Digley** on 19th, 80 at **Butternab Wood** on 21st and 30 at **Storthes Hall Moor** on 26th.

March – present in ten localities mainly in the first half of the month, the highest counts being 34 on 4th and 44 on 13th at **Blackmoorfoot**, 31 at **Lindley** on 16th and 21 at **High Wood** on 25th, otherwise no more than fifteen anywhere.

April – recorded from just two sites, one over **Shelley** and 50 at **Helme** on 6th, one remaining at the latter site on 15th.

Returning birds arrived at two sites in the first week of October, but it was not until mid month that the species appeared in any numbers and there were some spectacular movements at this time. By the end of the month birds became scarcer and remained so to the year end.

October – the earliest were two at **Denby Dale** on 1st followed by two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th. There were none then until ten flew south at **Dewsbury SF**, one at **Grimescar** and four at **Crosland Moor** all on 11th. Single figures were noted at five sites on 12th as well as the first significant movement of the autumn as c.200 flew S/SW at **Scout Dike**. These heralded the start of a much bigger movement on 13th, with 30+ in the **Longwood Valley**, 800 over **Rishworth** and the year's highest count of 1002 birds moving SW over **Royd Moor** in 2.5 hours. This movement continued on 14th with c.130 ESE over **Dewsbury SF** in 15 minutes and 656 SE at **Blackmoorfoot** in 1.5 hours, and on 15th with 50 SE again at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.110 ESE and 100 grounded at **Scout Dike**, after which birds became very scarce. The south-easterly passage continued on a much smaller scale on 16th/17th (a total of 47 birds). After this birds were reported from only four sites, max. 40+ on 25th at **Broadstones**, 40 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th and 25 south at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th.

November – only eight records from six sites on six dates, max. 48 at **Blackmoorfoot** and 40 south at **Dewsbury SF** on 5th, with eleven south there on 6th, otherwise single figures only.

December – apart from 30 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 15th and an increase in numbers in the **Birkby** area, max. reported were two at **Almondbury** and **Lockwood** and just singles at three other sites.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Resident breeder (3)

Reports were received from 28 localities, which does not represent the real status of the species.

Breeding occurred at **Elland GPs**, **Emley Moor**, **Golcar** (but predated by Carrion Crows), **Holme Styes** and **Lower Stones Wood** and singing males reported from a further twelve localities.

The highest post-breeding counts were 23 at **Scout Dike** on 7th Aug, nine at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th Aug, 14 at **Crosland Moor** on 23rd Aug, 19 at **Elland GPs** on 29th Aug, in September 25 near **Waterloo** on 1st and 26 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th. A flock of 13 on 12th October was the only record of the year at **Scammonden**.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Occasional migrant breeder (1)

Scout Dike/Royd Moor – one was reeling briefly on the evening of 17th April at Scout Dike and one reeled at Royd Moor on 29th April (RJB). The same bird could have been involved in both occurrences.

Elland GPs – one first heard on 26th April and then on four dates in April, May and June. It appeared at the 2001 breeding site, but brambles in the area had been burnt and the bird moved to a new site nearby. Reeling was heard again on 8th and 19th July. A second silent bird was observed on 15th June and 3rd July, but there was no proof of breeding (HBC,DT,DHP).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1)

Breeding was proved at only one site, but with singing males in suitable habitat at four other sites. Present between 21st April and 27th August.

Elland GPs – a singing male on 21st April, five dates in May and two in June, but no breeding evidence was obtained at this normally reliable site.

Colnebridge SP – one on 3rd May, then three pairs bred and raised young; the last was on 27th Aug.

Horbury area – a singing male on 3rd and 26th May, at least three at the Strands on 15th June and singles on 13th and 27th July.

Huddersfield Town Centre – an amazing record of a passage bird singing in shrubbery adjacent to the ring road at Castlegate in the very early morning of 10th May (PW).

Thornhill – two singing males by the canal on 11th May.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a singing male on passage on 25th May.

Dewsbury SF – in June one on 12th and two on 25th.

Thornhill Millbank – two singing males at an overgrown pool on 21st June.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare breeder (1) and passage migrant

Horbury Wyke – a singing male on 3rd May at this recent breeding site, now often too dry to provide suitable breeding habitat.

Elland GPs – a singing male on 7th May, with a second male present from 11th and into July. A bird was observed carrying nest material on 11th May and a possible juvenile recorded on 4th Aug. The last record was on 2nd Sept.

Bretton Lakes – a singing male in the small phragmites bed on the lower lake on 11th and 25th May.

Colnebridge SP – a singing male from 26th June to 1st July, two birds on 28th July and singles on 9th and 28th Aug.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor

A slight increase in records from last year with breeding proved at one site and singing males at a further four sites. Present between 22nd April and early September.

Shelley – a singing male from 22nd April, joined later by a female. The pair bred and the last sighting was in early September (SRG).

Thornhill Millbank – singing male on 24th April (JH).

Elland GPs – one on 26th April (HBC).

Denby Dale – a male on 6th May, one on 29th July (TM).

Scout Dike – two singing males on 8th May but then no more records until singles on 13th and 26th July, with the last on 10th Aug (RJB,BA).

Flockton – a singing male again at a “traditional” site nearby, but no further details (SRG).

Dewsbury SF – one on 22nd July (JH).

High Hoyland – three close together on 28th July probably constituted a family party (PB).

Carlecotes Ponds – one in a mixed warbler/tit flock on 10th Aug (MC).

Jackson Bridge – one in the observer’s garden at Meal Hill for about two minutes on 15th Aug was an exciting find (HQ).

Royd Moor – two on 17th Aug (BA).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2)

Although a minimum of 18 pairs were proved breeding at eight sites compared with eleven pairs at seven sites in 2002, the year was otherwise a little disappointing with only a further 31 singing males located (cf. 55+ the previous year). Some sites were not reported from. The species was present between 16th April and 9th September.

The first arrivals were singing males on 16th April at both **Royd Moor** and **Elland GPs** (the latter bird the earliest known record for Calderdale), followed on 17th by a male performing a song flight near **Castle Hill** at the top of Lumb Lane. Later in April one sang at **Horbury Wyke** on 20th, three were at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd with six there by 30th (and seven singing males on 21st May), the first was at **Scout Dike** on 26th (increasing to a max. of eight on 3rd May) and two had reached **Colnebridge SP** by 27th. In early May singing males were noted at **Dalton**, **Denby Dale** and **Gunthwaite**. A singing male in suitable breeding habitat on 4th May at **Scammonden** would represent a new breeding species for the valley, but the site was not revisited. **Harden Moss** was another unexpected site for a male to be performing on 8th May. In some areas, e.g. **Shelley Whins** and **Shelley Woodhouse**, birds were reported to be late in arriving with the first not recorded until 21st May. By late May six singing males were at **Elland GPs**.

Breeding was proven at **Colnebridge SP** (at least three young on 20th June), **Dewsbury SF** (seven pairs, first brood of five young being fed out of the nest on 27th June), **Elland GPs**

where the male which arrived on 16th April was already carrying nest material two days later and young were seen in June/July, **Horbury** (a family party in July), **Mirfield** (food carrying on 20th June), **Orange Wood**, **Scout Dike** (at least five pairs breeding, nest building on 17th May and several newly fledged young being fed by adults on 8th June) and **Shelley**, where adults were carrying food in July.

In addition to the sites mentioned earlier, singing males were also encountered at **Bretton Lakes** (two), **Broadstones**, **Bullcliff Old Pit**, **Crosland Hill**, **Deffer Wood**, **Ingbirchworth** (pair), **Lepton Great Wood**, a second site at **Mirfield**, **Thornhill** (six) and **Windmill Lane**.

Reported sightings became scarce after the end of July. The last at **Elland GPs** were two juveniles on 5th Aug and at least two were at **Scout Dike** on 10th and one at **Shelley** on 15th, but **Dewsbury SF** again had large numbers in the post-breeding period with peaks of 35 on 15th July and 52 on 3rd Aug. There were two September records, a male in the observer's garden at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th and the last of the year a singleton at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Migrant breeder (2)

After an encouraging rise in 2002 in numbers both of singing males and of sites occupied, this year was a disappointment, with only 41 males recorded at twenty sites. The first to arrive was almost two weeks earlier than last year but there was only one report after mid July.

April records came from **Elland GPs** with one on 21st and three from 23rd, and from **Royd Moor** where there were two on 27th. In early May **Scout Dike** had a max. of six on 3rd, two were at **Woodsome** on 4th, when a passage bird sang at **Meal Hill**, **Jackson Bridge**, but did not remain after 10th. Single singing males were at **Shelley Whins** on 7th, **Carr Wood** on 10th, **Colnebridge SP** on 11th (to 24th only) and **Royd Edge Clough** on 14th.

Numbers at **Elland GPs** increased to a max. of seven singing males on 25th May with six still on 29th June; other sites where more than one bird was on territory were **Bretton Lakes** (four), **Haigh Wood** (three), **Horbury Wyke** (two) and **Margery Wood** (three). Single singing males were recorded at a further seven sites only.

Breeding was proved at **Royd Moor** where adults carrying food were seen on 10th July and at **Haigh Wood**, where young and adults giving anxiety calls were noted.

The last reported sightings were both at **Elland GPs**, three singing males on 19th July and one calling on 4th Aug.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Migrant breeder (3) and scarce winter visitor

Five sites where wintering birds occurred at the end of 2002 had birds in early 2003. At **Longwood** a male was present from 30th January to 22nd March, at **Linthwaite** a male was present in early January (but the 2002 bird was a female) and at **Taylor Hill**, which hosted both male and female in early December 2002, a female was present on thirteen dates in February and on 2nd March, when it was replaced on 3rd by a singing male which was seen on

a further five dates in March and on 13th April. Elsewhere females were at **Squirrel Ditch** on 6th Feb and at **Norman Park** on 13th Feb and a male at **Marsh** on 31st March.

Early singing males were at **Denby Dale** and **Elland GPs** on 31st March, followed by birds on 3rd April at **Thornton Lodge**, on 5th at **Bretton Lakes** and **New Hall Wood**, on 10th at **Brookfoot**, on 12th at **Brighouse SF** and **Shelley Whins** but none then until after the middle of the month. Birds were generally late in arriving and some localities did not receive their first until May.

Approximately 90 pairs/singing males were reported from c.40 sites, with breeding proved at **Blacker Beck**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Elland GPs**, **Haigh Wood**, **Margery Wood** and **Orange Wood**. The largest concentrations were at **Margery Wood** which had eight territories, **Elland GPs** with six singing males and up to 12 birds in May, **Bretton** and **Cliff Wood** with “several” at each, **Thunderbridge** at least four males, and in the **Marsden** area where 13 singing males were counted in a 3.25km stretch of the Colne Valley between Hey Green and Sparth Res.

The species was reported as being much scarcer than Garden Warbler in spring at **Scout Dike**, where a male on two dates and a female on just one were the only records at that time.

Most birds had moved out by the end of July, with August records coming only from **Scout Dike** on 10th (2+), 17th and 31st, **Royd Moor** on 17th, **Colnebridge SP** on 23rd (2), **Sands GPs** on 24th, **Blakeley Res** on 26th and **Lindley Moor** on 27th (male). Two were in a **Fixby** garden on 2nd Sept and the only later autumn records were from **Scout Dike**, which had singles on 14th and 20th Sept and 5th Oct, this last either a lingering individual or a Continental immigrant set to winter.

At the year's end presumed wintering birds were a female at **Squirrel Ditch** on 14th Nov, then in December a female at **Fixby** on 6th, with male and female there from 7th to 31st, a male at **Lockwood** from 7th to 9th, at **Almondbury** in mid month and a male at **Birkby** on 29th. An interesting series of records came from **Taylor Hill** where, after a female on 8th Dec, a second bird appeared briefly on 12th and one female remained to 31st and was joined by a male on 19th and 27th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Migrant breeder (1)

This proved to be the most disastrous year on record for this species, with only a single report of a male in song at **Clough Lee, Marsden** from 10th to 14th May only (JMP).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Migrant breeder (3) and passage visitor

Wintering birds were found at **Horbury SF** in January, with three on 1st, two on 6th and one on 9th, and at **Crosland Moor** on 25th Feb.

A huge increase in reported sightings was apparent compared with previous years, with over 150 singing males recorded from about seventy sites.

Birds, usually males, were present at a minimum of 34 sites by the end of March, compared with 13 in 2002 and only six in 2001, representing a very significant earlier arrival. Most of these arrivals took place late in the month with only four localities logging the species before 20th, namely at **Thornhill Millbank** on 13th with two there on 15th, **Elland GPs** one on 15th, two on 16th and five on 19th, **Dewsbury SF** on 17th and by the canal at **Golcar** on 19th; many first arrival dates were in the last three days of the month.

After 20th March sites occupied, in chronological order with numbers involved (singles unless otherwise stated), were **Golcar Tip** and **Long Tongue Scrog (Kirkheaton)** on 21st, **Storches Hall Woods** (3) and **Hall Dike** on 22nd, **Fixby** (2), **Shelley Whins** and **Woodsome Road** on 23rd, **Holmfirth**, **Bretton Lakes** (3) and **Kirkheaton Brickworks** on 24th, **Royd House Wood**, **Honley**, **Deffer Wood** (3), **Butternab Wood** and **Litherop Lane** (2) on 25th, **Blackmoorfoot** and **Ingbirchworth** on 26th, **Primrose Hill** on 28th, **Lumb Lane** (4), **Scout Dike** (3), **Honley Wood**, **Magdale**, **Hepworth** and **Scholes** on 29th, **Warehouse Hill**, **Cellar's Clough** and **New Hall Wood** (6) on 30th and **Birchenccliffe** and **Denby Dale** on 31st.

As the season progressed the highest counts of singing males reported were five in **Margery Wood**, seven at **Bretton Lakes**, twelve between Brookfoot and the Collier's Arms at **Elland**, six in **Elland Park Wood** and nine in a four km stretch of the **Colne Valley** from Linthwaite to Longroyd Bridge. It was also reported as common and widespread in the **Haigh Wood** and **Winscar** areas.

In contrast to the large numbers of birds on territory only three attempts at breeding were reported, at **Blacker Beck** (nest failed at young stage), **Shelley Whins** and **Margery Wood** (carrying food in July).

Birds were reported from 17 sites in September and included singing males at eleven of these – at **Grimescar** two on 9th and at least three on 28th, **Golcar Tip** on 11th, at **Longwood**, **Royd Moor** and by the canal at **Linthwaite** on 14th, **Wessenden Lodge**, **Blakeley Res** and in **Marsden** village (2) on 21st, **Scout Dike** (3) on 23rd, **Blackmoorfoot** on 24th and **Tunnel End** on 28th.

In October there were last sightings at **Shelley** on 4th, **Tunnel End** on 5th, **Blackmoorfoot** (singing) and **Kirkheaton** on 6th, **Bretton Lakes** (2) on 10th and finally at **Ringstone Edge** (3) and **Scout Dike** on 11th.

There were no reports of wintering individuals at the end of the year.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4-5)

The first of the year was at **Colnebridge SP** on the very early date of 24th March (but then none at the site until 14th April) and the next at **Scout Dike** on 29th, the regular observer's earliest ever there.

After these, birds appeared at a further eight sites in the first week of April – at **Denby Dale** on 2nd with two on 4th, when one was also at **Ingbirchworth**, at **Elland GPs**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Horbury Wyke** and **Jackson Bridge** on 5th, in the **Marsden** area at Clough Lee, Sparth Res and Tunnel End on 6th and at **Dovestones** (3) on 7th. An additional nine sites had received birds by mid month and included an overnight fall of 10+ at **Winscar** on 12th, otherwise just

singles at **Birchencliffe** and **Digley** on 9th, **Blackmoorfoot** and **Kirkheaton** on 11th, **Golcar** on 12th, **Booth Wood Res**, **Dalton** and **Magdale** on 15th, with two also at **Royd Edge Clough** also on 9th.

A huge arrival then took place from 17th, when 120+ were counted in the **Broadstones/Winscar** area and 15 in the **Wessenden Valley** and eleven at **Royd Moor** on the same date. Max. counts in April/May of singing males at some favoured sites were 37 in a 3.75km stretch of the **Colne Valley** from Eastergate to Sparth Res, 30+ at **Holme Styes**, 25 at **Royd Moor**, 23 at **Scout Dike**, 18 in a 2.5km stretch of the **Dunford Bridge Trail**, twelve at **Elland GPs** and seven at **Scammonden**. In all a total of at least 363 singing males was reported, but successful breeding was recorded only at **Colnebridge SP** (two pairs), **Horbury Wyke** and **Shelley Whins**.

The first evidence of post-breeding dispersal came from **Lindley** with a juv. in a garden on 24th July, followed by three in the observer's garden at **Harden** on 30th. Thirty plus were in a mixed tit/warbler flock at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 10th Aug and five passed through a **Lindley Moor** garden on 21st. Two to four birds were present daily throughout August at **Blackmoorfoot** and regularly at **New Mill** and the last was at **Elland** on 31st.

In September singles were at **Blackmoorfoot** to 6th and on 11th and 14th, singles at **Fixby** on 2nd and at **Shelley** on 4th, when a migrant appeared at **Harden**, three were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 14th, two at **Colnebridge SP** on 18th and the last of the year was recorded at **Blakeley Res** on 21st.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

The situation was very similar to last year with reports from nearly 30 sites mainly in the winter months with a typically small but significant influx from late September.

Successful breeding, in the form of an adult with two juvs on 3rd June, was evinced at **Cawthorne Park**, and singing males were also present at **Baitings**, **Crosland Heath GC**, **Deffer Wood**, **Holme Styes** (eight on 24th May), **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Magdale**, **Margery Wood**, **New Hall Wood**, **Scammonden** (two on 4th May), **Shelley Whins**, **Thunderbridge** (display and song on 2nd March and 29th April) and **Yateholme**.

Ten birds were at **Baitings** on 27th Aug and from late September to the year end the species was reported from ten sites, although the only double figure counts were at **Squirrel Ditch**, which had ten plus on 17th Oct and 15+ on several dates in November.

Gardens were visited at **Dalton**, **Lindley Moor**, **Shelley** and at two sites in **Lockwood**.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Rare visitor

The only record was of one, probably a male, watched for five minutes in the lower **Grimescar Valley** on 26th Nov; it could not be relocated on later dates (DHP).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Migrant breeder (1) and passage visitor

Although birds were present at ten sites in the breeding season only two pairs are known to have bred and circumstantial evidence points to a third breeding pair.

Present in the area between 15th May and 21st September.

Cliff Wood – one on 15th May was the only reported sighting at this once reliable location.

Gunthwaite Dam – one on 17th May.

Shepley – one on 24th May.

Blackmoorfoot – after the first sighting on 26th May a pair attempted to breed in Orange Wood, but the nest was predated on 12th June. However, the presence of four birds from 13th to 16th Sept, after two on 31st Aug, suggests that a successful attempt may have taken place later. Around the reservoir, singles were on the south bank on 27th May, the west bank on 12th June and the east bank on 16th and 27th June, 23rd July and 4th Aug.

Hazelhead – a pair bred successfully again at Little Rannah Farm.

Redbrook Clough – one on 9th June.

Little Don Valley – two on 10th and one on 21st June.

Wilshaw – a pair in a garden near the church on 11th June.

Dovestones – one on 9th July.

Carlecotes – a family party of four birds near the church on 2nd Aug.

The remaining records probably refer to post-breeding dispersal or migrants – singles at **Scout Dike** on 2nd and 10th Aug, at **Shelley Whins** on 26th Aug, **Elland GPs** on 29th Aug, **Deer Hill** on 7th Sept and a 1st S at **Wessenden Lodge** on 21st Sept.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrant breeder (1)

It was an even more disastrous year than 2002 with reports from only two sites.

A pair was feeding young in a nestbox at **Cliff Wood, Langsett** on 1st and 5th June. The only other reports were of a singing male at **Carr Wood, Woodsome** on 7th and 10th May.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (2-3)

As in 2002, records were received from over fifty sites with breeding activity reported at eighteen.

Double figure counts were achieved at about 15 sites but few were in the early months, with up to 12 at **Longwood** in January, 10+ at **Horbury SF** on 6th Jan, eleven at **Elland GPs** on 23rd Feb, 20 at **Elland Park Wood** on 25th Jan, 12 at **Scout Dike** on 22nd Feb and 14 at **Denby Dale** on 24th Feb.

Breeding evidence, much of it in the form of nest building, was recorded at **Blacker Beck** (six pairs), **Colnebridge SP** (2+ pairs), **Dalton, Dogley NR, Edgerton, Elland GPs, Golcar, Gunthwaite (2), Hall Dike, Horbury Wyke (6), Litherop Lane, New Hall Wood** (where nesting was taking place on the very early date of 8th Feb), **Orange Wood, Scout Dike, Shelley Whins, Stockmoor Common (2), Stoneycliffe Wood (2) and Thunderbridge**. A

very worrying problem was posed by Grey Squirrels, which took the young from the nest in Orange Wood in May. Of the sixteen nests found at Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke/Stocksmoor Common/Stoneycliffe Wood only two were successful, one at each of the first two sites, which is the worst performance on record. Increased numbers of and predation by Grey Squirrels were considered to be one of the factors involved.



Other sites where birds were present in the breeding season were **Bretton Lakes, Clough Wood, Deffer Wood, Farnley Tyas, Hagg Wood, Lepton Great Wood, Lockwood, Longwood Valley, Lower Stones Wood, New Mill, Penny Spring Wood, Salendine Nook and Storthes Hall Woods.**

Many areas had double figures after the breeding season with 23 including many juvs at **Scout Dike** on 24th June, c.20 at **Holly Bank Road** on 20th July, 22 in a **Fixby** garden on 22nd July, 16+ at **Dalton** on 3rd Aug, 15 at **Lindley Moor** on 21st Aug, eleven at **Royd Moor** on 23rd Oct, 12+ at **Grimescar** on 28th Nov, max. in December of 19 at **Elland GPs** on 8th and 22 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th/31st and up to 50 reported at **Bretton Lakes** and 18 at **Colnebridge SP.**

Members' gardens in **Almondbury, Dalton, Edgerton, Fixby, Lindley, Lockwood, Longwood, Lumb Lane, Meal Hill, New Mill, Salendine Nook and Wooldale** played host to the species during the year.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

Recorded in about the same number of localities as in 2002 with breeding confirmed at three neighbouring sites and probably at two or three others. Present in the breeding season at twelve locations.

Ingbirchworth Res – first seen on 3rd Feb, then two present from 11th. Observed digging a nest hole on 8th April, lining it on 15th, and the male feeding the female on the nest on 29th. Food was being taken to the nest hole on 9th May and young were observed being fed by both parents on 23rd and 29th May. In June two adults and three fledged young were seen on 4th, with the pair and five young on 11th. Later sightings were made on 20th July (two), 24th Sept, 4th Nov (two), 28th Nov and 29th Dec (two).

Royd Moor Res – on 8th July an adult and a juvenile food begging and a third individual calling, singles on 28th July and 25th Aug, two on 21st Aug and calls heard on 12th Oct.

Scout Dike Res – singles on 15th Feb and 16th July, two on 16th April, three on 1st Aug then a family party on 2nd and four (family party?) on 15th Aug, two seen and heard in three areas on 17th Aug and calls heard on 12th Oct.

Bretton Lakes – one on 5th Jan. Two or three pairs were reported to be present later in the year but no evidence was submitted to support this assertion.

Denby Dale – two on 7th Jan.

Horbury area – singles at the Strands on 6th March and 23rd Nov, at the Wyke on 15th (two) and 22nd March, 20th April and 17th June, and by the canal upstream from Horbury Bridge on 4th July.

Blacker Beck – present on 15th March, 3rd May and 29th June.

Stockmoor Common – present and behaving agitatedly on 5th April – breeding?

Shelley – a pair was present all year on the Whins but breeding was not proven. One in Coal Pit Lane on 28th Sept.

New Mill – one on 18th April was unexpected.

Dewsbury SF – one at the feeding station on 29th May.

Coxley Valley – one on 1st June.

Cawthorne Park – singles on 11th and 24th June.

Margery Wood – two on 24th June, one of which was considered to be a juvenile, and two on 7th and 22nd July.

Elland GPs – one calling on 24th Aug.

Broadstones – one on 9th and 30th Nov in the belt of trees below the dam.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3)

The situation was very similar to last year as far as the number of records is concerned, with reports from just over twenty sites. Several observers reported the species to be numerous or widespread. It is probably most common in the extensive coniferous and mixed woodlands.

Breeding occurred in gardens at **Almondbury, Fixby, Lindley Moor, New Mill, Salendine Nook** and **Shelley** as well as at **Blackmoorfoot, Brownhill Res** and **Crosland Heath GC** and doubtless at many other sites. The species was also present all year at some garden feeding stations.

The largest numbers reported were ten at **Baitings** on 27th Aug and eight for most of November in an **Almondbury** garden.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5)

Extremely common wherever there is suitable habitat, but few observers submit records and few counts were received. Reported as flourishing in the **Lindley Moor/Salendine Nook** area.

Nestboxes were utilized at **Ainley Top, Lindley, New Mill, Shelley, Fixby** (failed) and **Wooldale** and breeding took place in a hole in a wall at **Colnebridge SP**.

The highest counts notified were at **Elland GPs**, which had 23 on 4th Jan and 15th Feb, 18 on 5th May, 26 on 14th June and 17 regularly in December. Twenty were at **North Dean** on 8th June and max. of nine were reported at **Hepworth** on 24th April and in a **New Mill** garden on 29th Nov.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4)

Although not so common as the previous species, this remains very numerous and widespread.

Bred in nestboxes in **Lumb Lane, Shelley** (two pairs), **Fixby** and at **Colnebridge SP**, where it is very common and young were present in June/July, as well as in gardens at **Almondbury, Lindley Moor, New Mill** and **Salendine Nook**.

The only counts received were from **Elland GPs** where there were 14 on 4th Jan, 17 on 15th Feb, 18 on 14th June, 12 on 16th Nov and ten on 8th Dec, and from **North Dean** where 14 were present on 8th June.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Resident breeder (2-3)

The species continues to flourish in the area with sightings at about sixty sites, although one observer did report a possible slight decrease compared with the three previous years in the **Grimescar Valley**, where up to three birds were being seen on most visits.

New localities from which the species was reported included **Wood Nook, Kirkheaton brickworks, Carlecotes Ponds, Crosland Hill, Stocks Wood, Margery Wood, Cawthorne Park, Scholes, Hepworth** and **Haigh Wood**. Reports from the **Colne Valley** remain scarce though.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Lower Thirstin, Honley, Clough Wood** and **Almondbury**, but one was observed mud plastering a tree hole at **Meltham** on 14th April and one was inspecting holes at **Grimescar** on 8th April.

Bretton Lakes again had the largest numbers, with eight on 5th Jan, and the **Woodsome/Almondbury/Farnley** area held at least fifteen singing males.

Gardens were visited at **Almondbury, Dalton, Edgerton, Fixby, Lockwood, Meal Hill, New Mill** and **Shelley**, the last being a first site record.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (2-3)



Reports were received again from about forty sites, many in the breeding season. Most records consisted of just one or two birds, but three singing males, one near a 2002 nest site, were located at **Horbury Wyke** on 15th March and several were present at **Bretton Lakes** in January and up to six in December.

Breeding was confirmed at **Lockwood Park**, where a pair was nesting behind tree bark on 18th June, and one was collecting food at **Langsett Banks** on 5th June. Other sites occupied in the breeding season were **Boothroyd Wood, Bretton Lakes, Butternab Wood, Cliff Wood, Coxley Valley, Dogley NR, Hagg Wood, Horbury Wyke, Lepton Great Wood, Lower and Upper Stones Woods, Molly Carr Wood, Penny Spring Wood** and **Woodsome Road**.

An interesting observation was of a bird collecting spiders from a wall for five minutes in Royd Road, **Meltham** on 14th April.

Birds were seen in members' gardens at **Almondbury, Lockwood, Meal Hill, New Mill** and **Shelley**.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (2)



The species was reported from nearly fifty sites, with records spread throughout the year and evidence of movement in April, September and October.

Breeding was proven at **New Mill**, where a juvenile was being fed in the observer's garden by an adult bird on 29th July and young also present in late August, in **Orange Wood**, in the **Scammonden Valley** and at **Holme Styes**. At this last locality on 13th June the gruesome sight of a fledgling being torn to pieces by a Carrion Crow that was being mobbed by two adults, was witnessed (PB). Birds were also seen carrying nest material at **Colnebridge SP**.

Other sites occupied in the breeding season were at **Almondbury, Blackmoorfoot, Bretton Lakes, Carr Wood, Dalton, Deffer Wood, Digley, Dogley NR, Dovestones, Edgerton, Elland GPs, Fulstone, Gunthwaite, Hepworth, Holmbridge, Lepton Great Wood, Lower Stones Wood, Marsden** (where reported to be doing well), **Meal Hill, Penny Spring Wood, Storthes Hall Woods, Thongsbridge, Thunderbridge** and **Wooldale**, at some of which several pairs were present.

Perhaps the most surprising sighting of the year was of a flock of 17 birds moving east over **Harden** on 14th April. More expected were movements in autumn. In September six flew high to the SE at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8th and at **Baitings** nine flew west on 21st. The species was more conspicuous than usual between October and December in the **Lindley Moor/Salendine Nook** area.

Gardens were visited at **Almondbury, Dalton, Lindley Moor, Meal Hill, New Mill** (max. six on 29th July) and **Shelley**.

Magpie *Pica pica*
Resident breeder (4-5)

Very little information is submitted for this species.

Breeding was reported at **Almondbury, Golcar, Lepton, Penny Spring Wood** and **Shelley**.

The only counts received were from **Elland GPs** which had 20 on 18th Jan, 16 on 15th Feb and 22nd March and 15 on 16th Nov, from **Upper Clough, Linthwaite** 23 on 28th Nov and from **Far Bank, Shelley** where there were up to 20 in mid December.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Resident breeder (4)

Common and widespread throughout most of the area, although few observers report the species.

Breeding took place in the chimneys of old cottages in **New Mill**, with young observed in June, and two pairs were each reported nesting in **Golcar** and the band room building in **Lindley**.

Counts were submitted from **Blackmoorfoot** which had max. flying SE to roost of 270 on 22nd Feb, 352 on 21st Oct and 340 east to roost on 22nd Dec, from **Dewsbury SF** 52 on 29th Oct, 46 on 13th Nov and 298 in two flocks on 7th Dec all moving east, and c.500 flew over **Greetland** on 30th Oct. Large numbers were also regularly seen going to roost over **Dalton** and **Shelley** in the direction of **Storthes Hall Woods**. Fifty plus were counted in the town centre at 0700hrs on 16th Oct.

For a detailed account of this and other corvid species see Paul Bray's excellent paper following the Classified List on his observations on flight lines in January and February.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*
Resident breeder (5)

More nest counts than usual were received with the following results:- **Crosland Moor** ten, **Hepworth** five, **Jackson Bridge (Scholes Road)** eleven, **Lower Stones Wood** c.50, **Lydgate** five, **Meal Hill** 18 in two groups, young calling from nests on 18th April, **New Mill** 29 in village and 20 in Spring Lane, **Tunnel End** eight and **Wooldale** 12. No counts were made at rookeries sites at Berry Brow, Colnebridge and Honley.

The only counts away from rookeries came from **Penistone** where there were 150+ on 4th June and 200+ on 5th Nov, **Dewsbury SF** where 95 flew south on 10th Sept with 31 on 14th Nov and 18 on 5th Dec on nearby playing fields, and 50 at **Inbircworth** on 29th Dec.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4)

This species can be met with anywhere in the club area but only six reports were received. A pair was collecting nest material at **Shepley** on the early date of 13th Jan and a pair had a nest by the canal at **Golcar** on 18th March.

At **High Wood, High Hoyland** fifty were counted on 13th March and at **Harden Moss** thirty on 14th April but only six on 8th May.

The species is a daily visitor to a chicken run in a member's garden at **New Mill** with a max. of three in October.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Resident breeder (1)

Birds were seen in all months except October and in contrast to the previous year most sightings were in the period January to April and involved one or two birds. The majority of records came from three main areas – a) **Dovestones**, b) **Deer Hill/Wessenden/Meltham/Marsden** and c) **Harden/Winscar/Dunford Bridge**, but there was a wide scattering of birds outside these areas, mainly in the west and south.

Dovestones – one pair definitely bred, with a bird incubating on 23rd March, one visiting the nest site probably with food on 24th April, and the nest site had been vacated by 21st May. On 6th April a pair was observed on another ledge not far away and a ledge with twigs in a recess probably indicated that this was an additional pair. Two birds were also present on 12th Jan and one on 6th Nov (PB, JHod et al).

Deer Hill area – one observer made several sightings in March and April in various locations including **Royd Edge Clough, West Nab, Deer Hill** and **Wessenden** which probably referred to the same birds and also in late summer, but very few in the intervening months. A partly built nest was found in this area on 9th April but was not completed (DMP). At **Blackmoorfoot**, where the species is scarce, one flew north on 11th March, two SW then west on 21st April (PB) and one low over the NE corner before turning west on 3rd Sept (MLD). In the **Wessenden** area singles were at **Wessenden Head Res** on 21st March (DMO), **Butterley Res** on 17th April and **Blakeley Res** on 4th Sept (JMP) and two flew SE past **Wessenden Res** on 16th Dec (PB). Two flew south at **Harden Clough** on 13th Feb (PB), two were in **Magdalen Clough** on 26th March (PB) and one over **Digley Res** on 23rd March (KH). On 3rd August eight birds were together at **Deer Hill** and moved out of sight towards **West Nab**, whereupon another two birds appeared from the direction of **Pule Hill** a couple of minutes later giving a total of ten birds (DMP). Two were over **Marsden GC** on 12th Aug (DWB) and two flew high over **Millmoor Road, Meltham** towards Castle Hill on 31st Aug (DMP).

Harden/Winscar area – at **Harden** two were present on 15th Feb, one on 20th April, two on 26th May hunting cooperatively and taking a grouse chick, and there was a count of six birds on 6th Dec (MC). In April at **Winscar Res** two were seen on 3rd (KH), followed by singles on 13th and 16th (MC), one was at **Dunford Bridge** on 5th (HQ) and an adult in wing moult over **Snailsden Moss** on 13th June (PB).

Elsewhere two were in the **Little Don Valley** on 15th Feb (TM) and one was displaying at **Langsett** on 14th March (SRG), at **Scammonden** singles were seen on 24th Feb (JKP) and flying south on 14th Dec (JED), at **Ramsden Clough** one on 22nd and two on 24th March (PB,MC), one at **Booth Dean Clough** on 12th April, four flew east then south over **New Mill** from the direction of Holme Moss on 26th July, two over **Snowgate Head** on 19th Aug, three were at **Baitings Res** on 12th Sept (HBC), one east over **Scout Dike Res** on 26th Sept (RJB), and at **Cheesegte Nab** two were present on 28th Sept and one on 16th Nov (HQ).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5) and numerous winter visitor

Few records were received for this common species.

Large numbers, presumably continental birds on their way back, were in the **Ingbirchworth** and **Broadstones** area in March, with c.1000 in fields off Windmill Lane on 9th and 1000+ in Annat Royd Lane and 2000+ off Brown's Edge Road both on 11th.

Breeding was reported only from **Almondbury**, **Golcar**, **Lindley** and **New Mill**, but obviously was much more widespread. Numbers visiting an **Almondbury** garden were reported to be noticeably down on the previous year with a peak of only 24 in June, and the species was described as scarce at feeding stations at **Meal Hill** and **Shelley**.

After the breeding season the highest counts were 150 on 9th Aug and 200+ on 7th Nov at **Ringstone Edge**, 1000+ on setaside on 24th Aug, 850 on wires on 28th Aug and 750 on 19th Sept near **Dewsbury SF**, 1000+ at **Crosland Hill** on 25th Oct and c.300 at **Broadstones** on 14th Nov.

A flock of 40 in **Windmill Lane** on 26th Dec included one with a white rump.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5)

About the same number of records was received as in 2002, but breeding reports came from more sites – **Ainley Top**, **Almondbury** (2 sites), **Lindley**, **Lindley Moor**, **New Mill** and **Wooldale**.

Conflicting reports came from different parts of the area; for example, numbers feeding in a **Golcar** garden were reported to be 50% down from the previous year, whereas numbers were reported as stable at **Almondbury** and **New Mill** feeding stations, and a slight increase in a **Lindley Moor** garden (max. 23+ including only five adults cf. 18 in 2002 and 15 in 2001). One observer who runs a feeding station at **Meal Hill** described the species as not being a garden visitor although a small flock exists at a nearby farm.

The highest count of the year was of c.50 feeding at **Lindley Rec.** on 13th Aug, with up to 40 at **Benomley** in July, c.30 at **Hall Ings Lane** on 2nd March, up to 30 in **Lumb Lane** and at **New Mill** and **Shelley**, and a max. of 23 in a **Wooldale** garden in the post-breeding period.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder (1)

In some respects the signs this year were more encouraging with birds in the breeding season at four new sites and breeding proved at two of these. In contrast, the colony at **Emley** appears to have been deserted, with no sightings on three visits, and only a single individual was seen on two occasions at the formerly reliable site in **Lumb Lane**.

All records are listed:-

Elland Park Wood – one nearby on 4th Jan (HBC).

Lepton Great Wood – two on 7th Feb (SRG).

Almondbury – in Sharp Lane two on 11th Feb, singles on 8th and 17th April, and in Lumb Lane singles on 25th March and 24th June (PDB,DSI).

Thurgory, Lepton – two at Copriding Farm on 19th Feb (DHP), one on 24th Feb and a singing male on 23rd July, when the presence of a second bird was suspected (BA).

Dewsbury SF – 15 on 28th Feb, three on 7th and four on 10th June, two on 24th Aug (JH,BA).

Hall Ings Lane – three on 2nd March (BA,DM).

Belle Royd Farm – happily the apparent decline at this site mooted in the 2002 report appears to have been premature. Ten were present on 15th March, 18 on 5th July, 13 on 15th Aug (with a party of 13 flying over nearby Maze Brook on 31st Aug), 23 on 26th Sept and 15 on 30th Dec (RJB,PB,BA).

Upper Denby – a pair on 18th and 20th March and nesting observed on 9th April (TM).

High Hoyland – one flying NE on 23rd May, one on a telegraph pole in the village on 30th May and one on the roof of the old chapel on 24th June suggests that there may be a breeding site here (PB).

Jebb Lane – a party of four, including at least two juveniles, on 28th July (PB).

Houses Hill – at least two adults on 4th Aug (NEP).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5) and winter visitor

This species was again much under-reported despite its being very common and widespread. Few flocks of any size were noted and visible migration watches in autumn produced only small numbers.

The only records in the early months were counts of c.15 in **Annat Royd Lane** and c.20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 12th and 19th Jan, with nine on the latter date in an **Almondbury** garden and max. of ten in gardens at **New Mill** and **Shelley** and at **Colnebridge SP** in Jan/Feb. A mixed flock with Bramblings at **Meltham** on 22nd Jan totalled 40 to 50 birds.

Good numbers were reported to be on territory in **Storthes Hall Woods** on 3rd March. One observer (RDH) counted singing males on 4th April with the following results – five each at **Gunthwaite** and **Royd Moor**, four each at **Holme Stykes** and **Harden Moss**, three at **Dovestones**, two each at **Deanhead**, **Dunford Bridge Trail**, **Hepworth** and **Thongsbridge** and one at **Fulstone**. Two singing males were also at **Colnebridge SP** but there was no

breeding evidence. In an **Almondbury** garden a peak of nine in July included some juveniles, and at **New Mill** young were being fed on 10th May.

V.m.w. in the **Wessenden Valley** between 11th Sept and 26th Oct produced a total of 151 birds moving south with a peak of 34 on 18th Oct; 33 flew west on 20th Sept at **Baitings** and 27 were present there on 12th Oct, and at **Blackmoorfoot** 31 on 14th, eleven on 15th and 22 on 17th all flying SE were recorded in October. Twentyfive were at **Ryburn** on 16th Nov, but there were no other counts in double figures.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common winter visitor

Good numbers had been present in the club area in December 2002 and birds remained into 2003 with reports in January from twelve sites mainly in the first half of the month. Easily the largest numbers were at **Ingbirchworth**, where there were c.300 on 1st, but much smaller numbers thereafter to c.20 on 19th. Double figure counts at other sites were 12+ at **Netherton** on 3rd, c.20 at **Bretton** on 5th increasing to c.30 on 12th, 50 at **Shelley** on 8th with 30+ still on 14th, 20 at both **Storthes Hall Moor** and **Barkisland** on 15th, a max. at **Blackmoorfoot** (where two to twelve were present daily) of 23 on 17th, and 40-50 at **Meltham** on 23rd. Four other sites had single figures.

Birds were present at more sites (16) and in greater numbers in February, with 70 at **Shelley** on 1st, 150+ at **Hey Green** on 2nd, 200 at **Greetland** on 12th and 75 still on 17th, 90 at **Thick Hollins** on 13th, 20 in **Boothroyd Wood** on 15th and 26th, and 40+ in **Stocks Wood** on the latter date. Single figures were also found in **Almondbury**, **Denby Dale**, **Dovestones**, **Squirrel Ditch** and **Upper Cumberworth**.

The number of sites with birds increased to 22 in March but the great majority had only single figures, exceptions being 200+ at **Shepley** on 1st, a large flock between **New Mill** and **Thunderbridge** with Chaffinches on 9th, 100+ in **Windybank Wood** on several dates, c.40 in **Wood Lane**, **Farnley Tyas** on 13th, 15 at **Meltham Grange** on 18th, twelve at **Almondbury** and 60+ at **Harden Moss** on 20th, and the month's highest count of 300 in **Upper Stones Wood** on 29th, when a male was singing at **Cartworth Moor**. A hundred still remained at **Hey Green** on 30th.

Many remained into April though in reduced numbers. Fifty plus were at **Digley** on 3rd, 35 at **Elland GPs** on 10th and 40 there on 19th, a max. of 17 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th, c.50 at **Shaw Carr Wood** on 12th, up to twelve in a **Meltham** garden for most of the month and up to five at **Almondbury**, **Denby Dale**, **Hey Green**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Meal Hill**, **Shelley** and **Upper Cumberworth**. The last were three at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th April.

The first returning birds of the autumn were six at **Bradley Park GC** on the relatively early date of 26th Sept, but the next did not arrive until 12th Oct, when birds were heard passing over **Scout Dike** and one flew west at **Baitings**. Limited v.m.w. in October produced seven SE on 14th, five south on 17th and one south on 21st at **Blackmoorfoot**, eight west on 18th and one east on 19th at **Baitings**, and 33 west at **Deer Hill** on 30th. Elsewhere in October nine were at **Royd Moor** on 13th, singles at **Elland GPs** on 23rd and **Cannon Hall** on 24th and twelve at **Yateholme** on 29th.

Only very small numbers were reported later, in November with the exception of c.100 at **Jackson Bridge** on 8th, singles at **Meal Hill** on 2nd, **Broadstones** on 10th and **Bretton Lakes** on 11th, **Shelley** on 7th (increasing to four by the year end), and in December five on 2nd at **Upper Cumberworth**, in an **Almondbury** garden a male on 8th and a female on 12th, six at **High Hoyland** on 9th, one near **Boshaw Whams** on 14th and five or six at **Brighouse** on 21st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4)

This species continues to be under-reported, particularly in the breeding season, although a little more information was provided this year.

In the early months the **Blackmoorfoot** roost regularly held up to sixty with a max. of 110 on 3rd Jan, and 150 roosted in Holly at **Blackley Tip** on 18th Jan. It was reported as the commonest species in an **Almondbury** garden through the year with a max. of 24 on 18th Jan. The only other count in the early months was of 80 at **Blacker Pit Top** on 4th April.

Nest building was observed at **Baitings** on 28th March and breeding also occurred at **Almondbury, Dalton, Fixby, Lindley Moor, New Mill, Shelley** and **Wooldale**.

After the breeding season the highest numbers reported were at **Dewsbury SF**, which had 65 on the works on 24th July, 228 on nearby setaside on 28th Aug reducing gradually to 180 on 17th Sept, 60 on 10th Oct and 38 on 21st Nov. There was a peak at the **Blackmoorfoot** roost of 70 on 4th Nov and a flock of 140 at **High Hoyland** on 9th Dec. Up to fifty frequented a **Shelley** garden at the year end.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (2-3)

Judging by the number of records received, the species was extremely scarce in the early months. Apart from 50 at **Elland GPs** on 19th April, the next highest count was eight feeding on lavender at **Golcar** on 21st Jan, with no more than two birds reported anywhere else. One attempted song in **Norman Park** on 1st Feb.

Breeding evidence, mainly consisting of the presence of juveniles in post-breeding flocks, came from **Almondbury, Baitings, Broadstones, Dogley NR, Lower Stones Wood, Penny Spring Wood, Royd Moor, Scammonden, Scout Dike** and **Shelley Whins**, and singing males were located in heavily built-up areas in **Lindley** and **Moldgreen**.

The first post-breeding flock reported was one of 65 on 24th July at **Dewsbury SF**, where numbers increased to 180 by 17th Sept before reducing gradually to 24 on 20th then increasing again to 38 the next day. Many, including juveniles, were at **Broadstones** on 10th Aug, 50+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 12th, 30 at **Royd Moor** on 21st and 30 on 22nd at **Blackmoorfoot**, where later monthly max. were 44 on 1st and 40 on 14th Oct and twelve on 21st Nov.

More were reported from September onwards with 30 at **Scout Dike** on 5th, 100+ mainly juveniles feeding on thistles at **Deer Hill** on 6th and good numbers thereafter, c.50 in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 8th, 25+ in the **Longwood Valley** on 11th, 100 at **Ringstone Edge** on 12th and 50 at **Scammonden** on 28th. There were fewer reports subsequently, but 53 were

counted at **Royd Moor** on 13th Oct and in November 32 were in a **Fixby** garden on 4th and 50+ in **Birkby** on 18th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1) and winter visitor



The highest numbers for many years were present in the area in the early months, especially in February/March. Over fifty sites recorded birds during the year and included gardens in sixteen localities.

In the early days of January c.30 were at **Meal Hill** and 38 at **Elland GPs** on 1st, 43 in **Matthewman Wood** on 4th, c.70 at **Bretton Lakes** on 8th, with single figures at eight other sites. Numbers remained in alders at **Elland** with 26 on 16th, 20 on 26th and a peak of 58 on 28th. On 31st Jan there began a huge influx into the **Yateholme/Holme Woods** area, with birds widespread, mobile and vocal. Flocking during the afternoon, probably as a prelude to roosting, parties of 160, 30 and 20 gathered together to form a single flock of 210 careering through the treetops. Numbers at this site remained high throughout February and into late March, with many on 5th Feb when no count was possible owing to the extreme restlessness of the birds, on 17th c.50+ were estimated to be present and 100+ on 19th Feb and 3rd March. The difficulty of pinning the birds down as a result of their restless behaviour and mobility was well illustrated on 24th March, when two different, experienced observers present at different times of day estimated numbers respectively at 30+ and “several hundreds”. By 24th April 12+ remained, widely scattered in ones and twos, with several in song and ten plus were observed in similar vein on 29th May.

Away from Yateholme there were some high counts elsewhere. In February 250+ were in **New Hall Woods** and 100+ at **Stockmoor Common** on 8th, 30+ at **Thunderbridge** on 6th, 50 at **Crimble** on 16th, 100+ at the northwest end of **Langsett Res** on 24th, 40 in **Storthes Hall Woods** on 26th, regularly between 50 and 100 at **Fixby** and into March, and a max. of

30 at an **Almondbury** feeding station in the third week. Smaller numbers were at twelve other sites.

Good numbers remained to the end of the third week in March, after which birds moved out and numbers plummeted. The highest counts were 26 at **Shelley** on 5th, 50+ at **High Wood** and 20 at **Golcar** on 7th (also at the former site on 13th), 90+ at **Myers Wood** on 10th, 50 at **Shepley** on 18th, and c.30 regularly at **Cliff, Holmfirth**. Smaller numbers at 18 other sites included a pair on territory at **Penistone** on 17th.

It became obvious in the breeding season that the large numbers preceding it were of “outside” origin. Apart from the birds at **Yateholme** and **Penistone** the only other records were of two at **Scammonden** on 30th April, one at **Dovestones** on 21st May, a juvenile on peanuts in an **Almondbury** garden on 15th June and one at **Hey Green** on the same date.

After the excesses of the early months, the autumn and late winter periods were very disappointing, with only a smattering of records until numbers increased considerably in December.

In September singles flew over **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th and **Shelley** on 9th, two were at **Scout Dike** on 14th and two flew ESE there on 20th, birds were present at **Birkby** from 24th to the end of the year, with a max. of 14, and seven were at **Scammonden** on 28th.

V.m.w. at **Wessenden** produced 52 moving south between 11th Sept and 25th Oct with a peak of twelve on 18th Oct. and at **Blackmoorfoot** six flew SW on 23rd, seven south on 24th and one on 28th Sept.

In October apart from six on 5th and 20+ on 16th at **Scout Dike**, four sites had a max. of two on single dates, and in November after 70+ at **Elland GPs** on 15th just three were in the **Marsden** area on 22nd/23rd.

December saw birds at eight sites – two at **Cromwell Bottom** on 6th, 15 at **Tunnel End** on 7th, twelve at **Bretton Lakes** on 9th, 40 at **Shelley** on 18th, 22 at **Elland GPs** on 21st, two at **Meal Hill** on 22nd, four at **Golcar** on 28th with ten there the following day, and finally one at **Almondbury** on 30th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3)

Midwinter records of this species are unusual, so 161 moving west at **Dewsbury SF** on 7th Jan and 180 the following day are quite exceptional. In February a flock at **Thurgory Lane, Lepton** increased from four birds on 20th to 30+ on 27th and later to 40+ on 1st March. Two that appeared at **Shelley** on 22nd Feb were the earliest ever there for the local observer.

Birds appeared at several more sites from mid March, with 15 at **Jebb Lane** on 13th, 20 at **Ingbirchworth** on 16th increasing to 70 by 29th, one was at **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th with two on 31st, twelve at **Shepley** on 29th and six at **Cawthorne** on 31st. More arrived in April with highest numbers at **Kirkheaton** 60+ on 11th, 50 at **Shepley** on 12th and c.100 at **Deer Hill** on 20th in a mixed flock with Twite.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Broadstones, Harden** (two pairs), **Scammonden** and **Shelley Whins**, with other pairs present at **Buckstones, Deer Hill, Emley Moor, Holme Moor West, Lumb Lane, Meltham Cop** and **Paul Lane**, and singing males also at **Blakeley Res** and **Pule Hill West**. Birds were also present in the breeding season at **Binn Lane, Eastergate, Millmoor, Netherwood** and **Owlers Farm**. Fifty plus at **Scapegoat Hill** on 26th June could represent successful breeding in the area.

The only sizeable numbers in July were 30+ at **Broadstones** on 4th and 40 at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th. In August at the latter site numbers built up from c.90 on 13th to a massive 530 on 28th, then remained at 350 from 1st to 29th Sept before dispersal occurred. Also in August **Broadstones** had a max. of 60 including many juveniles, c.300 were on wires at the **Hoylandswaine** roundabout on 5th, 20 were at **Scout Dike** on 16th and 40 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th.

Flocks occurred at more sites in September and included 40+ on 7th and 50+ on 9th at **Deer Hill**, 200+ feeding in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** from 13th to 19th reducing to 30 on 26th then none subsequently, c.80 at **Scout Dike** on 14th remaining to 5th Oct, 100 at **Denby Dale** on 18th and 70 at **Shepley** on 27th. October saw a reduction with birds at only five sites, 65+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st/2nd and 25+ at **Thurgory Lane** on 14th being the highest counts.

A hundred were at **Shepley** on 1st Nov and about twenty there to the year end, and 70+ were at **Upper Cumberworth** from 17th to 26th Nov and on 2nd Dec. The last report for the year was of a remarkable flock of 180 at **High Hoyland** on 9th Dec.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*
Partial migrant breeder (1-2)

This unobtrusive little bird is probably the “Jewel in the Crown” of the species which breed in our area and measures are in place to preserve its presence. In spring a programme of putting out seed, under the auspices of the RSPB, was established at sites near to known breeding areas, a scheme which has been successful in places in the Halifax area and in the Lancashire Pennines. This proved successful at **Deer Hill** with birds remaining here through the winter months. The survey of the Marsden Moor NT Estate was also carried out with a view to monitoring breeding sites and numbers of Twite and produced encouraging results.

Birds were present in all months. In January between two and seven were present in kale stubble to the northeast of **Blackmoorfoot**, six remaining to 11th Feb, and four were in **Annat Royd Lane** from 10th to at least 19th Jan.

The return to known and potential breeding sites began in mid March, when four were above **Hade Edge** on 16th and three there including a singing male and a female on 29th (and four again including a male on 22nd April), followed by a flock of 15 at **Deer Hill** on 17th, increasing to a minimum of 21 birds by 23rd. Six were at **Cupwith** on 21st, the first arrived back at **Pule Hill** on 23rd, one was near **Harden Moss** on 26th, two at **Hard Hill** on 27th and 16 in fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** on 31st. In April the first (two) were at **Buckstones** on 4th, two flew west at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th, 15 were at **Deanhead** on 10th, one flew west at **Harden** on 11th and three were on **Rishworth Moor** on the same date, and three flew over **Greenfield Road** towards **Harden Moss** on 14th.

A total of between 35 and 40 pairs were found during the breeding season, 19 of these on the **Marsden Moor NT Estate**, with concentrations of ten pairs at **Buckstones** and six pairs in the **Wessenden Valley**. The other major sites were **Oxygrains**, where ten nests were found, and the **Deer Hill** area, where adults were seen feeding fledged young from 27th July onwards and over 80 birds were present in two main flocks with additional ones and twos calling in mid August, probably indicating a successful breeding season by several pairs. Elsewhere in the breeding season birds were found at **Blake Clough**, **Cupwith**, above **Deanhead** and at **Hade Edge**, all potential nesting areas.

In the late summer and into autumn birds were reported from six sites. Away from **Deer Hill** (which is covered in a short paper elsewhere in this report) a large flock of 120 birds was discovered feeding on Creeping Thistle at **The Dean**, near **Green Owlers** on 21st Aug and included a juvenile which had been ringed as a nestling at Lumbutts on 28th June. In fields to the west of **Blackmoorfoot** in late August nine were present on 28th/29th, eleven on 30th and 20 on 31st. At the **Booth Dam Quarry** 38 were counted on 7th Sept and 61 were on wires there on 13th. Up to ten were in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** from 15th to 19th Sept and six remained on 1st Oct. V.m.w. at **Wessenden** produced in September eight on 11th, five on 27th and three on 4th Oct all moving south.

The effectiveness of establishing a feeding station at **Deer Hill** was illustrated when up to twenty birds, including six colour-ringed individuals, were feeding on 30th Nov on seed put down, at least eight remaining through December and into 2004.

Of the ten nests found at **Buckstones** only four were successful, two failing with the young dying in the nest probably from starvation. One of the breeding males had been colour-ringed at Blackstone Edge. The failure rate here was much higher than at other monitored sites, which had an average success rate of over 70%.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder (1-2) and winter visitor

Records were received from about forty localities and in all months except September. Most involved low single figures of birds with only a dozen double figure counts made. There was no evidence of breeding.

In January the maximum count was 15 on 1st at **Elland GPs** where some remained until early March. At **Bretton Lakes**, a max. of ten were present on 5th and up to seven were at **Grimescar** from 6th to 3rd March. A flock of between 50 and 100 fed on seed in a **Fixby** garden in February/March, up to ten at **Golcar** in mid-February, 20 at **Crimble** on 16th Feb and ten at **Blacker Beck** on 23rd. About 30 were in **Storthes Hall Woods** in early March and 40 at **Winscar** on 22nd March. During this three month period up to eight occurred at fifteen other sites.

There was a distinct reduction in numbers between April and October. Apart from 20 in the **Little Don Valley** on 5th April, ten including a pair in **Carr Wood** on 22nd April and 30 at **Dunford Bridge** on 19th June, no more than five birds were found at nine sites, some of which (**Holme Styes**, **Winscar** and **Yatholme**) hold suitable breeding habitat which has been occupied in earlier years.

An obvious increase in records occurred in October, birds being present at ten sites, but with low max. of only ten at **Grimescar** which remained to the year end, and six at **Colnebridge SP**, otherwise no more than four anywhere except for birds seen on v.m.w. at **Wessenden**, where 43 moved south between 4th and 26th with a max. of 14 on 18th.

The first birds of the second winter period at **Elland GPs** were eight found on 15th Nov and remained into early December, whilst **Dogley NR**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Tunnel End** and **Wessenden** had up to four. Only three sites recorded birds in December – **Horbury SF** one on 8th, **Shelley** one from 23rd to 31st and **Colnebridge SP** two on 28th.

Mealy (Common) Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor

Birds were reported from five sites, all associating with Lesser Redpolls.

Elland GPs – two from 4th to 16th Jan (HBC).

Grimescar – three from 6th Jan to 3rd March (DHP).

Shelley – up to two in the observer's garden from 28th Jan to 5th March (SRG).

Golcar - in February singles on 14th and 21st, two on 22nd and one again on 6th/7th March at the old sewage works and Appleyards (JKP,PDB).

Storthes Hall Woods – three on 2nd and at least one on 3rd March (TM,BA).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1) and uncommon passage visitor

This was another good year for the species, but only in the early months. It had been present in numbers in December 2002, so it is not surprising that many remained into 2003 and particularly in the **Yateholme** area.

Langsett area – two on 4th Jan, one on 12th Feb, then a total of 80+ on 24th, with birds calling and moving about in parties of up to 35 at the northwest end of the reservoir. Ten seen on 2nd March included four males and one flew over on 14th March. On 5th June two were seen and two more heard at Langsett Banks (PB,MC,HQ,SRG,RJB). Breeding could well have taken place here.

Little Don Valley – twelve on 4th Jan and 20 on 23rd March (RDH,TM). Another potential breeding site.

Yateholme – birds were recorded between 13th Jan, when a flock of 50+ was seen (DHP) to 11th April, when 40+ were recorded (MC). Between these sightings the species was reported on 14 dates in highly varying numbers from a single female on 17th Feb to at least 100 birds in several flocks, the largest numbering 40, on 20th March (DMP). The only singing male was reported on 31st Jan. When large numbers, i.e.30+, were recorded they tended to be in several different parties and never seemed to coalesce into a single flock (PB,HQ,MC,CH,JTS,BA).

Winscar – two in roadside pines on 31st Jan (PB) and 40+ going to roost in the evening of 11th April, presumed to be different from those at Yateholme on the same date (MC).

High Wood – five by Jebb Lane on 7th March (PB).

Baitings – nine on 7th March (HBC).

Margery Wood – c.20 flew west over the NW edge on 20th May (PB).

Cawthorne Park – one heard on 20th May, 40+ flew north out of the woodlands towards High Wood on 30th May, eight flew south towards Cawthorne village on 3rd June and groups of four and two were in treetops on 11th June (PB).

Haigh Wood area – on 26th May fourteen including at least three juveniles were present (PH,DW,DP).

In the second half of the year there were just two records. Two flew west out of the conifer plantation at **Scout Dike** on 24th Aug (RJB) and 13 flew south near **Yateholme Res** on 29th Oct (PB).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3)

Birds were reported from 45 localities, most frequently in groups of up to four. Many sites held birds in the breeding season but breeding evidence, in the form of juveniles visiting gardens, was obtained only at **Almondbury, Shelley** and **Taylor Hill** in June/July.

Other sites which had birds in the breeding season were **Beaumont Park, Blacker Beck, Blackmoorfoot, Bretton Lakes, Cheeseigate Nab, Coxley Valley, Dewsbury SF, Elland GPs, Fixby, Golcar, Grimescar, Horbury Wyke and Strands, Kirkheaton, Lepton Great Wood, New House Wood, New Mill, Penny Spring Wood** and **Royd Moor**, and nesting probably occurred at many of these.

The largest numbers reported were ten at **Meal Hill** on 1st Jan, ten at **Elland GPs** on 23rd Oct with seven there on 14th April, nine plus at **Bretton Lakes** in January, six on **Bare Bones Road** on 15th Feb, six in an **Almondbury** garden on 9th March, six at **Ringstone Edge** on 21st and 29th Oct, and five at **Bradley Hall** on 1st Jan, **Colnebridge SP** (all males) on 25th Sept and **Fixby** on 23rd Nov.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Resident, probable breeder (1)

The only record was of at least one bird, possibly as many as five, over **Bridge Royd Wood, Bretton Lakes** on 5th Jan (BA,WH).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

One on the Pennine Way footpath near **Redbrook Res** was an unexpected but most welcome present for the observers on Christmas Day (DMP,JJ).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*
Resident breeder (3) and partial migrant

The number of singing males (40+) reported was much higher than in the previous two years, but failed to approach the 74 in 2000 and the only breeding evidence submitted was a pair at **Colnebridge SP** where a male was seen carrying food.



Six singing males were at each of **Stockmoor Common** and **Bullcliff Pit** in late March, four at **Thornhill Millbank** on 23rd May, two each at **Broadstones** and **Lumb Lane**, and singles at **Annat Royd Lane**, **Blackmoorfoot**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Carr Wood**, **Castle Hill**, **Cheesegate Nab** (pair), **Cumberworth**, **Elland GPs** (pair), **Fulstone**, **Hall Ings Lane** (at least one pair), **High Flatts**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Hoylandswaine**, **New Mill** (at a lower altitude than usual and much closer to houses), **Oxspring**, **Paul Lane** (pair), **Ravensthorpe GPs**, **Royd Moor**, **Scout Dike** and **Sharp Lane**.

In the early months very high numbers were in stubble fields at **Thurgory Lane. Lepton**; from 18th to 22nd January numbers were estimated at more than 150, increasing to 200+ by 27th before falling to c.20 on 12th March. Other double figure counts at this time were 30+ near **Deffer Wood** on 6th Jan, c.20 in **Annat Royd Lane** on 12th Jan, c.50 in stubble at **Shepley** on 24th Jan reducing to c.30 in mid April, 15 at **Cawthorne** on 28th Feb and a year's max. of 21 at **Scout Dike** on 6th April.

Towards the year end flocks were fewer and smaller, the only ones of note being c.20 at **Shepley** from early November onwards, and in December 35 at **High Hoyland** on 9th, twelve at **Bradley Hall** on 10th increasing to c.30 by 28th, and 60+ in **Annat Royd Lane** on 23rd.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoenobaenus*

Resident breeder (2) and partial migrant

Approximately sixty pairs/territorial males were located, the majority at considerable altitude, with a concentration also in the lowlying sites in the Calder Valley. One of the successes of the Marsden Moor Survey was the discovery of 28 territories of this species, including twelve in the vicinity of **Wessenden/Wessenden Head Res's** and five in the **March Haigh/Buckstones** area.

Successful breeding occurred at **Buckstones** (three pairs), **Elland GPs**, **Dewsbury SF** (three fledged young being fed on 3rd June) and **Colnebridge SP** (two pairs). An interesting observation at this last site was of an adult male and a first summer male feeding young in the same nest (DS).

Elsewhere at least six territories were occupied at **Scout Dike Res**, a minimum of four pairs in the **Horbury** area, three pairs between **Deanhead Res** and **Scammonden Water**, three nesting pairs at **Broadstones** (outcome unknown) on 24th May, two occupied territories at both **Blakeley Res** and **Tunnel End Res**, single pairs at **Butterley Res**, **Cupwith** and **Royd Edge Clough**, and singing males at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Deer Hill**, **Millmoor**, **Ox Lee Lane** and **Thornhill**. Other sites where birds were seen in the breeding season were **Bradley Hall**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Oxygrains Beck** and **Royd Moor Res**.

Outside the breeding season the highest numbers reported were 20 near **Ingbirchworth** on 10th and 12th Jan, 20 at **Shepley** on 4th Feb, six at **Deer Hill** on 27th Feb, 12 near **Broadstones** on 18th July, 15 at **Ringstone Edge** on 21st Oct, seven at **Dewsbury SF** on 22nd Oct and ten plus at **Scammonden** on 16th Nov. All these numbers however were eclipsed by a count of 56 at **Baitings** on 1st Nov.

One that appeared at **Harden** on 15th March was the first migrant of the year there.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Rare visitor, formerly a common breeder

One discovered in **Thurgory Lane, Lepton** in a large mixed flock of Skylarks and Yellowhammers on 18th Feb was the first in the club area since 2000 and only the second since 1997. It remained until 27th Feb. A second bird was suspected but remained unconfirmed (BA,DHP,PDB).

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

A juvenile on Winscar Res on 12th Dec (MC).

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

A male at **Elland GPs** from 24th March to 30th April (HBC).

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

The male from 2002 was again at **Elland GPs** on 24th April and 6th Sept (HBC).

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

A bird calling at **Butterley** on 17th April was probably this species (JMP).

Reeves' Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Adult male near **Crossley's Plantation** on 18th Dec (JED).

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

One fed on the track through the **Cawthorne Park** woodlands on 3rd June (PB).

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF SUMMER/WINTER MIGRANTS 2003

SUMMER	FIRST	LOCALITY	LAST	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	22/3	Dewsbury SF	7/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Sandpiper	13/4	Elland GPs	26/9	Scammonden
Common Tern	18/4	Elland GPs	30/9	Booth Wood Res
Cuckoo	23/4	Chew Valley	2/8	Winscar
Swift	24/4	Elland GPs	21/9	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	15/3	Elland GPs	11/9	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	3/4	New Mill	16/10	Bradley Park GC
House Martin	12/4	Brighouse	26/10	Colnebridge SP
Tree Pipit	3/5	Deer Hill	7/9	Langsett
Yellow Wagtail	27/4	Scout Dike	2/10	Black Moor
Common Redstart	23/4	Little Don Valley	9/9	Blackmoorfoot
Whinchat	17/4	Deer Hill	24/9	Deer Hill
Northern Wheatear	21/3	Deer Hill/Digley	3/10	Denby Dale
Ring Ouzel	23/3	Digley	26/8	Wessenden Lodge
Grasshopper Warbler	17/4	Scout Dike	19/7	Elland GPs
Sedge Warbler	21/4	Elland GPs	27/8	Colnebridge SP
Reed Warbler	3/5	Horbury Wyke	2/9	Elland GPs
Lesser Whitethroat	22/4	Shelley	early 9	Shelley
Common Whitethroat	16/4	Royd Moor/Elland GPs	9/9	Dewsbury SF
Garden Warbler	21/4	Elland GPs	4/8	Elland GPs
Blackcap	31/3	Denby Dale/Elland GPs	15/10	Scout Dike
Wood Warbler	10/5	Marsden	14/5	Marsden
Chiffchaff	13/3	Thornhill	11/9	Scout Dike
Willow Warbler	24/3	Colnebridge SP	21/9	Blakeley Res
Spotted Flycatcher	15/5	Cliff Wood, Langsett	21/9	Wessenden Lodge
Pied Flycatcher	7/5	Carr Wood	5/6	Cliff Wood

WINTER	LAST	LOCALITY	FIRST	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	30/4	Winscar Res	20/9	Blackmoorfoot
Goldeneye	5/5	Blackmoorfoot	11/10	Blackmoorfoot
Waxwing	22/4	Fixby	6/12	Hudds Sports Cent.
Fieldfare	1/5	Holmfirth	26/8	Baitings
Redwing	15/4	Helme	1/10	Denby Dale
Brambling	27/4	Blackmoorfoot	26/9	Bradley Park GC

* denotes latest ever record

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS
(with apologies for any omissions)

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Organisations:

Birdguides

Bird Line NorthEast (BLNE)

Greater Manchester Ornithological Society (GMOS)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

In Focus, Denby Dale

RSPB Denby Dale Office

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON JACKDAWS AND ROOKS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2003

There has been a long-established daily movement of Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) and Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) over Blackmoorfoot, roughly NW in the morning and SE in the evening (noted for example in the report on Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1959-1973). It had been suggested that the winter roost sites for these birds might coincide with the known Rook nesting woods to the east and south-east of the reservoir, such as those at Berry Brow or Honley. I speculated, without any evidence, that the roost may be in one of the large woods to the east of the reservoir, an obvious candidate being Honley Wood. Here is an account of an attempt to trace the route of these birds.

Only moderate numbers of birds are involved at Blackmoorfoot, a few hundred at most, but it will be seen that they join up with others to engage in an impressive ornithological spectacle that goes on largely unobserved.

In the past, as noted in the Blackmoorfoot reports of 1959-73 and 1974-84, it appears that Rooks were in the majority. Now, from casual observations, it appears that Jackdaws exceed Rooks in the Blackmoorfoot area, both feeding in the surrounding fields and flying over. The same is true at the final roosting destination.

The tracking of the evening flight path from Blackmoorfoot started on 19th December 2002. By standing at the southern end of Crosland Edge after sunset it was seen that while the birds tended to a south-easterly direction over the Blackmoorfoot area, they turned to a more easterly heading and struck out over the Hall Dike Valley. They did indeed fly across to Honley Wood but they did not stop there and instead continued straight over the woods.

The remainder of the flight path had to be tracked in stages because most birds were moving as dusk approached so that they could not be observed over long distances in the failing light. Instead the path had to be pieced together, starting on each occasion from the end of the previous stage.

On 9th January 2003, by standing on Hassocks Lane alongside Honley Wood, it was seen that birds arriving over the woods from the west continued east over Honley village. Birds that were moving late in the day, in the twilight, flew without interruption along this route. Earlier birds sometimes descended to the fields on Honley Moor in the region around Meltham Road. This area appeared to collect some birds from other directions beside the west, as well as being a regular daytime feeding area in its own right. The birds in these fields joined those flying over and moved off to the east.

On 10th January, by standing on Honley Road between Honley and Farnley Tyas, it was seen that the dusk movement over Honley village continued east to take the birds over the Lud Hill and Hall Ing areas, then proceeded over the crest of the hill so as to arrive at the area south of Farnley Tyas.

To track the birds further, several visits were necessary because the flight came to an end somewhere in this area and the birds disappeared from the skies. On 14th and 15th January and 5th February, by touring around the roads south of Farnley Tyas, it was seen that the birds arriving from the west over Thurstonland Road did not continue flying towards a roost site but instead formed a pre-roost gathering in the large open fields on Storthes Hall Moor, around Blagdons. Sometimes the gathering was split into two or more flocks on different

parts of the fields, their numbers continually swelling as more and more birds arrived in the encroaching darkness. Eventually the smaller flocks joined the larger ones in the near-darkness to form one large dense gathering extending over a couple of hundred yards, detectable in the gloom as a chattering, restless mass.

Finally, in the last faint remnants of daylight, they moved to the roost, which was located in Storthes Hall Woods. However, they did not all take flight at the same time, but rather rose from the fields in a continuous stream, forming a broad, diffuse, cackling ribbon stretching west to east across the sky, the leading birds being far over the woods and lost in the darkness while the last birds were still getting up from the ground.

Some measure of the numbers of birds involved was achieved on 14th January when it was found that the early birds had come together in one field by Thurstonland Road and were counted at 3400. During the following fifteen minutes or so 900 were counted arriving overhead from the west and it is possible that others came down to the fields unnoticed from other directions. Also, yet more may have arrived while I drove round to a new location so as to determine the direction of the final move. Hence the total of 4300 birds can be taken as a conservative figure. With such a large number of birds together, it was not feasible to count them individually to determine the separate numbers of Jackdaws and Rooks. Their restless nature and poor light conditions prevented any such detailed reckoning. All that could be achieved was an approximate estimate of their relative abundance. Ideally, more time could have been spent on this, but maybe (like Black-headed and Common Gulls in the gull roost at Blackmoorfoot Res) the proportions change with time according to weather conditions, etc, causing the birds to change their habits, interchange with other roost gatherings, and so on.

Originally I was biased due to a preconceived notion, derived from reports of roosts in past Club reports, that Rooks would be in the majority. However, it soon became apparent that the parties flying in and the flocks on the ground were composed mostly of Jackdaws. My estimates for the proportion of Jackdaws in this particular roost gathering on Storthes Hall Moor varied from 75% upwards. Hence, to obtain counts of the two species, while erring on the side of caution, I have taken roughly 75% Jackdaws and 15% Rooks, the remainder being to cover possible error. The numbers this gives in a total of 4300 birds are approximately 3200 Jackdaws, 600 Rooks, 500 margin of error.

By 15th February (when it was observed that Rooks had started visiting their rookeries at Honley, etc) it appeared that the Storthes Hall roost had started to disperse and the numbers were down to about 2400, probably over 90% (2100+) of which were Jackdaws.

I think it is highly likely that this winter roost of Jackdaws and Rooks in Storthes Hall Woods and its pre-roost gathering has been in existence for decades. I remember seeing a daytime flock of 3000 corvids on Storthes Hall Moor in November 1971 (which at that time comprised mostly Rooks). If this long-time existence has indeed been the case, why has the roost not been reported and counted many times before? This can perhaps be explained by the following features of the roost.

By and large, the birds are unobtrusive because those flying towards the gathering are in parties of unremarkable size. There are few vantage points for the casual observer on the roads around Storthes Hall Moor to see the final gathering of thousands of birds, which mostly stay on the ground, sometimes part hidden by walls and undulations in the fields. The birds in the gathering only reach their full numbers late in the day, as dusk is falling. The

final push to the roost woodlands, when the sky becomes filled with calling birds, takes place in virtual darkness.

Paul Bray

March 2003.

TWITE AT DEER HILL IN 2003

In spite of being only a “little brown job”, the Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) is probably our most important breeding species from a conservation point of view. It has been a Red Data List species from the beginning, having declined dramatically in the last quarter of the twentieth century. The South Pennines are near the southern border of its breeding range in England, where a population of between 200 and 400 pairs was estimated to exist in 1995 (Brown et al). A more recent estimate suggests a breeding population of fewer than 250 pairs.

Within the Huddersfield recording area, field work carried out between 1987 and 1992 for the Atlas of Breeding Birds revealed a total of 58 tetrads (2 X 2 km squares) in which birds were present, breeding being confirmed in 22 of these and considered probable in a further 32. In 2003 birds were found in the breeding season at only eight sites and confirmation of nesting obtained at just four of these. Clearly there is an abundance of suitable breeding habitat within the area, so the reasons for the decline must be sought elsewhere; it is suggested that the major reason is the loss of hay meadows and early cutting of meadows for silage leading to a lack of seeds for adults to feed to young during and subsequent to the breeding season.

In response to this, the RSPB has instigated a programme of providing food in the form of small seed in areas where the species is known still to occur, and one of the sites chosen is at Deer Hill, where several pairs still breed.

A flock of fifteen birds was first located on 17th March near the reservoir and seeding begun. On 23rd March at least 21 birds were counted, but probably many more were in the area as there was much coming and going, mixed with large numbers of Linnets (up to 40 at any one time). By 31st March the first individuals (five) had been attracted to the feeding site. Numbers increased in April, with 14 present on 11th, 17 on 13th, and on 20th a mixed Twite/Linnet flock of a hundred birds had amassed. At least thirty Twite were present on 21st and a colour-ringed individual first seen on 15th was present also on 17th, 20th and 21st, with a second colour-ringed bird on one date at least.

Good numbers were present throughout May and there was a significant presence of Twite in the general area, though not always at the feeding site, for example c.20 were feeding on dandelion heads on 17th May.

From June to September birds were well dispersed, but feeding on Sheep's Sorrel and heads of Creeping Thistle with few at the feeding station. The first fledged young (three) were noted on 27th July being fed by adults on thistle heads near the feeding site. A flock of thirty was present on 14th August and by 17th at least eighty Twite were in the Deer Hill area feeding mainly still on thistle heads and wind-blown seed clocks on the ground. They were in two main flocks with additional ones and twos calling overhead and probably numbered about a hundred in total. Sixty were still present on 31st August.

Birds were even more dispersed in September, with none at the feeding station on 7th, although Linnets were still finding this source welcome. On 21st September twenty Twite were at the top of Deer Hill Moss.

Towards the end of the year the effectiveness of the feeding scheme was well demonstrated with double figures remaining into December. On 19th October a flock of eighteen contained

two colour-ringed individuals, a mixed flock of Linnets and Twite, mainly the former, was seen on 20th, a colour-ringed bird was also identified on 24th and a flock of eighteen remained at the feeding station on 29th. In November up to twenty birds on 30th included six which had been ringed at Blackstone Edge, and in December nineteen were at the feeding site on 5th, ten on 19th and nine on 30th, of which eight remained into 2004, a situation which was unheard of before the introduction of the feeding programme.

Andre Raine, a PhD student at the University of East Anglia, is undertaking a study of the species in order to understand more precisely the reasons behind its decline both as a breeding species and in its traditional wintering grounds on the coast. Part of his work has been the instigation of a colour-ringing scheme at breeding sites in the South Pennines in both West Yorkshire and Lancashire. Colour-ringed birds at Deer Hill had the following origins:-

Deer Hill, several dates in April – at least two different birds, male and female,
ringed near Burnley in winter 2002/2003.

“ “ 19th Oct – two ringed at Blackstone Edge in winter 2002/2003.

“ “ 24th Oct – one ringed as a nestling at Lumbutts in 2003.

“ “ 30th Nov – six ringed at Blackstone Edge in winter 2002/2003.

I am most grateful to Dave Pogson for providing the data used to produce this short paper, and for his dedication in replenishing the stores at the feeding station throughout the year, often in very inclement weather; also to Tim Melling of the RSPB and Andre Raine for details of colour-ringed birds.

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Brian Armitage

MARSDEN MOOR NATIONAL TRUST ESTATE – SURVEY OF CLOUGH- BREEDING BIRDS JUNE 2003

In 2003, the Club was approached by the RSPB, on behalf of itself, English Nature (EN) and the National Trust (NT) to undertake a survey on the NT's Marsden Moor Estate, which lies in the west of the Club area, adjoining the Lancashire border. The aim was to plot the numbers and distribution of the breeding birds associated with the cloughs and sloping land on the estate.

The background to the request was concern by the RSPB and others about plans to extend tree planting in moorland cloughs and on slopes on the estate. This could destroy the breeding habitat of several important moorland fringe species, including three (Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* and Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*) that are 'Red-listed', the highest warning category in UK Birds of Conservation Concern. The RSPB, EN and NT were able to agree that the basis for any debate should be hard data about the nature and location of breeding birds. Hence this survey, which Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club was pleased to be asked to undertake. The Club certainly wishes to encourage selective tree planting in appropriate locations, but is also keen to ensure that this does not threaten other important habitat for bird species. This was an excellent opportunity to involve closely with these influential organisations and, conversely, the approach itself a compliment to the Club. The RSPB, EN and NT provided funding for the work, which has benefited our finances.

Brian Armitage organised and wrote up the survey, co-opting a team of nine volunteer surveyors – Peter Bell, Paul Bray, John Dale, Gary Pearson, David Pennington, Mike Pinder, Dave Pogson, Michael Rayner and Mike Wainman. A huge vote of thanks therefore to these nine and especially to Brian, who also did fieldwork.

Twelve survey areas were chosen and the theory was that each should receive two extended visits during June. In practice some of the areas were so large and had so much relevant habitat that up to six visits were necessary. Five key species (Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, Ring Ouzel, Twite and Reed Bunting) were targeted, but all other species were also recorded. All five key species were plotted onto maps, tying them into particular locations and habitats, and information about sexing, age and evidence of breeding activity noted.

The twelve areas were Buckstones/March Haigh, Hard Head Clough, Dan Clough, Haigh Clough, Green Owlers/Redbrook Clough, Pule Hill West, Holme Moor East, Binn Edge, Butterley/Carr Cloughs, Blakeley Clough, Wessenden East, Wessenden West, all important moorland cloughs in the South Pennines.

Of the key species, a total of 82 territories were located, comprising 25 Whinchat, 9 Stonechat, 1 Ring Ouzel, 19 Twite and 28 Reed Bunting. Apart from Reed Bunting, all were almost exclusively located in bracken beds.

Three of the sites, Buckstones/March Haigh, Wessenden East and Wessenden West, accounted for 69% of the territories, including 84% of Twite territories. One survey area alone, Wessenden West, contained 1/3rd of the total territories.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*: 25 territories were found, almost all in larger, more open sites with less steep slopes, either south-facing or open to the south. The Marsden Moor Estate is

undoubtedly a key area for Whinchat, not only in the Huddersfield area, but also in a South Pennine context.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*: historically, this species has always been regarded as a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to the Huddersfield area. There was an upsurge in the 1970s, when pairs bred at up to five sites, but a decline thereafter until the 1990s when large influxes began to occur in autumn. In the Marsden Moor area a pair bred in 1999, at least two pairs in 2000 and 2001 and a minimum of three pairs in 2002. Therefore, the discovery of nine territories in June 2003 was unprecedented, but probably influenced by the intensive coverage of the estate, and one of the most significant findings of the survey. All were associated with areas of bracken and there is much suitable habitat that the birds could colonise in the future.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*: has suffered a catastrophic decline in the area, particularly since the mid-1990s. It was added to the 'Red List' nationally after a 50% decline in numbers over the last 25 years. The area surveyed supported at least four singing males in 1998, breeding was confirmed in 1999, just a single sighting in 2000, at least one breeding pair and three additional singing males in 2001 and two breeding pairs in 2002. However, this more complete coverage of the estate in 2003 produced only a single record of a female in the Wessenden valley. It is possible that the timing of the survey contributed to the lack of records, but unlikely as previous breeding records had extended into July.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*: This species has been included on the 'Red List' since its inception and, from a conservation point of view, is the most important and significant of the species targeted in this survey. Fewer than 250 pairs of Twite breed in England and, with the exception of a site in Derbyshire, the Marsden Moor Estate is at the very southern limit of the species' range, other populations further south having become extinct within the last 20 years.

The importance of the discovery of 19 breeding territorial pairs in the survey area cannot therefore be overemphasised. There is abundant suitable breeding habitat which could be occupied; the problem is that the hay meadows containing sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and other plants on which the species feeds, within reach of the breeding grounds, are fast disappearing.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*: with 28 territories, this was the most numerous of the key species in the survey. It was found in all but three of the survey areas, which three also held none of the other key species. It was not associated exclusively with bracken, but occurred also in areas where rush (*juncus*) predominated or where rush overlapped with bracken. Watercourses were always in fairly close proximity to territories, which tended to be damper than those of other species. The species is 'Red Listed' in the UK, but obviously on the Marsden Moor Estate is doing well.

In addition to the key targeted species, territories were also recorded for Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (2 territories), Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* (2), Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (9), Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* (3), Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (5) and Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (4). Dipper were notable by their absence from the upper Wessenden valley, where traditional territories were adversely affected by particularly low water levels in the reservoirs, their outflows and streams feeding them.

It is clear from the survey that the bracken beds of the cloughs and sloping land of the Marsden Moor Estate are regionally important valuable breeding habitat for a variety of bird species, notably Twite, Whinchat and Stonechat and, to a lesser extent Reed Bunting. The populations of Twite in particular rank in not only regional, but also national importance. A longer-term analysis of Club records would add Ring Ouzel to this list, with 2003 a notably low year.

The most threatened and regionally and nationally significant of these species, Twite, seems to show a preference for large, continuous areas of bracken and it is imperative that these be preserved

A relatively small amount of planting of native species of deciduous trees has taken place, but will alter the character of the cloughs if they survive to maturity. The locations of any further plantings needs to be considered carefully, if they are not to affect the numbers and distribution of these threatened key species.

This survey has provided detailed hard evidence on which the debate about the impact of tree planting on the Marsden Moor Estate can take place on an informed basis. It is to be hoped that those involved will take note.

References: Brian Armitage, *Marsden Moor National Trust Estate Clough Breeding Bird Survey June 2005*, Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club.

Mike Wainman

HOW OTHERS SEE US – EXPERT OPINIONS OF OUR ANNUAL REPORTS

After all the hard work and dedication that goes into writing and publishing these annual reports, it takes a cool nerve to subject them to ‘professional’ external assessment. Yet that is exactly what our Recorder Brian Armitage has done, submitting the 2001 and 2002 reports to *Birdwatch* magazine, which both publicises and gives a critique of reports, and the 2002 report to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)’s Best Annual Bird Report Award competition. What then have these organisations made of Birds in Huddersfield? Has the process helped in our development of the reports?

Birdwatch’s thought our 2001 report was “an interesting read, from the species encountered during the year to (the then President) Malcolm Charnock’s birding reminiscences”. Stuart Brocklehurst’s line drawings were “delightful, capturing jizz very well”. However, presentation “was not the most polished” and it was suggested that more tables or better spacing and layout and use of headers would break the ‘samey’ text and make it more pleasing on the eye. These comments, of course, took no account of the circumstances in which the report was produced, nor indeed could they do so. Members will recall that in 2002/3, the Club was going through a somewhat ‘thin’ time financially and that we were fortunate to have the support of a local direct mail company, Propack Ltd., in printing the 2001 report for only a token payment, after our previous favourable arrangement with a local printer had been withdrawn.

So how did we feel about *Birdwatch*’s critique? Both Brian and I felt that it was fair comment. The format of the report had remained essentially unchanged for some years, whilst the presentation of some other club’s reports had undoubtedly moved on. There was room for development in both presentation and printing – provided of course that we could afford it! We knew that we faced the problem of finding a new printer and paying considerably more than hitherto. The good news was the strong endorsement for the substance of the report and of Stuart’s talent in bringing it to life with his illustrations.

Regular readers will recall that for our 2002 report we addressed directly the presentation and printing issues. Considerable attention was paid to clear headings, layout, improved mapping of the Club area and better quality cover, paper and printing. The report had also grown in content over recent years, making stapling impractical, so we moved to a spiral wire binding. All this of course cost money. Fortunately, we were able to forge a good relationship with Kirklees MC’s Reproduction Unit, who did an excellent print job, and the improving financial position of the Club, as benefits flowed from our registration as a charity, made this possible. Brian again did a fine job in writing the report, with more atmospheric drawings from Stuart. That at least was our view, but did others agree?

Birdwatch magazine’s opinion of the 2002 report was curiously mixed. There was little comment on the substance of the report, nor on the presentation, indeed, we wondered if they had actually read it. We took it that no news was good news on these fronts. They did suggest that the report would benefit from more articles, a view we accept. Stuart Brocklehurst’s drawings again came in for favourable comment, but it was felt that their small size on the page did not do them justice. With the benefit of hindsight, I have to agree and can only apologise to Stuart and hope that in this the 2003 report he and our readers feel that we have shown his work to better effect.

The Best Annual Bird Report Award is, as the title implies, an annual competition run by the BTO to recognise and to encourage standards in bird reports, in two categories, county and

local. Our 2002 report was entered in the local category and achieved equal 4th place, with a score of 34 out of a possible 53. The winners were Sheffield (44 points), East Lancashire (43) and Paxton Pits (35). The BTO record that the overall standard of reports submitted was very high and improving each year. In this context, a 4th place, just one point off 3rd, is an achievement of which we can be proud. It also suggests that there remains scope for further improvement – but how?

Brian wrote to the BTO for more information about the scoring method. Whilst the system is complex and we do not have the benefit of the judges' reasoning, which must necessarily be partially subjective, some valuable pointers were obtained. Brian and I both felt that the scoring method was generally fair and reflected well the BTO's aim of promoting excellence. Their assessment of Huddersfield's report can best be summarised as follows:

'Technical' requirements (species coverage, migrant tables, rarities and exotics, gazetteer, maps, etc.): full or near full marks.

Systematic list: The true 'meat' of any report and scoring very well (4 out of 5) for both reference value and interest, mirroring the *Birdwatch* view.

Presentation: scoring 2 out of 4 for 'aesthetic value' and 1 out of 2 for cover design. As we do not know the specific reasoning, we can only guess at the rationale. As already noted, we could undoubtedly have made more of Stuart's artwork in the body of the report. Personally, I find the score for the cover design disappointing, as Stuart's pen and ink drawing of the Great Northern Diver was stunning. The BTO have commented that a well thought out and attractive cover, with a well-executed pen and ink drawing, is likely to score as well as one with an expensive full colour photograph. Also, that judges do bear in mind the financial constraints that affect clubs and in this respect Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club is relatively small. Readers will see that in this 2003 report we have retained essentially the same cover format as last year, hopefully doing full justice to Stuart's magnificent portrayal of a Dotterel.

There remains the question of whether we should move to use of colour photographs. Brian and I have discussed this at some length and our view is that it would be very difficult to improve upon Stuart's cover drawings and the way his sketches add to the body of the report. In addition, the 'black & white' theme running through the Club's reports since 1966, gives them a distinct identity that we know appeals to some collectors of the reports. However, there may be scope to include some colour photographs, perhaps on a central page. For this to work, we believe that the pictures would need to be of actual birds seen in the field, in the Club area in the year in question and featured in the text and also of high quality. In addition, there should be a realistic prospect of our receiving sufficient quality images in future years to be able to maintain the format, were we to adopt it. Here we can only appeal to members and other readers to get active locally, ideally with digital photography, and to submit images for consideration. It is an option that we shall examine again for the 2004 report. It would, of course, cost more and need to be reflected in the sale price of the report and in membership fees.

Articles: a score of 1 out of 3, no doubt mirroring *Birdwatch*'s view that we could do more. Hopefully the quality and number of articles in this report will find favour.

BTO local census results: a score of 0 out of 5 here was undoubtedly a setback and one which is difficult to address. Many BTO census projects fall under the Breeding Birds

Survey (BBS), Wetland Birds Survey (WBS) and Constant Effort Site (CES) programmes. We do not have any qualifying wetlands and BBS and CES activity in our area is minimal. It can of course be argued that, as a club, we should be more active on these fronts, leading to more results to be written up. In 2004 and 2005 Club members did participate in the BTO Woodcock and Scarce Woodland Birds surveys. The Club has also been active in non-BTO surveys, as the article on the National Trust Marsden Moor Estate Clough Breeding Birds Survey in this issue shows. Four other surveys can be included in the 2004 and 2005 reports. Hopefully this wider activity will be recognised in future assessments.

Published within 12 months: scoring 2 out of 3. It is commonplace for club reports to be published 2 or 3 years after the end of the birding year in question. In this context our score may be said to be reasonable. However, we fully support the BTO view that ideally reports should come out within 12 months, when they would have greater impact and are more likely to appeal to a wider, non-specialist audience, which is after all one of the aims we set ourselves as charity. This, of course, is easier said than done, given the immensity of the task in analysing the thousands of records, even before the ordeal of putting pen to paper or finger to keyboard. There is also a 'vicious circle' in relation to when observers submit their record, the essential building blocks without which no report can be started. The later the report, the less the incentive for observers to send in records quickly and the later the report and so on.

To enable us to work towards a position in which Huddersfield reports are published within 12 months, we are asking all observers to ensure that all records are submitted no later than 30th April following the relevant reporting year – so for 2005 records this will be 30th April 2006. Observers who send in records 'as they go' are encouraged to continue this helpful practice. Your co-operation in this matter will be very much appreciated.

Brian and I both feel that the Club has benefited from the feedback from submitting the reports for external scrutiny and that it is a valuable discipline. This, the 2003 report will be similarly submitted and we shall await the results with interest.

However, it is not ultimately the BTO's or *Birdwatch* magazine's views that matter, but those of our members and others who buy our reports. The improvements in the 2002 report have helped us to sell substantially more and to have them stocked in local bookshops, RSPB reserves (Old Moor and Fairburn Ings), and local information centres, so perhaps we are doing something right. What we need, however, are your views on this the 2003 report and on the issues discussed above – to Brian Armitage, myself or any committee member please.

Mike Wainman

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES NAMED IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST
(Use O.S.Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Ainley Top	116193	Brown's Edge	195058
Almondbury	170155	Buckstones	010140
Annat Royd Lane	211053	Bullcliff Farm	290156
Appleyards, Golcar	101152	Bullcliff Wood	292152
Armitage Bridge	130135	Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Ashway Gap	023043	Butterley Res.	050103
Aspley	151163	Butternab Wood	122138
Baitings Res.	006188	Cannon Hall	275085
Bank Wood, Emley	263138	Carlecotes	178034
Banks Hall	282066	Carr Wood	180133
Bare Bones Road	144043	Cartworth Moor	138060
Bargate	096147	Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Barkisland	055197	Castle Hill	152141
Bartin	091072	Cawthorne	285080
Beaumont Park	130147	Cawthorne Dike	295089
Belle Royd Farm	228048	Cheesegate Nab	175065
Berry Brow	141138	Chew Hills	023030
Big Valley	130136	Chew Valley	025025
Bilberry Res.	102070	Choppards	142064
Binn Edge	053105	Cinderhills	147075
Bird's Edge	202077	Clayton West	260110
Bird's Nest Lane	187066	Clayton West S.F.	266118
Birkby	140183	Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Birks Moss	056078	Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Black Brook	060177	Clock Face Quarry	044173
Black Hill	078047	Clough Lee	046116
Black Moss	040085	Clough Wood	175114
Blacker Beck	297161	Cockley Hill	188179
Blacker Pit	299164	Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Blacker Wood	240111	Colne Valley	070140
Blackley Tip	102195	Cooper Bridge	166206
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127	Cowcliffe	139187
Blakeley Res.	054096	Coxley Bank	275168
Booth Dam Quarry	018161	Coxley Valley	271165
Boothroyd Wood	183118	Cranberry	247008
Booth Wood Res.	026163	Crimble	085145
Boshaw Whams	151057	Crosland Heath GC	110142
Bradley	165205	Crosland Hill	115145
Bradley Park GC	157207	Crosland Moor	120150
Bradshaw	052144	Crossley's Plantation	125050
Bretton Lakes	280127	Crow Edge	188046
Broadstones Lodge	200065	Cubley	245023
Broadstones Res.	195065	Cupwith Res.	038141
Brookhouse Bridge	198007	Dalton	163162
Brownhill Res.	114050	Dean Clough	080067

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Deanhead Res.	038152	Greenfield Res.	030054
Dean Wood	119134	Greenfield Road	103080
Dearne Dike Lane	195075	Green Gate Road	113080
Dearne Head	185076	Greetland	085215
Deer Hill Res.	070115	Grimescar Valley	130190
Deffer Wood	260090	Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Deighton	167191	Hade Edge	146053
Denby Dale	225084	Hades Green Clough	141052
Dewsbury SF	260198	Haigh	294120
Digley Bottom	115068	Haigh Clough	023127
Digley Res.	107070	Hall Bower	145140
Dogley NR	187137	Hall Dike	115128
Dovestones Res.	018040	Hall Ings Lane	162115
Drop Clough	048133	Harden	153037
Dunford Bridge	158024	Harden Clough	144039
Eastergate, Marsden	029121	Harden Edge	158038
Edge Hill	235016	Harden Moss	100083
Edge Moor	104125	Harden Res.	150037
Elland GPs	125222	Hard Hill	056111
Ellentree Brow	140044	Hartcliff Hill	221017
Elysium Fields	133055	Hazlehead	195028
Emley Moor	225135	Healey Greave Wood	198116
Emley Tx	223130	Healey House	115124
Farnley Tyas	166128	Healey Mills	268193
Farnley Wood	164134	Helme	101118
Featherbed Moss	044067	Hepworth	164066
Fenay Beck	183152	Heyden Moor	092024
Fixby	139196	Hey Green	032122
Flight Hill	153042	Highburton	193133
Flockton	245151	High Hoyland	273102
Flouch Inn	198016	High Wood	290106
Folly Hall	142159	Hill Top Res.	074141
Ford Inn	114084	Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027	Hingcliff Common	194001
Fox Clough	136057	Holmbridge	120068
Fox Clough, Langsett	190006	Holme	108060
Fox House Moss	165042	Holme Moor West	062114
Fullshaw	210012	Holme Styes	136054
Fulstone	175095	Holme Styes Res.	141055
Garside Hey	032133	Holme Woods	105045
Gawthorpe Green	193168	Holmfirth	143082
Gilbert Hill	210007	Holt Head	080123
Gledholt	133170	Honley	138118
Golcar	096160	Honley Moor	116115
Golcar Tip	104156	Horbury Strands	288177
Grain's Moss	125025	Horbury Wyke	297172
Grange Moor	220160	Horn Lane	204060
Great Dovestone Rocks	025038	Houses Hill	199169

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Hoylandswaine	265047	Marsh	125171
Huddersfield	145165	Mathewman Wood	182098
Hullen Edge	100208	Maythorn	196057
Hullock Bank	172075	McAlpine Stadium	155176
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060	Meal Hill	168070
Isle of Skye quarry	088079	Mellor Wood	158144
Issues Clough	082053	Meltham Cop	093120
Issues Road	095061	Meltham Moor	080093
Jackson Bridge	165075	Meltham SF	112115
Jebb Lane	280112	Middlestown	267172
Jenkinson Wood	184116	Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Jubilee Quarries	103128	Millhouse Green	218032
Kaye Lane	160147	Millmoor, Meltham	088107
King's Mill Lane	150161	Milnsbridge	113158
Kirkburton	198128	Molly Carr Wood	160137
Kirkheaton	185185	Morton Wood	158067
Kirkroyds	156091	Myers Wood	188125
Krumlin	056183	Mytholm Bridge	154102
Langsett	212005	Netherthong	139097
Langsett Banks	205003	Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Langsett Res.	210001	Nether End	124081
Law	158047	Nether Moor	117133
Law Slack Ponds	156047	Netherwood	054127
Lepton	193157	Nettleton Hill	094170
Lepton Great Wood	195145	New Hall Wood	270150
Lindley	120182	New House Wood	210082
Lindley Moor	095185	New Mill	164088
Linthwaite	095145	Nont Sarah's	048152
Liphill Brook	129078	Nopper Road	107135
Litherop Lane	273123	Oakes	120174
Little Black Moss Res.	032087	Oldfield	136103
Little Don Valley	195005	Orange Wood	102123
Lockwood	135152	Ossett	280200
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150	Outlane	085180
Longwood	108167	Ox Lee	168055
Lower Cumberworth	223095	Oxygrains Beck	003159
Lower Hopton	202191	Paddock	125161
Lower Maythorn	187056	Park Mill	258118
Lower Stones Wood	187106	Paul Lane	184203
Lower Windleden Res.	157017	Penistone	245033
Lowfields, Elland	117219	Penny Spring Wood	160155
Lumb Lane	160140	Pole Moor	067158
Magdale Dam	135124	Potato Lane	089122
Magdalen Clough	090082	Pule Hill	033104
March Haigh Res.	015130	Ramsden Res.	115055
Margery Wood	275096	Ravensthorpe	222202
Marsden	045115	Ravensthorpe GPs	233202
Marsden Clough	094072	Redbrook Res.	027098

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Reynard Clough	136050	Swinny Knoll	125097
Riding Wood Res.	117050	Taylor Hill	135145
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182	Thornton Lodge	135161
Ripponden	040197	Thorpes	235095
Rishworth	032182	Thongsbridge	151097
Roughbircworth	264016	Thunderbridge	188115
Round Wood	157101	Thurgory	191158
Royd Edge	095097	Thurlestone Moor	175020
Royd House Wood	162133	Thurstonland	165104
Royd Moor Res.	222048	Tinker Hill	163048
Ryburn Res.	020188	Totties	157082
Salendine Nook	105178	Townhead	166028
Salters Brook	137002	T. P. Wood	132166
Sand Ridge Moss	158032	Tunnel End Res.	039120
Sands GPs.	217196	Tup Stones	096018
Sands House	116145	Underbank	144076
Scammonden	050160	Upper Clough	095095
Scissett	248104	Upper Cumberworth	210087
Scout Dike Res.	233049	Upper Denby	238072
Shelley	204113	Upper Greetland	075212
Shelley Woodhouse	218110	Upper Longdendale	095005
Shepley	193098	Upper Stones Wood	185104
Shore Head	148166	Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Silkstone	290059	Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Silkstone SF	295065	Waring Bridge	065131
Skelmanthorpe	233105	Waterloo	177166
Slaithwaite	080140	Way Stones Edge	004142
Slaithwaite Moor	040143	Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Smith Wood	179115	Wessenden Valley	055088
Snafe Res.	117088	West Nab	077088
Snailsden Moor	135035	West Slaithwaite	060132
Snailsden Res.	135040	West Wood, Honley	151123
Snittle Road	149050	Wetshaw Edge	147032
Snowgate Head	179085	Whitegate Lane	128055
South Crosland	115126	Whitley Common	192056
Sparth Res.	055125	Whitley Willows	196166
Spicer House Lane	205055	Wholestone Moor	077167
Spring Wood	130124	Will's o' Nats's	090121
Square Wood Res.	217078	Wilshaw	118100
Squirrel Ditch	152154	Windle Edge	152017
Stainland	077194	Windleden Edge	142010
Standedge	016098	Windmill Lane	195072
Stockmoor Common	275152	Windybank Wood	112104
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158	Winscar Res.	150025
Storthes Hall Moor	173128	Wolfstones	124092
Storthes Hall Woods	183118	Woodhead Res.	095002
Stubbin Clough	124072	Wood Nook	122106
Swinden Plantation	190002	Woodsome Lees	186134

Location	Grid ref.	Location	Grid ref.
Woodsome Road	185146	Yateholme	115050
Wood Top	046113	Yeoman Hey	033050
Wooldale	155090		

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION OR ACCOUNT

Divers - all	Phalaropes - all
Red-necked Grebe	Skuas - all
Black-necked Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Slavonian Grebe	Yellow-legged Gull
Fulmar	Iceland Gull
Shearwaters and Petrels - all	Glaucous Gull
Gannet	Terns - all except Common
Shag	Auks – all
Bittern	Barn Owl
White-fronted Goose	Hoopoe
Brent Goose	Wryneck
Garganey	Woodlark
Red-crested Pochard	Shorelark
Eider Duck	Rock Pipit
Long-tailed Duck	Water Pipit
Velvet Scoter	Nightingale
Harriers - all	Bluethroat
Goshawk	Black Redstart
Osprey	Yellow-browed Warbler
Hobby	Firecrest
Avocet	Marsh Tit
Dotterel	Shrikes – all
Little Stint	Hooded Crow
Curlew Sandpiper	Raven (lowlands)
Purple Sandpiper	Lapland Bunting
Wood Sandpiper	Snow Bunting

Reports of the above species, in addition to all British Birds Rarities and YNU species (see next page) requiring a description, must be supported by a description or account and should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation. For some of the more frequently occurring species an account of the occurrence will be sufficient.

Inexperienced observers may like to contact one of the Records Sub-committee at the time of the sighting to obtain help if they are confronted with a “mystery” bird:

Brian Armitage	Tel. 01484 305054
Mick Cunninham	Tel. 01484 680409
John Dale	Tel. 01844 652453

Details may also be requested of unseasonal records and well-defined races.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

LIST OF SPECIES REQUIRING A DESCRIPTION

Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Great Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Balearic Shearwater	Black Guillemot
Storm Petrel	Bee-Eater
Leach's Petrel	Short-toed Lark
Little Egret	Richard's Pipit
Purple Heron	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose (including race)	Cetti's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Savi's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Surf Scoter	Marsh Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Spotted Crake	Pallas's Warbler
Corncrake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Common Crane	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Serin
Temminck's Stint	Common Rosefinch
Pectoral Sandpiper	Cirl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Little Bunting

Plus all *British Birds* Rarities and all Escapes

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST

A checklist in Systematic Order of the 263 wild species that have been accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the time of going to press (August 2005).

Additional distinct races that have been recorded are shown unnumbered below the nominate race of the relevant species.

For those species that have been recorded once or twice only or are new since 2003, the year(s) in which the birds appeared are listed. New species to the list since 2003, both in 2005, are White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

* indicates that the British Ornithological Union (BOU) have not yet admitted this as a separate species (as for Yellow-legged Gull *Larus argentatus michahellis*).

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
1	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
2	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	
3	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
5	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
6	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	
7	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	
8	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
9	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	
10	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	
11	European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	
12	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	
13	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	
14	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
15	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	
16	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
18	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
20	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	
21	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	
22	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	
23	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
24	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	
25	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996
26	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	
27	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	
28	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	
29	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
30	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	
31	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	
32	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	
33	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
34	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	
35	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
36	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002
37	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
38	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
39	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002
40	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
41	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
42	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	
43	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
44	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
45	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	
46	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
47	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	
48	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985
49	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	
50	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
51	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	
52	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
53	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	
54	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
55	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	
56	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
57	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	
58	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	
59	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005
60	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	
61	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	
62	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	
63	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	
64	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	
65	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
66	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	
67	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982
68	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
69	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
70	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994
71	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
72	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
73	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
74	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
75	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	
76	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	
77	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	
78	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
79	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	
80	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
81	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	
82	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874
83	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	
84	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
85	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
86	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	
87	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005
88	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
89	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	
90	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
91	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
92	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	
93	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	
94	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
95	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
96	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
97	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
98	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
99	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	
100	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990
101	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	
102	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	
103	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
104	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	
105	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
106	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	
107	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
108	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	
109	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	
110	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
111	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
112	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
113	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
114	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
115	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
116	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
117	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
118	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
119	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
120	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
121	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1983, 1990
122	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
123	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978
124	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985
125	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	
126	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	
127	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	
128	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988
129	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992
130	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	
131	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	
132	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>	
133	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	
134	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	
135	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
136	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	
137	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>	
138	Yellow-legged Gull*	<i>Larus argentatus michahellis</i>	
	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus argentatus cachinnans</i>	2002
139	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	
140	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	
141	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	
142	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
143	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
144	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
145	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	
146	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	
147	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
148	White-winged (Black) Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998
149	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964
150	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	
151	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	
152	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	
153	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888
154	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)	
155	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
156	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
157	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
158	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	
159	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
160	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	
161	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
162	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	
163	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	
164	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
165	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	
166	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
167	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	
168	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
169	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968
170	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
171	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	
172	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	
173	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
174	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	
175	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947
176	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
177	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000
178	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
179	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
180	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	1989
181	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
182	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
183	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	
184	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	
185	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>	
186	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	
187	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
188	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	
189	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
190	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	
191	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	
192	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
193	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	
194	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	
195	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
196	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
197	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
198	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
199	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	
200	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	
201	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
202	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	
203	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
204	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
205	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
206	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	
207	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
208	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
209	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	
210	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
211	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
212	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
213	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977
214	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985
215	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	
216	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000
217	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
218	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	
219	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	
220	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
221	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	
222	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
223	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	
224	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	
225	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	
226	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	
227	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	
228	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	
229	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
230	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	
231	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	
232	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
233	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
234	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
235	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
236	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
237	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	
238	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
239	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
240	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	1859
241	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
242	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
243	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
244	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	
245	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	

	Common name	Scientific name	Year
246	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
247	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	
248	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
249	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	
250	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	
251	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	
252	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	
253	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983
254	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	
255	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	
256	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	
257	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	
258	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
259	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	
260	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999
261	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	
262	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998
263	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	

NOTES

NOTES

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Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club : Boundaries of Club Area

