

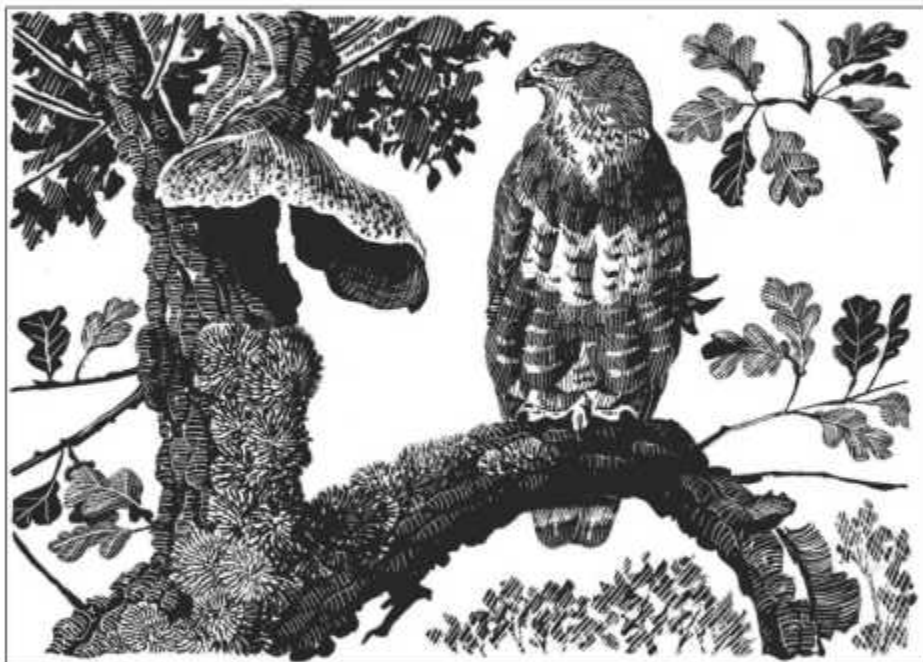


Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

Birds in Huddersfield

2006



Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Russ Boland

'**Birds in Huddersfield 2006**' is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of such reports produced annually by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and a number of systematic surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Front cover: **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* by Stuart Brocklehurst.

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2006

written by
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published by
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club
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by

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Stuart Brocklehurst is a wildlife artist and you can see more of his work on his web site:
www.wildlifewithpenandbrush.blogspot.com

FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

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

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

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Club Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering over 40 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological research and "*Birds in Huddersfield 2006*" is the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off works, including in 2001 an "*Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area*", in 2004 "*Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003*" and in 2008 a major new work "*The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*".

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

Our publications are to be found in the Huddersfield Public Library, go to many regional and national ornithological and wildlife conservation bodies and are on sale in local bookshops and regional RSPB reserves.

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

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

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

Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simply contact any member of the Committee (inside rear cover) or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk

2006: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 165 species were reliably reported in the club area in 2006. Although there were no additions to the Huddersfield List, in a year with the lowest annual total since 1997, as is usual unfamiliar species did make their first appearances for many years.

The year opened with an excellent count of 75 Yellowhammers roosting at Kirkheaton, 800 Fieldfare at Ingbirchworth and up to 25 Crossbills frequenting the Langsett/Little Don Valley area. More passerine interest came in the form of the ever-popular Waxwings, albeit not in the numbers of the last two winters, with up to 28 searching out berries at various urban locations. The oft-anticipated movement of Pink-footed Geese peaked on the 22nd, and proved no less spectacular, as over 3000 birds passed over in the sunny, crisp conditions, with four-figure counts logged at Blackmoorfoot and Scout Dike. The 15 Whooper Swans that visited Winscar perhaps also found these conditions suited travel. Two Mediterranean Gulls roosted among thousands of their commoner cousins at Blackmoorfoot. Undisputed highlight of the month, though, was the Huddersfield area's first Woodlark of modern times. Its site of choice was Dewsbury Sewage Farm and it offered excellent views only to its diligent finder.

The main focus for local birders in February was the High Hoyland finch-fest. Sizeable fields of game crop hosted hundreds of finches, and amongst the commoner species up to 15 rarer Mealy (Common) Redpolls could be found. The Lindley Moor Firecrest delighted its observer on at least two dates and Dewsbury Sewage Farm consolidated its position as the area's prime Water Pipit site with one, perhaps two birds, keeping up to three Green Sandpipers company. Waxwing numbers increased to a maximum of 65 near the town centre by 23rd, while up to 60 Wigeon at Broadstones and the occasional Mediterranean Gull and Red-breasted Merganser at Blackmoorfoot kept things interesting on the uplands.

In March, a single Water Pipit lingered at Dewsbury Sewage works and 35 Waxwings at Cowcliffe on 6th were the last of the winter, whilst the only Whooper Swans reported paused at Langsett on 14th. Several sites were now enlivened by the colour and noise of Oystercatchers, with Curlews also beginning to proclaim their upland territories. The first Little-ringed Plover touched down at Dewsbury mid-month, leading the way for Chiffchaff, Wheatear, Sand Martin, Swallow and Willow Warbler before the month ended. Although a familiar species, the 2000 Starlings at Flouch late month must have been an impressive gathering.

As spring migration kicked in to gear in early April a Common Scoter visited Blackmoorfoot, an Osprey passed over Buckstones and a fine male Hen Harrier was seen at Long Moor. Ravens appeared at several upland sites while White Wagtails paused at Blackmoorfoot and Scout Dike. With good fortune necessary, this is the best time to catch up with Red Kite, and one duly obliged the chosen few at Broadstones and Blackmoorfoot on 12th. Ingbirchworth hosted the year's only Kittiwake mid-month and, as more of our regular summer visitors arrived, an early Hobby spent a few moments at Colnebridge on 21st. Once again good numbers of Twite visited Deer Hill.

May began with a late Whooper Swan at Baitings Res. and Scout Dike, and further White Wagtails were found at Ringstone Edge and Scammonden, while Deanhead hosted a singing Grasshopper Warbler. As the month progressed three singing Wood Warblers were very welcome, considering this species' serious recent decline, and it was also pleasing to see, and hear, several Lesser Whitethroats. Among a couple of Whimbrel, several Dunlin and Ringed Plovers, the party of five Turnstones which stopped off at Ringstone Edge was the wader highlight of the month.

In June, as birds settled down to breed, what is generally a very quiet month migration-wise provided several good local birds. A Quail called (and showed!) at Blackmoorfoot early month, a rather weary looking Osprey found brief respite at Deer Hill and three Black Terns stopped off at Ingbirchworth Res. Ringstone Edge pulled in a nice Arctic wader 'double act' with Grey Plover and Sanderling. A Ruddy Duck also ventured to the latter site and Hobbies were seen at Blackmoorfoot, Bretton and Deer Hill. It would have been interesting to know where the 33 Greylag Geese that passed over Fixby ended up.

In the breeding season, again, there were mixed fortunes for both residents and summer visitors. Of our raptors, Common Buzzard increased its foothold as a breeding species, and it was pleasing to report success, albeit limited, for Merlin and Peregrine. Long- and Short-eared Owls also enjoyed some success. Wader-wise it was a good year for Common Sandpiper, a slightly better year for Little Ringed Plover, but we may have lost Dunlin and Redshank as breeders. Of the migrant breeders, with the information at hand, reports suggest a better year for Redstart, Ring Ousel and Spotted Flycatcher, and it seemed to be 'business as usual' for Yellow Wagtail and Whinchat. Pied Flycatcher hangs on but Tree Pipit urgently needs our attention. The numbers of breeding Twite gave cause for some optimism. Of our residents, Yellowhammer, too, is a species that warrants an effort to ascertain its true status.

July brought a Hobby to Crosland Moor plus 4 Common Scoter and a Ruddy Duck to Blackmoorfoot. Return wader passage had begun with the pulling power of Ringstone Edge producing up to 4 Black-tailed Godwits and a Knot; an early Greenshank and up to 12 Ringed Plovers were at Dewsbury mid-month, and Green Sandpipers were logged at Cupwith and Scout Dike.

August began with Blackmoorfoot producing another Common Scoter and the year's only Arctic Tern. A juvenile Mediterranean Gull was a good find at Ingbirchworth mid-month; it was later re-located late-month at Royd Moor Res., along with 3 Common Scoters, when a Hobby also whizzed over Shelley.

September arrived and autumn migration was beginning to pick up pace. Wader passage did have variety, if not the numbers, and included single Knot and Sanderling, two Black-tailed Godwits, a couple of Whimbrel, and at least 6 Greenshank, with added quality coming in the form of a Wood Sandpiper at Dewsbury Sewage Farm and a Spotted Redshank at Scout Dike. With lots of birds on the move around mid-month, birding was rather good. Leading the way was Blackmoorfoot's first, and the club area's third-ever, Common Eider, with 10 Black Terns thrown in for good measure a couple of days later. Elsewhere, Common Scoters were found at Ingbirchworth and Langsett, Red Kites no doubt thrilled observers at Elland Gravel Pits and Snailsden, and a Marsh Harrier flew in to roost at Deer Hill.

The first winter visitors were picked up during the first week of October - skeins of Pink-footed Geese over Blackmoorfoot and Fixby heralding the onset of colder conditions. A Grey Plover which passed through Blackmoorfoot was an excellent site record, and Redwings began to arrive in force from mid-month, followed by a record movement of Pink-feet late on the 20th. A significant movement of Skylarks added interest on the passerine front, though not as much as the Rock Pipit at Royd Moor on 18th. Star bird was the brief Velvet Scoter at Blackmoorfoot on 21st, part two of an amazing sea duck 'treble' here.

Cold weather in early November sparked off a movement of Fieldfare and Brambling, and was no doubt responsible for the appearance of Blackmoorfoot's second Eider of the year - this time it was an adult male which found the site to its liking. A late Ring Ousel was found at Royd Edge

Clough, followed by the year's only Bar-tailed Godwit - a nice surprise at Ingbirchworth on 18th. A solitary Waxwing was back at Cowcliffe late month, though only for one day.

In December, 500 Fieldfare were at Scammonden early month and good counts of Golden Plover and Brambling were made in the Ingbirchworth area. A flock of some 60 Black-tailed Godwits at Elland GPs on 10th was truly exceptional, while 60 Goosander here were equally impressive, even if much more expected. Blackmoorfoot and Bretton also hosted good counts of this saw bill. The year closed with a flock of 60 Linnets visiting game crop at Deffer Wood and the welcome sight of 50 Yellowhammers at Shelley.

Russ Boland

THE WEATHER IN 2006

The year started dull, mild and wet for the first three weeks, remaining dull but much cooler for the next four weeks, until the last week of February, which was the coldest of the year. Night-time temperatures in the first week of March dropped as low as minus 11C resulting in frozen waters and some snow. Milder conditions then prevailed for a couple of weeks before high pressure again dominated and freezing conditions on 22nd March saw Blackmoorfoot Res 70% frozen. Warmer weather then pushed in from the southwest in the last week of the month.

Cool northerlies dominated the first half of April, proving a barrier to the arrival of summer visitors and the second half of the month remained unsettled. Warmer conditions in May were accompanied by heavy rain in the second half of the month. June lived up to its "flaming" character, starting with high pressure and hot weather, but this disappeared as low pressure from the west brought cooler westerly winds and light showers.

July began hot and humid, accompanied by some heavy rain and flash flooding. Later in the month a heat wave occurred with temperatures in the 30sC causing the odd heavy thunderstorm. Cooler conditions then took over in August with winds predominantly from the north and September was very dry and warm.

October was warmer than usual as a result of winds coming generally from the southwest and light southerlies in the last week made for a springlike rather than late autumn feel to the weather. A cold northerly airflow in the last two days of the month continued well into November with some heavy frosts, before milder westerlies took over creating cloud and fog and more night frosts.

All in all 2006 was a very mild year.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

The *Sylvia* warbler sequence has been re-arranged and now becomes Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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)
		yg	-young

On page 103 is complete list (The Huddersfield List) of the 267 species, plus eleven additional distinct races, of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2008.

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

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2006

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Reported from six sites this year, five in the Calder Valley, with successful breeding at one. Indeed, with the exception of Bretton Lakes it is very scarce away from the Calder.

Elland GPs – three (one imm.) from 1st to 29th Jan, 2 on 25th Feb and 26th Feb and a single on 30th Nov.

Horbury Strands – present throughout the year with a max. of 5 (4 imms.) on 25th Jan. In the spring 2 pairs were present although only one of these was reported to have nested on the canal, which was unsuccessful.

Mirfield – three reported on the canal in early Feb.

Thornhill – a single on the canal on 2nd May.

Colnebridge SP – two on 7th May.

Bretton Lakes – up to 4 adults present all year with one pair successfully breeding on the top lake. Four juvs. were noted on 10th June with a further two juvs. on 11th July, and 6 juvs. again on 24th Oct.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A rather poor year for this magnificent bird with reports from just four sites.

Winscar Res. – on 22nd Jan a party of 15 (3 juvs.) arrived from the S at 11.20 hrs. but had left by 12.40 hrs. (DMPrc). Incidentally, a large passage of Pink-footed Geese took place on this date.

Langsett Res. – five adults on 14th March (MCW).

Scout Dike Res. – an adult on 1st May (RJB).

Baitings Res. – what was conceivably the Scout Dike bird was here on 3rd May (HBC) – the latest ever for the club area.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

An exceptional year with very high numbers recorded flying over, including a record count.

In the early part of the year numbers were higher than average, with an estimated 5,500 birds recorded heading to an exclusively W quarter – mainly W or NW. On 22nd Jan a large and spectacular movement took place in clear, sunny conditions involving c. 3,300 birds. Timing of passage, again, was very consistent, particularly in Jan when the peak time was between 09.00 and 10.30 hrs.

2nd Jan – 80 SW over **Meltham Cop** with 80 W over **Hartcliffe Hill** at 14.30 hrs., possibly the same.

12th Jan – 30 W at 09.10 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and 120 W over **Almondbury**.

19th Jan – 70 NW at 12.00 hrs. at **Bradley Park Golf Course**.

22nd Jan – 200 W at 09.00 hrs. over **Lindley Moor**, 1087 WNW at **Blackmoorfoot** (c.210 at 09.30 hrs., c.140 at 09.50 hrs., c.100 at 10.00 hrs., c.170 at 10.05 hrs., c.190 at 10.10 hrs., 77 at

10.15 hrs. and c.230 at 10.15 hrs.) c.1050 W over **Hartcliffe Hill/Whitley Edge** in several skeins between 09.15 hrs. and 10.20 hrs. c.800 W over **Scout Dike** (c.300 and c.40 at 09.15 hrs., 70 at 09.45 hrs., c.200 at 10.10 hrs., c.120 at 10.15 hrs. and c.100 at 10.20 hrs.) c.300 W at 10.20 hrs. at **Ingbirchworth**, c.350 NW at 10.20 hrs. at **Ringstone Edge Res.**, 200 NW at 10.30 hrs. at **Bradley Park Golf Course**, 290 WNW at 10.00 hrs. and 180 at 10.30 hrs. at **Scammonden Res.**, 150 NW at 10.00 hrs. over **Shelley**, 498 in 3 skeins NW at **Dewsbury SF** and 230 W at **Elland GPs**. Skeins were also heard over **Slaithwaite** in darkness at 17.00, 17.30 and 17.45 hrs.

23rd Jan – a single heard in the dark at 17.30 hrs. over **Slaithwaite**.

24th Jan – c.80 and c.100 over **Digley** in the late afternoon and 150 NW at **South Crosland**.

27th Jan – 39 W at **Ringstone Edge**.

29th Jan – 700 W at **Elland GPs**.

11th Feb – 500 WNW in 3 skeins between 11.05 hrs. and 11.10 hrs. at **Lindley Moor**, and at least 226 birds of a skein of c.250 dropped on to **Royd Moor Res.** at 10.30 hrs.; they departed W at 11.15 hrs.

14th Feb – 50 over **Langsett**.

18th Feb – c.130 W at 09.50 hrs. at **Royd Moor** and 120 WNW at 11.30 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

Birds associated with Canada Geese at **Blackmoorfoot** (2) from 1st to 4th Jan, and **Scout Dike** and **Royd Moor** (single) on 2nd and 12th Jan with 12 at **Royd Moor** on 11th Feb.

In the latter part of the year numbers were even higher, although this is due to one truly exceptional count on 20th Oct. An estimated 7,500+ birds were recorded tracking a predominantly E to SE bearing. In the first two weeks of Oct, when passage is at its most consistent, the peak time was between 08.00 hrs. and 09.30 hrs. Later, times and direction of flight varied much more.

3rd Oct – 79 at 08.30 hrs. and 48 SE at 09.25 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

5th Oct – 23 SW at 19.20 hrs. at **Fixby**.

7th Oct – 10 W at 09.15 hrs. at **Royd Moor Res.**

9th Oct – c.460 E (16 at 08.35 hrs., 65 at 08.40 hrs., 300 in 2 skeins at 09.00 hrs., and 80 at 09.05 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

11th Oct – 44 W at 09.50 hrs. at **Scout Dike**.

12th Oct – 64 E at 08.45 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

13th Oct – 100 SE at 11.00 hrs. at **Bradley Park Golf Course**.

15th Oct – 72 NW at 09.25 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

20th Oct – c.5000 SE from 17.00 hrs. onwards over **Almondbury** (SMC) – a record count for the area by a considerable margin and unusually late in the day. C.200 over **Marsden** at 17.00 hrs. were undoubtedly part of this movement.

21st Oct – 40 E at 10.35 hrs. at **Scout Dike**, 330 (250 + 80) E at 09.30 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and 50 SE at **Flockton** at 09.30 hrs.

22nd Oct – 50 E at 09.00 hrs. at **Ingbirchworth** and c.80 E at 09.30 hrs. over **Scout Dike**.

27th Oct – 220 E at 08.45 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.100 WSW at 10.35 hrs. at **Royd Moor**.

29th Oct – c.65 E at 07.55 hrs. at **Ingbirchworth**.

1st Nov – c.130 SE at **Bradley Park Golf Course** at 08.00 hrs. with c.130 E at 08.25 hrs. at **Scout Dike** thought to be the same.

9th Nov – 180 SW at 09.45 hrs. at **Fixby** and 200+ NW at 10.00 hrs. at **Bradley**.

19th Dec – 350 W at 11.45 hrs. at **Castle Hill**.

20th Dec – a skein heard over Thorpe lane, **Almondbury** at 22.00 hrs.

22nd Dec – 27 SW at 14.45 hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**.

Single birds were with Canada Geese at **Blackmoorfoot** intermittently from 3rd to 18th Nov and at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th Dec. A party of four birds frequented fields at **Scout Dike Res.** from 24th Dec to the year end.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

Recorded at 11 sites. The April reports suggest a localised influx or movement into/through the area, while the single June record may have involved birds from farther afield. There were higher than usual numbers in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area this autumn.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two on 14th April, a single N on 15th April and one in from the N on 18th May.

Bretton Lakes – a single present throughout the year with Canada Geese and there were 2 on 26th April.

Dewsbury SF – two on 30th Jan and 19 flew W on 13th Feb.

Elland GPs – a single on 26th April.

Fixby – a skein of 33 flew N at 17.36 hrs. on 5th June (DT).

Horbury Wyke – a single on 2nd April plus two on 22nd April.

Langsett Res – two on 17th Feb.

Ingbirchworth Res – four on 12th Oct.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 12th April and one from 13th to 20th Aug.

Royd Moor Res – a single on 11th Feb, 16 on 29th July, two on 26th Sept with a single on 28th, and 7 on 18th Oct.

Scout Dike Res – four flew E on 1st April, 9 from 25th to 29th July, 17 on 15th Aug and 5 on 14th Oct.

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

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

An adaptive, common, noisy and boisterous species.

Breeding was reported from sites: 63 juveniles were noted at **Bretton Park** (BBSG); 6 young at **Horbury Wyke**; 5 young at **Scout Dike Res.**; two pairs produced 11 young on the R. Calder at **Dewsbury SF**; three pairs were seen at **Snailsden Res.** with broods of 4, 4 and 3 respectively; 14 goslings at **Upper Windleden Res.**; four young were noted at **Riding Wood Res.**; a pair raised 5 young at the Blue Lagoon, **Royd Edge**; and young were also noted at **Colnebridge SP** and **Winscar Res.**

Monthly max. at regularly counted sites:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	131	111	78	7	2	13	52	54	47	72	92	87
Royd Moor/ Scout Dike	500	650+	90	nc	nc	nc	nc	380	330	nc	nc	460
Dovestones	31	64	108	79	61	83	60	nc	83	50	24	nc

Control measures were put in to place in the Royd Moor/Scout Dike area in the spring as birds were becoming a pest to crops. The large numbers now appear to have reached a plateau here - thankfully!

Maximum numbers at less frequently counted sites are as follows:

Bretton Lakes - 203 on 16th July.

Ingbirchworth Res - 200 on 22nd Jan.

Broadstones Res - 200+ moulting birds from 15th to 24th Aug, 150 on 13th Oct, and 170 on 3rd Dec.

Sparth Res - 53 on 11th Feb, 64 on 24th Nov and 78 on 16th Dec.

Wessenden Valley - 64 on 12th July.

Riding Wood Res - c.50 on 16th June.

Ringstone Edge Res - 19 on 14th March, 37 on 11th April and 183 on 14th Aug.

Ramsden Res - 24 on 18th July.

Scammonden Res - 96 on 17th Dec.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

All records relate to birds of feral origin.

One was present at **Bretton Lakes** all year, and was seen to be paired with a hybrid on 27th Feb. A single associated with Canada Geese at **Royd Moor Res.** on 9th, 16th and 28th Sept, and **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th Dec.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

Records were received from nine localities. Birds were seen in every month bar Feb and March, and there was evidence of passage in April, and also in Aug which suggests post-breeding dispersal. **Blackmoorfoot** remains the most productive site for the species.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two on 6th and 17th Jan, a single on 26th April, 5 S on 2nd May and 3 left W on 25th May, a single on 17th July, 2 from 2nd to 3rd Oct and in Dec a single on 16th and 6 on 20th.

Cowcliffe – two flew W on 30th May.

Deer Hill Res – three on 4th Sept.

Dewsbury SF – a single on 7th June, two on 8th and 25th June, and an adult bearing a yellow ring on its left leg was noted here on 8th and 9th Aug.

Ingbirchworth Res – single juvs. on 12th, 13th and 28th Aug.

Horbury Wyke – 2 were present on 10th, 14th and 25th April, and in May two on 13th, a single on 20th and two again on 28th were involved in a territorial dispute – one bird trying to drown the other !

Ringstone Edge – in Jan 6 on 15th and 2 on 17th, a single on 20th July, 8 on 3rd and 6 on 15th Aug, 4 on 15th Sept, 10 on 5th Oct and 2 on 3rd Nov.

Royd Moor Res – three adults on 13th Aug and in Sept 2 ads. on 3rd and a single on 13th Sept.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor.

Recorded at just two sites.

At **Dewsbury SF** there were two on 8th Sept and 4 (one ad. male) on 9th Oct (JH).

At **Ryburn Res.**, continuing the trend from last year there was a high count of 11 (6 males) on 29th Jan, a single male on 14th May, 9 (5 males) from 1st to 3rd Dec and 4 (3 males) on 10th Dec (HBC). This water, in the NW of the area, appears to be becoming a favoured locality of this dapper little duck.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

Recorded from 16 waters but only Broadstones and Royd Moor held birds regularly in double figures. Numbers were particularly poor at Blackmoorfoot this autumn.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in Jan one to three were noted on six dates with a max. of 9 on 24th. In Feb there 5 on 1st, 4 on 13th and 6 on 18th. Six were present on most dates in March from 3rd to 28th. A single male noted on 4th April and a male and female on 1st May rounded off the first period of the year. In Sept, after the first returning bird was noted on 11th, one to seven were seen on a further 8 dates. In Oct a poor year's max. of just 11 on 7th, with one to eight noted on a further 7 dates. One to four present on seven Nov dates with a max. of 7 on 18th. Dec had one to three on six dates and 6 on 22nd.

Broadstones Res – in the early months up to 35 birds, occasionally up to 50 and a max. of 61 on 10th Feb, were present. The flock often fed on the lawns of a private residence at nearby Meal Hill. Birds were last noted here on 14th April. Five on 17th Sept were the first back, increasing to 30+ which remained to the year end.

Royd Moor Res – counts of 26 on 2nd Jan, 35 on 19th Feb and 54 on 19th March. This flock were believed to spend time grazing at Castle Dam, near Penistone, during the day. The first returners were noted on 7th Sept and none then until 5 on 1st Oct increased to 15 on 14th, none were noted in Nov and then in Dec just 7 were seen on 24th.

Ringstone Edge Res. – 3 on 22nd Jan, 24 on 11th and 4 on 20th Sept.

Horbury Wyke – 10 on 12th March and 3 on 23rd Sept.

Other waters to hold birds were: **Boshaw Whams** – one on 27th Dec, **Bretton Lakes** – a single on 21st Jan, **Castle Dam** – a pair on 28th April, **Dewsbury SF** – 8 on 17th Feb, **Dovestones Res.** – 10 on 10th Oct, **Elland GPs** – two on 13th Feb, **Kirkheaton** – one on the brickworks pond on Boxing Day, **Denby Dale** – a bird was on the tiny Square Wood Res. on 16th Oct, **Ryburn Res** – one from 2nd to 10th Dec, **Scout Dike Res** – a male and a female on 14th April, and six were on **Windybank Res** on 27th Feb.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

An excellent year for this rather understated duck, particularly at Blackmoorfoot where birds were recorded on 18 dates. There was evidence of birds moving around the area in Dec.

Blackmoorfoot Res – three males on 16th June and a female on 24th June (MLD, CH, DHP); in Oct a male and female-type on 15th and 4 (one male) from 29th to 30th (CH, DHP). In Nov an eclipse male on 3rd, from 5th to 7th and 11th to 13th, with a different eclipse male on 4th and a female-type on 23rd (MLD, CH, DMO). Dec saw a female on 3rd, a male and a female on 17th, two females on 20th and finally a female again on Boxing Day (MLD, TD, CH, MS).

Royd Moor Res – a female flew in with Mallard on 2nd Jan (RJB), and an eclipse male here on 26th Aug (MCW).

Scout Dike Res – a female-type on 16th Sept and a female on 2nd Dec (RJB, MC).

Elland GPs – a male and a female on 9th and 25th Feb (AK), one to two from 11th to 13th March and a female on 10th and 17th Dec (HBC).

Ingbirchworth Res – a male on 22nd April (RJB).

Tunnel End Res – a male and a female on 28th Aug and a female-type on 13th Sept (JMP).

Boshaw Whams – a single on 18th Jan (MC) and a male on 10th Feb (DHP).

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

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

Records were received from 16 sites. There has been a major decline at former wintering sites in the Calder Valley due to development and disturbance. Numbers on upland waters remain fairly stable, but seem to be determined more by water levels than any other factor. The species was in its greatest numbers in September.

Blackmoorfoot Res – Jan had one to four on 7 dates and a max. of 5 on 18th, noted on just three Feb dates with a max. of 4 on 13th, up to 3 on three dates in March, and one to two from 1st to 3rd April. There was an isolated late record of a male on 20th May. The first returning birds were noted in Aug with a single from 12th to 17th and one on 31st. One to four were present on 10 dates in Sept with a max. of 8 on 11th, and one to four on six dates in Oct. After 8 on 3rd, one to four were noted on a further 4 Nov dates, and in Dec one or two on five dates and a rather poor year's best of just 10 on 19th.

Horbury Wyke – 19 on 25th Jan, 6 on 12th March, 52 on 23rd Sept and 28 on Boxing Day.

Royd Moor Res – 59 on 14th Jan, 36 on 11th Feb, 19 on 19th March, 26 on 9th Sept, 22 on 25th Nov and 24 on 24th Dec.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 13th Aug with 8 the next day, 18 on 16th Sept and 15 on 11th Oct.

Elland GPs – up to 4 in Jan, 8 in Feb, 17 in March, a single in April, up to three in Sept, 16 on 26th Nov and up to 10 in Dec.

Bretton Lakes – up to 10 were counted in the first winter period, and up to 26 in the late year.

Ringstone Edge Res – up to 2 in Jan, 3 in March, 5 in April, a single in Aug and up to 4 in Sept.

Isle of Skye Quarry – present during Sept. After 3 on 3rd, a max. of 14 were seen on 20th with 9 on 22nd the last.

Elsewhere, **Carlecotes Ponds** held 4 on 30th Jan, a male on 27th April and 2 on 3rd Oct; two were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th Feb and 6 on 11th Sept; 11 were at **Deer Hill Res.** on 9th Sept; **Langsett Res.** recorded 19 on 31st Jan and 29 on 22nd Oct and single birds were noted on **Broadstones Res.** on 26th March, **Blakeley Res.** on 7th Sept and at **Cupwith Res.** (a former breeding site) on 4th May. At **Dewsbury SF**, a former winter stronghold of the species, there were just two counts 12 and 11 on 4th and 28th Feb respectively.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

The most numerous duck in the club area by far, where it can be seen on a variety of waters ranging from the richer lowland marshes to small inconspicuous pools and to the high, acidic moorland reservoirs.

Max. numbers at regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	40	31	27	11	19	22	46	43	38	37	4	27
Elland GPs	40	50	28	26	22	10	12	nc	26	49	70	40
Dovestones Area	90	70	77	68	nc	nc	nc	nc	123	nc	81	85
Royd Moor	78	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	144	90	117	101	nc

Breeding was reported from only seven sites but doubtless occurs at many others.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** only 9 ducklings from a total of 80 reached the flying stage – an example of the high mortality rate among the offspring. At **Scout Dike Res.**, 24 ducklings from three broods were counted on 5th June, with two broods of 14 very well grown young and a brood of 7 small young noted on 8th July - it's not known how many reached the flying stage. Two broods of 9 and 7 were noted at **Winscar Res.** Two broods were recorded at **Horbury Wyke**, several young were raised in the **Colnebridge** area and breeding was also reported at **Denby Dale** and **Ringstone Edge**, but no details were received.

Counts from other waters were as follows: **Ringstone Edge** held up to 4 in March, 15 in April, a single in May and up to 30 in June; up to 24 in Feb and 15 in Nov at **Scammonden**; 70 at **Winscar** on 12th Aug; up to 130 in Aug and 35 on 12th Oct at **Ingbirchworth**; a max. of 38 at Middlemost Pond, **Birkby** on 2nd Jan; up to 50 (no dates specified) at **Broadstones**; 51 at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 30th Jan; 150 were at **Yatcholme** on 1st Oct.; 45 at **Langsett** on 2nd Dec; 25 on 26th Jan at **Scout Dike**; 6 at **Boshaw Whams** on 30th April and 6 at **Horbury Wyke** on 25th March.

At **Cupwith Res.** high counts of 230 on 25th June and 235 on 13th Aug probably involved released birds – the reason unknown.

Elsewhere, 20 + were resident in the **Denby Dale** area; it was reported as 'regular' on the canal at **Bradley Hall Farm**, and birds were present throughout the year at **Colnebridge SP**. It is resident in the **Hagg Wood** area but no details were forthcoming, and a pair visited a garden at **New Mill** on 11th April.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

The poorest year of the millennia so far for this elegant dabbling duck, with only four records from three sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were two males on 17th Jan and a single here on the more typical date of 17th Sept.

Two female-types were on **Snailsden Res** also on 17th Sep (DMPrc) – an exceptional record given the elevated, acidic nature of this water.

An eclipse male was at **Royd Moor Res.** from 7th to 9th Sept (RJB, DHP).

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

A similar showing to 2005 with records received from six sites, although dates were more evenly spread this year.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles on 4th Aug, 11th to 12th Sept, 4 (one male) on 2nd Nov and a female on 20th Dec.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 25th March, 4 on 28th April and 9 on 3rd July.

Horbury Wyke – four (2 males) on 24th April, a single on 13th May and 6 on 26th Dec.

Langsett Res – a male on 18th Oct.

Ingbirchworth Res – 4 (2 males) on 3rd July.

Royd Moor Res – 4 (one male) on 25th Nov.

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

Recorded at nine waters, the same as last year. With the exception of Colnebridge SP, Blackmoorfoot and Elland aside, numbers were significantly lower, though. The area's best count of 10 was, incidentally, the same as 2005. There has been a marked decline at the Ingbirchworth group of waters.

Blackmoorfoot Res – In Jan, 22 on 12th and 13th, 9 (8 males) the following day and then one to five on a further 13 dates. Two from 1st to 5th Feb and a single then from 16th to 22nd, and a single in March on 4th, 8th, 15th and 22nd. None then until a year's best of 10 males on 5th July, and then a single from 6th to 13th which was joined by another from 14th to 15th. A single on 7th Aug and then in Oct a single from 9th to 11th and on 23rd. In Nov two on 2nd and a single on 12th and lastly one on 23rd and 24th Dec.

Elland GPs – Jan had singles on 1st and 2nd and 5 on 29th, 3 on 2nd, 2 on 25th and a single on 26th Feb; singles on 15th and 22nd Nov and in Dec one on 9th and 24th with 2 on 23rd.

Boshaw Whams – five from 31st Jan to 2nd March, with 6 on 19th and 26th Feb. One to two were then present throughout Nov and Dec.

Records received for other waters were as follows: **Bretton Lakes** held 9 on 6th Feb and at least 7 on 15th Dec; **Ingbirchworth Res.** held 4 on 6th Sept and 2 on 20th Nov; **Royd Moor Res.** had singles on 11th March, 25th Oct and 5th Nov; **Scout Dike Res.** had 3 on 2nd and a single on 8th Jan; three were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 7th March and a single was at **Colnebridge SP** on 21st March.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*
Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were submitted for 19 waters. Numbers at Blackmoorfoot seem to have remained consistent in the last few years but those at Ingbirchworth Res have been particularly poor since 2001; whether water levels or water quality is the key factor is open to debate.

The only breeding record came from **Scout Dike Res.**, where 9 small young were found on the tiny outflow pool on 8th July. Previous broods have perished here, and attempts to rescue them with anglers' landing nets failed. Unfortunately it seems they were predated again – the last one being seen on 16th July.

Monthly max. at regularly counted sites:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	14	3	4	5	2	6	14	11	8	4	13	3
Eland GPs	18	12	3	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	16	18
Scout Dike	13	30	18	21	nc	nc	20	25	5	13	17	15

Top counts from waters where the species is present throughout the year were 10 at **Bretton Lakes** on 10th June, 4 at **Boshaw Whams** on 19th Feb, 23 on 29th Jan, 31 on 11th Feb and 24 on 16th Aug at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, and up to 5 were on the small lake at **Meal Hill**.

Records from other sites were as follows: a male and a female at **Billberry Res.** on 5th May and 5th June; a male and a female at **Carlecotes Ponds** on 27th April; 4 at **Cupwith Res.** on 25th June; a single at **Dovestones Res.** on 2nd April; a single at **Horbury** on 29th April with two on 13th and 4 on 28th May; up to 11 were at **Langsett Res.** in July and Aug; 17 on **Royd Moor Res.** on 25th Oct; one to two at **Ryburn Res.** in Jan and Dec; 4 at Square Wood Res., **Denby Dale** on 3rd April; two at **Scammonden Res.** in Feb plus a single on 17th Dec; and at **Windybank Res.** there was a male and a female on 15th Jan and two on 14th May and 25th Sept.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

Rare visitor

Two records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** were the first for the site and only the 3rd and 4th for the club area. A female-type was present all day on 12th Sept (MLD, CH et al) and was followed by an adult male, again for the day, on 3rd Nov (CH, DMO, DHP et al). Previous records were a male at Dewsbury on 28th Jan 1983 and one at Langsett Res. on 19th Jan 1985.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

A good year for this popular sea duck, with nine records probably involving 19 birds from five sites. Blackmoorfoot typically claimed the lion's share.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a female from 4th to 7th April and 6 (4 males) on 13th July (MLD, CH, DHP), a female on 4th Aug and a male on 4th Sept (MLD, CH, DMO, DHP) and a male arrived at 08.25hrs. on 11th Oct (MLD, CH).

Royd Moor Res – three males on 26th Aug (RJB, JDC).

Langsett Res – four on 13th Sept (MCW).

Ingbirchworth Res – a female on 17th Sept (DMPrc et al).

Cupwith Res – a male on 12th Oct (DHP) may have been the Blackmoorfoot bird.

Numbers of Common Scoter in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:-

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
36	82	4	40+	13	34	10	60	10	19

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Rare visitor.

An adult female was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23rd Oct (CH), leaving to the N at 09.40 hrs. The sixth record for this locality, but the first since 1975, and only the 9th for the club area. The last one was at Dewsbury SF on 12th July 1995.

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Recorded from 20 sites with Blackmoorfoot by far the most favoured, although no more than six birds were seen at any given time. The year's best count was only eight at Elland GPs – but a total only slightly below average in recent years.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in Jan, four on 1st, two on 3rd and 6th, singles on 23rd and 28th and 4 on 31st. In Feb, after 5 on 1st and 4 on 2nd, one to four were seen on a further 17 dates. Four again from 1st to 4th March with 5 from 5th to 8th and then 2 to 4 on a further 18 dates to the month end. In April there were 3 on 1st, 4 on 2nd and 2 from 4th to 7th and a single on 11th. A first-summer male was then present from 13th to 16th and then from 23rd to 31st May; it then remained throughout June and July, and from 1st to 12th Aug. Perhaps the same individual was here again on 9th and 10th Sept. In Oct a single on 18th, 27th and 29th with 6 on 31st. Nov saw 5 on 1st then one to two on a further five dates; and in Dec 2 on 11th, 6 on 17th and different singles on 27th and 28th.

Elland GPs – up to 8 in Jan and Feb, 4 in March, a single in April and a single throughout Nov and Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 10th Feb, one on 14th and 22nd April and singles on 21st Nov and 28th Dec.

Scout Dike Res – two from 4th to 8th Jan and a single on 25th Jan, three on 4th and 5th Nov and a single on 11th.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 22nd Jan, a single on 28th March, two on 11th, 18th and three on 27th April, when display was noted, and then two on 1st Nov.

Records from other waters as follows: **Bilberry Res.** had 4 on 24th Jan, 2 on 6th Feb, on 3rd and 9th April; one to two were regular at **Boshaw Whams** in Jan and Feb; one at **Blakeley Res.** on 11th May; a male and a female at **Broadstones Res.** on 29th March; a single at **Cupwith Res.** on 30th Oct; two on 12th and 13th Jan and 7 on 13th Feb at **Dewsbury SF**; a single at **Deer Hill Res.** on 2nd Jan; three at **Digley Res.** on 15th Jan; **Dovestones Res.** had two on 19th March and a single on 2nd April; two were on the Calder at **Horbury** on 25th Jan and 5th Feb; singles at **Langsett Res.** on 6th April and 6th Nov and **Ramsden Res.** on 15th March and Christmas Day; **Riding Wood Res.** held one on 15th and three on 29th March; singles at **Scammonden Res.** on unspecified dates in Feb and Dec and one at **Winscar Res.** on 9th April.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

Records probably relate to just four birds, with Blackmoorfoot, once again, the only site to attract birds with anything approaching regularity.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a male on 3rd, 4th and 28th Jan and then on 3rd Feb and intermittently from 6th to 28th Feb, with probably the same male on 1st March and 4th April (MLD, CH, DHP). Three (one male, two female-types) on 12th Oct (MLD, CH, DHP).

What was thought to be the same male was seen at **Sparth Res.** with Goosander intermittently from 9th to 22nd Feb (JMP).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were submitted for 22 sites and birds were recorded in every month except July. Although numbers at the favoured sites were not as great this year, the December count at Elland is still particularly noteworthy. There was evidence of passage in mid-March and September, and a small party frequented different stretches of the River Calder in April and May.

Max. numbers reported at three regular sites were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	26	18	12	4	2	0	0	0	1	2	6	23
Bretton	19	10	14	nc	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	25
Elland GPs	30	30	5	8	1	0	0	0	1	1	32	60

Horbury Wyke – up to 5 were regular on the R. Calder from Jan to April, plus two on 9th May, a female on 5th June and two on Boxing Day. Also in the area were 7 on 2nd April and 13th May.

Scout Dike Res – two from 1st to 30th Jan, 4 from 11th to 25th Feb and then a male from 10th March to 1st May, which spent a lot of its stay resting on the dam wall and may have been injured. In Sept 7 flew E on 13th with a juv. here later in the day, and this or another on 16th, 21st and then intermittently from 28th to 21st Oct. Singles then on 25th Nov and 3rd Dec.

Dewsbury SF – 5 on 3rd and 8 on 12th Jan, 8 on the Calder on 5th May and 5 flew W on 30th Sept.

Colnebridge – on the R. Calder there were 4 on 6th and 5 on 15th Jan, 7 on 5th Feb, a single on 9th and 14th May and 5 on 23rd Dec.

Ringstone Edge Res – monthly maxima of 3 in Jan, 5 in April, 2 in May, 3 in Aug and 6 in Sept.

Sparth Res – regular from Jan to March with a max. of 8 on 19th March; birds thought to be part of the regular Blackmoorfoot flock.

Other records were as follows: one on the Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 19th Feb and 19th March; a male and female were on the R. Colne at **Bradley** on 20th Sept; four flew over **Battleyford** on 16th Nov; two on **Dovestones Res.** on 9th Feb; a single at **Deer Hill Res.** on 2nd Oct; a male and a female on the river at **Folly Hall** on 19th May; a male and a female on the river by the **Galpharm Stadium** on 8th Feb; a single at **Langsett Res.** on 2nd Dec; **Royd Moor Res.** had two on 8th March and a single on 2nd Dec; one over **Riding Wood Res.** on 15th March; 8 at **Scammonden Res.** on 9th April; two on the canal at **Slaithwaite** on 19th Feb, 9 at **Wessenden Res.** on 19th March and one at **Winscar Res.** on 9th April.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce visitor. Has bred.

After a very poor showing in the last two years, probably as a result of the controversial cull, this year saw a slight increase in sightings.

A female was at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th June (HBC), and a male was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26th July, with different female-types on 9th and 11th Sept (MLD, CH, DHP). A female-type at **Scout Dike Res.** on 10th Sept (RJB) was possibly one of these birds.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

As in 2005, very few records were received and there was little to report away from the norm, apart from an exceptional record from **Blackmoorfoot**, where two flew low over the water and landed in trees briefly on 12th Sept (MLD) - the first site record.

The only proof of breeding received came from **Langsett**, where three young were seen on 25th May. Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Digley**, **Holme Styes** and **Snailsden Edge**.

The highest counts of the year were made at **Snailsden Edge** where there were 40+ on 22nd Jan and 15+ on 17th Sept. Elsewhere, 10 to 20 were regular during Aug and Sept at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**, 6 were at **Issues Road** on 22nd Jan and 3rd May and 5 were calling in the **Little Don Valley** on 18th Oct.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

A similar story to last year, the practice of releasing birds for shooting complicates the situation.

Bretton - one at Bentley Grange, to the SE of Bank Wood, on 11th June.

Broadstones Res - 4 nearby on 11th Jan.

Buckstones - singles present on 9th June and 7th July.

Cheesegate Nab - three on 17th Aug.

Deer Hill - a single on 9th July.

Digley - two on 9th April.

Dovestones - two on 28th April and 4 on 23rd May.

High Hoyland - two on 14th Jan, 3rd and 13th Feb and three on 27th March. Fifty birds seen twice during Sept were obviously put down for shooting.

Shepley - two present in the early months.

Yeoman Hey - one 'singing' on 30th Jan and two on 12th May.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Reported from 29 sites - slightly down on 2005. Again, birds released for shooting makes it very difficult to assess the species' status in the club area.

The only confirmed cases of breeding occurred at **Deer Hill Res.**, where a pair with young were seen on 3rd July, and **Riding Wood Res.** where an adult and 5 young were noted on 15th Aug.

The only double figure count in the early months was 17 at **Shepley**. With the exception of 6 at **Oldfield** on 9th Jan, no more than three were seen at other sites.

Higher numbers were present during the autumn and late winter period, which suggests other cases of breeding went unrecorded - the max. being 22 (13 + 9) at **Scout Dike** on 21st Oct. Other notable counts were 14 at **Lepton** on 22nd Sept, 15 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th Sept and 19th Nov, 15 at **Swinny Knoll** on 2nd Oct, 11 at **Emley** on 25th Oct, 13 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th Nov and 10 at **Bretton** on 15th Dec.

The species was noted in the **Blackmoorfoot** area on 11 dates, although no more than three birds were involved. Eight birds were at **Snape Res** on 18th Sept and 6 were at **Deer Hill** on 17th Aug. Up to three birds were noted at **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Scammonden Res.**, **Horbury**, **Whitley Park**, **Meltham** and **Cheesegate Nab**.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

A male was heard and seen at Edge Moor, **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th June (TD). The first record since 2003.



(COMMON) **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Records were submitted for 19 sites but the bird is under-recorded and certainly occurs at many more. Areas where they are numerous undoubtedly include birds raised for shooting.

By far the highest number, and the only double figure count, was 61 at **Dovestones** on 29th Sept. At other sites where it does enter notebooks, no more than 8 were recorded.

Birds often visit the larger gardens and 5 did just this at **Netherton** on 24th Sept and **Almondbury** on 9th Nov. A very tame pair visited one regularly at **Netherthong**.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Recorded at 20 sites but proof of breeding was only obtained from Scout Dike Res. Juveniles were noted at four other sites but it is not certain whether these were locally reared.

Blackmoorfoot Res - recorded only in the latter half of the year: singles on 1st June, and again from 21st to 28th Aug and one to three on 26 dates in Sept; three from 1st to 12th Oct, with 6 on 13th and up to 3 again from 14th to the month end; two on 1st and 2nd Nov, 6 on 3rd and then one from 4th to 1st Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res - a single present in the early months, and then 4 on 12th Aug, two (including one juv.) on 17th Sept and up to two from 1st Oct to the year end.

Elland GPs - one to two present in all months except July, with 3 on 2nd Feb and 4 on 12th Nov.

Tunnel End Res - one from 14th June to 24th July and then on 4th and 27th Sept, two, possibly three, on 8th Oct and a single on 19th Oct.

Royd Moor Res - one in the quarry on 29th April and 5 (including a juv.) on the res. on 14th Aug.

Scout Dike Res - one to two were present most of the year. One pair attempted to breed but the nest was either left high and dry or the eggs were predated.

Bradley Hall Farm - singles on 15th Jan, 3 on 5th Feb and singles on 27th and 31st Dec - all on the R. Calder.

Dewsbury SF - up to 4 were present in Jan and a single in March.

Broadstones Res - singles on 12th, 15th and 28th Aug and 3rd Dec.

Elsewhere: up to 3 were regular at **Boshaw Whams**; breeding was suspected at **Bretton Lakes** but no details were forthcoming; an imm. stayed at **Colnebridge SP** from 20th to 25th July; one at **Denby Dale** on 3rd Nov; one to three were regular at **Meal Hill** throughout the year, two juvs. were at **Gunthwaite** on 17th Sept; one was at **Langsett** filter beds on 16th Aug and singles were at **Snailsden Res.** on 22nd Jan and at **Winscar Res.** on 9th April. Birds were also recorded regularly at **Carlecotes Ponds** and in the **Horbury** area, although no dates were submitted.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Partial migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received for 11 sites but it was a very poor breeding season, with just a single pair successful at Blackmoorfoot (two young, from a brood of three, were fledged).

Blackmoorfoot is the most productive water and the monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	4	7	12	14	16	11	7	7	4	4

Scout Dike Res - one from 21st Jan increasing to 3 on 11th Feb and then 8 from 19th Feb to 28th March; up to 4 were present in April and May, 7 on 17th June and up to 6 in July, Aug and Sept; 5 on 1st Oct and then one or two to the month end, but absent in Nov and Dec.

Elland GPs - up to 3 from Jan to April and two in Nov and Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res - five on 12th Aug and 17th Sept, 3 on 25th June and a single on 1st and 12th Oct and 20th Nov.

Ringstone Edge Res - one from 22nd Jan to 21st March, one or two from 11th to 28th May and then from 3rd to 8th Oct.

Bretton Lakes - three (one pair) were present at the lower lake on 12th May. Breeding was attempted but is thought to have failed, possibly due to predation by mink.

Elsewhere; two were at **Dean Head Res.** on 11th May, and two at **Deer Hill Res.** on 17th June were the observer's first here in over 35 years (DMP); one was at **Langsett Res.** on 12th Aug; and singles were at **Scammonden Res.** on 9th April and **Winscar Res.** on 25th May.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing.

Recorded at 20 sites with notable increases in sightings at Blackmoorfoot, the Ingbirchworth group of reservoirs, and at Colnebridge in the Calder Valley.

Blackmoorfoot Res - noted on 28 dates - double the total of 2005. Birds were seen in every month bar May and Dec and usually involved one or two birds. Exceptions were 7 imms. flying W on 15th Aug, 6 W on 25th Aug and 7 imms. again flew W on 18th Oct.

Elland GPs - max. monthly counts received were 10 in Jan, 2 in Feb, one in March, 5 in Oct, 17 in Nov and 18 in Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res. Group - one to three recorded on at least 32 dates, with 7 NW over Scout Dike on 18th March and 6 W here on 12th Nov.

Ringstone Edge Res - one to three noted on 20 dates between 21st Jan and 17th Sept; 12 of these in July.

Colnebridge SP - the regular observer reported 'a considerable increase in sightings over the last few years, with frequent flyovers'. Usually one or two noted but 3 on 11th Jan.

Horbury Wyke - two on 5th Feb and 12th March, 5 on 14th April, 4 over on 13th May and 2 over on 28th May.



One to three birds were occasionally recorded at several other localities: **Boshaw Whams**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Bretton Lakes**, **Dewsbury SF**, **Riding Wood Res.** **Scammonden Res.** and **Yeoman Hey**. An unusually large party of 11 visited **Yateholme Res.** on 18th March.

Away from the usual haunts, birds were observed flying over **Holmes Styres** (2 on 2nd Nov), **Snailsden** on 3rd Nov and **Shelley** on 25th May, 12th Sept and 13th Oct.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

Can be seen almost anywhere in the area, apart from the highest moorland. Reports came from over 30 sites, several of these involving birds flying over to and from feeding areas.

At **Blackmoorfoot**, birds were recorded on most visits during the first half of the year, it was seen less often from July onwards, probably as a result of high water levels. One to four were involved in most sightings but there were 6 on 14th and 26th June and 5 on 4 other dates that month.

Notable gatherings away from heronries were 11 at **Dewsbury SF** on 11th July, 10 in fields near **Cannon Hall** on 13th Feb, 9 were in fields at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15th July, 8 at **Dovestones** on 19th March, and there was a max. of 6 at **Elland GPs** on 25th and 26th Feb. One was reported perched in a garden tree at **Wooldale** on 11th Sept.

This year, breeding was reported from 7 localities.

Bretton Lakes - birds were back repairing nests on 9th Feb and 46 occupied nests were counted on 12th May but the number of young raised is not known (BBSG, JMN).

Cannon Hall - five nests were in use by 31st March (PB).

Hall Dike - five visible nests were counted on 13th March; 4 of them occupied (PB).

Elland GPs - one pair nested but they had abandoned by 5th April (HBC).

Dewsbury SF - three pairs were on nests by the R. Calder on 15th June, but the outcome was unknown (JH).

Breeding was also reported at **Scammonden Res.** (9 pairs) and at **Rishworth** (2 pairs) (HBC), but no details were available at the time of writing.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

Due to well publicised re-introduction schemes elsewhere in the country, it is predicted that this splendid raptor will be seen in the club area with increased frequency, in the not-too-distant future. Five records this year, including only the second-ever occurrence of more than a single bird.

On 12th April one was in fields adjacent to **Broadstones Lodge** (CDA) before flying off over Windmill Lane. The time of the sighting was not specified but perhaps the same bird flew NW at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 14.15 hrs. (MD, PF). One was watched high over **Elland GPs** on 10th Sept (HBC). On 12th Sept a juv. flew N over **Grains Moss** at 10.00 hrs. (DMPrc) watched from Dead End Edge, and this was seen again some eighty mins. later with a 2nd juv. flying NW over **Snailsden Res.**

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

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
2	1	2	7	3	5

Several sightings probably involve the same wandering individuals. During this period, May has been the most productive month.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Just the one record again and from the same locality as last year. A 'cream crown' was at **Deer Hill Res.** on 21st Sept (DMP), where it was seen to drop in to bracken to roost at 16.40 hrs.

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

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1

We can perhaps look forward to an increase in records in the near future, which has been the case in adjoining areas offering similar habitat.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were four records of this enigmatic, but shamefully persecuted, bird. This was a typical showing, with three coming in April when birds begin to seek out breeding territory.

A superb male was seen at **Long Moor** on 5th April (MCW), one was at **Holme Moss** on 16th (JMD) and a 'ringtail' was watched quartering moorland within our area at **Langsett** on 17th (JKP). A 'ringtail' was at **Cupwith** on 15th Sept (DWS).

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

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
2	5	1	4	7	4	1	4	4	4

Records suggest that the late autumn/early winter period offers the best chance to catch up with the species.

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

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

The only records were of a one bird was at one site on 27th Jan (MC) and pair briefly displaying at another site on 18th March (HQ).

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

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Records were received for over 50 sites with all reports involving one to two birds; the exception being three in the air together at **Scout Dike Res.** on 19th Aug.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	6	10	23	5	4	8	9	24	14	14	6

Successful breeding was confirmed at **Blacker Beck** and at **Stoney Battery**, with 4 young being raised at both sites. It was also reported to have bred at **Honley Wood** and breeding was strongly suspected at **Scout Dike Res.**, where many calls believed to be from begging young were heard from the conifer plantation. Nest building was observed at **New Hall Wood** on 22nd April, but this was abandoned some time later.

Display was noted at **Booth Wood**, **Horbury**, **Langsett**, **Little Lad**, **Scout Dike** and **Upper Denby**.

Gardens were visited by hunting birds regularly at **Fixby**, **Lindley Moor** and **Meal Hill**, and occasionally at **Almondbury**, **New Mill** and **Shelley**.

Collared Dove and Goldfinch were identified prey items at **Shelley**, and two birds made attempts on Starlings in **Huddersfield Town Centre** late on 30th July. A bird was seen carrying thrush-sized prey at **Scout Dike** on 21st Oct.

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

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

A bumper year for this species with reports from thirty sites. After the first confirmed case of breeding in the area last year, pairs raised broods at three sites (JHod). Breeding was suspected at another and copulation observed at further site.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	5	6	9	5	5	5	5	11	6	6	1

Bretton area - reported as 'regular' at West Bretton, where display was observed in May (BBSG, SRG, DMP, SP, KW).

Scout Dike/Gunthwaite area - two on 18th March, 9th April (when interaction, including talon-grappling, was observed), 14th April and 3 were seen on 23rd April. Two on 9th Sept (one SE and another over the Res. later on), singles on 23rd Sept and 8th Oct, 2 again on 14th Oct and a single on 12th Nov (RJB).

Holmebridge/Ramsden Clough area - a two on 2nd Jan, 3 on 18th Feb and then it was regular through the spring (DMP).

Denby Dale - singles on 10th May, 8th Sept and 3rd and 20th Nov (TM).

Deer Hill Res - single birds on 23rd and 30th April, 2nd July and 24th Sept (DMP).

Elland GPs - singles on 19th Feb, 14th Aug and 6th Sept (HBC, JED).

High Hoyland - two on 6th Feb and a single on 18th Feb (MC, DHP).

Yateholme - singles on 21st Jan and 3 on 3rd Nov (DHP).

Little Don Valley - singles on 5th and 11th July (CDA).

Winscar Res - three in the area on 17th Sept and 2 on 26th June (BBSG, RDH).

Cheesegate Nab - three over on 24th Oct were being harassed by a Peregrine (HQ).

Dead End Edge - two on 17th Sept were probably the Winscar birds (BBSG).

Lepton - three flew SE over Black Dick's Temple on 26th Sept (DS).

Elsewhere, two were at **Dovestones** on 12th Aug (GMBRG) and **Upper Denby** on 15th April (MC), and singles were observed at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st March (PB), **Booth Wood** on 3rd May (HBC), **Cawthorne** on 16th July (BA), **Colnebridge** on 23rd April (DS) and 12th Dec (DT), **Dalton** on 14th April (BA), **Flockton** on 10th June (DT), **Grains Moss** on 22nd Jan (BBSG), **Grimescar** on 31st March (SK), **Harden** on 24th June (MC), **Hartcliffe Hill** on 26th Aug (RJB), **Riding Wood Res.** on 6th Feb (PB), **Shelley** on 11th May (SRG), **Shepley** on 23rd March (CH), **Snailsden Moor** on 17th Sept and 17th Oct (MC), **Snailsden Res.** on 3rd Nov (BBSG), **West Nab** on 6th June (PB) and finally at **Wessenden** on 8th Oct (DMP).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

After the excellent showing in 2005, this year was rather disappointing with just two records.

One at **Cupwith/Buckstones** on 7th April (DWS) and at **Deer Hill** at mid-day on 4th June, a tired-looking bird was seen over the NE corner of the res, before alighting on a telegraph pole on the S bank where it was then mobbed by Carrion Crows; it left towards Wessenden (DMP).

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

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0	4	6	2	0	7	5	1	9	2

Interestingly, 50% of records throughout this period occurred in April.

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

A species which tends to go under-recorded. Although numerous records were received (from over 30 sites) the only report of breeding came from the **Colnebridge** area. However, pairs were reported during the breeding season at **Digley Res.**, **Haigh**, **Kirkheaton**, **Wessenden** and the **West Bretton/Bullcliffe Colliery** area. It was present throughout the year at the well-covered **Blackmoorfoot** site, but there was no evidence of breeding.

The vast majority of reports involved one to two birds, the exceptions being 9 counted in the **Winscar/Snailsden** area on 17th Sept (BBSG), 5 at **Bretton Lakes** on 6th Feb and 14th Oct, 3 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th May and 20th Aug and 3 at **Scammonden Res.** on 6th Aug and 1st Oct. Eight birds that were observed in a line at **Harden** on 24th June were thought to be hunting moths (MC).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

This spectacular little falcon was recorded from 19 localities - the same as 2005. Breeding was confirmed at two sites, and there was a distinct run of records in early Oct, a time when birds are known to undertake movements to lower-lying wintering areas.

At one site a pair raised two young from a clutch of just the two eggs; the low number of Meadow Pipits in the area was cited as a contributory factor (DMP, TD). At a second site a pair raised two young from a clutch of four, and the young were out of the nest by 20th July (JHod). At a further, traditional site birds were present during the breeding season but no attempt was made; again this could be attributed to low Meadow Pipit numbers (DMP). A pair was present at another site on 23rd May.

In the early months, birds were reported from **Elland GPs** on 6th Jan and at **Bretton** on 11th Jan. The next sightings were in March, with a female at **Deer Hill** on 4th and a male at **Oyxgrains** on 23rd. April saw single birds at **Meltham Cop** and **Dovestones** on 3rd, **Broadstones** on 8th and 9th

and **Brow Grains** on 17th. In June singles were seen at **Booth Hill** on 22nd and **Buckstones** on 30th.

In contrast to 2005, there were more records in the second half of the year. In Aug, records came from **Harden** on 5th, **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13th (when one took a Little Ringed Plover chick), **Meltham Cop** on 18th and 31st, **Dewsbury SF** on 23rd and **Digley** on 27th. In Sept a male flew N over **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd, a male was at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 5th, one was again at **Meltham Cop** on 18th and others were noted at **Deer Hill** on 21st and **Hartcliffe Hill** on 23rd, when a female-type was watched feeding on a Meadow Pipit. In Oct one chased passerines at **Wood Nook** on 4th, one flew E at **Dewsbury SF** on 5th, one was over fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7th and one flew NW at **Royd Moor Res.** on 9th. The last sightings of the year were in Nov, with one at **Wessenden** on 18th and one at large in the **Broadstones** area on 25th and 26th.

(EURASIAN) **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.



Compared to last year's excellent total, seven records this year is a return to the norm for this elegant hunter.

Colnebridge SP - an early individual was over the ponds for 4 mins. before leaving E on 21st April (DS).

Bretton Lakes - an adult flew S over the college and lower lake boathouse on 10th June (BBSG)

Blackmoorfoot Res - an adult flew low over the res. to the W before landing in a tree at 14.10 hrs on 23rd June (DHP), and an adult was over Meltham Cop at 16.55 hrs. on 4th Sept (CH).

Deer Hill Res - one on 25th June (DMP).

Crosland Moor - one flew low over houses at 17.30 hrs. on 2nd July (MLD).

Shelley Woodhouse - an adult flew NW at 16.00 hrs. on 30th Aug (SRG).

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

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	4	6	6	8*	3	12	9	13	7

* Not including breeding birds.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

There were over thirty reports of this superb falcon from 18 localities, but only one breeding pair was located. There was a noticeable peak in late March/April, as birds began to return from wintering areas and seek out breeding territory. Unusually, there were no records from any lowland sites this year.

At one site a pair were back on territory by 21st March and one was seen carrying a pigeon to suitable nesting habitat on 5th April. The pair were observed making food passes here on 20th June, and 4 young were reportedly hatched (SD per GMBRG).

Away from this site there were the following records.

Cheesegate Nab - one flew W on 14th Jan and another harassed a Common Buzzard on 24th Oct.

Ramsden Clough - singles on 21st Jan and 25th April, with two on 4th June and 3rd Nov.

High Hoyland - one over the village on 14th Feb; departing NW.

Hartcliffe Hill - one over towards Thurlstone on 4th March.

Scammonden Res - one on 25th March.

Digley - one on 1st April.

Hardron Road - one N on 4th April.

Isle of Skye Quarry - singles on 9th and 20th April, two on 14th April and then one or two regular throughout the year.

Thurlstone Moor - a pair over the area on 19th April.

Ringstone Edge Res - two over on 27th April.

Wessenden area - a pair were present on 17th and 18th May, one on 1st July, two on 4th Oct and a single on 18th Nov.

Langsett - one S in the Little Don Valley on 25th May and a young bird over the res. on 14th Aug.

Booth Hill - a 2nd calendar year bird on 22nd June.

Harden - one on 22nd July.

Scout Dike Res - juveniles/imms. over on 29th July, NW on 19th Aug and SE on 9th Sept.

Winscar Res - an adult female hunting over Tinker hill on 17th Sept.

Blackmoorfoot Res - a female drifted S on 19th Nov.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

It was a very poor year for this secretive bird; the only record was of one in the *Phragmites* bed of the Lower Lake at **Bretton** on 21st Jan (BBSG). This locality now offers the best chance of seeing the species in the club area. Worryingly, there have been no reports from the Calder Valley since 2003.

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Records were received from 26 sites but it is almost certainly under-recorded. There were significantly more cases of breeding reported than last year and all are documented as follows:

Blacker Beck - two breeding attempts were made: the first with 7 eggs was successful but the 5 eggs laid in the 2nd attempt were predated.

Blackmoorfoot Res - two juvs. were raised from two broods but a third juv. present from Aug was hatched elsewhere.

Bretton Lakes - an estimated 8 pairs bred in the park. A brood of 8 young were noted at the college pond on 12th May.

Elsewhere: an ad. and 3 young were seen on 17th Aug at **Golcar Canal**, four young were raised at **Ingbirchworth Res**; a brood of 6 was observed at **Jebb Lane** on 2nd July; and single juvs. were raised at **Colnebridge SP** and **Tunnel End Res**. Further broods were reported from **Horbury** and 'many pairs' bred at **Dewsbury SF** but no details are available.

Pairs were present during the breeding season at **Birkby**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Clough Lee**, **Deer Hill**, **Meal Hill**, **Elland GPs**, **Sparth Res**, and **Scout Dike Res**.

Counts submitted were very few and typically low. **Elland GPs** had a monthly max. of 9 in Feb, while there was no more than 3 at **Blackmoorfoot** all year. One entered a garden at **Meal Hill** during a cold spell on 26th Feb.

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

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

Reported from 14 sites with breeding confirmed at four.

Max. monthly counts at the favoured **Elland GPs** were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	8	8	8	6	1	6	nc	6	6	4	9

The only other water where the species is regularly monitored is **Blackmoorfoot**, and the following records were submitted: singles on 17th Jan, 14th Feb and on 4th, 10th and from 24th to 30th April. One or two on 21 dates in May, one throughout June, up to three in July, Aug and during the most of Sept.

Two pairs raised 8 young (7 + 1) at **Colnebridge SP**; young were present at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th June; four flying young were seen at **Hepton Water**, Kirkheaton on 22nd Sept, and the species was reported to have bred successfully at **Bretton Lakes** although no details are available.

Away from Elland and Blackmoorfoot the only significant counts received were 12 at **Windybank Res.** on 15th Jan and 9 on 19th Feb and 8 on 1st Oct at **Boshaw Whams**.

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

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

Records were received from 29 sites - almost double the total of 2005. Birds were seen in the period from 29th Jan to 7th Sept. Typically the majority of records were in the spring and, as in 2005, many of these were from sites within close proximity. Breeding was confirmed at just two localities, however.



Blackmoorfoot Res - two from 27th to 30th March were the first, followed by 4 on 31st. Up to 5 birds were present on 20 dates in April, and in May there were 3 on 2nd and 3rd, one on 5th and 2 on 17th. Singles then from 2nd to 8th and on 15th June, 11th July and 7th Sept.

Ringstone Edge Res - present on a total of 30 dates between 9th March and 18th July.

Winscar Res - one or two pairs were regular from 11th April to 12th Aug. Five were seen on 13th June and included a bird sitting on a nest; the outcome, however, was unknown.

Broadstones Res - singles on 1st April and 29th May, up to 3 regular in July, and 5 on 15th and 19th Aug (see Royd Moor).

Scout Dike Res - two on 18th March and singles on 1st April, 14th June and 14th Aug.

Boshaw Whams - first noted was a single on 10th Feb, 6 on 4th and 7 on 22nd March and then 4 from 28th to 31st March, when display was observed. Two were present on 7th June and 25th July.

Langsett area - a pair first seen in fields by the A616 on 14th March raised two young. Two flew over Langsett Res. on 25th May, and in the nearby Little Don Valley 2 flew NE towards the res. on 8th June.

Deer Hill Res - a pair were present on many dates from spring to mid-June but it was suspected that farming activities prevented breeding.

Wessenden Head - a pair at the res. on 17th and 25th May, with copulation noted on the former date.

Digley Res - two on 3rd, 19th and 24th April, and 3 on 29th.

Elsewhere: a single was at **Hade Edge** on 29th Jan; a pair and one young were in fields at **Hepworth** on 30th July; 4 were at **Mirfield** on 15th March; in April two were at **Flight Hill** on 1st, one at **Ingbirchworth** on 13th, a good count of 10 flew N over **Lindley Moor** on 20th (SMD), two were at **Scammonden** on 22nd and one was at **Yatcholme** on 25th, in June three were at **Baitings Res.** on 3rd and one was at **Harden** on 11th; three flew over **Crow Edge** on 11th July; 5 were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th Aug and two were over the observer's house at **Shelley** on 23rd Aug. In the Calder Valley singles were at **Elland GPs** on 2nd May, two on 15th June and a single on 17th July at **Dewsbury SF**, and a two were at **Horbury** on 28th May.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Migrant breeder (1), 0-8 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

An improvement on 2005 with records from nine sites. Breeding attempts were made at three, although birds were successful at only one of these. It occurred in the area between 13th March and 19th Aug.

Ringstone Edge Res - an excellent year here: after the first one on 1st April, up to 6 birds were recorded regularly up to 21st May. Four adults were regular throughout June and July and there were three breeding attempts were made - the first nest was predated; the second and third attempts produced 3 and 4 young respectively, but only 3 of these were thought to have survived, some young falling prey to Merlins. In Aug, 10 birds (4 ads. 6 juvs.) were counted 3rd and 8th and the last two were noted on 11th (HBC).

Isle of Skye Quarry - the first one appeared on 31st March, before being joined by another the next day and then up to 3 were present until 21st May when there was much alarming. Broken egg shells found on 26th May suggests failure due to predation, while another attempt in Aug ended with the eggs and nest being abandoned (PB, DHP, DMP, SP, KW).

Deer Hill Res - three on 20th April. Breeding failed when the nest, containing eggs close to hatching, was swamped by rising water levels following a period of heavy rain prior to 21st May. Singles were present on 15th June and 1st, 8th and 15th July (DMP, SP).

Dewsbury SF - one on 13th March (JH) was the first of the year. Three on 2nd and 2 on 13th April, two were displaying on 8th June, then up to 5 were present from 23rd to 28th June, 9 ads. on 9th July had decreased to 5 on 13th and then 3 from 15th to 24th. A single on 19th Aug was the last.
Blackmoorfoot Res - one calling on 16th April and then an adult on 8th, 11th, 14th and 15th June.

Elsewhere, a migrant flew through to the NW at **Scout Dike Res.** on 16th April, singles were at **Winscar Res.** on 24th April and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th April, and **Broadstones Res.** recorded two on 24th June and a single on 6th July.

(COMMON) **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon passage visitor. Has bred.

Recorded at six sites - a typical total. Although there was no repeat of the breeding success of 2005 there was an excellent run of records at Dewsbury SF and Ringstone Edge.

Dewsbury SF - the first of the year flew around before departing E on the early date of 16th Feb (PB). This or another was here the following day, with singles then on 9th and two on 23rd March. In June there was 2 on 7th and 23rd and then 6 from 28th to 30th. An excellent total of 12 were present from 2nd to 5th July, dropping to 10 on 6th and a single on 18th. One on 28th Aug was the last (JH).

Ringstone Edge Res - in May one from 9th to 11th, an impressive 12 on 12th, 6 from 15th to 16th, a single on 17th and 21st and 3 on 28th. One on 1st June, and in Aug up to 4 from 3rd to 5th, 2 on 6th and the last one on 7th and 8th (HBC, JED, DHP).

Deer Hill Res - one from 10th to 17th May showed characteristics of the *tundrae* race (DHP, DMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res - one flew W at 08.55 hrs on 13th June (MLD).

Scout Dike Res - a single on 26th Aug (RJB).

Broadstones Res - singles on 10th (MCW) and two on 16th Sept (HQ).

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

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

The only reports in Jan were two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st, 4 at **Snailsden Edge** on 22nd and up to 30 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** Numbers began to increase in Feb, with 100 at **Emley Moor** on 17th, up to 15 in fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** from 19th, c.60 at Upper **Cumberworth** on 28th, 180 were at **Deer Hill** from late month and up to 210 were at **Ringstone Edge**.

In March, 170 were again counted at **Ringstone**, 80+ were at **Blackmoorfoot**, 16 were at **Boshaw Whams** on 2nd, 60 were at **Crosland Hill** on 3rd, 118 at **Carlecotes** on 4th, 32 at **Maythorne Slack** on 5th, a max. of 88 at **Snape Res.** on 15th, 40 at **Shepley** on 17th, 100 at **Flouch** on 18th, 200 were at **Cawthorne** on 19th with 300 at **Whitley Edge** on 23rd.

The **Whitley Edge/Broadstones** area, which is an extensive area of pasture and traditionally good, held up to 450 birds during April. Numbers also increased at **Ringstone Edge** this month, with 350 reported. Elsewhere in April, a max. of 157 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd, 85 were at **Snape Res.** on 5th, 140 at **Deer Hill** on 14th and at **Scout Dike Res.**, 20 passed over on 9th and 15 flew NE on 15th. Two pairs were observed displaying at **Long Moor** on 5th.

In May up to 42 were still regular in the **Blackmoorfoot** area, 43 were at **Snape Res.** on 6th, 43 lingered at **Brown's Edge Road** early month but numbers at **Ringstone** had fallen to just a single bird. Up to 19 remained at **Blackmoorfoot** to 26th June, with 60 counted at **Snailsden Moor** on 14th June.

The only breeding evidence obtained was from **Deer Hill**, where 4 eggs were laid; the outcome unknown. At **Oxygrains** on 20th June a bird was alarming as if young were present.

Autumn migration this year was almost non-existent. Singles were heard over **Royd Moor Res.** on 1st Oct and **Scout Dike Res.** on 11th. Two were at **Ringstone** in Oct, with singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd and 4th and 3 here on 22nd.

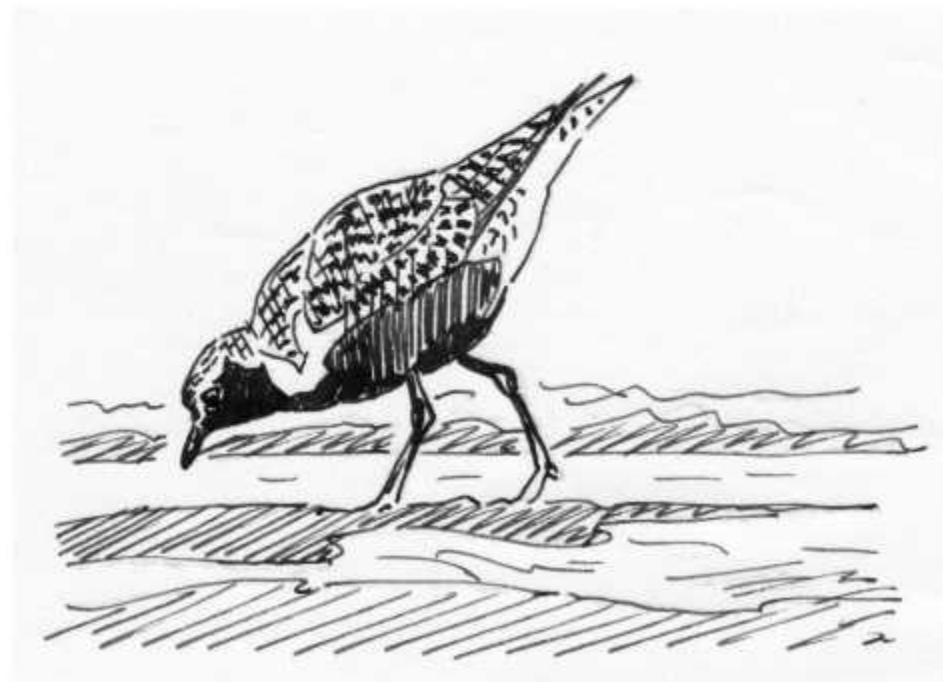
Late winter counts received were very few, by far the highest was 300 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 3rd Dec. The only other counts were 90 near **Royd Moor Res.** on 4th Nov and 100 at **Maythorne Slack** on 19th, and at **Blackmoorfoot**, after a no-show in Nov, there was a December max. of just 18 on Boxing Day.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare visitor

Two records - the first in the club area since 2001.

One was at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21st June (HBC), and one that flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 09.25 hrs. on 4th Oct (MLD) was the first since 1994.



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

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

Maxima at the two most regularly counted sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot	203	140	nc	nc	nc	59	180	200	300	50	150	180
Ringstone	54	nc	44	15	44	10	56	17	80	163	15	nc

Away from these sites, other notable counts in the early months were a max. of 160 at **Crosland Hill** on 1st Jan, c.300 near **Penistone** on 2nd Jan, 50 at **Broadstones/Maythorne** on 5th Feb, 150 at **Cartworth Moor** on 25th Feb, a max. of 250 at **Dewsbury SF** on 28th Feb and 200 at **Flight Hill** on 23rd March.

Birds were present during the breeding season at **Bretton Park**, in the **Broadstones/Maythorne** area, **Dewsbury SF**, **Dovestones**, **Holme Styes**, **Lumb Lane**, **Marsden** and near **Scout Dike Res**.

Breeding details were received from the following sites: at **Deer Hill** fewer pairs were thought to have bred than in 2005, but the success rate was considered the same; birds appeared late-laying, with none seen sitting until the 2nd week of April, and some early nests were predated by crows; repeat attempts were more successful, with some birds persisting in to June; one bird with a nest and young nearby was seen to alight on top of a stone wall - the observer's first experience of this behaviour in 35 years of birding (DMP); at **Ringstone Edge** two pairs were displaying on 25th April but six pairs had abandoned eggs by 29th due to farming activities (HBC); four pairs raised young at **Boshaw Whams**; two broods were noted at **Harden** on 11th June; two ads. and two young were seen at **South Crosland** on 18th July. Breeding was also reported from **Townhead** (6 pairs), **Isle of Skye Quarry**, **Scammonden**, **Shepley** and **Snape Res** but no details were forthcoming.

Significant autumn counts from various locations were: 60 at **Scout Dike Res** on 15th July, 86, 170 and 220 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th July, 7th Aug and 7th Sept respectively, 130 near **Royd Moor Res** on 27th Aug, 61 at **Broadstones** on 24th Sept and 200+ here on 25th Nov, and in the **Ingbirchworth** area 400 were counted at Annat Royd Lane on 1st Oct, 200 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 13th with 395 on the shoreline here on 18th Oct.

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

Rare passage visitor.

There were two records, both unsurprisingly from **Ringstone Edge Res** - singles were here on 9th July and 13th Sept (HBC). This is the sixth consecutive year this high-Arctic breeder has occurred in the area.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Ringstone Edge Res once again provided the only records this year - singles on 21st June and 3rd Aug (HBC). Like the former species, this was the sixth consecutive year of occurrence.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

Another disappointing year. Records were received from only six sites and again there were no reports of breeding. The majority of sightings were made in May and probably involved birds undertaking long-distance migrations. Ringstone Edge remains the favoured site.

Blackmoorfoot Res - one flew W on 19th March, one was present on 12th May with 2 down in fields to the W on 14th May. Two flew W on 22nd Aug, 3 flew W on 31st Oct and then there was an excellent total of 57 (12+28+17) flying W at 12.00 hrs. on 28th Nov (TD).

Ringstone Edge Res - in spring one on 9th March was joined by another the following day and was followed by singles on 22nd and from 27th to 30th April. One to five were present on 13 dates in May, with singles from 5th to 8th and on 11th June. In July there were singles on 3rd, 4th and 15th, 2 on 22nd and a single again on 28th. Three on 3rd Aug and 2 on 13th Sept were the last.

Deer Hill Res - singles on 11th and 12th May, 4 (including one in song) from 16th to 18th May and a single again on 23rd. One on 13th July.

Isle of Skye Quarry - two or three seen on 21st May and one flew E on 19th Dec.

Ingbirchworth Res - a juvenile on 29th July.

Scout Dike Res - one flew S on 11th Oct.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Another typical showing. Recorded from five localities.

Isle of Skye Quarry - singles on 3rd Jan and then on the early dates of 20th, 21st and 29th Sept. Singles on 4th and 9th Oct and 27th Nov were more expected (DHP). The Jan and Nov ones were literally the only birds in the quarry!

Ringstone Edge Res - singles on 1st and 21st Jan (HBC).

Elland GPs - one on 13th Feb (HBC).

Colne Valley - one flushed from fields near Coalgate on 7th Oct (HQ).

Scout Dike Res - one flushed from the usual area on 22nd Oct (RJB).

(COMMON) **SNIFE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

Fewer counts than in 2005 were submitted for the early months. The only one from **Dewsbury SF** was 33 on 16th Feb, and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** birds were recorded on only three dates in the period, with 40 on 21st Feb totally eclipsing the others. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were recorded on 8 dates with a max. of 3 on 5th and 11th and 13th March. The only other notable record was 3 in fields at **Golcar** on 4th Feb. In April birds were back on territory at **Deer Hill Res.** with a max. of 10 (including one drumming) on 2nd and 10 were at the airfield at **Browns Edge Road** on 14th. Birds were also on territory at **Harden** and **Whitley Common** on 1st April.

In the breeding season birds were recorded at **Snape Res.**, **Buckstones**, the **Bilberry/Blackpool Bridge** areas and at **Flight Hill**, where display and alarming were noted on 25th May and 23rd June respectively.

Post-breeding records were received from just six sites. It was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot** on 8 dates between 6th Aug and 16th Oct with a max. of only 3 on 27th Sept. At **Dewsbury SF** there were counts of 9 on 10th Aug, 14 on 28th Aug, 30 on 7th Sept and 12 on 9th Oct. At **Ringstone Edge** birds were noted on 12 dates between 14th Aug and 12th Oct with a max. of 11 on 16th Sept. Seventeen birds were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 29th Sept and other Sept records, and ones that may have involved migrants, were two (one high NE and one down) at **Snailsden Res.** on 17th and one flying S calling at **Blakeley Res.** on 7th.

The only reports from the late months were from **Blackmoorfoot**, with singles on 4th, 6 on 5th, singles on 6th and 22nd Nov and one on 17th and 18th Dec; **Ingbirchworth** with 3 on 10th Nov and **Ringstone Edge** with 6 on 12th Nov.

(EURASIAN) **WOODCOCK** *Scotopax rusticola*
Resident breeder (2), 25-75 pairs. Uncommon winter visitor.

Recorded from 15 sites. The species was very poorly documented during the breeding season and there is urgent need for records during this time. Notable movements and influxes occurred in March and Nov.

Apart from one at **Colnebridge SP** on 30th Jan the other early year records were in March, when cold weather early month perhaps triggered a movement: one was flushed at **Scout Dike Res.** and singles were at **Cheesegate Nab** on 4th and 18th, one was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7th, one was roding at **West Vale** on 19th, and singles were at **Boothwood** on 23rd and **New Hall Wood** on 25th.

The only report during the breeding season was of 3 birds roding on 4th June at **Woodsome Lees**.

In the second winter period, after one at **Helme** on 30th Oct, all bar one record occurred in Nov: singles were noted at **Denby Dale** on 3rd, **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th, 20th and 22nd, **Boothwood** on 6th, two at **Brow Grains** and one at **Deer Hill Res.** on 8th and one on an unspecified date at **Hagg Wood**. One at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 27th was the sole Dec record.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*
Rare to scarce passage visitor, increasing.

A typical year site-wise, with records from just two. However, one of these involved a record number of birds.

Records of 4 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th July, 2 on 13th July and singles on 1st and 4th Aug (HBC) were rather more expected than an incredible flock of 60+ birds which flew W at **Elland GPs** on the very unusual date of 10th Dec (HBC).

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

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0	1	16	7	2	2	2	47	25	68

On average, April has been the most productive month.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

The only record was one with Black-headed Gulls at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th Nov (RJB), it left SSW at 09.55 hrs.

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

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	1

Much scarcer than its larger cousin, no more than 4 have been seen in any one instance in this period. November has been the most likely month of occurrence - just.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor.



Seven records from six localities constitute a typical showing. All bar one involved single birds.

Ringstone Edge Res - two on 29th April (DT).

Deer Hill Res - one departed northwards on 10th May (DHP, DMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res - one circled calling at 08.35 hrs. on 17th May (MLD) and another flew W at 14.00 hrs. on 2nd Aug (DHP).

Ingbirchworth Res - one flew S on 30th July (MC).

Blakeley Res - one S at 07.40 hrs. on 15th Aug (JMP).

Dewsbury SF - one E on 23rd Aug (JH).

(EURASIAN) **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

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

The first returning bird appeared at **Harden** on the early date of 19th Jan (MC). This was followed by three reports in Feb: singles at **Honley Moor** on 16th, W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18th and **High Hoyland** on 27th.

The main arrival took place around the third week of March, with the most notable counts being 16 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th, 25 at **Maythorne Slack**, 7+ at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 18th, 32 at **Deer Hill** on 21st, 21 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 21st and a spring max. of 37 at **Scammonden** on 25th.

In April there was a protracted run of records at **Blackmoorfoot** of birds flying over, mostly W, with a max. of 4 W on 5th. By this time birds were reported on territory at several sites: 12 were at **Digley Res.** on 9th and 12 (including 10 singing birds) were at **Deer Hill** on 23rd, smaller numbers, usually 1 to 2 pairs, were noted at **Cawthorne Park**, **Dean Head**, **Dovestones**, **Scammonden**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Stockmoor**, **Stoneycliffe Wood** and **Wessenden Head Res.**

The only case of proven breeding came from **Oxygrains**, where young were observed on 26th June. Young were thought to be present at **Royd Edge**, Meltham on 4th June due to agitated behaviour by a pair. An attempt at **Deer Hill** failed due to predation by crows. Birds were also present during the breeding season at **Emley Woodhouse**, **Longside** at Bretton, **Issues Road**, where 10 pairs were estimated to be present on 24th May, and **Winscar**, where 10+ birds were counted on 10th June. In the **Marsden** area higher numbers were present than in 2005 but breeding success was not known.

Autumn passage was particularly evident early on at **Blackmoorfoot** where 2 flew W on 11th July, one S on 31st July, 7 S in one flock on 6th Aug and 3 N on 15th and one W on 25th Aug. A party of 14 at **Broadstones** on 3rd July and up to 11 in the **Ingbirchworth/Royd Moor** area from 25th July to early Sept were the only other records received from this period. The last record of the year involved 3 W at **Blackmoorfoot** on 28th Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

A significantly better year than 2005 for this species, with birds recorded at 21 sites. Successful breeding occurred at four of these. It was recorded in the area between 9th April and 19th Sept.

The first arrival was one at **Winscar Res.** on 9th April (MC), followed by one on the river at **Horbury** the next day. The main arrival occurred within the next 12 days: singles were at **Dewsbury SF** on 13th, two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th, singles at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th, **Digley Res.** on 19th, **Dovestones** on 21st and then one or two were at **Deer Hill Res.**, **Harden Res.**, **Langsett Res.** and **Ringstone Edge Res.** by the month end.

By early May two pairs were located at **Winscar**, **Deer Hill** and there was a spring maxima of 6 at **Digley** on 24th April and 5 at **Dovestones** on 12th May. A colour-ringed individual was at **Scout Dike** on 1st May.

Breeding evidence was obtained from **Deer Hill**, where two pairs attempted - a nest, eggs and young were located; **Digley**, where a pair with two young were observed on 5th June; **Butterley**

Res. where well-grown young were seen on 12th July; and **Winscar Res.** where at least one young was seen on 11th June. Three pairs reportedly bred at **Langsett Res.** and pairs were noted during the breeding season at **Bilberry Res.**, **Blakeley Res.**, **Dovestones**, **Ringstone Edge** (copulation observed), and the reservoirs at **Wessenden**.

From July onwards several sites recorded passage birds - one or two being the norm - but 3 at **Dewsbury SF** from 2nd to 27th July, 1st Aug and then 5 from 20th to 23rd Aug, and 3 at **Scout Dike** on 23rd July and from 19th to 26th Aug. Most had left by Sept, the exceptions being 3 at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st with 2 the following day, and then singles at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th.

*Attempts to ascertain where this bird had been rung have so far been unsuccessful. However, a scheme using plastic rings has been practiced in Derwentdale, Derbyshire in recent years; so it is not inconceivable that this individual was caught and rung here.

It is worth mentioning that the species has been apart of ringing studies at several sites in South and East England, particularly Wisbech Sewage Farm in Norfolk, and Abberton Reservoir in Essex.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Rare visitor

One briefly at **Scout Dike Res.** early on 17th Sept (RJB) was the first record here since 1991, and the first in the club area since 2002.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Dewsbury Sewage Farm remains the species' stronghold, and another excellent run of records included some impressive totals in the early autumn period. Away from here it was recorded at just four sites.

Dewsbury SF - first noted were singles on 26th and 29th Jan, followed by 3 on 16th Feb and then 2 on 16th and 23rd March and 3 on 2nd and 13th April. Autumn passage commenced with 3 on 3rd July; August then saw 3 on 1st, 4 on 2nd, 5 on 9th and then up to 9 birds were present from 16th to 28th. Five were here throughout Sept, with the last record, of 3, on 5th Oct (BA, PB, JH).

Scout Dike Res - singles on 23rd July and 8th Nov (RJB).

Cupwith Res - three on 27th July (DHP).

Ringstone Edge Res - singles on 1st and 3rd Aug (HBC).

Marsden - one flew S at 09.55hrs on 14th Aug (JMP).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Rare visitor

One at **Dewsbury SF** on 19th Aug (JH) was the first record here since 2001 and, indeed, the club area.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

A slightly better showing than last year, with records from five localities. There was a long-staying individual in the Ingbirchworth area in the autumn.

Dewsbury SF - one on 15th July and two on 19th Aug (JH).

Blackmoorfoot Res - one calling on 12th Aug (MLD).

Ingbirchworth Res - two on 26th Aug (RJB), singles on 27th Sept (DHP, JKP) and 21st Oct (DMP).

Scout Dike Res - one on 25th Sept (JMcl), 29th Sept and 1st and 14th Oct (RJB).

Royd Moor Res - one on 26th Sept (RJB) was undoubtedly the Ingbirchworth/ Scout Dike individual.



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

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

An absence of breeding evidence aside, it was a similar situation to 2005. In contrast to last spring the majority of records were in April, rather than March.

One W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 26th March heralded spring passage. In April a two took up residence at **Flight Hill** from 1st to 18th, singles were at **Whitley Common** on 1st, **Winscar Res.** on 14th and **Blackmoorfoot** on 24th. There was also a good series of records at **Ringstone Edge Res.** one on 15th, a displaying and mating pair on 23rd, one from 24th to 28th and two on 30th. Two pairs were displaying at **Digley Res.** on 30th April and back at **Ringstone** in May there were singles on 1st and 15th. There was an isolated June record of one at **Broadstones Res.** on 24th.

Autumn passage was slightly more eventful than last year. Following one at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th July, there was two at **Deer Hill** on 10th, and then singles at **Ringstone** on 23rd July and 3rd Aug, one at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th Aug and then two and one at **Dewsbury SF** and **Ringstone Edge Res.** respectively on 20th. The last of the year was a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th Oct.

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

Rare passage visitor.



Ringstone Edge Res. proved its worth as a passage wader 'hot spot' by hosting five of these rare visitors on 22nd May (HBC).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

In the early months counts at the **Blackmoorfoot Res.** roost numbered c.5,150 on 3rd Jan, c.5,800 on 17th Jan and c.4,750 on 8th Feb. At **Dewsbury SF** large numbers are regularly recorded flying past from the Pugney's Country Park roost, which is just outside the area, and 700 were counted on 3rd Jan, 8,500 on 13th Jan and 2,500 on 9th Feb. There was a large scale influx in to the **Ingbirchworth** area in late March, with counts of 800+ on 26th and c.2,000 on 28th. Tying in with this, c.2,100 roosted at **Langsett Res.** on 21st March. Elsewhere, counts were much lower and significant ones included 300 at **Bretton Lakes** on 21st Jan, 250+ at **Digley Res.** on 24th Jan, c.230 on 14th Jan and 110 on 18th Feb at **Scout Dike Res.**, 120 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 7th Feb and 200 at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 19th March.

There were no confirmed cases of breeding this year, but mirroring the events of last year a pair were present at **Horbury** in the summer.



Following a count of 110 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 19th Aug, numbers began to increase substantially from Sept with 287 on 11th and 417 on 24th at **Blackmoorfoot**, 250+ at **Scout Dike** on 23rd and 300+ at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 27th. In Oct **Ringstone** held 400 on 8th and 160 were at **Scout Dike** on 28th. Nov saw 55 at **Elland GPs** on 11th, 100 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 19th, 180 at **Scout Dike** on 26th and up to 100 fed on plough at **Upper Cumberworth** during the month. In Dec high numbers had returned to roost at **Blackmoorfoot** - 5,800 counted on 22nd, and a roost had formed at **Baitings Res.** where 900 were counted on 10th and 2,000 on 14th. The only other Dec counts were 140 at **Scout Dike** on 2nd, 280 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 3rd, 150 at **Ringstone Edge** on 21st and 60 at **Elland GPs** on 23rd.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor

There were six records involving at least three individuals.

In Jan an adult was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 13th and 14th (MLD, JMP), with a different adult on 23rd and 24th (MLD), and an adult again on 27th (PB, PDB) and from 8th to 10th Feb (MLD). A juvenile moulting in to 1st winter plumage was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th Aug (DMP, SMP, DMPrc) with probably the same individual at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th Aug (RJB, JDC).

Numbers of Mediterranean Gulls in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years.

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
3	4	0	4	5	5	3	3	3	3

Considering the possibility of overlap, these are conservative estimates.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Only a small number of records were received this year.

The gull roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held 1,100 on 17th Jan and 1,300 on 13th Feb. As expected, numbers elsewhere were considerably lower and included 80 at **Elland GPs** on 2nd Jan, 150 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 14th Jan, 31 at **Royd Moor Res.** and 60 at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 19th March, and c.350 at **Langsett Res.** on 21st March.

Reports in the latter winter period were even fewer. The **Blackmoorfoot** roost hosted 1,800 on 22nd Dec and 100 roosted at **Baitings Res.** on 10th Dec. The only other records were 40 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 22nd Nov, 20 at **Elland GPs** on 21st Dec and up to 20 feeding in fields at **Shelley** during this period.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

The established pattern of occurrence continues, with small numbers in the early months and the highest ones in the autumn. Apart from those at the Langsett Res. roost, four figure counts now seem a thing of the past.

At the regularly watched **Blackmoorfoot** site the monthly maxima were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	5	18	27	8	7	7	17	19	5	2

The autumn counts were, once again, very low here, and it is worth noting that during Aug and Sept birds were noted on only 12 and 13 dates respectively.

In the early months the only significant count was of 8 that flew E at **Dewsbury SF** on 29th Jan.

Apart from **Blackmoorfoot**, spring passage was only recorded at **Elland GPs** where up to 4 were present on 26th March with singles on 6th and 3 on 23rd April, and **Scout Dike Res.**, where a total of 32 were logged flying over between 19th Feb and 17th April with a peak of 10 W on 16th April.

Information from **Ringstone Edge Res.**, traditionally a favoured locality, was very sparse - the only counts received were 21 on 6th June and 27 on 8th Oct. **Broadstones Res.** attracted 50+ on 10th June and there were high counts in July of 250+ on 7th, 190 on 24th and another good count of 450 here on 10th Sept.

The traditional autumn build-up at **Royd Moor Res.** saw much increased numbers compared to last year, beginning with 15 on 28th Aug, increasing to 120 on 2nd and 300 on 9th Sept and then c.450 on 8th Oct, 480 on 14th Oct and 500 on 22nd Oct - the best here since 2000 - falling to 122 on 29th, with just 50 present by 18th Nov.

Autumn maxima of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the **Royd Moor Res.** area in the last 10 years:

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
170	1200	330	600	230	230	137	400	126	500

At nearby **Hartcliffe Hill** there were 160 on 28th Aug and 340 on 23rd Sept. **Langsett Res.** again provided by far the highest count of the year – c. 1,100 on 28th Sept. Birds that no doubt formed part of this roost often foraged during the day on plough at **Hoylandswaine**, and c.600 were counted here on 26th Sept.

Very few remained in to the late months and with the exception of 5 over **Shelley** on 26th Nov, only single birds were noted at **Elland GPs** on 11th and 22nd Nov and 14th and 21st Dec, at **Baitings Res.** and **Ryburn Res.** on 10th Dec. The last of the year were 2 W at **Scout Dike Res.** on 26th Dec.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Few observers submit records for this species. The only site it is regularly recorded at is **Blackmoorfoot**, where the following monthly counts were made:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	29	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	53*	19

The winter roost counts are the lowest in recent years and can be attributed to the closure of local refuse tips. * The Nov record involved birds passing through to the S - not roosting.

Apart from two Aug records from **Ringstone Edge Res.** of single birds on 22nd and 26th, the remaining records were in the winter months: notably 46 WNW through the day at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd Jan and 4 E here on 24th Dec; four and three at **Elland GPs** on 2nd and 29th Jan and 5 on 23rd Dec; three over **Shelley** on 13th Feb, one at **Boshaw Whams** on 19th Feb and 2 at **Bretton Lakes** on 15th Dec.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Birds were recorded at four sites and were all adults. All bar one were seen in the expected autumn period. It is quite conceivable that just three birds were involved in the series of sightings from Broadstones, Royd Moor and Langsett in autumn.

Blackmoorfoot Res - an adult arrived from the N around mid-afternoon on 16th Jan (PB).

Langsett Res - a near-adult roosted on 22nd Jan (BBSG), an ad. on 12th Sept (MCW) and two ads. roosted on 28th Sept (RJB).

Broadstones Res - single adults on 7th and 25th July (DHP) and 16th Sept (MCW).

Royd Moor Res - single ads. on 7th, 9th, 13th and 16th Sept and probably a different ad. on 24th, 28th, 29th and 30th Sept, two ads. on 14th and 22nd Oct (RJB, DHP).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

In common with Herring Gull there were very few records submitted and, again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** is only site where it is reported with anything approaching regularity. As usual, it was only recorded in five months of the year, four of these being counts of roosting birds which numbered

82 in Jan, 8 in Feb, 3 in March and 48 in Dec. In addition, a party of 9 passed S on 27th Nov. The Jan and Feb totals were similar to 2005 but in general the species is declining here, again the closure of tips being the likely cause.

The few reports elsewhere involved 6 NW and two briefly, and unusually, down at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd Jan, 5 ads. flying over **Shelley** on 22nd Jan and 4 at **Bretton Lakes** on 15th Dec.

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

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Another rather poor showing, with just the one record: an adult briefly at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th April (JMcL).

Numbers of Kittiwakes in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years.

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
5	3	4	5	41	2	2	27	1	1

March and April offers the best time to catch up with this maritime visitor.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Three were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4th June (DWB) - the first here since 1994, and a party of 10 visited **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the early evening on 14th Sept (CH, MS).

Numbers of Black Terns in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
8	0	1	8	7	0	0	5	1	13

In this period the majority have occurred in Aug/Sept.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded at 8 sites with sightings between 20th April and 14th Sept. The majority of records came from the Calder Valley.

Elland GPs - two from 20th to 21st April (HBC) with 3 on 23rd and 2 again on 3rd and 8th May.

Dewsbury SF - three on 5th May were followed by 3 birds daily until early July when two were present. Three again here from 17th to 24th July and then 5 on 24th Aug.

Horbury Wyke - one to two were seen regularly from 22nd April to 19th July, peaking at 4 on 25th April.

Colnebridge SP - two flew E on 14th July.

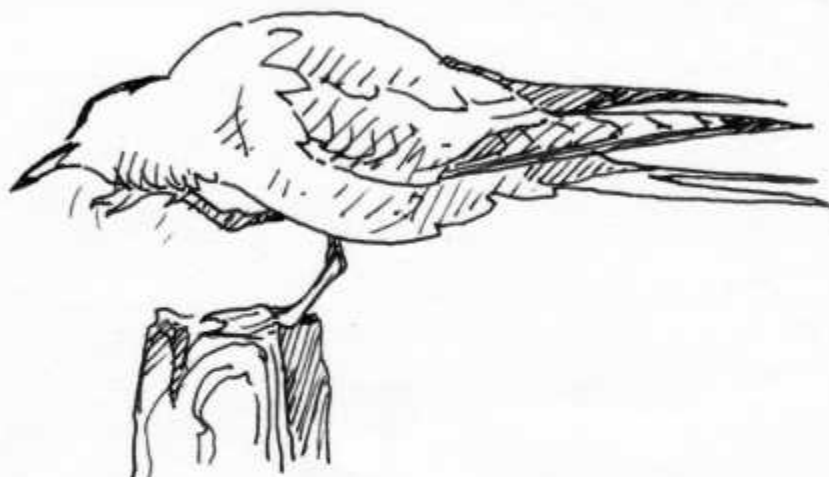
Ringstone Edge Res - singles on 23rd April, two on 21st May and a single again on 14th Sept (HBC).

Blackmoorfoot Res - one on 12th June, an adult on 13th July, a juv. on 19th Aug and two juvs. departed SE at 08.25 hrs. on 26th Aug.

Scout Dike Res - an adult moulting in to winter plumage was present on 29th July.

Bretton Lakes - six on 24th Aug (SRG).

A party of 8 'commic' terns flew W at Blackmoorfoot at 20.00 hrs. on 4th Aug.



ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

A poor showing this year with just the one record of an adult which flew W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.25 hrs. on 2nd Aug (MLD, CH).

Numbers of Arctic Terns in the Huddersfield area in the last 10 years:

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
3	2	1	1	5	0	0	2	8	1

Almost half the total during this period turned up in May.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Just the one significant count submitted - 70+ at **Longroyd Bridge** on 3rd March.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

A widespread species although not in particularly great numbers. It was reported from 32 sites this year.

The species was well documented at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where birds were noted on 135 dates with the majority seen from Jan to May and from Aug to Oct, 1 to 5 on most occasions but higher counts being 13 on 31st Jan and 9 on 24th Nov.

The only double figure counts received included the year's best of 40 at **Shepley** on 2nd Dec, and others were 21 at **Cranberry** on 24th April, 20 at **Lower Cumberworth** on 27th Jan, 14 at **Winscar Res.** on 22nd March and 10 at **Marsden** on 1st Nov.

Records of birds from both traditional nesting sites and other areas during the breeding season came from **Bretton Lakes** - at least 7 pairs bred successfully, **Bradley Woods**, **Elysium**, **Honley Wood**, **Lepton Great Wood**, **Lindley Moor Edge**, **Lower Stones Wood**, **Lumb Lane**, **Penny Springs Wood** and the **Shepley** area.

Birds regularly visited a garden throughout the year at **Meal Hill** and at **Almondbury** from Feb to April.

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

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

An extremely common species which tends to go under-recorded.

Most reports involved birds flying from and to feeding/roosting areas during the late winter period, when they often provide a spectacle. Such instances this year were 500 S at **Shelley** on 29th Oct, 70 SW at **Marsden Golf Course** on 4th Nov, 26 SE at **Dead End Edge** on 3rd Nov and 350 SE at **Elland GPs** on 21st Dec. One hundred also frequented the **Shelley** area in both winter periods.

Successful breeding was reported from **Bretton Lakes**, where several pairs were present in each of the 1km squares surveyed (BBSG), and from **Shelley** where a pair raised two young in the observer's garden. Several territories were located at **Bradley Woods**.

Birds were particularly unwelcome visitors to a garden at **New Mill** in the early months, where they took a fondness to stripping over-wintering brassicas.

(EURASIAN) **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

A very common resident, and fairly well recorded this year with observers submitting records from 18 sites.

Only three double figure counts were received: up to 12 were regular around the observer's garden at **Shelley**, where it remains a favourite prey of Sparrowhawks; 10+ were at **Thorpe Lane**, **Almondbury** on 1st Jan and 10 at **Dovestones** on 4th March.

Successful breeding was reported from **Almondbury**, **Bretton College** and **Shelley**. Pairs were located at **Clayton West**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Huddersfield Railway Station**, **Netherthong**, **New Mill** and **West Bretton**. The species continues to increase in the **Lindley Moor** area where one or two pairs are now breeding. One was seen carrying nesting material at **Golcar** on 21st Jan and mating was observed at **New Mill** on 20th May.

It was reportedly a scarce visitor to a **Meal Hill** garden this year, probably due to competition from Stock Doves.

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

Appears to be doing well in the area considering the number of records this year. There were reports from 28 sites - a marked increase on last year. Present in the area between 22nd April and 6th Aug.

Following the first ones at **Broadstones Res** and **Panna Mill Dam** (DMP, SP) and **Shelley** (SRG) on 22nd April there were further April reports of singles at **Millmoor** on 23rd, **Digley** and **Thornhill Millbank** on 24th, **Honley Wood** on 25th and **Holme Styes** and **Ingbirchworth** on 30th.

The main arrival took place from early May with birds at **Kirkheaton** on 2nd, **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th, two at **Cheesegate Nab** on 5th, **Millmoor** on 9th, **Castle Hill** on 10th, **West Nab** on 11th, **Haigh Greave Wood** and **Wessenden** on 12th, **Emley Moor** on 13th and 14th, **Lumb Lane** and **Oldfield** on 15th and **Deffer Wood** on 18th. Birds had also been seen at **Royd Edge Clough** and **Storches Hall** by the month end.

During June one to two birds were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd and 7th and up to 3 were in the **Meltham/Deer Hill** area up to the third week of the month. Others were at **Ryburn** on 3rd, **Cheesegate Nab** from 4th to 10th, **West Slaithwaite** on 4th, a pair was at **Brow Grains** on 6th, and singles were at **Yateholme** on 1th, **Digley** from 11th to 24th and at **Oldfield Hill** on 16th.

Typically scarce from July, the only record was a juvenile which took up residence at **Scout Dike Res.** from 22nd July to 6th Aug (RJB).

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

There was only one reliable record, indicative of a species just hanging on in the area. One was watched hunting at **Dewsbury SF** on 18th Jan (JH).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Records were submitted for only 19 sites - far fewer than last year, with a complete absence of any from the SE of the area, where the species must occur.

There was no proof of breeding but birds were noted during the nesting season, namely April and May, at **Dean Head, Deer Hill, Dovestones, and Meltham**.

One to two were noted at fifteen other sites outside the breeding season.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Reported from 27 sites - exactly the same as in 2005. Again, most records concerned vocal birds.

It was present during the breeding season at **Bradley Woods**, where three territories were located, **Birkby, Bretton Lakes, Chew Plantation, Dalton, Dovestones, Lockwood, Meal Hill** and **Netherthong**. Pairs were located at **Barkisland, Emley Moor, Farnley Tyas, Langsett** and **Storches Hall Wood**, and one was observed at a nest at **Windybank Wood**.

Records outside the breeding season related to one or two calling at several sites; although three were calling in the early winter period at **Shelley**.

Birds visited observers' gardens at **Fixby** on 11th June and 11th Sept, **Dalton** in July and **Meal Hill** in Oct.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

A dissappointing year for this retiring but charismatic bird with just three records, although one of these suggested successful breeding.

At one site on 12th July two young were located, calling, out of the nest (J Hod). One was watched on a wall at 04.00 hrs. at a further site on 17th April (MC), and a wintering individual was found at **Denby Dale** on 24th Jan (TM).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

A very similar scenario to last year. There was just the one case of successful breeding, whilst display was observed at two others.

Two young out of the three hatched were raised at an established site (JED, J Hod).

The first report of the year was one at **Broadstones Res.** on 29th March. During April a pair were hunting and displaying at **Cupwith** on 19th, and in the **Winscar/Harden** area after two birds were first seen displaying on 8th, they were again displaying on 23rd, with single birds noted on 19th

and 20th and then later on 24th May and 17th June. Also in April one was at **Yateholme** on 25th and one was hunting the **Brow Grains/Deer Hill** area also on 25th, with two then noted on 3rd May. There was an isolated July record of one at **Great Hey Clough** on 12th.

In the latter part of the year, in Nov, one and then two were at **Broadstones** and **Maythorne Slack** on 12th and 26th respectively, and one was at **Cupwith** on 16th. In Dec two were again at **Maythorne Slack** on 17th with a different bird at nearby **Crow Edge** also on this date.

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

The first of the year was a multiple occurrence at **Elland GPs** on 23rd April with 11 seen (DT), with 10 the next day. Also in April, one flew W over **Lindley** on 27th and on 29th, 15 were at **Scout Dike Res.**, 5 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.**

Numbers increased from early May with 150 at **Elland GPs** being an excellent total on the comparatively early date of 1st. Other counts in May included 50 at **Scout Dike** on 28th, a monthly maxima at **Blackmoorfoot** of 35+ on 31st, 12 over **Dalton** on 4th, 11 at **Dovestones** on 12th, and 10 at **Thongsbridge** on 6th and **Fenay Beck** on 7th respectively. An individual described at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th and 12th had a white belly and a pale patch on its mantle - vaguely reminiscent of an Alpine Swift *Apus melba*.

In June 3 to 20 were recorded daily at **Blackmoorfoot** with high counts of 60 on 20th (when the white-bellied individual was present again) and 40+ on 26th and 27th. Thirty at **Dewsbury SF** on 6th and 60+ over **Kirklees Park** on 19th were also notable. The only significant counts in July were made at **Blackmoorfoot** where there were 2 to 20 daily, with 30+ on 7th, 9th and 11th and 60+ on 31st.

Reports of breeding activity were few. This year three pairs were nesting in railway arches at **Slaithwaite** in May, several pairs were located nesting in houses at Green Lane, **Dalton** and birds were also nesting in the roofs of council houses by the traffic lights at **Waterloo** in late June.

There was an increase in records in Aug as birds began their return migration. At **Dewsbury SF** there were counts of 24 on 2nd, 12 on 20th and 30 on 23rd. Six to twenty were present every day at **Blackmoorfoot** with the highest counts early month, which included 70+ on 2nd, 40+ on 4th and 30+ on 10th. The only other double figure count this month was c.60 birds heading in a WNW direction over **Scout Dike** on 14th.

Typically very scarce after late Aug, with just three records: one at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd Sept and singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 1st and then 10th - the last of the year.

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



A very similar picture to 2005 with birds noted at 24 sites with successful breeding at two and suspected breeding at two others.

At the regularly-visited **Blackmoorfoot** site singles were noted on over 150 dates, with two on 27th Sept and from 5th to 7th and on 11th Nov.

Successful breeding was reported from **Bretton**, where a pair bred on the River Deame part of the lower lake, and at **Dewsbury SF**, where a pair nested on the R. Calder very close to the works. In the **Horbury** area one vocal bird was seen carrying food on 5th June and one was seen at a nest hole by the Calder here on 29th April.

Birds were observed during the breeding season at **Bradley Hall Farm** and **Elland GPs**, where 3 birds were noted on 20th May. Away from these areas the majority of sightings involved one to two birds being occasionally seen; most of them from Sept onwards, and particularly in Nov when five birds were counted at **Bretton Lakes** on 17th (SRG).

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

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Reported from over 40 sites, but breeding evidence was obtained from only one.

During the breeding season birds were noted at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Bretton Lakes** (2 pairs), the **Cheesegate Nab/Meal Hill** area, **Horbury Wyke**, **Pighill Wood**, the **Wessenden Valley** and **West Slaithwaite**. A nest was located in a telegraph pole at **Stoneycliffe Wood** in late March.

The vast majority of records from other sites involved single birds being seen on one to four occasions. In the **Marsden** area it was reported from 10 different localities and it was seen fairly regularly all year round in the **Cheesegate Nab/Meal Hill** area.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

As in 2005 there were reports from around 50 sites.

Successful breeding was reported from at least five sites: at Anchor Wood, **Farnley Tyas** a pair were seen feeding young on 18th May; young were fledged in the west bank wood at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, and a juv was watched being fed by a pair at **Meal Hill** on an unspecified date. Breeding reportedly occurred at **Pighill Wood** and **Honley Wood**, the latter c.30 metres away from the Lesser-spotted Woodpecker site, but no details were forthcoming. Juveniles that may have been reared locally were noted at **Almondbury** and **Shelley** in June, **Jenkinson Wood** and **Milnsbridge Canal** in July and **New Mill** from July to Aug.

Nine territories were located in the **Bretton** area on 21st March (BBSG), and it was present during the breeding season at **Bradley Woods**, **Butternab Wood**, **Cowcliffe**, **Hagg Wood**, **Royd House/Mollicar Woods** (3 territories) and **Windybank Wood**. There is, however, much breeding habitat in the E of the area that remains very much under-watched.

Birds regularly visited gardens at **Almondbury**, **Fixby**, **Meal Hill**, **Netherthong**, **New Mill** and **Shelley**.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs.

A rather disappointing year for this diminutive and popular 'pecker, with records from six sites. Breeding was proven at one of these.

Honley Wood - following the sighting of a pair seen changing over at a nest hole on 14th May they were watched feeding young on 30th May, and the male was then seen feeding young on 4th June (BA, DHP).

Blacker Beck - a male was on territory on 1st May (J Hod).

Bretton Lakes - a drumming male was seen well on 12th April (SRG) and a pair was at the W end of Bridge Royd Wood on 21st May (BBSG).

Elland GPs - singles on 13th Feb, 3rd March and 5th and 8th April (HBC).

Hagg Wood - a female on 4th April (WBH).

Healey House - one heard on 4th April (WBH).

(COMMON) **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

In the early months the Thurgory Lane area at **Lepton** once again attracted good numbers: c.50 on 4th and 5th Feb increased to 70+ on 10th before falling to c.30 on 4th March. No more than 5 birds were counted at any other site, although these records did include early singing birds at **Crosland Hill** on 25th Jan and 1st Feb, **Upper Cumberworth** on 1st Feb and **Flight Hill** on 18th Feb.

There was an increase in sightings in March, including a notable movement of 17 E over **Elland GPs** on 12th, but numbers generally remained low. Eight birds were in pasture at **Flight Hill** on 4th and up to 4 were noted at **Blacker Beck**, **Pottersgate**, **Ringstone Edge Res.** and **Wood Nook** by the month end. In early April 15 were at **Deer Hill** on 2nd and several were in song in the **Holmfirth** area.

During the breeding season birds were present at **Bartin**, **Blackmoorfoot**, in the **Bretton** area (4 territories), **Bulcliffe Colliery**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, **Crosland Hill**, **Deer Hill**, **Digley**, **Emley Moor**, **Honley Wood**, **Langsett**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Scammonden Res.**, **Scout Dike** and **Stockmoor Common**. A total of 13 singing males were located in the **Marsden** area - the highest total here since 1999.

Autumn migration began around mid-Sept with 7 S and 8 W at **Snailsden Edge** on a v.m.w on 17th, followed by counts of 13 on 17th, 10 on 20th and 16 on 25th at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, and 14 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 27th. October was the most productive month with 45 back at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** on 3rd, increasing to c.60 on 8th and an excellent c.100 on 16th, before dropping to c.40 on 29th. Twenty plus were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 1st and the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area attracted 15 on 11th and 18 on 29th. Birds are often seen moving over the area at this time, and on 4th 12 were logged going S over **Swinny Knoll** plus 4 S over **Wood Nook**, 9 SW over **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th and 14 flew SW over **Crosland Hill** on 29th.

In Nov up to 60+ remained at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** early month, but there were no subsequent records for here. There were only two other reports during the whole period that involved more than one or two birds - 5 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th Nov and up to 30 feeding in stubble at **Shelley** all month.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare visitor.

The first record in recent times. One was at **Dewsbury SF** on 24th Jan (JH). It was flushed at 08.05 hrs. and then watched down to c.20m for approx. 30 mins before it flew off NW.

The last definite record was way back in 1947. There have been two unsubstantiated claims since - in 1968 and 1980.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

It seems the earliest arrivals may have passed through unnoticed as the first report of the year was of high count of 120 at **Elland GPs** on 28th March (DT). Unusually, subsequent counts here were much smaller - 16 on 30th and 10 the following day. The only other March sighting was 3 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 31st. Birds were much more widespread during the first week of April:

three were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd, increasing to 30 on 13th, **Elland GPs** had a monthly max. of 30 on 6th; at **Horbury Wyke** eight on 2nd had increased to c.70 (including c.60 over the sewage works) on 10th and 20 were counted on 25th and 50+ on 28th; **Blackmoorfoot** recorded birds on eight April dates although no more than three were noted; and at **Ringstone Edge Res.** two were present on 15th and 18th followed by a single on 19th. One flying N at **Harden** on 14th, a rather high moorland site, was particularly noteworthy.

During the breeding season at the regular site at **Horbury Wyke**, following no record of breeding activity on 13th May, 10 - 12 nest holes out of c.100 counted were occupied by 28th May. Breeding was thought to have occurred at **Sands Lane GPs** but details remain very sketchy, but there was negative news from the former stronghold at **Ravensthorpe GPs**.

There were fewer reports from July onwards. At **Blackmoorfoot** singles were noted on just 3 dates in July, although a party of 11 did pass S on 14th. Also in July, three were at **Scout Dike** on 15th, seven were at **Ravensthorpe GPs** and a single was at **Ringstone Edge** on 16th, and 15 - 20 were present at **Crosland Hill Quarry** on 29th. August brought birds to **Blackmoorfoot** on 9 dates - mostly one or two but 4 on 3rd and 11th and the last one of the year here on 25th. Singles were also noted at **Ringstone Edge** on 3rd and 6th and two were at **Scout Dike** on 14th.

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

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

The first arrivals were 4 at **Elland GPs** on 28th March (DT). The next did not appear until five days later when 3 were at **Horbury**, 2 at **Scout Dike Res.** and a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** The main arrival took place around the third week of April, evident by counts of 40+ at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18th, 300 at **Elland GPs** on 21st and 100 at **Scout Dike** on 23rd. In May **Blackmoorfoot's** highest counts were 50+ on 1st and 14th. Other counts this month included the year's highest count in the club area of 400 at **Elland GPs** and c.60 at **Scout Dike** on 1st, 300 at **Colnebridge SP** on 7th and c.50 at **Horbury** on 13th.

Successful breeding was reported from **Shelley**, where a pair raised two broods, and **Colnebridge SP**. In the Lindley Moor area it was reported breeding at 3 local sites, with 2 - 3 pairs at each, and additional breeding was reported from Bower Hill Farm, **Bretton**, **Dovestones**, **Honley** (6 pairs at 70 Acres Farm) and in the **Shelley/Emley Moor** area where 12 pairs were present. Breeding undoubtedly took place at other sites.

Post-breeding counts in July and Aug were few, although those included were from **Blackmoorfoot** where there was up to 14 daily in July and 20 in Aug. Elsewhere in Aug counts of 30 were made at **Oldfield** on 9th and 50+ were feeding over fields near **Scout Dike** on 26th. In Sept 35 and 60 were at **Oldfield** on 1st and 24th respectively, 50 were at **New Mill** on 9th, 60+ were perched on wires at **Horbury** on 10th, **Blackmoorfoot's** monthly max. was 35 on 11th, and visible migration became increasingly evident late in the month, as 10 SW at **Marsden** on 22nd, 55 SE at **Harden** on 23rd and 4 S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 30th demonstrates. This movement continued into early Oct with 21 S on 1st and 23 S on 9th at **Blackmoorfoot**, 8 S at **Swinny Knoll** on 4th, 5 S at **Harden Moss**, and singles S at **Isle of Skye Quarry** and SW at **Fixby** on 6th, and three S at **Kirkheaton** on 7th. Five were at **Shelley** on 4th and up to 10 lingered at **Oldfield** to 6th. The last record of the year was a single S at **Scout Dike** on 15th (RJB).

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

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

The first of the year was one at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd April (RJB, MC). A handful arrived within the next fortnight, including two at **Elland GPs** on 6th, 4 at **Horbury** on 10th, 4 at **Bretton Lakes** on 12th, and two at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th. Intriguingly, no more than 6 were seen during the remainder of the month, with this count at **Scout Dike** on 16th. There was a significant arrival in the first two weeks of May; following c.100 at **Elland GPs** on 1st, 1 - 4 were noted daily at **Blackmoorfoot**, peaking at 25 on 16th, 50 were at **Colnebridge SP** on 7th and 60 were again at **Elland GPs** on 14th.

In the breeding season three young were fledged at **Lindley**, where nest building had begun by 30th April, and was observed at more properties thereafter. Further pairs were reported breeding at Wessenden Lodge, **Marsden**, and in the **Bretton** area at least 19 pairs were located (BBSG). The species reportedly bred at **Crosland Moor**, **Shelley Park**, **Shelley Woodhouse**, **Shelley Roydhouse**, and two properties at **Lumb Lane**, and there was a small breeding colony noted in **Elland Town Centre** on 26th June.

The only July counts received came from **Blackmoorfoot** where 2 - 8 birds were seen daily with high totals of 40+ on 20th and 45+ on 31st. In Aug, 6 - 30 were recorded daily at **Blackmoorfoot** peaking at 40+ on 5th, 65+ at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 12th, 140 at **Dewsbury SF** on 20th with c.30 there on 23rd, 30+ were at **Scout Dike** on 19th and 20 passed S over **Fixby** at 20.30 hrs. on 22nd.

During Sept, 4 - 8 were seen daily at **Blackmoorfoot** until 26th with 110 passing S on 3rd, 94 noted on 7th and 80+ on 13th, 40 were at **Elland GPs** on 8th, seven passed SE over **Snailsden Edge** during a v.m.w on 17th, and 100+ flocked over the embankment at **Royd Moor Res.** after rain on 24th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

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

With reports from just six sites, this bird seems to be becoming scarcer by the year. However, it is likely that several areas of suitable habitat remain unchecked. This amber listed species undoubtedly requires an increase in efforts to ascertain its true status in the club area.

Swinny Knoll - one over on 26th April (DHP).

Hade Edge - one was back at the usual haunt at Holme Styes on 29th April, with two singing males here the next day. On 7th June two males were singing here again and one bird was seen food-carrying, and on 10th June a very confiding bird entertained observers to within 3m.

Sheephouse, Penistone - two singing males on 9th May.

Dovestones - one on 11th May.

Little Don Valley - four were present on 11th July.

Blackmoorfoot Res - one flew S on 15th Aug (MLD, CH).



MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

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

In the early months double-figure counts were restricted to 4 sites: fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held 30+ on 2nd Jan, 23 on 29th Jan and up to 40 in February; a flock of 42 were wintering in grassy fields near the activity centre at **Scout Dike Res.**; on 8th Jan **Dewsbury SF** attracted 35 and 28 on 27th Feb; and 15 were at **Hey Slack** on 15th Jan.

There was an increase in both the numbers of birds and the localities from where they were recorded in March and April, as birds moved through the area and began to proclaim territories. In March up to 45 were regular at **Blackmoorfoot**, peaking at 100+ on 23rd, 20 passed S in a cold-weather movement over **Shelley** on 2nd and up to 50 were here by the month end, 38 were at **Dewsbury SF** also on 2nd, 50 were at **Deer Hill** on 26th and c.40 were at **Whitley Common** on 28th. In April 20 were at **Flight Hill** and a flock of 30 were again at **Whitley Common** on 1st, 50 were at **Deer Hill** on 2nd and 24th, there were counts of 20 on 3rd and 50 on 24th at **Digley Res.**, 140 were in the favoured fields at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th, and 40 moved WNW over **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th.

Records during the breeding season were almost non-existent. One observer commented that "it continues to be less densely distributed as a breeder" in the **Marsden** area (JMP).

Very few records were received for the July/Aug period. Exceptions were **Blackmoorfoot** where, in July, generally up to 15 frequented fields to the W, with high post-breeding dispersal counts of 86 on 16th and 50+ the following day, and 60+ were counted here on 4th Aug. Counts of 20 on 5th and 35 on 21st July were made at **Dovestones**.

Predictably, the highest numbers of the year occurred in September. This species is usually the most familiar bird seen on visible migration watches and this year the following were logged: in

the **Marsden** area in the Wessenden Valley 40 flew S (and c.25 were present in the upper valley) on 15th, and a total of 383 moved SW over Pule Hill between 18th Sept and 13th Oct with a max. of 169 on 21st; at **Scout Dike** 30 passed S on 21st, 120 S on 27th and 300 S on 30th, a total of 253 flew SE over **Snailsden Edge** between 08.15 hrs. and 12.15 hrs. on 17th, 50 flew W (and 20 were down) at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 11th, and 300 passed S over **Hoylandswaine Height** on 29th. Elsewhere, a flock of 60 at **Harden** on 23rd was comprised of mostly 'warm brown' birds and c.130 were grounded at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 30th. Counts in Oct were much-reduced with 100 at **Denby Dale** on 13th by far the highest. Other counts included 30 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 3rd, 21 at **Dewsbury SF** on 11th and 20+ at **Scout Dike** on 22nd. Birds became much scarcer thereafter, the only records being 16 on 4th, 25+ on 8th and 12 on 9th Nov at **Scout Dike**, one to four daily at **Blackmoorfoot** from 1st to 27th Nov and 9 at nearby **Meltham Cop** on Christmas Day.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Rare passage visitor.

The only record was of one feeding along the dam wall and then in the south-east corner of **Royd Moor Res.** on 18th Oct (RJB).

Of the 21 records since 1989, 10 have been in October.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

There was another excellent run of records at **Dewsbury SF**. One, probably two, was present on 9th Feb, 16th Feb and 2nd March at least, with three on 10th March and a least one again on 16th March and 2nd April (BA, PB).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 0-1 pairs. Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

A similar showing to 2005, with records from 7 sites and most occurring in Aug and Sept. Behaviour at one of these areas strongly suggested breeding took place.

Ringstone Edge Res - four singles moved W on 15th April (HBC).

Scout Dike Res - a good year for the species: one flew SW on 22nd April with this or another on 29th April. An excellent total of 5 were down on 19th Aug and there was a single on 23rd Aug. Two fed with Pied Wagtails and Meadow Pipits on 10th Sept with one on 23rd Sept the last (RJB).

Dewsbury SF - two males were seen on 12th May, 6th and 7th June, followed by a single male from 17th to 20th June. A female arrived on 28th June and on 7th July she was seen frantically gathering food and flying to the same spot in a nearby field every 20 mins. or so, where she was obviously feeding young. In Aug a single was noted on 9th with two on 19th (JH).

Ingbirchworth Res - one flew NW on 30th April (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res - two on 9th and a single on 13th Sept.

Royd Moor Res - one with Pied Wagtails on 16th Sept (RJB).

Marsden GC - an ad. male was feeding with migrant Pied Wagtails on 18th Sept (JMP).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

Once again, records were received for around 40 sites.

Breeding activity was reported from **Dewsbury SF**, where two pairs were watched feeding young on 15th June, while birds were noted carrying food at **Longwood** on 8th June and at **Marsden** on 27th June. Juveniles were noted in the **Little Don Valley** on 8th June and at **Thunderbridge** on 10th July, and were more than likely raised in the vicinity.

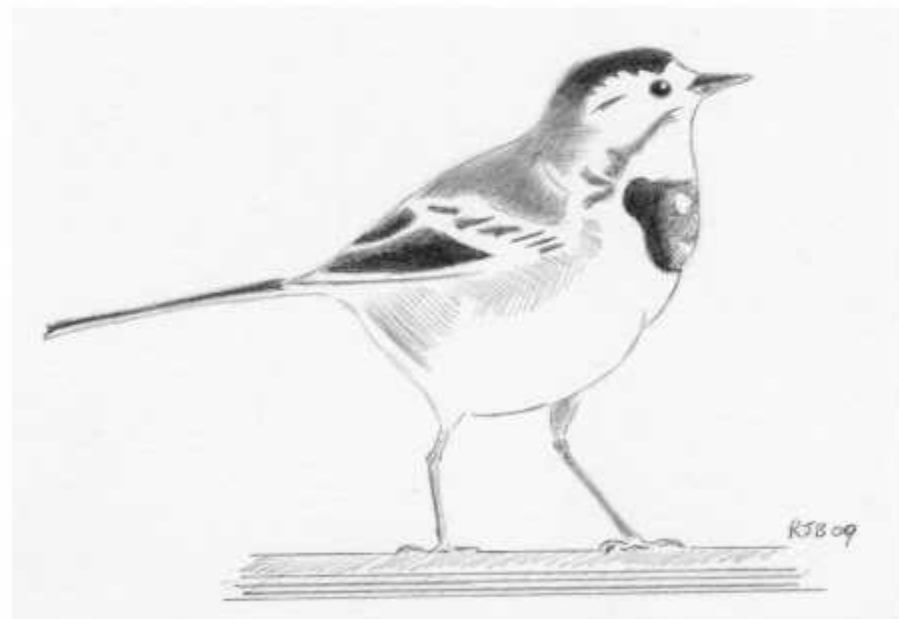
Pairs were present during the breeding season in the **Bretton** area (3), and at **Colnebridge SP**, **Dogley NR**, **Dovestones**, **Fenay Beck** (3), **Horbury Wyke**, **Riding Wood Res.** and **Wessenden**. In the **Marsden** area it reportedly bred in the village centre but no details were available.

Birds were logged at **Blackmoorfoot** on 108 dates, most involving single birds, but three were counted on 15th and 16th June and 29th and 30th June.

The vast majority of records involved one or two birds and occasionally three. Exceptions were 4 at **Dovestones** on 23rd May, **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd April, **Elland GPs** on 2nd Jan and in the **Little Don Valley** on 11th July, and seven at **Scout Dike Res.** on 5th Sept.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.



In the early months double-figure counts were received from just three sites: 38 on 16th Feb, 26 on 27th Feb and 42 on 3rd March at **Dewsbury SF**; 30+ at **Horbury SF** on 5th Feb and 45 at **Meltham SF** on 13th March.

Birds were reported at several sites on spring passage but no more than 6 were counted. The only double-figure total being 10 at **Dovestones** on 28th April.

During the breeding season birds were present at **Brow Grains Road, Clayton West, Colnebridge SP, Deer Hill, Emley, Honley** (at 70 Acre Farm), **Ringstone Edge Res., Royd Moor Nursery** and **Scout Dike Res.** Breeding was proved at **Kirkheaton CC**, where two juvs. were noted on 3rd June, **Broadstones Res.**, with several juvs. present on 24th June and at **Marsden**, with an ad. and a juv. noted on 27th June and at **Blackmoorfoot** where 3 pairs bred around the reservoir.

Predictably, the largest numbers were noted from Aug onwards with several significant gatherings recorded. At **Dewsbury SF** in Aug there were counts of 60 on 9th, 70 on 10th, 30 on 23rd and 80+ on 28th, followed by 60 here from 2nd to 7th Sept. **Scout Dike Res.** had counts of 10 on 13th Aug, 13 on 26th Aug and an autumn max. of 31 on 10th Sept. Other notable counts were 12 at **Broadstones Res.** on 24th Sept, 17 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th Sept, 10 at **Dovestones** on 29th Sept and 7 at **Oldfield** on 12th Oct. At **Marsden** a total of 107 were logged passing over SW on seven mornings between 18th Sept and 13th Oct, with a max. of 27 on 22nd Sept. The only significant late year count was 20 at Stretch Gate, **Shepley** on 8th Nov.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

Seven records constitute what now appears to be a typical showing.

Scout Dike Res - one feeding along the dam wall on 8th April (RJB).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a male on 20th April and a female the following day (PB).

Ringstone Edge Res - singles on 1st and then the particularly late date of 16th May (HBC).

Scammonden Res - one on 4th May (HBC).

Deer Hill Res - a late male on 16th May (DHP).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombus garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

This is the fourth consecutive year the area has hosted this delightful northern invader.

Lockwood - 13 at Folly Hall on 6th and 7th Jan, then counts of 10 on 11th, 20 on 13th, 28 on 16th Jan, with 15 on 23rd Feb. Between 25 and 30 were at Victoria Court on 21st Feb.

Marsh - between 15 and 20 were present at the corner of Westbourne Rd and St James Rd on 14th Jan.

Birkby - 20 at Arnold St on 17th Jan and between 25 and 30 at Macauley Rd on 25th Feb.

Huddersfield Ring Rd/Trinity St - three on 18th Feb had increased to 65 on 23rd Feb.

Cowcliffe - 35 on 6th March. A single on 24th Nov (GBS) was the only late year record in the Club area.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

Recorded from 32 sites with proven breeding at just one.

The majority of sightings occurred in Jan and Feb, with a further increase in Nov and Dec. During the breeding season, usually March to early April, birds were noted at **Dovestones**, in the **Hall Dike Valley**, at **Elland GPs** and at **Yeoman Hey**. Breeding evidence was obtained from **Oxygrains**, where, after the first egg was laid on 16th April, 5 young were raised.

Almost all records involved one or occasionally two birds, exceptions being counts of three at **Dovestones** on 4th March and 12th May.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Very few records were received of this very common bird.

Fifty seven were located on territory at **Bradley Woods** (MLD), 63 territories at **Bretton** included 34 singing males on 12th May (BBSG), 13 were located in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area on 4th June, 12 singing males were at **Bank Wood** on 11th June and 8 males were at **Elland GPs** on 8th May.

Birds reportedly bred in gardens at **Almondbury** and at **New Mill**.

The only other significant records were counts of 9 at **Dovestones** on 28th April and 11 at **Elland GPs** on 26th March.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Resident breeder (5), about 4,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Very little to report of an under-recorded species, and one which is apparently declining nationally.

In the **Bretton** area at least 26 territories were located (BBSG) including 11 singing males on 12th May, 8 territories were located at **Bradley Woods**, with 4 pairs at **Colnebridge SP**.

Several observers recorded the species in gardens: at **Almondbury** birds were present all year in one (with juvs. seen in June), and two pairs in another at Thorpe Lane; six at **Meal Hill** on 4th March were double the usual number and were no doubt searching for food here due to the cold spell at the time; up to 4 were present all year in a garden at **New Mill**, with song noted between 1st April and 8th July, and young seen in early Aug; up to 6 at **Shelley**; a max. of 5 at **Netherthong** and it was a year-round visitor to a residence at **Hagg Wood**.

(EUROPEAN) **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

A very common bird in the area. A similar picture to 2005 with the majority of records involving birds in observers' gardens.

Sixty three territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD) and at least 42 were located in the Bretton area (BBSG), including 26 singing males counted on 12th May. At least 8 territories were occupied at **Scout Dike Res.**

Successful breeding was reported from gardens at Thorpe Lane, **Almondbury**, **Shelley** (2 pairs plus several juvs. seen) and **New Mill** (one young on 5th Aug).

The only other significant report was counts of 19 on 9th Feb, 12 on 4th March and 15 on 19th March at **Dovestones**.

(COMMON) **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-40 pairs.

Recorded at 10 sites, which is a significant improvement on last year but still a cause for concern. Breeding was confirmed at one site and there were signs of nesting activity at another.

Horbury - a male by the canal on 14th April (DHP).

Winscar Res - a male on 24th April.

Holme Styes - a pair on 29th April, with the female seen carrying nesting material and the male singing the following day. Two pairs were noted in the area on 7th June.

Cheesegate Nab - two singing males at Bank House Farm on 10th May, with perhaps one of the same on 14th May.

Cliffe Wood - a male on 15th May.

Little Don Valley - a singing male on 25th May, with two males alarming with food and a 'fluffy' juv. observed on 8th June. A female and a juv. were also here on 11th July.

Tunnel End - a male from 30th May to 4th June - the observer's first record here (JMP).

Blackmoorfoot Res - a male near the inflow on 5th Sept.

Royd Moor Res - a male present on 7th September.

Ringstone Edge Res - one migrant on 13th and 14th Sept (HBC).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs.

A year of mixed fortunes for this species. Although at least 7 males were on territory, there was only a single case of confirmed breeding, but a good autumn passage suggests more prosperous times were had elsewhere.

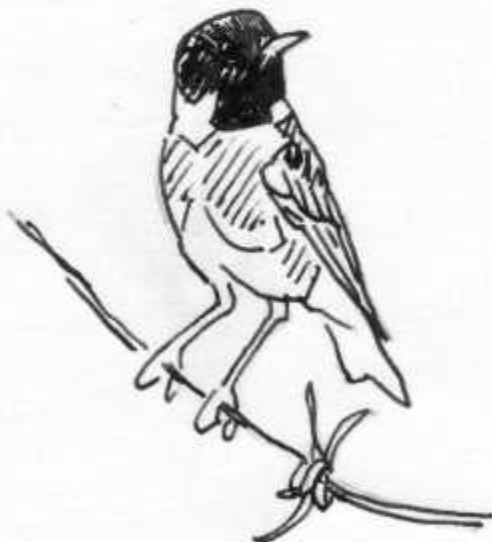
A male at **Scout Dike Res.** on 23rd April (RJB) was the first, and was followed by one at **Winscar Res.** on 28th, two at **Scammonden Res.** on 29th and 30th, and two at **Dean Head Res.**, a single at **Wessenden** and another at **Winscar** on 30th. In May the **Winscar** pair was present on 1st and a male was also seen on 24th, singles were also at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 1st, then **Pule Hill**, **Marsden** on 3rd, **Brow Grains**, **Meltham** on 6th, **Wessenden** on 11th, **Deer Hill** on 14th and pair were at **Buckstones** on 21st.

During the breeding season a female was at **Dovestones** on 1st June, while at **Buckstones** a male sang on 4th June and was reported alarming on 9th and on 7th July, with a pair behaving agitatedly on 16th July. In the **Meltham/Deer Hill** area two males plus a pair with at least 3 recently fledged young were seen on 2nd July, followed by an ad. and 2 juvs. on 9th. This species is believed to be declining here possibly because the increasing Stonechats are dominant and are taking over former breeding sites, they are also well in to their breeding cycle by the time these birds arrive. In the **Marsden** area single males were on territory at Blakeley Res, Gilbert's Cottages, Pule Hill, Pule Holes and Wessenden Res. but numbers were described as 'down this year'. Up to three were in the **Winscar/Harden** area in July.

There were several post-breeding dispersal records in Aug. On 2nd two adults were at **Winscar**, a male was at **Dewsbury SF** on 10th with a juv. on 16th, a single was at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th, **Scout Dike** recorded two on 19th and two at nearby Folly Lane on 26th, while at **Dean Head** there was three on 24th and a juv. on 27th. Birds in Sept probably came from farther afield; singles were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 2nd and **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th, two were at **Winscar** on 14th and singles then at **Ringstone Edge** on 21st, **Scout Dike** on 23rd and **Blackmoorfoot** on 26th - the last of the year.

(COMMON) **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*

Resident breeder, increased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce/uncommon passage and winter visitor.



At the beginning of the year, in Jan, pairs were at **Winscar Res.** and **Cheesegate Nab** on 1st, **Helme** and **Deer Hill** on 2nd, a female was near **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 5th and singles were at **Scammonden**, **Dean Head** and **Wessenden** on 22nd with one at **Broadstones Res.** on 29th. In Feb a male was in fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** from 16th to 18th.

There was a marked increase from March as birds began to move back to breeding habitat. In this month males were at **Ford Inn** on 9th, Blake Clough, **Marsden** on 17th, a pair were in the **Chew Valley** on 21st (the female was observed nest building at the base of rush clump), and singles were

at **Isle of Skye Quarry** and **Scammonden** on 29th. In April a female was at **Winscar** on 8th, 15th and 28th, a female at Meltham Cop, **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th, a pair was at **Deer Hill** on 9th with a female on 20th and one at **Scammonden** on 30th.

The species seemed to have had a good breeding season, particularly in the **Deer Hill** area, which probably hosted 5 or 6 pairs, with young noted out of the nest from May to mid-Aug. Elsewhere: five young were fledged at **Buckstones** by 4th June, and adults were feeding a second brood here on 30th June.; at **Winscar** a juv. was noted on 11th June and a party of 'several' birds, including juvs. were here on 15th Aug; a pair and 3 juvs. were at **Dovestones** on 5th June and a family party were present at **Deanhead** from 27th May to 24th June. Two juvs. at **Harden** on 12th Aug were probably part of the Winscar party, and a juv. at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd Aug may not have travelled that far. A pair was observed nesting at **Cupwith Res.** on 2nd June with the male alarming on 7th, but the outcome was unknown. Other sites where birds were present during the breeding season were **Booth Hill**, **Brow Grains**, **Harden**, **Isle of Skye Quarry**, the **Little Don Valley**, **Oxygrains** and **Pule Hill** and **Wessenden** in the **Marsden** area.

From Sept onwards birds were observed at numerous localities. In the **Blackmoorfoot** area up to three were noted on 16 dates to the year end, 11 of them coming in the Nov and Dec period. Four were at **Snailsden Res.** on 17th Sept, singles were at **Marsden GC** on 18th and nearby **Car Clough** on 30th, and birds were regular at **Winscar** to 1st Oct. Oct saw a male at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st, 2 juvs. at **Denby Dale** on 4th, a male at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** on 8th, a female/imm at **Royd Moor Res.** on 18th, one on 18th and two on 24th at **Maythorne Slack** and one at **Pottersgate** on 25th. Apart from the aforementioned birds at Blackmoorfoot, it became scarcer from Nov. Singles were at **Pottersgate** on 1st and 27th Nov, **Wessenden** on 1st, two at **Brown's Edge Road** on 3rd and three at **Scammonden** on 12th Nov. There were just two Dec reports away from Blackmoorfoot - a male and female at **Scammonden** on 3rd and one at **Boshaw Whams** on 7th.

(NORTHERN) **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Migrant breeder; decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Uncommon to common passage visitor.

The first of the year was a male at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 25th March (RJB), closely followed by a male at **Scout Dike Res.** the following day, with a notable arrival on 29th March with 4 at **Digley Res.**, 5 at **Pottersgate**, 2 at **Snape Res.** and 2 at Meltham Cop, **Blackmoorfoot**. Additional March records were a male and female at **Crosland Hill** on 30th and 3 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** the next day.

The main arrival took place during the 2nd and 3rd week of April with numbers peaking around 20th. At **Blackmoorfoot** birds were recorded daily peaking at 16 on 19th, with other counts of 13 on 14th, 14 on 26th and 13 from 27th to 30th:- a total of 183 bird/days; the first half of the month involving mainly males, the 2nd mainly females. In the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstones** area an estimated 50 birds were counted on 22nd (DMP, SP), and there were other counts of 20 at Brown's Edge Road on 4th and 30 here on 19th. Other notable counts during the month included 20 at **Law** and 13 at **Deer Hill** and **Scout Dike** on 14th, 15 at **Windmill Lane** on 18th, 20 at **Pottersgate** on 19th, 10 at **Whitley Common** on 21st and 22nd and **Hartcliffe Hill** on 22nd (including a male of the 'Greenland' race *leucorhoa*).

In May at **Blackmoorfoot** birds were again recorded daily, peaking at 13 on 2nd and then tailing off towards the month end. Elsewhere, three birds of the 'Greenland' race were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 1st with single 'Greenlanders' at **Deanhead** on 2nd and **Scammonden** on 2nd and 4th,

6 were at **Digley** on 3rd, singles were at **Pule Hill** on 10th and **Oldfield** on 21st and up to 4 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** to 23rd.

The only reports during the breeding season were of three pairs at **Dovestones** on 5th June, when several juveniles were also present, and singles on 5th July with 2 on 21st July, and **Blackmoorfoot** where there was a juv. on 12th.

Post-breeding dispersal commenced at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th Aug and up to 6 were noted here on a further 8 dates this month. The only other Aug reports were of singles at **Deer Hill** on 7th, **Hartcliffe Hill** on 14th, **Winscar** on 15th and **Deanhead** on 28th. Birds were far more numerous from early Sept, with **Blackmoorfoot** recording up to 3 on 8 dates from 9th. Elsewhere, two at **Deanhead** on 3rd, singles at **Deer Hill** on 9th and 13th, 4 at **Isle of Skye Quarry** from 11th to 18th, a single at **Snailsden** on 17th and **Wood Nook** on 20th, 7 at **Scout Dike** and 3 at **Winscar** on 23rd, 4 at **Maythorne Slack** on 24th and **Brown's Edge Road** on 26th and two at **Royd Moor Res.** on 28th. There were just three Oct records - singles at **Broadstones Res.** on 1st, **Denby Dale** on 13th and **Maythorne Slack** on 25th (HQ).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

A specialist upland breeder which is declining in the Pennines. Birds were reported from only nine sites and there was only one case of confirmed breeding.

The first birds of the year were two males at **Meltham Cop** on 3rd April, these remaining to at least 11th (MLD, CH, DHP et al). Following a male in the **Little Don Valley** on 5th a significant arrival took place during the third week of the month, which was likely to have involved continental birds: a male and a female were at **Digley** on 15th, an excellent total of 9 (3 males) was at **Meltham Cop** on 17th and 18th, with 4 on 19th and 20th, four (2 males) were present at **Bilberry** on 18th with another excellent count of 9 (5 males) here on 20th, and a male and a female were at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 22nd.

During the breeding season a male was observed flying towards Wessenden Lodge at **Blakeley Res.** on 7th June. The only confirmed breeding was reported from a site in the S of the area, where a female was seen food carrying on 24th May and a pair was watched feeding two fledged young, which were still food begging, on 11th June (PB, SRG). At another site birds were present on 1st and 6th June; one calling agitatedly on the former date.

In the autumn, at **Dovestones** singles were present on 8th Aug, 29th Sept and 2nd Oct, 5 were at **Chew Valley** on 18th Oct and the last record of the year was one feeding on Rowan berries at **Royd Edge Clough** on the late date of 5th Nov (DMP) - a time when good numbers of Fieldfare were arriving.

(COMMON) **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

The only early counts submitted were 18 on 3rd Jan, 18 on 4th March and 26 on 19th March at **Dovestones**, 12 at **Almondbury** on 12th March and 8 in a **Fixby** garden on 25th Feb.

In the spring time at least 42 territories, including 31 singing males, were logged in the **Bretton** area (BBSG), 68 territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD), and there was counts of 21 on 17th May and 20 on 23rd May were at **Dovestones**. Several observers submitted details of breeding: four nests, two successful, were located at **Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke**; two nests, one successful, were located at **Ossett**; three young were raised at **New Hall Wood**; juvs. were recorded during June and July in a garden at **Almondbury**; and one to three young were raised in a **New Mill** garden. Breeding also reportedly occurred in gardens at **Meal Hill** and **Wooldale** but no details were available. Food carrying was observed at **Dalton** on 18th June.

There was only two significant late year records received - a notable influx of at least 17 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th Oct and a good count of 40 at **Dovestones** on 5th Dec. Intriguingly, a large flock of Fieldfare were recorded at a site not too far from here around this time.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

In contrast to 2005 there was significantly lower numbers in the area in the early months, and this year the majority of spring-movers were recorded in April rather than March. In the latter part of the year the main influx occurred 7 to 10 days' later than in 2005.

January began with the year's highest count - c.800 at **Ingbirchworth** on 4th (JKP), and this was followed by counts 100 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 7th, 50+ at **Penistone** on 9th, 95 at **Oldfield** on 14th, 60 at **Woodnook** and 50 at **Wilshaw** on 15th, 50 at **Bretton Park** on 17th, with c.200 at **Oldfield** again on 28th. In Feb 38 at **Crosland Heath** on 6th, 70 at **Oldfield** on 8th, 60+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th and 100 in the **Clayton West/Emley** area on 25th.

Birds were scarcer in March; the only significant counts being 50 at **Bretton** on 17th, 120 at **Snape Res.** on 20th, 60+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st and 100 at **Deer Hill** on 31st. There was an increase in records in April as birds were moving back to Scandinavian breeding areas. On 1st 100 were at **Scout Dike Res.** with 120 at **Deer Hill** on 2nd, 300 were near the **Dog and Partridge Pub** and 50 were at **Healey House** on 4th, 107 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th, 650 plus 180 were at **Winscar** on 8th, 80 at **Broadstones Res.** on 14th with 180 here on 20th, 60 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 14th and 80 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15th. The last spring record was a single at **Balk Lane, Horbury** on 29th (BA).

In Oct the first returning birds appeared on 12th when 57 flew S over **Blackmoorfoot** and 10 were at **Marsden GC** (JMP). Following these, 60 moved S at **Blackmoorfoot** on 16th, 30 were at **Bretton Park** on 24th with 13 at **Scout Dike** on 28th. There was a significant arrival and movement in early Nov, coinciding with period of cold weather: 110 were at **Scout Dike** and 100 moved SW at **Netherthong** on 1st, 200 were at **Ingbirchworth**, 31 flew W at **Snailsden** and 80 W at **Netherthong** on 3rd, seventy plus were at **Netherthong** again on 4th, with 31 at **Dovestones** and 152 SW at **Marsden GC**; and on 5th 100 moved W at **Scammonden**. Later in the month, other notable counts included 160 from 13th - 16th, 120 on 24th and 350 on 27th at **Blackmoorfoot**, 65 at **Scout Dike** and 80 at **Scammonden** on 12th and 60 at **Wessenden** on 18th. In Dec, apart from counts of 500 on 2nd and 140 on 17th at **Scammonden**, birds were recorded in much lower numbers; the only significant totals were 14 at **Dovestones** on 5th, 100 at **New Mill** early month, 40 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 11th and 10 at **Bretton Park** on 15th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Partial migrant breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs, but decreasing.

Although the number of sites recording birds was slightly down on last year, there was a significant increase in the number of singing males/territories located.

Included in the minimum 70 territories located were at least 21 in the **Bretton** area (BBSG) and 16 (one up on last year) in the **Marsden** area (JMP). Despite the high number, successful breeding was only reported from **Elland GPs**, **Colnebridge SP** and the **Blacker Beck/Horbury** area, although this species is subject to under-recording. The species is 'increasing locally in the **New Mill** area, but was affected by the dry summer' (CDA) and another observer (JED) recorded a slow increase in the **Lindley Moor** area. Of particular interest was an incidence of one perfectly imitating an Oystercatcher at **Bradley Woods** on 25th and 28th April! (DHP).

Singing males were recorded during the winter months at **Shepley** on 2nd Jan, **Brighouse** on 19th Jan, **Dalton** on 19th Feb and **Blackmoorfoot** from 19th to 21st Dec. The only autumn record of note involved at least 6 birds in Maze Brook at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th Oct - a date when an increase in Blackbirds was evident.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor.

In January the only significant counts concerned flocks of c.50 at **Shelley** on 2nd, **Crosland Hill** on 4th, **Bretton Lakes** on 17th and **Houses Hill** on 21st; 25 were at **Ainley Top** on 19th and 47 were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th and 30th. It was fairly scarce in Feb also, with birds noted at **Blackmoorfoot** on only 3 dates and a max. of 24 on 4th, 10 were at **Golcar** on 1st, 11 at **Dovestones** on 9th, 25+ at **Crosland Hill** on 20th and 11 were counted at **Colnebridge SP** on 23rd. There was an increase in reports in March as birds returned to northern breeding areas: at **Dovestones** there were 18 on 4th and 55 on 19th, 50 flew E over **Fixby** on 5th, 58 were at **Swinny Knoll** on 10th with 10 at **Meal Hill** the following day, 20+ were at **Crosland Hill** on 13th and the last report of the spring was 6 at **Stocks Moor** on 25th (J Hod).

The first returning birds were 4 at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th Oct (JH) - a typical date. On 12th 219 moved S and 46 W at **Blackmoorfoot**, 50 went S over **Shelley** and 20 flew S over **Fixby**. A major movement took place between 15th and 29th, with the more significant counts as follows: at **Blackmoorfoot** there were S movements of 70 on 16th and 90 on 18th, 40+ were present on 21st, as were 110 on 21st, and 770 passed S between 08.00 hrs. and 09.30 hrs on 27th, 100 flew S over **Denby Dale** and 40 went E at **Scout Dike Res.** on 15th, 265 flew W/SW at **Greenfield Road** and 390 flew S at **Golcar** on 27th. The last few days of Oct saw 70+ at **Colnebridge SP** on 28th and up to 50 took up residence at **Shepley** on 30th, remaining to the year end. In Nov, at **Blackmoorfoot** after 110 were noted on 4th birds were logged on a further 9 dates with a max. of 18 on 9th, elsewhere this month 50 flew W at **Scammonden** on 5th, 40+ were in the **Upperthong/Netherthong** area on 4th, c.20 were at **Scout Dike** on 4th and 19th, 25 flew W at **Lindley Moor** on 15th and 14 were at **Elland GPs** on 30th. In Dec numbers were much reduced: at **Blackmoorfoot** birds were noted on 12 dates with a max. of 20+ from 21st to 22nd, and the only double-figure counts elsewhere were 10 at **Salendine Nook** on 12th, 16 at **Gunthwaite** on 13th, 10 at **Hagg Wood** all month, 50 at **Meal Hill** on 30th and 15 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on New Year's Eve.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

In the early months double-figure counts were logged at just three sites: 12 at **Lockwood** on 6th Jan, 10 near **Scout Dike Res.** on 10th and 10+ at **Dovestones** on 19th March. Eight at **Dunford Bridge** on 22nd Jan was also notable.

In the spring singing males were reported at **Blacker Beck**, **Holme Styes**, **Horbury Wyke** and **New Mill**. Pairs were also reportedly present at **Deanhouse**, **Hagg Wood** and **Oldfield**. In the **Bretton** area at least 11 territories were located (BBSG), with two pairs nest-building on 25th March and 11 territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD). In the **Marsden** area 13 males were found - an increase of one from 2005 (JMP). Breeding was reported from **Huddersfield Ring-Road**, where a pair built a nest in the amber traffic light near Sainsbury's; young were being fed here on 26th July. Breeding was also reported from **Colnebridge SP**, **Emley Moor**, **Lepton** and **Shelley** (2 pair) but no details were available. A nest was located at **Ossett** but the young were predated.

Post-breeding parties were seen from early July when 11 at **Dovestones** on 5th were followed by 17 here on 21st. Twenty-seven were at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th Aug with 15 at **Meal Hill** on 15th Aug. In Sept 17 were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 2nd, and **Blackmoorfoot** recorded counts of 14 on 1st, 19 on 4th and 33 on 6th. There were only two more double-figure counts to the year end - 11 on 10th Oct and 10 on 5th Dec at **Dovestones**. A male was in full song on 1st Nov at **Fixby** and 8 were on the school playing field here on 23rd Dec.

(COMMON) **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

Passage visitor and occasional migrant breeder (1), 0-3 pairs.



A typical showing with a series of records from just two sites.

At **Deanhead Res.** a singing male was recorded on 30th April, 1st, 3rd, 6th, 12th and 13th May, with another singing male on 4th (JB, DHP, DT). A male also 'reeled' at **Buckstones** on 30th June and 7th and 16th July (JHod).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from six sites with at least 9 singing males reported at sometime or other. There were no confirmed cases of breeding, but birds were present at one site during the breeding season.

Scout Dike Res - a male sang from a holly bush on 22nd April (RJB) with this or another singing male on the N side of the res. on 29th April and 29th May. Two birds were noted in the general area on 8th and 15th July.

Colnebridge SP - singles on 27th April, 9th and 12th May and then two singing males from 23rd to 25th May, with one again on 29th. In the autumn, singles on 3rd Aug and 18th Sept (DS) - the last of the year.

Horbury Wyke - following one by the R. Calder on 28th April and one by the railway the next day, at least 3 singing males were recorded in the area between 9th and 29th May.

Bretton Lakes - a singing male was present on 9th May.

Sparth - one singing male on 9th May.

Blackmoorfoot Res - a migrant was recorded on 10th Sept.

(EURASIAN) **REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and rare migrant breeder (1), 0-2 pairs.

Typically, there were records from only three sites (two in the Calder Valley), although breeding was proven at one of these.

Colnebridge SP - two birds first seen on 7th May (DS) included a bird carrying nesting material. There were further sightings on 11th, 14th, 25th (two singing males) and 29th May and 6th June. Two fledged young were then seen on 25th June, followed by two birds on 10th July and singles on 3rd and 7th Aug (DHP, DT).

Elland GPs - two singing males were present on 11th May (JED).

Bretton lakes - singing males were here on 31st May and 10th June (BBSG, SRG).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs, increasing. Scarce winter visitor.

Appears to be going from strength to strength in the club area, with at least 110 singing males/territories located this year.

In the early months wintering birds were recorded in gardens at **Golcar** on 1st Jan; Thorpe Lane, **Almondbury** on 5th, 13th to 17th (two birds) and 24th Jan and 1st Feb, plus a bird nearby on 11th and 12th Feb; and at **Fixby** where two males resided from 1st Jan to 13th April. One was at **Jerusalem Bridge** on 22nd Jan.

The first presumed migrant arrived at **Bullcliffe Wood** on 7th April followed by one at **Horbury Wyke** the next day. The main arrival took place during the third week of April, heralded by three at **Elland GPs** on 11th. As in 2005 there was some excellent counts of singing males; these included 24 in the **Bretton** area on 12th May (BBSG), 17 in the **Marsden** area (five up on 2005) (JMP) and 7 at **Langsett** on 8th June. Twenty one territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD). Breeding was proved at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where a pair raised young in Orange Wood, and at **Colnebridge SP** where a pair with 2 to 3 young was seen on 23rd June. Breeding reportedly occurred at **Blacker Beck**, **Bretton** and **Shelley** but no details were available, although it doubtless took place at several other sites in the area.

From July onwards comparatively few were reported. Two singing males were present at **Blackmoorfoot** from 1st to 8th, with one in song here again on 16th Aug - the last report of the year here. Singles were at **Golcar Tip** on 4th July and **Ramsden Res.** on 8th July, and there were no more records from **Elland GPs** after 1st July. In Aug singles were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th and **Scout Dike Res.** on 26th, with Sept singles here on 9th and 16th. An undated single was at **Hagg Wood** this month. The last presumed migrant was a male at **Squirrel Ditch** on 1st Oct. There was three reports of wintering birds in Dec - one on 17th and two on 27th in a **Fixby** garden, and a female at **Shelley Whins** on New Year's Eve.

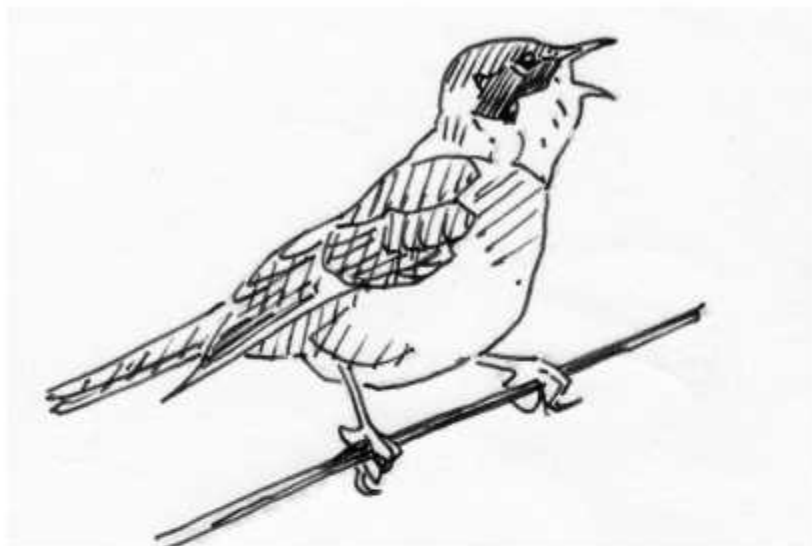
GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*
Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

The first report of the year was one at **Bretton Lakes** on 26th April (DSI), and this was followed by singles at **Elland GPs** on 27th and 28th with a good count of 6 here the next day. Three singing males were at **Royd Moor Res.** also on this date. There were several further reports in the first two weeks of May: singles at **Scout Dike Res.** on 1st, **Denby Dale** on 9th, **Meal Hill** on 10th, **Colnebridge SP**, **Netherthong**, and **Shelley Whins** on 11th, and **Sparth** on 16th. The max. count of the spring was 12 at **Elland GPs** on 6th May.

In the breeding season 5+ territories were located at **Bretton Lakes**, while other birds were noted during this period at **Deffer Wood**, **Dunford Cycle Track** (a good count of 8 on 24th June), **Honley Wood**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Meal Hill** and **Royd Moor**. No details of breeding were forthcoming, although food-carrying was noted at **Bretton** and alarming was heard at **Royd Moor** in June. The only July reports were of singles at **Langsett** on 9th, **Honley Wood** on 13th, in a garden at **Shelley Whins** on 24th and **Elland GPs** on 29th. There were no August records and the sole Sept report was of a late bird at **Royd Moor** on 9th (RJB).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.



Reports from 12 sites make this the best year since 2001. Recorded in the area between 29th April and 16th Sept. Birds were present at three sites during the breeding season but there were no confirmed cases of breeding.

Horbury Bridge - a singing male on 29th April (BA)

Upper Fell Greave Wood - a singing male here on 5th May.

Elland GPs - a singing male on 11th, 13th and 14th May.

Shelley Roydhouse - a singing male on passage on 23rd May.

Jackson Bridge - a singing male on 30th May.

Denby Dale - a single was present from 30th May to 2nd June.

Litherop Lane, Bretton - a singing male on 28th June, 1st and 2nd July.

Flockton - a regular singing male throughout the breeding season.

Lepton Edge - a singing male throughout the breeding season.

Dewsbury SF - one on 3rd July.

Scout Dike Res. - typical July occurrences of two on 22nd and one on 29th, and one in Maze Brook on 14th Aug.

Clock Face Quarry - a single migrant on 16th Sept (JB).

(COMMON) WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

The first reports of the year were of singles on 23rd April at **Elland GPs** (DT), **Scout Dike Res.** (RJB) and **Tunnel End** (JMP). The following day one sang at **Lepton**. There was a notable arrival during the last few days of April and early May: on 29th April 4 singing males were at **Elland**, increasing to 8 on 13th May; 7 were counted at **Scout Dike** also on 29th, 8 singing males were at **Dewsbury SF** and 6 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 4th May; 8 singing males at **Horbury** on 13th May; and further singing males - usually one to three - were at **Blacker Beck**,

Blackmoorfoot Res., Colnebridge SP, Crosland Hill, Dalton, Denby Dale, Hepworth, Holmroyd, Rawthorpe, Royd Moor Res. and Thornhill.

At least 10 territories were located in the **Bretton** area (BBSG) and two at **Bradley Woods**. Breeding was proven at three sites: two juvs. were seen at **Colnebridge SP** on 10th July; two or three juvs. at **Scout Dike** on 23rd July with 2 ads. and 4 juvs. here on 29th; and three broods were seen being fed at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd and 3rd July. Elsewhere, a female was seen with nest material at **Elland GPs** on 14th May, and a pair was noted carrying food at **Castle Hill** on 31st May. Also during the breeding season, birds were present at Edge Moor near **Blackmoorfoot, Broadstones, Dalton, Ingbirchworth, Kirkheaton CC, New Dam, Royd Edge, Shelley Whins** and **West Sleuthwaite**.

At **Dewsbury SF** there were excellent counts of 30 on 2nd and 3rd July and 36 on 12th Aug. There were comparatively far fewer reports elsewhere after early July: a singing male was at **Crosland Hill** on 2nd, singles then at **Golcar** on 4th and two at **Stocks Moor Common** on 5th, with the last seen at **Blackmoorfoot** on 21st. Apart from those at Dewsbury SF, the only Aug reports were singles in a garden at **Shelley** on 11th, at **Broadstones** on 15th and in song at **Bird's Edge** on 25th. The only Sept record was one at **Scout Dike** on 9th (RJB).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Rare to scarce passage visitor and irregular migrant breeder (1), 0-5 pairs.



With reports from 5 sites, this was a most encouraging year for this attractive species, and is easily the best showing since 2002. There have been just single reports in each of the three years 2003 to 2005.

All records involved singing males: at **Healey House** on 27th April (CH), **Jenkinson Wood** on 4th, 6th and 14th May (BA, AK, TM), **Deffer Wood** on 18th May (AK), **North Dean Woods** on 21st May (HBC) and **Thunderbridge** on 10th June (HQ).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

There was a single early year record of one attending feeders at **Dewsbury SF** on 4th Jan (JH).

The first migrant appeared at **Elland GPs** on 25th March (HBC), and was followed by one at **Birchcliffe** the next day. Other late March reports involved 3 at **Elland** again from 29th to 31st, **Blacker Beck** on 30th and **High Wood** on 31st. The general arrival occurred during the first two weeks of April, and counts of singing males included 14 in the **Bretton** area on 12th (BBSG), 12 at **Elland GPs** on 11th, 6 in the **Marsden** area (where it has decreased in the last three years - JMP) and 5 at **Blacker Beck** on 8th. One to three singing males were noted at another 10 sites in this period.

During the breeding season, birds were noted at a further 16 sites at least, but the only details of breeding activity submitted were from **Blacker Beck**, where young from a brood of five were predated.

There were numerous autumn records involving post-breeding dispersal and passage birds. Singing birds were recorded from **Horbury**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Marsden** and **Scout Dike Res.** (including several on 16th Sept) during Aug and Sept. Most had departed by late Sept, although several lingered in to Oct as usual: singles were in song at **Grimescar** on 1st, **Holmroyd** on 4th, **Royd Moor Res.** on 18th and near **Huddersfield University** on 21st; and other singles were noted at **Tunnel End** on 8th, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** from 9th to 11th, **Dovestones** on 10th, **Scout Dike** on 21st and **Royd Moor** on 25th. The last record of the year involved one at **Wilshaw** on 13th Nov (DHP).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

The first arrival was one at **Elland GPs** on 31st March (HBC), and was followed by singles at **Scout Dike Res.** on 2nd April and another at **Elland** on 5th. Birds appeared at numerous sites generally from around 12th April - slightly later than 2005. From mid-month, maximum counts of singing males included 27 at **Scout Dike**, 23 at **Scammonden**, 20 at **Elland GPs**, 17 at **Royd Moor Res.**, 13 at **Bretton Lakes**, 10 at **Dovestones** and 6 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** Further maxima in May included 29 in the **Langsett/Little Don Valley** area on 25th and in the **Marsden** area 33 were counted at **Hey Green/Netherwood** (41 in 2005) and 21 in the **Wessenden Valley** (24 in 2005). On 8th June 15 singing males were counted in the **Little Don Valley**. An estimated 285 singing males in the club area represents a 54% increase on 2005. Although the species is in decline in the UK, perhaps the status in the club area is uncertain due to inconsistencies in recording.

The only evidence of breeding was obtained from the **Little Don Valley**, where food carrying was noted on 8th June and 5th July, with young watched being fed on 11th July, and at **Colnebridge SP**, where 4 fledged young were seen on 10th July and 8th Aug.

Typically, there were far fewer records from the late summer/early autumn period. Few lingered after mid-Aug: one to two were at **Blackmoorfoot** occasionally to 11th Sept; three, including a singing male, were at **Bird's Edge** and a single was at **New Mill** on 28th Aug; another sang briefly at **Wessenden Lodge** on 7th Sept; 5 were in the **Wessenden Valley** on 15th Sept; singles were at **Marsden** on 18th and **Scout Dike** on 23rd Sept and the last of the year was at **Elland GPs** (HBC) the following day.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

With reports from 34 sites and the vast majority of these involving one to three birds, the situation was very similar to 2005. Twelve at **High Hoyland** on 7th Feb, 8 at **Dewsbury SF** on 30th Jan, 6 at **Ingbirchworth** on 20th Nov, a family party of 6 at **Shelley Whins** on 11th June and 4 at **Bradley Hall Farm** were the only significant counts submitted.

During the breeding season at least 15 territories were located at **Bretton Park** (BBSG), and singing birds were noted at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Blacker Beck**, **Dalton** and by the canal at **Marsden**. Birds were also noted at **Bradley Woods** (2 territories) and **Scammonden** (small numbers regular). The species was considered 'numerous' at **Jenkinson Wood**.

Birds were occasionally recorded in observers' gardens at **Almondbury**, **Dalton**, **Fixby** and **Shelley**.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare visitor.

There were three records of a bird at **Lindley Moor**, which was presumably the same individual from Dec 2005: it was seen on an unspecified date in early Feb, 28th Feb and good views were obtained on 10th March (JED).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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

A much better year than 2005 with the species reported from 18 sites - double the total of that year. Breeding was confirmed at two sites, with birds present at a further 5 during the breeding season. It was recorded in the area between 9th May and 24th Sept.

The first of the year was one at Hey Green, **Marsden** on 9th May (JMP). Further May records comprised singles at **Denby Dale** on 10th, **Bretton Lakes** on 12th, **Grimescar Wood** on 14th, two in the **Little Don Valley** on 25th and one at **Dovestones** on 31st.

In the **Little Don Valley** birds were also seen on 8th June, 5th July (2) and 6 (including two juvs. being fed) on 11th July. Breeding was also reported from **Pig Hill Wood**, where a pair nested in an old woodpecker hole. During the nesting season one was at Orange Wood, **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th June, one at **Bretton** on 10th June, two were at **Lower Hopton** on 23rd June and one was at **Thunderbridge** on 10th July.

There was an increase in sightings from Aug, beginning with one on several dates at **Meal Hill** from 5th, singles were then at **Baitings** on 13th, **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th, **Scout Dike Res.** on 19th, a family party of four were at Stretch Gate, **Shepley** on 23rd, singles at **Bullcliffe** and two at **Bretton** on 24th and two were at **Scout Dike** on 26th. There was a distinct movement through the area in early Sept, with one at **Dovestones** on 1st, two at **Denby Dale** on 4th, one to two at **Blackmoorfoot** on 5th and from 9th to 11th, three at **Cowcliffe** on 7th, and a single at **Royd Moor** on 9th. The last of the year was one at **Pinfold Hill** on 24th Sept (JDC), just inside our E boundary.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

It remains in an extremely precarious position in the club area. The only record was of a male at Cliff Wood, **Langsett** on 19th April (MCW). The species has formerly bred here and may have done so again this year.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Early year double-figure counts were 25 at **Elland GPs** on 1st Jan and 20 on 2nd Feb, 21 at **Dovestones** on 4th March, 20 at **Bretton Lakes** on 21st Jan, 14 at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 15th Jan and 10 at **Netherthong** on 14th April.

Breeding was confirmed at five sites: at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a party of 10 (2 ads. and 8 young) were seen on 7th June; in the **Bretton** area family parties were noted at three sites on 10th June and two parties of 10+ noted at Bower Hill on 11th June; in the **Blacker Beck/Horbury Wyke** area 5 nests out of 6 located were successful and described as the 'best result here in many years' (J.HoD); and at **Dalton** a family party of 6+ were noted on 7th June. Juveniles were also noted at **Elland GPs** on 12th July. Nest building was observed at **Colnebridge SP** on 13th Feb.

There were numerous double figure counts during the autumn as birds began to disperse and form roving parties. At **Blackmoorfoot** there was monthly maxima of 14 on 23rd Sept, 14 on 28th Oct, 23 on 23rd Nov and 19 on 30th Dec. Elsewhere, other counts included 17 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 22nd July, 20 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 12th Sept, 25 at **Crosland Hill** on 14th Oct, 35 at **Colnebridge** on 23rd Oct, 24 at **Dovestones** on 4th Nov and 5th Dec and 11 at **Lockwood Cemetery** on 20th Nov. At least 10 birds regularly visited a **Lindley Moor** garden on several dates from July to Dec.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

An extremely common resident, recorded by only a few observers.

The only significant counts outside the breeding season were 60 (almost all in one flock) on 10th Nov and 40+ in one flock on 30th Dec at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a max. of 30 at **Elland GPs** on 2nd Feb, 40 at **Bretton Lakes** on 21st Jan and 27 at **Dovestones** on 19th March.

During the breeding season: two pairs were successful at **Shelley**; young were fledged from two nest boxes in an **Almondbury** garden; successful breeding was also proved in a **New Mill** garden

with 5 to 6 juvs. here and a count of 14 birds on 30th July. Nesting also took place in two of the bridges at **Horbury**. An estimated 57 territories were located at **Bretton Lakes** (BBSG) and 69 at **Bradley Woods** (MLD).

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

A common and widespread breeder which, like the former species, tends only to be recorded by a few observers.

Breeding was proven in observers' gardens at **Almondbury** - juvs. seen on 18th June; **Shelley** - a pair raised two broods, and **New Mill** - 5 young were raised in a nest box. Two young were also fledged in a garden at **Lumb Lane**. Of particular note 37 territories were located at **Bretton Lakes** (BBSG) and 86 at **Bradley Woods** (MLD).

Outside the breeding season 29 were at **Bretton Lakes** on 21st Jan, a max. of 23 at **Dovestones** on 19th March, with counts of 14 on 16th Feb, 20 on 26th March and 17 on 15th April at **Elland GPs**.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

There was very few records received for this fairly common resident.

Fifteen territories were located at **Bretton Lakes** (BBSG) and 15 - the only double figure count of the year - was made here on 21st Jan. Birds were observed in observers' gardens at **Almondbury**, **Lockwood**, **Netherthong**, **Shelley** and **Dalton**, where a bird was prospecting a nest site on 4th April and a two were noted foraging on 15th May.

The species was recorded on only 14 dates at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (only one or two being seen on each occasion). It was described as 'common' at **Langsett** and 'present all year' at **Hagg Wood**.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs but decreasing.

Compared to 2005 there was an increase in the number of sites recording birds by three, but once again there was no confirmed breeding. The Ingbirchworth area remains the stronghold.

Broadstones Res - one in willows on 1st Jan, one on 19th Aug and 2 on 30th Oct.

Ingbirchworth Res - two on 9th Jan, and in Sept singles on 6th and two on 9th, 28th and 29th.

Royd Moor Res - singles on 29th Jan, 3 on 15th Sept and singles on 28th Sept and 18th Oct.

Scout Dike Res - at least two were present all year and a single was in Maze Brook on 27th Aug.

Bretton Lakes - four, including a male in full song, were counted on 6th Feb and two to three pairs were thought to be resident here.

Horbury Wyke - singles on 22nd April and 2nd Nov on the railway embankment.

Blacker Beck - one calling on 30th March, 8th and 22nd April.

Stockmoor Common - one to two present on several dates during the year, but no specific dates were available.

Meal Hill - one on 25th Aug and one in the observer's garden here on 9th Dec - the first record there (HQ).

Elsewhere - one at **Cawthorne** on 11th Feb, two were at **Bulldcliffe North Wood** and a single at **Osett** on 8th April, singles at **Bank Wood** on 11th June, at **Cheesegate Nab** on 15th July and **Bradley Hall Farm** on 31st Dec, and one regular in the observer's garden at **Shelley** all year, with another observed in a garden at **Taylor Hill** on 4th Sept.

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

A similar situation to last year, with records submitted from at least 43 sites.

The vast majority of sightings involved one to two birds, the exception being counts of 12+ during both winter periods in the **Bretton** area.

Breeding reportedly took place at **Butternab Wood**, **Hagg Wood**, **Windy Bank Wood** and **Helme**, where a pair raised two broods. Juveniles were seen in observers' gardens at **Almondbury** and at **New Mill** on 15th July. At least 7 territories were located at **Bretton Lakes** (BBSG) with 8 at **Bradley Woods** (MLD). During the breeding season birds were present at **Cannon Hall**, **Healey Greave Wood**, **Honley Wood**, **Jenkinson Wood**, **Kirkburton**, **Lockwood Cemetery**, **Mellor Wood**, **Royd House Wood**, **Thunderbridge** and several others.

There was a marked increase in records at **Blackmoorfoot**, where one to two birds were noted on 62 dates - one on 23rd April and then the remainder between 29th June and 31st Dec. Apart from the aforementioned juvs, birds occasionally visited gardens at **Cowcliffe**, **Meal Hill** and **Shelley**. An interesting occurrence involved one calling at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th Sept (RJB, RDH) - the regular observer's first-ever record here.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

A fairly common but unobtrusive species. Reported from 25 sites which is significantly down on last year, although this is probably due to under-recording rather than any decline.

Breeding was confirmed at **Bretton Lakes**, where a pair was watched feeding juvs. on a Beech trunk by the Cascade Bridge in the rain on 21st May. At least 11 territories were located in the general area here (BBSG). A pair also nested at Orange Wood, **Blackmoorfoot**, and three territories were located at **Bradley woods**.

Birds occasionally visited gardens at **Meal Hill** and **New Mill**.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Reported from 23 sites - significantly down on last year. However, the species only tends to be recorded where it is seen in numbers or when breeding.

Approximately 8 territories were located in the **Bretton** area (BBSG) and 9 at **Bradley Woods** (MLD). A family party, including at least 2 young were in an apple tree at **Dalton** on 19th July, and in the **Marsden** area 'lots' were present in July, which suggests a very good breeding season here. Additionally, 'good numbers' of juvs. were also reported at **Jenkinson Wood** and **Elland GPs**.

The only records involving more than one to three birds were 5 at **Dovestones** on 28th April, 7 at **Oldfield** on 1st Nov, 6 at **Elland GPs** on 12th Nov, and 4 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 10th Nov and 4th Dec.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

Again, very few records were submitted for what is a highly adaptive and very common corvid.

Significant counts, the majority in the winter months, were well-up on last year, with particularly notable ones being 25 on 1st Jan, 39 on 5th Feb and 18 on 17th Aug at **Dick Edge Farm**; 20 on 2nd and 25 on 13th Feb at **Elland GPs**; 33 at **Dovestones** on 9th Feb and 19th March; and 17 at **Oldfield** on 25th Jan.

Nest-building was observed at **Kilner Bank** on 21st Feb and **Lepton** (2 pairs) on 20th March. It was unusually scarce at **Bretton**, however, with probably two pairs breeding. Six territories were located at **Bradley Woods**.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

A common and widespread species that seems to be recorded by more observers than the other common corvids. Perhaps this has something to do with the bird's character!

Particularly notable in the early months was a count of 1600 in a pre-roost gathering at **Stortheres Hall** on 28th Jan (PB), although this was well-down on 2003 numbers. Also of note in the early months were 400 NW over **Elland GPs** on 1st Jan, 87 at **Dovestones** on 3rd Jan, 80+ at **Oldfield** on 25th Jan, 300+ in the early morning of 31st Jan in **Huddersfield Town Centre**, and c.200 at **Hartcliffe Hill** on 25th March.

The few breeding records submitted included birds nesting in a security light at Holset Car Park, **Aspley** on 22nd March, and young were fledged from two nests in the band room building at **Lindley**. At least 20 pairs bred in the **Bretton** area (BBSG), including a pair nesting on the college roof and one low down in an Ash by Bower Hill Lane.

Significant counts in the later months were smaller, by far the highest was 350 over **Honley Bridge** on 5th Oct, while the only other double figure counts received were 22 at **Dovestones** on 10th Oct and 40+ at **Ingbirchworth** on 3rd Dec.

A bird with extensive white markings on its wing coverts and flight feathers was noted at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th Oct.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs. The commonest species of large passerine.

Significant flocks early in the year all occurred in January, and began with 60 at **Oldfield** on 2nd, 150+ on 9th and 200+ on 23rd at **Cawthorne**, 70 at **Wilshaw** on 15th and 500 were counted in a pre-roost gathering at **Storthes Hall** on 28th.

Rookeries were fairly well monitored. During a Breeding Bird Survey undertaken by members of the Bamsley Bird Study Group in the **Bretton** area, 9 Rookeries were located: Sculpture Park - 20 nests; college - 18; Huddersfield Road, West Bretton - 14; Bretton Mill - 13; Cricket Field - 11; Bath Wood - 10; Home Farm - 4 and Bower Hill - 4. A rookery was also active at 7 Acre Plantation but the number of nests was unknown due to heavy leaf cover. A minimum of 94 pairs were thought to be breeding. Elsewhere, 7 nests were located at **Crosland Moor**, 9 at **Colnebridge** SP, 28 occasional nests at **Meal Hill** (where 'lots of young' were present by 19th April), 50 at Stretch Gate, **Shelley** and 14 occasional nests at **Tunnel End**, where the traditional rookery was abandoned in favour of one at Mount Road. Two colonies were active at Station Road, **Honley**, as was one at **New Mill** but no counts were available.

Also worth mentioning was a count of 50 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 7th June, and a bird with a white primary in its right wing was frequenting the **Horbury** area.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

A seldom reported but very common species.

The following significant counts were received: 60 at **Dewsbury SF** on 16th Feb, 31 at **Elland GPs** on 26th March, 20 at **Digley** on 9th April, 86 at **Cromwell Bottom** on 29th April, 48 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 9th June, 20 at **Scammonden** on 1st Oct and 38 at **Ingbirchworth** on 3rd Dec.

At least 13 pairs bred in the **Bretton** area (BBSG) and 20 territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD).

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

The number of localities where birds were sighted was slightly down on last year - 17 compared to 22. Once again the majority of records fell in the March and April period.

At one site two adults were seen at the nest with one fully-grown young on 12th May.

Dovestones area - two birds were noted regularly during April, Sept, Oct and Dec. Two were also seen on 31st May (GMBRG).

Snailsden area - at Snailsden Edge three were seen on 22nd Jan, one on 30th April and one flew SE on 17th Sept (BBSG, RDH). At Upper Windleden two fed on a sheep carcass on 12th Aug (BBSG); two were at Dead End Edge on 3rd Nov and 2 moved S over Withens Edge on 17th Sept (BBSG).

Elsewhere, in the early months two were displaying birds over **Ramsden Clough** attracted the attention of a Peregrine (HQ), two were over **Crossley's Plantation** on 6th Feb (PB) and one flew SW over Meltham Cop near **Blackmoorfoot** on 7th Feb (TD).

In March two (one seen and one heard calling distantly) were at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 22nd (DHP) and one was near **Digley** on 29th (PB). In April singles were again at **Digley** on 1st (WBH), at Hingliffe Hill, **Langsett** on 4th (PB), **Marsden** on 12th (DWB), **Harden** on 14th (MC), flying NE over **Shelley** on 22nd (SRG) and on 30th one was in heavy wing moult at **Ramsden Clough** (BA) and two were in the **Wessenden** area (KW). One to two were occasionally seen in the **Cheesegate Nab** area during the year but no specific dates were submitted.

In the autumn two were at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 14th Aug (DHP) and may have been the Windleden birds, and a single was here on 22nd Sept. One flew S over Folly Lane, between **Scout Dike** and **Royd Moor Res.** on 2nd Sept (RJB) and in Oct one flew over **Kirkheaton** on 12th with crows in close attendance (JKP) and one was at **Marsden** the following day (DWB).

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. One of the commonest species.

An extremely common species, mainly in urban areas, but also in rural ones where large feeding flocks gather in late summer and particularly in autumn and winter when numbers are augmented by continental immigrants.

In the early months, several significant counts were made: 300 at **Dick Edge Farm** on 28th Jan; 250 at **South Crosland** on 30th Jan; 600 at **Oakes** on 24th Feb; and in March 300 at **Carlecotes** on 4th, 100 at **Maythorne Slack** on 18th, 800 at Oldfield Hill, **Meltham** on 21st, 300 at **Oldfield** on 27th, c.2,000 at **Flouch** on 28th (MCW) and 600 at **Deer Hill** on 31st - these flocks probably involving returning continental visitors.

During the summer months feeding flocks including juveniles are common place and this year 280+ were at **Marsden** on 31st May, 180 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 4th June, 'hundreds - mainly juvs.' were at **Butternab Wood** on 5th June and 50 juvs. were in the car park at **Bretton park** on 16th July.

In the autumn, after 500 at **Scout Dike** on 19th Aug and 200 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 28th Aug, there were counts of 700 on 5th and 450 on 11th Sept from the fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** and 300 were at **Scout Dike** on 2nd Sept with 200 here on 21st Oct. In Nov 400+ were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 4th, 500 at **Maythorne Slack** on 5th and 18th and 400 frequented **Deanhouse** all month.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

Reported from 16 sites, which is slightly down on last year. A species that has severely declined in the UK in recent years, probably due to a shortage of nest sites associated with the onset of modern building practices and agricultural intensification. It is very likely still under-recorded in the club area, however.

There was several significant counts: at least 100 at Botany Lane, **Lepton** on 14th Nov (DS) was by far the highest; up to 30 frequented **New Mill** in the autumn /winter period; 29 (16 males, 13 females) fed on seed at **Dalton** on 6th Dec; up to 27 were regularly noted around the observer's house at **Wooldale**, and up to 25 were counted in the observer's garden at **Shelley** during the post-breeding season.

In the Bretton area 29+ territorial males were located in **West Bretton** village and single pairs were at Gillcar Farm, Clayton West and at Bentley Grange (BBSG). At **Shelley** several pairs were breeding in older properties and the population 'seems stable' (SRG). Four pairs were on territory at **Woodhouse Farm**. On a negative note, at **Almondbury** the highest numbers reported were 9 in the observer's garden from Jan to Mar and 10+ at other sites on 1st Jan, and the species 'appears to be declining' (AK). Other notable records were flying young being fed at **Golcar** on 29th May, 6 fed on Peacock caterpillars at Thurgory lane, **Lepton** on 7th July, and birds were reported as 'regular' in gardens at **Lockwood** and **Netherthong**, where numbers peaked at 8.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montana*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs.

Once again, as in 2005, it is pleasing to report an increase in the number of sites recording birds. Of the 14 localities birds were present during the breeding season at 5 of them, with confirmed breeding at one. There were no double-figure counts this year, however.

Jebb Lane - 5 together on 14th Jan (PB).

Scout Dike Res - three were on feeders at Belle Royd Farm on 29th Jan (BA) and at least 3 were here on 25th June. At the res. in April a singing male on 13th (SRG), 4 near the Activity Centre on 15th (RJB) and one on 29th April (RDH).

Royd Moor - one at Windmill Nurseries on 26th Sept (MCW).

Royd Moor Res - eight at nearby Folly Farm on 2nd Sept (RJB).

Dewsbury SF - two on 29th Jan, one on 2nd April and 5 on 5th July (BA, JH).

Emley Moor - two in the Paul Lane/Cross Lane area from 10th Feb to 9th Mar (CH, DS).

Emley Woodhouse - a single at Woodhouse Farm on 11th June and a party of 7 inc. 2 juvs. were by the A635 at Bower Hill Farm on the same date (BBSG).

Shelley - a single on 5th March and two at the Whins on 22nd Aug (SRG).

Thornhill - six at the canal house on 2nd May (DSI).

Earlsheaton - two in long Lane on 9th May (DT).

Elland GPs - a single on 13th Aug (HBC).

Gawthorpe area - up to six 'regular' here (DS).

Lepton - birds were reported coming to garden feeders (per SRG).

Westhorpe Farm - birds were reportedly present here (BBSG) although no dates are available. This site, which lies between Scout Dike and Hoylandswaine, definitely warrants a visit as there are indications of a potential colony.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

In the early months there were several significant gatherings in game crop at **High Hoyland** where, after 180 were counted on 14th Jan, numbers peaked at c.200 on 2nd Feb (BBSG, PB) and 150 were still present at the end of Feb. During this time at least 60+ birds were thought to be of the continental race (MC). With the exception of 100+ at **Cawthorne** on 6th Feb other counts were unremarkable, with 15 at **Wilshaw** on 15th Jan, 35 at **Bretton** on 21st Jan and 30 in game crop at **Upper Denby** on 19th Feb were the only double-figure counts.

During the breeding season at least 72 singing males were counted in the **High Hoyland/Clayton West** area on 4th and 5th June (BBSG), 57 territories were located in the **Bretton** area (BBSG) with the highest densities around the Lower lake and college areas; 19 singing males were counted in the **Broadstones** area on 30th May, 21 singing males were present in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area, 29 territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD), 12 singing males counted at **Cawthorne Village** and another 12 in woodland to the N, and 'many' singing males were reported from **Crossley's Plantation** on 11th June.

In the latter part of the year there was some notable movements and an influx at **Marsden GC**, with counts of 30+ on 18th Sept, 60+ on 30th Sept and a total of 134 flew SW on 8 mornings from 18th Sept to 4th Nov, with a max. of 87 on 12th Oct. Ninety flew S over **Blackmoorfoot Res.** also on this date. A large mixed flock, including Brambling, were at **Ingbirchworth** on 9th Nov, 50+ were at **High Hoyland** on 15th, 30 to 40 were feeding on Beech mast at **Blackmoorfoot** to 18th and 40 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 27th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

In the first winter period birds were very scarce away from one site, and in the second winter period, compared to 2005, the predicted autumn influx was noticeably later but numbers in Dec were higher, albeit at few sites.

In the early months the only significant counts were of birds attracted to the game crop at **High Hoyland** with other finches. Thirty on 14th Jan increased to 50 by 29th Jan and peaked at c.200 on 2nd and 7th Feb (AK, BBSG) before falling to c.40 on 26th Feb. The only other reports in the first third of the year involved single birds throughout the month at **Almondbury**, at **Dovestones** on 9th Feb, 19th Mar and 2nd and 28th April, in a **Fixby** garden on 9th April and at **Royd Moor Res.** on 15th April.

The first reported back was one at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th Oct (RJB) - a typical date. Further Oct reports were two in the **Little Don Valley** on 18th and a single at **Crosland Moor** on 20th. A notable influx occurred in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of Nov, although single figures were involved in several cases. After a single at **Wessenden Res.** on 1st, a single was at **Tunnel End** and 20 were at **Ingbirchworth** on 2nd, 4 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th were followed by two on 10th and then two to three on 13th, 16th, 19th and 24th, 8 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 4th, and singles were at **Carlecotes Ponds** and **Meltham GC** on 7th, **Marsden GC** on 10th and **Bretton** on 17th, with 5 at **Wilshaw** on 13th. Numbers at **Ingbirchworth** increased from 50 on 21st Nov to 120 on 3rd Dec before falling to 15 on 28th. Also in Dec birds were noted at **Blackmoorfoot** on 25 dates with a max. of 8 on 11th, whilst two were at **Dovestones** on 5th, 50 at **Ryburn** on 10th, 20 at **Bretton** on 15th and 5 at **Wilshaw** on 30th.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

The highest numbers were restricted to the early months: at the game crop at **High Hoyland** foraging birds numbered 60 on 14th Jan, 30 on 29th Jan and 40 on 7th Feb, 15+ were at **Almondbury** on 3rd Jan increasing to 50+ from 20th Jan to 2nd Feb; 26 were at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 27th Jan and 10 fed on rose hips at **Dalton** on 6th Jan - the only other double-figure count.

During the breeding season 16+ pairs were located in the **Bretton** area (BBSG), the majority in the college grounds, with 5 territories at **Bradley Woods**. At **Shelley** the local observer reported a 'good breeding season' with birds at the Whins rearing 2 to 3 broods (SRG). Successful breeding was also reported from **Dalton**, where two young were fledged from a garden nest, and at **Elland GPs**, where young were being fed on 7th Aug, and in a **Fixby** garden. Juveniles were observed during Sept at **Almondbury**.

The only significant counts in the latter part of the year comprised 120 at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th Aug in a nearby set-a-side field - hopefully an indication that large post-breeding flocks are returning here; 15 at **New Mill** on 14th Oct, 100+ at a different crop at **High Hoyland** on 6th Dec and up to 20 in a **Shelley** garden at the year end.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

Typically, flocks were generally very small in the early months. Up to 8 were noted at several sites, but double-figure counts were restricted to just sites: 10 were at **High Hoyland** on 14th Jan increasing to 50 visiting the game crop here on 2nd Feb, 35 at **Bretton Park** on 21st Jan, 12 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 12th Feb, with up to 25 at **Shelley** and 10 at **Almondbury**.

In the breeding season at least 21 territories were located at **Bretton Park** - the majority around the college and West Bretton village (BBSG), and 7 territories at **Bradley Woods**. Breeding occurred in the SE corner of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** and a brood of 3 young were seen at **Royd Moor Res.** on 25th June and juveniles were observed in an **Almondbury** garden in June and July. At **Barkisland** a nest with 4 eggs had been predated by 15th Aug.

Post-breeding parties began to form in July: 15 were at **Deer Hill** on 9th, 21 at **Dovestones** on 21st and 19 at **Healey Mills** on 30th. Numbers increased in Aug and counts included 40 at **Dewsbury SF** on 1st, 25 at Haigh Farm, **Crosland Road** on 13th, 50 at **Deer Hill** and 35+ at **Blackmoorfoot** on 17th. September saw counts of 30 at **Deer Hill** again on 13th, 55 at **Broadstones Lodge** on 15th, 20 at **Snake Res.** on 18th and 30+ on 22nd, 40+ on 24th and 70+ on 25th at **Blackmoorfoot**. Flocks began to leave the area in Oct, with a max. of just 20 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 9th, and elsewhere the only significant counts this month came from **Scout Dike**, with 30 on 8th and 14th and c.60 on 28th. In Nov 60 at **Elland GPs** on 19th was by far the highest count of the late winter period, at least 20 remained at **Scout Dike** to 25th and there was a monthly max. of 17 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 19th and up to 16 remained here to the year end.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

Like 2005, a rather poor year, particularly in the autumn with few seen on visible migration and most feeding flocks being small. In contrast to 2005 the highest counts were in the early months, while December was less productive.

In the early months by far the largest numbers were at **Elland GPs** in Jan, with counts of 80 on 1st, 40 on 22nd and 70+ on 30th. Elsewhere the only other double-figure counts were 10 at **Almondbury** on 1st Jan, 17 at **Grimescar** on 14th Jan, 20 at **Shelley** on 25th Jan reducing to 10 by 11th March, 20 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 29th Jan, and 30 on 6th Feb, 20+ on 9th Feb and 20 on 17th March at **Bretton Lakes**, with 20 at **Holmfirth** on 11th March.

Several localities recorded small numbers in April as birds prospected nesting habitat or passed through the area. One to five were occasionally seen at **Almondbury**, **Blacker Beck**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Bullcliffe Wood**, **Dovestones**, **Fixby**, **Horbury** - where a male sang on 25th, **Lindley Moor**, **Scout Dike** and **Swinden Plantation**.

After three territories were located in the **Little Don Valley** on 11th May, birds seemed very scarce during the summer months: the only reports were two at **Butterley Res.** on 7th June, singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th June and two juvs. at **Shelley** on 2nd July.

It was a particularly poor autumn, with the only double-figure counts being 30+ at **Yateholme** on 13th Oct and 17 over **Scout Dike** the next day. Elsewhere, reports came from only five sites: **Scammonden** had 4 on 17th Sept, **Blackmoorfoot** recorded one to two birds on 1st and 29th Sept and 18th Oct only, **Marsden GC** had three on 18th Sept, 6 on 21st Sept and one to three from 26th Oct to 10th Nov, two were by **Leeds Road** on 13th Oct and small numbers passed over **Shelley** from 23rd Sept. In the late winter period 6 were at **Elland GPs** on 30th Nov, 20 were in a **Cowcliffe** garden on 20th Dec, while **Bretton Lakes** hosted 20 and **Grimescar** 12 on the last day of the year.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs.

In the early months a set-aside field at **Scout Dike Res.** attracted 50 on 22nd and c.70 on 31st Jan, c.100 were at High Bank, **Thurlstone** on 29th Jan, Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** had 118 on 4th Feb and 176 on 10th Feb, 38 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 28th Feb and 40 fed in the game crop at **High Hoyland** on 14th March. Worth mentioning was the single bird at **Shelley** on 8th Jan - the local observer's earliest ever there (SRG).

In April birds appeared at several sites where they are usually absent during the winter months, and included 13 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 4th, 50 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 14th, 16 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 26th had increased to 24 by 4th May, and 2-3 were at **Dovestones** and New Delight Farm, **Scammonden** by the month end. Thirty-three remained at **Scout Dike** and c.100 were on wires at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** during the month.

During the breeding season birds were present in the **Bretton** area, at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Cheesegate Nab**, **Crossley's Plantation** (2 prs. nearby), **Cupwith** (2 prs. on territory), in the **Deer Hill/Mill Moor** area and at **Honley**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Kirkheaton**, **Shelley Whins** and **Ringstone Edge**.

Post-breeding flocks began to form in Aug with 200+ on set-aside at **Dewsbury SF** on 9th, 30 at **Royd Moor** on 28th and a max. of 20 at **Blackmoorfoot** on 29th. In Sept 250 at **Folly Lane**, between Royd Moor and Scout Dike on 2nd had increased to 300+ on 16th and c.400 on 23rd (RJB), 40 were at Dick Edge Farm, **Cheesegate Nab** on 3rd, a max. of 180 were at **Dewsbury SF** on 8th, a max. of 40+ at **Blackmoorfoot** from 11th-12th and on 27th, and 36 at **Ingbirchworth** and 75 on plough at **Farnley Tyas** on 28th. In Oct 40 were still at **Blackmoorfoot** on 2nd, c.70 were still at **Folly Lane** on 15th, 30 at **Dewsbury SF** 11th and 11 (inc juvs.) were at **Oldfield** on 12th. It was scarce in the late months - the only significant counts received were 30 at **High Hoyland** on 17th Nov, 70 at **Ravensthorpe** on Boxing Day and 60 in game crop at **Deffer Wood** on 27th.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs.

It continues to be well monitored in the club area due to its extremely tenuous position as a breeder in the Pennines. At least nine pairs were located, six of these successful. Spring and autumn gatherings at traditional sites were similar to last year.

In the **Deer Hill** area birds first appeared at the feeding station in the last week of March, with a max. of 5 on 26th. In April 72 were counted on 3rd (DHP), 50+ on 9th and 44 on 16th had decreased to 20 by 23rd. Only single figures were then seen after 12th May, probably due to the poor weather conditions at the time. Elsewhere in April, the fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held 7 on 3rd and 4 on 18th, 'several' were at **Digley** on 15th, two at Potters' Gate, near **Broadstones Res.** on 15th, two at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 29th and two were at **Scammonden** on 30th.

In May **Ringstone** also had a single on 2nd, 6th and 11th, and at **Will's O' Nat's**, near Blackmoorfoot, 4 on 11th included a bird carrying three colour rings on one leg (red above narrow white above red) and one on 23rd had rings on both legs (left - white above red; right - red above white above metal) (PB). Also in May two were at **Cupwith Moor** on 4th, one flew NW at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 21st and one was at Pule Holes, also at **Marsden** on 31st.

In the breeding season of the six nests located at one site, four were successful with at least 21 young being raised; of the other two one was deserted and the other predated. The observer noted a shortage of second broods, which he thought surprising (JHod). At a second site two out of three nests were successful with 11 young fledging; the other was predated (JHod). There was no definite breeding success at a further site, but a flock of 70+ Twite and Linnets (mainly the former species) feeding on Sorrell at **Deer Hill** on 8th and 13th July suggests it did occur elsewhere in the area (DMP). Two were noted at **Oxygrains Beck** on 4th June and 4 were at **Blakeley Res.** on 7th June.

In August, 14 were at **Deer Hill** on 2nd, **Baitings Res.** had 7 on 15th and a single on 22nd, a single was at **Scammonden** on 5th, and fields to the W of **Blackmoorfoot** attracted 6 on 12th but just 2 on 22nd. As autumn progressed 40+ were counted near **Blackmoorfoot** on 20th Sept, but had fallen to 2 by 25th, and numbers did not exceed c.20 at **Deer Hill** during Sept and Oct. Elsewhere in this period, one was in the **Wessenden Valley** on 15th Sept, three were at **Nont Sarah's** on 17th Sept, one was at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 30th Sept and the last sighting of the year was of 8 at the Blue Lagoon, **Royd Edge Clough** on 4th Oct (DHP).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs.

Noted from 31 sites this year with the majority of sightings being in April and Oct. Double-figure counts were present at just 6 sites.

In the early months the maximum count was 27 at **Colnebridge SP** on 30th Jan, with 18 here on 3rd Feb decreasing to 11 on 6th. The only other double-figure counts were from **High Hoyland**, where the game crop brought in a max. of 20+ on 6th Feb, and at **Elland GPs** with 10 on 16th Jan. One to five birds were noted at several other sites, with 7 on 6th Jan and 8 on 22nd Jan of particular note at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**

The only notable gathering in March was of 12 in a **Fixby** garden on 11th, but there was an increase in sightings in April as birds began to move through the area; after 8 at **Silkstone SF** on 8th, it was noted at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6 dates with a max. of 6 on 28th, 10 were at **Elland GPs** on 23rd, a max. of 15 were at **Horbury** on 25th, 7 at **Elysium** on 29th and 6+ at **Blacker Beck** on 30th.

During the breeding season, two territories were located at **Langsett** and one in the **Little Don Valley**. Two pairs probably bred at **Bretton Lakes**, where a pair was in Alders between the lower lake and car park on 28th April, and a singing male was seen between the lower lake boathouse and the college on 12th May. Seven singing males were logged at **Dovestones** on 5th June, and birds were also present at **Deffer Wood** on 25th May and **Carlecotes Ponds** and **Holme Styes** in June - areas offering suitable breeding habitat. Birds were also noted at this time at **Lower Hey Green** and at **Tunnel End**.

In the autumn singles passed over **Marsden GC** on 18th and 21st Sept, with one to three present here from 26th Sept to 13th Oct; at least 2 were at **Blakeley Res.** on 1st and 7th Oct, 5 were at **Denby Dale** on 13th Oct, and a singles flew over **Penistone** on 11th Oct and occasionally over **Scout Dike Res.** A count of 40+ at **Yatcholme** on 13th Oct (DHP) and was by far the year's highest.

Numbers were decidedly low in the late winter period, with a max. of just 6 at **Bretton Lakes** between 6th and 15th Dec. One or two were seen on odd dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, **Elland GPs**, **Grimescar**, **Scout Dike** and **Royd Moor Res.**

MEALY (COMMON) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor

At the game crop at **High Hoyland**, at least 4 were present from 4th to 26th Feb, with c.15 birds on 6th (BBSG, PB, MC, DHP et al).

At least one of these birds was believed to be an Arctic Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) by some observers, but in light of the often extreme difficulty in separating these species it remained unproven.

below breast dots the w. flank streaking - depending on posture there was one pale grey horizontal or two - plus the streak NB Note the flank stripe did go large - can be arch or pointing

FACE: most importantly there was no warm buff anywhere except pass a bit at neck crease



Great head up? Chinese style

super whitish close up I saw discrete streaks

even cheeks were a cold, clean white id. w. of obvious streaks

UPPER Breast had ex. mottled streaks and dots from neck crease to upper head flank. The breast dots ch. 2 not join a cross check



Size in direct comparison 1/3 larger than lesser RII

NB Ground colour to all underparts a cold, unsullied white - including upper breast (pass a bit of pale tawny at neck crease)

one U-C streak

Difficult to see y tail

bill short + thin (not pushed in tho)

Mantle - 'cold' is as dark as my knee over an obvious dingy white

GT Col bar - clean white (id) depth??

5 Feb 06

HIGH HOYLAND

Note flank pattern = 2 Fat 1 thin

Longest U-C long lozenge shape

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

There were reports from only five sites, and in stark contrast to 2005 all records occurred in the first half of the year.

Little Don Valley - 25 on 1st and 23rd, 10 on 24th and 22 on 29th Jan (BBSG). A singing male was at Swinden Plantation on 5th April (MCW).

Blackmoorfoot - three (2 males) at the junction of Nopper Road and Blackmoorfoot Road on 2nd Jan (DHP) and on 14th April two flew NW (MLD, DT).

Langsett Res - a flock of 22 were seen on 29th Jan (TM) and at least 14 flew past Brookhouse Bridge on 7th Feb (MJW).

Riding Wood Res - a singing male by the dam on 18th March (HQ) and at least 4 here on 19th Feb (BA).

Dovestones - a family party of 6 birds were seen on 5th June (SRG).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident breeder (2-3), about 100 pairs.

This fairly common and well-reported species was seen at 43 sites. The vast majority of records involved 1 to 4 birds, with just one reaching double figures.

In the early months counts of more than 4 birds were of 9 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 14th and 31st Jan, and **Stainland** on 16th Feb, 8 at **Shelley** on 27th Jan 8 at **Elland GPs** on 2nd Feb, 6 at **Houses Hill** on 21st Jan, 5 at **Scout Dike** again on 11th Feb, and in a **Fixby** garden on 23rd Feb and at **Grimescar** throughout.

Evidence of breeding came in the form of juveniles at **Almondbury** (2 at the end of Aug), **Shelley** (3 in a garden on 23rd Aug) **Windy Bank Woods** (a party seen on 3rd Aug), **Lockwood** (single bird) and **Elland GPs** (2 with 2 adults on 15th June). A pair reportedly bred at **Shelley Whins** and **Pighill Wood** but no details were available. A total of 6 pairs were located in the **Bretton** area (BBSG) - 4 around the lake and single pairs at Bank Wood and Litherop Lane. Six territories were located at **Bradley Woods** (MLD). Birds were present during the breeding season at **Blacker Beck**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Dalton**, **Dogley NR**, **Dovestones**, **Colnebridge SP**, **Golcar**, **Hagg Wood**, **Marsden**, **Netherthong** and **Sharp Lane**. Also of note was a female attempting to catch flies on the wing in the **Little Don Valley** on 11th July.

After 7+ at **Horbury** on 10th Sept and 7+ at **Winscar** on 14th Sept, counts involving more than 4 birds were of 6 at **Scout Dike** on 9th Nov, 5 at **Elland GPs** on 22nd Nov, and 9 on 13th and 10 (the year's highest count) on 30th Dec at a **Fixby** garden (DT).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs.

Recorded from only 25 sites and, more disconcertingly only 23 singing males/territories were reported. However, we are still seeing fairly sizeable feeding flocks at favourable sites in the winter.

In the early winter period 50 fed on stubble at **Shepley** on 2nd Jan, 75 were observed going to roost at **Kirkheaton** on 3rd Jan (DS), 30 were counted at game crop at **High Hoyland** on 14th and 29th Jan with 20 here on 3rd Feb, and 10 were at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** on 5th Feb.

Birds were present at 18 sites during the breeding season, with the **Bretton** area hosting the max. of 6 pairs. Five singing males were located in the **Scout Dike/Royd Moor** area and 4 males were at **Bradley Hall Farm**.

In the autumn 26 were back at Thurgory Lane, **Lepton** on 20th Oct, up to 25 frequented the area around the communications tower at **Emley**, and 10 were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 12th Nov. The only other flock reported in the late months was at **Shelley**, where 30 on 8th Nov increased to 50 on 18th Dec where they remained to the year end.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Reported from 27 sites with an estimated 40 singing males/pairs in the area - a significant reduction from 2005. However, this may well be an under-representation. The Calder Valley and the Ingbirchworth area in particular are strongholds, where it remains fairly common.

In the early months counts made of birds visiting the game crop at **High Hoyland** were 12 on 29th Jan, 18 on 2nd Feb and 20 on 7th Feb (PB). Elsewhere, the only other significant counts were 8 at **Cawthorne** on 11th Feb and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 7th March, and 7 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 25th Jan. Up to 6 birds visited an observer's garden at **Meltham** from 10th March to 20th April.

During spring and the breeding season, counts of singing males included 11 in the **Marsden** area (JMP), 6 at **Scout Dike** and 5 at **Dewsbury SF**. Five pairs were located in the **Broadstones** area, three at **Winscar**, and three at **Bretton Lakes**. Evidence of breeding was only obtained from a handful of sites: **Cupwith Res.** young were being fed in a nest in rushes on 7th June; a family party was seen at **Scout Dike** on 25th June; and a female and juv. were at **Buckstones** on 23rd July. A pair was reportedly successful at **Colnebridge SP** but no details were available. Birds were also present during the nesting season at **Almondbury**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Dovestones**, **Elland GPs**, **Horbury Wyke**, **Pottersgate**, and **Royd Moor Res.**

In the late winter period, one to four birds were present at several sites, with 6 at **High Hoyland**, but the only double-figure count was of c.30 at **Ravensthorpe** on Boxing Day (DHP).

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Feral introduction

Survives in very small numbers at **Bretton lakes**, where 8 birds were released in 2000. Although the species can be elusive, the paucity of sightings suggests the introduction has not been successful. Single males were observed on 17th March, and 12th and 31st May (BBSG, SRG).

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*

A drake was at **Royd Moor Res.** on 22nd Jan (RJB), with presumably the same bird present at **Cannon Hall** in early Aug and on 19th Dec (BBSG).

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL *Anas bahamensis*

A drake at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 16th Aug (MCW).

MARBLED DUCK *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

One at **Dewsbury SF** on 2nd July had a bright red ring on its left leg (the same bird as in 2002 ?).

HELMETTED GUINEA FOWL *Numida meleagris*

One at **Fenay Bridge** on 8th September and on other dates until 30th October, when it was seen walking up the middle of Fenay Lane oblivious to the traffic. (MJW, AB).

ZEBRA FINCH *Taeniopygia guttata*

One on 23rd January at **Badley Park Golf Course** (DWB).

ADDENDUM TO 2005 REPORT:

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

At **Dewsbury SF** on 29th April one flew in from the west and remained for half an hour before departing east. The same bird was seen again on 6th May.

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF SUMMER & WINTER MIGRANTS 2006

SUMMER	FIRST	LOCALITY	LAST	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	13/3	Dewsbury SF	19/8	Dewsbury SF
Common Sandpiper	9/4	Winscar	19/9	Blackmoorfoot
Common Tern	20/4	Elland GPs	14/9	Ringstone Edge
Cuckoo	22/4	Several	6/8	Scout Dike
Swift	23/4	Elland GPs	10/9	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	28/3	Elland GPs	25/8	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	28/3	Elland GPs	15/10	Scout Dike
House Martin	2/4	Scout Dike	26/9	Blackmoorfoot
Tree Pipit	26/4	Swinny Knoll	15/8	Blackmoorfoot
Yellow Wagtail	15/4	Ringstone Edge	23/9	Scout Dike
Common Redstart	14/4	Horbury Bridge	14/9	Ringstone Edge
Whinchat	23/4	Scout Dike	26/9	Blackmoorfoot
Northern Wheatear	25/3	Hartcliffe Hill	25/10	Maythorne
Ring Ouzel	3/4	Meltham Cop	5/11	Royd Edge Clough
Grasshopper Warbler	30/4	Deanhead	16/7	Buckstones
Sedge Warbler	22/4	Scout Dike	18/9	Colnebridge SP
Reed Warbler	7/5	Colnebridge SP	7/8	Colnebridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	29/4	Horbury	16/9	Clock Face Quarry
Common Whitethroat	23/4	Several	9/9	Scout Dike
Garden Warbler	26/4	Bretton Lakes	9/9	Royd Moor Res
Blackcap	7/4	Bullecliffe Wood	1/10	Squirrel Ditch
Wood Warbler	27/4	Healey House		No autumn records
Chiffchaff	25/3	Elland GPs	13/11	Wilshaw
Willow Warbler	31/3	Elland GPs	24/9	Elland GPs
Spotted Flycatcher	9/5	Marsden	24/9	Pinfold Hill
Pied Flycatcher	19/4	Langsett	No autumn records	

WINTER	LAST	LOCALITY	FIRST	LOCALITY
Pink-footed Goose	11/2	Blackmoorfoot	3/10	Blackmoorfoot
Goldeneye	11/5	Blakeley Res.	18/10	Blackmoorfoot
Waxwing	6/3	Cowcliffe	24/11	Cowcliffe
Fieldfare	29/4	Horbury	12/10	Several
Redwing	25/4	Stocksmoor	9/10	Dewsbury SF
Brambling	28/4	Dovestones	14/10	Scout Dike

 Denotes earliest ever record.

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Barnsley Bird Study Group

Birdguides

Bird Line NorthEast (BLNE)

Greater Manchester Ornithological Society (GMOS)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club (HBC)

In Focus, Denby Dale

RSPB Denby Dale Office

REPORTING AND RECORDING SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

It is imperative for all club members and other birdwatchers to be fully committed to the understanding that the welfare of all birds is of paramount importance and must not be threatened or compromised by any of our activities. In particular this applies to all birds in the breeding season and especially to those birds whose populations are particularly vulnerable in Europe, the UK or just in the club area. Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act itemises a number of rare breeding birds (see abbreviated list below) which require a special licence for any individual who may approach them whilst nesting. These licences, which are issued in order to keep disturbance to a minimum, are only issued to bona fide researchers, i.e. ringers, official nest recorders, photographers (occasionally) etc. Anyone disturbing any Schedule 1 species who is not in possession of a licence is breaking the law and liable to prosecution, as well as putting the breeding attempt at risk. If you accidentally find a nest, however, you are not breaking the law, as this was done without any foreknowledge. If however you return to that nest and this results in any form of disturbance, then that would be breaking the law.

It should be obvious that the purpose of the law is to protect these individual species from disturbance, thereby allowing them to breed without molestation and providing the greatest chance of success. It is important, therefore, to avoid circulating any information relating to the whereabouts of such breeding birds. The HBWC committee therefore asks that no such information should be posted by anyone using the club forum; to do so may encourage unlicensed individuals to visit these nest sites, for whatever reason, and could seriously compromise the well-being of the birds and their eggs or offspring. The information could also be used by those intent on persecuting species, stealing eggs or young.

Should you suspect that a Schedule 1 species is breeding within the club area then do contact Mike Denton (01484 646990) who holds the necessary licence to monitor and document proceedings.

Where you see any Schedule 1 birds, and even though there may be no evidence of breeding at that time, it is advisable not to advertise the locality of such sightings on the forum, or even verbally to others. It is possible that the bird(s) may be prospecting in the area for potential breeding sites and such reports may compromise their opportunity for success. By not advertising the whereabouts of these species or their nests you can be content in the knowledge that you are positively contributing to their protection by not inviting disturbance by others.

Please do remember, however, to submit all of your detailed records to the Club Recorder for inclusion in the annual report, although the detail included in the report will be appropriately circumspect. Such information is vital for use by relevant bodies (e.g. the rare birds breeding panel, conservation bodies etc) your records are a key component of maintaining an accurate picture of population dynamics which aids plans to conserve and protect them.

In addition to the above, if you are aware of the presence of any Schedule 1 birds in an area and you suspect that illegal interference may have taken place, or be about to take place, then contact Mike Denton or the recorder urgently. We have the contact details of the appropriate authorities that would allow us to alert them to these threats.

These comments, whilst directed primarily at Schedule 1 species, are pertinent for any nesting species and if you are uncertain about their status it is advisable to seek clarification from either Mike Denton or the Club Recorder. There are also a number of species (see additional list) that may not be threatened within UK but that are scarce breeding, or potential breeding birds within

the club area. It is by leaving these birds undisturbed during a critical time in their life cycle that you can feel gratified that you have had no detrimental effect upon the outcome.

Abbreviated list of Schedule 1 Species

Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Pintail
Garganey
Honey-buzzard
Red Kite
All harriers
Goshawk
Osprey
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Dotterel
Red-necked Phalarope
Little Tern
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Firecrest

Additional List of Sensitive Birds in the Huddersfield Area

Nightjar
Buzzard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

CO-ORDINATES OF LOCALITIES IN THE CLASSIFIED LIST

(Use O.S. Landranger Series 110 – all Grid References prefixed by SE)

Location	Grid ref.
Ainley Top	117193
Almondbury	170155
Annat Royd Lane	211053
Appleyards, Golcar	101152
Armitage Bridge	130135
Ashway Gap	023043
Aspley	151163
Baitings Res.	006188
Bank Wood, Emley	263138
Banks Hall	282066
Bare Bones Road	144043
Bargate	096147
Barkisland	055197
Bartin	091072
Beaumont Park	130147
Bell Royd Farm	228048
Berry Brow	141138
Big Valley	130136
Bilberry Res.	102070
Binn Edge	053105
Bird's Edge	202077
Bird's Nest Lane	187066
Birkby	137181
Birks Moss	056078
Black Brook	060177
Black Hill	078047
Black Moss	040085
Blacker Beck	297161
Blacker Pit	299164
Blacker Wood	240111
Blackley Tip	102195
Blackmoorfoot Res.	098127
Blake Lee, Marsden	029121
Blakeley Res.	054096
Booth Dam Quarry	018161
Booth Wood Res.	026163
Boothroyd Wood	183118
Boshaw Whams	151057
Bradley	165205
Bradley Park GC	159207
Bradshaw	052144
Bretton Lakes	280127
Broadstones Lodge	203064
Broadstones Res.	195065

Location	Grid ref.
Brookhouse Bridge	198007
Brown's Edge	195058
Brownhill Res.	114060
Buckstones	010140
Bullecliff Farm	290156
Bullecliff Wood	292152
Bunny Wood, Golcar	095173
Butterley Res.	050103
Butternab Wood	122138
Cannon Hall	275085
Carlecotes	178034
Carr Wood	180133
Cartworth Moor	138060
Castle Dam, Penistone	255022
Castle Hill	152141
Cawthorne	285080
Cawthorne Dike	295089
Cheesegate Nab	175065
Chew Hills	023030
Chew Valley	025025
Choppards	142064
Cinderhills	147075
Clayton West	260110
Clayton West S.F.	266118
Cliff Wood, Langsett	215002
Cliff, Holmfirth	145082
Clock Face Quarry	044173
Clough Lee	046116
Clough Wood	175114
Cockley Hill	188179
Colne Valley	070140
Colnebridge S.P.	175207
Cooper Bridge	175206
Cowcliffe	139187
Coxley Bank	275168
Coxley Valley	271165
Cranberry	247008
Crimble	085145
Crosland Heath GC	110142
Crosland Hill	115145
Crosland Moor	120150
Crossley's Plantation	125050
Crow Edge	188046
Cubley	245023

Location	Grid ref.
Cupwith Res.	038141
Dalton	165168
Dean Clough	080067
Dean Rocks	025038
Dean Wood	119134
Deanhead Res.	038152
Dearne Dike Lane	195075
Dearne Head	185076
Deer Hill Res.	070115
Deffer Wood	260090
Deighton	167191
Denby Dale	225084
Dewsbury SF	260198
Digley Bottom	115068
Digley Res.	107070
Dogley NR	187137
Dovestones Res.	018040
Drop Clough	048133
Dunford Bridge	158024
Edge Hill	235016
Edge Moor	104125
Elland GPs	125222
Ellentree Brow	142045
Elysium Fields	133055
Emley Moor	225135
Emley Tx	223130
Farnley Tyas	166128
Farnley Wood	164134
Featherbed Moss	044010
Fenay Beck	183152
Fixby	139196
Flight Hill	153042
Flockton	245151
Flouch Inn	198016
Folly Hall	142159
Ford Inn	114084
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring	276027
Fox Clough	136057
Fox Holes, Langsett	190006
Fox House Moss	165042
Fullshaw	210012
Fulstone	175095
Garside Hey	032133
Gawthorpe Green	193168
Gilbert Hill	210007
Gledholt	133170

Location	Grid ref.
Golcar	096160
Golcar Tip	104156
Grain's Moss	125025
Grange Moor	220160
Green Gate	204060
Green Gate Road	113080
Greenfield Res.	030054
Greenfield Road	103080
Greetland	085215
Grimescar Valley	130190
Gunthwaite Dam	246062
Hade Edge	146053
Hades Green Clough	141052
Haigh	294120
Haigh Clough	023127
Hall Bower	145140
Hall Dike	115118
Hall Ing Road	162115
Hard Hill	056111
Harden	153037
Harden Clough	144039
Harden Edge	158038
Harden Moss	100083
Harden Res.	150037
Hartcliff Hill	221017
Hazlehead	195028
Healey Greave Wood	194116
Healey House	115124
Healey Mills	268193
Helme	101118
Hepworth	164066
Hey Green, Marsden	032122
Heyden Moor	092024
High Hoyland	273102
High Wood	290106
Highburton	193133
Hill Top Res.	074141
Hinchliffe Mill	127072
Hingcliffe Common	194001
Holmbridge	120068
Holme	108060
Holme Moor West	062114
Holme Styes	136054
Holme Styes Res.	141055
Holme Woods	105045
Holmfirth	143082

Location	Grid ref.
Holt Head	080123
Honley	138118
Honley Moor	116113
Horbury Strands	288177
Horbury Wyke	297172
Houses Hill	199169
Hoylandswaine	265047
Huddersfield	145165
Hullen Edge	100208
Hullock Bank	172075
Ingbirchworth Res.	215060
Isle of Skye Quarry	093080
Issues Clough	082053
Issues Road	095061
Jackson Bridge	165075
Jebb Lane	280112
Jenkinson Wood	184116
Jubilee Quarries	103128
Kaye Lane	160147
King's Mill Lane	150161
Kirkburton	198128
Kirkheaton	185185
Kirkroyds	156091
Krumlin	056183
Langsett	212005
Langsett Banks	205003
Langsett Res.	210001
Law	158047
Law Slack Ponds	156047
Lepton	203152
Lepton Great Wood	195145
Lindley	120182
Lindley Moor	095185
Lingards	060132
Linthwaite	095145
Liphill Brook	129078
Litherop Lane	273123
Little Black Moss Res.	032087
Little Don Valley	195005
Lockwood	135152
Lockwood Brewery Dam	135150
Longwood	108167
Lower Cumberworth	223095
Lower Hopton	202191
Lower Maythorn	187056
Lower Stones Wood	187106

Location	Grid ref.
Lower Windleden Res.	157017
Lowfields, Elland	117219
Lumb Lane	160140
Magdale Dam	135124
Magdalen Clough	090082
March Haigh Res.	015130
Margery Wood	275096
Marsden	045115
Marsden Clough	094072
Marsh	125171
Mathewman Wood	182098
Maythorn	186057
McAlpine Stadium	155176
Meal Hill	168070
Mellor Wood	158144
Meltham Cop	093120
Meltham Moor	080093
Meltham SF	112115
Middlestown	267172
Millbank, Thornhill	254195
Millhouse Green	218032
Millmoor, Meltham	088107
Milnsbridge	113158
Molly Carr Wood	160137
Morton Wood	158067
Myers Wood	188125
Mytholm Bridge	154102
Nether End	124081
Nether Moor	117133
Netherthong	139097
Netherton, Wakefield	283170
Netherwood	054127
Nettleton Hill	094170
New Hall Wood	265155
New House Wood	210082
New Mill	164088
Nont Sarah's	048152
Nopper Road	107135
Oakes	120174
Oldfield	136103
Orange Wood	102123
Ossett	290200
Outlane	085180
Ox Lee	168055
Oxygrains Beck	003159
Paddock	125161

Location	Grid ref.
Park Mill	260114
Paul Lane	184203
Penistone	245033
Penny Spring Wood	160155
Pole Moor	067158
Potato Lane	089125
Pule Hill	033104
Ramsden Res.	115055
Ravensthorpe	222202
Ravensthorpe GPs	233202
Redbrook Res.	027098
Reynard Clough	136050
Riding Wood Res.	117050
Ringstone Edge Res.	050182
Ripponden	040197
Rishworth	032182
Roughbircworth	264016
Round Wood	157101
Royd Edge	095097
Royd House Wood	162133
Royd Moor Res.	222048
Ryburn Res.	020188
Salendine Nook	105178
Salters Brook	137002
Sand Ridge Moss	158032
Sands GPs.	217196
Sands House	116145
Scammonden	050160
Scissett	248104
Scout Dike Res.	233049
Shelley	204113
Shelley Woodhouse	218110
Shepley	193098
Shore Head	148166
Silkstone	290059
Silkstone SF	295065
Skelmanthorpe	233105
Slaithwaite	080140
Slaithwaite Moor	040143
Smith Wood	179115
Snailsden Moor	135035
Snailsden Res.	135040
Snape Res.	117088
Snittle Road	149050
Snowgate Head	179085
South Crosland	113130

Location	Grid ref.
Sparth Res.	055125
Spicer House Lane	205055
Spring Wood	130124
Square Wood Res.	217078
Squirrel Ditch	152154
Stainland	077194
Standedge	016098
Stockmoor Common	275152
Stoneycliffe Wood	270158
Storthes Hall Moor	175112
Storthes Hall Woods	183125
Stubbin Clough	124072
Swinden Plantation	190002
Swinny Knoll	125097
T. P. Wood	132166
Taylor Hill	135145
Thongsbridge	151097
Thornton Lodge	135161
Thorpes	235095
Thunderbridge	188115
Thurgory	191158
Thurleston Moor	175020
Thurstonland	165104
Tinker Hill	163038
Totties	157082
Townhead	166028
Tunnel End Res.	039120
Tup Stones	096018
Underbank	144076
Upper Cumberworth	210087
Upper Denby	230072
Upper Greetland	075212
Upper Longdendale	095005
Upper Royd	095095
Upper Stones Wood	185104
Upper Windleden Res.	152012
Victoria, Hepworth	178054
Waring Bridge	065131
Waterloo	177166
Way Stones Edge	004142
Wessenden Head Res.	070075
Wessenden Valley	055088
West Nab	077088
West Wood, Honley	151123
Wetshaw Edge	147032
Whitegate Lane	128055

Location	Grid ref.
Whitley Common	192056
Whitley Willows	196166
Wholestone Moor	077167
Will's o' Nats's	090121
Wilshaw	118100
Windle Edge	152017
Windleden Edge	142010
Windmill Lane	195072
Windybank Wood	112104
Winscar Res.	150025
Wolfstones	124092
Wood Nook	122106
Wood Top	046113
Woodhead Res.	095002
Woodsome Lees	186134
Woodsome Road	185146
Wooldale	155090
Yateholme	115050
Yeoman Hey	033050

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

The following is a list of the 267 species of wild birds that have been officially accepted as recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2008. Eleven additional distinct races or 'sub-species' have also been recorded. In such cases, the generic species name is shown, followed by unnumbered entries for, firstly, the more commonly encountered race of the relevant species, then, highlighted, the less common 'additional' race(s). For those species and races that have been recorded only once or twice, the year(s) in which the birds appeared are also listed.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). There is one change of scientific name since the 2007 list: Rose-coloured Starling becomes *Pastor roseus*.

Two new species and one race were added to the Huddersfield List in 2008:

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (flying north over Dalton on 20th August 2008).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis fulinellus* (flying over Boshaw Whams on 31st July 2008).

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoideus kumlieni*, which is a race of Iceland Gull found in arctic Canada (Langsett Reservoir on 6th February 2008).

One additional species was added provisionally to the list in 2008, confirmation being subject to acceptance by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) Records Committee:

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Scout Dike Reservoir on 9th February).

The '**Description required**' column indicates those species and races for which records of sightings must be accompanied by a description and, if possible, photographs, as required by the Club (HBC) or the YNU. Descriptions for the YNU should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. Details may also be requested of un-seasonal records and well-defined races. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

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 Cunningham	Tel. 01484 680409
Russ Boland	Tel. 01226 281827	John Dale	Tel. 01844 652453

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarcer species, to the Club Recorder (see inside rear cover).

See the later map for a definition of the Club recording area.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		
2	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>		
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		
4	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>		YNU
	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>		YNU
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	1996	YNU
5	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		
6	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		HBC
	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>		HBC
	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		HBC
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		
8	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		
9	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		
10	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		HBC
11	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		
12	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>		
13	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2002	YNU
15	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		
17	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	2002	
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		
23	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU
24	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		
25	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>		
26	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		
27	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		
28	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		HBC
29	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
30	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		
31	Snow	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>		
32	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		
33	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		
34	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		
35	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>		
36	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>		
37	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		
38	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		
39	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		
40	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		
41	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC
42	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC
43	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC
44	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		
45	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		
46	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC
47	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC
48	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC
49	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC
50	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC
51	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC
52	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC
53	Gannet	<i>Morus bassana</i>		HBC
54	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		
55	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC
56	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC
57	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU
58	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		HBC
59	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1989	YNU
60	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		
61	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC
62	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
63	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC
64	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC
65	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		YNU
66	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		
67	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU
68	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC
69	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC
70	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU
71	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC
72	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		
73	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		
74	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU
75	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU
76	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC
77	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		
78	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU
79	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		
80	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		
81	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		
82	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		
83	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC
84	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	HBC
85	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC
86	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		
87	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		
88	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC
89	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		
90	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005	HBC
91	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>		
92	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		
93	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		
94	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC
95	Golden Plover	<i>Pheviatis apricaria</i>		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
96	Gray Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		
97	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		
98	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		
99	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		
100	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC
101	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC
102	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU
103	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU
104	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC
105	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC
106	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		
107	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU
108	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		
109	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>		
110	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		
111	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		HBC
112	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		
113	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		
114	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		
115	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		
116	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		
117	Terck Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	HBC
118	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		
119	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990	
120	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		
121	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		
122	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		
123	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC
124	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		
125	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		
126	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	HBC
127	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU
128	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
129	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC
130	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC
131	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC
132	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC
133	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC
134	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		
135	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		
136	Little Gull	<i>Hydrolaia minutus</i>		
137	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC
138	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		
139	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU
140	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>		
	Scandinavian L. B-b. Gull	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>		HBC
141	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>		
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC
142	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC
143	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	2002	YNU
144	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		HBC
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>		HBC
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides kumlieni</i>	2008	HBC
145	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC
146	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		
147	Little Tern	<i>Sterna alba</i>		HBC
148	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC
149	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU
150	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC
151	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		
152	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC
153	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC
154	Razorbill	<i>Alca torquata</i>		HBC
155	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
156	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC
157	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888	HBC
158	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)		
159	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		
160	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		
161	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		
162	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		
163	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		
164	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC
165	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		
166	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		
167	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		
168	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		
169	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		
170	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		
171	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU
172	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		
173	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968	YNU
174	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC
175	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC
176	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		
177	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		
178	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		
179	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC
180	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		
181	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC
182	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		
183	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		
184	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		
185	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU
186	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		
187	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		
188	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		HBC

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>		HBC
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>		HBC
189	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC
190	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>		
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		HBC
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	1990	HBC
191	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		
192	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>		
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC
193	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		
194	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		
195	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		
196	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		
197	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		
198	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC
199	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC
200	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		
201	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		
202	Stonchat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		
203	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>		
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC
204	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		
205	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		
206	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		
207	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		
208	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		
209	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		
210	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		
211	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		
212	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
213	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		
214	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		
215	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		
216	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		
217	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC
218	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC
219	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC
220	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>		
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC
221	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		
222	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		
223	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		
224	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		
225	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		
226	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		
227	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		
228	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		
229	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		
230	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>		
231	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC
232	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		
233	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		
234	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC
235	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC
236	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		
237	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		
238	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		
239	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		
240	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		
241	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		
242	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		HBC
243	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2008

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description required
244	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC
245	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		
246	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		
247	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		
248	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		
249	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		
250	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		
251	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>		
252	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		
253	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>		
254	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>		
255	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>		
256	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		
257	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	HBC
258	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		
259	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		
260	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC
261	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC
262	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		
263	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>		YNU
264	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU
265	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		
266	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	HBC
267	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		

NOTES

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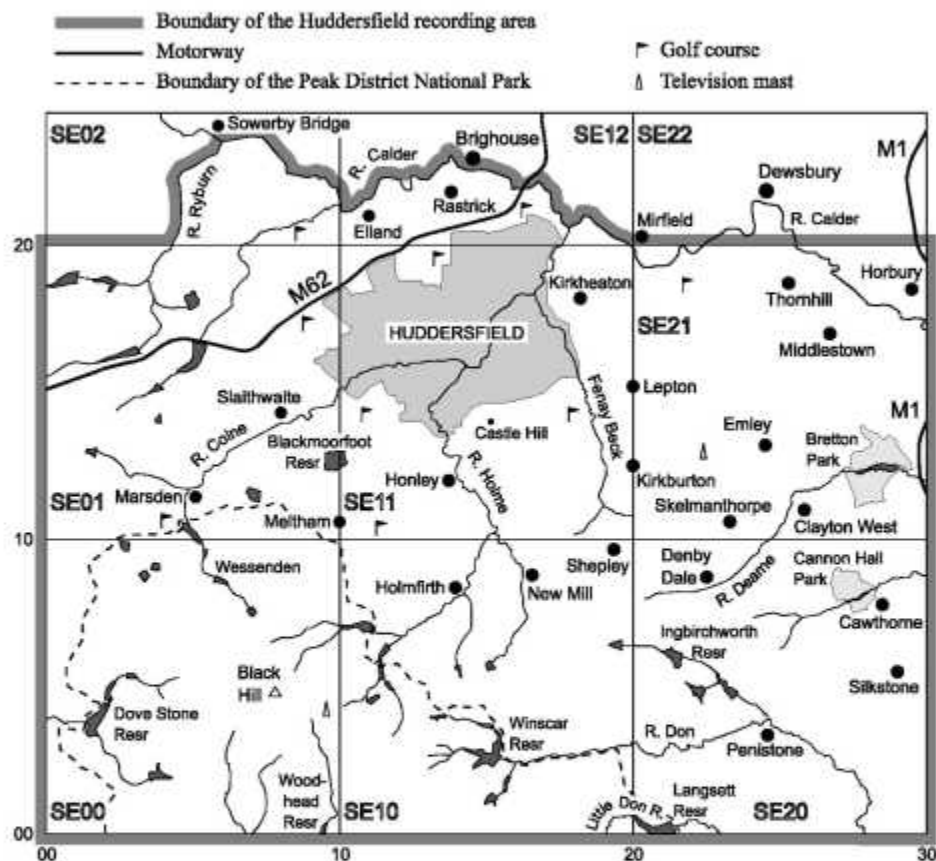
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HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB RECORDING AREA

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.





Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

INTERESTED IN BIRDS ?

DID YOU KNOW ...

- **The Huddersfield area**
 - **has nationally important breeding habitat for some of Britain's most endangered birds.**
 - **attracts rare and scarce birds every year.**
 - **offers interesting birding all year round, if you know where to look.**
- **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, a registered charity, has been studying the birds of the area since 1966.**
- **Through recording and surveys, the Club helps conserve these important habitats and birds.**
- **"Birds in Huddersfield", published annually, shows all the latest local trends in bird populations and what birds have been seen where and when.**
- **Sales help fund the charity's work.**

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.org.uk

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