

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

F I R S T R E P O R T

JUNE - DECEMBER 1966.



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HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

First Report: June - December, 1966

This, our first report, will I hope, be the first of many that will give a comprehensive view of the status of birds in the area covered by the Club and of the activities of the members.

The Club has certainly got off to a remarkably fine start. With a membership of 59 there is clear evidence that the formation of the Club was something that filled a long-felt need and undoubtedly, as the Club and its activities become better known and appreciated, the membership will grow.

The enthusiasm of the members has been illustrated by the excellent attendance at the meetings and the outings, and the pleasure brought to the members by the meetings and the outings, has been considerable.

The programme has been interesting, instructive and entertaining. There have been some first class speakers from other Clubs and Societies and it has been a gratifying feature that, included in the list of speakers there have been so many members who have come forward so willingly to impart their knowledge and experience of birds and birdwatching, not only at some of the better known local haunts, but also at interesting places farther afield.

The outings have all been successful and have included such well known places for bird-watching as Spurn, Lytham St. Annes, Filey Brigg, Fairburn Ings, Eccup, Gouthwaite and the Washburn Valley.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Lockwood, 17, Broadgate, Almondbury, Huddersfield for the gift of some books to enable us to start a library. This has been done, and it is hoped that anyone

with books or magazines dealing with ornithology which are no longer required, will follow the kind example of Mrs.Lockwood. The library is in the hands of the Secretary who will be pleased to release books on loan.

As President, may I thank all those who have helped in so many ways in the formation and the running of the Club, who have made contributions in giving lectures and in discussions, and in reporting. May I wish all members every enjoyment in their birdwatching activities in the coming year.

T.D.Bisiker,
President.

It is very encouraging to be able to present the first report of the Club, listing 137 species of birds recorded in the area during 1966, and the thanks of the recorder are tendered to the members who have sent in records and observations.

Two new species for the area were recorded during the year; Little Ringed Plover, a species which has recently spread in Yorkshire, and Goshawk. Coward mentions Goshawk breeding in Yorkshire in 1893.

The Red-Necked Grebe, in juvenile plumage, on Ingbirchworth reservoir, on 22nd August, is a very early autumn record for the County.

Bewick's Swan and Snow Bunting records are for the early part of the year, and many reports of Brambling were received in the autumn; November 19th brought a small party of Waxwing.

Barn Owl, Kingfisher, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch records are encouraging and Gadwall have been recorded several times at Blackmoorfoot reservoir, and a roost of 100 + Pied Wagtails in Huddersfield is very interesting.

The moorlands of the western part of our area are an important breeding territory on the southern fringe of the breeding range of Twite, and our records of this species should be as full and complete as possible.

During the year T.D.Bisiker, J.G.Ireland and several helpers ringed 1,615 birds in the area, including six species not ringed before; Chiffchaff, Spotted Flycatcher, Sedge Warbler, Jay, Goldfinch and Yellow Hammer. 322 Blackbirds were ringed, of which 186 were taken in gardens at Edgerton; 243 Greenfinches of which 144 were ringed at Blackmoorfoot; 190 Blue Tits of which 81 were in gardens

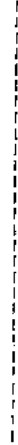
at Edgerton, and 113 Linnets at Toothill.

Of the new species ringed 4 Chiffchaffs, 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 1 Sedgewarbler, 3 Yellow Hammers and 3 Goldfinches were ringed at Toothill, as were also 3 Blackcaps, 3 Goldcrests, 1 Reed Bunting, 1 Redpoll, 11 Willow Warblers and 5 White-throats, indicating, to a certain extent, a migration route. The Jay was ringed in a garden in Edgerton.

Interesting recoveries of birds ringed are given on the facing page.

C. Disbrey,
Recorder.

<u>Species</u>		<u>Ringed</u>		<u>Recovered</u>	<u>Details</u>
Redwing	10.10.65	Edgerton	10.1.66	France	Killed
Blackbird	23.11.63	Blackmoorfoot	23.1.66	France	Found dead.
Blackbird	1.11.63	Edgerton	16.1.66	Co.Kerry	Caught and released.
Linnet	15.9.66	Toothill	17.10.66	France	Netted
Chiffchaff	7.9.66	Toothill	21.9.66	Dungeness, Kent.	Controlled
Mallard	4.8.65	Blackmoorfoot	23.11.66	Bretton	Shot
Blackbird	8.10.65	Sweden	20.3.66	Blackmoorfoot	Controlled



SYSTEMATIC LIST

GREAT CRESTED GREBE 2 to 4 on Ingbirchworth reservoir. April to September - occasional reports from Blackmoorfoot reservoir. Present most of the year at Bretton Park with successful breeding. Maximum 16 on September 18th.

RED-NECKED GREBE A bird in juvenile plumage on Ingbirchworth on August 22nd is a very early autumn record for this species. The bird stayed for several days and very close views were obtained on August 25th.

LITTLE GREBE Regularly at Bretton Park with 9 on October 30th. Occasionally at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth.

CORMORANT 3 on Blackmoorfoot on March 7th and 1 on September 4th.

HERON Occasional birds at Ingbirchworth; over Blackmoorfoot and at Thunderbridge and Bretton.

MALLARD Maximum 156 Bretton on December 12th and 146 Blackmoorfoot on September 19th. Well distributed over the area.

TEAL Present regularly at Bretton between August and March. Maximum 17 on December 4th. Frequently seen at Blackmoorfoot with a maximum of 26 on September 19th, occasionally at Cupwith and Ingbirchworth. A duck with 9 ducklings at Black Moss in June.

GADWALL Several reports from Blackmoorfoot during September with a maximum of 6 on September 19th.

WIGEON Blackmoorfoot, Bretton and Ingbirchworth.

SHOVELER 9 on June 6th Blackmoorfoot. 1 on October 23rd, Bretton.

SCAUP March 5th Blackmoorfoot.

TUFTED DUCK Small numbers present most of the year at Bretton. Frequent at Blackmoorfoot and also at Ringstone reservoir.

POCHARD Small numbers occasionally at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth. Regularly present at Bretton in the autumn with maximum 54 on November 6th.

GOLDENEYE Present on Blackmoorfoot - January/May and November and December. Maximum 11. March 29th. Occasionally on Ingbirchworth and Deerhill and at Bretton.

COMMON SCOTER 19 on Blackmoorfoot - July 28th. Two other records of single birds in April and August.

GOOSANDER Bretton - end of December.

SHELDUCK Reports from Deerhill, Scout Dike reservoir and Blackmoorfoot which had 11 on December 29th.

GREY GEESE Several reports of skeins flying both east and west. A large skein of 150 on December 29th was reported by several observers with both Grey Lag and Pink Foot calling.

BARNACLE GOOSE One on Blackmoorfoot May 7th was seen by four members.

CANADA GOOSE Present most of the year at Bretton. Maximum 118 on October 23rd and 15 young counted. One record at Blackmoorfoot of 8 on September 19th.

MUTE SWAN Bred at Middlemost Dam, Halifax Old Road.

BEWICK'S SWAN 6 Blackmoorfoot on March 3rd.

BUZZARD One report on 20th August near Bowshaw Wams.

SPARROW HAWK Only two sight records - no breeding record.

GOSHAWK On June 11th following a report of a large bird of prey in Grimescar Wood several observers saw this very large accipiter rise from the wood and circle gaining height with slowly flapping wings and very widely fanned tail. What was thought to be the same bird was seen five days later rising from a wood near Castle Hill with the same flight and widely fanned tail. In ordinary flight the long tail and rounded wings were prominent.

HARRIER A harrier seen hunting at Holmbridge was considered most likely to be a Hen Harrier.

MERLIN September 18th - 1 Low Common Reservoir area.

KESTREL Regularly seen in most of the area.

RED GROUSE Deerhill and Cupwith - also Yateholme.

PARTRIDGE More records than is usual and from four locations. Covey of 21 reported close to built-up area of Huddersfield.

PHEASANT Observed in a few places.

WATER RAIL 1 found dead at Greetland, the only record of the year.

WATER HEN Common in suitable habitat.

COOT Present all the year round and breeding at Bretton. Occasional birds at Blackmoorfoot and Gunthwaite.

OYSTER CATCHER Two records of single birds, one at Blackmoorfoot and one at Deerhill.

LAPWING Widely distributed and breeding with reports of 300+ on July 31st and 400+ on August 28th.

RINGED PLOVER Passage migrant - a single report of 3 at Cupwith reservoir, September 1st.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER The first record for Huddersfield Cupwith on May 6th. "No wing bar, dull legs, dark bill and characteristic face markings all visible at close range." Reports on July 23rd and 27th from Elland Sewage Works.

GOLDEN PLOVER Many reports with a flock of 93 at South Crosland on August 2nd.

TURNSTONE One on Blackmoorfoot on August 14th.

SNIFE Occurs regularly at Blackmoorfoot - but reports and numbers seem to be sparse this year.

JACK SNIFE 1 report only on October 29th.

WOODCOCK 8 records from 5 localities including Bretton. No reports between April 1st and October 19th.

CURLEW Regularly on the moors. 15 birds in flight at Blackmoorfoot on September 10th.

WHIMBREL 1st May 1 and August 5th 1, calling in flight at Blackmoorfoot.

COMMON SANDPIPER Seen regularly at Blackmoorfoot, Deerhill, Bretton and Cupwith.

REDSHANK 2 on July 11th and 3 on October 20th at Blackmoorfoot.

GREENSHANK 1 on August 14th at Blackmoorfoot and 2 on August 22nd at Cupwith.

DUNLIN 2 records from Deerhill and 1 from Blackmoorfoot during April. At least 4 breeding pairs at Black Moss on May 3rd.

CURLEW SANDPIPER 1 at Cupwith. "Very tame bird giving very close views - down-curving beak and white rump distinctly seen."

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Very small numbers regularly seen at Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Present in large numbers at Blackmoorfoot with many juveniles. Occasional small numbers at Ingbirchworth.

HERRING GULL Regularly at Blackmoorfoot but in small numbers.

COMMON GULL Regularly at Blackmoorfoot. C.40 January 3rd.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Very common in the district with gatherings of C.1000 at Blackmoorfoot. Small colony with 14 birds incubating on June 19th at Marsden and C.25 breeding pairs at Black Moss on May 3rd with at least 16 young on June 14th.

KITTIWAKE 2 Blackmoorfoot on February 6th. 1 adult 1 juvenile.

BLACK TERN 7 Ringstone on May 29th.

COMMON TERN 1 flying over lower lake at Bretton for an hour; black tip to red bill clearly seen.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN 1 on August 5th and August 8th at Blackmoorfoot.

STOCK DOVE Several reports from Blackmoorfoot and one from Magdale.

WOOD PIGEON Well distributed C.200 roosting at Bretton on November 12th.

TURTLE DOVE Deffer Wood and Boothroyd Wood.

COLLARED DOVE 1 at Stanwell Avenue, Birkby, April 8th and also reported from Holme.

CUCKOO Reports from four localities.

BARN OWL 1 in June near Deffer Wood.

LITTLE OWL Reports from three localities.

TAWNY OWL Present throughout the area.

SHORT EARED OWL Reports from the Deanhead area moors.

SWIFT First record May 1st Kirkburton and last September 3rd - Lindly Moor.

KINGFISHER Breeding very probable at Bretton and a June report of a bird on the Colne Valley Canal.

GREEN WOODPECKER Reports from six localities.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Reports from five localities.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER Single birds seen February 20th and April 10th at Bretton.

SKYLARK Well distributed with a winter flock of C.50 in the High Flatt area.

SWALLOW First record on April 10th at Bretton and last on October 8th in Deffer Wood area.

HOUSE MARTIN First record on April 24th at Blackmoorfoot and last on October 18th at Holmbridge.

SAND MARTIN First record on April 21st at Blackmoorfoot and last on September 5th at Blackmoorfoot. Breeding colony of approximately 10 pairs at Hall Dike, Meltham and 4 pairs at Bretton.

CARRION CROW Well distributed.

ROOK Widespread. A large flock of up to 2,000 regularly seen during the winter months at High Flatts.

JACKDAW Widely distributed - with good numbers included in the Rook flock at High Flatts.

MAGPIE Very common. Gatherings of C.25 observed near Grimescar Wood and near Boothroyd Wood.

JAY Well distributed in the woodlands.

GREAT TIT Common.

BLUE TIT Very common.

COAL TIT Thinly distributed through the woodlands.

MARSH TIT Regularly seen at Gunthwaite.

WILLOW TIT Reports from five localities with one breeding record.

LONG-TAILED TIT 10 reports of small parties during the winter months.

NUTHATCH Three sightings at Bretton in August and September.

TREE CREEPER Thinly distributed and sightings mainly in the winter months; birds present during the breeding season at Magbridge.

WREN Well distributed.

DIPPER Reported from six localities indicating a recovery of the status.

MISTLE THRUSH Well distributed.

FIELDFARE Last record on April 21st at Lindly Moor and first on October 2nd at Magdale. Large flocks in the area with one of C.400 High Flatts.

SONG THRUSH Well distributed.

REDWING Last record on March 6th at Bretton and first on September 25th at Fartown. Flock of C.150 at Bretton on October 30th.

RING OUZEL Only three reports - two from Deerhill in July.

BLACKBIRD Very common. An albino reported near Clayton West on November 6th.

WHEATEAR First record on April 10th at Deerhill and last on October 16th at Emley Woodhouse. 10 at Whiteley Common on April 11th.

WHINCHAT First record on April 30th at Deerhill and last on August 14th at Kirkburton.

REDSTART First record on April 14th at Grimescar and last on September 5th at Edgerton, Huddersfield.

ROBIN Very common.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Several records during June and July at Bretton.

SEDGE WARBLER 1 at Blackmoorfoot on August 16th. 1 Ringed at Toothill on September 9th.

BLACKCAP Reports from 7 localities. 1 on December 18th at Bretton.

GARDEN WARBLER Only one report from the Huddersfield area. Two reports from Bretton during July.

WHITETHROAT Reports from seven localities - but twelve birds ringed in four localities suggests that this species is being overlooked. First record on April 30th at Grimescar and last 1 ringed at Toothill on September 9th.

WILLOW WARBLER Common. First record on April 10th at Blackmoorfoot and last on September 8th at Toothill (ringed.)

CHIFFCHAFF First record on ~~July~~^{April} 10th at Bretton Park and last on October 2nd at Toothill (ringed.)

WOOD WARBLER 1 singing at Kirkburton on April 30th. Two birds seen together in Grimescar during June and early July.

GOLDCREST Reports from 9 localities.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Three reports of nesting. First record May 20th at Stockmoor and last record on September 15th at Toothill (ringed).

DUNNOCK Common.

MEADOW PIPIT Common. A flock of 32 near Grimescar Wood on November 6th.

TREE PIPIT Regularly reported at Bretton. Single reports from Grimescar Wood, Boothroyd Wood, Deffer Wood and Stocksmoor.

PIED WAGTAIL Well distributed.

GREY WAGTAIL Reports from six localities and the ringing of three birds at Kirkburton Sewage farm indicates a further recovery in status.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Three to four breeding pairs at Cooper Bridge sewage works - otherwise only reports of 3 at Blackmoorfoot and one at Deerhill on August 20th.

WAXWING Parties of 5 and 2 at Thunderbridge on November 19th.

STARLING A very large roost in the town extending from the Huddersfield Building Society to Cloth Hall Street and very large flocks recorded in the Denby - High Flatts and Deffer Wood areas.

GREEN FINCH Very common, with a flock of C.400 at High Flatts.

GOLDFINCH 11 records, of which six occurred in October, one in November and two in December.

SISKIN One at Bretton on October 23rd and 40 in the same locality on November 12th. 5 in Birkby, Huddersfield on February 20th.

LINNET Well distributed.

TWITE Numerous records from the Pennine Moors on the western part of the area, with young birds seen. C.25 near Nont Sarahs on March 29th and C.25 at Deer Hill on July 22nd. 50+ at Ringstone on September 24th.

REDPOLL Small numbers seen throughout the area during the winter months. No reports during the breeding season.

BULLFINCH Reports from four localities only.

CROSSBILL A party of C.7 drinking at water trough near Ingbirchworth on November 3rd.

CHAFFINCH Well distributed but not numerous.

BRAMBLING Many records during October with 180+ in the Grimescar valley from October 10th to October 16th.

YELLOW HAMMER Well distributed.

CORN BUNTING Heard and seen regularly in three localities during the breeding season.

REED BUNTING Only three reports during the year indicates that this species is being overlooked.

SNOW BUNTING 15 - 18 Dean Head and 1 at Kirkburton Sewage Farm in January and single birds at Thornton Lodge and Holme Moss in November.

HOUSE SPARROW Very common.

TREE SPARROW Resident in several localities but very few records received during the year.
