



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Birds in Huddersfield

2013



Birds in Huddersfield 2013 is a publication of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club and the latest in an unbroken series of annual reports produced by the Club since 1966. It is based upon records of bird sightings submitted and surveys undertaken over the year by Club members and other volunteer birdwatchers.

Cover illustration: **Dipper (Stuart Brocklehurst)**.

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

Rear cover photograph: **Great Northern Diver (David Pennington)**

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Birds in Huddersfield

2013

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FOREWORD BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT

I believe that the single most important role of the Club is that of recording the avifauna of our Huddersfield area and publishing the data and expert analysis in our annual report. Its publication is truly the highlight of our year and *Birds in Huddersfield 2013* is yet another fine example. When all else passes, the lasting and worthy legacy of Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club is its unbroken series of annual reports since our foundation in 1966.

Over that time, much has changed about the reports. Originally a pamphlet, they are now much more detailed. Digitisation has streamlined the process of production and printing and enabled us to include photographs to enliven the text. From being written predominantly by one person, they are now a team effort. Computerisation has facilitated the analysis of records by species, but also created the job of inputting them by the tens of thousands, for which bear a thought and give thanks to our Recorder David Butterfield.

The fundamentals however, remain unchanged – boots on the ground observing and submitting records, expert eyes to review the data and turn it into an interesting read. The writing team this year remains unchanged, apart from the welcome return of Chris Abell after a year out. I think that they have done a fine job and congratulate them all. I would particularly like to thank Mike Denton, without whose considerable support as 'Technical Editor' the production of this report would not be possible. Russ Boland's summary of the year is always a highlight and this year's is no exception. After contributing for several years, including writing the 2005 and 2006 reports and co-writing the 2004 report with Brian Armitage, Russ has said he wishes to take a break and he deserves a major thank you for all he has done. We shall sorely miss his insight and enthusiasm, unless of course we can twist his arm again next time!

We have previously encouraged readers of the report to give us feedback. Few have and whilst we may like to believe that this denotes your general satisfaction with the reports it is always dangerous for us to jump to this conclusion. So please do tell us what you think – good bad or indifferent – and we would very much welcome your suggestions for any improvements.

There were many birding highlights in 2013, including a new sub-species to add to the Huddersfield List, and I trust you will enjoy reading about them.

Mike Wainman
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:

1. 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 Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 46 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 recording and *Birds in Huddersfield 2013* 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 work *The Birds of the Huddersfield Area*, which reviewed the complete history of every species recorded in the area since records began, right up to modern times.

We also publish on-line and in our annual report the *Huddersfield List*, a checklist of all the species of wild birds and additional races that have officially been accepted as having been recorded in the area. 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.

The whole of the Club archive, including all of our publications since 1966, has recently been made available in digital format via our new web site (see below) for viewing by the public. This is an invaluable source for everyone interested in the history of the birds of the area.

2. 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. We also have a wealth of birding and photographic expertise within the Club and enjoy presentations from members equally as knowledgeable and fascinating as our visitors.

Each year, we 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.

Our web site www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk contains information about birding in the area, as well as about the Club and our activities. The forum is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, and is a great way of finding out what is about.

3. 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, 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 committee.

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 - see inside rear cover or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk



2013: THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 172 species was reliably recorded in the Huddersfield area. There were no new species, although there was the first appearance of a distinctive race of one species. Again, the total is remarkably consistent with those from the last 10 years.

The highlight during the first days of **January** was up to 100 Waxwings which entertained local birders in the Folly Hall area. Year listers had to be quick off the mark, however, as gatherings of these ever-popular visitors became a bit more sporadic soon afterwards. Early month also witnessed the largest passage of Pink-footed Geese over the area, over 3,500 birds counted in two days. At the same time a lone Common Scoter at Langsett Res. was an unusual early-year record. Later, a mixed Fieldfare and Redwing flock totalled nearly four figures in the Broadstones area. Up to five Chiffchaffs frequented the environs of Horbury Sewage Farm, and at least one of these was adjudged to show characters of the rare Siberian form. Also along the Calder, a real surprise was the Little Egret seen here and on another of these less salubrious sites. This bird must have had its finders thinking of, or perhaps yearning for far warmer climes! The Ladywood Lakes Ring-billed Gull made the first of only a handful of appearances - the change of management of this site perhaps a cause to search for pastures new? Rarest bird, however, was the Slavonian Grebe which graced Scammonden Water for six days from the month's end.

Red-head Smew were one of the highlights in **February**. Singles visited Bretton Park on a least six dates, whilst another briefly graced the lake at Cannon Hall CP. Considering this site's reputation for 'dodgy' wildfowl, the finders would have been forgiven for initially thinking this was something much more exotic but a lot less wild! A Mediterranean Gull visited the Ingbirchworth area mid-month, but whilst the third week saw the first returning Curlew and Oystercatchers, the cold, damp weather was not inspiring thoughts of an early spring.

Early **March** saw the start of a marked passage of Whooper Swans, with Blackmoorfoot Res. claiming the largest fly-over herd of these superb birds. Mid-month, this site also hosted an impressive party of 32 Common Scoter, and the first Red Kite of the year passed over Ingbirchworth - the date being more or less on cue. However, any remaining hopes of an early spring were dashed when very heavy snow fall hit the region in the third week, and spring migration seemed weeks away!

April began with a fly-over Osprey, which are always special, and one over Dove Stones Res. on the 1st came with the added spice of being the first actual true summer migrant of the year! Apart from three exceptionally early Swifts at Ingbirchworth, most of our migrants didn't start arriving until the second week of the month. As always, the unusual is out there to be found and mid-month brought Arctic Terns to Ladywood Lakes and Elland GP and a Sandwich Tern through Blackmoorfoot. A buzzard photographed flying through this site a few days later turned out to be a Rough-legged Buzzard after the images were scrutinized - the first ever record for the 'foot'! Next day, even rarer, a Woodlark was the star find at an undisclosed location to the south of Huddersfield. Late month brought more migrants and two fine passage raptors in the shape of Marsh and Hen Harriers to the Winscar area; the latter enjoyed by sheltering observers tucking into tea and cakes!

With spring having finally arrived, an excellent **May** ensued. A splendid Dotterel which took up residence in the Cartworth Moor area for five days was the treat early-month. Nine Whimbrel and five Arctic Terns followed, which led the way in a full 'suite' of terns, with a Black Tern at Broadstones Res. and Sandwich and Little Terns through Blackmoorfoot - the latter the first for

here, and the Club area, for nine years. This busy period also brought eight Common Scoters to Scout Dike and a smattering of other migrants.

In early **June**, a second singing male Woodlark was found, incredibly, by the same experienced observer. It was a typically quiet month for scarcities afterwards though, with Red Kites over High Hoyland and Wessenden, and cross-country Common Scoters at Blackmoorfoot and Ringstone Edge the highlights.

Some kindly summer weather would undoubtedly have helped our breeding birds this year. There appeared to be no marked increases and or declines for any species. Of our raptors, it was another blank year for Merlin, yet a promising season for Peregrine. Due to much-reduced surveying of upland wader haunts this summer, information for species like Dunlin was significantly reduced, but it should be safe to assume these birds enjoyed a better year due to the more clement weather. The sad decline of several species of our migrant passerines in the UK continues, and this is reflected in our area with Tree Pipit, which can now only be reliably seen at a single site. It was pleasing to report a slightly better year for two more afflicted species - Yellow Wagtail and Whinchat. Also, it is worth noting that the small population of Sedge Warbler along the confines of the Calder continues to thrive, this being another species now suffering a major decline in the country. Of our resident breeders, indications are not good for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, never a common bird anyway, and Little Owl. How much more scrutinizing of stone walls will be needed in the near future for this diminutive owl! On a more positive note, Stonechat appears to be recovering from the two recent hard winters, so let's hope future breeding seasons remain as friendly.

The first half of **July** was also predictably quiet but in sharp contrast to 2012 we were at least enjoying something resembling a summer! A brief Hooded Crow at Cannon Hall was a real mid-summer surprise, and this set the migration-ball rolling beginning with a Marsh Harrier at Blackmoorfoot, several Common Scoters at various waters and a Little Egret at Dewsbury SW being the pick of the bunch.

August began with brief Little Egrets at Scout Dike, Gunthwaite and Dewsbury SW. Wader passage was generally unremarkable but several Green Sandpipers did reveal themselves at sites both along the Calder and on the uplands, and Greenshanks visited Blackmoorfoot and Ossett SW. Two Marsh Harriers hunted the Winscar area for the best part of a fortnight, offering a great opportunity for local observers to catch up with this splendid and increasingly familiar raptor. Garganey and Scaup provided the wildfowl interest late month and a fine adult Mediterranean Gull was a good upland find at Digley Res.

September can often provide the year's most exciting birding and early month it was very good indeed. At least three Ospreys passed through, including one over Harden Quarries, where the 'vis-miggers' also enjoyed early bonuses of Grey Plover and a flock of Common Scoters. The Calder was still producing the goods though, with Black Terns passing through Ladywood Lakes. Things then became a little quieter until mid-month but then back on the uplands a strong westerly blow produced three Brent Geese at Blackmoorfoot. It's very good to see dark-bellied forms of this species anywhere inland, but these were of the much rarer pale-bellied form and were the first for the Club area. The year's only Black Redstart was at Marsden and the first skeins of autumn Pink-footed Geese began to move. Grey Plover and Ruff took Ringstone Edge to their liking and stayed, atypically, for several days, and the 'vis-mig' season began in earnest with good counts of Meadow Pipits and hirundines logged.

Early **October** was rather quiet until strong winds and rain hit the area mid-month. Among the avian fall-out were good numbers of Whooper Swans, a couple of parties of Common Scoter and, best of all, a splendid Red-throated Diver at Scout Dike Res. The visible migration watchers began to produce the goods from here on, with good numbers of Pink-footed Geese and winter thrushes being logged, with an Arctic Tern a nice bonus for the observers at Harden Quarries. October's rarity award went to the area's third Great White Egret - a brief bird at Bretton Lakes, which has now hosted all three! Fly-over Snow Buntings rewarded diligent 'vis-miggers' at Harden and Pule Hill at the month's end.

November opened with a Snow Bunting over Marsden which started the monopoly of good birds on the uplands, which included passage Sanderling visiting Blackmoorfoot, the year's only Red-breasted Merganser, the predicted huge Woodpigeon counts and fly-over Whooper Swan rewards for the 'vis-miggers'. In the lowlands there were good wildfowl counts from Bretton Lakes and Dewsbury SW, before ring-tail Hen Harriers proved the uplands were again the place to be.

In early **December** the Club area's third-ever Caspian Gull was an excellent find in the Langsett Res. gull roost. Mid-month saw the arrival of a Great Northern Diver to Ladywood Lakes. This superb bird seemed rather out of place on what can now be classed as a 'leisure lake', but initial fears that the bird was sick seemed to have been unfounded as it settled here for a several month stay without encountering any hostilities from the local anglers! Along the Calder another wintering Chiffchaff showing characteristics of the Siberian race was discovered, with an excellent count of Pied Wagtails also finding the local sewage works much to offer as winter refuges, despite the milder than average weather. The year closed on a high with two Bewick's Swans gracing Ingbirchworth Res.; these beautiful swans being the first in the area for eight years.

Russ Boland

THE WEATHER IN 2013

The following weather summary is from Huddersfield University's Weather Station and is reproduced by kind permission of Julie Walker of the School of Applied Sciences:

The Met Office state the annual statistics for 2013 are generally near average and unremarkable. However, there were some significant weather events through the year. A late winter and exceptionally cold spring, with unseasonably late snowfalls, lead into a warm and sunny summer. October and December saw Atlantic storms that brought rain and at times very high winds, causing widespread disruption.

2013 was the seventh driest year since our records began in 1990. A total of 700.44mm of rainfall was recorded compared to the average figure of 830.75mm. The wettest month of the month was October with 107.64mm of rainfall (15.4% of the year's total). The wettest day of the year was the 17th July when 32.2mm of rainfall was recorded. The driest month of the year was September with 40.6mm of rainfall. The driest spell of the year was between May 31st and June 12th, 13 days in total. The wettest spell was between October 7th and November 6th during which a total of 114.8mm of rainfall was recorded.

The warmest month of the year was July with an average temperature of 19.45°C. The warmest day of the year was August 1st when an average temperature of 24.1°C was recorded. The highest temperature during the year was 31.4°C recorded on Thursday 1st August; the highest temperature recorded by the weather station since the 18th July 2006.

The coldest month of the year was March with an average temperature of 2.38°C, the coldest since 1962 according to the Met Office and the coldest month recorded by the Applied Sciences weather station since December 2010. The coldest day of the year was Wednesday 16th January when an average temperature of -2.8°C was recorded, the coldest day since 20th December 2010 when an average temperature of -6.7°C was recorded. The lowest temperature recorded during the year was -4.2°C recorded on Tuesday 15th January.

The windiest month of the year, in fact one of the windiest months on record, was December with a mean wind speed of 14.97km/hr. The windiest day of the year was March 10th with a mean temperature of 36.72km/hr. The highest gust of wind for the year, indeed the highest since our records began, was 149.4km/hr recorded on December 5th.

Monthly Overview 2013

All average figures are those recorded by the Applied Sciences weather station since 1990.

- **January** – Started off very mild with temperatures slightly above average however, temperatures fell dramatically in the second half of the month leaving the overall average figures for the month over a degree lower than average. Snow and ice caused some disruption during the month.
- **February** – It was the fourth coldest and seventh driest February since our records began. Monthly mean temperatures were almost 2 degrees centigrade lower than average.
- **March** - It was the coldest March since our records began and according to the Met Office the second coldest March on record. March was the coldest month or the 'extended winter', the first time this has happened since 1975, and the coldest calendar month since December 2010. Heavy snow with severe drifting hit the whole of the Kirklees region on Friday 22nd and Saturday

23rd resulting in many areas being cut off. The temperature fell below zero on 18 days of the month.

- **April** – The cold dry weather of late March continued into April. The Met Office stated that it was the coldest April for the UK since 1989 with average temperatures for the month just over 1°C colder than average. It was the second coldest and fifth driest April since our records began.
- **May** - According to the Met office it was the 5th coldest spring in national records dating back to 1910 and the coldest spring since 1962. An analysis of the monthly temperature in Huddersfield for the period March 1990 to May 2013 reveal that 2013 is by far the coldest since our records began, with this year's figures showing an average figure of just 7.07°C compared to the average of 9.56°C! It was the second coldest May since our records began. It was the wettest May since 2009.
- **June** - Temperatures for the month failed to reach over 25°C for only the sixth time since our records began, however monthly temperatures were close to average. Only 44% of the expected rainfall fell making it the fifth driest since our records began. Mean wind speeds for the month were the lowest since our new weather station was installed in 2005.
- **July** – Summer finally arrived with average temperatures over two degrees higher than average. The Met Office stated it was the UK's most notable summer heat wave since 2006. Temperatures reached over 25°C on seventeen days in total. July 27th was the wettest day of the year with 32.2mm of rainfall. Wind speeds for the month were also very low.
- **August** – Warm temperatures and lower than average rainfall. The warmest June to August period since 2006. Thursday 1st was the warmest day of the year with temperatures reaching 31.4°C the highest temperature since 18th July 2006.
- **September** – Temperatures for the month were slightly cooler than average. It was the driest month of 2013 and the driest September since 2003.
- **October** – Mild, dull and very damp! The wettest month of the year with 107.64mm of rainfall; the wettest October since 2000.
- **November** – It was the seventh coolest November since our records began, however, temperatures only fell below zero on one day of the month. Rainfall was below average.
- **December** – Record breaking weather statistics were recorded during December. Monthly temperatures far exceeded the temperatures normally expected for December, with the temperature only falling below zero on one occasion during the month. Rainfall figures were below average. The Met Office stated that this was the windiest December in records from 1969 and one of the windiest calendar months since January 1993, a major storm hit the country on December 5th with incredibly high wind speeds, on this day the weather station recorded the highest maximum gust since our records began!

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 and Dewsbury Sewage Farm. See also the map inside the rear cover.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

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 | |

These figures were derived from data gathered during the Club's breeding atlas undertaken in the years 1987-92. Since this time a number of species have decreased alarmingly e.g. Whinchat but, due to a lack of detailed information, it would be an impossible task to judge the numbers now involved. In an effort to overcome this problem, although retaining the original estimate, any species which has shown a noticeable decline has now been indicated.

Species that are 'red listed' in the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) 2009 list of Birds of Conservation Concern, i.e. those of high concern, are marked accordingly. Precise locations for records of Schedule 1 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	GP	-Gravel Pit
N	-North	NR	-Nature Reserve
S	-South	SW	-Sewage Works
E	-East	SP	-Sludge Plant
W	-West	Res.	-Reservoir
CP	-Country Park	nc	no count

On page 123 is a complete list, 'The Huddersfield List', of the 269 species and 13 additional distinct races of wild birds that have been recorded in the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club area since records began, up to the end of 2013. The List incorporates guidance on when a description is required to support sightings.

All reports of rare and unusual species and races that require a description have been assessed by the Club Records Committee, Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU) Adjudication Panel or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

The edited list of co-ordinates of sites within the Club area is no longer included in the annual report. A more complete list can be found on our web site at:

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

THE CLASSIFIED LIST 2013

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Records were received from 13 sites (7 in 2012), mainly in the east of the area. Two of these were notable; a single at **Sparth Res.** on 5th May (OW) was the first record in the Marsden area since 1983 and at **Meal Hill** two adults present from 26th October until at least 4th December was the first report there for ten years (HQ).

Breeding was recorded at three sites (two in 2012):

Ladywood Lakes – six young were raised although this had declined to two juveniles by December.

Heaton Lodge SW – a nest was occupied on 28th April, but the eventual outcome went unreported.

Bretton Park – two juveniles were present on 26th June.

Other records were as follows:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – between one and seven birds were reported throughout the year.

Colne Bridge – two were present on the River Calder on 10th January.

Healey – two adults flew W along the canal on 2nd February.

Dove Stone Res – five (3 adults and 2 immatures) on 15th February. This is a rare species at this site.

Elland GP – four on 5th March, two on 19th March and 8th April.

Dewsbury SW – two adults on 28th April.

Mirfield – five (two adults and three juveniles) on the canal on 22nd June.

Boshaw Whams – two immatures between 27th and 30th November, and again on 4th December. A juvenile was reported on 21st, 22nd and 26th December, but it had presumably been present throughout this period.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor, becoming rarer.

There was a single record of this increasingly rare bird: an adult and an immature spent the day at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28th December (DHP, DT, MCW *et al.*).

This is the first record in the Club area since five were at Ringstone Edge Res. on 24th November 2005.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Birds were seen during the first winter period as follows:

Cheesegate Nab - six flew NW on 18th February.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – 22 on 6th March.

Dewsbury SW – a single on 6th March.

Ingbirchworth Res – 11 adults on 11th March and nine (8 adults and an immature) on 13th March.

Broadstone Res – nine (8 adults and an immature) on 13th March. This record and the 13th March sighting from Ingbirchworth presumably refer to the same herd.

Windy Bank Res – 40 flew N at 14.15hrs. on 14th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – 15 on 21st March.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a herd of 42 adults flew N over the reservoir and turned west up the Colne Valley at 09.35hrs. on 21st March.

Elland GP – five (2 adults and 3 immatures) were present on the ski lake on 16th/17th April.

In autumn the first record was in the **Ingbirchworth** area on 11th October: 15 adults at Ingbirchworth Res. had relocated to a stubble field on Ingbirchworth Moor (between Scout Dike and Royd Moor Reservoirs) and were still present the following day.

Two herds moved over the area on 13th October: four (3 adults and an immature) flew W at **Boshaw Whams** and 11 adults flew N over **Harden Quarries** at 10.30hrs. A herd of 19 adults were also present at **Langsett Res.** on this date.

The only other records involved a single at **Bretton Park** on 26th October, seven which flew SE over **Harden Quarries** at 08.05hrs. on 10th November, an adult at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 11th November and five which flew S over **Winscar Res.** at 09.00hrs. on 16th November.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common to numerous passage and winter visitor.

There was a substantial movement on 5th and 6th January which resulted in a total of 3750 birds over the two days (1650 on 5th and 2100 on 6th). Even when allowing for duplication, these figures exceed the “exceptional movement” of c.1500 on 14th January 2012.

2nd January – 100 NW at 12.00hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.300 NW at 12.30hrs. at **Bradley Park GC.**

3rd January – 50 W at 10.05hrs. over **Fixby**, c.50 NW at 10.30hrs. at **Bradley Park GC** and 150 NW over **Jackson Bridge** at dusk.

4th January – 127 WNW at **Langsett Res** and 60 NW at 11.15hrs. at **Horbury SW.**

5th January – c.250 W at **Royd Moor Res.**, c.200 W (160 at 11.20hrs. + 40 at 11.40hrs.) at **Horbury SW**, c.150 WNW at 12.00hrs. over **Wooldale**, c.300 W at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, c.150 over **Meltham GC**, c.100 NW at 12.15hrs. over **Skelmanthorpe** and 160 NW at 14.14hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot.**

6th January – 1150 (19 NW at 09.15hrs. + 1 NW at 10.20hrs. + 170 NW at 10.45hrs. + 130 N at 11.30hrs. + 180 N at 11.35hrs. + 120 N at 11.40hrs. + 250 NW at 11.45hrs. + 150 N at 11.50hrs. + 130 W at 11.55hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**, 555 NW during the late morning (300 + 200 + 55) over **Hepworth**, 56 at 11.10hrs. over **Langsett Res.**, c.250 NW at 11.40hrs. over **Shepley** and 92 WNW at 14.50hrs. over **Fixby.**

7th January – 120 (60 W at 10.45hrs. + 60 W at 11.05hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.150 NW at 11.00hrs. over **Golcar.**

8th January – 80 WNW at 13.20hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot** and 208 W at 14.25hrs. over **Dewsbury SW.**

10th January – 77 W at 14.30hrs. over **Horbury SW.**

11th January – 450 (200 NW at 10.25hrs. + 250 NW at 10.50hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**, c.60 NNE over **Golcar** and c.300 NW at 11.00hrs. over **Bradley Park GC.**

17th January – c.60 W at 10.30hrs. over **Golcar.**

8th February – 197 S (105 + 92) over **Whitley Beaumont** during the morning.
9th February – 320 (70 W at 11.20hrs. + 250 W at 11.30hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**, c.130 over **Boshaw Whams**, 190 W at 11.24hrs. at **Bretton Park** and 120 NW at 11.50hrs. over **Elland GP**.
28th February – 120 NW at 11.50hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot** and c.200 W over **Whitley Beaumont**.
18th March – 110 W at **Blackmoorfoot**.

Grounded birds at **Blackmoorfoot** involved 39 in the fields to the west of the reservoir on 4th January (34 of which departed NW at 11.15hrs.) and a single in the same fields on 8th January (the same date that 80 flew WNW at 13.20hrs.). The only other grounded birds concerned three in a field at **Annat Royd Lane** on 12th January and a single in this area on a number of days until 14th April.

18th September – 48 (3 W at 10.15hrs. + 5 W at 11.00hrs. + 40 W at 12.00hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**.

21st September – 115+ NW at **Harden Quarries**.

23rd September – c.120 ESE at **Scout Dike Res**.

24th September – 63 W at 11.05hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.

27th September – 17 W over **Marsden**.

5th October – 60 E at 08.40hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**, c.125 E (c.40 + c.85) over **Harden Quarries** and 80 NE at 08.46hrs. over Pule Hill, **Marsden**.

6th October – 190 (110 SE at 09.00hrs. + 80 W at 10.20hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot**, 113 NE at 08.25hrs. over Pule Hill, **Marsden**, c.530 (450 E at 09.23hrs. + 80 NE at 10.30hrs.) over **Harden Quarries** and c.400 (c.300 NE at 08.55hrs. + c.100 N at 09.22hrs.) over the **Wessenden Valley**.

18th October – c.40 E over **Brockholes** in the early morning and 73 NW at 15.10hrs. over **Ossett**.

19th October – 73 NW over **Dewsbury SW** and c.40 WNW over **Harden Quarries**.

23rd October – 22 NE over **Dewsbury SW**.

24th October – c.860 (240 + 100 + 250 + 270) NE at 08.25 hrs. at Pule Hill, **Marsden**, c.1060 ESE in seven skeins between 08.58hrs. and 10.08 hrs. over **Isle of Skye Quarry**, 190 (60 SE at 09.20hrs. + 130 SE at 10.00hrs.) at **Blackmoorfoot** and 100 SE at 10.05hrs. over **Fixby**.

26th October – c.200 E at 11.00hrs. over **Birchencliffe**, 170 E at 11.30hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot** and a single S at 11.50hrs. at the **Wessenden Valley**.

30th October – 1740 SE between 07.15hrs. and 09.00hrs. at **Harden Quarries**, 385 NE (92 at 07.50hrs. + 213 at 07.53hrs. + 80 at 08.15hrs.) over Pule Hill, **Marsden**, c.700 E in three skeins between 07.58hrs. and 08.09hrs. at **Oldfield** and c.250 E at 08.00hrs. at **Marsden**.

31st October – 180 NE at 08.15hrs. over Pule Hill, **Marsden**.

1st November – c.400 E (c.300 at 07.35hrs. + c.100 at 07.45hrs.) over **Whitley Common**, c.150 E at 08.00hrs. at **Marsden**, c.130 E over **Isle of Skye Quarry** at 08.17hrs. and c.130 E over the **Digley Valley**.

4th November – c.60 over **Castle Dam**.

10th November – c.50 NE at 08.55hrs. over **Harden Quarries**.

19th November – 12 N over **Blackmoorfoot** at 09.50hrs.

30th November – 800+ E in two skeins between 10.30hrs. and 10.45hrs. at **Elland GP**.

1st December – 1 W at 10.45hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.

15th December – 42 SE at 09.40hrs. over **Blackmoorfoot**.

24th December – c.50 W at 14.00hrs. over **Clayton West**.

The only records of grounded birds involved nine at **Ringstone Edge** on 19th September and a single with Greylags at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 26th and 28th December.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

The Ingbirchworth area provided the most sightings and for the third consecutive year a pair bred at Bretton Park.

Ingbirchworth area – birds were recorded throughout the year apart from May. The favoured reservoir was Ingbirchworth but flocks were recorded at most of the other localities.

In the first winter period maximum numbers included c.80 around **Ingbirchworth Res.** in January, up to 60 at **Annat Royd Lane** in January/February and c.70 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 9th February. Numbers were much reduced during the summer months: 12 were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 24th June and four at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th July being the maxima. By late August returning birds had swelled the ranks to 75 at **Spicer House Lane** on 25th and 20 at **Royd Moor Res.** the following day. There was then a steady increase and the area held the following maxima: 168 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 23rd September and 13th November, 108 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 28th October, 126 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 30th October (with 148 on 7th November and 150 on 26th December) and 110 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 31st December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the downward turn in records reported last year continued and the reason was probably due to the lack of a Canada Goose flock (see below) which in the past has attracted long-staying individuals. Two were present on 5th January, a single flew NW at 15.55hrs. on 8th February, five flew S at 11.20hrs. the following day, in March, 64 flew W at 09.50hrs. on 14th, a single was present on 18th and two flew N at 11.20hrs. on 19th, a single was present on 21st April and eight flew E at 08.40hrs. on 23rd November.

Smaller numbers were reported from other localities:

Ladywood Lakes – a single on 4th January and single figure counts on several dates in January and February.

Single figure counts were also reported from the River Calder at **Horbury, Blakeley Res., Cannon Hall CP, Horbury Strands/Wyke** and **Meal Hill** (where a single was resident throughout the year).

Skelmanthorpe – 12 flew SE at 14.30hrs. on 9th June.

Bretton Park – two 10th March but there were then no records until c.20 were present on 26th June, seven of which were goslings.

Langsett Res – four on 4th and 15 on 7th September.

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

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

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	4	5	8	7	0	2	0	33	11	13	15	0
Bretton Park	80	60	196	nc	nc	140	nc	nc	nc	20	nc	nc
Horbury Strands/Wyke	16	17	32	4	nc	nc	nc	21	nc	nc	nc	nc
Ingbirchworth Res.	240	30	51	5	5	34	31	36	30	539	122	83
Ladywood Lakes	40	54	15	nc	nc	nc	nc	67	nc	nc	nc	nc
Royd Moor Res.	79	nc	32	2	nc	17	nc	280	178	nc	nc	nc

Although this species is widely scattered, breeding was confined to eight sites (6 in 2012):

Elland GP, Langsett Res., Butterley Res., Dewsbury, Brun Clough Res., Bretton Park, Winscar Res. and Blakeley Res.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were very sporadic in appearance, with occurrences on a maximum of seven days per month with the exceptions of April and August when birds were present on 14 days, and no flocks remained for more than five days duration.

Despite the large assemblages at some of the above mentioned sites, groups in excess of 25 were only reported from the following locations:

Castle Dam – 109 on 13th January, 78 on 24th February and 63 on 14th March.

Cannon Hall CP – 556 on 10th February.

Ringstone Edge Res – 27 on 16th February.

Annat Royd Lane – 120 on 22nd February and 200 on 14th October.

Scammonden Water – 30 on 17th March and c.80 on 20th October.

Scout Dike Res – 27 on 5th April and 131 on 16th December.

Winscar Res – 30 on 26th April, 60 on 26th June and 53 on 15th July.

Elland GP – 41 on 8th May.

Ravensthorpe – 75 on the River Calder on 20th June.

Wessenden Valley – 31 on 27th June.

Digley – 32 on 7th July.

Langsett Res – 34 on 15th August and 26 on 17th October.

Broadstone Res – 44 on 7th October.

Skelmanthorpe – c.50 flew NNW on 14th October.

Single Canada Goose x Greylag Goose hybrids were present at **Langsett Res.** on 28th August and **Castle Dam** on an unrecorded date.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

A feral bird was at **Bretton Park** on 1st January.

A flock of eight flew N at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.35hrs. on 10th October (MLD).

At the time groups of migrant birds were widely scattered in the county, having been blown off course by strong winds, and these are perhaps the first genuine wild birds to be recorded in the Club area.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

Rare visitor.

Three birds of the Light-bellied race *B. b. hrota* were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** during the late morning and early afternoon of 16th September (CH, DHP, SP *et al.*).

Birds of this race which occur in Yorkshire, where it is a scarce winter visitor and very rarely recorded inland, are considered to be from the Northumberland wintering population, but the very

strong westerly wind at the time suggests that they may have originated from the population which winters in Ireland. This is the first record of this race in the Club area.

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

Uncommon passage visitor.

It was yet another poor year for this species and, with the usual exception of numerous records from Blackmoorfoot Res., birds were only reported from a further eight locations. Most records were during the first half of the year.

Ringstone Edge Res – four on 5th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – as in the previous four years, there were only a small number of records, with most being in the first half of the year. In January, four were present on 5th, a single on 6th, three on 7th and eight on 11th. February saw a single on 6th, two on 18th and a single on 25th. There were only single figure records in each of the following four months: one on 20th March, five on 20th April, nine on 2nd May and a juvenile on 26th June. The only records thereafter involved a single on 7th October and two on 13th December.

Horbury Wyke/Strands – singles on 9th/10th February and 13th/14th April.

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 18th March.

Elland GP – three on 16th/17th April.

Deer Hill Res – five departed to the NE on 20th April (these were the birds seen earlier at Blackmoorfoot – see above).

Castle Dam – two on 1st May.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 17th May.

Baitings Res – a single on 17th November.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Rare to scarce visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from six locations (3 in 2012) but there was no evidence of breeding.

Holmfirth – the usual male and female were only reported on 20th January. The only other sightings relate to a male on 28th/29th September and 21st and 28th December.

Colne Bridge SP – a male on 20th April.

Ossett Spa SW – six were on the River Calder on 29th August.

Earlsheaton – a male on 30th September.

Royd Moor Res – six (three males) on 4th November.

Ryburn Res – four (2 males) on 17th November.

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

Common passage and winter visitor.

There were reports from 15 sites (12 in 2012).

At **Meal Hill** up to 25 (but generally less than 7) were present on a daily basis between 1st January and 16th March and there were regular sighting of two or three at **Castle Dam** between January and April.

In January **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a male on 4th, a female on 8th, six (three males) on 14th, a male from 17th to 20th and eight (four males) on 21st. A single was at **Royd Moor Res.** on 7th January and good numbers were reported from **Ossett Spa SW** during the same month: eight on 10th and 16 on 12th and 31st being the maxima. The only other January records involved a flock of four at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 13th with 12 (7 males) on 20th, 24 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th, 12 at **Ladywood Lakes** on 22nd, and a single at **Langsett Res.** on 23rd.

With the exception of the long stayers at Meal Hill and Castle Dam, February was rather uneventful: two were at **Ossett Spa SW** on 2nd and 12 on 15th, eight were at **Dewsbury SW** on 3rd and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held a male on 14th and six (4 males) on 25th.

March followed in a similar vein, with birds being present at only five localities:

Horbury Strands/Wyke – three on 1st and two on 10th.

Ossett Spa SW – 18 on 10th.

Broadstone Res – 21 on 14th and 28 on 19th.

Castle Dam – four on 14th.

Blackmoorfoot Res – ten (4 males) on 16th.

Passage birds in April were reported from a similar number of localities:

Royd Moor Res – six on 1st and 17 on 6th.

Ossett Spa SW – six on 1st and two on 28th.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male and female from 1st to 3rd, seven (4 males) on 4th and a male and female on 5th/6th.

Castle Dam – four on 5th.

Ingbirchworth Res – 17 on 6th (these were presumably the same birds reported from nearby Royd Moor Res. on the same date).

Broadstone Res – 14 on 14th April.

The earliest returning birds were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where three were recorded on 24th, 27th and 28th August and a single the following day. During the following weeks birds became more widely distributed and several locations held birds:

Blackmoorfoot Res – up to five were present on 12 days in September with 12 on 21st and seven on 28th. In October low single-figures were seen on five days with 12 on 1st and 19 on 19th. It was a similar picture in November which produced up to five on nine days and 14 on 11th, 9 on 14th and 13 on 16th. The only December occurrences involved up to four birds on five days.

Ingbirchworth Res – nine on 5th and three on 9th and 23rd September. One or two were present on six days in October and 31 on 11th November.

Langsett Res – a single on 7th September.

Broadstone Res – nine on 18th, eight on 21st and c.14 on 26th September, 11 on 7th October and 34 on 13th November.

Ringstone Edge Res – 14 on 22nd September.

Bretton Park – a single on 25th September, nine on 11th November and one on 17th November.

Boshaw Whams – one on 5th October.

Dewsbury SW – 11 on 8th October, three on 22nd October, 6th and 13th November and five on 1st December.

Meal Hill – 16 on 26th October were the forerunners of the regular wintering flock which had increased to a maximum of 26 on 10th November and c.40 on 22nd December.

Royd Moor Res – 45 (the largest flock this year) on 11th November.

Winscar Res – six on 11th November.

Scout Dike Res – one on 25th November.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

There were reports from 14 sites (8 in 2012) most of which are in the east of the recording area. As in 2012, there was no reported breeding.

In the first half of the year birds were reported as follows:

Langsett Res – a male and female on 23rd January.

Ossett Spa SW – three (2 males) on 31st January and two on 15th February.

Bretton Park – single figures (maximum of 9 on 23rd February) were present throughout February, but in March the only records involved four on 10th and 13 on 20th. The only April record was of 13 on 5th.

Horbury – four on the River Calder on 6th March and two on 29th May.

Holm Styes Res – two on 18th March.

Dewsbury SW – two males on 31st March, two on 16th April and a male and female on 28th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – five on 13th/14th April, a male and female on the River Calder on 19th April, six on 21st April, two on 11th May and three on 23rd May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – four on 17th April.

Horbury SW – two on 27th April.

There were then no records, not even from the well-watched Bretton Park, until early August:

Dewsbury SW – a male and female-type on 3rd August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two males and a female-type on 24th August, a male on 5th September, a female on 21st November and two males and three females on 26th December.

Bretton Park – six on 25th September, c.10 on 19th October and, in November, 17 on 11th, 22 on 17th and 25 on 25th.

Broadstones Res – a male and female on 26th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – three (2 males) on 17th October.

Horbury SW – one on 26th December.

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

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

There was a large increase, not only in records, but in the number of localities – 28 sites compared to 16 in 2012. Breeding was confirmed at one lowland site.

Birds were reported during the first half of the year as follows:

Gunthwaite Dam – present throughout the year with number varying from half a dozen to 15, although c.20 were present on 11th/12th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were present on 14 dates between 1st January and 7th April with maximum counts of five on 5th January, eight on 16th March and ten on 6th April.

Bretton Park – two on 1st January, in February, 11 on 6th, six on 15th and a single on 23rd, five on 10th March and ten on 5th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – birds were present on several dates between 2nd January and 17th April. Maximum counts included 20 on 4th January, 12 on 9th February, 18 on 10th March and 26 on 13th April.

Horbury SW – 12 on 10th January and six on 2nd February.

Dewsbury SW – birds were present on several dates between 12th January and 16th April. Maximum counts included 18 on 12th January, 40 on 3rd February, 16 on 16th March, 26 on 31st March and 52 on 16th April.

Lowfields – nine on the River Calder on 15th January.

Ladywood Lakes – three on 22nd January and singles on 19th March and 15th May.

Elland GP – five on the River Calder on 23rd January and two on 5th March.

Cannon Hall CP – 15 on 10th and 23rd February with 11 the following day and two on 17th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 17th February, six on 29th March and eight on 6th April.

Ringstone Edge Res – three on 16th March, two on 7th and three on April.

Isle of Skye Quarry – the only records from this former breeding site concerned two on both 19th March and 9th April.

Winscar Res – six on 6th April. Records from this reservoir are unusual.

Langsett Res – a single on 1st May.

Little Black Moss Res – two on 25th May and one on 9th June.

In addition, occasional low single figure counts came from the following localities: **Ossett Spa SW** (January - April), **Royd Moor Res.** (January, March and April), **Scout Dike Res.** (January), **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (February and April), **Broadstone Res.** (March and April), the River Calder at **Horbury** (March) and **Longwood Res.** (March).

A pair bred at **Dewsbury SW**, a female with three ducklings being present in late July.

Records after the breeding season were as follows:

Dewsbury SW – there was a steady build up in numbers between early August and the year end, being especially noticeable in late October when the high water level of the river was considered to be forcing birds onto the site. The highest August count concerned 40 on 26th, but up to 52 were present throughout September and up to 88 were regularly encountered in October. Numbers continued to fluctuate thereafter but 76 were present on 13th November and 135 on 16th/17th December.

Langsett Res – 13 on 15th and four on 21st August, a single on 4th September, 23 on 9th October and 45 on 15th October.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were present on 45 dates between 21st August and 14th December. Most of these occurrences were in low single-figures, the maxima being ten on 21st and 25th August, in September, 16 on 5th, ten on 25th and 13 on 29th and 35 on 11th October and 11 the following day.

Broadstone Res – four on 26th August, two on 9th September, four on 13th November and eight on 12th December.

Royd Moor Res – two on 26th August, six on 11th September, 12 on 24th September, 17 on 11th November, 18 on 12th December and three on 28th December.

Ossett Spa SW – two on 29th August.

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles on 1st and 30th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – in September, two on 5th, 11 on 23rd and 30 which departed S on 24th and, in October, eight on 5th, a single on 13th and four on 17th.

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 20th September.

Wessenden Res – five on 21st and 20 on 29th September.

Castle Dam – three on 24th September.

Bretton Park – 23 on 25th September and seven on 25th November.

Brun Clough Res – one on 27th September

Horbury – seven on 6th November.

Winscar Res – four on 11th November.

Cannon Hall CP – 14 on 16th November.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a minimum of six on 23rd November.

Ladywood Lakes – c.13 on 18th December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Birds were reported from 50 widely scattered locations with confirmed breeding taking place at seven sites and suspected breeding at a further 10.

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	36	36	28	31	17	17	34	74	68	67	52	36
Ingbirchworth Res.	80	35	22	33	27	43	57	85	78	262	64	50
Ladywood Lakes	70	30	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	52	nc	nc	nc	nc
Horbury Strands /Wyke	20	8	nc	12	20	nc	20	nc	nc	nc	20	nc
Langsett Res.	42	nc	nc	12	5	nc	16	103	70	83	nc	nc

Elsewhere notable counts (40+) were:

Holmfirth – 82 on the River Holme on 1st January, c.100 on 28th February and 70 on 28th December; **Cannon Hall CP** – c.100 on 28th February; **Bretton Park** – 41 on 10th March, 170 on 25th September and 50 on 19th October; **Winscar Res** – 70 on 26th April and c100 on 15th July; **Dewsbury SW** – 40 on 6th August, 50 on 16th August and 70 on 4th September; **Royd Moor Res** – 55 on 26th August; **Castle Dam** – 44 on 24th September; **Scammonden Water** – c.50 on 31st December.

Breeding was recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res** – 134 ducklings, 33 reached the flying stage; **Red Doles** – 2 broods on the canal; **Tunnel End** and **Hey Green, Bretton Park, Ladywood Lakes, Ingbirchworth Res., Horbury Strands/Wyke** and **Winscar Res** – nine juveniles.

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

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

There were only two records.

Blackmoorfoot Res., which is normally the favoured locality, had singles on 22nd and 30th September.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Rare passage visitor.

Three birds, two eclipse males and a female-type, were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th August (MLD, CH *et al.*).

This is the ninth record for the reservoir and the first since a single on 12th September 2000.

(NORTHERN) **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

There were reports from nine localities, with the majority of records coming from **Dewsbury SW**.

At this locality birds were recorded on 24 days (3rd and 19th February and 31st March and 21 days between 26th August and 11th December). Numbers fluctuated between one and 13 individuals, with the maxima involving six on 3rd February, 13 on 26th August, ten on 11th September, 2nd October, 22nd October and six on 1st December.

Smaller numbers were recorded at the localities below.

Ingbirchworth Res – a male on 6th April.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 6th April (probably the same as the Ingbirchworth bird) and two males on 12th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male on 7th April, a single on 27th August, two on 5th September, a single on 29th September, two on 3rd October and a male on 12th November.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – two on 7th April.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two on 14th April.

Bretton Park – three on 25th September, four on 11th November and five on 25th November.

Ringstone Edge Res – a male on 19th October.

Meal Hill – one on 14th December.

(COMMON) **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

Common passage and winter visitor. Has bred.

Reported from six sites (the same as 2012), but occurrences of this formerly common species are becoming increasingly rare.

Bretton Park – 14 (8 males) on 1st January, five (4 males) on 6th and 15th/16th February, singles on 10th March and 5th April and two males on 19th October.

Ladywood Lakes – female on 16th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – although recorded on more days than last year, no birds remained for more than a day's duration. In the first half of the year a female was present on 24th January, three males on 17th March and a male on 4th April. Thereafter a single was seen on 21st July, four males were present on 19th October and four (3 males) on 25th October and, in November, four (3 males) were seen on 11th, a male on 16th, four (3 males) on 16th and two females on 21st.

Ingbirchworth Res – a male on 16th/17th February and nine (4 males) on 20th July.

Elland GP – a male on 10th July.

Dewsbury SW – two on 26th August and a female on the River Calder on 1st September.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Counts were received from 25 sites (28 in 2012).

Maximum numbers at regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	7	2	3	5	3	3	8	8	4	7	4	0
Bretton Park	20	73	39	35	nc	6	nc	nc	4	20	50	nc
Ingbirchworth Res.	15	9	5	10	5	14	32	10	14	5	5	15
Windy Bank Res.	5	6	6	5	0	0	0	6	5	7	7	2

Once again, the numbers in the table above give a false impression of occupancy at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** During the first half of the year birds were only recorded on 41 days (62 in 2012) and on a further 84 (78 in 2012) in the last six months of the year. Birds were seen on a near daily basis (a rare phenomenon these days) between 28th June and 15th September, when all occurrences involved males.

Away from the above localities, flocks of six or more were as follows:

Scout Dike Res – seven on 2nd and ten on 6th January.

Langsett Res – six on 6th January, 24 on 15th and 18 on 21st August and 13 on 7th September.

Horbury Strand/Wyke – nine on 20th January.

Horbury SW – 13 on 24th January.

Meal Hill – ten on 5th April and 12 on 14th December.

Redbrook Res – six on 26th April (where a pair bred – see below).

Gunthwaite Dam – six on 10th May.

Royd Moor Res – 13 on 26th August.

Elland GP – 15 on 28th December.

Confirmed breeding was reported from three sites: **Redbrook Res.** where a female with six small ducklings was seen on 15th July, **Brun Clough Res.** where a female with ten small ducklings was seen on 16th July, and **Dewsbury SW** where a female with three ducklings was seen on 31st July. The ducklings at Redbrook Res. were not seen again and were presumably predated and the outcome of the other broods is unknown.

One to five birds were recorded on occasional dates at the following waters:

Ladywood Lakes, Ossett Spa SW, Dewsbury SW, on the River Calder at **Horbury, Digley Res., Bilberry Res., Broadstone Res., Little Black Moss Res., Winscar Res., Blakeley Res., Boshaw Whams** and **Wessenden Res.**

(GREATER) SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were two records, both from **Ingbirchworth Res.:** a female-type on 24th August (DMP, SP, KW) and the following day (MCW) and a juvenile on 9th September (MCW).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were records from 11 localities (5 in 2012).

Langsett Res – a female-type on 6th January (DHP, MCW *et al.*) and three (2 males) on 13th October (MC, DP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were ten records (16 in 2012). In the first half of the year 33 (32 of which were males) departed N at 17.16hrs. on 18th March (CH, DHP, NWM *et al.*), a single male was seen on 13th May (CH) and a male and female were present on 3rd June (MLD, TD, CH) and 22nd June (MLD, CH, SWJ). There were then no records until a male was seen on 25th September (MLD, GK). Thereafter, two males and a female-type were present on 13th October (CH, GK, DHP) (these were different to the Langsett birds (see above) as they were present all day) and, in November, a male and female-type on 16th (MLD, CH *et al.*) and female-types on 21st (CH, GK, GBS) and 23rd (MLD, DMP, SP *et al.*). The only other record involved an immature on 15th December (MLD, CH, GK).

Ingbirchworth Res – two males on 30th April (NWM) and a female-type on 28th November (NWM, DHP).

Scout Dike Res – eight (5 males) on 15th May (DHP).

Ringstone Edge Res – two on 23rd June (HBC).

Winscar Res – a male on 24th July (BBSG).

Redbrook Res – a female-type on 26th July (MC, JMP).

Elland GP – two on the ski lake on 30th July (HBC)

Digley Res – nine males on 24th August (MJS).

Visible migration was noted when c.30 flew SW over **Harden Quarries** on 7th September (MC) and a male flew SW at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 17th October (JMP).

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

Uncommon winter visitor.

Records were received from 16 sites (19 in 2012).

In January, low single figures were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on seven dates between 4th and 31st; the river at **Horbury SW** held flocks of between six and 13 on several dates between 4th and 28th and 22 were there on 20th; a male was at **Harden Res.** on 11th; two were at **Dewsbury SW** on 12th; **Elland GP** held on 15th and four on 15th and 23rd; and a male was **Whitley Res** on 31st.

The only February records involved up to three at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15 dates and seven at **Elland GP** on 11th with four there on 20th.

Although more widely distributed in March, only six sites held birds. Up to four were present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 23 dates; three were on the River Calder at **Horbury** on 6th; two were at **Bretton Park** on 10th; two graced **Windy Bank Res.** on 14th; three (2 males) were at **Cupwith Res.** on 17th; and two were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 19th.

Returning passage birds in April were noted at eight localities but assemblages never exceeded six in number. Six (3 males) were on the River Calder at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 1st; a male and female were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 1st and a male was present there on 15th and 22nd; a male and female were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 4th, 9th, 14th and 27th; a male and female were recorded at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on five dates to 14th; a female was at **Bretton Park** on 5th, the same day that a male and female graced **Bilberry Res.**; a female was at **Broadstone Res.** on 14th; and a female was at **Elland GP.** on 19th.

During the summer months single males were seen at **Deer Hill Res.** on 20th May and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 2nd July.

The first returning birds were an adult female at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th October and an immature there between 14th and 24th October. The only other record during this month concerned a male at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th. With the exception of Blackmoorfoot Res., there were few records during the rest of this winter period. For completeness all records are given below:

Blackmoorfoot Res – in November, a male and immature on 1st, a female-type on 8th, an adult female on 11th, a male and female-type on 12th, an immature on 15th and a male on 16th and 19th and, in December, an immature on 1st and an adult female on 7th.

Horbury – a female on 6th November.

Ingbirchworth Res – three (1 male) on 11th November.

Bretton Park – two on 25th November.

Dewsbury SW – three on 1st December.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 12th December.

Horbury SW – five (4 males) on the River Calder on 26th December.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Rare winter visitor.

A ‘redhead’, which was probably present at **Bretton Park** between 6th February and 5th April, was reported on the following dates: 6th February (DT), 9th February (NWM), 9th/10th, 16th and 23rd February (BBSG); in March it was reported on 7th, 10th, 16th, 20th and 25th (BBSG) and in April it was seen on 1st (KWh) and 5th (BBSG).

A different ‘redhead’ was present at **Cannon Hall** on 23rd February (MC, NWM).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

As with 2012 there was only a single record: a moulting adult male at **Winscar Res.** on 11th November (DP).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 30 sites (24 in 20102).

Maximum numbers from regularly counted sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackmoorfoot Res.	15	9	10	2	2	0	0	0	4	2	6	6
Bretton Park	12	19	20	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0
Horbury Strands Wyke	4	3	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windy Bank Res.	7	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7
Ladywood Lakes	5	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present on a near daily basis between 7th January and 8th April (228 bird/days) and again between 5th November and 28th December (56 bird/days). The number of bird/days totalled 297 (170 in 2012).

Away from the above mentioned sites birds were reported in the first half of the year as follows:

Meal Hill – two overflying on 1st January.

Bradley Hall Farm – three on the River Calder on 2nd January.

Broughouse – one on the canal on 2nd January.

Horbury SW – birds were recorded on the River Calder as follows: in January, four on 4th, 11 on 10th, 13 on 17th, five on 20th and four on 24th. Thereafter three were present on 6th March and one on 26th December.

Scout Dike Res – one on 6th January.

Elland GP (mostly on River Calder) – seven on 8th and 11 on 23rd January, a single on 11th February, three on 8th and two on 18th April and a single on May.

Brockholes – two on 10th January.

Brookfields – a male on the River Calder on 15th January.

Sparth Res – in February, two on 2nd, a single on 15th, six on 22nd, 11 on 24th, and nine on 27th, two on 3rd and seven on 9th March.

Scammonden Water – a female on 8th February.

Broadstone Res – a single on 17th and two on 18th February.

Longwood Res – two on 2nd and 9th March and three on 29th March.

Brownhill Res – one on 2nd March.

Heaton Lodge SW – a male on 10th March and three on 28th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 11th March.

Ringstone Edge Res – two males on 16th and 18th March and a male on 15th May.

Butterley Res – two males on 31st March.

Panna Mill Dam – a female on 1st April was the first record for the site.

Digley Res – a male on 5th April and a female on 15th April.

Deer Hill Res – in April, three females on 10th April and singles on 12th and 18th, then up to four were present on many days in May and throughout the summer months.

Whitley Res – six on 19th April.

Colne Road – 14 on the River Colne on 19th April.

Royd Moor Res – a male on 22nd April.

Huddersfield – a female flying around the Railway Station for several minutes appeared to be trying to land on various roofs on 28th May.

Breeding, for the seventh consecutive year, was confirmed at two localities in early June; a female with seven ducklings was on the river at **Colne Bridge** and female with five ducklings was on the River Calder at **Earlsheaton**.

The only records after the breeding season, other than those tabulated above, were from fewer localities and only involved flocks of up to seven birds:

Wessenden Valley – two flew south on 30th September.

Dewsbury SW – a single on 8th October.

Langsett Res – one on 15th October.

Earlsheaton – three on the River Calder on 16th October.

Panna Mill Dam – a juvenile on 24th October.

Harden Clough – four flew N on 30th October.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – five on 3rd December

Ossett – seven on the River Calder on 11th December.

Brighthouse – five (3 males) on the canal on 28th December.
Magdale Dam – six (three males) in flight on 29th December.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*
Resident breeder (3), 100-300 pairs.

Reports came from about 15 sites, similar to last year. Birds were present throughout the year but were probably much under recorded.

The only report of breeding concerned a pair with at least one chick near **Crossley's Plantation** on 10th June; eight adults were counted here on the same day.

Elsewhere three were noted at **Cupwith** on 17th March; **Little Don Valley** held good numbers on 14th April and five were present on 8th May; ten were at **Harden** on 20th September; five were at **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 27th November and eight were at **Tinker Hill** on the same date. Otherwise only singles were noted at other sites.

There was an unusual report of a bird flying low over **Maythorn** on 7th September some distance from the species' usual moorland habitat. The observer had noted much grouse driving activity on the moors on this day – possibly this bird knew something the others didn't!

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*
Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Reports came from 12 Sites (11 in 2012)

As with most other game birds shooting interests cloud the true status of this species somewhat.

There were no double-figure counts this year from the species' usual stronghold at **High Hoyland** which only held a maximum of three birds.

Elsewhere records were as follows:

Bretton Park – four on 1st January and a single on 19th April.

Lower Maythorn – a single on 16th March.

Gunthwaite – one on 17th April, four on 24th May and at least 16 on a bare ploughed field nearby on 12th October.

Tinker Hill – a single calling from a wall top on 19th April.

Annat Royd Lane – two on 27th April, a single on 11th May, four on 24th May and five on 7th October.

Royd Edge Clough – two on 16th May.

Clayton West – two on 22nd May and 1st June, a single on 6th June and three on 30th October.

Whitley Common – 12 on 10th September.

Deffer Wood – three on 30th October.

Bullcliffe Wood – two on 22nd November.

Netherthong – a single on 27th November.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs. Red listed.

Reports came from about 40 sites this year (20+ in 2012) with records spanning all months.

Proof of breeding was very sparse. A pair with six young was present at **Thornhill** on 16th July; an agitated pair with obvious young gave a distraction display near **Brow Grains** on 22nd July; a pair had a single well grown young near **Snape Res.** on 30th July and two adults with three juveniles were at **Hepworth** on 5th August.

At **Blackmoorfoot** up to nine (generally only 2 or 3) were recorded on several dates between 8th January and 19th July and an adult with a full grown juvenile was on Meltham Cop on 22nd June. The only record in the latter part of the year involved two on Meltham Cop on 12th November.

Birds were regularly reported at **Thurgory Lane** but the only double-figure covey concerned 12 on 26th August. The highest count at **Annat Royd Lane**, where birds were present throughout the year, involved 11 on both 1st and 28th October. The only other double-figure count concerned a covey of 13 at **Botany Lane** on 13th December.

Most other records were of between one and four birds, the following being the exception. Eight birds wandered down the middle of a snow bound road at **Carlecotes** on 26th January; five were seen near **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 7th April; five were at **Brow Grains** on 14th April; five were at **Dewsbury SW** on 6th August; nine were near **Meltham** on 13th August; nine were at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 8th and 27th September with five reported there on 8th November; five were near **Horbury** 6th November; six were at **Whitley Common** on 16th November; six were near **Digley Res.** on 17th November and five were at **Swinney Knoll** on 17th December.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce to rare summer visitor and occasional breeder.

There were just two reports this year of this tiny elusive game bird (4 in both 2011 and 2012).

Spicer House Lane – a single was flushed from the long grass at the roadside before vanishing on 25th July (DD).

Dewsbury SW – a single flushed from grass was re-located twice before flying over the River Calder into cover on the opposite bank (JRS).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-500 pairs.

Widely released in many areas for the field sport fraternity, as a gathering of 251 in fields near **Margery Wood (Cawthorne Basin)** on 26th September bears witness.

Reports spanned all months of the year and were received from about 30 sites (same as 2012).

Up to 20 birds were recorded throughout the year at **Deffer Wood** and **Clayton West** and good numbers were reported in the **Meltham/Deer Hill** area. All other reports involved one to four individuals, the only exception being five males at **Annat Royd Lane** on 11th May.

Garden reports came from **Almondbury** where singles and sometimes two were recorded on 22 dates between January and September; at **Cowcliffe** where three (a male and 2 females) were seen on 18th January; a single was at **Clayton West** on 20th January and a **Marsden** garden held three females on 21st January and a single on 17th November. A single male wandering round allotments at **Lockwood** on 4th November was considered unusual by the observer.

The only reports of breeding concerned an occupied nest at **Deffer Wood** on 6th June and at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** where four birds were present throughout the year and three females laid eggs; one nest was predated in mid June but the other two produced young.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Rare winter visitor.

An adult moulting into winter plumage was found at **Scout Dike Res.** at 16.00hrs on 13th October, the bird was still present at dusk (RJB, MC, DHP).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor.

A bird retaining much summer plumage arrived at **Ladywood Lakes** in early December (it was first noted by Club members on 12th but local fishermen had seen it earlier). The bird was still present at the year end (DHP, DT, DBu *et al.*).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Records were received from 22 waters (slightly up on 2012) and spanned all months of the year.

Although confirmation of breeding came from only four sites, pairs undoubtedly attempted to do so at others.

Ingbirchworth Res – present throughout the year with a maximum of six on 25th May.

Meal Hill – one or two present throughout year.

Bretton Park – probably present throughout the year, with a maximum of six on 5th February, 16 on 25th September and ten on 17th November. The impressive total of 16 consisted of seven adults and nine juveniles; some of the adults were still feeding well grown young.

Broadstone Res – birds were present throughout year with two pairs showing courtship and display on 30th May.

Gunthwaite Dam – three on 2nd January and a single on 25th November.

Horbury – two on the River Calder on 10th January, five on 24th January, four on 10th March and five on both 6th November and 26th December.

Dewsbury SW – two on the River Calder on 12th January and three on 16th August.

Lowfields – three on the River Calder on 15th January.

Ladywood Lakes – a single on 18th January.

Scammonden Water – two on 4th February.

Elland GP – two on 20th February and trilling birds on 19th March and 19th April.

Scout Dike Res – two birds trilling on 5th April.

Royd Moor Res - a single on 1st April and nest building was noted on 22nd April but the outcome was unknown. Three were present on 23rd September.

Redbrook Res – following a single on 19th April and two by mid May, a pair bred with confirmation coming when two adults were seen with three juveniles on 17th July.

Carlecotes Ponds – a single on 3rd June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – only a small number of records again this year and no birds remained for more than a day's duration. There was an adult on 2nd July, a juvenile on 27th August, and singles on 27th September, 11th, 20th and 30th October and 14th November.

Earlsheaton – a single on 16th October.

Castle Dam – one on 28th October.

Anchor Pit Lock, Brighthouse – a single on 28th December.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Rare winter visitor.

A single on **Scammonden Water** on 28th January remained until 4th February (ST, DT *et al*).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

As in 2012 records were received from 13 waters and signs of breeding activity were observed at six of these.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had two or three on three dates in January, a single on two dates in February and one or two on six dates in March. Birds were only 'resident' between 3rd April and 17th October but, as can be seen from the table below, the usual autumn build-up never materialised. A single pair attempted to nest, but were left high and dry by the falling water level by mid June. Following the exodus by the breeding pair, the only records involved singles on 25th October and 5th November and two on 16th November.

The monthly maxima are shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	2	5	3	5	4	6	5	5	2	0

Bretton Park – birds were recorded throughout the year with a maximum of two in January, five in February, six in March, then no more than four were reported through the summer months. In the second part of year there were 14 on 25th September then further counts of birds in double figures on several dates in November with a maximum of 17 on 11th. There were no reports of breeding this year.

Ingbirchworth Res – up to five were present throughout the year. A pair was displaying on 10th June, one was sitting on a nest by 1st July and a pair was accompanied by two young on 15th July.

Broadstone Res – singles on 3rd January and 26th April were followed by a displaying pair in late May with a single then remaining until late July.

Ladywood Lakes – two on 4th January with courtship and display noted by 10th March. There was an increase to five on 18th April and two occupied nests were present by the month end. A pair was seen with two juveniles on 2nd July and four birds were still present on 9th September, after which two remaining to the year end.

Elland GP – one to two were present between 11th February and 10th July.
Scout Dike Res – up to ten were present throughout the summer with two pairs nesting, raising a total of three young (broods of 1 and 2).
Deer Hill Res – a single first reported on 10th April was seen on many dates until 9th August.
Horbury Wyke – a single on the River Calder on 2nd May.
Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 15th May and 20th September.
Royd Moor Res – a single on 16th May and 24th June.
Ravensthorpe – two pairs were in suitable breeding habitat on 28th June and five (2 adults and 3 juveniles) were noted on 11th July, all five birds remained until 25th August.
Digley Res – a single on 16th November.

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

Uncommon passage and winter visitor, increasing. Has recently summered.

Although recorded throughout the year from about 30 sites (as in 2012) there was only a single count in low double figures.

Blackmoorfoot Res – birds were recorded during every month, with marked peaks in September and December. With the exceptions of seven on 4th March, eight on 13th September and nine on 26th October, the other 61 records (46 in 2012) involved between one and five (usually one or two) individuals, most of which were juveniles/immatures. Birds over flew (or departed) the reservoir on several occasions and, although there was no seasonality to these movements, 69% of birds flew between west and north (the normal direction) and 30% flew south.

Yateholme – up to five were recorded from this group of reservoirs throughout the year.

Elland GP – recorded regularly with up to nine in January, a maximum of ten on 11th February and six on 28th December.

Scout Dike Res – four adults and an immature on 2nd January and singles on 28th October and 29th December.

Bretton Park – a single on 6th February, three on 15th February and six on 25th September.

Longwood Valley – five over flying on 24th February.

Longwood Res – seven on 2nd and a single on 9th March.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – three on 4th March.

Ladywood Lakes – seven on 10th March, two on 15th May and 16th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 6th/7th May.

Broadstone Res – two on 7th May.

Ringstone Edge Res – seven on 16th July, four on 17th September and a juvenile on 14th October.

Dewsbury SW – six on both 29th August and 8th October.

Horbury SW – three overflying on 26th December.

Royd Moor Res – five on 28th December.

Elsewhere one or two birds were seen at several other sites including fly over birds.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

There were nine reports of this delicate heron but it seems likely that only four or five birds were involved.

Horbury SW – a single was feeding in a nearby field on 20th January (JRS).

Dewsbury SW – what may have been the above bird was present on 25th January (JH). A single on 28th July was noted on several dates until 6th August and what may have been the same individual was seen on 26th August (JRS).

Scout Dike Res – a single on 3rd August was flushed by a dog (NWM, DHP).

Gunthwaite Dam – what was generally thought to be the Scout Dike bird was noted here the following day (MC, NWM, DHP).

Elland GP – a single was photographed on the River Calder on 27th August (HBC).

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

Vagrant.

The third record for the Club area and, amazingly, from the same location as the previous two.

A bird lifted from the lower lake at **Bretton Park** and flew E at 09.35hrs on 26th October (GC).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

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

This conspicuous species can be encountered just about anywhere in the Club area. Records spanned all months and were received from over 40 sites (similar to 2012) and included many flyover birds.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey House** where ten nests were occupied on 9th March and **Bretton Park** when there were 32 occupied nests on 5th April. No other breeding records were received.

Away from these breeding sites there were no double-figure counts. Birds were present throughout the year at **Dewsbury SW** which held a maximum of eight on 14th February; **Elland GP** had three on 16th April and 10th July; there was a maximum of six at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 6th July; three were recorded on the canal by the University near **Huddersfield** town centre on 23rd July and three were seen at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th October. Otherwise no more than two birds were reported, but localities which regularly held birds included **Gunthwaite Dam**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Langsett Res.**, **Marsden**, and **Windy Bank Wood**.

Once again **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had a very quiet year. One or two (generally only 1) were seen on 121 dates (111 in 2012) between 13th January and 26th December. The only exceptions involved three or four birds on nine days in July/August.

A confiding bird on the River Holme in the centre of **Holmfirth** attracted much attention from the general public on 12th January. One visited a garden at **Fixby** in very wintery conditions on 26th January and one took fish from a garden pond in **Brockholes** on several dates in March and April.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Rare visitor.

A fairly average showing this year of this spectacular raptor.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single drifted towards Scout Dike Res. on 16th March (DMP, SP).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were two records, both in April: a single flew N over the reservoir at 11.15hrs. on 5th (MLD, CH), and on 17th a single over Edge Moor at 12.00hrs. (TD) departed SW over Meltham Cop a few minutes later (KWr). These were the twelfth and thirteenth records for the reservoir, the first being in April 2006.

Skelmanthorpe – one drifted N towards Emley Mast on 7th April (KWh).

Snailsden Moor – a single overflying on 20th April (DMP, SP).

Langsett – a moulting wind-tagged bird on 8th May (MCW), and the same or another was reported over Langsett village on the same day although the observer made no mention of any distinguishing features (CDA).

Almondbury – a single flew S on 27th May (AK).

High Hoyland - a single flew SW on 12th June (BBSG via GC).

Wessenden – a bird circled low before gaining height and moving off towards Holme Moss on 16th June (DMP).

Whitley Beaumont – an immature over the Scout Camp on 4th July (DSy).

Kirkheaton – a single over Gawthorpe Green drifted slowly W towards Dewsbury on 24th July (JRS).

Dewsbury – one flew NE over Thornhill Lees on 2nd September (JRS).

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

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
10	17	10	19	12

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage visitor.

Another bumper year for this impressive bird of prey.

Winscar Res – a good series of records from this area again, involving at least four birds, the first was a single over the south end of the reservoir on 27th April (MC, NWM); an adult male flew low from the direction of Snailsden Moor towards the reservoir before drifting off NE on 10th August (DMP, SP); later the same day a 'cream-crown' was seen hunting for twenty minutes before being joined by a second 'cream-crown' with both birds interacting with each other before separating (DHP, DMP, SP). What were probably the same two birds were still present in this area up to 21st August (MC, NWM). One observer noted differences between these two birds, one was larger looking and less bright with a less obvious greater covert bar. A single immature observed hunting at the back of observer's house at **Harden** on 11th August was no doubt one of the same birds (MC).

Blackmoorfoot Res – an immature flew W over Meltham Cop at 13.50hrs. on 31st May (TD, CH); a 'cream-crown' drifted E at 13.25hrs. on 24th July (MLD, TD, CH) and a 'cream-crown' flew N at 09.00hrs. on 24th August (MLD). These are the tenth to twelfth records for the reservoir, the first being in May 1999.

Carlecotes – a 'cream-crown' flew S on 28th August (HQ).

Whitley Beaumont – an immature flew S along the ridge before turning W before departing over Lepton on 4th September (DSy).

Harden Quarries – a 'cream-crown' was mobbed by a Peregrine on 8th September (RJB, NWM).

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

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
3	1	1	1	5	3	4	4	10	10

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

There were eight reports this year, a most welcome increase of this sadly much persecuted raptor. It is likely that only seven birds were involved.

Holme Valley (undisclosed sites) – a ringtail flew low ENE aided by a very strong tail wind on 28th April, a ringtail flew fast and low SSW at 09.30hrs. on 19th October and what may have been the same bird was picked up moving ESE at 12.50 hrs. What was considered to be the same individual was seen on 10th November. (NC, MC, RJB, NWM, DHP, MCW).

Snailsden Moor – a distant ringtail on 14th September (DMP, SP).

Ramsden Res – a ringtail hunted over rough ground between the reservoir and Lane Village on 23rd November before seemingly vanishing into thin air (DMP, SP).

Tinker Hill – a ringtail on 27th November (MCW).

Alderman's Hill – a ringtail near the obelisk known locally as 'Pots and Pans' on 4th December (per HQ).

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

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4	4	4	1	4	1	5	5	3	8

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

Resident breeder (2), 50-100 pairs.

Although reports came from over 70 sites and spanned all months, dated records seem well down on the last two years. Two observers commented on having fewer sightings than in the past, and the comment made about numbers at the well watched site at Blackmoorfoot may be an indication that this species is truly declining.

There were no reports of breeding activity but doubtless birds did, or attempted to do so, in several suitable woodland areas. There were a number of records relating to displaying birds in March and April: **Yateholme/Riding Wood/Ramsden Res.** (probably 2 pairs), **Heyden Moor, Butterley Res.** and **Almondbury.**

Birds were seen during all months at **Blackmoorfoot.** Generally only a single was present and the only records in excess concerned two on 6th May, four on 4th September and two on 7th and 10th October and 10th November. The number of sightings from this locality continues to fall, however, and the months with the highest bird/days were August (15) and September (19), although it was generally less than six.

At **Winscar** four were present on 2nd March; four flew SW over **Horbury SW** on 22nd June; five (3 present and 2 flew W) at **Harden Quarries** on 18th August with six moving SW there on 14th

September and four present on 6th October; four were observed high over the **Calder Valley** moving S on 3rd September; three females were over **Thornhill Edge** on 8th September and three were present in **Windy Bank Wood** on 1st November.

Elsewhere only one or two were seen but there were frequent sightings throughout the year at **Colne Bridge SP, Healey Mills/Kerry's NR, Dalton Bank, Whitley Beaumont, Cowcliffe, Yateholme** and **Fixby**.

Birds visited and hunted gardens at several sites including **Cowcliffe, Almondbury, Dewsbury, Meltham, Grimescar, Linthwaite, Honley, Lindley, Skelmanthorpe, New Mill** and **Rastrick**. Prey species included Pied Wagtail, Robin, Blackbird, House Sparrow and Chaffinch.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
19	12	13	13	13	2	4	20	31	11	13	5

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

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

Records came from about 70 sites again this year and were reported in every month. Although proof of breeding was reported from only one site, where at least one young was reared, display and courtship behaviour was noted at three other sites.

With such a visible mobile species some duplication of birds seems inevitable.

Cheesgate Nab – birds were present throughout the year with a maximum of six together including a very pale morph on 19th/20th April and five on 21st September.

Clayton West – regularly reported throughout the year with a maximum of three on 1st February.

Bretton Park – regularly encountered throughout the year with a maximum of four on 16th February and five on 16th March.

Blackmoorfoot – recorded on 20 occasions (19 in 2012), with birds putting in appearances between mid March and mid December with the exceptions of July and October. Two circled over the S bank on 19th March and two days later one flew S; a single flew W on 21st April; in May one was circling the NW corner on 2nd, three were circling Meltham Cop on 6th, a single was circling Orange Wood on 11th and one flew SW on 31st; in June a single was over the fields to the W of the reservoir on 7th, one was circling Orange Wood on 14th and one flew E on 27th; two circling over the N bank drifted E on 22nd August and a single drifted NW over Meltham Cop two days later; in September one flew E on 24th, a single flew S on 27th and one was over Meltham Cop on 30th; a single flew N on 7th November; a single circling over the NE corner flew W on 10th November; and, in December, one flew S on 1st and a single flew W on 11th.

Thornhill Edge – several reports with four in the air together on 30th March. One or two were recorded daily throughout July.

Colne Bridge SP – five soaring together on 13th April.

Bird's Nest Lane – three on 20th April.

Little Don Valley – an impressive eight on 25th May.

Snailsden Moor – six, including five in the air together, on 4th June.

Holme Moss – three on 8th June.

Yateholme Res – regularly reported with a maximum of three on 21st June and four on both 18th August and 16th November.

Whitley Beaumont – five soaring together on 21st August.

Winscar – noted regularly with a maximum of five on 31st August.

Harden – good numbers were reported in September: seven flew SW on both 7th and 14th; ten flew SW on 22nd and four flew SW and five were present on 28th. In addition three flew SW on 5th October and five were present the following day.

Cawthorne Basin – nine on 26th September.

Deffer Wood – four birds soaring together on 30th October.

One or two birds were recorded regularly at several other sites including **Kirklees Park, Thick Hollins, Meltham; Clayton West; Deer Hill** and the **Marsden** area.

An unusual record involved a bird which flew past an observer when he was looking for Woodcock at **Yateholme** at 22.05hrs on 10th June.

Dated records were distributed throughout the year as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	10	12	36	18	22	11	16	28	16	9	8

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

A single was photographed at **Blackmoorfoot** at 17.50hrs. on 22nd April when it was low over fields in the NW corner of the reservoir, the bird then flew in a southerly direction until lost over Meltham Cop (NWM). This was the first record for the reservoir and brings the total number of bird species recorded there up to 214.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage visitor, increasing.

There were five sightings of this charismatic raptor. One in April and four in September as follows:

Dove Stone – one flew NE over the causeway between Dove Stone and Yeoman Hey shortly after 17.00hrs. on 1st April (A. Turner).

Langsett Res – a single circled before leaving to the SE on 4th September (MCW).

Brownhill Res – a single was reported by an unknown observer at 09.09hrs. on 7th September.

Harden Quarries – one flew low to the S at 09.15hrs. on 7th September (MC, NWM, DHP). This was thought to be the bird seen a few minutes earlier at Brownhill Res. A single flew ESE during the late afternoon on 14th September (MC).

Thornhill Edge – one flew low to the SE at 09.45hrs. on 8th September (JRS).

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

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	9	2	2	8	3	1	2	5	5

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

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Although recorded throughout the year, this species probably remains under-reported, but in common with many farmland birds it may be in genuine decline with records coming from only about 50 sites again this year.

At **Blackmoorfoot** a male was present throughout most of the year (being absent for periods in April, July and August) and, from 20th May, a second bird, a female, very occasionally put in an appearance. No interest was shown in the nest box secured to the YW tower by YW in 2012 and, for the time being at least, the species is no longer on the breeding list. Between 1991 and 2011 a pair had bred annually in a duct in the YW tower.

The only proof of breeding concerned a pair which successfully reared young at **Ladywood Lakes**. With the exceptions of three probable family parties and a pair which were suspected of breeding at another site, proof of breeding was scant. Potential pairs were noted in the breeding season at **Cheesgate Nab, Butterley Res., Whitley Wood, Ringstone Edge Res.** and **Wessenden Valley**.

Otherwise reports mainly concerned singles, occasionally two together, the only exceptions being four associating together at **Deer Hill** on 7th July, four (2 adults and 2 juveniles) at **Thornhill Edge** on 13th July, up to six which were regularly noted at **Winscar** from late summer and four (a female and 3 juveniles) at Cockey Hill, **Kirkheaton** on 4th August.

At **Harden Quarries** seven flew SW during a visible migration watch on 14th September and four did likewise on 28th September.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

A poor year for records of our smallest bird of prey with reports came from just 11 sites (17 in 2012).

A pair was seen at a known breeding haunt on several dates between 17th March and 3rd May but the observer was of the opinion that the birds did not breed.

Elsewhere records were as follows:

Bradshaw – a female on 7th April.

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles were recorded on 14 dates between 15th April and 4th November with two (adult male and a female) on 18th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 8th May and 23rd September.

Brow Grains – a single on 4th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a female flew S over the reservoir on 15th August and a single flew W along the north bank on 12th November.

Deer Hill Res – a single chasing Meadow Pipits on 19th August.

Winscar – a single on 31st August and one mobbed by Starlings near here at **Townhead** on 8th September.

Wellthorne Lane – one on 5th September.

Harden Quarries – an adult male flew low to the S on 7th September and one flew S on 21st September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – a single on 5th, 6th and 9th October and again on 7th November.

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

Rare to scarce visitor, increasing. Has bred.

Reports of this agile raptor were well down on the previous year, but it was still the second highest total for the past ten years.

The only report of probable breeding this year concerns a pair observed on several dates in early summer in suitable habitat with courtship, display and agitated behaviour all being noted (IR, MS, KWh).

Elsewhere records were as follows:

Harden – a single on 5th May and the same or another the following day were hawking insects behind the observers house and a single was present on 14th September (MC).

Wards End Farm, Marsden – singles over the observers' house on 5th May, 10th June and 4th September (DWS).

Linthwaite – singles over the observers' garden on 25th May, 29th June and one date in August could possibly refer to the same bird (SP).

Pule Hill, Marsden – a single on 5th June (DWS).

Thunderbridge – one on 16th June (TM).

Colne Bridge SP – a single flew E on 21st June (DSy).

Blackmoorfoot Res – there were three records (9 in 2013): an adult over Orange Wood which departed S at 10.20hrs. on 27th July (MLD, CH) was presumably the same as that seen over the fields to the west of the reservoir three hours later (TD, CH); a single over the reservoir departed S at 08.40hrs. on 1st August (MLD) and an adult was over Meltham Cop at 10.30hrs. on 3rd August (DMP, SP, KWr).

Oldfield – one flew WSW at 09.35hrs. on 28th July (DHP).

Scout Dike Res – a single flew SW on 3rd August (RJB, NWM, DHP).

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 23rd September (MCW).

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

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
9	13	7	8	8	11	12	16	28	18

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

Reports of this powerful falcon were received from about 30 sites (some sensitive) and spanned all months.

Successful breeding was proven at three sites this year. Two pairs raised two young each, one brood of which was ringed under licence. At a third site a pair raised one young at a most unusual site. The nest was situated on a steep grassy banking that would have been easily accessible to any

predator. More surprising, the birds forsook their usual small crag site just a few metres distant. The single young from this site was also ringed under licence. Singles were also noted at some other potential nesting sites during the breeding season.

Elsewhere records were as follows:

Lower Hopton – one was perched on Walker's Mill chimney on 15th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a male was over Meltham Cop on 8th February; one flew S on 9th May; a juvenile on 25th, 25th and 27th June was presumably the same bird; in August, an adult flew S on 12th, one was present on 19th, a juvenile was chasing Black-headed Gulls over the reservoir on 21st, a juvenile was seen on 23rd and a single was present on 25th; in September, an adult and a juvenile were present on 5th and 7th and a juvenile was seen on 28th; in October, an adult male was over Orange Wood on 6th and a juvenile was chasing Black-headed Gulls and Lapwings over the reservoir on 19th; in November, a juvenile was present on 5th and an adult male was seen on 26th and 29th.

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single was seen attacking a flying Raven on 27th February and an adult male was seen on 22nd October.

Brow Grains – a bird was seen chasing a Snipe that had been displaying on 15th April.

Snape Res – a single flew S on 16th April.

Whitley Beaumont – an adult male at Black Dick's Tower on 19th April and one mobbed a Kestrel on 6th July.

Castle Dam – one flew low over the pool flushing all before it on 21st April.

Dunford Bridge – a single on 27th April.

Snailsden Moor – one over the moor on 5th May and a single over the reservoir on 4th June.

Ringstone Edge – a single on 4th July.

Wards End Farm, Marsden - an adult, then later in the day an immature female carrying prey was mobbed by a male Merlin on 28th July. What may have been the same birds were also noted on 5th and 15th August.

Harden – a juvenile made a desultory attempt to catch Lapwing on 29th July and a single was present on 8th September.

Brun Clough – two on 10th August and a single on 22nd September.

Winscar – a large immature female harassed Oystercatchers and skirmished with Ravens and Buzzards over a protracted period on 31st August and a single was seen on 16th November.

Annat Royd Lane – a juvenile scattered a flock of Black-headed Gulls on 14th September.

Wessenden Valley – two on both 13th October and 14th December.

Scout Dike Res – a single on 19th October.

Marsden – one on 19th October.

Bird's Nest Lane – an immature female on 31st October and what was probably the same bird was seen to kill and eat a Woodpigeon on 7th November.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Breeding was confirmed in the Club area for the first time since 2008. It was also an excellent year for would-be observers of this often elusive species, with reliable birds in accessible locations during both winter periods.

Ramsden Mill Dam – a single showed well at this previously favoured wintering site on several dates between 9th January and 11th February (KWr *et al*).

Gunthwaite Dam – a single on 9th February (NWM) was possibly the same as that seen regularly during December 2012. At the end of the year, up to two were seen on several dates between 7th and 15th December (DMP, SP *et al*).

Cannon Hall CP – one was seen and photographed on 23rd/24th February (MC, NWM, DHP).

Healey Mills/Kerry' NR – a single under the bird feeders on 26th February was followed by a presumed pair which took up residence throughout the summer months (JRS). This is a former breeding site, but there was no evidence of it having occurred here this year. Later, singles were heard calling on 25th September and 15th and 24th October (JH).

Castle Dam – one on 15th April (MCW).

Dewsbury SW – two pairs raised a total of three young (JRS). Later, calling was heard from two birds on 18th September and, as at nearby Kerry's NR, singles were present on 15th and 24th October (JH).

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

Resident breeder (3), 200-400 pairs.

Records were received from 36 widespread localities, which represents a distinct improvement on most recent years. Of these, breeding was proven at 11 and was thought quite likely to have at least been attempted at a similar number of others. Maximum counts, whilst never approaching the triple-figure peaks of a few years ago, were nonetheless also quite encouraging.

Breeding occurred as follows:

Broadstone Res – two presumed pairs were noted on 19th April. A juvenile was at a small pond off nearby Potter's Gate on 15th July.

Langsett Res – two presumed pairs were present on 1st May and a juvenile was present on 26th August.

Ossett Spa SW – one was on a nest on 11th May.

Windy Bank Res – two were on nests on 16th May, with five young hatched by 24th. However, only one young could be located in late June.

Cooper Bridge SP – a pair with four young on present 8th June. A second pair had a single chick by 2nd July.

Royd Moor Res – two broods of two and four were seen on 10th June.

Ingbirchworth Res – records in June included a single young bird on 17th and two young on 24th. Four adults with five young were then noted on 22nd July.

Brun Clough Res – two very small young were seen on 6th July.

Wilshaw – at least two young were at a small pond between here and Netherthong in early summer.

Stoney Battery – one pair bred on the River Colne but the outcome is unknown.

Dewsbury SW – ten adults and ten chicks were present in early August.

Elsewhere, one or more presumed pairs were present in spring and/or early summer at **Bretton Park, Gunthwaite Dam, Scout Dike Res., Bird's Nest Lane, Cliff Wood, Boshaw Whams Res., Mytholm Bridge Pond**, and two sites in the **Hepworth** area. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, the only evidence of breeding involved a pair nest building along the south bank in mid June, but they soon aborted their effort and no eggs were laid. Later, in September, single juveniles at **Aspley** on 7th and **Tunnel End Res.** on 27th suggested that breeding might have occurred at those sites.

As in other years, the majority of the highest counts were from the **Horbury** area. Combined tallies for the **Wyke** and the **Strands** in January included c.60 on 10th and c.50 on 24th and the

Wyke hosted 23 on 1st January, 37 on 2nd February, 40 on 17th March, and 13 on 25th August. Later in the year, 17 were on the adjacent River Calder on 6th November. The only other double-figure counts came from **Ossett Spa SW** (10 on 12th January and 8th February and 12 on 1st April), **Dewsbury SW** (30 on 3rd February, 32 on 31st March, 21 on 16th August, and 24 on both 30th September and 16th October), **Bretton Park** (15 on 10th March and 16 on 25th September) and the canal alongside Leeds Road, where 11 were present on 19th October.

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

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

Maximum monthly counts at three breeding locations were as follows.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ingbirchworth Res	17	8	18	17	19	25	24	18	5	4	nc	1
Scout Dike	11	nc	nc	25	c.20	42	nc	nc	4	3	nc	nc
Ladywood Lakes	15	18	14	8	nc	14	16	18	16	nc	nc	4

This species is well-monitored in certain areas but is probably still under-reported or even ignored at some other waters. In all, records were received from 20 sites, which is somewhat higher than the recent average. However, it remains relatively uncommon in the west of the area. This bias in distribution is not strictly correlated with elevation above sea level. Nor can it be explained simply by differences in observer coverage. For example, the only record from the first half of the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved a single on 14th January. There were then just nine records in the second half of the year, and, with the exception of two on 17th July, all related to singles, only one of which remained for more than one day. Contrast this with the similarly-elevated **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where the species is a fairly common breeder and usually present in varying numbers throughout the year (see above and below).

Evidence of breeding was as follows:

Ladywood Lakes – reports referred to three birds sitting on 30th March and four on nests on 29th April. Two pairs and 12 young were noted on 4th June and by early July, one pair had six well-grown young and a second pair had two smaller young. Later that month, two broods of two and four were reported on 15th as being additional.

Gunthwaite Dam – two pairs were present on 5th April, with one bird sitting on eggs by 24th. Six birds remained in late November and early December.

Ingbirchworth Res – four sitting birds were located on 8th May. Later sightings included two broods of two young on 31st May, two pairs with broods of four and seven on 10th June, and a brood of four small young on 1st July.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – at least three birds were sitting on 11th May.

Scout Dike Res – nine pairs and a total of 24 young were present on 10th June.

Castle Dam – broods of two, two, and one were noted on 28th June.

Away from the sites tabulated above, six others yielded counts of eight or more. **Meal Hill Lake** at Hepworth is not easy to monitor accurately, but up to ten birds were thought to be resident. At **Bretton**, 'good numbers on both waters' on 1st January were followed by minima of ten on both 10th March and 19th October. Counts at **Castle Dam** included nine on 13th January and 12 on both 24th September and 28th October. At **Horbury Wyke**, 12 on 2nd February and eight on 17th March preceded 30 on 25th August. **Dewsbury SW** held eight on 3rd February, 14 on 31st March, and 17

on 16th August. At **Cannon Hall CP**, the only proper count was of 23 on 10th February. Birds were also noted in unknown numbers at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 7th April and at **Elland GP** on 10th July.

Other locations with recorded yearly maxima of one to three included **Ossett Spa SW**, **Carlecotes Ponds**, and the reservoirs at **Windy Bank**, **Longwood**, and **Royd Moor**. Another was **Colne Bridge SP**, which has now become an angling venue under the name of Reeds mire Ponds. Breeding has occurred there in most recent years, but the only report this year involved a single which was present between 2nd and 26th April.

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

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

Reports were received from over 30 mainly upland localities between 16th February and 3rd August. On the former date, two were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and one was at nearby **Broadstone Res.** These were followed by a single at **Langsett Res.** on 17th and two at **Dewsbury SW** on 19th. No new sites yielded sightings during the rest of February, but a further seven had been visited by the end of March. These included **Boshaw Whams Res.**, where records commenced with what turned out to be the year's largest gathering – an impressive 25 on 9th and 10th. Other double-figure tallies in early spring included 11 at **Broadstone Res.** on 19th March and the same number at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 6th April. Ten remained at the former reservoir on 14th April, but the second half of the month saw the usual dispersal to breeding areas, with the result that counts generally became much smaller.

Breeding activity was noted at the following:

Ladywood Lakes – a pair were displaying on 2nd April and seen to copulate on 15th May. Two young were then noted on 28th June and 2nd July.

Isle of Skye Quarry – after arriving on 21st April, a pair stayed to breed on a high ledge on the rock face, where they produced three young from three eggs. All three survived the descent from the nest site and were last seen on an unknown date in the company of their parents at nearby Magdalen Spring.

Winscar Res – three birds were sitting on 26th April, after which three pairs and five young were found on 26th June. By 15th July, the number of young appeared to have been reduced to four.

Crosland Heath Airfield – one pair attempted to breed but failed at the late egg/early young stage. Several records of one or two at **Blackmoorfoot** in May and June were thought to have probably involved this pair.

Elysium – one pair bred but the outcome is unknown.

Whitley Edge – a pair with two recently fledged young were noted on 29th May.

Lower Windleden Res – a minimum of six birds on 7th June included at least one brood of two young.

Upper Windleden Res – a pair with two young were present on 7th June.

Broadstone Res – a pair with three young were present on 10th June.

Wessenden Valley – at least one pair occupied the lower part of the valley in spring and early summer, but no further details were forthcoming.

After the breeding season, birds continued to be recorded at a variety of locations on most dates until the end of July. However, they tended to be in much smaller groups than in early spring. Most reports referred to ones and twos or an occasional lingering family party; the only real exception being a flock of nine at **Broadstone Res.** on 18th. As is often the case, sightings then

came to a fairly abrupt end in early August, when a single at **Scout Dike Res.** on 3rd turned out to be the final record of the year.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*
Migrant breeder (1), 0-8 pairs. Scarce passage visitor.

Conditions at some sites appeared rather more favourable than they had been in the spring of 2012. Despite this, there was little evidence of any corresponding return to form for this opportunistic breeder. Records were received from nine sites between 13th April and 30th July but included none at all from June. The maximum count was just two. Of the nine sites, breeding behaviour was noted at only one. At two others, the presence of juveniles during July suggested that breeding might possibly have occurred there unnoticed or unreported. Most were previous or potential breeding locations and so, given the continuing Schedule 1 status of the species, these have not been named below.

At site A, singles were located on 13th and 30th April and 1st, 5th, and 7th May. One or two pairs have bred here in most recent years, but a gradual increase in vegetation has perhaps now made the habitat less attractive.

At site B, reports referred to a single on 28th April, two on 30th April, and one again 4th May. This reservoir is always fairly well-watched during spring, and there was ample exposed shore for the rest of May at least, but no birds were seen subsequently.

At site C (an under-watched reservoir), two were found on 19th April. The species was also noted as 'present' on 12th May, but the next report was not until the middle of July, when at least one was alarming on both 15th and 17th. However, there was no sign of any on 21st.

Depending on water-levels, site D is a well-established breeding location, and it is possible that the absence of records from spring was simply due to a lack of communication with its regular observers. In July, at least one was present on each of 2nd, 23rd (a juvenile), 29th, and 30th.

At site E, a juvenile on the reservoir edge on 16th July eventually flew off S.

The only other records involved singles at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th (JRS) and 17th April (JH), **Winscar Res.** on 20th April (DMP), **Whitley Edge** on 6th May (MCW), and one which was heard calling at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.10hrs. on 14th July (MLD).

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

Although there were just three reports of singles during spring, a good run of autumn records from the reservoirs at Blackmoorfoot and Deer Hill made 2013 a notable year for this species. At the latter location there was also an intriguing indication of where some of these migrants might have originated.

In spring, singles were at **Deer Hill Res.** on 14th April and 7th/8th May (DHP). At **Dewsbury SW**, one on 17th April was the first since 2008 at this former breeding site (JRS).

Autumn sightings began in late July, when a juvenile foraged on bare ground at **Snape Res.** on 23rd /24th (DHP) and a single was at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 25th (DD). There were none then for two weeks, after which all records came from just two sites.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, three adults during the morning of 12th August (MLD, CH, NWM) had increased to nine (8 adults and 1 juvenile) by 12.30hrs. All then departed W at 13.30hrs. but two adults, almost certainly from this group (see Deer Hill, below), returned shortly afterwards (CH, MS, KWr). These were followed a week later by an adult and a juvenile on 19th (MLD, CH, DMP, KWr), and an adult which flew W at 09.10hrs. on 29th (MLD, CH). September then continued with a single heard calling at 10.05hrs. on 5th, one on 6th, two on 15th, four on 17th, three on 18th - 20th, and two on 22nd. There was then a gap until 28th, when the final record of the year involved an impressive 13. Seven of these departed S with a Dunlin at 09.10hrs., being followed two minutes later by the remaining six which flew in the same direction (MLD, CH).

At **Deer Hill Res.**, a group of seven during the early afternoon of 12th August were at the time assumed to be different from the nine noted by the same observer at nearby Blackmoorfoot just a quarter of an hour earlier. However, the events described above suggest that they were quite likely to have been some of the same birds as had been seen there. This might also apply to a few of the records from September, when sightings involved a juvenile on 1st, two on 2nd, singles on 3rd and 13th, two on 14th, three on 15th/16th, one on 17th, five on 18th, two on 19th, and singles on 20th and 21st (DHP, DMP, OW). Interestingly, the five on 18th included one carrying a yellow leg-flag with black letters on its right tibia, a red ring on its left tibia, and a metal ring on its left tarsus. Unfortunately, the letters could not be made out, but it was discovered soon afterwards that this combination matched exactly with the one currently in use by ringers of Ringed Plovers caught on migration at Makkevika on the island of Giske, Norway.

(EURASIAN) **DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*
Rare passage visitor.

A single of this ever-popular species was present in the **Elysium/Cartworth Moor** area between 3rd and 8th May, usually in loose association with a flock of up to 20 Golden Plovers (SNA *et al.*). The extent of black and the richness of the rufous on its underparts prompted at least one observer to speculate that it was probably a female, but the variability of these and other features is such that, on current knowledge, most individuals are perhaps better left unsexed.

This constitutes the first record in the Club area since 2009.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*
Migrant breeder (2-3), 50-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor, decreasing.

There were three records in January involving 39 at **Castle Dam** on 13th, a single which flew E at **Blackmoorfoot** on 18th, and 12 at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 27th. February fared somewhat better, with birds present on nine dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, where they reached a maximum of 54 on 28th. Elsewhere, it was quiet until 24th, when c.115 were at **Broadstone Res.** and 75 flew over **Castle Dam**. On the following day, 23 at **Snape Res.** were the first in a series of spring records from this site which peaked at 27 on 21st March and lasted until near the end of April.

March usually brings an increase in the size of flocks, and this year was no exception. At **Ringstone Edge Res.**, 32 on 1st were followed by an impressive 400 on 11th, 87 on 16th, and 115 on 21st. In comparison, **Blackmoorfoot** had a relatively quiet month, with records on just eight dates and, oddly mirroring the pattern at Snape Res., a maximum of 27 on 21st. Elsewhere, ones and twos were occasionally heard calling near the **Isle of Skye Quarry** from 5th, and up to 13 were noted occasionally during the middle of the month at **Harden Moss**. This period also saw the beginning of the anticipated spring build-up in the **Ingbirchworth/Broadstone** area, with 96 in fields off **Windmill Lane** on 13th. However, none were seen then until last day of the month, when 50 were again near Windmill Lane and c.120 flew over nearby **Cheesegate Nab**. Early April produced a smattering of low double-figure counts, but the expected large aggregations didn't materialise until 20th, when c.500 circled over **Bird's Nest Lane** and an estimated 400 (surely the same birds) were seen in flight from **Cheesegate Nab**. These were followed by 300 at **Whitley Common** on 21st, but subsequent counts never exceeded 40, and the area was evidently vacated by the end of the month.

The only other site managing to produce a triple-figure count during April was **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where 124 on 9th had reduced to 32 by 27th, with none reported thereafter. At **Blackmoorfoot**, numbers remained relatively modest, with monthly maxima of 46 in April and 19 in May, when birds were recorded on a daily basis from 16th. This daily attendance then continued throughout June, but with the maximum reduced further to nine. Spring gatherings were also noted this year at **Elysium/Cartworth Moor**, where unrelated survey work and the presence of a Dotterel (see above) both contributed to the area receiving more attention than is usually the case. There, four on 30th April increased in May to 17 on 3rd and 20 on 18th, with five still present on 12th June.

Breeding was confirmed at **Black Moss Res.**, where a pair had small chick on 16th June. It probably also occurred at **Townhead**, where anxiety calls from at least one pair were heard as early as 1st May, and at **Brun Clough Res.**, where at least three were thought to be on territory. The only report from the vast swathes of suitable habitat in the **Dove Stone** area referred to 'several' around **Chew Res.** in early June, but most of our higher moorland sites produced no records at all, possibly because no-one visited them this year.

Midsummer reports were typically few, and increasingly localised. At **Blackmoorfoot**, a maximum of 10 were seen on 12 dates in July up to 20th, on which date five were also at **Harden Moss**. However, there was then a month-long period during which records came from just one site. This was **Snape Res.**, where birds were present in single-figures during every visit in the second half of July, but then suddenly increased in number to 115 on 5th August before gradually dwindling to two on 13th. The next reports involved seven juveniles feeding with Lapwings at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 19th and singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on three dates towards the end of the month. September brought little change, with one to five appearing at six sites on 12 dates. As often happens though, things began to pick up in October, when 60 were at **Ringstone Edge** on 9th and a similar number flew E at **Marsden** on 24th. At **Broadstone Res.**, a flock of 120 was present on 26th, but this soon reduced to around 50, where it remained for most of November. Other November records came from **Whitley Edge**, where 22 on 3rd were possibly part of a dispersal from nearby Broadstone, and **Blackmoorfoot**, which hosted 20 on 12th and 19 on 23rd. There were then none at all until 10th December, when a single at the latter site turned out to be the final record of the year.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare visitor.

Following two blank years, there were two records of this species, both of them falling in the typical month of September. At **Harden Quarries**, a single was heard calling as it moved S during a visible migration watch during the morning of 7th (MC, NWM, DHP). Unusually, one remained at **Ringstone Edge Res.** from 16th to 24th, during which time it was photographed (HBC, DHP).

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

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

Flocks in the early months were generally rather small, and only once exceeded double-figures. This was at **Castle Dam**, where 110 were present on 13th January. At **Blackmoorfoot**, maximum monthly counts were 60 in January (these probably accounting for 40 seen at Crosland Heath Airfield on 5th), 70 in February, and just 11 in March. Elsewhere, the next highest count in January involved a mere 20 at **Horbury** on 4th. In February, gatherings of 30 or more were found at **Ladywood Lakes** (64 on 6th), **Dewsbury SW** (60 on 12th), **Harden** (33 flying N on 17th), **Castle Dam** (30 on 24th), and **Ringstone Edge Res.**, where 50 were noted on 27th. March began with 30 at **Snape Res.** on 1st and 37 which flew N at **Harden** on 2nd, but these turned out to be the highest counts in a month which was later adversely affected by deep drifting snow over much of the uplands. In April, the only notable gatherings were at **Low Common**, where a minimum of 100 on 1st had reduced to less than half that number by 5th. Ones and twos also began to appear around this time at various other upland sites, but widespread occupation of breeding grounds seemed generally fairly slow, and only really became apparent towards the middle of the month.

Breeding activity was documented as follows:

Snape Res – a handful of birds were sitting on eggs on 16th April. A minimum of four chicks had hatched by 18th May, and 'several' young were present on 15th July.

Windleden – four pairs were on territory on 19th April, and at least 10 birds were sitting by the end of the month.

Deer Hill – around six pairs were on territory in late April. On 10th June, 20 birds were present, one of which was seen repeatedly dive-bombing a Curlew. Later, an indeterminate number of presumed replacement broods were noted in mid-July.

Isle of Skye Quarry – three pairs were thought to have bred successfully. All six birds showed agitation on every visit during May, when a nest with four eggs was located on 6th and at least two newly hatched young were present on 16th.

Swinden Track, Langsett – 18 pairs were on territory.

Flouch Inn area – 28 pairs bred.

Carlecotes – three pairs bred.

Elysium/Cartworth Moor – at least 10 pairs bred, producing a 'good' number of young.

Marsden – two pairs each reared two young at Wards End Farm.

Slaithwaite – two pairs showed evidence of breeding in fields off Lingards Road.

Whitley Common – two small chicks were rescued from a grass verge on 1st June to prevent them from wandering onto the road or into an adjacent water-filled ditch.

Late broods were noted in mid-July at **Wessenden Head Road**, **Harden Moss**, and near the **Will's O' Nat's** public house. Breeding almost certainly also occurred at **Bullcliff**

Farm/Stockmoor Common and around the reservoirs at **Digley, Ingbirchworth, Scout Dike, Royd Moor, Scammonden, Deanhead, and Brun Clough**, but no further details were forthcoming.

As is usually the case, gatherings in the second half of the year were significantly larger than those in the first. In July, 60 were present at **Deer Hill** on 6th. In the same month, numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** rose from 24 on 7th to 252 on 18th, after which 210-300 were noted daily until 27th. Elsewhere, things remained fairly quiet until the end of the month, when 123 were at **Snape Res.** on 28th and 87 were at **Dewsbury SW** on 30th. In August, counts at **Blackmoorfoot** reached a peak of 350 on 7th and then settled down to between 200 and 250 for the rest of the month. Monthly maxima at other sites included 40 at **Dewsbury SW** on 6th, 84 at **Ladywood Lakes** on 17th, 80 at **Crosland Heath Airfield** on 26th, and 68 at **Dick Edge Lane** on 29th.

September continued in a similar fashion, with birds present daily at **Blackmoorfoot** (maximum 400 on 27th) and a steady stream of mid-double-figure counts from **Dewsbury SW**. It also saw the start of a good series of records from the Ingbirchworth area, when c.250 appeared at **Royd Moor Res.** on 23rd. This was sustained in October, when c.200 were at **Annat Royd Lane** on 7th, 350 at **Bird's Nest Lane** on 24th, and c.400 at **Whitley Common** on 30th. Elsewhere in October, visible migration reached a peak at **Harden Quarries** when 119 flew SW and 125 flew SE on 19th and 99 flew SE on 20th. On the latter date, 50 also flew S over the **Wessenden Valley**. Meanwhile, birds continued to be seen on a daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot**, with maximum counts of 300 in October and 350 in November. November also saw numbers remaining consistently high around **Ingbirchworth**, with c.400 at **Bird's Nest Lane** on 16th and 150 at **Whitley Edge** on 27th. However, this run of sightings then came to a fairly abrupt end, with no further records until the appearance of a relatively modest 43 at the latter site on Boxing Day. In contrast, the daily presence of between 200 and 250 birds at **Blackmoorfoot** persisted until 18th December. Numbers then suddenly dropped to 8 on 19th and 13 on 20th, but rallied again to 60 on 26th and 100 from 28th to 31st.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

As in 2012 there was a single record, which this year involved two flying W at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 11.30hrs on 11th November (CH).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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

In 2012, an RSPB/National Trust survey revealed a total of 45 pairs/territories on NT land within the Club area. This year, observer coverage of the moorland tops was minimal, and the only reported indications of breeding involved 11 pairs between **Featherbed Moss** and **Harden Moss**, two displaying pairs and two other birds on **Black Moss** on 6th May, and two juveniles on **Saddleworth Moor** on 27th July. In addition four pairs were located above **Winscar Res.** Away from these areas, spring records were limited to singles at the reservoirs at **Broadstone** on 29th April, **Deer Hill** on 7th May, and **Ingbirchworth** on 14th May.

Autumn was rather more productive, with a run of sightings which began in late July and reached a peak in the second half of September before tailing off fairly sharply in October. There was then

a gap of over a month until one in mid-November - this being the last of the year. The maximum count during this period was six.

Deer Hill Res – singles were present on 23rd July, 12th August, and 3rd to 6th September.

Ringstone Edge Res – a single on 29th July was followed in September by minima of six on 17th, two on 20th, and one on 26th. Additional singles were then noted on 1st and 9th October.

Snape Res – a juvenile fed amongst an emergent fodder rape crop on 5th August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – in August, three flew W on 12th and one was on the south bank on 14th. September brought singles on 17th and 18th, two on 19th and 25th, one which departed S with seven Ringed Plovers on 28th, and two flying E on 29th. These were followed by a single on 14th October and one which flew W on 16th November.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce passage visitor.

There were two very welcome records of this increasingly scarce visitor, one of which involved a relatively long-stayer.

Ringstone Edge Res - a single took up residence between 22nd September and 8th October; its stay overlapping with that of the aforementioned Grey Plover (SL *et al.*, HBC).

Whitley Edge – a ‘reeve’ was found amongst Lapwings on 31st October. What was presumed to be the same individual was seen in a field off nearby Bird’s Nest Lane later on the same day (JMP, DSh).

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Reports were received from six locations, of which four were in the uplands and two were in the Calder Valley. Of the six, three sites held birds in the first winter period and four during the second. No more than two individuals were recorded at any one time.

Wholestone Moor – singles on 5th January (KW_r) and 27th February (DT) were followed by two on 17th March (DT). These two proved to be the last of the first winter period.

Brow Grains – one was flushed from the side of the path near the old pump house on 13th January (RW).

Healey Mills/Kerry’s NR – two on 12th February and singles on 17th November and 17th December (JH).

Isle of Skye Quarry – a single on 1st October was the first of the second winter period. Further sightings, perhaps of the same bird, were then made on 20th October and 27th November (DHP).

Scout Dike Res – one was present on 19th October (RJB, MC, NWM).

Dewsbury SW – singles were noted on 5th and 17th November and 16th December (JH).

(COMMON) **SNIBE** *Gallinago gallinago*

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

The first two months saw reports from seven areas, six of which were in the uplands and one in the Calder Valley. Most referred to ones and twos; the only exceptions being at **Horbury** (3 on 10th January and 5 on 2nd February), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (4 in the SW corner overflow field on 20th January and 12th February) and **Ringstone Edge Res.** (10 on 16th February). March then began with 24 flushed at the latter site on 1st – perhaps an indication of the potential numbers lurking unseen in similar habitat elsewhere at this time of year. Regardless of this, the rest of the month progressed in as quiet a fashion as before, with only **Blackmoorfoot** (maximum 6 on 22nd) managing to exceed a count of two. After the end of March, records usually relate to birds on their breeding grounds, so an isolated count of 18 at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th April was somewhat surprising.

Judging by the amount of reports of drumming and 'chipping', the breeding season appeared to get off to a good start. As usual, most came from the boggy upper reaches of the Holme and Colne Valleys and the moorland fringe around **Winscar** and **Windleden Reservoirs**. The sole records from the favoured areas north and west of **Langsett** concerned six drumming/chipping at **Flouch** and two chipping along the **Swinden Track** on 1st May, but this poor showing was more likely the result of a lack of correspondents than a lack of birds. Once again, most reports related to ones and twos, or made no attempt to provide a count, but one indication of population density came from **Flight Hill**, where a minimum of six pairs were thought to be on territory. However, successful breeding was proven only at **Windleden** and **Snape**, where single young were noted in July on 1st and 30th respectively. Up to five adults were also seen regularly at the latter location in the second half of the month, but otherwise July was typically quiet; the only other records being of singles flushed on three dates at the **Isle of Skye Quarry**.

Early August brought little change, although it did see the start of a seven week run of regular sightings of two or three at **Dewsbury SW**. Elsewhere, there was no real evidence of movement until 19th, when five flew S at **Harden Quarries**. These were followed by eight near **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 24th, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 27th, and seven which flew from a field at **Meltham** on 28th. Like those at Dewsbury SW, the one at **Blackmoorfoot** was the first since April. It was also the herald of an excellent series of records from there which lasted into December. Most involved single figures, but highlights in September included 15 on 24th, 16 on 25th, and 11 on 26th. October saw a relative lull, but numbers then increased again in November, when 40 on 7th preceded 19 on 11th, 56 on 17th, and 37 on 24th. The majority of these were in the SW overflow field and only evident when flushed.

Meanwhile, visible migration was in full swing at **Harden Quarries**. September counts from there included 17 on 7th and 21st, 11 on 22nd, and six on 23rd, mostly flying in a westerly direction. These were eclipsed in October though, when an impressive total of 74 flew W in six hours on 19th. Small numbers also appeared at several other locations during this period. Again, most were in single figures, although at least ten frequented the **Snape** area during late October. However, one other site did manage to match and even slightly exceed the large gatherings at Blackmoorfoot. This was **Dewsbury SW**, where numbers rose suddenly to 27 on 25th September and stayed at a similar level for most of October. There was then a slight dip in November (maximum of 12 on 13th), but counts increased again in December, when 18 on 3rd were followed by 56 on 16th and 58 on 17th.

Such concentrations were at one time a fairly regular feature of autumn and winter, but in the last decade or two they have become virtually unheard of. The fact that they occurred this year at two separate sites is therefore all the more remarkable.

(EURASIAN) **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident breeder (2), 25-75 pairs. Uncommon winter visitor.

The early months yielded records of one in **Orange Wood (Blackmoorfoot)** on 18th January, singles in the **Grimescar Valley** on 19th January and 3rd February, one picked up freshly killed in Ashway Plantation at **Dove Stone Res.** on 27th January, and a further single at **Wholestone Moor** on 7th February. There were none then until 11th March, when one was located at the top end of **Barkisland Clough**. In March, it is often difficult or impossible to determine whether birds are winter visitors, spring migrants, or local residents. This was also the case with singles in April at **Bradley Park GC** and **Windy Bank Wood** on 8th and **Orange Wood** on 11th, albeit that most continental birds have usually departed by this time (BTO 2007-11 Atlas). Towards the end of April, one seen in flight near suitable breeding habitat at **Bentley Spring** on 22nd was probably on territory.

During the breeding season, reports of roding birds were received from several sites in the vicinity of **Langsett Res.** Most referred to singles only, or made no attempt at a count – perhaps understandably so given the twin problems of near-darkness and being so near the boundary of the recording area. Elsewhere, roding was also encountered at **Silkstone** on 20th and 22nd April, **Gilcar Farm**, **Clayton West** on 15th May, **Carlecotes Ponds** (at least 2 birds) on 3rd June, and **Yateholme Res.** on 10th June.

As a rule, birds have tended to vanish from view after the end of the breeding season until just before the onset of winter. This year was no exception, with a complete lack of sightings during the four months between 5th July, when the last was noted at Langsett, and the middle of November, when a mini-influx brought singles to **Deer Hill** on 12th, **Orange Wood** on 14th and 19th, the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 17th, and **Crimble Clough** on 22nd. These were followed in December by one found dead in **Ripponden War Memorial Gardens** on 13th and, the last of the year, one caught in car headlights near Wards End Farm, **Marsden**, at first light on 14th.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

A total of 12 individuals were noted at six locations on six dates, all but one of which were in spring. Perhaps reflecting a recent bias in observer coverage, the sites were equally split between the River Holme catchment and the uplands to the west of Ingbirchworth. The maximum count was four.

Broadstone Res – two on 22nd April (MCW).

Whitley Edge – one on 3rd May (MCW).

Bare Bones Road, Holme Styes – three flew west, calling, on 5th May (RJB, MC).

Lower Maythorn – four were actively feeding in roadside fields in the late afternoon and evening of 5th May (MC).

Wilshaw – a single was photographed as it fed in a field between here and Netherthong on 17th May (DHP).

Harden Quarries – one in the afternoon of 20th July circled high and eventually disappeared into cloud, but could still be heard calling as it drifted off in an easterly direction (MC).

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

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

The earliest reports involved a single at **Harden** on 16th February and one flying N at **Ingbirchworth Res.** the following day. There was then a gap until 2nd March, when 11 flew N at **Winscar Res.** These were followed by three at **Blackmoorfoot** and six at **Whitley Common** on 3rd, two at **Bradshaw** on 5th, and a single at **Bretton Park** on 10th, but the main arrival was not until the middle of the month, when birds appeared at a further eight locations between 14th and 17th. These included counts of 35 at **Hey Slack** on 16th and 42 which circled over **Harden Res.** on the evening of 17th. A few days later, the latter site was hit by heavy snowfall, leaving drifts of up to six feet high and impassable roads, and there were no further records from there until 25th, when a flock of 19 dropped in from the E to roost on the reservoir's shoreline.

By this time, birds were widely distributed, but almost all were in single-figure gatherings. Other than the 19 at **Harden**, the only reported exceptions were at **Hey Slack**, where 35 were still present on the last day of the month, and **Wilshaw**, where, after 26 on 28th, numbers rose to a spring maximum of 54 on 1st April. Other early April counts from this area included 30 on 4th, 16 on 5th, and 50+ on 6th, but this was followed by a sharp decline, with only four remaining on 9th.

Once again, the early signs of breeding activity were mostly recorded rather vaguely. The first report of courtship and display was not until 31st March (c.5 birds at **Butterley Res.**); this being followed by several mentions of calling and 'singing' in typical breeding habitat, but only a handful of observers were confident enough to judge the number of pairs on territory. Examples of the latter included three pairs at **Windleden**, at least four at **Elysium**, six in the **Flouch Inn** area, six at **Carlecotes**, two at **Maythorn Slack**, and one to the south of **Gunthwaite Dam**. Later though, there were rather more sightings of young birds (as opposed to just agitated adults) than is usually the case. In June, these included a single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th, one at Wards End Farm, **Marsden**, on 12th, three at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 16th, three at **Brow Grains** on 20th, a half-grown bird at **Brun Clough Res.** on 25th, and a newly hatched chick at the side of the road on **Windleden Edge** on 26th. In July, at least one large young bird was in the latter vicinity on 1st, a recent fledgling was at rest on a telegraph pole at **Brun Clough** on 6th, and an adult was with two half-grown young near **Langsett Res.** on 7th.

Most recent years have seen a marked drop-off in the number of reports in mid-summer, with breeding areas suddenly deserted, and little visible evidence of dispersal and passage. In some respects it could be argued that this was partly true in 2013. However, there were three notable counts in early July. Two of these came on 5th, when 59 were in fields along **Issues Road** near Digley Res. and 26 flew W at 14.55hrs. at **Blackmoorfoot**. The third was on the following day, when c.20 were at **Deer Hill Res.** Other July records came from **Ingbirchworth Res.** (5 on 10th, followed by singles flying E on 18th and 22nd, and 2 present on 29th), **Broadstone Res.** (3 in flight on 25th), **Snape Res.** (2 juveniles which departed W on 26th), and **Fixby**, where a single flew W on 27th. August was generally very similar, with another report from **Fixby** (1 flying E on 5th), and up to five making an occasional one-day appearance at various upland sites, but it also saw the start of a fairly good run of records from **Blackmoorfoot**. There, birds were recorded on thirteen days during the month; mostly one to four, but with six on 1st and 25th, and eight (3 present and 5 flying W) on 30th. This continued into early September, when a single on 1st

preceded two on 3rd, one on 4th, and 12 which flew W on 5th. There was then a month-long gap, during which time the only record from anywhere was of one flying SW at **Harden Quarries** on 21st, but October brought another single to **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th, and one which flew W there on 7th. These were followed by another gap of just over a month until the last of the year, a single present at this site on 11th November.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Migrant breeder (2), around 50 pairs.

Reports were received from 31 localities, which is slightly above the recent average. However, there is little doubt that an improvement in local observer coverage of reservoirs in the NW and SW of the Club area would increase this number still further.

As last year, the first arrival was on 15th April, when singles were at the reservoirs at **Langsett**, **Deer Hill**, and **Blackmoorfoot** (where the count had risen to 3 by 17th). These were followed by singles at **Dewsbury SW** and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 17th and at **Ladywood Lakes** and **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 18th. A gradual spread then took place, and, by the end of the first week of May, 14 new sites had yielded records. The majority of these involved no more than two. The only exceptions were three at **Redbrook Res.** on 26th April and six at **Langsett Res.** on 1st May; this being the equal-highest count of the year. As expected, most were in or near known breeding areas, but evidence of continued movement along the lowland valleys in early May came in the form of singles by the Calder at **Bradley Hall Farm** on 1st and at **Colne Bridge** on 6th.

Breeding was confirmed or strongly suspected at the following:

Redbrook Res – one was in song as early as 20th April, and an adult was with one well-grown young on 16th June. Two birds were still present on 25th July.

Ringstone Edge Res – a pair were seen to copulate on 1st June.

Brun Clough Res – an adult showed alarm and agitation on 25th June.

Winscar Res – a pair with two young were seen on 26th June, when a second pair were also present. The last here was a single on 28th August.

Langsett Res – as at Winscar, a pair had two young on 26th June.

Butterley Res – at least one pair showed signs of having bred.

Wessenden Res – a pair showed signs of having bred.

As usual, ones and twos were recorded at several other locations around this time. At **Deer Hill Res.**, a probable pair was in residence throughout the second half of May, and one or two were then noted on various dates between 26th June and 3rd September, but there was no real evidence of them having bred there this year. At the **Isle of Skye Quarry** – another regular breeding site – singles were recorded almost daily between 30th April and 25th May, but none at all were seen thereafter. However, most other sites were not closely monitored, and it is quite possible that breeding took place at some of these. Examples included the reservoirs at **Snailsden**, **Scammonden**, **Deanhead**, **Little Black Moss**, **Swellands**, **Digley**, **Greenfield**, **Blakeley** and **Wessenden Head**.

Post-breeding dispersal and autumn passage began as early as 26th June, when one appeared at **Ladywood Lakes**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, birds were recorded on 33 dates between 4th July and 18th September, with a maximum of four on 24th July. Reports were also received from a number of other sites during this period, but none managed to exceed a count of two. One was at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, where singles on three dates in July and two dates in August were followed

in September by one on 6th and two on 9th. Another was **Windy Bank Res.**, which held two on 24th August. Following the aforementioned June single at Ladywood Lakes, August also brought a mini-resurgence along the lowland valleys at **Dewsbury SW** (2 on 3rd and 1 on 16th), **Aspley** (1 on 4th), **Ossett Spa SW** (singles on 24th and 29th), and **Horbury SW** (1 on 29th). Meanwhile, back on higher ground, **Langsett Res.** continued to produce an occasional record until 7th September but, as at Winscar and Deer Hill (see above), it was difficult to determine whether these referred to lingering breeders or genuine migrants. This was also the case at **Blakeley Res.**, where a single on 21st September proved to be the last of the year.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Reports from the early months were limited to **Gunthwaite Dam**, where the long-stayer from the end of 2012 was noted for the last time on 1st January (NWM, MCW), and **Dewsbury SW**, where one favoured the circular settling tanks for virtually the whole of February (JRS). There were then none at all until the end of July/early August, when a small influx brought singles to two upland locations and heralded a good run of sightings at three linked sites along a two-kilometre stretch of the Calder Valley. By the end of October, birds had been recorded at a further three places, making nine for the year in total.

Occurrences between July and December were as follows:

Isle of Skye Quarry – singles on 29th July and 7th August (DHP).

Ringstone Edge Res – one on 30th July (HBC).

Dewsbury SW and the adjacent River Calder – in August, five between 2nd and 6th preceded four on 16th, three on 20th, and two on 25th and 29th. Singles continued to be noted on several dates in September (with 3 again present on 26th) and then more sporadically up to 1st December (JRS, JH, AK).

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – singles on 20th August (JRS) and on the adjacent river bank on 8th October (JH).

Earlsheaton – singles on the banks of the River Calder on 17th September and 1st October (JH).

Harden Quarries – a single flew W during the morning of 18th August (MC).

Ossett Spa SW – two on 23rd/24th August (JRS).

Aspley – one on the bank of the River Colne on 21st October (SK).

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

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

By recent standards it was a fairly typical showing, with reports coming from three sites on five dates, all of which fell in late July and August. The number of individuals involved was certainly no more than seven, and more likely as few as five.

Dewsbury SW – two on 30th July (JRS).

Blackmoorfoot Res – in August, two on 8th (DMO) were followed by a single on 9th (KW_r).

Ossett Spa SW – singles were present on 23rd and 25th August (JRS, AK).

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

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

Records were received from nine localities between 17th March and 18th September. The majority referred to fleeting appearances by single birds, mostly during April and August, although one reservoir did manage a peak count of four during the latter month. There was no evidence of breeding, but a single noted at a previously favoured moorland site on one date in June and the occasional presence of one or two at a nearby reservoir in spring and summer once again suggested that it could possibly have occurred somewhere in the vicinity.

Ringstone Edge Res – singles on 17th March (DT) and 13th August (HBC).

Ingbirchworth Res – one took flight from the dam wall on the morning of 16th April (NWM).

Brun Clough Res – a single on 19th April preceded two on both 12th May and 6th July (SWJ).

Ossett Spa SW – one on 20th/21st April (JRS).

Snailsden Res – one on 26th April (MCW).

Little Black Moss Res – a single on 6th June was possibly on territory (SWJ).

Blackmoorfoot Res – four which arrived at 08.35hrs. on 11th August (MLD, CH *et al*) were followed later in the month by singles on 14th (JL) and 27th (MLD), and two which departed S at 10.25hrs. on 29th (MLD, CH *et al*). A further single on 17th/18th September was the last of the year in the Club area (CH, DHP).

Thongsbridge – a single was heard calling twice as it flew overhead in darkness at 23.16hrs. on 14th August (DHP).

Fixby – one flew S, calling, at 13.10hrs. on 29th August (DT).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Counts from the **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike/Royd Moor/Broadstone** area produced the following monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
150	10	200	35	20	3	24	35	30	300	530	1000

The roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** held 5700 on 7th January and 4000 on 8th February, but numbers had dropped to 3000 by 27th February and only 1300 remained by 18th March. The autumn build-up involved a maximum of 350+ on 27th August, but there were no roost counts during the second winter period.

Small groups were seen at a number of widely scattered localities throughout the year, but the only treble figure counts were in the last four months of the year:

Saville Town – 167 on 2nd August, 127 on 16th August and c.100 on 7th September.

Langsett Res – 114 on 21st August, 343 roosted on 28th August, the 377 which roosted on 4th September had increased to 733 three days later, 1040 roosted on 9th October and c.1300 roosted on 7th December.

Dewsbury SW – 124 on 18th September.

Whitley Common – c.100 on 17th October and c.800 on 30th October.

Bird's Nest Lane – c.500 on 28th October.

Whitley Edge – 580 on 30th October and c.300 on 27th November.

Castle Dam – c.500 on 28th October.

Seven pairs attempted to nest at **Winscar Res.** but it appears they all failed.

Visible migration was only noted at four localities:

Blackmoorfoot Res – 33 flew W on 6th July.

Deer Hill Res – c.100 flew W on 6th July.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 613 flew SW on 12 dates between 5th October and 13th November, with a maxima of 163 on 20th October and 158 on 31st October.

Harden Quarries – 48 flew SW on 5th October.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare to scarce passage and winter visitor.

An adult at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** arrived at 11.20hrs. and departed W eight minutes later on 16th November (MLD, CH, GK).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare visitor.

An adult at **Ingbirchworth Res.** was seen on several occasions throughout the day on 17th February (MC *et al.*), an adult was at **Deer Hill** on 28th August (OW) and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had an adult on 16th October (GK) and a first-winter which departed W at 11.30hrs. on 9th December (MLD, CH, GBS).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common passage and winter visitor.

Records during the first winter period were from a number of widely scattered localities, especially in the east of the area, but counts rarely exceeded 40, the following being the exceptions:

Langsett Res – a minimum of 45 roosted on 2nd January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – the roost held 800 on 7th January and 750 on 8th February, but numbers had dropped to 500 by the month end.

Thornhill – 48 on 8th January.

Outlane Moor – 400 on 16th February.

Broadstone Res – 63 on 19th March and 14th April.

Apart from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which had up to 13 (but usually less than 5) on 33 dates between 18th June and 31st August, the only other records during the summer months were as follows:

Castle Dam – an adult on 15th July.

Ingbirchworth Res – one on 29th July.

Town Centre – a single on 16th August.

Langsett Res – two on 28th August.

Numbers began to build from early September and, although widely distributed, numbers were uninspiring, rarely exceeding 20, the only exceptions being as follows:

Broadstone Res – 31 on 5th September, c.50 on 29th September and 21 on 26th December.

Langsett Res – 100 roosted on 7th December.

Visible migration was only noted at Pule Hill, **Marsden** where 17 flew SW on six dates between 17th and 31st October, with a maximum of 11 on 30th.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Rare vagrant.

The returning adult, first recorded at **Ladywood Lakes** (when it was known as Sands Lane GP) on 23rd February 2010 and during each subsequent winter, was reliably recorded on seven occasions between 18th January and 2nd April (JRS). This was the last record as it was not reported during the second winter period.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage visitor, uncommon winter visitor.

The only site with regular counts was Blackmoorfoot Res., where the following monthly maxima occurred:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	8	7	14	47	13	47	37	53	2	6	6

With the exception of the Blackmoorfoot Res. records noted above, the only other records during the first winter period were as follows:

Ladywood Lakes – singles on 16th/17th January and seven dates between 3rd and 19th March with two on 12th March.

Scammond Water – one on 28th January.

Longwood Res – a single on 2nd March.

Wholestone Moor – one on 17th March.

From mid-April until late October birds were reported from a number of widely scattered localities but, except for the usual autumn build up in the Broadstone area, numbers rarely reached double figures, the exceptions being as follows:

Ringstone Edge Res – c.90 on 8th June.

Wilshaw – up to 40 were present in a field between 11th and 14th June.

Broadstone Res – numbers were slow to build and treble-figure counts were only reached in late September. The c.300 on 25th September and 310 the following day had reduced c.200 two days later and only c.70 remained on 29th and c.50 by 7th October.

Langsett Res – roosting birds were counted as follows: in August, 219 on 15th, 354 on 21st and 396 on 28th, in September, 958 on 4th and 1222 on 7th, and 624 on 9th October.

Whitley Common – c.150 on 1st and 15th September.

Thereafter, with the exception of those enumerated in the table above from Blackmoorfoot Res., the only other winter record involved two at Ladywood Lakes on 26th December.

Movements over the area were noted between mid May and mid November. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, 12 flew W on 14th May, 14 flew E on 8th June, 33 did likewise the following day, 37 flew W on 20th August and six flew S on 18th November. At Pule Hill, **Marsden** a total of 45 flew SW

between 13th September and 8th November, with a maximum of 28 on 30th November and **Harden Quarries** saw 17 fly SW on 22nd September with 12 doing likewise on 5th October.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

As is now normal, the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** never held more than a dozen birds during either winter period. There were a good number of movements which exceeded this figure, however. A total of 13 flew E on 27th February; 66 flew E and three S on 3rd March; 13 flew E on 5th April and 18 did likewise the following day; four flew W on 10th September; 26 flew W on 24th October. Larger numbers were recorded moving in November/December: in November the maxima were 26 (18 E + 8 W) on 10th, 38 (22 NW + 16 S) on 17th, 118 W on 24th and 142 (86 W + 56 S) the following day and in December 127 W on 2nd, 184 S on 15th and 44 (31 W + 13 SE) on 26th.

There were records from a further 20 localities (16 in 2012), showing that the species is still not as common as formerly. For completeness all records are given.

Whitley Edge – c.10 on 1st January, two on 1st September and 15th September.

Langsett Res – 28 roosted on 2nd January and 43 were present during the afternoon on 6th January, a second-winter roosted on 4th September, 25 flew NW on 23rd November, six on 3rd December and 50 roosted on 7th December.

Ladywood Lakes – singles on 4th, 17th and 22nd January and 26th December.

Ingbirchworth Res – three on 7th January, 18 on 27th November, a single on 12th December and five on 28th December.

Scammonden Water – eight flew SE on 2nd February as did eight on 4th February.

Fixby – five flew NE on 3rd February.

Broadstones Res – three on 19th March and singles on 8th June, 25th July and 26th September, four on 28th September, an adult on 13th November, 23 on 27th November and 38 on 26th December.

Ringstone Edge Res – five on 21st March.

Low Common – a single on 5th April.

Cheesegate Nab – an adult on 17th April.

Cartworth Moor – an adult on 5th May.

Broadstone Heath – five on 26th May.

Wilshaw – two on 12th and a single on 14th June, an adult on 3rd, 14th, 15th and 25th December.

Elland GP – an adult on 10th July.

Royd Moor – a juvenile on 5th September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 26 flew SW between 9th October and 13th November, with a maximum of nine on 8th November.

Deer Hill – c.40 flew W on 3rd November.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – four adults on 6th November.

Winscar Res – four on 16th November.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Scarce passage visitor.

Most records, as last year, reverted to the previous pattern of occurrences, with most being in the second half of the year.

Blackmoorfoot Res – an adult on 12th February (DT), a second-summer on 12th May (MLD, CH, SWJ, GK) and a second-winter on 15th December (MLD, CH, GK).

Wilshaw – a second-summer on 11th/12th June (DHP).

Langsett Res – two adults on 21st August and roosting birds as follows: two adults on 28th August, two adults and a second-winter on 4th September, four adults on 7th September and five adults on 9th October (all MCW).

Spicer House Lane – second-summer on 28th August (MCW) and adult on 27th October (NWM).

Broadstone Res – first-summer on 26th September (DHP).

Whitley Common – first-winter on 5th October (MC).

Ingbirchworth Res – adult on 10th October (DHP).

Royd Moor Res – adults on 20th October (RJB) and 26th October (DMP, SP *et al.*).

Lower Maythorn – adult on 26th October (DMP, SP, KWr). This was a different bird to that at Royd Moor Res. on the same date as the observers noted that it had duller bare parts.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Rare visitor.

An adult which roosted at **Langsett Res.** on 1st December (RT) was the third record for the Club area.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor.

The only site with regular counts was Blackmoorfoot Res., where the following monthly maxima occurred:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	13

As can be witnessed from the table above this species has virtually disappeared from the roost at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** The only movements over the area were as follows: seven flew E on 7th February, in November three flew W on 24th, six flew S the following day and six adults flew W on 30th and in December 13 flew W on 2nd and 11 S on 15th.

This species becomes less common in the Club area as the years progress, and the following were the only additional records:

Castle Dam – one on 1st January.

Langsett Res – four on 2nd January, 27 on 6th January, an adult roosted on 9th October, three flew NW on 23rd November and four roosted on 7th December.

Digley – two on 6th January.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – a second-winter flew E on 12th January.

Town centre – a second-winter flew NE on 13th January.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 31st January.

Elland GP – a second-winter on 20th February.

Ravensthorpe GP – a second-winter flew SE on 7th March.

Winscar Res – a first-winter on 1st April.

Ingbirchworth Res – singles on 23rd October and 27th November.

Deer Hill – an adult and seven immatures flew W on 29th December.

Fixby – an adult on 29th December.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

Rare passage visitor.

A single which arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 09.05hrs. on 17th May was last seen at 10.25hrs. (MLD, SH, SP *et al.*).

This was the fifteenth record for the reservoir and the first since 16th June 2004.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare to scarce passage visitor

Following a blank year in 2012, this year produced two records:

Broadstone Res – a single during the early morning of 15th May moved to Ingbirchworth Res. about 09.50hrs. and was seen to gain height at 15.32hrs. and depart to the E (NWM, DHP *et al.*).

Ladywood Lakes – two departed E with four Common Terns on 6th September (JRS).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Rare passage visitor.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single flew S at 10.00hrs. on 15th April (MLD, CH) and one flew S at 10.00hrs. on 11th May (CH).

These were the ninth and tenth records for the reservoir and the first since 20th September 2008.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor. Potential future colonist.

Recorded from five localities (the same as 2012), with birds occurring between 13th April and 8th September.

Dove Stone Res – a single 13th April.

Blackmoorfoot Res – singles were present on 15th April and 14th June, one flew S at 09.35hrs. on 18th June and, in July, single adults were seen on 5th, 6th, 9th and 26th.

Elland GP – a single on 8th May.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two on 11th May and four flew W on 19th May.

Ladywood Lakes – a single flew W on 19th May, four departed E after a five minute stay on 6th September (with two Black Terns) and two were present for five minutes on 8th September.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were ten records, seven in spring and three in autumn.

Singles were present at **Elland GP** on 18th April (D. Franz, S. Loveric), **Ladywood Lakes** on 19th/20th April (JRS) and **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th May (MCW). Also in May, a single flew S at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 09.45hrs. on 14th (MLD, CH), the same day that a single at **Ringstone Edge Res.** arrived from the E at 09.20hrs. and departed WNW at 09.24hrs. (DT) and two arrived at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** at 08.00hrs. on 25th and stayed for at least nine hours (MLD, CH, SWJ *et al.*).

Later in the year an adult was photographed at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 4th July (HBC), a juvenile was present at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 14th October (CH, GK) and a juvenile flew NNW over **Harden Quarries** at 11.30hrs. on 19th October (RJB, MC, NC).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Resident breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

With only 76 records from 11 sites this species is clearly under recorded.

Up to nine were present throughout the year in a garden in **Almondbury**. The only large assemblages reported were from the **Town Centre** and **Lockwood**, but these never involved flocks of more than 50.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident breeder (3), 200-300 pairs.

Records were received from 34 widely scattered localities. This is a welcome increase on last year's low of 28 sites, but nowhere near the recent 2010 peak of 59.

Up to four regularly frequented gardens at **Marsden** and **Netherthong** throughout the year and a single was in an **Almondbury** garden in late June/early July. Up to four were present throughout the year at **Colne Bridge** and **Colne Bridge SP**.

Singing was heard in a **Fixby** garden on 9th February and on single dates at **Clayton West** during January, April and August. Breeding was confirmed at **Marsden** where a juvenile was seen feeding at a bird table on 20th August. Five adults and four juveniles were seen at **Dewsbury SW** in late July/early August and had presumably bred nearby.

Although present throughout the year at **Blackmoorfoot** birds were very sporadic in appearance and were occasionally absent for several weeks duration. Up to six (generally only 2 or 3) were involved, but low double-figures were present in fields near Orange Wood in the final half of November, and 30 were present on 22nd.

The only other gatherings in excess of ten birds involved 12 in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 4th May, c.20 at **Elysium** on 10th June, 17 at **Dewsbury SW** on 29th July and 25 on 6th and 11th November, 12 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 7th October with 117 there on 28th October.

At **Harden Quarries** two flew SW on 6th October and a total of 54 flew SW at Pule Hill, **Marsden** between 27th September and 8th November, with a maximum of 29 on 24th October.

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

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

Flocks in excess of 100 during the first winter period were few and far between and only involved 230 at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 16th February and 120 at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th March. A large assemblage for the breeding season concerned 42 at **Dewsbury SW** on 2nd May and up to 50 there throughout June.

Proof of breeding only came from three localities, showing how under recorded the species is.

Flocks built up in autumn, but away from the migration watch points (see below), the only treble-figure counts involved 300 at **Marsden** on 31st October and 170 there on 6th November.

The first recorded movement involved 170 flying SE at **Thornhill Edge** on 8th September, but impressive numbers were counted at the migration watch points: Pule Hill, **Marsden** saw a total of 22,183 fly S or SW on nine dates between 17th October and 13th November, with a maximum of 3477 on 30th October, 4041 on 7th November and 10,105 on 8th November; a total of 4500 flew S at **Harden Clough** on 30th October and there was a conservative count of 16,850 moving W or SW at **Harden Quarries** between 07.30hrs. and 10.35hrs. on 10th November.

A very dark bird (possibly melanistic) was seen at **Ingbirchworth** on 11th September (NWM) and, by sharp contrast, a completely white bird was near Orange Wood at **Blackmoorfoot** on 6th November (TD, GK). As the colour of the eyes of this last mentioned bird could not be seen it is unknown if it was a pure albino or leucistic individual.

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

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

The majority of records were of low single figures and were from gardens and urban areas.

The only significant numbers involved up to 12 in an **Almondbury** garden throughout the year, up to 12 in a **Meltham** garden in January/February and 12 in a **Holmfirth** garden during hard weather. The species was also present in a **Lockwood** garden throughout the year and the observers noted that numbers reached a peak of 24 in June, "probably swelled by juveniles".

The only confirmation of breeding involved pairs in gardens at **New Mill** and **Meal Hill** and a 'wild' pair nested in Orange Wood at **Blackmoorfoot**.

Unusually there were a number of records involving birds passing over migration watch points: **Pule Hill, Marsden** – six flew SW and eight U-turned from the NE on 22nd September, five U-turned from the NE on 27th September, 12 flew SW on 5th October and ten flew SW and six S the following day.

Harden Quarries – three flew SW on 23rd September.

(COMMON) **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs. Red listed.

A welcome increase with records being received from over 20 localities, although some of these were only short-staying individuals. There were many records from the Langsett area which involved at least three birds in different locations plus others just outside the Club boundary.

The first birds, both singles, were recorded at **Langsett** (Little Don Valley) and **Winscar** on 27th April and these general areas then held birds up to the end of June. A male was also recorded as being on territory at **Harden** throughout this period. Other upland areas where the species was recorded with any regularity were **Digley Res.**, **Deer Hill** and **Cheesegate Nab.** Away from these moorland areas singles were recorded from **Scout Dike Res.** on 16th May, **Thornhill Millbank** on 28th May and **Deffer Wood** on 31st May. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a male was in Orange Wood on 30th May, one flew over the N bank on 17th June and a juvenile was in Orange Wood on 11th July.

Birds were still widely distributed in June, with records of one or two at nine localities, but a single at **Winscar** on 31st August was remarkably late.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor. Former resident breeder.

A single was hunting over fields to the east of the Club area on 2nd April and one was found dead on the road in the **Shelley** area on 30th November.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Resident breeder (2), 50-80 pairs.

Although recorded from 24 widely scattered locations, the species is still showing a slow but steady decline from the 50 reported sites in 2010.

Birds were present throughout the year at **Winscar** and **Harden**, and birds were thought to be visiting a probable nest site at **Honley**, but the only proof of breeding came from **Helme** where a pair raised at least one young. Birds were seen in possible breeding areas at **Horbury** and, remarkably, five adults and four juveniles were seen on 28th July, but it is unknown from where they originated.

The species has become decidedly rare at **Blackmoorfoot** and the only record in the first half of the year concerned a single near the inflow on 26th January. The only records thereafter, all from the more usual west bank walls, involved a single from 2nd to 20th October, 1st to 25th November and 4th December.

On a negative note, there were only single records (both of single birds) from **Holmfirth** and **Annat Royd Lane**, both areas which had formerly held breeding pairs, the Holmfirth area originally boasting several territories.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Resident breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

Reported from 27 widely scattered locations (31 in 2012). The species was described as resident at three of these and was detected by call at 17 others.

There were records throughout the year from a number of sites, including a number of gardens, but the only proof of breeding concerned young in a nest box in **Pontey Wood, Honley** and a juvenile at **Clayton West** in late June.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a single roosted near the hide on 14th February and a single was located roosting in Orange Wood on most days between 20th April and 1st May. The only records thereafter involved a single calling along the east bank at 08.20hrs. on 26th July and one in the south bank wood on 24th September.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-10 pairs.

Breeding was reported from four localities.

At one site the observer concluded that poor weather may have been responsible for ruining the breeding attempt. At another site a juvenile was heard calling on 25th July but it was not known whether it survived.

At least two pairs bred at a locality in the NW of the Club area, with young being seen out of the nest on 9th June and at another site at least one young was giving the 'squeaky gate' call on 29th July.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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

There were records from seven sites between February and the end of July.

A single was at a moorland site on 9th February. Three pairs held territories in moorland areas during the breeding season with display and courtship being witnessed at all three, but it was considered that two were abandoned early because of poor weather. Single birds, for one day's duration, were seen at two additional sites in possible breeding habitat during the breeding season.

A single was present in an area within a mile of the centre of **Honley** from 31st March to 2nd April.

(EUROPEAN) **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare visitor. Former migrant breeder. Red listed.

Records from at least three different locations give rise to hope that this species is spreading into the southern part of our area. One site held eight birds (5 males and 3 females) on 15th June. A male was recorded at a different site on 26th July and three days later two males were churring and

three single birds were present. One or two birds were observed at another location, also on 29th July.

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

Three at **Ingbirchworth** on 13th April were the first for the year and indeed form the earliest ever record in the Club area. There were no further records until 24th April when a single was seen at **Dewsbury SW**. Thereafter birds were recorded daily until the last, a single, at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 18th September.

Four at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th April and five the following day were the first at that locality. Thereafter birds were seen almost daily until the last (a single) on 18th September. Birds were present in larger numbers than normal, with several treble-figure assemblages in May/June. In May there were 100 on 12th, 14th and 17th and 120 on 22nd and, in June, there was a maximum of 200 on 13th and 15th and 120 on 22nd.

With the exception of the treble-figure counts from Blackmoorfoot outlined above, the only other counts in excess of 100 involved 230 at **Ingbirchworth** on 14th May, c.100 at **Deanhead Res.** on 15th May, 150 at **Dewsbury SW** on 14th June and 110 at **Thornhill Edge** the following day.

Birds were late in arriving at the small breeding colony (numbers unknown) at St Luke's Hospital, **Crosland Moor**, and it was not until 16th May that the first was seen.

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

With reports from 25 locations this is an increase on the previous two years and equals that of 2010.

Records spanned the whole year and at **Marsden** it was considered to have been a good year as there were more sightings than usual. Most records were of one or two individuals but three were present at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 14th April, five were at **Dewsbury SW** on 29th August and three were at **Bretton Park** on 25th September.

The only confirmed breeding was at **Horbury SW** where an adult was feeding a juvenile on 6th July. The only other suggestion of breeding concerned a bird seen carrying a fish at **Mirfield** on 15th June.

The downward trend in records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** continues unabated, however. There were no sightings until a single was seen on 10th and 20th June. Thereafter, with the exception of two on 11th September, singles were seen on a further 12 dates (2 in August, 3 in September, 1 in October, 5 in November and 1 in December).



Bewick's Swans, Ingbirchworth 28/12/13



Pale-bellied Brent Geese, Blackmoorfoot 16/9/13



Pintail, Blackmoorfoot 22/9/13



Garganey, Blackmoorfoot 25/8/13



Smew, Bretton 6/2/13



Red-throated Diver, Scout Dike 13/10/13



Great Northern Diver, Ladywood Lakes 22/12/13



Slavonian Grebe, Scammonden 28/1/13



Water Rail, Gunthwaite Dam, 9/12/13



Grey Plover, Ringstone Edge 17/9/13



Snipe, Snape Reservoir 27/3/13



Whimbrel, Swinny Knoll 17/5/13



Black Tern, Ingbirchworth 15/5/13



Stock Dove, Almondbury 1/7/13



Wren, Isle of Skye Quarry 7/10/13



Stonechat, Meltham 21/1/13



Garden Warbler, National Coal Mining Museum 23/5/13



Willow Tit, Horbury 10/1/13



Lesser Redpoll, Holmfirth 5/5/13



Yellowhammer, Thurstonland Bank 2/8/13

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

Resident breeder (2), 20-40 pairs.

Recorded in all months with sightings from 22 widely scattered localities.

One or two were present throughout the year at **Meal Hill**. In the **Marsden** area birds were recorded at ten different sites but it was stated that they were less obvious than normal although a juvenile, of unknown origin, was seen at Wards End Farm on 17th August.

A juvenile was present at **Pighill Wood** on 24th June and may have originated from there. Gardens were visited by single birds at **Golcar** on 12th March and **Crimble Clough** on 26th December.

All records from **Blackmoorfoot** involved singles on no more than two dates per month between January and May. Most records, as is usual, involved birds in Orange Wood.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Resident breeder (2), 70-100 pairs.

Recorded from 47 widely distributed locations, the majority of which were from gardens.

A good proportion of records relate to birds visiting gardens throughout the year and, in some instances, their recently fledged young were in attendance. This activity was recorded at **Hepworth, Lockwood, Meltham** and **New Mill**.

Breeding was confirmed from nine sites; **Almondbury, Blackmoorfoot** (see below), **Ingbirchworth, Fixby GC, Hepworth, Meltham, New Mill, Pighill Wood** and **Taylor Hill**. Given that this species was resident at many other sites throughout the year, breeding is likely to have been under recorded.

Apart from family parties, most records were of one or two individuals, the only records in excess involved five at **Bretton Park** on 15th February and four there on 7th March, three at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 16th February, three at **Elland GP** on 25th April and three at **Clayton West** on 6th June.

Birds were present throughout most of the year at **Blackmoorfoot** and a pair fledged young in Orange Wood. With the exception of the family party, which were present until late June, all other records involved one or two individuals.

A single arrived from the NE and disappeared into moorland grass at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 6th October.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident breeder (1), 1-10 pairs. Red listed.

With only four records this species is only just hanging on in our area.

A single was seen in flight but soon disappeared into a wood at **Scissett** on 6th February; one at **Cowcliffe** flew from the direction of Grimescar Wood, landed in a tree and drummed, before flying back towards the wood on 18th March; a male was in **Cliff Wood, Langsett** on 17th April and one was drumming at **Deffer Wood** on 1st May.

The once traditional site at **Healey House**, although visited on several occasions, failed to produce any sightings.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare visitor.

This species made a welcome return to the Club area with two records from two separate locations. A singing male was found at a locality in SE11 on 23rd April (TM) but, despite attempts to find the bird on a number of following days, it was not relocated. The other bird was also a singing male, remarkably found by the same experienced observer, at a site in SE10 on 2nd June.

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

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (4), 500-2,500 pairs. Red listed.

The only January record involved a singing male on **Honley Moor** on 30th. Six (4 which flew W and 2 SW) at **Blackmoorfoot** the following day were the next. Meltham Cop held ten on 2nd February, five flew W on 15th February, four did likewise two days later and three were present on 28th. The only other February records concerned three at **Marsden** and a singing male on **Wholestone Moor** on 16th, and six at **Broadstone Res.** on 17th.

Birds were still scarce in March and at **Blackmoorfoot**, although having three on a daily basis until 21st, they vacated the area after this date due to deep lying snow and did not return until 30th. The only other March records involved two at **Annat Royd Lane** on 16th, singles at **Ringstone Edge** and **Wholestone Moor** on 17th and one at **Ingbirchworth Moor** on 29th.

By April birds became more widely distributed and records were then received from numerous locations until late July. A good number of singing birds were recorded several localities: **Snape Reservoir** had 10+ throughout April, ten were at **Wood Nook** on 5th April, there was a minimum of 15 singing males at **Wholestone Moor** on 15th April, eight singing males were at **Broadstone Res.** on 29th May, at **Crosland Heath Airfield** there were up to 12 singing males during the summer months and six pairs bred at **Elysium**.

The only August/September records, with the exception of migrating birds (see below), were from **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, which held up to six on a daily basis until 8th September. Records thereafter involved two at **Thurgory Lane** on 1st October with 23 there the following week and seven at **Dewsbury SW** on 20th October, whilst those in November were limited to 14 at **Thurgory Lane** and a single at **Annat Royd Lane** on 13th and a single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 28th.

Autumn migration was noted at the following locations:

Harden Quarries – in September a single flew SW on 8th and two flew SW on 14th; in October 26 flew SW on 5th, seven flew SW the following day, a single flew SE on 19th and five did likewise on 29th.

Blackmoorfoot – in September one to three flew W on three dates and seven flew SW on 12th and eight flew S on 29th; in October nine flew W on 5th, 37 did likewise during the morning of 24th and six flew W on 30th and three flew W on 1st November.

Pule Hill, Marsden – six flew S on 5th October and four did likewise the following day.

Royd Moor Res – 30 flew W in the space of an hour on 5th October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – four flew S on 6th October and seven flew SW on 24th October.

Harden Clough – 30 flew SW on 30th October.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

Birds were first recorded from five different locations on 13th April: **Elland GP** (c.50 in the evening), **Horbury Strands/Wyke** (6), **Harden** (a single flew NW), **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (c.20) and **Ingbirchworth Res.** (4).

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 15th April was the first at that locality. Birds were then seen on a further 54 days until the last, a single, on 23rd September. Numbers rarely exceeded six (usually less than 4) but in August there were at least ten on 5th, an amazing 55+ the following day and 16 on 9th. This remains the only non-breeding locality in the Club area where birds are encountered with any regularity.

Other upland sightings were from **Ringstone Edge Res.** which held up to four on three dates in April, a single at **Marsden** on 27th July and 10th September and **Isle of Skye Quarry** where two which flew S on 9th August constituted DHP's first ever record there.

Breeding was confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** where a maximum of 30 birds were seen on 25th April and where eight pairs raised young. At **Horbury Strands/Wyke** six nest holes appeared to be occupied. Further downstream on the River Calder at **Horbury** an estimated 12 to 15 nest holes were excavated and eight pairs fledged 12 young.

Breeding probably took place at **Anchor Pit Lock, Brighouse** where four birds were seen entering nest holes in industrial buildings on 1st May. Breeding was suspected at **Ledgard Bridge, Mirfield** where 20 birds appeared to be visiting a wall at the side of the bridge on 15th and 22nd June. Interesting observations were made at **Kirklees College, Chapel Hill** where two birds were seen entering holes below pipes in a large retaining wall on 15th and 22nd June and 5th July. The small colony discovered at a **Cartworth Moor quarry** in 2011 is no longer extant.

The only large gatherings reported were c.150 at **Elland GP** on 25th April and **Dewsbury SW** which held c.50 on 14th June, c.200 on 30th July and 50 on 3rd August (but see **Blackmoorfoot Res.** above).

The **Blackmoorfoot** record above on 23rd September was the final sighting in the Club area for the year.

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

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

The first records for the year concerned singles at **Meltham Mills** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (see below) on 11th April.

Over the next few days birds became more widespread and numbers built up quickly. After c.75 at **Elland GP** on 13th April there was an impressive c.800 on 25th April and c.700 on both 9th and 15th May. **Dewsbury SW** held, in April, c.120 on 16th, c.300 on 18th and c.200 on 25th. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** numbers built up from c.50 on 26th April to c.100 on 29th April and 4th May to c.400 by 10th May. Other three figure sightings in the first part of the summer were 150+ at **Meltham SW** on 4th May and c.150 at **Ladywood Lakes** on 11th May (see also **Blackmoorfoot** below).

The first records at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned singles on 11th/12th April, four the following day and 35+ (most of which flew W) on 15th. Birds were then seen on a daily basis until 1st October and two pairs bred. There were larger assemblages than usual in May, most likely brought about by the weather, which involved treble-figure counts on seven dates, with highs of 200 on 15th, 300 on 18th and 250 on 23rd. Numbers thereafter were rather subdued, rarely exceeding 30, but, in September, 50+ were present on 1st, 100+ on 17th and 50 on 18th and 22nd. The only other October records involved 17 which flew S on 3rd, 21 S on 5th and a single on 8th.

Breeding was only confirmed at **Colne Bridge SP** (1 pair); **Hepworth**; **Calder Farm**, **Ravensthorpe**; **Cheesegate Nab** (1 pair); **Pighill Wood**; **Blackmoorfoot** (2 pairs); **Brun Clough**; **Ladywood Lakes** (6 pairs) and Wards End Farm, **Marsden** (5 pairs).

On 14th May CDA received a 'phone call from a neighbour in **New Mill** reporting a strange bird lying on the ground. It turned out to be an exhausted bedraggled Swallow and during the conversation it picked itself up and flew away, seemingly totally recovered.

On a more negative note, HQ commented that "Swallows have been much scarcer around my house [New Mill] this year. I looked at a traditional site at Short Horns and found much Swallow activity around the farm buildings but did not see anything to indicate that the birds were nesting there". There was also an interesting comment from JMP concerning birds at **Slaithwaite** where he noted "It appeared that many birds did not try to breed until quite late because of cool, wet weather, so probably missed out on a first brood. Thereafter, they were back at nests and seemed to do well."

With the exception of **Blackmoorfoot** (see above) and a number of visible migration counts from **Harden** (see below) the only other three-figure gathering at the end of the summer was of c.100 at **Slaithwaite** on 4th September.

Compared to 2012, visible migration was rather subdued, and the only site where movements were in evidence was **Harden Quarries**, where the following were counted:

In September, 151 flew SW on 7th, 68 flew SW and 17 SE on 8th, 44 flew SW on 14th, 345 flew SW and 14 SE on 21st, 1578 flew SW on 22nd, 324 flew SW on 23rd and 29 flew SW on 28th. Numbers in October were much lower, but 41 flew SW on 5th, seven flew SW on 6th, eight flew SW on 19th and two flew SW on 20th.

These last mentioned birds were the final record for the year in the Club area.

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

Migrant breeder (3), 400-500 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Common passage visitor.

This species continues to decline alarmingly and the request made in last year's report can only be repeated. **Please submit all records of any breeding locations, preferably with numbers of pairs. In addition, any negative records from past breeding locations would be appreciated.**

The first records concerned three at **Elland GP** on 13th April and a single at **Harden** and two at **Skelmanthorpe** on 14th April.

Birds became more widely distributed by the third week in April but numbers remained low, rarely reaching double-figures, the following being the only large assemblages: 22 at **Dewsbury SW** on 16th, c.50 at **Elland GP** on 25th April, c.70 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 10th May, c.30 at **Castle Dam** on the same date, 50 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 11th May and 170 at **Dewsbury SW** on 14th June.

The first record at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved three on 15th April. Two or three were then seen on a further six April dates and thereafter birds were present on an almost daily basis until 21st September. Numbers rarely exceeded 25, but 50 were present on 11th May, 60+ on 4th August and 60 on 19th and 21st September. The only October record involved a single on 5th.

Breeding was reported from nine sites:

Back Horse PH, Dalton – three nests (5 in 2012).

Marsden (Dirker) – one pair.

Marsden (Mount Road) – a minimum of one pair.

Marsden (Waters Road) – at least one pair.

Marsden (Bank Top) – an unknown number of pairs bred.

Meltham (Hassocks Road) – at least one pair.

West Slaithwaite (Booth) – a minimum of one pair.

Thongsbridge (Stoney Bank Road) – two pairs.

Tunnel End – a single pair were probably double brooded.

At the former breeding colony on Blackmoorfoot Road, **Crosland Moor**, two birds overflying the colony on 19th April and six birds on 18th June were the only sightings (despite the observer cycling past there twice a day).

Despite being recorded from a number of widely distributed reservoirs and other water bodies during the autumn months, numbers remained low and, with the exception of Blackmoorfoot (see above) the largest assemblages involved 48 at **Meltham Mills** on 5th August, 50 at **Marsden** on 7th August and, in September, c.60 at **Slaithwaite** on 4th, c.50 at **Langsett Res.** on 11th, c.150 at **Meltham SW** on 14th and c.50 at **Cheesegate Nab** on 22nd.

At least 400 flew E in between 08.00hrs. and 10.00hrs. in the **Calder Valley** on 17th September. Interestingly, no Sand Martins and only a handful of Swallows were involved with this movement.

Visible migration watches at **Harden Quarries** revealed a total of 316 which flew SW on eight days between 7th September and 5th October, the maxima involved 118 on 21st September, 128 the following day and 33 on 5th October.

The final record of the year concerned three in **Marsden** on 11th October.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-30 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

With no reports this year from **Swinden**, the sad decline of this species continues. Almost all records refer to **Carlecotes**, the one remaining local site that it frequents. A singing male appeared here on 21st May (DHP), and four days later MC and NWM reported a second male. At **Ingbirchworth Res.** another was found displaying over the north bank, and then over gorse on Fox Hill on 25th May (DBu) and four days later another was seen at **Broadstone** (MCW). Back at **Carlecotes**, on 31st May and 2nd June, two were seen, one a singing male, the other, possibly nesting, was flushed from grass. A single, silent bird was here five days later. The only autumn birds, both at **Harden**, involved a single on 1st September and two which flew SW on 8th (NWM).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

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

As last year, over 100 records were received from numerous venues. Except for those at **Blackmoorfoot**, winter sightings were confined to a single bird at **Wholestone Moor** at the end of February, and birds at sewage works at **Dewsbury**, with a maximum of nine on 6th January, **Meltham**, with c.60 on 21st January and **Horbury**, with 14 on 24th January. Numbers during the first winter period at **Blackmoorfoot** reached c.30 on 9th February, after which up to 20 were then resident until 21st March, with 50 being present on 19th and 40 the following day. Birds then vacated the area due to deep lying snow, but 20 had returned by 30th March. At least 60 flew N on 3rd April.

April saw an influx at many sites, and although one must assume breeding was widespread, the only formal confirmation came from **Marsden, Blackmoorfoot and Broadstone**.

In autumn **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had between 50+ and 60+ in August and early September. Birds remained throughout November/December and, although generally in low single-figures, 16 were present on 30th November and 14 on 2nd December.

Visual migration counts at **Harden Quarries** yielded a succession of high figures (all of which flew SW unless otherwise stated), beginning with 438 on 7th September, then 299 on 8th (plus 44 SE), 193 on 14th, 1109 on 21st (plus 21 SE), 306 on 22nd, 1341 on 23rd, 381 on 5th October, 1325 on 6th, 114 on 19th, and 59 on 20th.

Impressive numbers also migrated over Pule Hill, **Marsden** where, between 5th September and 28th November, 3440 flew SW or S on 19 dates, with a maxima of 802 on 18th September, 741 on 5th October and 713 four days later.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

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

Two at **Castle Dam** on 21st and up to three between 23rd and 26th at **Dewsbury SW**, formed the April vanguard, followed by May arrivals of similar numbers at several **Meltham** sites and at **Ingbirchworth/Scout Dike Res.** After a June hiatus, an adult male was found on the dam at **Ringstone Edge Res.** on 7th July with two on 17th and 19th and a single on 23rd and 29th/30th. There was then another lull until August 8th which brought exciting news from **Dewsbury SW** of four juveniles with two adults. There were also several records of up to three at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** between 22nd August and 3rd September. Another exciting find featured seven near **Broadstone Res.** on 5th September with five in a field at nearby **Whitley Common** two days later in the company of c.35 Pied Wagtails and a single at **Royd Moor** wind farm on 13th. Meanwhile, back on 5th September, two other migrants emerged from the mist to land briefly on the wall of **Redbrook Res.** At **Blackmoorfoot** singles were present in the fields to the west of the reservoir on 1st and 9th September and a single on the west bank on 19th September was the year's last local record.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

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

A substantial increase of over 30 records from over 40 sites took the total of records well beyond 100, with sightings evenly scattered throughout the year. Once again breeding was confirmed from **Marsden** centre, with birds present in at least six sites. Observers confirmed breeding at **Colne Bridge** and Anchor Pit lock in **Brighouse**, while others offered evidence such as adults in suitable habitat, carrying food or faecal sacs, or the presence of recently fledged young. In the **Little Don Valley** at least five pairs were on territory along the lower river, three of which were feeding fledged young.

One interesting record from the first winter period involved no fewer than seven birds at **Dewsbury SW** on 7th February. This was easily the year's largest gathering apart from similar numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** (see below), and the vast majority of records outside the breeding season were of just one or two birds. Most sightings were, predictably, near water, in both rural and urban surroundings, but an exception included one tucking into a discarded Cornish pasty in **Huddersfield** town centre on a very cold late March day.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** singles were recorded on no more than two days per month between January and April and, although three were present on 7th May, there were only singles on a further day in May and four days in June. Sightings began to increase between July and October, but birds were sporadic in appearance and generally involved no more than two birds, the only exceptions being, in September, four on 7th/8th, seven on 9th, four on 10th, ten (4 present + 6 flew W) on 14th and six on 17th and three on 3rd October and 2nd November. Thereafter one or two were seen on a further of 12 days in November and three days in December.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

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

Almost 150 records were received, a large increase compared with last year's 87. Sightings were evenly distributed across the seasons, including visual migration counts in autumn.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** the only records during the first winter period involved singles on 11th/12th January and 16th February, two on 27th February and three on 14th March. Two pairs then took up residence and bred. Small numbers then remained for the rest of the year, with a maximum of 17 in mid-August, and reaching 30+ on 17th September.

As always, sewage works were the place to see really large gatherings. At **Dewsbury SW** no fewer than 120 were counted on 16th March, and c.150 were present on 11th May, with several other days yielding up to c.80 birds. The second winter period yielded the year's highest total here, with 178 on 23rd December, while the highest count at **Horbury SW** was 74 on the sprinklers on 1st April. The only count from **Meltham SW** produced a more modest tally of 15 birds on 23rd January. Back at **Dewsbury SW** one observer counted 39 adults and 28 juveniles on 8th August.

At least two pairs nesting in walls at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** raised young, while other pairs were successful at **Almondbury**, **Harden**, **Blackmoorfoot** (2), and **Broadstone Res.** Juveniles were seen at **Brun Clough**, **Ingbirchworth**, **Deer Hill**, and in the **Marsden** area, where birds were present at 14 sites during the breeding season.

Away from the sewage works, the largest assemblages in autumn involved 45 in fields at **Whitley Edge** together with four *flava* wagtails on 27th August, 40 at **Langsett Res.** on 7th and 30 on 17th October, and 14 on new plough at **Kirkburton** on 8th October.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 88 flew SW or S on 14 dates between 5th September and 13th November, with a maximum of 24 on 5th October.

Harden Quarries – 22 flew SW and four SE on 22nd September, 22 flew SW on 5th October, and 42 flew SW on 20th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Rare to scarce passage visitor.

There were nine records, all of singles, and all between 5th and 27th April with the exception of a single on 27th September:

Scout Dike Res – 5th April (MCW).

Dewsbury SW – 6th (JH), 23rd (JH, JRS) and 26th April (JRS).

Ingbirchworth Res – 20th (NWM) and 27th April (MC, JMc, NWM).

Castle Dam – 21st April (MCW).

Horbury SW – 27th April (JRS).

Langsett Res – 27th September (MCW).

(BOHEMIAN) **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare to uncommon irruptive winter visitor.

The many birds that arrived in the last few months of 2012 stayed around and thus gave everyone a chance to enjoy their presence (and for year-listers to add them to their 2013 records!), with some lingering almost until the end of April. Nearly 50 records were submitted, in total contrast with the second winter period, when none were seen.

The New Year **Huddersfield** town centre flock had been reported as holding c.300 birds, but the highest tally submitted was c.100 at the favourite **Folly Hall** venue on 2nd January, and in fact there were no other town centre sightings after 3rd January. A flock of 69 were on the E side of **Dove Stone Res.** on 23rd February. All the remaining records came from venues scattered across the Club area, in numbers ranging from one to c.60. Several observers were no doubt thrilled to find them in their garden, and indeed up to 16 came to feeders in **Dewsbury** in early March. At **Blackmoorfoot** three were in the Will's O' Nat's car park on 19th January and a flock of 44 flew E over the reservoir on 4th March. These are the seventh and eighth records for the reservoir, the first being in November 2004. A flock in **Marsh** in mid-April reached over 50 by 19th, and then another, 16-strong, at **Crosland Hill** on 26th April was the final record, which is just three days earlier than the latest recorded departure date for this species in 1991.

(WHITE-THROATED) **DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*
Resident breeder (2), 40-60 pairs.

70 reports were received, almost all featuring one or two birds. Several stretches of the **River Colne**, some in relatively urban settings not far from **Huddersfield** town centre, stand out as well watched sources for this species. Elsewhere, observers found pairs in suitable nesting habitat, notably in the well-known **Honley/Magdale/Brockholes** stretch of the River Holme. Pairs were also present in the **Digley/Bilberry** area, and at **Blakeley Res.**, while the **Marsden** recorder reported seven sites where birds were present during the breeding season. However, breeding was formally confirmed at just one venue in the **Little Don Valley**. At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** there were sporadic sightings of singles, and other venues where birds were seen on more than one occasion included **Elland GP, Linthwaite, Windy Bank Res., Holmfirth** centre, the **Washpit** valley, **Scammonden, Wessenden, Riding Wood Res., and Milnsbridge**. A Christmas Day family walk to the Red Lion in **Jackson Bridge** was enhanced by a Dipper posing in the nearby river.

(WINTER) **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Resident breeder (5), 6,000-12,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

The 127 records received were evenly distributed across the four seasons as well as geographically, and once again several members contributed sets of the year's garden records.

Several pairs bred at **Colne Bridge SP**, where two broods were seen, and other confirmed breeding venues were at **Butterley Lane, New Mill, Blackmoorfoot Res., Scout Dike Res, the Little Don Valley, Colne Road, Huddersfield, and Brockholes**, where five juveniles were with an adult on 6th June. Clearly the widespread status of this species suggests that these reports represent a tiny fraction of breeding activity in our area.

Counts at **Langsett** on 16th May and in **Bretton Park** on June 26th yielded an estimated nine birds, other sites had up to six present, and many records referred to single birds seen or heard in a wide range of habitats.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

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

Over 100 records of this species included just three instances of confirmed breeding, at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** (two pairs), in a garden at **Butterley Lane**, **New Mill**, and **Scout Dike Res**: reproductive activity is obviously far more widespread in reality! Several observers had up to five birds in their gardens at various times, and many reported a daily presence throughout the year.

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

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

Once again many reports came in for this well-watched species, ranging from meticulous monthly garden records to counts covering a wider area such as the remarkable tally of 82 birds found at Bretton Park on 25th September.

Although Robins are so widespread in a variety of habitats across the Club area only a handful of observers specifically confirmed breeding. Thus, several pairs bred at **Colne Bridge SP** and **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, a pair bred at **Scout Dike Res.**, and others were successful in gardens at **New Mill**, and **Rastrick**, where two eggs were predated. A patch outing at **Horbury Strands** on 14th April found a nest with young, and juveniles were present in gardens at **Lockwood**, **Almondbury**, and **Meltham** in June, near **Hepworth** in July and August, and in **Clayton West**. Some observers described birds carrying food, or on territory, or nest-building, or simply referred to singing males.

Nine were present at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** in the first three months of the year, and 12 were seen at **Elland GP** on 23rd January, while monthly counts in the **Grimescar Valley** produced up to six birds. Another six were holding territory in **Cliff Wood**, **Langsett** on 17th April, with similar numbers in **Deffer Wood** and **Clayton West** a few days later. Two pairs were holding territory in **Thornhill Rectory Park** on 17th June, others at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th May.

A late August count at **Ingbirchworth Res.** yielded ten birds. The observer at **Harden Quarries** was intrigued to see one perched on a wall on the edge of the moor in late September. As mentioned above, there was an amazing count of 82 birds in **Bretton Park** on 25th September.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Rare visitor.

A single male on a barn roof at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** on 22nd September was the only confirmed record (DWS).

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

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

The total of 24 records from ten venues is roughly on a par with last year's figures, although, sadly, no one was able to confirm breeding.

A singing male at **Langsett Banks** on 15th April was a fortnight ahead of its fellows, three of whom arrived on 27th April; a singing male at **Harden Moss**, a female in the **Little Don Valley**, and, much to the observer's delight, a first in a garden in **Hepworth** (Larks House) in the shape of a female which posed obligingly on a garden seat for several visitors and neighbours, and remained for several days without, alas, attracting the attention of a mate, but provoking much hostility from a male Chaffinch.

Another fortnight elapsed before the appearance of a male at **Gunthwaite Dam** on 10th May, and two weeks later two males were present at **Langsett**. Three further one-day June occurrences came from the **Wessenden Valley** on 3rd, a single male in cover at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th, and a male at rest on a house roof at **Wilshaw** on 26th, followed by another one-off sighting, a female on the catchment of **Brow Grains** on 9th July. A male near **Helme** on 16th July and a female on 8th August were the first of a string of records which featured one or two on an almost daily basis between 14th and 28th August.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** a female was near the inflow from 15th to 18th August and another female was there on 5th September. Meanwhile, at **Harden**, a single was present on 19th August, and the last record of the year involved a female-type in the **Wessenden Valley** on 9th September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Migrant breeder (2), about 50 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas).

More birds at more venues than last year, perhaps a sign of an upturn in the fortunes of this attractive chat. Birds at the favoured **Brow Grains** site succeeded in raising four young near the pump house, four singing males having arrived here on 28th April, and further records over the summer included a male carrying food or a faecal sac on 25th June, and the same observer found two here on 9th July.

The first migrants arrived in late April, whereas none appeared before May last year. **Deer Hill Res.** welcomed a male on 25th April, with another male showing up at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** the following day. Single males were seen at **Whitley Common** and **Whitley Airfield** on 27th April, but there were no further sightings until a male and female were found at **Deanhead Res.**, where both stayed from 14th May until 25th, with one further record of the male on 27th. Meanwhile **Deer Hill** offered further views of this species, with two on 1st June, two males and a female on the east side of the reservoir the next day, a male on the wall below the dam on 6th July, and finally a female on 4th August.

Elsewhere, the **Winscar** area yielded three records, a singing male on 10th June, followed by a pair in suitable nesting habitat on 26th, and a single on 8th July. **Broadstone** was a source of two records, both males, firstly on 17th May on heathland, and then on 8th June. One observer expressed concern at the absence of birds in the usual sites near the **Blakeley** and **Wessenden** reservoirs, but did at least find a male at **Warcock** on 17th July. Two, possibly three, were in bracken at **Crowden** on 6th July, two were perched on barbed wire by Dick Edge Lane on **Cheesgate Nab** on 9th July, and then on 28th and 29th August two were feasting on a variety of flies in the very same spot. Another was seen at **Dunford Bridge** for a few days in early July. Birds were present on six autumn dates at **Blackmoorfoot**, all in the fields to the west of the reservoir: in August a single on 20th, two on 26th and a single from 28th to 30th and a single on 5th September. Another single bird was in Red Lane, **Meltham** on 15th September.

Last but not least, the **Marsden** area yielded several records: a pair with possibly a second male at **Back Clough** on 20th June, and another offering superb views at **Far Owlers** from 16th to 25th June, singing males were at **Gilberts** on 15th July, and then the last of the year at **Wards End Farm** where six were counted on 4th September, followed by two on 10th and an a single male on 24th.

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

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

As with Whinchat, this year's picture looks rosier, with 58 records submitted, although only one observer, at **Deanhead Res**, was able to confirm breeding. Birds were present all year, with particularly frequent sightings in the last three months.

Wards End Farm at **Marsden** was a much favoured venue, with up to three reported almost monthly, and three juveniles seen with adult on 25th September, and no fewer than five were present on 25th November. Singles were seen on five dates at **Blackmoorfoot**: a female was present on Meltham Cop on 11th and 15th January, a female was on the S embankment on 13th September and a female was on Meltham Cop on 4th/5th October. Other venues in the Meltham area hosted birds at various times including **Red Lane**, between late March and 26th May, and the sewage works, where two females lingered during snowy weather in January. Two presumed pairs were present at **Dove Stone** on 4th April but they did not remain to breed. Three juveniles were seen in bracken at **Magdalen Clough** on 9th August and another trio were seen on the moors above **Digley** on 14th September. Another juvenile, along with two males and a female were seen at **Butterley Res**. on 29th September, with a second sighting here of a male and female on 26th October. Two other **Marsden** sites also hosted singles in October, and one or two were found at various times at **Linthwaite**, **Ladywood Lakes**, **Wholestone Moor**, **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Royd Edge Clough**, **Blakeley Res.**, **Wessenden**, **Scammonden Water**, and **Harden Moss**.

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

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

This conspicuous and eagerly awaited spring arrival was the subject of 169 records, a big increase relative to 2012, with the first sightings at **Bradshaw** (1) on 6th April and **Digley** ('quite a few') the following day, a week before the next encounters at five other venues. By 15th April, when a fall brought 19 birds to a field on **Tinker Hill**, (just north of **Cheesegate Nab**), fresh arrivals were being reported daily from a wide range of sites. Double-figure counts came from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** which held 24 on 19th April, **Scout Dike Res.** which hosted 12 the following day, Wards End Farm, **Marsden** held 12 on 27th, and 22 were in the **Ingbirchworth** area the following day. A total of 15 landed at **Whitley Airfield** on 28th, and the last day of April brought two of the largest spring gatherings, with at least 30 scattered about fields at **Harden Moss**, and no fewer than 45 at **Blackmoorfoot**, where high numbers in the first six days of May included the remarkable figure of 54 on 2nd. A group of ten birds were on **Cartworth Moor** on 5th.

Some late April/May records refer to apparent pairs in suitable habitat, but breeding was only confirmed at **Brun Clough Res.**, where a male was feeding three young by mid June. Two juveniles at **Redbrook Res.** on 21st and 26th July were thought to have bred nearby, and three others were at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** on 20th August.

Sightings of up to three birds continued at various venues throughout September, with autumn numbers at **Blackmoorfoot** being well below those for spring. The only double-figure count at this time involved ten at **Brun Clough Res.** on 20th August. The only October records relate to singles at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th and 9th and **Ringstone Edge** on 8th.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce spring passage visitor.

Most of the 22 in the **Ingbirchworth** area on 28th April looked like “Greenlanders” (MC). A single at **Ingbirchworth Res.** and three on **Whitley Edge** on 29th April were considered to show characteristics of this race (MCW) and at least one of the ten birds at **Cartworth Moor** on 5th May showed features of this race (DBu, AK).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Migrant breeder, decreased to (1), 5-20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Scarce passage visitor. Red listed.

Of the 25 records submitted all but five were in April, with just two in October.

A lone female in a field near **Digley Res.** on 10th April was the first spring sighting (HQ), with a five day gap before a male was found on **Wholestone Moor**. The four records at **Blackmoorfoot**, all in April, involved birds on **Meltham Cop**: a single male on 18th, three males and a female on 19th, three males on 20th and a male on 24th. The regular **Cheesegate Nab** field once again welcomed birds on passage, with the first sighting on 20th April, when several observers counted either five or six, this was followed by daily records until 27th when there were two males and a female present. A male appeared at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 16th April, to be joined by a female on 19th, and the male was last seen on 5th May.

Wards End Farm, **Marsden** hosted a solitary female on 21st April, and six days later a singing male was present. A pair was reported to be in suitable nesting habitat near **Langsett** on 1st May, but the only other sightings during this month relate to **Dove Stone Res.** where a female was present on 6th and a singing male on 11th.

There were only two autumn records, both from Pule Hill, **Marsden**: a male flew SW with Mistle Thrushes on 6th October and two males and a female/juvenile flew SW with Redwings on 24th October (JMP, DSh).

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

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

Almost two hundred reports, including regular garden and local patch counts, reflect the continuing widespread and common status of this thrush. As many as 35 were counted in one **Holmfirth** garden in January, and another impressive gathering was of at least 25 feeding on windfall apples at **Colne Bridge SP** in November, four or five pairs having bred there. **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** hosted 21 on 14th March and **Deffer Wood** held 20 in May. No other counts exceeded 11, apart from two January records of 12 and 13 in an **Almondsbury** garden.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Has bred. Red listed.

Substantial numbers, including some three-figure counts, were present during both winter periods, and almost 100 records were submitted. Scrutiny of this year's 93 records reveals that the second winter period was more productive in terms of flock sizes.

A flock of c.500 in the **Windmill Lane/Broadstone** area on 13th January constituted by far the largest gathering early in the year, and the only other three-figure counts in the first three months included 150 near **Digley** on 9th January, a January maximum of roughly 100 at Wards End Farm, **Marsden**, and 150 at **Harden Moss** on 2nd March. April movements brought flocks of c.100 birds to **Windmill Lane** on 7th, **Wilshaw** on 9th, and **Ingbirchworth** on 12th, followed by c.240 nearby on 15th. As elsewhere, **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had far fewer records during the first winter than normal, with 89 on 3rd March being the highest tally. A solitary bird at **Langsett** and a group of 20-30 among Redwings on berried bushes at **Lockwood** on 1st May were the last to be seen until mid-October.

The first autumn arrivals were c.100 flying over **Netherthong** on 12th October, and other large flocks this month included 120 at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 19th, and 158 on 31st, 130 heading S/SW over the **Isle of Skye** on 24th, and 100 at **Broadstone** on 31st.

November began with 200 together with Redwings at **Windy Bank Wood**, rising to 350 on 8th, followed by 200 on 15th/16th. A flock of 100 passed over **Fixby** on 6th, while 200 passed over at **Thick Hollins** on 11th. Although birds were only recorded on 24 dates in November/December at **Blackmoorfoot** there were some impressive numbers including 650 heading S on 2nd, 200 present on 5th, 380 W on 9th, 160 present on 10th, 280 W on 12th and 310 N on 15th and, in December, 200 S on 15th and 138 N on 17th. Elsewhere, 110 flew over **Winscar** on 16th November, and c.500 were present at **Hingcliff Common** on 3rd December.

Many others contributed records from gardens and their local area for both periods, sometimes of just a few birds, often of mixed groups of Fieldfare and Redwing.

As well as those outlined above for Blackmoorfoot, visible migration was noted as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 6318 flew SW or S on nine days between 17th October and 13th November, with a maxima of, in October, 1191 on 20th, 1920 on 30th and 1119 on 31st.

Harden Quarries – 2428 flew SW on 19th October with 459 doing likewise the following day.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

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

Just over one hundred records were received (56 in 2012) which were evenly spread across the year. As always, these reflected regular scrutiny of gardens and local areas. Breeding was only confirmed at **Elland GP**, **Langsett Banks**, and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**, where up to three pairs bred in the immediate vicinity: this is obviously a small proportion of actual breeding success across our area. However, a single at **Blackmoorfoot** on 4th January was the only record from that locality, which normally has a couple of breeding pairs, and the **Crimble Clough** observer also commented on a disappointing year for a usually reliable garden presence. In the **Marsden** area, birds sang from 16 sites, which probably represented around ten territories, equal to last year, but fewer than the 16 for the previous six years.

Many records during the first winter period were of single birds, often singing males. However, six were present at **Dewsbury SW** on 21st January, and a similar number were visiting garden feeders in **Holmfirth** on 24th March. Three singing males were at **Clayton West** on 22nd April, and at **Scammonden Water** on 30th. In May, five were at **Langsett** on 8th and 16th, two singing at dusk on a hillside near **Brockholes** on 22nd compensated the observer for the absence of hoped-for Woodcock, and four were at **Horbury** on 29th. Three were still singing at **Clayton West** on 11th June, and one at **Elland GP** on 10th July was the last until 11th December, when one burst into song at **Colne Bridge SP**. A juvenile appeared briefly at **Meal Hill** on 28th August, and all the year's remaining records were of single birds except for two at two **Meltham** sites. One further noteworthy sighting concerned a single in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 24th September, it was assumed to be on migration as this species is rarely seen here.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous passage and winter visitor. Red listed.

Few of the year's 87 records exceeded three figures, with a flock of c.400 in the **Windmill Lane/Broadstone** area on 13th January being far bigger than any other in the first winter period, and the only other three-figure count was a restless gathering of c.150 birds flying to and fro between fields and trees near **Meal Hill** on several days in early April. A variety of venues across the area held up to 50 birds, including 20 on the embankment by **Lockwood** station on 5th February, and several joined Song Thrushes, Blackbirds and Lapwings on the filter beds at **Meltham SW** on 22nd March after a heavy snowfall. One **Meltham** observer was disappointed to have just one in his garden on 21st January, being accustomed to seeing large mixed gatherings. **Blackmoorfoot Res.** had up to 37 (11th January), but usually fewer than 30, on 18 days between 2nd January and the last, a single, on 9th April. Three reports of singing males came from **Clayton West** in February and early March. The last spring record was of a 'small number' with Fieldfares at **Scout Dike Res.** on 17th April.

Low cloud hid early morning migrants passing over **Meal Hill** on 1st and 2nd October, and the first visual records, all on 5th October, featured 82 heading W at **Blackmoorfoot**, 83 SW over Pule Hill, **Marsden** and an amazing 1724 SW at **Harden Quarries** (see below for visible migration figures). Thereafter, almost daily records of up to 50 birds, some in mixed flocks, came from numerous venues across the Club area for most of October. A total of 130 flew S over **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** in one hour on 16th, c.100 headed W over **Bretton Park** on 26th, and November began with 200 in a mixed flock at **Windy Bank Wood**, followed a week later by a 350-strong flock. Other records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** involved birds on a further 15 dates in October, 14 in November and 14 in December, but numbers involved were usually in single figures, only occasionally were up to 50 present, the exceptions being, in October, 200 on 13th, 90 on 26th and 100 W on 29th.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Pule Hill Marsden – a total of 3920 flew SW or S on nine dates between 5th October to 13th November, with a maximum of 2142 on 24th October and 781 on 31st October.

Harden Quarries – 1724 flew SW on 5th October, 117 did likewise on 19th October and 33 flew SW the following day.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident breeder (3), 300-400 pairs.

There were slightly fewer records than last year, with even seasonal distribution. Birds in varying numbers were present at a wide range of sites, although in relatively few gardens.

The only noteworthy gatherings in the first winter period included 15 and 12 at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 10th and 31st January. As is often the case, the **Cheesegate Nab** Ring Ouzels had a single as company for several days in April.

Four pairs bred on **Cartworth Moor** and breeding was also confirmed at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR, Horbury, Crossley's Plantation, Ossett, Wards End Farm, Marsden, and Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where two pairs raised young. In **Marsden** males sang from 12 sites but there were just two certain territories. This is in sharp contrast to the average of nine pairs for the previous five years, the decline being attributed to poor early spring weather. Clearly, in reality, breeding success was much more widespread!

After the breeding season c.20 were present at **Deer Hill Res.** on 10th August, 23 were at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 24th September, and 12, all in October, were present at **Dewsbury SW, Healey Mills/Kerry's NR and Ossett.**

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Pule Hill Marsden – a total of 57 flew SW on 13 dates between 18th September and 13th November, with a maximum of 14 on 5th October.

Harden Quarries – in contrast to Pule Hill, only 11 flew SW: eight on 22nd September and three the following day.

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

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

There were eight records of nine reeling males, the same as 2012.

The first, both singles, were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR and Horbury SW** on 5th May. The only other May records involved singles at **Deanhead Res.** on 14th/15th and Intake Head Farm, **Marsden** on 18th.

There were then no records until 6th July when a single was heard at dusk on **Marsden Moor** and two were reeling at Pule Hill, **Marsden** after 21.45hrs. On the same day, and the one following, a single was reeling at **Shooters Nab**. The final record of the year concerned a reeling individual behind the **Ford Inn** at **Holmfirth** on 30th July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Recorded from seven locations (6 in 2012), with breeding occurring at two of these. Birds were reported between 25th April and 4th September.

The following records were of singles unless shown otherwise:

Elland GP – a singing male on 25th April and 8th May and a single on 30th July.

Dewsbury SW – two singing males on 1st May, but three pairs eventually took up territories and bred. The last records concerned three on 30th July, eight on 3rd August, two on 26th August and a single on 1st and 4th September.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – two singing males on 11th May and three singing males on 19th May.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – 16th May and 26th August.

Horbury SW – at least one pair were feeding young in the nest by mid June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a singing male was along the bottom side of Orange Wood on 26th June.

Colne Bridge SP – three singing males on 2nd July.

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

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

Recorded from six sites (2 more than the previous three years), with confirmed breeding occurring at three of these. Birds were recorded between 25th April and 4th September.

Colne Bridge SP – a single male on 25th April had increased to two singing males by 28th April and three singing males by 1st May. Two pairs were feeding fledged young by 21st June and the last record involved two on 1st September.

Dewsbury SW – the first record involved three singing males on 1st May. Eventually five pairs held territories and obviously had a good season as up to nine were present in late July/August. The last record involved a single on 4th September.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – as in 2012, a pair bred.

Bretton Park – a single was in the *Phragmites* bed in the NE corner of the Lower Lake on 26th June.

Elland GP – two singing males and one bird visiting a probable nest on 10th July.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Records were from under 50 sites. Overwintering birds were present during both winter periods.

Two over-wintering males were recorded during the first winter period: one in a **Cowcliffe** garden, first recorded on 4th December 2012, remained until 11th April and a single was present in **Thornhill** on 7th January.

The first singing male was recorded at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 14th March, but it was not until mid April that birds became more widespread. During this arrival period birds were seen in gardens at **Netherthong**, **Crimble Clough**, **Lockwood** and **Silkstone**. Proof of breeding came from a number of widely scattered localities, including **Colne Bridge SP**, **Blackmoorfoot** (see below) and **Marsden**. In this latter mentioned locality the first record (3 singing males) was not until 2nd May and was said to be very late for the area, but by early June there were 14 singing males. This figure is close to the ten year average of 15 but less than the 20 recorded during 2012.

The first for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned a singing male from 3rd to 17th April. Thereafter, two singing males took up territories, with three singing males from 1st June, two of which secured mates and fledging young in Orange Wood. These birds had departed the area by

19th July and the only records thereafter involved singles (at least 2 birds) on 18th August, 10th/11th September and 19th October and two males on 24th October.

During the summer maximum numbers of singing males were as follows:

Elland GP – eight on 25th April.

Scout Dike – six on territory on 16th May.

Digley – six on 24th June.

Bretton Park – six on 24th June.

Brook House Plantation, Langsett – four on 5th July.

There were only two further August records: singles at **Windy Bank Wood** (a female-type) on 6th and **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** (a singing male) on 8th. With the exception of those outlined above from Blackmoorfoot, records thereafter were minimal, and consisted of the following: a male at **Gunthwaite** on 9th September, one at **Bretton Park** on 25th September, a single at **Netherwood** on 13th October and three singing males in **Deffer Wood** on 30th October.

In December a **Taylor Hill** garden held a male on 9th, a female on 10th/11th and what was presumably the same male on 31st.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Migrant breeder (2), near 100 pairs.

With reports from just 17 sites, the fall noted last year continues.

The first records involved singles at **Marsden** on 2nd May and **Colne Bridge SP** the following day. **Colne Bridge SP** then hosted a sing male throughout the summer which was last heard on 13th July, indicating probable breeding. Two pairs and a single male were present at **Scout Dike Res.** from 17th May into June (with a single on 22nd June), but the only record of confirmed breeding was from near the National Coal Mining Museum at **Overton**.

Other records were as follows:

Silkstone Common – a singling male on 7th May.

Elland GP – a singing male on 8th May.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a singing male on 11th and 19th May.

Ingbirchworth Res – singing males present on 11th and 14th May, 17th June and two singing males on 10th July indicate probable breeding.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – one on 12th May.

Horbury SW – a singing male on 19th May.

Linthwaite – a single on 22nd May.

Royd Moor Res – a singing male on 26th May.

High Hoyland – a singing male on 31st May.

Brook House Lane Plantation, Langsett – two singing males on 5th June.

Netherwood – a singing male on 4th and 19th June.

Cartworth Moor – a singing male on 10th June was not heard on visits thereafter.

Pighill Wood – a single on 24th June.

The last record of the year concerned the individual noted above at **Colne Bridge SP** on 13th July.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Migrant breeder (1), 5-20 pairs.

Records were received from nine sites (13 in 2012) reflecting the declining population of this species over the last few years. Records spanned the period 6th May to 6th July, but only one pair was confirmed breeding.

Colne Bridge SP – singles on 6th May, 7th June (a singing male) and 27th June were considered by the observer to be passage birds.

Bradley Park Golf Club – one on 9th May.

Ladywood Lakes – a singing male on 11th May.

Cliff Wood, Langsett – two on 12th May.

Scout Dike Res – two on 16th May.

Denby Delf – two on 1st June.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – up to four were present throughout June but there was no evidence of breeding.

Ingbirchworth Res – a single on 17th June.

Horbury SW – the only proof of breeding in the Club area involved a bird collecting food on 6th July. This record shows how elusive this species can be – the pair must have been in residence for at least a month, but were only seen on this one occasion.

(COMMON) **WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

Migrant breeder (2-3), 75-150 pairs.

Records were received from 37 sites, a considerable decline from the 51 sites last year.

The first records involved singles at **Clayton West** on 15th April and **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 20th, two at **Dewsbury SW** and a singing male at **Horbury SW** on 23rd April. By the end of the month one or two birds had been recorded from a further nine localities.

The majority of records were from May to July and, generally, of one or two birds. Eight males were singing at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 11th May. A single at **Marsden** on 16th May had increased to three territorial males a few days later, the highest number recorded in the area for 14 years. Six were at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th May and three were at **Horbury** on 29th May – one showing agitated behaviour and presumably breeding. Three were at **Broadstone Res.** and also at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th June and up to six were seen regularly at **Horbury SW** until 6th July.

A party of four, which included two fledglings, were at **Colne Bridge SP** on 5th July. Two pairs bred at **Thornhill Millbank**, two pairs raised young at **Rectory Park, Dewsbury** and at least one pair bred at **Dewsbury SW** as up to ten adults and five newly fledged young were present in late July. There were breeding records from a further eight widely scattered localities including five pairs at **Horbury Junction**.

Blackmoorfoot Res. had singles on three April dates: 20th, 25th and 30th. It was not until 7th May that males (2) took up territories, and both eventually attracted females and bred, with one pair raising two broods. Although the family parties remained until late July, the only records thereafter were in August and involved singles on 1st and 17th, two on 20th and singles on 23rd and 26th.

Records after the breeding season were sparse, but four or five juveniles were noted along **Birds Nest Lane** on 10th August.

Birds were recorded from five localities in September: a single was at **Colne Bridge SP** on 1st, four were at **Dewsbury SW** on 1st and 9th, singles were at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 4th and **Clayton West** on 5th and 22nd and one (possibly two) were at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 24th. The last record of the year concerned a single at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 3rd October.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Migrant breeder, increased to (3), 100-200 pairs. Passage visitor and scarce winter visitor.

About seven years ago the Club stopped recording early and late dates for this species as they were increasingly being recorded in the winter months. The British Trust for Ornithology's Bird Atlas 2007-2011 shows that their winter distribution has increased by 85% since 1981-1984. Ringing evidence indicated that these birds do not belong to the British breeding population and the origin of these birds is unknown. Although pale individuals show characteristics of the race *tristis*, in most cases their racial distinction remains to be proven.

Records were received from 69 sites, an increase on 2012 (nearly 60) and a return to the 2010 figure.

A single at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 1st January was an unusual winter record for the locality. A single at **Horbury SW** on 1st January had increased to two the following day and at least three were present on 5th. Between 18th January and 14th March, up to five were regularly seen in the **Horbury SW/Healey Mills** area. A single on 1st, 5th and 27th January and 2nd February was considered to show characteristics of the Siberian race *P. c. tristis* (DHP, JRS *et al.*), as was a single at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 24th January (DT).

The first summer visitor was probably a singing male at **Bretton Park** on 20th March, but it was mid April before the species became widely distributed. At this time the highest concentrations involved five at **Horbury SW** on 1st and 5th April, seven at both **Horbury Wyke** and **Elland GP** on 16th and 12 at the latter site on 19th. Observers at **Lindley** and **Marsden** noted arrivals to be much later than usual.

The first true migrants for the year at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned two singing males from 13th to 16th April. Thereafter a single male held a territory and had attracted a female by 22nd April. By early June this pair had hatched their eggs but the young died when only three or four days old. The male continued to sing throughout the rest of June and July, but no further nesting attempt transpired. There was a good run of records in autumn, with up to four (usually 1 or 2) being seen on 42 days between 13th August and 15th October.

Birds were still widely distributed in September, but numbers were generally low, the only counts in excess of four include five at **Dewsbury SW** on 1st, five at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 4th and 11th, six at **Bretton Park** on 25th/26th and eight at **Colne Bridge SP** on 28th. A single in the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 24th September was a first for the observer at this locality.

There were six October records of one or two birds, the last being singles at **Dewsbury SW** and **Healey Mills/Kerry Foods NR** on 8th. The only records thereafter involved a single at **Horbury SW** on 23rd November, two at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 1st and 11th December, a single at

Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th December and a single at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 26th December which was considered to be showing characteristics of the Siberian race *P. c. tristis* (DHP, DT).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Migrant breeder (4), 1,000-2,500 pairs. The commonest warbler. Common passage visitor.

Records were received from 58 sites, rather confirming that the 43 sites in 2012 was a result of reduced recorder activity.

The first record involved a singing male at **Colne Bridge SP** on 6th April where at least two pairs bred and fledged young. Although singles were in **Windy Bank Wood** on 11th and **Elland GP** on 13th, it was not until 15th April that birds became more widespread. Numbers thereafter built up rapidly and the following indicate the largest numbers reported: in April, seven singing males were at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 15th, **Elland GP** held six on 16th, 14 on 19th and 17 on 25th, at least 31 singing males were at **Scout Dike Res.** on 20th.

The first arrivals at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** concerned two singing males from 15th to 19th April. Six males then took up territories and remained throughout the summer months. Up to six, with 10+ on 12th and 17th August, were then present on a daily basis until 13th September (a single).

The highest numbers reported in May concerned c.34 singing males at **Scout Dike Res.** on 16th, 15 territory holding males in the **Wessenden Valley** by 25th, at least 21 singing males at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th and 29 singing males between **Hey Green** and **Netherwood** by the month end (this is a marked decrease on the average of 39 over the previous ten years). Confirmed breeding was reported from just five sites, clearly showing that breeding is very under recorded.

Low single figures occurred at a number of widely distributed localities throughout August but, with the exception of those noted at Blackmoorfoot above, the only September records involved singles in the **Redbrook** area on 5th, **Sparth Res.** on 18th and in a **Marsh** garden on 21st and two at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, also on 21st.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs. Common passage and winter visitor.

Records were received from 29 sites, reflecting the continued decrease in the species (36 sites in 2012 and 47 in 2011). This reduction may simply reflect the fact that few migrants reached our shores during autumn.

There were records in every month except August and September but most of these were in the first winter period, and no breeding records were forthcoming.

A single was regularly seen in a **Lockwood** garden until late April. Other garden records concerned singles in **Meltham** on 23rd January, **Holmfirth** in late January, **Netherthong** on 26th February and **Cowcliffe** on 3rd April.

What was considered to be a displaying bird was present at **Colne Bridge SP** on 14th February, but no other bird was in evidence. In April, singing males were noted at **Fixby** and **Colne Bridge**

SP and two sites in the **Thongsbridge** area, and males were singing at **Stainland Dean** on 25th May and **Scammonden** on 6th July.

The majority of records only involved one or two individuals, those in excess concerned three at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 16th February, three at **Sands, Holmfirth** on 6th April, three at **Clayton West** on 15th April, at least four at **Langsett Banks** on 15th October, three in **Deffer Wood** on 30th October and at least five at **Hingcliff Common** on 3rd December.

Records from gardens during the second winter period involved singles at **Clayton West** on 6th and 31st October, **Crimble Clough** on 13th October and **Taylor Hill** on 2nd December.

There was a drop in the number of records from **Blackmoorfoot Res.** with one or two birds being seen on 16 days. Records in the first half of the year only concerned singles on 29th January, three days in February, two in March and 13th April. There were then no records until a single was seen on 24th September. Thereafter one or two (usually only 1) were present on two days in October, four in November and two December.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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

Records were received from 12 localities (18 in 2012).

A single at **Scout Dike** on 16th May was the first, but the only other spring records involved two at **Cliff Wood, Langsett** on 27th May and a single there on 8th and 15th June. The only breeding record was from **Windy Bank Wood** where a pair were feeding two young by early August.

Other records of this increasingly scarce species were as follows:

Carlecotes Ponds – three on 3rd August and two on 31st August.

Blackmoorfoot Res – two on 14th August were followed by between one and three birds on a further ten days until the last (a single) on 22nd September.

Deer Hill Res – a single on 19th August.

Helme – one on 20th August.

Holme – a single on 22nd August.

Marsden – one on 28th August.

Harden – a single on 1st and 8th September.

Binn (Wessenden Valley) – two on 8th September.

West End Farm, Marsden – a single on 14th September.

(EURASIAN) **PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

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

The only records were from the **Langsett** area where an unsexed bird was seen in the **Little Don Valley** on 1st May, the remaining records were from **Cliff Wood** which, in May, had two unsexed birds on 12th, a singing male on 19th and two males on 27th; a male and female were also present on 15th June.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident breeder (3), 100-250 pairs.

Records, which spanned all months of the year, were received from 48 widely scattered localities, including many gardens. Breeding evidence was only obtained from **Horbury Strands/Wyke, Bretton, Almondbury, Colne Road, Elland GP, Colne Bridge SP** (2 pairs), **Fixby** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below). Most reports involved groups of low single figures, and the following documents all assemblages of ten or more.

Grimescar Valley – ten on 1st January and 17th March.

Hepworth – up to 12 were present on garden feeders in January and December.

Lockwood – up to 11 were present in a garden throughout January, 11 on 17th June then 10+ occurred infrequently to the year end.

Meltham – a maximum of 11 frequented a garden throughout January, 13 were present in the same garden on 22nd and 12 on 30th December.

High Hoyland – c.10 on 4th January.

Golcar – c.10 on feeders in a garden on 5th January.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – at least 60, in five different parties, on 10th January.

Netherthong – ten in a garden on 17th January.

Fixby – 28 were feeding on fat balls in a garden on 4th February.

Cowcliffe – c.14 in a garden on 11th February.

Longroyd Bridge – 11 on 28th July.

Clayton West – c.10 in a garden on 30th July.

Langsett Res – 11 on 28th August.

Wooldale – ten on 1st September.

Bretton Park – 18 on 25th September.

Rectory Park, Dewsbury – 12 on 1st October.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – ten on feeders on 16th October and 17 on 11th December.

Deffer Wood – c.10 on 30th October.

Colne Bridge SP – a flock into the high teens was present throughout November/December.

Horbury – c.24 on 6th November.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** birds were present throughout the year in small numbers although there were only three records in January. Two pairs bred, with one pair removing the feather from their earlier predated nest to build a second. With the exception of a family party (presumed to be from one of these nests), numbers rarely exceeded nine, the exceptions being 15 on 6th July, 17 on 26th August, between 11 and 14 on five dates in October and 11 on 13th December.

A party of six at The Dean, **Marsden** on 14th October was unusual for the locality.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

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

This very common and widely distributed species was reported from 64 locations, ranging through most habitats from the wider countryside to the town centre.

The majority of records were of ten or fewer birds, and the only counts in excess were as follows:

Grimescar Valley – 23 on 1st and 17 on 27th January, 16 on 3rd and 29 on 16th February, 38 on 3rd and 16 on 17th March.

Blackley – 14 on 9th February.

Longwood Valley – 29 on 24th February.

Marsh – 14 in a garden 14th August.

Almondbury – 12 in a garden on 17th and 24th August.

Bretton Park – an amazing count of 139 on 25th September (DP).

Windy Bank Wood – 24 on 9th December.

Breeding, mainly in gardens boxes, was only reported from 14 localities. Although these generally involved a single pair, six pairs fledged young at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and four pairs bred at both **Colne Bridge SP** and **Horbury Strands/Wyke**.

Single birds roosted in three nest boxes at **Crimble Clough** throughout November and were often seen entering the boxes during the daylight hours and in a **Meltham** garden a single roosted in a nest box throughout November.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder (4-5), 1,500-3,000 pairs.

Very common across the Club area with records from over 50 sites but, with the exceptions of those below, assemblages were generally very small.

As with Blue Tit, the majority of records were of fewer than ten birds, and the only counts in excess were as follows:

Grimescar Valley - 14 in a garden on 16th February and 18 on 3rd March.

Longwood Valley – 19 on 24th February.

Deffer Wood – c.10 on 22nd April.

Clayton West – c.10 on 26th June.

Thornhill Edge – c.10 at feeders in a garden on 15th August.

Bretton Park – an amazing count of 102 on 25th September (DP).

Breeding was only reported from 11 sites, showing how under recorded the species is.

An interesting visible migration record concerned a flock of 14 which flew SW over Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 27th September (JMP, DSh).

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Resident breeder (3), 400-500 pairs.

Records were received from 32 sites, 11 fewer than last year. As in previous years, most records were from gardens and consisted of one or two birds although four were regularly present in a **Cowcliffe** garden during the first winter period. The only breeding records were from: **New Mill**, **Cannon Hall** and **Blackmoorfoot** (see below).

The only double-figure counts were as follows:

Langsett Banks – c.30 on 15th April.

Yateholme Res – ten on 18th September.

Bretton Park – 31 on 25th September.

At **Blackmoorfoot Res.** one or two, occasionally three, were present throughout the year, but records in November/December were very sporadic. A pair was nest building by 9th April, but the outcome was unknown.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

Resident breeder (1), about 20 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This locally and nationally declining species was recorded at eight sites (9 in 2012).

Two birds, considered to be a pair, were present throughout the year at **Scout Dike Res.** but there was no proof of breeding.

Other records were from the following sites:

High Hoyland – one calling on 8th January.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – a single on 10th and 24th January.

Healey Mills/Kerry's NR – one on 12th January, two were coming to feeders on 27th January, a single on 17th February, two on 2nd March, one on 6th April and two on 22nd April.

Silkstone – a single on 8th February.

Broadstone Res – one on 18th and 21st February and two on 11th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – two, including a singing male, on 9th April and a single on 31st October.

Horbury – one on 23rd November

(EURASIAN) **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

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

Records were received from 43 sites, similar to 2011, but 16 fewer than last year. This presumably reflects under recording rather than a reduction as the species has been increasing in the area for several decades. Despite this, breeding was only confirmed at nine sites, the same as last year.

There was a marked increase in garden sightings, with some harbouring one or two, occasionally three, birds throughout the year. Juveniles, presumably from nearby nests, visited feeders in gardens at **Almondbury** and **Clayton West**.

Most records involved one or two birds, but four were at **Clayton West** on 4th January, **Bretton Park** held eight on 9th February, where there was an amazing count of 26 on 25th September and 12 were present on 26th October. Nine, five adults and four juveniles, fed from feeders at **Thornhill Edge** on 15th August and four were at **Cannon Hall** on 28th April.

At **Blackmoorfoot** one or two were present throughout the year and a pair raised young in the same nest hole in Orange Wood that they had used for the previous three years.

An interesting observation involved a single which drank melt-water from the tip of an icicle hanging below a Sycamore branch in a **Hepworth** garden on 21st February. Later in the day two Blue Tits were seen to exploit the same source.

(EURASIAN) **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

Resident breeder (3), 100-200 pairs.

Records were received from only 25 locations, nine less than last year. It is difficult to know whether this reflects a true reduction in population or under recording. As with most species, however, there can be marked yearly population fluctuations. The majority of the records were from the southern half of the recording area with all relating to one or two birds.

Breeding was confirmed at **Helme Wood**, **Windy Bank Wood**, **Blackmoorfoot** (see below) and the **Little Don Valley**. There were garden records during the first winter period from **Hepworth**, and Thick Hollins, **Meltham**, a September record from **Brockholes**, and during the last winter period from **Thick Hollins**.

Two at **Langsett Banks** on 15th October had formed a flock with 4+ Goldcrests and 7+ Coal Tits.

As in 2012 records from **Blackmoorfoot** were very sporadic. With the exceptions of a single on two days in February, two days in early March and the pair which attempted to breed in Orange Wood (present from mid March to late April), the only other records concerned one or two birds for up to six days in each of the months from to July to September and November/December. The pair in Orange Wood were nest building by 23rd March but failed to raise young.

(EURASIAN) **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Resident breeder (3), 200-350 pairs.

Records were received from 37 locations (45 in 2012). This is undoubtedly due to under recording as this colourful, but shy bird, is widely distributed across the recording area.

Most sightings were of less than four birds, the only records in excess were as follows:

Beaumont Park – six on 1st January.

Taylor Hill – five on 19th April.

Elland GP – five on 10th July.

Marsden GC – eight on 11th July,

Holme Styes – five on 25th July.

Clayton West – nine on 30th October.

Deffer Wood – six on 30th October.

Windy Bank Wood – six on 8th November.

Garden records, mainly of one or two birds which were present throughout the year, were from Thick Hollins, **Meltham** (almost daily with six on 13th April), **Lockwood**, **Fixby**, **Crimble Clough**, **Hepworth**, **Grimescar Valley**, **New Mill**, **Almondbury** and **Brockholes**.

Present on a near daily basis at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** but there were no signs of breeding. The majority of records involved one or two birds, but up the five were regularly seen throughout September/October, up to six were present in November and up to four throughout December.

An unusual record involved a single at a completely treeless site at over 1100ft. a.s.l. near Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 10th August. At the end of the year birds regularly harassed roosting Tawny Owl(s) in dense ornamental conifers towards dusk at **Meal Hill**.

(COMMON) **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Resident breeder (4), 1,500-2,000 pairs.

Records were received from 44 sites (50 in 2012) including low numbers in many gardens: the highest garden counts were of six at **Almondbury** on 23rd January and ten in **Grimescar Valley** on 16th February.

This bird remains under recorded, probably because of its commonality. Very few breeding records were received and the only double-figure counts were as follows:

Lockwood – up to 12 were occasionally present in allotments.

Horbury Strands/Wyke – 16 on 1st January and 13 on 14th April.

Grimescar Valley – 13 on 1st January, 11 on 3rd February, 14 on 3rd March and 13 on 17th March.

Wooddale – ten on 20th January.

Ladywood Lakes – 20 on 6th March.

Deer Hill End Road – c.10 on 24th April

Pule Hill, Marsden – 13 on 27th September. From this flock, 12 set off and flew SW across the moor, but 2 returned.

Horbury – c.24 by the River Calder on 6th November.

Taylor Hill – 15 on 1st December.

(WESTERN) **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Resident breeder (4), 500-1,000 pairs.

Records were received from 42 sites, but once again there were few records documenting breeding. Some gardens were regularly visited and a **Fixby** garden had its first record since the occupant commenced observations in 1991.

The largest assemblages reported were as follows:

Broadstones – c.80 on 3rd January.

Golcar – c.70 over flying on 5th January.

Royd Moor Res – 30 on 7th January.

Dewsbury SW – 52 on 8th January, 38 on 12th February, 32 on 14th June and 105 on 30th July.

Blackmoorfoot - 66 in the fields to the east of the reservoir on 15th February with 90 there on 1st April.

Fixby – 110 flew NE on 27th February.

Cowcliffe – c.50 flew W on 2nd April.

Lockwood – the maximum seen flying to a roost site was c.70 on 27th August.

Whitley Common – c.200 on 9th September, 120 on 7th October, 270 on 30th October and c.400 on 27th November.

Horbury SW – 54 on 17th September.

Ingbirchworth Res – c.120 on 7th October.

Brockholes – c.120 overflying on 29th of December.

The only visible migration was noted at Pule Hill, **Marsden** where 145 flew SW on five dates between 6th October and 7th November, with a maximum of 116 on 20th October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-4,500 pairs (2,450 during the Club survey in 2005).

With the exception of those breeding in a **Hepworth** garden (see below) the only other garden records involved two at **Clayton West** on 2nd January and three there on 23rd December.

Reports were received from 30 rural sites and Rookeries were reported as follows:

Scissett – c.20 birds were present on 4th February.

Crosland Moor – six nests.

Hepworth – although nests were not counted, it was noted that there were fewer nests in the vicinity of Lark's House than last year, with some having transferred their allegiance to trees behind Foster Place Farm.

Haigh – nine nests along Jebb Lane.

Bretton – two rookeries on the south side of the Upper Lake contained nine and 14 nests respectively.

Honley Bridge – at least 30 nests.

Clayton West – c.30 birds in the rookery on 22nd May.

Marsden – ten nests along Mount Road.

The only reports of large flocks concerned the following:

Royd Moor Res – c.150 on 7th January and 50 on 26th June.

Bretton – 50 on 6th February and 26th June.

Blackmoorfoot Res – at least 70 (including juveniles) in the fields to the west of the reservoir between 25th and 27th May.

Annat Royd Lane – c.100 on 27th November.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder (4), 800-1,600 pairs.

Records were received from 57 widely scattered sites (same as 2012) but, once again, breeding records were few and far between.

The largest gatherings were as follows:

Dewsbury SW – up to 60 throughout the first winter period with 112 on 16th March. Later in the year 230 were present on 30th July and throughout August up to 110 were seen, but this had reduced to 85 by late October and the maximum thereafter involved 45 on 6th November.

Grimescar Valley – 62 on 19th January.

Blackmoorfoot Res – a flock of at least 30 were feeding on grit? on the road to the NE of the reservoir on 2nd February and at least 40 were in the fields to the east of the reservoir on 7th/8th May.

Longwood Valley – 36 on 24th February.

Whitley Edge – c.100 on 16th December.

Most garden records were of one or two birds. An adult at **Elland GP** on 10th July was wading into the river for food for its two young which were on the bank.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

Rare visitor.

A single was photographed using a mobile 'phone at **Cawthorne** on 20th July (BBSG). July is an unusual month for the species to be in Yorkshire, most being present during the winter. This is the first Huddersfield record since a single was seen near the Isle of Skye Quarry on 26th April 2011.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Former rare visitor, now resident breeder (1), 1-2 pairs.

Reported from 24 upland localities (23 in 2012), with records spanning all months of the year and occasional displaying birds being observed in early winter/spring. Most sightings were of one or two birds, but nine were present at one site on 17th March, seven at another on 25th March and five at a third on 4th September.

The only recorded movements were as follows, but see Blackmoorfoot below:

Winscar – six flew N on 2nd March.

Marsden – one flew E and four N on 26th July.

There were eight records from **Blackmoorfoot**, all between September and December: singles were over Orange Wood on 7th/8th September; two were over Meltham Cop on 21st September; two were over Orange Wood on 3rd October; in November, four over Meltham Cop departed SW on 8th, a single was over Meltham Cop on 13th and a single flew W over the reservoir on 23rd, a single was over Orange Wood on 10th December.

(COMMON) **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident breeder (4-5), 2,000-6,000 pairs. Winter visitor. Red listed.

Records were received from 56 widely distributed localities. There has been an 81% decline in the UK breeding population over the last thirty years (hence the red listing) and it is suggested that the cause is a reduction in the survival rate of first year birds. Few breeding records were received but records of large numbers of juveniles suggest considerable breeding success.

A flock of c.50 at **Meal Hill** on 8th April was described by the observer as unusual. As was a flock of 30 (only 4 adults) in **New Mill** on 30th May; generally no more than two are present.

There were many garden records but, by comparison to years gone by, numbers involved were impoverished, the only large aggregations being occasional flocks of 30+ in **Lockwood**, 30+ in **New Mill** on 30th May and 20 in **Almondbury** on 14th July. The New Mill record was said by the observer to be exceptional as this was one of the few records during the previous few years, when only one or two had been seen.

The only flocks of any magnitude were as follows:

Whitley Edge – c.1000 on 19th March, c.600 on 4th August (mainly juveniles), 500+ on 13th and 800 on 17th October, c.8000 on 27th November and 3000 on 16th December.

Dick Edge Lane – there was a minimum of 1000 on 5th April. At this time of year UK breeding birds are back on territories and such a large assemblage suggests passage birds which had been held up by the inclement weather (see Blackmoorfoot below).

Blackmoorfoot Res – a flock of 100 in the fields to the west of the reservoir on 9th April were presumed to be migrants held up by the inclement weather, at least 300 were present in these fields on 31st July and August had a maximum of 350 on 22nd/23rd and 500 between 24th and 26th. A flock of 2,000 were on Meltham Cop and an additional 650 flew W (in small parties) on 9th November.

Broadstone Res – c.400 on 10th June, c.300 on 26th October and c.500 on 13th November.

Royd Moor – c. 500 on 28th August.

Oldfield – c.400 on both 13th September and 28th November.

Ainley Top – a rough estimate of 2-3000 on 12th November. The following day even more were present but no estimate was forthcoming, although 5-6000 were present on 18th November.

Lower Maythorn – c.1500 on 16th November.

Snape Res – c.600 on 20th November.

Visible migration was noted as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 2537 SW on 14 dates between 22nd September and 13th November, with maxima of 436 on 20th October and 701 on 26th October.

Harden Quarries – 51 SW on 5th October, 329 SW and 27 SE on 20th October and 187 between W and NW on 10th November.

Isle of Skye Quarry – 1 S and 18 NW on 24th October, four S and 9 NW on 30th October and 40 W on 13th November.

A flock of 40 at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** on 21st June contained a leucistic individual and a bird at **Whitley Edge** on 4th August has a white tail with the exception of the central pair of feathers.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Resident breeder (5), 3,000-6,000 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Records were received from 32 sites, predominantly from gardens and encouragingly in slightly larger numbers than last year.

Although the national decline is reflected in the Club area, impressive assemblages continued to be seen at a few favoured locations:

A flock of c.50 were in **Thurgory Lane** on 12th January, c.45 fed on seeds in a garden at **White Rose Avenue, Dalton** on 22nd February, c.30 were present near **Whitley Wood** on 3rd March, c.70 were around the chicken pens at **Knotty Lane, Lepton** on 12th September and c.40 were near the stables at Millmoor Road, **Meltham** on 15th September.,

Other double figure counts came from **Thornhill** (15 on 9th January); Hollin Avenue, **Marsh** (14 on 27th May); **High Hoyland** (c.10 on 31st May); **Ingbirchworth Res.** (10 on 25th July); Winton Street and North Street, **Lockwood** (30 in July/August); Fenay Crescent, **Almondsbury** (24 on 17th August and 9th November); St. Mary's Crescent, **Netherthong** (c.20 on 13th September); **Town Centre** (c.10 on 17th September); **Castle Dam** (c.20 on 24th September); and **Wooldale** (20 on 1st December).

Pairs bred at **New Mill** and fledged juveniles were being fed at Hawthorne Terrace, **Crosland Moor**; North Street, **Lockwood** and Holly Bank Road, **Lindley**. The colony at Millmoor Road, **Meltham** was said to be doing well, but no breeding numbers were forthcoming.

An unusual record from **Blackmoorfoot** concerned a female/immature which fed from a nut basket in a garden in the SE corner of the reservoir on 25th July.

An interesting record was of a roost of c.30 birds in a small tree near the junction of **Chapel Hill** and **St. Thomas Road** in mid December.

(EURASIAN) **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Resident breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

Only reported from 11 locations, a marked decrease on last year's 22 sites. Although it is possible that this may be due to a lack of observer coverage, one observer commented that sightings in the Gawthorpe area were getting fewer and fewer in areas where they were once common.

Proof of breeding came from three localities. An adult was feeding a fledged juvenile in a **New Mill** garden on 2nd July. Juveniles were being fed on sunflower hearts in a garden at **Hepworth** on 12th and 20th July and two pairs successfully raising young in two nest boxes in a woodland garden on the outskirts of **Hepworth**.

Birds were also recorded at the following sites:

Thurgory Lane – two on 15th April.

Ingbirchworth Res – two on 16th April and three on 7th May.

Deffer Wood – three on 1st May, two on 31st May, five on 4th and 30th July, and three on 30th October.

Healey Mills/Kerry NR – a single on 3rd May and seven on 1st December.

Thurstonland – two on 17th May.

Hepworth – one to two in a garden between 3rd June and 29th July.

Gawthorpe Lane, Kirkheaton – two on 17th March.

Clough Lane, Whitley – two on 13th June.

Wilshaw – c.10 in the immediate area of Three Halfpenny Houses on 12th September.

Clayton West – three on 30th October and six on 24th December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. - A single in the SW corner overflow field at on 19th October (MLD, CH) was the first record there since two were seen on 2nd March 1987.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder (5), 5,000-10,000 pairs. One of the commonest species.

This widely distributed finch was recorded from 57 sites but no notable gatherings were recorded.

The large flocks seen in other years were completely absent this year, and the highest counts during the first three months of the year only concerned c.20 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 6th January, 12 in a garden at **Marsden** on 20th January and 12 in a garden at **Meltham** on both 1st February and 1st March. Small numbers of birds were also reported from ten other garden sites during this period.

Singing males were very widely reported from 19th April until 5th July. Many of these birds were probably in breeding habitat but the only confirmed breeding came from Wards End Farm, **Marsden, Blackmoorfoot Res., Scout Dike Res.** and **New Mill**.

The theme of low numbers continued throughout the rest of the year and the largest gatherings involved a flock of ten at **Clayton West** on 1st May, 14 at **Langsett** on 8th and 16th May, 12 at **Royd Moor Res.** on 16th May, 12 at **Scout Dike Res.** on 8th June and 20 at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 31st July. There were many other sites which hosted single figure gatherings. These small flocks continued right up to the end of the year but the highest concentrations involved 15 at **Whitley Common** on 17th October, ten at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 18th October and 12 at **Whitley Airfield** on 6th December.

By sharp contrast, there were some impressive numbers recorded from the two visible migration sites:

Pule Hill, Marsden - a total of 6940 birds flew SW or S on 15 dates between 13th September and 13th November, with maximum counts of 1155 on 5th October, 1434 on 24th October and 866 on 30th October.

Harden Quarries - a total of 801 birds headed in a mainly SW direction on 11 dates between 7th September and 20th October, with the maximum count of 297 on 5th October.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This unpredictable winter visitor was recorded from only 19 sites this year compared with 30 in 2012, with numbers being considerably down from previous years.

With the exception of up to six in a **Netherthong** garden from January to 17th April all other reports during the first winter period involved singles at the following sites:

Thornhill – 9th/10th January.

Botany Lane, Lepton – 1st February.

Holmbridge – 18th February.

Skelmanthorpe – 7th April.

The first returning bird was a single at **Oldfield** on 8th October. Birds then became more widely distributed with records from a further 15 sites but numbers, away from the migration watch points, remained low. There were no double-figure flocks and the maxima involved eight at **Digley** on 12th October and five at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 28th October.

By sharp contrast, as with Chaffinch, there were some good counts from one of the visible migration sites:

Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 117 birds flew SW or S on 12 dates between 5th October and 13th November, with a maximum of 30 on 24th October, 24 on 30th October and 20 on 13th November.

Harden Quarries – given the figures above for Pule Hill, it is surprising that only 14 birds were noted, all of which flew SW in October: two on 5th, one on 6th, 11 on 19th and one the following day.

(EUROPEAN) **GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Resident breeder (4), 1,000-1,600 pairs.

This common and widespread species was recorded from 37 sites, but no large flocks were encountered, and birds were mainly reported from gardens. It appears that the species may be showing a good recovery from the parasitic infections of 2010-2011.

During the first winter period the largest gathering was reported from a garden in Winton Street, **Lockwood** where a maximum of 16 were seen on 1st January. A group of ten at Dene Road, **Skelmanthorpe** on 17th January were said to have been the first birds there for years. On three occasions seven were present in an **Almondbury** garden and eight were reported from a garden in **Marsden**.

In spring singing birds were located at **Clayton West, CheeseGate Nab, Blackmoorfoot Res., Deer Hill End Road** and **Brockholes**. Nesting birds were found both in the garden and nearby to a **New Mill** home and at **Crimble Clough** in a Yew hedge. Juveniles were reported from **Clayton West, Blackmoorfoot Res., Ingbirchworth Res., Thornhill Edge** and **Brockholes**. Surely this species breeds more widely in our area than records suggest.

Post breeding flocks amounted to no more than the ten on feeders at **Thornhill Edge** on 15th August and nine there on 15th September. The largest flock reported during the second winter period of ten in a **Lockwood** garden on 27th November.

These low numbers were in sharp contrast to those reported from the migration watch points: **Pule Hill, Marsden** – produced a total of 394 birds which flew SW or S on 14 dates between 22nd September and 13th November. The maximum counts being 69 on 8th October and 83 on 17th October.

Harden Quarries – a total of 101 birds flew SW on six dates between 22nd September and 20th October, with a maximum of 44 on 5th October.

(EUROPEAN) **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Partial migrant breeder (3), 300-500 pairs.

This charming and abundant finch was reported from 64 widely scattered sites, with good numbers being present throughout the year at some of these and garden feeding stations attracting several small flocks.

During the first three months of the year the largest flocks reported were at **Huddersfield Civic Centre** where 50 birds were seen leaving a roost on 3rd January and 30 were leaving the same roost on 8th January.

Thirty were present at **Horbury Strands/Wyke** on 10th January and 25 were in the garden at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** on both 14th January and 20th March. Other large January assemblages concerned 20 at feeders in a garden at **Thornhill** throughout the month, 20 at **Elland GP** on 23rd and a flock of 40 at **Honley** on 25th. The only other flocks during this period concerned c.50 at **Rastrick** on 15th February and 37 which were attracted to the **Longwood Valley** on 24th February.

Birds were heard singing at **Brockholes, Ingbirchworth Res., Broadstone Heath, Blackmoorfoot Res., Colne Bridge SP, and Deer Hill End Road**, with proof of breeding coming from Wards End Farm, **Marsden; New Mill; Scout Dike Res.; Blackmoorfoot Res.** where two pairs bred; and **Colne Bridge SP** where six pairs bred. Juveniles were reported at **Brook House Wood Plantation, Langsett; Pighill Wood; Almondbury; Deer Hill End Road; Thornhill Edge; Aspley and Marsden**.

Post-breeding flocks gathered at **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, where up to 20 were present between July and September with a maximum of 100 in the fields to the west of the reservoir on 23rd August. In October 20 were seen on 2nd and 7th, 30 on 9th/10th and 11 from 28th to 31st and 15 were present on 1st November. Flocks also gathered at **Broadstone Res.** which had a maximum of c.50 on 25th July and c.140 on 5th September; 30 were present at **Royd Moor Res.** on 26th August; 35 were feeding on thistles at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** on 3rd September; 40 were seen at **Broadstone Lodge** and **Dearne Dike Lane** on 8th September and 30 were at **Thornhill Edge** on 12th September. The only flocks later in the year concerned 60 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 28th October and 30 at **Taylor Hill** on 13th December.

In September and October birds were noted on migration at the two main sites:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 391 birds were counted as they flew SW or S on 15 dates between 18th September and 13th November, with a maximum of 131 on 5th October.

Harden Quarries – 346 birds flew SW on 8 dates between 7th September and 20th October, with a maximum of 68 on 22nd September.

(EURASIAN) **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Resident breeder (1), 5-20 pairs. Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

This is a somewhat unpredictable species. Looking at the last few years reports we find that birds were recorded all year round with higher counts in the early and late winter periods. This year is no exception.

The majority of records came from 14 gardens where birds were present throughout most of the year, mainly in low single figure numbers. During the first winter period the highest counts came from the following gardens:

Cowcliffe – 15 on 17th January.

Hepworth – ten on 26th January, 16 on 6th February and 35 on 8th March.

Victoria Springs, Holmfirth – 74 on 22nd March, 87 on 27th March, 57 on 9th April, and 67 on 12th April.

Netherthong – c.50 on 17th April.

Other sites which held significant numbers during the first winter period were **Colne Bridge SP** which held 15 on 8th January; **Cannon Hall** where 22 were noted on 10th February; **Bretton Park** where 20 were seen on 15th February; and up to 60 were seen on several occasions at Smithy Holme, **Marsden** between 15th February until 9th March.

Singing males were heard at **Riverside Way, Colne Bridge** and **Langsett Banks** and a displaying male was reported at **Crossley's Plantation**. In the **Langsett** area birds were seen carrying nest material on 5th June but the only juveniles reported were two in a **Silkstone Common** garden on 28th June.

In July and August the only records were of one to six birds in a garden at **Meltham** on 20 dates and birds were simply recorded as present at **Yateholme Res.** on 27th July and 4th August.

Although widely reported during the second winter period the largest assemblages came from **Bretton Park** where c.70 were present on 26th October, 15 on 17th November and 20 on 25th November. All other sites hosted one to six birds during this period.

Between September and November birds were noted on migration at the two main sites:
Pule Hill, Marsden – a total of 142 birds flew SW or S on 11 dates between 22nd September and 8th November, with maxima of 34 on 5th October and 32 on 24th October.
Harden Quarries – 200 birds flew SW on seven dates between 21st September and 20th October, with a maximum of 82 on 22nd September.

(COMMON) **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Partial migrant breeder (3-4), 400-600 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Reports were received from 40 sites (similar to 2012) and once again the largest concentrations of birds were in spring and autumn.

The only birds during the first winter period concerned four in the **Skelmanthorpe** area on 3rd/4th January. There were then no records until single figure counts of returning birds were received from a number of rural sites on 12th April. Double figure reports involved 30 feeding on thistles at **Thornhill Lees** on 23rd April, 58 at **Dearne Dike Lane** on 27th April, 24 at **Annat Royd Lane** on 4th May and ten at **Broadstone Res.** on 30th May.

In spring singing males were heard at **Clayton West**, **Deffer Wood** and **Broadstone Res.** One was carrying food into a nest site at **Castle Hill** in early June and nesting birds were on the heather and bracken slopes of **Cheesegate Nab**, lastly a family party was seen at **Swinden Track**, **Langsett** in early July. Small numbers of birds were also noted in breeding habitat at various locations. There were no breeding attempts at **Blackmoorfoot**, the Gorse/Broom on Edge Moor having been removed by the owner in 2011 and the same habitat along Dunnock Lane was planted up with trees several years ago.

The highest counts were reported in late summer/autumn. At **Broadstone Res.** a flock of c.20 on 25th July was the only large gathering until September when 15 were noted at **Blackmoorfoot** on 10th, 60 on 27th and 80 on 29th and 20 were still present on 19th October. At **Lucy Lane**, **Lepton** c.100 were present in a recently cut oilseed rape field on 12th September, 18 were seen at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 23rd September and c.20 were at **Thurgory Lane** on 1st October. Other large October gatherings involved 55 along the road side at **Whitley Edge** on 3rd; c.30 in the fields at **Annat Royd Lane** on 7th October and c.80 there on 9th; 35 at **Oldfield** on 8th October; and c.20 at **Whitley Common** on 17th. There were no November records and the only December record involved 14 at **Dewsbury SW** on 3rd.

Visible migration was witnessed as follows:

Pule Hill, Marsden – 129 flew SW or S on 11 dates between 18th September and 7th November, with maxima of 78 on 5th October and 31 on 9th October.

Harden Quarries – 271 flew SW on five dates between 21st September and 20th October, with a maximum of 142 on 5th October.

Skelmanthorpe – c.15 flew NNW on 14th October.

Isle of Skye Quarry – 14 flew S on 24th October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (2), 20-100 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

This red-listed species was reported from seven sites this year. Deer Hill remains a stronghold but birds reported by an observer in the Marsden area show that this moorland finch may perhaps be more numerous than previously thought.

An unusual winter record involved a flock of 11 at **Butterley Res.** on 17th February (DMP, SP, KWf). The first record from the feeding station at **Deer Hill Res.** involved a single on 6th April, but this had built up to 30 by 28th April. Numbers fluctuated in May, but c.20 were present near the feeding station on 1st, seven on 2nd, eight on 5th, ten on 6th, six on 9th and six on 1st June (DMP *et al*). As in 2012, there were no autumn records from this site.

In the north of the Club area at least eight were present at **Derby Delph Quarry** on 1st March.

With DWS now supplying records from Ward Ends Farm, **Marsden** a better understanding of the birds of the area can be expected. There were many single figure counts between 26th April and late August, the only exceptions being 18 on 27th April and 12 on 30th July. From 26th August, when the maximum of 60+ were present, sightings were as follows: 20 on 27th August, 35 on 2nd September, 20 on 4th September, 43 on 12th September, 45 on 24th September, 11 on 3rd October, 24 on 10th October, and 33 on 17th October. These birds were often feeding on the lawn or, as the 43 on 12th September, perched on the house roof.

Other records in the **Marsden** area concerned two at **Gilberts** on 26th July; two at **Mount Road** on 10th August; a single at **Pule Hill** on 5th October, with 15 there on 17th October and a flock heard on 24th October; 40 at **The Dean** on 15th October, with 70 the following day and 12 on 19th October.

The only other records were in October and concerned 23 at **Derby Delph Quarry** on 8th, four at **Whitley Common** 17th and a single at **Harden Quarries** on 20th.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor.

A poor showing with only two records, both at the same site.

A single was in the observers' garden at **Fixby** on 29th January and 4th February (DT).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Partial migrant breeder, decreased to (1-2), 10-50 pairs. Red listed.

With reports from 37 localities this is a welcome increase on previous years, but in the latter part of the year the number of birds was disappointing. Birds were seen at a wide range of locations but the majority were ported from garden feeding stations.

In the early part of the year single figure counts were noted at six sites but the largest concentrations were of 20 birds that were regularly attracted to garden feeders in **Hepworth**. In a

Fixby garden between ten and 22 were noted on five dates in January and a garden in **Thornhill** hosted between six and 30 on nine dates between 6th January and 12th March. During this period other records came from **Scout Dike Res.** where 16 were seen on 6th January and 20 were at **Thornhill Edge** on 10th February.

Spring/summer records came from **Langsett Banks**, where a singing male was present on 15th April, and birds continued to visit garden feeders at **Holmfirth** (a single on 9th April), **Netherthong** (10 on 17th April), **Clayton West** (10 on 17th April), **New Mill** (2 on 21st April), **Wooldale** (2 on 21st April), **Marsh** (a single on 22nd April), **Stockmoor** (a few on 22nd April), **Meltham** (8 on 25th April), **Harden** (a single on 27th April), **Hepworth** (20 on 1st May), **Crimble Clough** (1 on 6th May), and **Silkstone Common** (4 on 13th May).

Away from the garden environment c.20 were at **Crossley's Plantation** on 10th June, including recently fledged juveniles and single juveniles were recorded in **Meltham** and **Marsden** in August.

The only significant gatherings in the latter part of the year came from **Harden Clough** which held ten on 30th October, **Winscar Res.** had ten on 16th November and the highest count of the period involved 30 at **Riding Wood Res.** on 30th November.

Visible migration watches produced the following results:

Pule Hill Marsden – 162 birds flew SW or S on 11 dates between 5th October and 13th November, with maxima of 61 on 24th October and 28 on 30th October.

Harden Quarries – a total of 50 flew SW on five dates between 23rd September and 20th October, with a maximum of 44 on 19th October.

A single at **Harden** on 27th April had a golden-orangey 'poll' rather than a red one (MC). This condition is normally brought about by diet, and captive Redpolls are more prone to showing yellow foreheads than wild individuals.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular breeder (1), 0-5 pairs. Scarce to uncommon irruptive passage and winter visitor.

Another good year for this specialist species with reports from 15 sites, a marked influx of birds was apparent in April but the majority of records came in the latter half of the year. Langsett and Yateholme continue to be favoured areas.

Reports came from the following sites:

Bare Bones Road, Holme Styes – a single on 9th January (HQ).

Heath Lane, Linthwaite – six in pines on 19th January (JL).

Bank Wood – 22 on 1st April (MS, KWh).

Crosland Heath GC – four on 11th April (MLD).

Langsett Banks – a single on 15th April (MCW).

Little Don Valley – birds were said to be present on 27th April (NWM).

Yateholme Res – birds were heard on 27th July (DHP), 12 on 18th August (MC), c.35 on 19th October (DMP *et al.*) and 30 on 30th November (MC).

Langsett – a single on 21st August (MC).

Isle of Skye Quarry – one flew west on 17th October (DHP).

Pule Hill, Marsden – a flock of 25 flew SW on 24th October (JMP, DSh).

Harden Clough – three on 30th October (JMc).

Harden Quarries – 23 flew SW on 6th October, 16 flew SW on 19th October and 18 did likewise the following day. A few, but no figures were given, flew over on 2nd November (MC) and a single flew SE on 10th November (DHP).

Riding Wood Res – five on 13th November (HQ).

Flouch, Langsett – four on 30th November (NWM) and 17 on 17th December (DHP).

Holme Woods – 28 on 11th December (DHP).

(EURASIAN) **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

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

Records were received from 44 sites (slightly up on 2012) of which 19 were gardens. As expected the vast majority of records involved between one and five individuals (usually two to four) and the only exceptions involved seven at **Elysium** on 9th January, seven at **Blackmoorfoot Res.** on 25th January with six there on 5th and 15th November, nine in a **Fixby** garden on 14th January, six at **Langsett Res.** on 26th August, 12 at **Castle Dam** on 4th November, six in **Windy Bank Wood** on 11th November and ten there on 20th November.

Confirmed breeding was only reported from **Colne Bridge SP; Lark's House, Hepworth** where adults were seen feeding a juvenile in the garden several times in mid July and **Fixby** where two juveniles were seen on 11th July. Although there was no proof of breeding, birds (singles or presumed pairs) were noted during the breeding season at **Whitley Beaumont; Almondbury; Horbury Strands/Wyke; Brockholes; Clayton West; Elland GP; Lindley; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Magdale; Elysium; Silkstone Common; Thick Hollins, Meltham; and Royd Moor Res.**

A female which flew WSW before turning back E at the **Isle of Skye Quarry** on 24th October was the first record for the locality.

Several birds were seen flying over the two migration watch points in September, October and November:

Harden Quarries – four flew SW on 23rd September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – six flew SW on 24th October, as did a single on 26th October and four on 13th November.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Resident breeder (3), 300-450 pairs (but greatly reduced since the 1987-92 Atlas). Red listed.

Observations were received from only 24 sites, and the number of birds was well down on previous years. There were no records from the game crop at High Hoyland that had attracted birds in the past. The 2012 report makes reference to the fact that Maize, rather than Sunflower, had been sown, and it appears that the absence of records may simply be due to the fact that no birds were present when people visited.

No birds were recorded in the early part of the year apart from those which were said to be present throughout the year (although no numbers were received) at **Hullock Bank** and **Tinker Hill**. There were no records until a flock of 27 were seen on a ploughed field at **Ladywood Lakes** on 30th March. All other records involved less than six birds, showing how alarmingly the species' decline has accelerated.

During the breeding season singing males were reported from **Ingbirchworth Res.** (2), **Broadstone Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.** (3), **Royd Moor Res.** (2), **Thurstonland Bank** (3), **Bradley Hall Farm**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, and **Upper Heaton** (this was a traditional site, but this is the first bird seen here by the observer in 18 months). Birds were seen carrying food in late May/early June at **Clayton West**, **Castle Hill** and **Deffer Wood** (2 pairs) and young were being fed by adults at **Clayton West** in early June.

One or sometimes two birds were occasionally noted at the following sites: **Lower Cumberworth**; **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR**; **Gunthwaite**; **Dewsbury SW**; **Round Wood**, **Honley**; **Mount Scar**, **New Mill**; and Wards End Farm, **Marsden**. The only records in the second winter period were in October and concerned a single at **Broadstone Res.** on 20th, and two at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** on 25th, **Clayton West** on 30th and **Deffer Wood** on the same date.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare passage and winter visitor.

There were three records, all within a nine day period.

A single was heard calling as it flew E over **Harden Clough** on 30th October (JMc). Another was heard calling as it flew SW in the mist at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 31st October (JMP, DSh). The other record involved two which flew W together over **Marsden** on 8th November (JMP, DSh).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident or partial migrant breeder (2-3), 60-120 pairs.

Recorded from 40 widespread sites, including several gardens which hosted small numbers during the inclement weather in winter.

During the first winter period a garden at Meltham Road, **Marsden** held the only double figure count with 14 being present in very thick snow cover on 26th January. Up to six were feeding on seed in a **Harden** garden when the local reservoir was completely frozen over. The importance of feeding was highlighted when during the snow between four and nine birds visited the garden feeders at Wards End Farm, **Marsden** on several dates. Birds were also noted in gardens at **Hade Edge** and **Holme**. Between three and six were coming to feeders at **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** during this period and seven other sites hosted one to three birds.

There was a return to breeding territories in April with singing males being present at **Ingbirchworth Res.**, **Blackmoorfoot Res.**, **Scout Dike Res.**, **Horbury Strands/Wyke**, **Cannon Hall**, **Colne Bridge SP**, **Winscar Res.**, **Broadstone Res.**, **Dean Head Res.**, **Royd Moor Res.**, **Horbury**, **Bretton Park**, **Windleden**, and at least 18 at 12 sites in the **Marsden** area. Breeding was only confirmed at **Colne Bridge SP** (2 pairs), **Blackmoorfoot Res.** (a pair fledged young) **Broadstone Res.** (a male feeding 2 young), **Elland GP** (female carrying food), **Deer Hill Res.** (family party) and **Dewsbury SW** (2 newly fledged young).

In August and September the only significant counts came from **Healey Mills/Kerry's NR** and **Dewsbury SW** where between two and eight birds were seen on six different dates. Birds were also noted at The Dean, **Marsden** where c.12 were present on 14th October and 20 were seen at Lower Green Owlers, **Marsden** on 7th November.

Visible migration was witnessed at two sites:

Harden Quarries – 25 flew SW on eight dates between 21st September and 20th October, with a maximum of six on the 22nd September.

Pule Hill, Marsden – 31 flew SW on eleven dates between 5th October and 11th November, with a maximum of five on 5th October (JMP has expressed the opinion that in previous years this species has been missed as they have been discounted as local birds).

ESCAPED/INTRODUCED SPECIES

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

Escape.

Three on the River Calder at **Ladywood Lakes** on 2nd February had increased to four the following day and they were still present on 10th February. A single was at the same locality on 26th December (DT).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare visitor/escape.

A single was present in the Canada Goose flock at **Ingbirchworth Res.** on 27th December (MCW). This is the first record for the locality.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Escape.

A single was on the River Calder at **Ladywood Lakes** on 26th December (DT).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Introduced.

The Hagg Wood area remains the stronghold of this attractive species. A male was seen as it flew across **Hagg Wood Road** on 16th February (DHP) and a female and probable immature male were present in the same area on 26th April (SCK, DHP). A male was seen along the edge of **Hagg Wood** on 6th August (DHP) and a tail feather was found there four days later (SCK).

HARRIS' HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Escape.

A single over Orange Wood at **Blackmoorfoot** drifted E when mobbed by Carrion Crows at 13.00hrs. on 28th March (TD).

FALCON SP. *Falco* sp.

A single which flew SW at Pule Hill, **Marsden** on 30th October (JMP, DSh) had the 'jizz' of a Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. Photographs, however, revealed it to be generally grey in colour, with a suggestion of barring on the flanks. It was thought that it was either an aberrant Peregrine or a hybrid. No jesses were visible.

EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES OF SUMMER MIGRANTS

	EARLIEST				LATEST			
	EVER		2013		EVER		2013	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Little Ringed Plover	15/3	2000	13/4	Site A	29/9	1969	30/7	Site D
Common Sandpiper	7/3	1964	15/4	Langsett, Deer Hill & Blackmoorfoot	21/11	1959	21/9	Blakeley Res
Common Tern	31/3	2010	13/4	Dove Stone	16/10	2001	8/9	Ladywood Lakes
Cuckoo	8/4	1976	27/4	Langsett & Winscar	27/10	1977	31/8	Winscar
Swift	13/4	2013	13/4	Ingbirchworth	8/11	2001	18/9	Blackmoorfoot
Sand Martin	7/3	2005	13/4	Horbury Strands/Wyke, Harden, Healey Mills & Ingbirchworth	23/10	1971	23/9	Blackmoorfoot
Swallow	10/3	1959	11/4	Meltham Mills & Blackmoorfoot	5/12	1995	20/10	Harden Quarries
House Martin	20/3	2005	13/4	Elland GP	27/11	1959	11/10	Marsden
Tree Pipit	3/4	1988	21/5	Carlecotes	5/10	2000	8/9	Harden
Yellow Wagtail	7/4	1980	21/4	Castle Dam	24/10	1952	19/9	Blackmoorfoot
Redstart	21/3	1942	15/4	Langsett Banks	24/10	1976	9/9	Wessenden
Whinchat	11/4	1949	25/4	Deer Hill	9/11	1999	24/9	Marsden
Wheatear	1/3	1997	6/4	Bradshaw	4/12	1997	9/10	Blackmoorfoot
Ring Ouzel	7/3	1956	17/4	Wholestone Moor	25/12	1855	24/10	Pule Hill
Grasshopper Warbler	10/4	2005	5/5	Healey Mills & Horbury SW	29/8	2000	30/7	Holmfirth
Sedge Warbler	1/4	1999	25/4	Elland GP	26/9	1999	4/9	Dewsbury SW
Reed Warbler	20/4	2011	25/4	Colne Bridge SP	29/9	2001	4/9	Dewsbury SW
Garden Warbler	5/4	1958	2/5	Marsden	24/11	1984	13/7	Colne Bridge SP
Lesser Whitethroat	8/4	2000	6/5	Colne Bridge SP	27/9	1973	6/7	Horbury SW
Whitethroat	1/4	2011	15/4	Clayton West	12/10	1999	3/10	Healey Mills
Wood Warbler	21/4	1981		No records	4/9	1956		No records
Willow Warbler	24/3	2003	6/4	Colne Bridge SP	27/10	1987	21/9	Ingbirchworth & Marsh
Spotted Flycatcher	8/4	1967	16/5	Scout Dike	16/10	1985	22/9	Blackmoorfoot
Pied Flycatcher	10/4	2007	1/5	Little Don Valley	19/9	1969	15/6	Cliff Wood

Denotes a new earliest/latest ever record.

Note: Blackcap and **Chiffchaff** dates have been discontinued because of the difficulty in distinguishing between summer migrants and over-wintering birds.

LATEST AND EARLIEST DATES OF WINTER MIGRANTS

	LATEST				EARLIEST			
	EVER		2013		EVER		2013	
	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY	DATE	YEAR	DATE	LOCALITY
Whooper Swan	3/5	2006	17/4	Elland GP	28/9	2011	11/10	Ingbirchworth
Pink-footed Goose	12/4	2009	18/3	Blackmoorfoot	11/9	2007	18/9	Blackmoorfoot
Waxwing	29/4	1991	26/4	Crosland Moor	24/10	1965		No birds
Redwing	7/5	1975	1/5	Lockwood	27/8	1941	1/10	Meal Hill
Brambling	13/5	1976	17/4	Netherthong	13/9	1983	9/10	Oldfield

Denotes a new latest/earliest ever record.

Note: **Fieldfare** - in view of the fact that this species previously bred in the area and the possibility that they did so again in 2008, Fieldfare has been removed from the table.

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(with apologies for any omissions)

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THE NEED FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND THE NEED TO SUBMIT THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER!

It has always been the aim of the Club to present our annual report with complete accuracy. Generally speaking, most bird records will be accepted for publication on face value! However, some species - those which are rare or unusual - require a description to be accepted by an adjudication panel before they can be published. The current Adjudication Panel for the Club consists of Mike Denton, Mick Cunningham and Russ Boland.

Species whose records require descriptions are listed in *The Huddersfield List*, which is to be found on the Club's new web site (www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk) and in this report. They fall into three broad categories:

1. **HBC** description species – for obvious reasons this is by far the longest list and all species are assessed by our own adjudication panel
2. **YNU** description species - which are assessed by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and
3. **BBRC** description species - national rarities, which are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Note: the Club will require a description for any species or race not on the current Huddersfield List.

These bodies each take time to assess and decide upon descriptions submitted to them, though, of course, our own panel should be able to reach their verdict much quicker than the others. But they still require time to review, assess and adjudicate fairly and honestly and we would like the finders of birds that are on these lists to keep this in the forefront of their minds.

I would like to stress that it is imperative the finder of a description species should furnish a description as soon after the event as can be managed. As has happened on occasions in the past, it doesn't help to find a first notification of said species amongst a batch of other records six months or so after the bird was seen.

Although the following protocol has been devised by David Butterfield, Mick Cunningham, Russ Boland and Mike Denton in an effort to overcome problems relating to species which are currently on the HBC 'Description required' list, it has changed little over the history of the Club.

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB DESCRIPTIONS REQUIRED

1. Records of description species/races will only be entered on to the database if they are accepted by the relevant rarities committee (HBC, YNU, BBRC).
2. If an observer doesn't supply a description he/she will be asked by the Recorder to do so and sent the appropriate form – a copy of which is on the Club website.
3. The description, as has been the case in the past, will then be forwarded to records panel members by the Recorder, and each individual will then report back to the Recorder with their decision. Any descriptions of a YNU or BBRC species will be forwarded to the appropriate body. The highest authority will have the casting vote.
4. Photographs posted on the Club website, or published anywhere else in the public domain, or submitted to the Recorder which prove correct identification may be

accepted in lieu of a description, but the Club reserves the right to decline publication if there is no evidence it was taken when and where claimed.

5. In the event of a bird which is seen by a number of observers, a written description may be deemed unnecessary.
6. The panel will be prepared to accept records from a reliable observer should they give a verbal description which adequately describes that species. As this will generally be undertaken shortly after the observation, pertinent questions allow for a quick decision to be made. This has long been the case in HBC and has worked well with a good number of observers/species.
7. Call only records will only be accepted from observers who know the species well or describe the call convincingly. Generally, the bird should be seen and described as belonging to that family.
8. If a description is submitted to a club which overlaps the HBC recording area and that club accepts it, then HBC will do likewise, ditto if they reject it.
9. If a species/race is outside the panel's experience but not on the YNU or BBRC lists the panel will call on someone who knows that particular species.
10. Records from BirdGuides/pagers will only be considered if the observer (if one can be found) submits an acceptable description/photographs.
11. The panel reserve the right to request descriptions of species/races not currently on the HBC list or out of season sightings.

A WORD OF CAUTION

When writing a description it is worth bearing in mind that a written account is required so as to convey to the adjudicating panel that the species which has been named is correct. In some cases, however, the record fails, not because it is thought that a misidentification has occurred, but because the record lacks sufficient detail to convince the panel.

With descriptions it is all too easy to assume that the panel realise that the species you are describing actually belongs to the correct family. In a good number of cases it is not sufficient to start a description with "A grebe seen at 50 yards range was identified as a Slavonian because.....". Why was the bird a grebe? The following observation, which occurred at Fairburn Ings in 1966, exemplifies this problem. In the winter of 1966 the Main Bay at Fairburn hosted a 'redhead' Smew and a winter-plumaged Slavonian Grebe. Both species have a similar plumage pattern, and a good number of people were recording either two Smew or two Slavonian Grebe! Had these people taken the time to look at the bill of these birds (let alone the colour differences) they would have realised that one was a duck and the other a grebe! In this case, a written description without details of the bill or plumage colour would result in the record being rejected.

Although this may seem trivial, this is the type of detail required to see a record through the adjudication process without stumbling. The panel only see what you have written on the form – the more detail included will assist the panel in coming to the correct decision.

Mike Denton
On behalf of the Adjudication Panel

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 HBC 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 Mike Denton. 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
Buzzaard
Raven
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

The following is a list of the 269 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 2013. Thirteen 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 years in which the birds appeared are also listed.

The above includes one sub-species new to the List in 2013:

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicula hrota* – three birds were present at Blackmoorfoot on 16th September.

The taxonomic order follows that recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU).

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), the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee (YNU) or British Birds Rarities Committee (BBTC). Consult the YNU and BBRC websites for lists of other species and races for which these organisations require descriptions. Descriptions for the YNU and BBRC should also be copied to the Club. Descriptions must also be submitted to the Club for all species and races not on the list. All such descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible after the observation.

Please send records of your all of sightings, including both common and scarce species, to the Recorder (see page 135).

You may wish to use the sheets to record your own year and lifetime lists for the Huddersfield area. Note that for some species distinguishing between races can be problematic at certain times of year and allocation to species only is advised – refer to a quality field guide.

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
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		
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla bernicula</i>		HBC		
	Pale-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	2013	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	HBC		
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				
19	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				
20	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		HBC		
21	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				
22	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				
23	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2010	YNU		
24	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		YNU		
25	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				
26	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				
27	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1983, 1985			
28	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		HBC		
29	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				
30	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		HBC		
31	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				
32	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>				
33	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				
34	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				
35	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>				
36	Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
37	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>				
38	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				
39	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				
40	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				
41	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				
42	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		HBC		
43	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		HBC		
44	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		HBC		
45	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				
46	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
47	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		HBC		
48	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		HBC		
49	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		HBC		
50	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		HBC		
51	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		HBC		
52	Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		HBC		
53	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
54	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		HBC		
55	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
56	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		HBC		
57	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		HBC		
58	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2008	YNU		
59	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				
60	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		YNU		
61	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
62	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2008	HBC		
63	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		HBC		
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2008	HBC		
65	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		HBC		
66	Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		YNU		
67	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				
68	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2005	YNU		
69	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		HBC		
70	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		HBC		
71	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		YNU		
72	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		HBC		
73	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				
74	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
75	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		YNU		
76	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1982	YNU		
77	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		HBC		
78	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
79	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	1983, 1994	YNU		
80	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				
81	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
82	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				
83	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				
84	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		HBC		
85	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1874	BBRC		
86	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		HBC		
87	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				
88	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				
89	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		HBC		
90	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
91	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	2005	HBC		
92	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		HBC		
93	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				
94	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
95	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		HBC		
96	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				
97	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				
98	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				
99	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				
100	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
101	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		HBC		
102	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		HBC		
103	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	1990	YNU		
104	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2007	YNU		
105	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		HBC		
106	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		HBC		
107	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
108	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>		YNU		
109	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
110	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>				
111	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
112	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		BBRC		
113	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				
114	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	2012	HBC		
115	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				
116	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				
117	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				
118	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1989	YNU		
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
120	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	1983, 1990	BBRC		
121	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
122	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
123	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
124	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		HBC		
125	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
126	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				
127	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1978	YNU		
128	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1985	YNU		
129	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		HBC		
130	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		HBC		
131	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		HBC		
132	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1988	HBC		
133	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	1988, 1992	HBC		
134	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		HBC		
135	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>				
136	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
137	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				
138	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		HBC		
139	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				
140	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		YNU		
141	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		
142	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>				
	Scandinavian Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>		HBC		
143	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		HBC		
144	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		YNU		
145	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>		HBC		
	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides glaucooides</i>		HBC		
	Kumlien's Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides kumlieni</i>	2008	YNU		
146	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		HBC		
147	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				
148	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		HBC		
149	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		HBC		
150	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1998	YNU		
151	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		HBC		
152	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				
153	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		HBC		
154	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	1898, 1964	HBC		
155	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		HBC		

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
156	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		HBC		
157	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		HBC		
158	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	1888	BBRC		
159	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (feral)				
160	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				
161	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				
162	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				
163	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				
164	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
165	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		HBC		
166	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				
167	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				
168	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				
169	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				
170	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				
171	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				
172	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	1872	YNU		
173	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				
174	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1824, 1968	BBRC		
175	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		HBC		
176	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		HBC		
177	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				
178	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				
179	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				
180	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1947	HBC		
181	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				
182	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	2000	HBC		
183	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
184	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
185	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
186	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1989	YNU		
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
188	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
189	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus petrosus</i>		HBC		
	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus littoralis</i>		HBC		
190	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		HBC		
191	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, 2010	HBC		
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
193	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>				
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		HBC		
194	Waxwing	<i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>				
195	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				
196	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
197	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
198	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
199	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		HBC		
200	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		HBC		
201	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
202	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
203	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				
204	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>		HBC		
205	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>				
206	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				
207	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				
208	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				
209	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				
210	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				
211	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				
212	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				
213	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				
214	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
215	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
216	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				
217	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
218	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	1977	HBC		
219	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1980, 1985	HBC		
220	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		HBC		
221	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>				
	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2000	HBC		
222	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
223	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
224	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		HBC		
225	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				
226	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
227	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				
228	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				

THE HUDDERSFIELD LIST TO DECEMBER 2013

No	Common English name	Scientific name	Year(s)	Description species	Life √	Year √
229	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				
230	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>				
231	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>				
232	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		HBC		
233	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				
234	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				
235	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	2010	HBC		
236	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		HBC		
237	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		HBC		
238	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				
239	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				
240	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				
241	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				
242	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				
243	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>				
244	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				
245	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				
246	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	1859	HBC		
247	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
248	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				
249	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				
250	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				
251	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				
252	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
253	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				
254	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				
255	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>				
256	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>		HBC		
257	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>				
258	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				
259	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	1983	BBRC		
260	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				
261	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				
262	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		HBC		
263	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		HBC		
264	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
265	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		YNU		
266	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1999	YNU		
267	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
268	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1998	BBRC		
269	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				

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HUDDERSFIELD RECORDING AREA

The bird recording 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 SE12 south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder, plus Elland Gravel Pits and Dewsbury Sewage Works.

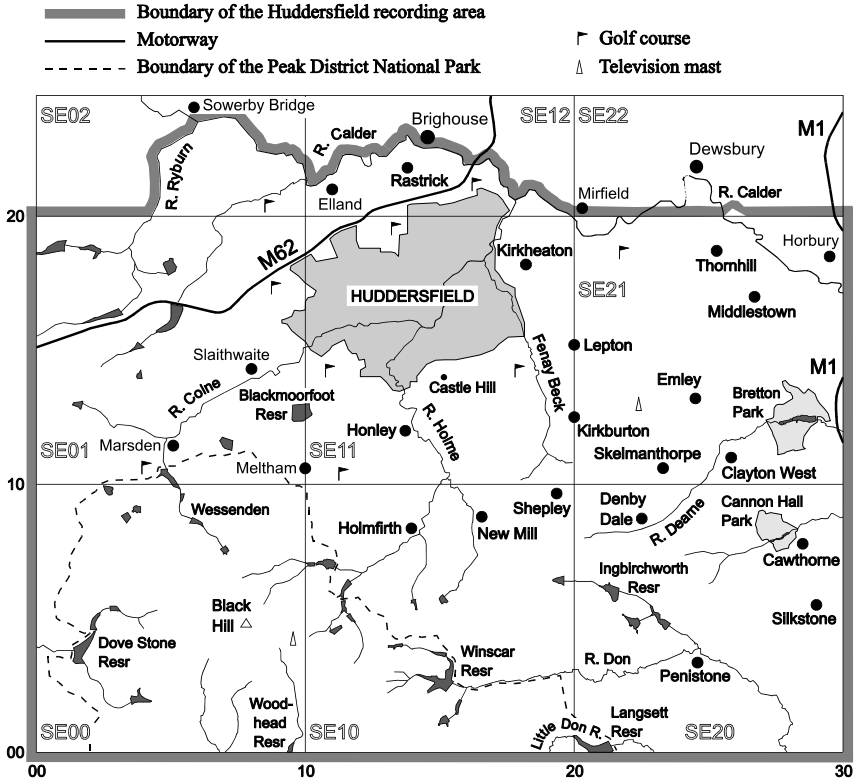


Fig. 1 Map of the Huddersfield area



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296



This magnificent Great Northern Diver, a sea bird of northern waters, arrived at Ladywood Lakes, near Mirfield in mid-December and stayed beyond the year end.



www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk

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