

YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB REPORT 1969

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This Report has "been produced at a most propitious time, for 1970 is "European Conservation Year". With all the publicity on this and the present use of such fashionable words as 'conservation', 'ecology' and 'pollution', the active naturalists who contribute to such reports as this could be excused for believing that all their work had been worthwhile. The naturalists' Shangrila must surely be just around the corner} a country where poisoned land and rivers do not exist; where ugliness and industrial scars are unknown and where concern is felt for all those things which stimulate the spirit and enrich life.

What is the prospect of our reaching this promised land? One does not have to be a cynic to think that despite the hullabaloo and the eminent personages who are sponsoring this worthy event the prospects are not promising. At least not unless there is a great deal more action and rather less high-flown verbiage can we expect any worthwhile change of heart in our administrators.

Naturalists were the first to be concerned at the galloping stupidity of modern trends in both agriculture and industry. It was they who first used the words 'conservation', 'ecology' and 'pollution'. The ornithologist became alarmed at the drastic reduction of such species as Peregrine and Sparrowhawk and the apparent reduction of many other species. But by what yardstick were they to convince those in authority that these fears were well grounded? Those who had experience of studying birds over many years were confident that many species were less apparent than previously but did this truly reflect the position?

To convince industry and government that action needs to be taken requires more than supposition. Precise scientific evidence and properly based conclusions are needed. The British Trust for Ornithology instituted its Breeding Season Census in 1963 and this quickly provided an indication of reduced populations. This with the evidence of the special investigation of the status of the Peregrine and scientific analysis of eggs and corpses, convinced the authorities that action was necessary and the voluntary ban on certain chemicals was introduced. This work has developed further and Joint Committees representing all interested parties have produced some very useful reports. There is evidence that some of the adverse environmental effects have been halted or even reversed and populations of many species of birds have improved.

The problems of DDT recently received a great deal of publicity but the official pronouncement did not ban this chemical. In fact the first signs of a backlash from industry can be detected in this. Industry and agriculture are important and wealthy and can command vast resources to protect their interests. One chemical firm alone employs over a thousand scientists whereas the research team analysing dead birds etc. for chemical traces has only half a dozen at most and works on a small budget.

There are many other examples of conflict with big business:- the plan to dump fly ash on Thorne Waste; the flooding of Farndale; extension of tipping at Fairburn and the growth of aerial and other spraying with newer and more potent products.

Many people feel that compromise is the best guarantee for some improvement in our environment. Certainly an all out battle with industry and agriculture is unthinkable and the action would be only too predictable,. There are many areas for consultation and joint-committees already do valuable work. Local authorities, especially through Planning Officers are growingly aware of the need for conservation, and yet many authorities still fail to exercise

their powers to prevent the pollution of our rivers. Some things cannot be left until public opinion and public pressure achieve the desired effect. Important decisions are needed now but how can this be achieved?

When National Parks can be desecrated by officialdom, when Public Enquiries allow scarring of beautiful landscapes and when areas of scientific interest and even Nature Reserves are subject to spoliation one wonders what defence there can be for our few remaining areas so far untouched by man.

Obviously as a country we have to pay our way and feed a growing population and the needs of both industry and agriculture must be considered. Surely though there is also room for weighing the interests of amenity, nature and environment? Even S.S.S.I. status (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) gives little protection and is now regarded as of little practical value. The next practical protection for an area is that of a Sanctuary Order or National N.R., status. However the Home Office have been rather hesitant in granting the former and the latter are saved for the really top grade areas. There is need for a greater use of the Sanctuary Order and to introduce an intermediate designation between S.S.S.I. and Sanctuary Order or N.N.R. This, to be effective would be awarded by the Nature Conservancy according to its own assessment of values. It would automatically be granted to all Nature Reserves held by County Trusts as well as other areas. It would be a valued label which adequately warned Local Authorities and industry etc that no development or action of any kind could be taken on or adjoining that area without an automatic public enquiry. The onus at such an enquiry would be firmly on the would be bespoiler to prove his case and not, as now for the conservationist to plead his case. The Minister would have to be convinced that not only was the proposed development essential in the national interest but also that all possible alternatives had been effectively explored. Only legislation on these lines can possibly redeem the balance and ensure that the fast diminishing areas of scientific and cultural importance are safeguarded. Of course much else needs to be done. More public funds must be provided to acquire National Nature Reserves and grant aid should be made available to County Trusts which ask for assistance in acquiring Reserves of less than National Status but nevertheless of great local or area importance and appeal.

Conservationists need to be more aware of the educational importance of their work and also of the importance of good public relations. A well informed public can only be an ally. The Conservationist must also educate the naturalist away from the too long held notion that the countryside is for watchers,, recorders and collectors. The countryside and even many Nature Reserves is for people as well as animals and plants. With adequate safeguards much of the land at present kept under restriction can be made available to a wider public. The problems this will bring will be more than offset by the great good which will ensue from a more aware and co-operative public, by a growth of support both physical and financial but also by the further acquisition of areas. These can include areas both scientifically important and to be restricted as well as areas to be managed for amenity.

If naturalists and conservationists are not to lose a valuable opportunity it is up to all of us to take advantage of European Conservation Year 1970 and recruit more members to Societies such as our own and also the Yorkshire Naturalists Trust which does such valuable work in this field.

PETER PEARSON Chairman

RECORDER'S REMARKS

I depart from the usual subjects appropriate to a Recorder on the grounds that 1970 is Conservation Year. Morose thoughts come to mind about an apparent lack of overall development on national planning. There appears to be little concept of what is required in order to preserve a suitable environment for the future.

We look at the Lake District and lose count of the number of amenity and preservation groups squabbling and jockeying for influence while the mighty Manchester Water Board prepares to syphon off still more water to the dismay of the Power Boats Builders and Developers Association who also have plans for the future.

A successful motion at our 1969 A.G.M. to the effect that the Forestry Commission take themselves out of business forthwith ("business" in this case meaning the loss of X million pounds) was ignored by that body, indeed they further annoyed us by bulldozing their way onto the Pennines proper in an unusually inappropriate area. That they gained support from the Pennine Preservation Society beforehand is sinister at least. Interested parties should seek to control this monster by having it placed under the authority of the Home Office Planning Authority.

Farndale is about to be flooded on authority of Hull Water Board. A concrete 6 lane highway is bound to follow eventually. Potash mining will scar Boulby.

Research indicates that deer can be herded and bred like sheep in mountainous regions. These regions will be made to support a minimum number of deer per acre so that the ecology will be disturbed.

These developments are within 50 miles of York. I will not enlarge upon more disastrous developments such as the Morecambe Bay and Wash barrages or the proposed airport that will probably cause extinction of the dark phase Brent Geese,

Something nearer home might now be appropriate. Have you noticed the increasing rate at which farmers are incorporating roadside verges (often with a small copse or patch of uncultivated scrub) into their fields, or the way the wider verges are used as private property .and gouged by sugar beet loading machinery? The cause is not always greed, often it is to preserve an air of tidiness to an arable farm. If no one complains, all the better, Nonetheless a public amenity is lost so don't go and hold your picnic where the wide grass verge stood last year! One more habitat for wild life is lost,.

Eventually the road shoulders will break away (because the supporting, compacted soil nearby will have been loosened and disturbed by the plough) so that widening becomes necessary, some compensation may then be paid the farmer for "loss" of land,.

It will not be to our credit to ignore such developments. I suggest County Hall will not normally antagonize the farming community without a prod.

It is known that one farmer found his newly extended acreage cancelled out by County Council boundary posts. This may be exceptional, he was rash enough to impinge on a time honoured car park opposite a famous historical monument.

Try these map references soon you will get the ideas

SE 595635 - 608652 - 615652 - 675655 - 591735 - 628674 -606694 - 598743 - 625718 (The last four being blatant). It will take an hour to visit them all, as I said, the rate of occupation is increasing. Most will be lost by default. Someone once said something about the price of something being eternal something-or-other. Many people consider those words to be a gross understatement today,

PETER HUTCHINSON Recorder

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The species list is confined to birds recorded in the Y.O.C. area. Once again the asterisk system is used to denote the following:-

- *** species widely distributed and common throughout year.
- ** species widely distributed as summer visitors - common breeding
- ** species widely distributed as common winter visitors

A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

That famous wildfowler Snowdon Sleights, was probably the first man to enjoy the multitudes of wildfowl that congregate on the Lower Derwent floods every year. Obviously in his day the wild fowl would be more numerous but one can still go there and witness the grand spectacle of hundreds of Bewick and whooper swans,, large rafts of wigeon, teal, mallard and tufted duck, and in lesser numbers pintail, shoveler, pochard, goldeneye. Geese are also represented by Pinkfeet and Canadas in reasonable numbers. The thing about the Derwent floods is that the bird watcher can always expect to find the unexpected with the annual appearance of some unusual or rare visitor,, such as black and red necked grebes, marsh and hen harrier to name but a few. Then in the Spring, when the floods subside leaving hundreds of acres of rough pastures, we get our breeding population which includes redshank, lapwing, snipe, curlew mallard, teal shoveler, tufted duck, shelduck, black-headed gull, skylark, meadow pipit, yellow wagtail, reed bunting, sedge and grasshopper warblers. Last year a party of black tailed godwits stayed well into April and we kept our fingers crossed but they passed on. Let's hope this year they stay and breed. But alas, if they did breed, how long would it be before they and the other residents would be disturbed, not temporarily but permanently. If the river authorities' plan to build a barrage across the mouth of the Derwent goes into operation, it will mean that the Derwent floods will be controlled and will almost certainly lead to the reclamation of the area for arable farming, which is the wish of the farmers in the area. It is a great pity that this has to happen., but land is scarce and production of food has top priority, So unless a miracle happens in a very short time, what is now a wonderful area for birds and birdwatchers, will soon be a sea of waving corn.

T. CHILTON

CLUB CENSUS AREA

• Coxwold SE 57	• Hovingham SE 67	SE 77 Malton
• Easingwold SE 56	Sherriff Hutton SE 66	SE 76 Acklam •
Skelton • SE 55	SE 65 • York	• Skirpenbeck SE 75
Askham Richard SE 54	SE 64 Es crick	Sutton • Upon Derwent SE74.
Church • Fenton SE 53	• Skipwith SE 63 Selby	•Bubwith SE 73

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species are arranged in the order of the checklist of The Birds of Great Britain and Ireland published by The BOU.(London 1952) subject to the changes decided upon by the editors of British Birds and notified in that journal. The number preceding the name of each, species refers to that given in the check-list.

Map reference numbers are from 10 Kilometre Ordnance Survey maps,

5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

SE 57 - May - Dale Pond - 1 bird (PH)

SE 63 - May - Skipwith Common, "First record in this area".

SE 64 - 5/19 April - 3 May - Elvington Several pairs (TC GS)

SE 65 - 3 October - Acomb Ponds (RD),

SE 77 - 23 May - Castle Howard - 3 pairs (PH).

SE 77 - 15 September - Castle Howard - 3 (ED),

SE 77 - 15 October - Castle Howard - 5 birds (BP).

Bred - Castle Howard - at least 2 pairs (PH).

6. RED-NECKED GREBE .

SE 64-22 March - Thorganby (HB).

SE 64 - 30 March, 4 April - Ellerton (HB),

8. BLACK-NECKED GREBE

SE 64 - 23 March - Derwent Valley - 1 (TC GS BT HB).

SE 64 - 4 April - Ellerton (HB)

9. LITTLE GREBE

SE 57 - 5 January - 1 (PH) Brandsby.

SE 63 - March/April/June/July/August, 4 May, 3 July (PP).

29 March - 1 dead (GS).. SE 64 - April, May, July - Sewage Farm 7 July - eggs. August young seen (GS TC BT PP).. October - 5 recorded (RD),

SE 67 - 5 January - Stearsby Fish Ponds - 1 (PE).

These being a summary of the records. Bred Derwent Valley, but no estimates of numbers.

28. CORMORANT

SE 63 - 7 April - Derwent (GS) 1,

SE 63 - 13/16 April - Derwent (BP HB) 1 immature bird,

SE 64 - 14 April - Bishopthorpe (TC) 1,

SE 65 - 5 April - Foss in York (PP), Probably the same bird.

30. GREY HERON

SE 53 - July (JS)

SE 55 - 8/26 June - breeding area? (MG LM MW SW DB). Wighill and Healaugh area (JS).

SE 63 - 12 April - Barlby, 1 (PP), 4 May (TC GS BT), 20 July - 3 immature birds (TC BT)

SE 64 - April/May - pair often feeding (GS),

SE 67 - November/December (PH) January - pair feeding (PH) Brandsby

SE 73 - 24 May (GS), Bubwith area

SE 77 - September - Castle Howard (RD)

SE 74 - 6 and 13 April - Melbourne (HB) Quite widely recorded throughout year
Little indication of breeding.

38. BITTERN

SE 63 - 17 October - Skipwith Common (PP) First record in area. Last recorded 1967 Hagg Bridge and Naburn S/P May yet nest in SE 63.

45. MALLARD

SE 57 - 63/64/66/67/74/77/73 - Bred in these areas. First young 3 May (GS)
Skipwith Common most nests only yards apart (PP). Bred Strensall Common -Clifton
Ings Counts of 2/300 - January, February (PH) Max 450 December (PH) at Castle
Howard.

Lower Derwent - counts of 500/800 - November (GS TC PH)

46. TEAL

SE 63/64/73/57 - Maximum numbers on Derwent Spring Floods 650 Bred --
Skipwith Common (PP TC GS) Recorded Yearsley and Newburgh during
breeding season (PH)

SE 77 - January/March - Castle Howard ; January c1000 - March 30th (PH RD)

Many records March to June reducing until December. 12 pairs bred Skipwith (PP)

47. GARGANEY

SE 64 - 3 May Aught on male (HB).

SE 64 - 20 May - Wheldrake area - 3 one female (GS)

SE 73 - 17 May - Single bird on water - Aughton (GS)

SE 75 - 5/12 April - Elvington - pair on a pool (HB)

Total number of records for area

50. WIGEON

SE 55, 57- 63. 64, 73, 77 January March April May October December - as follows:- 5 January c1330 19 January 2.000. 16 March -3 000 (max) reducing to 550 27 April, single 1 May All these for Lower Derwent (HB)

52. PINTAIL

SE 63 - 7 April - 3 - Wheldrake (GS). 12 April 3, 1 male (GS).

23 March - 1 (GS) 2 April - pair (BP)

) 5 January - 6 (HB), 19 January c.20 (HB)

SE64) March/April - several small numbers 1 to 6 but

) 23 March produced 100 Ellerton (TC BT GS),

) 4 May - 2 pairs (HB)

SE 73 - (adjoining area) produced remaining records of 4, 3, 7 and 6 (RD BP GS TC)

More records - 10 in fact - all Derwent Valley The April records are the latest apart from 1968 University imported (?) birds

53. SHOVELER

SE 55 - Healaugh - 15 October (RD) SE 65

York City - 12 September (RD).

SE 63 - Skipwith Common - pair 4 May (GS TC BT), Derwent area (BP)

SE 64 - Derwent area - 10 on 23 March (GS TC BT)

SE 73 - N Duffield - 17 May, 23 May, 27/28 December (GS PP). "Brood young recorded" (PP)

Three breeding records including Skipwith Common This confirmed 1968 suspicions.

56. TUFTED DUCK

S3 55 - 21 December Wharfe Floods (DB) 3rd October Acomb 4 (ED)

SE 57 - Frequently Pond Head (PH) max 37

SE 63 - Lower Derwent throughout spring months to April max counted c120 (GS TO BT) 27 April 1 nest only (TC GS) 1 June (GS)

SE 67 - January to April 6 to 12 Stearsby (PH)

SE 73 - 28 December (GS) 6 Recorded in most suitable localities - one only positive breeding record.

57. POCHARD

SE 55 - 3 October Acomb ponds (RD) 4

SE 63 - 7/12/20 April Max, 25 1 June (GS) 5 October 1 Skipwith (PP)

26 December c200 (GS) SE 64 - 19 January c80 (TC BT GS) small numbers c25 April (CS)

11 May female Aughton (GS) 7 June (GS)

3 August Naburn Sewage Farm female (GS)

SE 73 - 17 May - single . suspected nest (GS) This being the sole evidence of breeding

60. GOLDENEYE

SE 55 - 21 December - Healaugh Pond (DB) 3.

SE 63 - 25 January - 3, 1 male (GS), 26 March 1 (GS), 2 April 2 males (BP)

7 April - Wheldrake 3 (GS)

SE 64- 1 April - Aughton - 6 (ED) 19/20 April - 4 Aughton (GS)

22 March - 6 Ellerton (GS).

1 November - Naburn S/F, 2 female (GS) imm (GS) 8 November .

SE 73 - 27/28 December - 4 female Bubwith (GS) An increase of seven records - mostly Derwent Valley

70. GOOSANDER

SE 55 - 24 November - Healaugh Pond (DB) 1

SE 65 - 10/12 February - Malton Road Area (EC) 1.

SE 64 - 20 April - 2 females "at 30 yds for 30 minutes" (GS).

Three interesting records More could be hoped for over winter seasons,

73. SHELDUCK

SE 63 - February - Skipwith Common - first for the area 3 (PP)

23 March - 30 March (KB) pairs

23 April - Aughton. 5 (BP)

20 April - Aughton - displaying (HB), 28 May - pair (BP)

1 June - single (GS)

SE'64 - 20 April - 3 pairs - displacing (Go)

11th May "apparently holding territory" (TC BT Go)

24 May - Bubwith, 1 (GS)

SE 73 - 7 May - pair (BP)

Three breeding records from areas SE 63/64, A considerable increase in the area culminating in already suspected breeding records.

75. (grey geese sp.)

SE 64 - 9 March - Lower Derwent floods - 5 (HB)

23 March - 3, 13 April 3 (HB) S

E 77- 8 December - Castle Howard 2 (RD)

78. PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

SE 73 - 26 December - 4 Bubwith (HB)

82. CANADA GOOSE

Recorded in SE/54 55 63 64 67 77. Max numbers 103 SE 77 Castle Howard 15 October (BP) Bred in large numbers

84. MUTE SWAN ***

85. WHOOOPER SWAN

SE 63 - 8 January - Skipwith Common - First record - 7 birds (PP)

SE 64 - Recorded early January to 13 April - count never exceeding 9 birds

December Records; 4 on 26 December (HB),

SE 73 - 27 December - Bubwith - 3 (GS)

All above records from (TC BT GS RD HB PP) Good records. Result of systematic observation.

86 BEWICK'S SWAN

SE 64 - 5 January - 48 (14 imm), 12 January - 90, 19 January - 95-

2 February 124 (20 imm)

2 March - 95 (12 imm). 9 March c120 (11 imm) 16 March 133 (14 imm)

23 March 142 (16 imm) 30 March - 151

6 April - 107 7 April - 103 (JEM) - Mass exodus .after this date resulted as follows;

13 April - 1, 27 April - 2

Some long hours put in to give us this excellent picture of monthly movements
Recorded by (GS HB TC BT RD),

91. Buzzard

SE 67 - November - 10 - at close range in fog (PP PH) - Stearsby area.

93. SPARROW HAWK

SE 57 - 13 June - hunting male twice in day - Brandsby area (PH) 5 July - 2

juv (PP PH),

15 July - Easingwold Golf Club male hunting - "This bird pursued prey into bushes about 10 paces away from two golfers" (PH)

SE 63 - 16 February - Skipwith Common (PP) where later bred

SE 64 - 22 January - 1 Wheldrake Woods (RD)

1 February - 2 (PP TC)

30 March - pair Fulford area (TC)

11 May - pair Skipwith (PP).

SE 65 - 20 July Elvington Woods (TC)

"Five young reared Langwith area Female regularly in area until October," (TO).

SE 67 - 25 June - with young (PP PH)

SE 76 - 8 June - Langton - 1 (PP),

1968 produced ten records, itself an increase of seven over 1967 - we have not increased our records to any extent, nonetheless the records are mostly substantial and for this reason are encouraging.

Continue to inspect gibbets please. Sparrowhawk fledglings are extremely vulnerable your Recorder considers it good policy to let the local Gamekeeper know that your Club/Society is watching the development of a certain family of this species

Mention no feeding areas of course

99. MARSH HARRIER

SE 64 - 28 May - Aughton area female (BP)

Perhaps the 1968 record (TC BT GS) was not too far out?!

100. HEN HARRIER

SE 57 - 16 December " female at c80 yards flying directly in front and away from car" edge Hambleton Hills (PH). SE 63

- 8 March female Skipwith Common (PP)

SE 73 - 8 March - Ellerton - 2 (PP) Good to have the record continue this way

115. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

SE 63 - July - nest with eggs (PP) unusual insofar as the nest was "deep in a wood"

SE 64 - 22 January - Wheldrake - 10 (GS TC)

SE 67 - 10 April - 2 (PH) Stearsby, 10 December - 2 Castle Howard

SE 73 - 1 April - 6 (RD) Bubwith

116. GREY PARTRIDGE ***

SE 57 67. 77 56 66, 55 65 54 67 74 63 73

Max, days count 15 February - 60 SE 64 (TC)

Max pair count 34 - S S.E York (PP).

FALCON SP.

SE 67 - 27 November - Yearsley Moor - large falcon flying west in a straight , purposeful manner. Distinguished from Kestrel by larger size (PH LS),
A pointless record but good reading!

110. KESTREL

Recorded all 10 kilometre squares at all times of year Almost daily records from January to March

SE 64 - 3/7 May - display (TC), 7 July visiting nest (GS)
August - 3 young (PP)

SE 66 - Nested at two sites (JB PH) April/May

SE 67 - 14 November - Gilling with starling (PH),
14 November - injured male to N.H. Museum, eventually recovered and released in home area by Colin Simms

Bred in following areas - University of York., Fulford Golf Course, Skipwith Common Brandsby, Stearsby

" Probably bred SE 64, 63, 73, 55, 65, 57 (GS TC PP PO M.SW LM MG PH BP RD DB) Appears to be successful in our recording area
Considerable winter movement noted and "Bedraggled" birds in severe weather.

117. QUAIL

SE 63 - June - disturbed by farmer - later seven eggs Two hatched remainder uncertain - six shells remaining after birds left (GS PP)

118. PHEASANT

All areas

120. WATER RAIL

SE 64 - 22 January - Wheldrake (RD)

11 April - Tilmire (TC) seen twice - substantiating suspicion of previous year
27 September - Naburn S/F (GS)

125. CORNCRAKE

SE 63 - June - 10 - 1 dead (PP)
September - 11 - pair - one in hand (PP C-S)
Young seen in June (per PP)

SE 64 - May - 2 - Skipwith Common - pair calling (PP).
Also calling throughout May Aughton/Ellerton" (PP)

126 MOORHEN ***

Virtually all areas Few observations on rearing successes. First young 17 May - SE 64 (GS)

127. COOT ***

Once again recorded on all suitable stretches of water Over population mentioned several times . Eggs - 3 May - SE 64 (TC)

131. OYSTERCATCHER

SE 64 - 16/22/23 March - Ellerton - 3 birds (TC BT GS KB)

133. LAPWING

Breeding records - SE 64, 63 55 56 77, 76 (TC GS PH RD EB)

134. RINGED PLOVER

SE 64 - 3/4 May - Aughton Area 5 and 10 (KB)

22 August - Aughton (GS) 1,

135. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

SE 64 - 28 April - Aughton - 6 at 100 yds (BP),
22/25 September - Ellerton/Aughton area 1 imm (GS). SE 65 - 1
September - Clifton Ings (RD)
Three good passage records .

140. GOLDEN PLOVER

SE 63 - 29 March - Derwent Floods (GS).

SE 64 - 10 January - L Derwent (RD)
30 March - L Derwent c200 (TC GS BT)
22 September - Naburn S/F (GS)
SE 65 - 27 November - Wigginton - 10 (PH),
SE 73 - 26 December - Bubwith area 2 (GS).

143. TURNSTONE

SE 64 - 7 May - L. Derwent in summer plumage with a group of Black-headed
Gulls (BP)

145. SNIPE

Large number of records from squares 63 64 73, also squares 57; 67, 77, 66
Bred SE 64 - 27 April (GS TC) 3 eggs
73 - 23 April (BP) 3 eggs
Nine confirmed breeding records

147. JACK SNIPE

30 March - Wheldrake Ings 1 (HE).
19 April - L. Derwent 1 (GS).
SE 64 - 26 April - Thicket Priory - 2 (GS)
SE 63 - 7 April - L. Derwent at close range - 1 (GS). .

148. WOODCOCK

Nested as follows:-
SE 57 - 9 May/4 June/10 July Roding (PH).
SE 67 - 13 May/11 November - Grimston (PH).
SE 63 - Skipwith - Hollycarrs - Thorganby. April/May/June.
SE 64 - Wheldrake - April/May.
SE 65 - Tilmire - March/April.
SE 66 - Strensall - April/May.

150 CURLEW

Bred widely throughout the club area Nested in 12 out of the 15,10 km squares.
Prospecting began late March (PH) with much movement between suitable nesting
areas 20 April - 20 in group,
SE 64 (GS RD)

151 WHIMBREL

SE 64 - 4 May - 1 Aughton (HB).

154. BLACK- TAILED GODWIT

SE 64 - 27 April - L. Derwent - flock of 24 (TC GS).

155. BAR-TAILED GODWIT

SE 63 - 17 September - Skipwith Common - 8 - first for area (PP).. These last three are particularly interesting records and again illustrate the value of Derwent Ings,

156. GREEN SANDPIPER

SE 64 - 27 April - Naburn S/F - only Spring record 4 (TC GS),

12 August - Naburn S/F - 1 (GS),

16 August - Naburn S/F - 1 (GS).

159. COMMON SANDPIPER

SE 57 - 19 August - Bransby Beck - first recorded this area.

Stayed two days - 1 (PH),

19 April - River Ouse mudbank at close range (GS).

SE 64 - 26 May - River Ouse - 1 (TC GS)

4 August - Naburn S/F - 3 (GS),

23 August - Naburn S/F - 5 (GS)

Over August groups from 3 to 8 recorded

165. GREENSHANK

SE 64 - 22 August - Naburn S/F - 1 (GS)

178. DUNLIN

Many more records for the year

SE 63 - 29 March - L. Derwent c20 (GS)

SE 64 - 3 March - Aughton 35 (GS)

30 March - Thorganby 10 (TC GS BT)

19 April - Ellerton 25 (GS)

20/26/27 April - L, Derwent - 12, 30 and 50 respectively

26 January - Bubwith c50 (RD)

SE 73 - 23 April - Bubwith c 40 (BP)

28 December - Ellerton - 8 feeding (GS)

161. REDSHANK

All records S SE York - in particular from two 10 km squares 63 and 64

SE 63 - 23 April - Skipwith area (GS) 1

SE 64 - 26/30 March - Thorganby area - 3 displaying (DP GS TC)

26 March - Naburn S/F 1 (GS)

28 March - L Derwent (BP) pair

5 April - Aughton - 12 (GS RD) in territory

19 April - L Derwent pair (GS)

19 May - L Derwent - two nests (TC)

26 May - L Derwent - 2 pairs - distraction display (TC).

162. SPOTTED REDSHANK

SE 55 - 6 October - Healaugh Manor Pond (DB) 1

18 October - Healaugh Manor Pond (RD) 2

SE 64 - 7 May - L Derwent - single with redshank (BP)

15 May - L. Derwent with redshank (TC)

SE 73 - 10 May - L, Derwent -.Bubwith area (BP) 1.

184. RUFF

SE 64 - 27 April - Ellerton 2 (HB)

4 August - Naburn S/F 1 (GS).

198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Small numbers and odd birds recorded squares;-

SE 56 - 27 April (SB)

SE 57 - 2 May - 5 (PH)

SE 64 - January/February with B/H and Common Gull flocks

SE 65 - January - 10 Ouse River area (RD)

SE 77 - February/March - Castle Howard (PH)

SE 66 - January February and late December - Strensall Tip (PE).

199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

More records than 1968 but not a common bird Largest number for L.
Derwent area 8 Probably overlooked in the other parts,

SE 64 - 22 January, 8 February 3 March - 8 19 April -17. 20 May - 5 imm, 7
June - 3, 4 July - 1 (PP GS TC BP RD).

SE 63 - 2 March 17 May 12 July 26 December (GS TC PP)

One pair present in Black-headed Gull colony on Skipwith Common
during summer

SE 73 - 17 May 24 May - 5 (1 imm) 28 December - 1 (GS. TC)

SE 66 - Strensall Tip - February/March c 30 at any time (PH).

200. HERRING GULL

SE 57 - January - 10 17 March - 12 - Newburgh (PH).

SE 63 - April/March/December (GS TC BT)

SE 73 - January - March (GS) - (several immature)

SE77 - Castle Howard

201. COMMON GULL *

202. GLAUCOUS GULL

SE 67 - 8 December - Single 2nd year bird Castle Howard

(RD) - corroborated C Smith

203. ICELAND GULL

SE 64 - 19 April - Ellerton/Aughton - single (GS)

207. LITTLE GULL

SE 64 - 3/4 May - single -"displaying at B/H Gulls" (HB GS) - Ellerton Area

SE 73 - 3 May - Bubwith Ings - 1 (PP)

208. BLACK HEADED GULL

All squares in area

SE 64 - 11 May - N Duffield Carrs "Colony of 20 pairs" (GS TC BT)

17 May - Skipwith Common (GS PP) - Colony - about 150 breeding
pairs in total

212. BLACK TERN

SE 64 - 3/4 May - Aughton - 3 (HB TC GS Pp),
SE 64 - 7 May - Aughton "2 in summer plumage" (BP)
SE 65 - 1 June - Clifton Ings (RD PP)
SE 73 - 23 April - Bubwith Ings (BP)

217/18. COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

SE 64 - 23 April - L. Derwent (AP BP) 4 birds
7 May - Aughton - 12 (BP), 26 May - Naburn area - 4 (TC)

232. STOCK DOVE

SE 67 - 20 May (PH)
SE 64 - 11 July (GS)
SE 63 - 2 April (BP) 30 March (PP)
SE 75 - 6 June - Buttercrambe (PP)
This species is obviously overlooked

234. WOODPIGEON ***

235. TURTLE DOVE **

SE 57 - 14 May (PH)
SE 63 - 29 April - Skipwith Common (PP) First? 4 May in territory
(TC GS) 12/18 - 6 pairs (GS) 10, 13 and 18 June - several pairs (GS).
SE 64 - 14/24 May (PP GS) Wheldrake Woods 18 May - pair (TC).
7 June 11 July (GS) 22 August - Naburn S/F (GS) .
SE 66 - 6 pairs bred Strensall Common (PH ED)
SE 67 - 14 May - 10 June bred in area (PH),
SE 73 - 11 July - Hovingham (PE)
SE 77 - 21 June (GS)

COLLARED DOVE

SE 57 - July - Easingwold 2 (PH)
SE 63 - 3 November - Skipwith area (PP). 12 December - Barlby (PP)
SE 64 - 3 July - Deighton . breeding (TC)
SE 65 - Regularly - Bootham School - bred in area (RD) Max. No. 6.
SE 77 - 27 December - Amotherby - 2 (PH)
Suspected breeding in York suburbs (EC).

237. CUCKOO **

SE 64 - 19 April - Wheldrake - 1st heard (TC)

241. BARN OWL

SE 55, 63, 64, 65 - bred in these areas and recorded in areas 66, 67, 57 and 77,

246. LITTLE OWL

SE 64 - 24 January (TC) being mobbed by tits

27 January (TC) dead at Fulford 30 March - pair (TC BT GS)
3 July (TC SB) with young - Tilmire.
12 August (GS) - 1 Naburn S/F
SE 65 - 12 October (PH) Wigginton
SE 66 - 17 June (ED) 1 - Strensall

SE 67 - 5 July (PH) - Brandsby - 10 July- 1 Crayke,
SE 77 - 9 October (PH) Castle Howard
3 nesting pairs within ½ sq. mile Fulford (TC) Bred successfully Deighton - 2 nests

247. TAWNY OWL

Bred successfully SE 63 - 23 April - eggs (TC GS)

SE 64 - 20 April - eggs (TC BT GS)

SE 65 - Fulford Area - 2 nests (TC)

SE 67 - Yearsley area - at least two pairs bred (PH)

SE 77 - Grimston - hunting birds frequently recorded (PH).

Recorded in breeding season - SE 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 74, 75 (.FO GS PH PP), A sick bird failed to recover after attention at the N.H. Museum. No apparent injury No less than 9 dead birds recorded over year (PH),

248. LONG-EARED-OWL

SE 63 - 7 July (TC) Hollycarrs. Roost on Skipwith Common maintained.

SE 64 - 2 March (TC GS) - Wheldrake Woods.

249. SHORT-EARED OWL

SE 63 - 8 May - Aughton - 1 (PP)

SE 64 - 26 January - Skipwith Common - 1 (RD)

SE 73 - 27 December "From 20 yards hunting" (GS)

SE 74 - 9 March - Melbourne - 1 (HE).

252. NIGHTJAR

SE 63 - "probably eight pairs nested in the square" (PP)

Also (FO GS TC RD)

SE 64 - Two pairs recorded (GS TC BT PH).

SE 57/67 - A prolonged search failed to support persistent rumours of breeding here, although they did so until the late 40's (PH)

255. SWIFT **

3 May - First migrants

258. KINGFISHER

SE 54 - Bred Bishopthorpe Ouse - this nesting site was mentioned, perhaps unfortunately in the local newspaper, later in the year (PP TG BT FO)

Nested also SE 63 (TC BT),. and SE 65 (TC BT RD) Possibly SE 65 (PP)

SE 55 - Bred Newton-on-Ouse (PH).

Fishermen, by thronging the river banks do little to support the survival of this species.

261. HOOPOE

SE 57 - Checked (PP PH) Crayke Village on several occasions over a 9 day period - an interesting story and a highly unexpected record,

262. GREEN WOODPECKER

Areas SE 57, 63, 64, 66, 67, 77,

Present in breeding season - SE 64 63, 66, 67 as follows.-

SE 63 - 10 June - Skipwith (BP), 1 June (GS), 4 May (GB BT TC).

SE 64 - 17 May (GS), 15 May (FO) - Thorganby

SE 66 - 18 May (ED) Strensall

263. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

All records

SE 54 - 9 October - Naburn (FO).

SE 57 - 22 June - Dale Head - 1 (PH).

SE 63 - 5 January - Skipwith Common - 1 (TC BT GS).

19 February - calling (TC)

23 February - single (GS)

1 March - Naburn Hospital - 1 (GS)

20 April (TC GS) 6 displaying or calling/drumming

4 May (TC BT GS) - 1

13 June (GS)

16 June - Skipwith Common (FO)

On "18 May Skipwith Common female entered nest hole male fought starlings" (TC GS).

SE 66 - 18 May - Strensall - 1 (RD),

SE 76 - 25 February - Foston - 1 (PH)

264. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

SE 63 - 20 April - A pair drumming - seen at 40 yds (GS TC)

10 May - Skipwith Common (PP) Also report of breeding in North Duffield area (per PP)

272. SKYLARK ***

SE 64 - 30 March - distraction display (TC BT GS)

274. SWALLOW **

SE 64 - 20 April - first record (GS)

24 May - first eggs (GS)

Long stayers 13/15 October - 10 and 4 (FO BP)

276. HOUSE MARTIN **

SE 62 - 19 April - University (EC MW SW)

SE 64 - 20 April - 20

SE 77 - 11 April - Castle Howard - "11 birds for one day after which no more hirundine appeared for 13 days" (PH)

SE 65 - 1 October - York Ouse - 4 passing (PH)

277. SAND MARTIN **

SE 64 - 24/26 April (GS)

SE 55 - 7 October - Dringhouses (PP)

SE 65 - May - nesting - Ouse (ED).

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280. CARRION CROW ***

282. ROOK ***

SE 64 - 4 April - Wheldrake - building (GS).

SE 66 - 24 April - Strensall - nesting - (JB),

283. JACKDAW

SE 64 - 4 April - nest - large colony - Escrick (TC)

SE 65 - 4 April - nest - large colony - Fulford Road... York (PP).

284. MAGPIE ***

Nested SE 57 56, 55, 67, 66, 65 64. 63, 76. 77 and probably others.

286. JAY ***

Bred SE 56, 57, 67, 63 and 64.

288. GREAT TIT ***

289. BLUE TIT ***

290. COAL TIT

Bred SE 57 63, 64 66 67 75 77

SE 64 - 18 May "eggs in nest box" (TC) 12 June - 8 young (TC)

SE 63 - 4 May Hollycarrs - building (GS)

292. MARSH TIT

Bred SE 55, 57, 63, 64, 66

SE 64 - 4 April in territory (TC), 26 May in Woodpecker's nest (PP).

SE 66 - 25 April - Strensall (JB).

293. WILLOW TIT

Present during breeding season - SE 55, 57, 63, 64 67, Bred SE 55 (RD) SE 57 - Grimston Woods (PH), SE 57 - Dale Wood (PH), SE 64 - 5 July "party of 20" (TC GS BT)

294. LONG-TAILED TIT ***

Many records of small winter parties - SE 55 57 63 64 66 74 and 77- Breeding records SE 55 (EB)

SE 64 - 5 April (GS) - 7 June -eggs (GS)

SE 63 - 18 May - eggs (TC GS)

SE 66 - May - eggs (Pi)

298. TREECREEPER

Many records throughout year: SE 54 55, 57 63 65 66 67, 76 and 77 Bred - Naburn - Escrick Park (2 pairs) - Strensall Common - Yearsley - Newburgh - Grimston - Stearsby - Brandsby - Wheldrake Woods - Skipwith Common - Tilmire - Kilburn - Castle Howard - Buttercrambe - Skelton (RD PP TC GS FO BT HP PH ETC)

299. WREN ***

SE 54, 55 56 57, 63, 64, 67, 77 = 56 records,

SE 64 - produced many records of nesting;

20 April - territory - 26 May eggs - 4 April nesting (TC GS)

to mention a few

SE 54 - 19 May - young seen (TC), Recorded on lawns and gardens over winter

301. MISTLE THRUSH ***

Probable breeding areas - SE 54, 57, 56 63, 64, 73, 77, 75.

SE 54 - 19 May with young (TC)

SE 56 - 27 April,

S3 57 - 10 May.

SE 63 - 1 May - young

SE 64 - probably 10 breeding pairs (TC).

SE 66 - 16 April

SE 75 - 6 September - flock of 7 (PH).

302. FIELDFARE *

From 15 October - 25 (GS) when recorded all areas but without the usual large flocks Largest flock counted c100/130 (PH). 45 -16 April (BP) and Singleton, Naburn S/F - 26 May (TC).

303. SONG THRUSH ***

SE 64 - 26 April - fledglings (TC) being a remarkably early record.

304. REDWING *

Late October arrivals - all areas - departed by first week April.

308. BLACKBIRD ***

SE 64 - eggs - 7 April (TC)

311. WHEATEAR

SE 56 - 27 April - Eastmoors (JB)
SE 64 - 28 September - Naburn S/F (GS)
SE 66 - 27 April - Strensall (JB) - 6 May (PH).
SE 77 - 6 May - Castle Howard (PH)
Bred Sutton Bank area (PH) not Y.O.C. recording area

318. WHINCHAT

More records than 1968,
SE 63 - 25 May - 1 (TC), 13/18 June holding territory (GS).
12 July - young (GS)
SE 64 - 9 July - Skipwith Common (ED)
SE 66 - May - pair (RD) "A good "breeding season here" (PP)

320. REDSTART

A paucity of records this year SE 67 produced only unattached birds in August (PH)

Bred SE 63 65 64 and 77 each square producing one record only, (TC GS BT PH)

325. ROBIN ***

327 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

SE 55 - 14 May - Overton Woods (MW SW III JG).
SE 57 - 23 June - Kilburn Area - probably 4 pairs (PH),
SE 63 - 3/4 May (HB) - Aughton Area. 10 June (TC GS) 20 July ~
Naburn S/F (TC) "Probably 15 pairs - Skipwith Common" (PP)
SE 64 - 30 April - singing - Wheldrake Woods (TO) 4 May, 16 May,
singing (TC GS) 9 July "6 heard one seen" (RD PP).
SE 66 - 18 May - seen Strensall Common (PP)
SE 67 - Sudden desertion - Grimston Common - one prospecting bird in May
only
SE 73 - 17 May - N Duffield (GS).
SE 74 - 13 June . Allerthorpe Common - 2 (PP).

333. REED WARBLER

Recorded in two further areas; viz
SE 65 - 11 July - Hagg Bridge - 1 (PP).
SE 66 - June - Strensall Common (RD),
Again SE 63 - Skipwith Common - single bird (GS)

337. SEDGE WARBLER **

Records from SE 63 64, 57, 67 77. 73. Bred in areas Heslington 3 and 26 May (GS TO),
Hollycarrs - 10 June (GS)
Wheldrake - 11 May (RD GS)
N Duffield - 17 May 24 May 21 June (GS) - Three pairs
Grimston Common - 2 pairs bred (PH)
Yearsley Woods - May June (PH).

343. BLACKCAP

SE 54 - 20 May - Nun Appleton (FO)
SE 56 - 1 breeding pair - Woodlands (PP).
SE 63 - 18 May - Hollycarrs - 3 birds (TC GS).
20 July - Escrick area (TC BT). SE 64 - From 16 May (GS) 16 May
Tilmire - nest/young (TC GS),
Skipwith Common "several breeding pairs" (PP). SE 66 - 18 May -
Strensall Common (RD) 2 pairs - 26 May (PH).
SE 67 - 12 May - Bradsby Woods - also 1 June "first record" (PS).

346. GARDEN WARBLER

Increased records and quite widely spread
SE 56 - 18 June - Woodlands (PP) - 13 May - Woodlands (ED)
SE 63 - 18 May - Hollycarrs (TO GS) 16 June Skipwith. Common (PO) "Heard several times May/June - Skipwith Common with one "breeding record" (PP).
SE 64 - 18 May - Tilmire - nest/young (TC) 26 May/11 June - Heslington (GS TC)

347. WHITETHROAT **

Widely distributed and present throughout the area in suitable habitat viz -
SE 54 55 57, 63 64 65 66 67 73 74 77 - most 10 kilometre squares carried several pairs Strensall Skipwith Yearsley. Hovingham, Castle Howard Overton Bishopthorpe. Brandsby. Heslington, Allerthorpe, Wheldrake, Kilburn Ampleforth etc.

348. LESSER WHITBTHROAT

A single record,
SE 64 - 13 May - Thicket Priory - heard by (FO),

354. WILLOW WARBLER **

First record 16 April - SE 74 (BP), by April 24 singing Strensall Common (JB ED) - widely dispersed throughout recorded areas

356. CHIFFCHAFF **

April 16 - SE 74 - singing (BP) then squares:- SE 57, 63, 64, 65, 66 67, 73, 77 through breeding season

357. WOOD WARBLER

Two well-supported records
SE 54 - 3 May - Stubbs Wood - a pair, singing (DB).
16 May holding territory (PO).

361. GOLDCREST

SE 63 - 2 February - large parties (TC) recorded in varying numbers throughout year 6 June fledged young (PP) but otherwise little definite information on breeding.

366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Strensall Common produced an early record - 29 April (JB),
SE 57/67 - Many breeding pairs with juveniles from mid July (PE),
SE 54 - 19 May - eggs (TC).
SE 63 - 18 May onwards - 4 young - 12 July (GS TC).
SE 64 - 18/20 May (TC) breeding pair (PP).
SE 65 - bred Bootham School environs (RD).
SE 73 - 21 June - Juv. (GS).

368. PIED FLYCATCHER

SE 63 - 28 April - Brayton - 2 birds (PP).

371. DUNNOCK ***

373. MEADOW PIPIT ***

376. TREE PIPIT

Fewer and mostly earlier records this year.

A sharp increase in breeding pairs as Skipwith Area " c30 pairs bred" (PP),
Also in same 10 kilometre sq., 4 May - 2 singing (TC GS BT) 18 May Hollycarrs
also 1/10 June (GS),

Bred Escrick Park and Wheldrake (GS TC RD) SE64. Displaying on 18 May Strensall
Common - probably 3 pairs (JB) May 26 produced 3 singing birds in SE57/67

380. PIED WAGTAIL ***

382. YELLOW WAGTAIL

SE 57 - Brandsby Village - 1 May/10 October/12 October, produced eight
passage birds (PH).

SE 63 - Derwent Valley - 1 June (GS)

SE 64 - Naburn S/P - 3 May (TC) - nesting from May June (TC GS) "

SE 65 - Several records - Clifton lngs - all of which indicate
probable nesting (ED PH)

SE 73 - 17/24 May N Duffield (GS)

No close scrutiny made at Strensall or Naburn

383. WAXWING

Two word of mouth reports - York outskirts, neither of which could be checked
thoroughly.

384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE

SE 67 - 26 October - first record for area, - observed "in clear bright weather at c80
yards" (PH)

SE 64 - 26 October at 30 ft range in excellent light observed "for 20 minutes feeding
and being mobbed by sparrows" (TC BT)

389. STARLING ***

392. GREENFINCH ***

Moorlands roost very large - November to early February (PP RD). Large flocks
January /February usually mixed (PH). Displaying and holding territory from 27 April -
SE 64 (GS TC). Nested in every 10 km square.

393. GOLDFINCH

Improved nesting records from South York area,
SE 54 - 19 May - produced 6 pairs - two with eggs (TC),
SE 56 - 27 April (KB)
SE 64 - 26 May - holding territory - Escrick (GS) 11 July (TC),
26 May Wheldrake "probable breeding pair" (TC).
SE 77 - 24 May Bubwith (GS)
SE 63 - April/May/June (GS) Throughout year SE 64, 65, 66 67, 73 77.

394. SISKIN

Four records
SE 63 - 2 February - Skipwith Common (TC BT GS) group of three
SE 64 - 15 February (TC) and most interestingly., a courtship display
26 May (TC) supporting a suspicion of nesting in area.
SE 65 - 22 February - Clifton Ings - 2 (RD),

395. LINNET ***

All times - flocks of 10 to 40 over,

397. REDPOLL

Bred extensively - Skipwith Common in conifers (TC GS), also Strensall Area (ED)
In breeding season - 57, 67, 55 63 64, 65, 74, (MW TC SW GS TC PH).

401. BULLFINCH ***

Surprisingly few "breeding records
SE 63 - 4 May (TC).
SE 67 - Two pairs bred (PH)
SE 55 - Probably bred (PH)
SE 56 - In breeding season (PH)
Otherwise very local in 67, 77, 66

407. CHAFFINCH ***

408. BRAMBLING

Few records
SE 55 - 8 January and late November (ED)
SE 57 - 5 January - 3 (PH)
SE 63 - 5 January - 12 at Thorganby (TC GS).
SE 64 - 15 February - 4 males (TC).

409. YELLOWHAMMER ***

410. CORN BUNTING

All records for year,
SE 55 - May - Skelton (ED) - several.
SE 63 - 16 April - two (BP).
SE 64 - 27 April - singing (GS), 4 May (GS) - territory - 26 May 5 (TO).
SE 66 - 27 April - Strensall (JB).
SE 74 - 16 April (BP) singing - 11 June - Allerthorpe - pair (PP).

SNOW BUNTING

First for our recording area
SE 57 - 25 November - Hambleton - detached from a small flock. (?) flock to feed
by roadside, observed from car at c60 yards

421. REED BUNTING

Squares 55 56, 63, 64 66, 73, 77

April - 24 in territory - Strensall (JB)

March - 30 - displaying - Wheldrake (TC GS BT) June - 1 - eggs (TC)

"Many nested area" - SE 64 - (TC GS)

425. TREE SPARROW

Present in breeding season 63 64 66 73 56 57