

RECORDERS REMARKS

1972 was an eventful and interesting year. It started with a fund-raising effort that was to preserve an area of Lower Derwent wetlands. The year end saw a Public Enquiry into the proposed Riccall/Full Sutton Prison site, -

Between these events, the demand for land with a concomitant pressure on all forms of wildlife, continued at a high level. Within our survey area ponds were filled, marshes drained and hedges removed. At a village near York the Parish Council resisted a request to reclaim a three-acre marsh; the new householders nearby disliked the insects'

At the A.G.M, of this Club, some anxiety about the sudden and considerable increase in the numbers of visitors to Y.N.T. Reserves was expressed.

The national situation remains a matter for concern when the economics of agriculture dictates the removal of about 10,000 miles of hedgerows (and trees) annually. Norfolk alone has lost 8,700 miles in the last twenty years; much of the remaining hedgerows are so reduced by mechanical cutter that no cover remains. Oak trees surviving the power saw are being killed by a surfeit of artificial fertilizer. It has been demonstrated recently that a large mining company can defend some of its milder excesses - prospecting and drilling in a National Park - by influence in high places.

In our immediate sphere of interest it has been shown that pole traps, to judge by the number of R.S.P.B. investigations and prosecutions, are still in fairly common use (but not in the Y.O.C. survey area where enlightened estate owners readily give visiting permits) and the Fenn vermin trap for rats, stoats and squirrels is legal, set on a pole it becomes a pole trap. It costs £1.

It is believed that strychnine is being used to control raptorial birds; last year this poison killed one of the pair of English red kites.

There is a brighter aspect to the picture, however we saw large international companies obliged to defend some actions and activities to the extent of hiring expensive Public Relations experts. On occasions Natural Science bodies are consulted and, in general, public opinion heeded (a good instance being the proposed Trans-Alaska oil pipeline),

Lord Taylor of the Forestry Commission, has announced, that his management will shortly review its policies (it is not suggested that Lord Taylor was in any way influenced by our reports of **1971/721**) and planning. The Commission's many friends will wish that this re-appraisal had. been made before the assault on Powerstock Common. They will not fail to notice that of the Forestry Commission's 109 squs.re miles planted in 1970/71, one quarter of a square mile was of the broadleaf variety.

Our annual survey has again produced two "new" breeding species. Club membership continues to increase, and many of

the younger members assisted in the recently completed "Atlas" Survey. The ruthless "Tick Hunters" recently castigated by Peter Conder have not appeared among our membership.

Peter Hutchinson.

Ignoring the tepid reception accorded his previous book recommendations, the Recorder once again unflinchingly makes his choicer-Life and Death in a Coral Sea - Jaques Ives Costeau, The Deadly Feast of Life - Donald E, Carr. Curious Naturalists - Nikko Tinbergen,

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1971 Report;,-

1. For Roughlegged buzzard read buzzard.
- 2, Wheatear at Thornton Hill - did not breed.

NEW BREEDING SPECIES,1972

- 1, Little ringed plover,
2. Wood Warbler

NEW-PASSAGE BIRDS, 1972.

1. Slavonian grebe.
2. Stonechat.
3. Pied flycatcher.

HEALAUGH POND

Healaugh Pond is situated just outside the village of Healaugh, and. is on the edge of the Y.Q.C. recording area. A public bridleway to Tadcaster passes round the pond, and offers a good view point. It was originally a marshy dip in the ground, but vegetation has been cleared to make a pond for wildfowl shooting, and small shrubs have been planted at one end of the pond for cover. It has the advantage of being low down and the birds are rarely disturbed as the bridleway is seldom used. During the Autumn migration period, the pond offers a good "refuelling" point for waders and on rare occasions in the past, terns. A small deciduous wood nearby houses a lot of common breeding birds,

1972

January/February

At the beginning of January there was a fair sized flock of ducks with 200 mallard, 100 teal and 50 wigeon on the 14th. These numbers gradually decreased during the month, when on the 27th there were 150 mallard. They continued to drop well into February, with 107 mallard, 52 wigeon and a male shoveler on the 18th. Teal had dropped to a minimum of 10.

Lapwings, however, built up numbers during these two months with 300 on 14th January, and 450 on the 18th February. A heron was seen on. 18th February, along with 10 moorhens, 1 coot and numerous fieldfares and redwings.

March/April.

Ducks continued to decrease and the last wigeon was seen on 21st March, when a pair of shoveler were also present. Nothing

much happened during April as summer arrivals were late, the first swallow being seen on the 28th,

May/June

Mallard and teal were present throughout the breeding season, and breeding was suspected. In the wood, chaffinch, robin, spotted flycatcher, blue tits and bullfinches were proved to breed.

On 2nd June, mallard numbered 20 with 10 teal, but it was a surprise to find a pair of pintail and a pair of shoveler. Redshank and sedge warblers bred near the pond as did curlew. Also present in the wood were small parties of redpoll.

July/August

These months are usually important for wader passage, but this year Healaugh did not have many, species. On the 14th August, there were 5 dunlin and 2 spotted redshank, one of which was in summer plumage. The only duck present, were 7 teal and also a little grebe and 8 moorhens.

The passerines seemed to have a good breeding season with young spotted flycatchers being fed, an adult chaffinch feeding 3 juveniles and young whitethroat, robins, blue tits and turtle doves. A pair of barn owls bred nearby rearing young.

Unfortunately the area was not visited in September.

October

Wigeon appeared again with 3 on the 15th and increasing to 24 on the 29th. Mallard started at 350 on the 15th, but had fallen to 30 on the 22nd, due to shooting, and then back to 400 on the 30th. Teal, however, dropped towards the end of the month from 100 on the 15th to 52 on the 30th.

A pair of shovelers appeared on the 15th, and a single male was present on the 30th,

Fieldfare and redwing appeared again in large flocks of 250 and 100 respectively. Also present on the 30th was a grey wagtail, an interest lag record,

November

Mallard were low at the beginning of the month, with 150 on the 19th but these increased to 350 on the 26th. Wigeon increased during the month with 100 on the 19th, and up to 200 on the 26th* Teal numbered. 50 and 15 on the 19th and 26th, 5 shoveler appeared. on the 19th, and a mute swan on the 26th.

A decrease in duck towards the end of the month, from 160 mallard, 94 wigeon. 31 teal and 2 shoveler on the 10th, to 30 mallard, 25 wigeon and 3 teal on the 31st,

Healaugh is an important roost for corvids with flocks of up

to 3,000, It is also situated on two flight lines. Up to 4,000 starlings fly towards Rufforth, and 3,000 gulls on the 10th and 2,000 on the 31st, flying towards Fairburn, Another roosting bird is the yellowhammer with 50 on the 31st.

This ends the year for Healaugh, and let us hope 1973 brings a varied bag of birds,

Peter Dunn, Stuart Rapson.

THE WEATHER - AND BIRDS - IN 1972

1972 again produced a mild winter on the whole, with brief cold spells, periods of rain, and snow which did not lie for long. There were some clear days of sunshine, giving every indication of an early Spring, but with the coming of March, the wind veered to the North-East over the whole country, and although relatively dry, the temperatures, both day and night, remained low. In spite of this there appeared to be an absence of flocking by wintering birds.

The weather continued to be cold and unseasonable until well into May, with heavy showers, sometimes prolonged, which kept the soil cold and thus prevented new Spring growth. As a result of this, bird migration in many parts of Europe was delayed, and from observations made, there was generally a slow start to the nesting season. Bees died in their thousands through the lack of food and persistent cold.

Throughout June, there was little sun, and on at least one night, temperatures recorded were lower in Southern England, than in the previous December. Whether it was the dampness, low temperatures, or lack of suitable food, is a matter of conjecture, but everywhere where observations were made of the nests of the common species of passerines, either the full clutch of eggs was not laid, or some, if not all, of the young died before they reached the fledgling stage. Of birds who nested later, the young ones fared better, as the weather picked up and cover improved, also vegetation grew: even so, there were few really warm days, a cool wind persisting, and often bringing cloud, as the day wore on, Hay making was a prolonged and difficult task in 1972.

The early arrival of winter migrants was observed although, conditions throughout this country seemed to vary more during August, with plenty of sunshine in Scotland, the Western and Southern half of England, but with lower than average temperatures persisting in the North East, thus making harvesting rather late and the ripening of fruit slow. Drought was proclaimed in a few areas in September, and ponds and river levels generally were low, although there were several cloudy days, thus keeping the weather cooler. Towards the end of the month an "Indian Summer" set in bringing warmer nights, and thus enabling the autumnal crops to grow and ripen. Even so, it was a poor year for quality and yields in crops generally throughout Europe and Great Britain.

The quiet, settled spell persisted throughout October, and although the swallows and house martins disappeared from their local haunts at the usual time, various warblers were seen and

heard later in the month than expected. Wintering flocks of geese from Siberia arrived in the Solway area in good numbers about one week earlier than usual. The weather remained, cloudy and relatively mild well into November, when mists heralded colder nights and dampness. Towards the end of the month there were Press reports of flocks of winter migrants arriving on the North East coast from Scandinavia, etc. The rainfall generally remained low until the end of the year, with the exception of the South-West, which, caught a heavy storm resulting in flooding in low-lying districts.

With the continued higher temperatures, there was marked activity and almost Spring-like song of the garden birds over the Christmas period.

Audrey M. Wilson,

WINTER MERLINS NEAR YORK

Winter watching of birds of prey can be relatively easy in the more open landscapes, and very absorbing. As an antidote to yuletide excesses it takes some beating, having built-in exercise, and giving opportunity to stand and stare. But by 'winter' I do mean any time between late August and April,

Getting to know the birds of prey in these conditions usually means getting to know them at a distance. They are mostly silhouette, and they are invariably silent. This is not the place, or perhaps it is, to attempt to answer the question. 'how to recognise merlins in winter', and there is not space. As elsewhere in bird-watching it helps to have previous experience of the bird; say at its summer quarters on the Moors, The merlin is perhaps, the least distinctive, or the most generalised, of the small falcons; and the field-guides are less use in picking up the characteristics of its flight and form than a few hours practise on the summer' Moors or even in a zoo, from a falconer, or more experienced raptor-watcher, Colours will not be seen much, or often, and the telescope may be more use than, the binocular in good light. As against this the birds will generally be solitary, roost where their pellets can be found, and may be mobbed conspicuously at times; so that individuals may not be difficult to find and, at a distance to follow. A cycle or motorcycle is more flexible than a car, but walking is best and permission must always be sought. Farmers and farm syndicates must be treated with due respect, and remember that some will not share an enthusiasm for the birds of prey.

I think there is a real possibility that merlins migrate in August through October along the line of the Hambleton escarpment, passing generally to the North East of York; individual birds can sometimes be watched beating-up against westerlies off the Yale and drifting South, They may be following the flocks of small passerines and they often seem to coincide in an area with the arrival of grey plover, but I think a very great deal more work needs doing on the movements of both predator and prey; it is too easy to suppose that the merlins are following their meals and the majority of prey

items I've taken from winter pellets have been insect and mammal remains. Birds of prey are notoriously individual, even in general habits and perhaps often in prey preferences. Once or twice in the Vale of York merlins have been seen apparently in attendance on starling roosts, and in West Lancashire I once observed one waiting at sea-buckthorn bushes for thrushes. Occasionally they hunt around stackyards and even villages and towns and. in this respect can be bolder in winter than kestrels.

More observation would help establish also whether individual birds generally settle in a district to 'work¹ it for the winter, like buzzards or harriers or gyr falcons have been known to do. My limited experience is that a bird once roosting at a particular place, often a bridge or pylon but sometimes merely a fence, will return to it for weeks and then unaccountably vanish. Perhaps disturbance by the watcher is a factor! There do seem to be places or districts particularly favoured by winter merlins. From records and observations mapped at 'the Yorkshire Museum it is clear that two such districts are the broad arc of country North and East of York, including common land at Strensall, open farmland elsewhere. Another is the parkland and open farmland of Marston Moor Northward past Allerton Park. Many records of other falcons, and often birds of prey not falcons, have been made in these two areas, and there are others like them further afield. Yet it would seem premature to suggest there were recognisable distinctly favoured habitats for winter merlins near York. Much more careful watching out is needed. Every small falcon, so usually passed over as 'another kestrel', needs close examination. Remember that other, falcons can hover!

Ringling returns don't help us much, of course. They are too few so far. And the Icelandic race of merlin, not always recognisable in the field, does not seem to have been reported or 'obtained' near York. Many observers have suggested to me that, the wintering birds are the same individuals which breed on our local Moors and are reared there; but this is also not yet demonstrated. Certainly winter merlins can. be found very near summer nesting-areas (and some of these are not the typical high-moorland places we have usually associated the species with) but this does not mean that these are the same individuals, of course,

C.S. December, 1972.

BISHOP WOOD, ALSO KNOWN AS SELBY FOREST

A brief description and a few observations.

Lying in the Vale of York, Bishop Wood is situated South of the B 1222 Cawood to Sherburn-in-Elmet road. The surrounding area is comprised mainly of arable land and some grazing, divided by dykes and hedgerows, interspersed by small copses and solitary trees, the topography being predominantly flat. The wood itself, consists of coniferous and broadleaved deciduous trees in "various stages of growth.

Before the Middle Ages, the Vale of York was covered with large areas of scrub, woodland and marshes. Since then the Vale

has been cleared and drained extensively for agriculture, but Bishop Wood has never been used for this purpose. For more than one thousand years it has belonged to the Church. Then, during the first quarter of this century, it was completely felled and subsequently leased to the Forestry Commission. Therefore, although the wood has an ancient history of a continuing woodland, all the trees now present have either germinated naturally or been planted since the 1920^s. During a walk through the forest, even the most casual observer can note over thirty combined species of coniferous and deciduous trees and small shrubs. The undergrowth is dominated by bracken, brambles and rosebay willow herb. The list of flowering plants, ferns and mosses runs to a total list of some hundreds, and lichens and fungi abound in suitable habitats.

Mammals too are present in a variety of interesting species - Mole, hedgehog, rabbits, hare, bank vole and grey squirrel. Bats too can be seen at dusk, possibly pipistrelle.

No doubt other small rodents such as shrews, mice and other voles inhabit the forest but they are obviously more difficult to observe. In addition, fox, weasel, stoat and badger can be seen, and if not then their tracks on soft ground informs us of their presence. Deer are there too, sightings have been made, and tracks of roe deer have been seen.

Birds, of course, are more easily noted, about seventy species have been recorded in, around or over the wood. Nesting records of certain less common species have been noted in the wood over a number of years. During Spring, the wood and surrounding area is filled with bird song. A walk through the wood, and a collection of broken snail shells will show where song thrushes have their anvils. Along the wood side lapwings fly, their wing feathers creaking as they perform their magnificent display flight,

In Autumn and Winter, parties of tits and goldcrests forage through the branches, fieldfares and redwings feed on hawthorn berries along the hedgerows, and a flock of" golden plover may pass through* All, of course, common birds, but they are no less interesting because of it. Short encounters with animals can be made too. I remember seeing a very large dog fox disappearing down a ride one morning, and also following the fresh tracks of deer for quite some distance. One afternoon, on turning a quiet corner in a ride, I saw a song thrush standing absolutely motionless* About three feet away lay a rotting log, wound about with an undergrowth of brambles, grass and bracken. From out of this a weasel transfixed its gaze upon the song thrush, which was obviously petrified with fright. Inevitably, I trod on a dead twig, which snapped with a loud report. This momentarily diverted the weasel, and the song thrust flew away, the weasel vanished. Had I averted, the death of the bird? I think so, because the bird could have flown away long before the twig broke.

In a quiet ride, I heard a rustling in the undergrowth, and saw a tiny brown bundle of fur moving through the dead leaves and dying grasses of Autumn. It was a bank vole, quite oblivious of my presence. It made its way to some stems of hogweed, the seeds of which were now ripe. Without a pause it

climbed the main stem, then along one of the branches to where the seeds hung. After biting off one or two of these, it turned around with remarkable ease and proceeded down to the ground, whereupon it disappeared into the undergrowth. Shortly after it reappeared minus the seeds, returned to the hogweed and repeated the former action twice more.

This was fascinating to watch, on one occasion as it turned round, one of its hind feet missed the slender branch, and it almost came to grief, as it swung around on the very thin stem,, its leg waving wildly, whilst groping for the elusive foothold, which fortunately it eventually found. The action of collecting the seeds was presumably for future use during the Winter perhaps? Although I understand it does not hibernate.

Remember when next you go out into the woods and fields, there are other things to look at besides birds, interesting though they may be, and that one cannot survive without the other.

Robert Hardcastle,
Selby,
December, 1972,

GEESE OVER HUMBER

It was low tide on the Humber estuary that first Sunday afternoon in October, Faxfleet was bathed in warm autumn sunshine and downstream the huge expanse of Whitton Sands lay bare. All was peace and quiet on this mile and a quarter wide refuge for wildfowl,

The 30 miles drive from York, via Howden and Blacktoft had brought me into a wonderful wide landscape. Across the water sloped the wooded meadows of Lincolnshire; northwards rose the Yorkshire Wolds, downstream the ever-widening estuary receded into the haze, and westwards acres of tall reeds and wide marshes spread out around Trent mouth. I had arrived here in search of geese, hoping to hear their wild music again, for according to the Humber Conservancy warden they should be back by now from their breeding haunts in Greenland and Iceland. Following the river bank downstream I soon came to the mouth of Market Weighton canal, its gurgling waters emptying merrily down the wet Humber banks. From the lock-keeper I learned that a flock of 500 pink-footed geese had been back a full fortnight and were out resting on the sands at that moment taking advantage of the low tide.

Eagerly I mounted the 7 x 50 Bausch and Lomb glasses onto my home-made unipod and moved through the reeds to the water's edge. Midges were numerous and biting and I smeared the backs of my hands and neck with oil. Then, setting each eye-piece to long range I scanned the length of Whitton Sands. Hundreds of ducks covered the flats, together with flocks of gulls and plovers. Here and there were curlew, and shelduck and black-headed gulls.

Suddenly I heard, the honking of geese. A skein of 100 had lifted off the sands on the far side; now they were swinging away in full cry and climbing rapidly over the, wooded slopes

of Lincolnshire. More wild music caught my ears as another flock twice the size jumped up to follow swiftly in the same direction. These were immediately followed by yet another party of 100. The noise was now terrific making a stirring spectacle. The geese climbed into the hazy blue sky and were occasionally silhouetted against white cotton wool clouds. They closed together into one huge flock and gradually swung south-east on the straight course, no doubt heading for the stubble fields of the Lincolnshire wolds.

The island sands were exceptionally large now and the channel separating them from my bank had shrunk to less than a hundred yards wide. Piping curlew sounded clearly across the flats and the occasional snipe "scraped" overhead. The waters of the canal still bubbled musically down the mud bank contributing to the peaceful scene.

Suddenly, high above the mouth of the Trent, came a faint cry. Swinging the glasses to the right upstream, I searched the sky near the setting sun. Again, quite clearly but still very faint, came the cry of geese. I had got the direction now and quickly focussed on a small party following the river downstream.

Soon I could see every detail as they glinted in the evening sunlight. Nineteen pink-feet were travelling fast in a straight line. On sighting the sands they began, to lose height and planed down low over the water, swinging round into the wind to alight -amid flocks of duck and gulls.

The soothing hum of the canal waters ceased. The tide had turned. It began to race inland, pushing strongly upstream and the huge area of mudflats began shrinking visibly. Hundreds of black-headed gulls standing out on a corner floated towards me in a huge noisy chattering raft along the now slowly widening channel between me and the sands*

Behind the gulls hundreds of ducks were afloat as their feeding grounds submerged. The first vanguard of gulls were now directly opposite, swiftly sailing upstream, all chattering and calling excitedly, wings flapping and dipping their heads under water.

It was now six o'clock and a cool breeze had cleared the midges like magic. Swinging the glasses across I observed that the 19 pink-feet were also afloat among a large party of ducks.

How the tide was really racing inland, rushing through reeds and stones with a loud hiss. More huge rafts of gulls came sailing by in the rapidly-widening channel* It was getting dusk, and many lights were appearing down the estuary. Twin lights on top of masts were moving upstream as cargo boats took advantage of the strong tide to sail up on the far channel. I studied them through the glasses, all travelling upstream in single file. Soon they would be at the mouth of the Trent. Some would, turn for Gainsborough, Newark and Nottingham.; while others would carry on to Goole, Selby and York

Whitton Sands had now shrunk to a long narrow strip surrounded by rushing water. Another few minutes would see it entirely submerged. All that would remain would be a high knoll covered with tall reeds, but much too close to the Yorkshire bank to provide a safe refuge for geese. When the last strip of sand had gone every bird was afloat.

Small parties of ducks were taking off at short intervals, disappearing inland into the night. A rhythmical swooshing, from behind, filled the air, as six swans flew out over the remaining floating birds. Finding no resting ground they continued round in a circle to retreat back up the canal,

A warm pink glow filled the eastern sky as the full moon rose over the estuary, shimmering its golden light across the waters and growing brighter each minute. Way out over the Lincolnshire hills came an unmistakable honking of flying geese. Louder and louder it sounded, filling the moonlit night with the wildest of all wild music until the whole sky vibrated.

Now they were just visible in the glasses - long dark lines of pink-feet, rising and falling; altering shape continuously and gradually increasing in size. The leading birds could easily be distinguished. This must be the same party returning I thought, as I estimated around 500 birds in two separate flocks.

The geese were a good half mile away and the last glow of sunset gone. I could just make them out through the night glasses, all closely packed together, paddling hard to keep position in the strong tide. A red navigation light on the opposite bank served as a marker and it was obvious that the geese were not having it easy.

They were gradually losing position, drifting upstream with the tide. In ten minutes they had lost a good hundred yards, with an hour to go before high water.

The tide was beginning to slacken and soon they would be able to relax and take it easier, to drift back downstream and wait for their roost to re-appear above the waves. Then once again the geese could stand on a terra-firma, tuck their heads under a wing, take a well earned rest and sleep in the moonlight through the rest of the night, safe and sound on their island refuge.

Frank Oates.

PREFACE.

The final year of the Atlas Survey produced a great many records for this Report. Our 'weak' 10 km squares are both fully recorded now so that we can believe we are fully informed as to bird populations and species. The few we missed "will appear in time.

The Recorder again wishes to thank all who contributed. In field group record cards only the leader is mentioned,

A, Botterell
D. Braithwaite
G, Clarke
B, Caffrey
A. Coughlin
P. Dunn
J. Gretton.
P. Hutchinson
R. Hardcastle
L. Mousley
P. Oates
I. Nicholson
P. Richardson
Redhouse School Bird Watching Club
S, Rapson
K. Sawyer
C, Simms
G. Smith
R. Ward
M. Weeden
J. Whitehead
S. White
A.M. Wilson
J.F, Wilson

CLASSIFIED LIST

The order used is that of the B.O.U. (1952) Check list and English names follow current practice,

5. Great Crested Grebe

Castle Howard again supplied the largest number of breeding pairs. 6 pairs June/ July (P.H.)

Six pairs and one unattached produced fourteen young 12th August. (P.H.) 9 adult birds on 11th October, (P.H.)

Displaying from 2nd April.

A pair at Yearsley failed to breed and by 12th May only a single bird remained.

At Newburgh lake pair produced two young, (P.H.)

7. Slavonian Grebe

A new record for the area. A single at Castle Howard in winter plumage. Recorded on Club field outing of 6th February,

9, Little Grebe

Recorded throughout year in. Lower Derwent area. New breeding records from Easingwold, Button-on-the-Forest and Alne.

Displaying began 9th April near Alne.

The above records were a result of an "Atlas" survey effort,

Other records from Newburgh, Brandsby, Ampleforth, and Healaugh. (A.M.V.) (J.F.tf.) (P.H.) (B.C.) (S.M.) (G.S.) (P.I)

30, Heron

Throughout the year at Brandsby, Galling, Bubwith, Malton, Castle Howard, York and Upper Ouse, and many feeding areas.

Towards the end of February was noticed feeding from small streams and marshes. (P.H. } (R.H.) (.A.M.W.) (J.F.V.) (M.¥.) (Q,

The Scampston Lake Dam was restored by September. No apparently adverse effects were suffered by the resident birds from the season of waterless habitat. (P.H.)

45. Mallard

Present in all habitable places throughout the area, Often bred as a solitary pair in a derelict agricultural pond, a stream or waterway.

C.500 at Castle Howard on 6th February. (P.H. }

C.1,000 at Lower Derwent, 3rd February. (G.S. First eggs near Bubwith, 23rd March, (Gr,S.)

Winter flocks on Derwent began 19th November, when a count of 75 was made. (Gr.S.) Later counts of c.600 on 14th January, and c.750, (S.V.) (M.W.) (A.M.W.) (J.F.W.) (A.B.) (A.C.) (P.H,)

46. Teal.

A group of seven, remained at Newburgh from 7th February until early March. (P.H.)

Castle Howard produced small counts over winter, 20 being a typical number.

Present at Stubb Wood on 15th April (P.O.) but no breeding records,

Bubwith Ings had c.2,000 birds on 30th January, reducing gradually to c 1,000 by 13th February. (G.S.)

The third week in November saw a build-up 'to 250 on 10th December, in Bubwith area, (G.S,) (B.C.) (S.M.) (P.O.) (P.H.)

49. Gadwall

Two rare 'records and the ' first: since 1967, group of eight near Brandsby on 1st May. (B.H, per P.H.). Two flew over Bubwith Ings on 30th April. (G.S)

50. Wigeon

Record from Castle Howard, Healaugh and Derwent Valley, The Derwent at Bubwith produced a count of c.2,000 on 30th January, and 2,500 on 13th February. (G.S.) but very few on 2nd April, even though flood water high.

Healaugh had seven, one female, on 21st March, (M.¥.)

10th December -• over 500 at Bubwith. (G.S.)

52. Pintail

Five males on Clifton Ings, mid January. (M.¥.)

January to April showed small groups in the Derwent Valley: 30, 20, 30, 35. One small group remained until 2nd April. (G.S.)

First of Autumn arrived on 19th November, (G.S,)

53. Shoveler

Very few records. Wintered in Derwent until 9th April. (G.S.) Also a few passage birds.

A single at Ryther on 21st July, (A.C.)

Six at Castle Howard on 6th February, (Y..O.C.)

A pair produced nine young at Wheldrake. (G.S.)

56, Tufted Duck

No large counts or flocks. Castle Howard had numbers of about 60 in October and November, but no summer counts.

Pochard

43 at Castle Howard on 6th February. A single on 14th May. (P.H.)

The same Lake had 4 pairs in mid-June, these being the only breeding season records.

200 on the Derwent on 13th February,

(G.S.) 60, Goldeneye

Castle Howard:

In first week in February, two separate groups of 15 and 6. A few most weeks until final departure of 7 on 4th March, (P.H.) Two males appeared here on 26th Nov.

Lower Derwent records :

A single on 30th January in Bubwith area; three on 13th February. Displaying group of twelve not seen after 12th March, (G.S.)

70. Goosander

Newburgh on 6th March, four female and one male. By 19th. May, three female and four male - remained until month -end.

Twelve recorded at Castle Howard on 6th February. One on 26th November. (G.S.)

Derwent had seven female and one male on 12th March.

(G.S.) 73. Shelduck

Frequently over winter on Lower Derwent. A displaying pair on 9th April. (G.S.) but breeding probabilities only surmised.

75. Grey Geese

Two records: Four flew into Castle Howard on 6th February. (I. O.C.) Twelve feeding at Derwent Ings on 5th March, and four on 12th March. (G.S.)

78. Pink footed goose

Eight flying South-East over Lower Derwent on. 24th December later increased to c>100 flying South* (P.O.) over Skipwith.

82. Canada Goose

The main water is still Castle Howard. No systematic counts this year, but some random counts were c400 on 1st February, c330 on 26th February, (74 inland feeding on stubbles) 160 on 12th March, and 98 on 10th April, and 98 flew West-North-West over Brandsby on 21st January, (P.H.)

84. Mute Swan

Successful breeding records from Ouse, Den-vent and Foss rivers, also Newburgh, Castle Howard, Stamford Bridge, Yearsley and Ampleforth.

85. Whooper Swan

Bubwith Ings, c,120 on 6th February, plus 9 juveniles; the water level was high on this date (G.S.), Birds were present much of the winter in varying numbers, but reduced to three on 12th March, Last departure on 4th April.

Castle Howard produced six birds on 12th March, (J.¥.)

On 27th October, four flying low over Barton-le-Street on a bright, cold day, 10.30 a.m. direction West, (P.H.)

10th December - six at Ellerton, (G-.S.)

86. Bewicks Swan

All "Derwent Valley" records: Recorded by (GS)

23rd January, 83 in Bubwith area increased to 114 (including 12 juveniles) by 30th January. (G.S.)

6th February, two at Aughton, increased to 142 on 28th February and 190 on 5th March.

York (Acomb) four flying South on 5th December. (P.B.)

All departed by 23rd March,

(P.D.) noted four honking birds at 10.15 p.m. over York suburbs on 23rd October,

10th December, sheet water area increasing - nil counts on that date.

91. Buzzard

An abrupt fall in records from 1971 (four) but the census area had one unusual record of interest. A buzzard was heard on 24th September; it was seen six days later, then three weeks later, being mobbed by corvids. Has remained three months in the area eating diseased rabbits and, allegedly, poultry farm casualties - remains unperturbed by the weekly shooting parties.

A rare record for the Plain of York. (P.H.) S.E. 67.

A report of soaring over Garrowby in Spring. (P*H.)

93. Sparrowhawk

A disappointing year as the anticipated yearly increase has not shown.

(S.S) saw a hunting male from his car at Langwith on 15th April - attacked a mixed flock of brambling/chaffinch,

(P.O.) watched a display flight near Knaption on 13th July, it included soaring and plummeting.

Both records are pleasing coming from the heart of intensively farmed areas.

From the higher ground we have "a hunting male on 24th July, near Stillington, and a hen from a roadside tree near Terrington" on 21st August. (P.H.)

99. Marsh Harrier

(B.C. and G.S.) at Derwent Ings on 6th August, recorded a hunting male. It took unidentified prey on two occasions. The distance varied from 40 to c400 yards, and an interesting hour was spent.

110. Kestrel.

Again widespread breeding records. Using the "Atlas" cypher system the following additional (to 1971) breeding

areas were used:

Redhouse Wood,
Huby,
Selby,
Beningbrough
Sutton-on-the-Forest (where three pairs bred
in the Park)
Fangfoss Stubb Wood, Haxby, Howsham and Pulford
Beck.

(Redhouse School B/¥. Club), (R.H.) (J.F.V.)
(A.M.W.) (L.M.) (J.G.) (P.H.) (P.O.) (A.C.)

(J.L,) and (P.H.) observed a song thrush being
caught and the head taken off on 16th November, at
Wigginton.

115. Red-legged Partridge

Recorded throughout the year in the area
Easingwold/Gilling/Terrington/Strensall. Maximum
covies of five as late as Christmas week. (P.H.)

An increase in breeding population in Lower
Derwent valley and 'frequent' winter records,
(G.S.)

Other breeding season records from Bishop Wood, Selby,
Askham Bog, Sutton-on-the-Forest, Stubb Wood, Fangfoss,
Wilberfoss and Elvington. (A.C.) (R.H.) (A.B.) (P.O.) (J.P.V.)

116. Common Partridge

Shooting interests are perturbed about a great decrease
in this species. Our yearly records have not given
supporting evidence so far. Records produced from all
parts of the survey area with covies of up to eight in
number,

Breeding season records from Beningbrough, Over ton,
Knavesmire Suit on- on- the- Forest, Huby, Selby, Askham Bog,
Acaster, Redhouse Wood, Strensall, New Parks, Easingwold,
Buttercrambe, Scoreby Wood, Fangfoss, Stubb Wood, How sham,
Brandsby, Terrington and Malton. A pair seen on three
occasions in early May near Gilling; did not apparently
breed. (P.H.)

118. Water_Rail

The Recorder's comments in the 1972 report were
proved. optimistic. One new record, apart from
Linton Ouse, where a shooting party shot one near
Christmas, near Aughton, on 24th December. (G.S.)

126, Moorhen

Recorded in almost every suitable habitat throughout the
area.

A stoat stalked and killed a bird on iced water

near Aughton, on 24th December. (G.S.)

127. Coot

Castle Howard supports a large resident population.
Found in many small ponds and dykes throughout the Plain
of York

Oystercatcher

A pair near Bubwith, on 9th April, and again on 30th
April. (G.S.)

August nightly migration over Acomb. (P.D.)

133. Lapwing

Largest flocks late November to mid-December, c350 near
Overton, on 21st November and c600 Grilling on 2nd December
(P.H.) The largest flock recorded was c1,000 in mid-
February. (G.S.)

Smaller post-breeding flocks from Wilberfoss, Buttercrambe,
Stillington, Stamford Bridge, Selby, Redhouse Wood, Overton
and Ampleforth,

First displays noticed on 28th February. First eggs
30th April. (G.S.)

134. **Ringed Plover**

Recorded two passage birds feeding by the runway of
Elvington Airfield.

135. Little Ringed Plover

A new breeding record. Observed by G.S., B.C., R.¥.
Four young produced.

At least two Club members predicted this record five years
ago ~ they will now be gratified and delighted.

140, Golden Plover

All records except one from the Ouse or Derwent; vicinity.

Wintering flocks as late as 14th April, near Redhouse Wood,
numbered c300 (M.W.) Overton area produced winter counts of
c600 on 21st January, and c. 1,000 (two flocks) on 1st
February (P.H.) Bubwith. had c. 1,000 on 30th January, (G,S_a)
where January to April counts ran from c,500 to c, 1,000
reducing to 14 on 12th April.

Flocking was observed again on 20th July, with 12 at
Overton (M.¥,) and 200 on 20th August, near Aughton (J.¥.)

A small flock of six flew South over Brandsby, on 9th
October, (P.H,) - a route not previously noted,

A noticeable increase in the Derwent Valley following the
floods; Clifton Ings had 43 in mid-October. New breeding

areas were Melbourne , Stubb Wood, Sutton-on-the-Forest,
Brandsby, Bishopthorpe ,

First eggs were on. 22nd March, in Derwent Valley, where
there was a reduction in breeding pairs. (G.S.)

148 . Woodcock

Probably four breeding pairs on Strensall, (P.H.) (J.P.¥.)

Roding Stubb Wood, Buttercrambe, (two pairs) and Hovingham
(I.M.) (J.G.) (P.O.) (P.H.)

Records from Haxby, Shipton, Wigginton, Hawkhill, Howsham,
Sutton-on-the-Forest, Huby, Redhouse Wood.

(A.M.V.) (J.P.V.) (K. J.) (B.C.) (A.C..) (A. P.) (Redhouse B.W.)

150, Curlew

First prospecting birds, Strensall, 18th March (A.M.¥») and
Stearsby, 27th March, (P.H.)

Early birds on Derwent were noted on 28th February - 8
pairs, (G.S.)

Breeding noted on many sites by Ouse Villages such as
Shipton, Linton, Newton, Ryther, Cawood and Escrick.

Higher ground records from Leavening, Burythorpe, and
Howsham. Autumn night migration, Acomb. (P.D.)

155 Bar-tailed Godwit

A pair feeding in a water meadow in Bubwith/Aughton area
on 30th April. (G.S.)

156 , Green Sandpiper

Naburn Sewage Farm over July/ August/September, "One
to five most days" (G.S.) Autumn passage birds*

159. Common Sandpiper

July/ August/September, "one to eight most days" at
Naburn. Sewage Farm. (G.S.)

No spring passage records.

161. Redshank

Present in breeding season in Ouse and Derwent meadows v
Suspected breeding at Germany Beck, Fulford, where (P.O.)
was unable to verify.

Eight breeding pairs at Bubwith Ings, (G.S.)

Present Strensall Common, 18th March, (A.M.V.), Stubb
Wood, 15th April, (P.O.) and probably bred Acaster/
Bishopthorpe. (P.D,)

162. Spotted Redshank

(P.D.) recorded two at Healaugh on 7th August, one in

winter plumage, the other showing summer plumage.

165. Greenshank

Two on Bubwith Ings on 12th April. (G.S.)

Dunlin

Lower Derwent counts over winter of our to 40, but 250 on 12th March, and 200 on 13th April, when flocks were becoming more active,

198. Great Black-backed Gull

Recorded in mixed flocks on Bubwith Ings from 30th January, to 13th February. Absent until 12th April, when reappeared in larger mixed flocks.

199, Lesser Black-backed Gull

Recorded in mixed flocks on. Bubwith Ings from 30th Jan, to 13th Feb. Absent until 12th April when reappeared in. larger mixed flocks **(Cr.S.)**

200. Herring Gull

Bubwith in January, mixed flocks,

In Selby Forest during summer months (R.H.) also Linton-on-Quse (A.C.), c.300 in a vast flock at Strensall tip on 17th March. (P.H.)

201, Common Gull

Lower Derwent over winter to 12th March (Gr.S,) also Clifton Ings, Selby Forest and Rye Bridge. No records of larger flocks on agricultural land, but in Fulford a flock of 50 wintered from early October to late March. (P.O.)

208. Black headed gull

Throughout the year within the area. Winter counts of c300 Clifton (M.V.) 900 to c!900 Castle Howard until March (F.H.) on 17th March c400 at Strensall (T.P.) Plumage change noticed on 21st Feb. (P.H.)

232, Stock Dove

Few precise details again. Obviously a successful breeder throughout the area. Some additional nesting sites were, Selby Forest, Buttercrambe, Wilberfoss and Overton, Healaugh.

235. Turtle Dove

No significant records but obviously widely spread as a breeding species.

- Collared Dove

No significant new breeding sites and some previous rural areas deserted viz, Easingwold, Brandsby and Hovingham.

An enormous number (200) were noted during a one and a half hour walk around Bishop Wood on 19th May. (A.C.)

On 6th December, a flock of c.25 birds were seen resting on a roof top in the centre of Selby, (B.H.)

237. Cuckoo

Bred widely with no apparent change in

status. 241, Barn Owl

Records throughout the area.

A dead specimen - 5th March, at Brandsby, probably starvation. (P.H.)

Hunting Grimston Moor mid-afternoon in January. (P.H.)

246, Little Owl

Moved from established hunting areas at Brandsby, and Cherryhill but recorded at Newburgh, Crayke and Wiggington, (P.H.,

Probably bred at Wiggington (P.H.) Sutton-on-Forest (J.F.¥.) and Hawkhills (P.E.) Other breeding season- - April/July records from Huby, Selby Forest, Beningbrough Hall, Stubb Wood, Elvington and Bubwith, Bred in many sites with two daylight basking records,

249. Short-eared Owl

No "progress report" of the Tollerton 1972 breeding pair, winter records from Fulford, Wheldrake, Aughton and Bubwith, where three hunting birds were in the air together on. 28th February. (G.S.)

252, Nightjar

The Wheldrake colony has declined to possibly one pair with no proof of breeding.

The Skipwith colony survives and must be cherished more than ever. No other habitats remain in our area,

Reports from Strensall and Buttercrambe not

substantiated,

255. Swift

First incoming birds 12th May, but Brandsby a single on 4th May, (P.H.) and last departure Stearsby on 31st August, (P,H,)

258. Kingfisher.

Winter records from backwaters and streams, Coxwold, Escrick, Sproxton, Rye and Farlington (P.H.) Clifton Ings

Summer records: Beningbrough Hall, 6th June
Pocklington Canal, 1st July (A.G,) Yearsley Foss, 19th August, Bishopthorpe Road and Fulford Beck 26th April.
Husthwaite, 27th July (P.H.) and frequently by anglers on the Ouse and Upper Derwent.

262. Green Woodpecker

The Brandsby breeding site was demolished before the breeding season started, but two pairs bred within the area. P.H.). Also 'bred at Terrington, Hovingham (P.H.) Stamford Bridge (J.G.) and in many other sites,

263. Great Spotted Woodpecker

Seen in a Brandsby garden on 9th January, (PH,) a female in a Haxby garden at the bird table on 27th January, April records, Bishop Wood on 28th, Selby Forest, 9th (R.H.)

Brandsby, (P.H) Stubb Wood 10th, (P.O.)

May records, Beningbrough Hall (S.¥.) (M.¥.) Coxwold (P.H.)

Also Strensall Common, Hawkhill (J,F,¥.) Coxwold Skewsby, Hovingham Brandsby - two pairs - Terrington, Skipwith,

Flew over Ampleforth village, 27th November, (P.H.)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

At Fulford Beck on 15th March, "moving and feeding on low bushes at a distance of 6 feet from car" (P.O.)

Seen near Garrowby Hill in April, but no other records,

Not recorded at Ampleforth site after initial sighting (P.H,)

The lack of sunshine reduced the drumming displays. Drumming is almost always triggered off and performed in sunshine.

272. Skylark

No significant records. No autumn/spring counts, First eggs 5th May,

274. Swallow

The poor spring weather caused some late arrivals, the first at Castle Howard being on the 10th April - a group of four, The Lake was clear of hirundines for the next five days when a second (mixed) group arrived. (P.H.)

Other first arrivals being a single York Ouse on 22nd April, (F.Q,) and also at Ampleforth on the same date (P.H,) and Bubwith on 12th April, (G.S.)

The main body arrived suddenly on 1st May, with a slight temperature rise. They began prospecting nest sites almost immediately. In some areas competition did not appear to be intense. Country people thought the migration a poor one.

At Brandsby few second broods were reared, one off the nest on 31st August, the other on 6th September.

276. House Martin

An apparently moderate breeding season, very similar to the swallow.

First records at Malton Derwent on 7th April, and Crayke on the 4th April - both singles. (P.H.)

A sudden increase on 1st May. Derwent valley produced its first passage bird on 30th April, (G.S.)

At Brandsby. two nests were attacked in July, the entrances were enlarged and the young killed or removed. The assault was not witnessed, but a magpie or jackdaw was suspected. The parents moved away immediately.

Sand Martin

First record, 12th April, at Bubwith (G.S.) First nesting pair at Howsham, 5th May (A.C.) A new site near Crayke on. 18th May.

280. Carrion Crow

Commonly recorded

282. Rook

About the same number of rookeries as last year and an especially large one at Askham Bog.

(Gr.S.) counted an enormous flock of 1,000 plus on 12th November, over Wheldrake

A big flock at Healaugh, 2 - 3,000 mixed corvids, mainly rooks and jackdaws. (P.D.)

A 3,000 flock in a March snowstorm. (R.H.)

283. Jackdaw

Nesting colonies at Stearsby, Stubb Wood, Selby Forest, Castle Howard, Askham Bryan, Beningbrough Hall and many other sites.

(P.O.) (R.H.) (.A.B.) (S.W.) (M.V.) (P.H.)

284. Magpie,

Commonly recorded.

286. Jay

Heard or seen in suitable environments. They are often shot as a menace to game chicks and eggs, but are intelligent enough to avoid offering a second shot.

Bred at Selby Forest- - several pairs (R.H,) Stubb Wood (P.O.) Wigginton, Sutton-on-the-Forest, (A.M.¥.) Askham Bryan (A.B.) Yearsley, Grimstone, Hovingham, Coxwold (P.H,) to mention a few,

288. Great Tit Commonly recorded

289, Blue Tit

Singing male from early April, near Easingwold.

290. Coal Tit

More winter than summer records. Several times to winter bird tables, and bred in the following areas: Selby Forest (R.H.) (A.C.) Strensall (A.M.¥. and J.F.¥.) Acaster (P.D.) Easingwold (A.M.W.) Askham Bryan (A.B.) Over ton Wood (A.C.) Wilberfoss and Stamford Bridge (A»C.) Stearsby and Coxwold

292. Marsh Tit

Bred Brandsby, Fangfoss, (L.M.) (J.G,) (P.H.)

293. Willow Tit

Few new breeding records as follows: New Parks, Sutton- on-the-forest, Newton-on-Ouse, Haxby (G.W.) (J.P.W.)

Some large winter parties recorded; a group of 10 flew into Clifton Ings blackbird roost on 15th January, (P.H.) and observed a foraging party of 23 near Wigginton on 16th January.

296. Nuthatch

A single record - four in Castle Howard on 16th January There is at least one breeding site in this area - however no records have been produced for two years, so this is a good sign.

298, Treecreeper

Many records, The Dutch elm disease now present in the area could cause an abrupt increase in population, the reasoning being that ample winter food supplies from the dying trees will produce a high survival rate.

Six birds and five birds recorded on 19th and 24th December, near York (P.B.) A woodman felling the trees says such groups do often feed together,

299. Wren

Now fully re-established and perhaps over populous. Heard from every part of the area with breeding records too numerous to detail.

300. Dipper

The solitary record obtained almost annually was again obtained (by a geographical fluke really) from the northernmost tip of the area, (P.H.) on 15th April, near Ampleforth.

Another well known lowland breeding site is in the middle of a famous village near Malton. (P.H.)

301 Mistle Thrush

Many present in breeding season in many areas.

Towards mid- August, groups of 9 to 12 began to move about. After late September, these groups became pairs and by early December, only singles were guarding territorial holly trees.

Several people remarked on the increased numbers apparent,

302. Fieldfare

The first flocks entered the area on 20th October, flying strongly West-South-West in cool, clear weather. By the 23rd October, flocks covering a wide front passed over Grimston Moor in a constant and steady flow from 1.30 to 4 p.m. These flocks were in communication. The largest flock numbered 88.

There was night migration in October, passing over in big flocks all night (Acomb) P.D.

Winter feeding flocks did not appear to exceed C.150. The mild winter provided good food supplies and the return passage started early,

Last record 12th April, at Bubwith. (Gr.S.)

320. Redstart

Few records and only one new breeding pair - Overton

(A.C.) 325. Robin

Apparently common at all times. No significant records,

327. Grasshopper Warbler

Little of significance or particular interest. A pair bred near Brandsby Dale but abandoned two other sites nearby. Two new nesting records from Huby and Melbourne, (A.C.) and possibly near Flaxton, where (A.M.W.) noted a male by the roadside on 20th May.

A bird singing all night at Woodthorpe, 2nd June (P.D.)

337. Sedge Warbler

The "Atlas" Survey fieldworkers produced a good fall-out for this report. It can be shown by this species being recorded in eight additional areas; Selby Forest, Sutton-on-the-Forest, Melbourne, Ryther, Howsham, Wilberfoss and Easingwold, (R.H.) (A.M.V.) (A.C.) (M, ¥.)

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343. Blackcap

This and the species below remain among the most elusive: (A.C.) noted a pair in the Howsham/ Leavening area in mid July,

Fledglings at Fangfoss were noted on 3rd June, (L.M.) (J.G.) and the 20th June produced a singing male near Shipton (J.F.W.) The same observer recorded a nest site near Easingwold, where fledglings were later seen,

A single male at Throwmires was observed on 17th June (L.M.) (J.G.)

Early sightings (11th and 19th May) were from Stubb Wood and Bishop Wood (.F.O.) (A.C.)

46, Garden Warbler

Heard only in Alne/Easingwold area 4th June. Also probably bred near Huby,

Reported (E.H.) in Selby Forest in breeding period.

347. Whitethroat

The Whitethroat population is in a decline for no known reason. Scientists do not think any apparent reason - food - habitat - is to blame.

While local populations may move about within our area, no real absence is noted.

Some hitherto unrecorded breeding sites from Leavening, Wilberfoss, Melbourne, (A.C.) Scoreby Wood, (L.M.) (J.G.) and Throwmires, Shipton, Huby, Alne, (J.F.W.) (A.M.W.) Wigginton. and Hawkhill, Germany Beck (P.O.)

A very late - 7th October - record at Flaxton

348, Lesser Whitethroat

Few records. Probably bred in Selby Forest, where (R.H.) recorded several times during the nesting season,

Strong evidence in the above area and Fulford, is probably there waiting. The song is quite distinctive,

354. Willow Warbler

(A.M.W.) noted a very late migrant near Flaxton, on 7th October.

356, Chiffchaff

(F.O.) "First singing male on 31st March, at Stubb Wood"*

357, Wood Warbler

(P.H.) noted a displaying male near Brandsby. The following week "a second pair set up a territory 1,000 yards away",

364. Goldcrest

Heard or seen in most softwood plantations. Movement records.

366. Spotted Flycatcher

Always the last arrival - 4th May seems very early for the first migrant - Wigginton (P.H.), but noted feeding young at Fangfoss on 8th June. (L.M.) (J.G.)

On 5th September, at Holgate Road, York (F.O.) noted young being fed.

368. Pied Flycatcher

A new passage record (J.F.»¥.) observed a hen near Huby on 4th June.

371, Dunnock

Recorded in usual numbers throughout the area,.

373, Meadow Pipit

Holding territory by 25th April, (P.O.) and. singing for previous three weeks in the same field.

Tree Pipit

Well recorded, in many parts of the area for some years, Little additional data but some new breeding records: Alne, Huby, (J.F.»¥.) and Easingwold. Bishop Wood (F.O.)

380. Pied Wagtail

A great many post dispersal groups at Naburn Sewage Farm in August. (G.S.) (P.H.)

The first fledglings were noted by (J.F.W.) on 20th May, at Sutton-on-the-Forest.

381, Grey Wagtail

Three birds noted at- Brandsby on 5th February, and again on the 11th and 12th, (P.H. }

From 9th December; over Christmas period near Brandsby (P.H.»)

Two records for breeding season not noted in previous nesting areas, (P.H.)

382. Grey Wagtail

First migrant at Bubwith on 12th April, noted by (G.S.) who remarked upon, large number of breeding pairs at Naburn. Sewage Farm,

Strensall Common was apparently abandoned as a breeding site although autumn passage birds were noted (P.H.) in early September.

Some new areas where breeding probably took place were:

Scoreby, 24th May, (L.M.) (J.G.), Overtoil on 26th May,

(A,c.) who also recorded on 26th -July, at Wilberfoss,

and Buttercrambe. In this area (A.C.) noted fledglings at Pocklington Canal on 1st July.

A look out for breeding colonies, and in view of the species decreasing breeding range, a pre-dispersal count at known gathering places should be made this year.

383. Waxwing

Few-appeared this year, several, vague reports from non-ornithologists were not followed up*

Six birds stayed near Helmsley over Christmas, and into the New Year, (P.H₈) and two on Heworth Golf Course from 10th to 27th February. (J.¥.)

Two birds seen feeding in hawthorn at Woodthorpe, on 3rd December. (P.D.)

384. Great Grey Shrike

A single record from Fulford Golf Course and nearby farmland

It remained in the area for at least ten days, (T.C.) (P.H.)

392. Greenfinch

Bred throughout the area

393. Goldfinch

Several field workers mentioned a 'Goldfinch year' because of the apparent increase in records.

Records from many localities from 15th April, through the summer. -until mid-August. Autumn groups of 4 to ,12, but on 29th July (J.F,W,) noted a charm of six at Sutton- on-the-Forest.

Some breeding sites were: Germany Beck and Stubb Wood (P.O.) Selby Forest, (R.H) Ryther, Melbourne, Wilberfoss and Buttercrambe, (A.C.) Haxby, (J.P.W.) Askham Bryan (A.B.) Beningbrough, (SW) Redhouse Wood area, (Redhouse Bird Watching Club.

394. Siskin

West Bank Park, York - fourteen feeding in silver birch trees on 15th February. (P.D.) (X.S.)

397. Redpoll

Small winter flocks from Wigginton, Brandsby, Coxwold and Kilburn in January and February (P.H.)

On 28th April (B,H.) noted three pairs displaying at Bishop Wood - a party of 20 - was also noted.

Not many winter flocks noted between September and Christmas, and the species is probably overlooked to some extent.

Breeding occurred at Howsham, Leavening, Wilberfoss, and.

Buttercrambe, (A.C.) Overton Wood and Redhouse Wood (M.¥.)
Strensall, Sutton-on-the-Forest, Huby and Easingwold
(J.P.W.) Selby Forest, (B.H.) Stubb Wood (P.O.) and
Throwmire - two pairs (J.Gf.)

401. Bullfinch

An apparent increase in sightings in several areas. In
winter feeding area from 9th November, at Clifton Ings
(M.W.) Brandsby and. Hovingham - 2 males and a female
(P.H.)

The following breeding sites were noted:-
Stubb Wood, Redhouse Wood, Germany Beck, Throwmire,
Sutton-on-the-Forest, Easingwold, Askham Bryan, Bishop
Wood, Selby, Melbourne, Wigginton, Haxby, Wilberfoss &
Howsham,

408. Brambling

The first were observed on 16th November - a group of ten
-in a mixed flock (P.H) and then frequently throughout the
winter and spring.

(Gr.S.) recorded several at Bubwith on 30th April,
and Castle Howard had four on 16th April.

410. Corn Bunting

No clear population picture appears from the records,
The following records are taken from over the years -
Selby Forest (R.H.) Sutton-on-the-Forest (J.F.V.)
Beningbrough Hall, Askham Bryan (A.B.) Stubb Wood (F.O.)
Melbourne (A.C.) Fangfoss (L.M.) (J,(3.) Overton,
Strensall (A.M.W.) Wilberfoss, Ryther (A.C,) and. Howsham,

The most northerly record in the survey area is Sutton-on-the-
Forest

The largest number was recorded, on 3rd January at Askham Bog - 20
to 30 feeding in stubbles, (P.O.) (S,R.)

A good response as a result of "Atlas" field work; (J.P.V.)
(A.M.V.) (A.C,) (A.B.) (J.V.) (R.H.) (L.M.) (J.G.) (P.O.) Sutton-
on- the -Forest , Selby Pores⁴Linton Ouse, Beningbrough, Askham
Bryan, Sheriff Hutton, Scoreby, Melbourne, Fangfoss, Overton,
Strensall, Haxby, Naburn, Stubb Wood, Brandsby and Hovingham.