

YORK ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB REPORT 1974

CLASSIFIED LIST

The order used is that of the British Ornithological Union (1952) Check-list of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Three at Castle Howard from 28th February to 14th April, when display was noted (R.H.) (G.S.) No precise breeding counts, (P.M.) counted a total of eleven birds early August:, reduced to five (one immature) on 13th. Four to five birds present until early December, when an abrupt exodus apparently took place.

4th April -- Ampleforth (T.C.)

Three birds near Coxwold apparently produced no young, an adult bird was crippled by fishing line but survived into September, at least (P.H.) In the same area a single passage bird remained from 2nd to 5th April.

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

Wintering birds in Derwent Valley, Movement to usual breeding sites from mid-February^ Castle Howard (G.S.) Raskelf, 10th March, Brandsby 13th April, Terrington 14th April (P.H.).

Two Derwent breeding records - Aughton area and Kirkham.

Other breeding sites were:- Gilling, Healaugh.

Bird found tangled in fishing line, river Derwent - eventually rescued and released (G.S.,) (B.C.)

One adult accompanied by first and second brood juveniles where noted on 1st August at Brandsby, where an unpaired bird remained all summer (P.M.)

¹⁴ STORM PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

Recovered from a cat at Heslington, and passed to the Biology Department at York University, where it died. 15th October, (J.H.L.) This is the first record for the species, and it is a remarkable one.

27 GANNET (*Sula Bassana*)

A juvenile at Holtby in late September, was widely reported upon in the local Press (R.S.P.C.A.)

²⁸ CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Four records, one from York City centre.

16th January, on York Ouse

13th May, Castle Howard, a single bird circled the lake, settled and flew off North. An October record was on the 13th, when an immature bird circled and landed three times before

flying off (B.P.)

Mid-September, a single flew South over the Derwent (G.S.).

30 GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

Noted throughout the year in all parts of our area, often feeding early A.M. on village outskirts. Frequent in Derwent Valley, also Brandsby, Gilling, Stearsby, Ampleforth, Husthwaite, Acomb, Rufforth, Stamford Bridge, Haxby. Healaugh heronry was assessed as 30 pairs (P.O.) on 9th March - 27 nests together, and others nearby (see Healaugh supplement).

³⁸ BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

A fine record from Lower Derwent. Present from 2nd to 10th March. On 3rd March (G.S.) had a half hour's uninterrupted view from 100 yards.

This record has been predicted for some years. Good work from (R.H.) (G.S.) (B.C.) who knew the right time and place',

⁴⁵ MALLARD. (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Widely spread throughout the area. Often in minor farm and village ponds for breeding. Enormous winter flocks in Lower Derwent area and Castle Howard lake.

Some winter counts:- c,500 Ca8 tle .Hq iuard 27th October (B c600 and 800 on 24th/25th November (B,P. (P.H.), c1,000, 23rd December and 1,000/1,200, 21st December (P.H.) (D.B..). At this lake a sudden drop in numbers took place in mid-January. Counts of 250 on 9th January, and c400 on 14th January, included c170 birds feeding in nearby stubble field (P.H..). First recorded breeding result was 7th April - nest with eggs (G.S. (R.H.) (B.C.). On 10th May, nearly fledged young noted (S.lfl.)

Summer numbers did not apparently drop below c500 (D.B.).

Some Healaugh records:- 84 on 12th August, 217 on 4th September, 300 on 17th September. -
Lower Derwent counts reached c1,500 early January, but again a reduction took place by 16th to c400 (P.H.) (R.H.).

Dringhouses pond had six breeding pairs.

45 TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

A probable increase in visiting birds this year, to some extent accounted for by the early high floods in Lower Derwent: 6th January, "extensive flooding" (G.S.). when 50 , birds were noted. By 16th January, increased to c300 at Bubwith (R.H.) and c500 on 10th February (C.S.) . On 10th March, c500 were present, but by 16th March (D.IU.) counted 5.

Three pairs remained over June and July at Skipwith Common, but no evidence of breeding was discovered (I.C.). Some other summer counts were Healaugh, two on

19th/20/28th August, 150 on 4th September, 30 on 7th September (P.O.). maximum winter counts were 30 and 40 in late January.

Castle Howard. 6 on 13th August, 20 on 27th October (B.B.)

Strensall. 12 on 7th April (3.UJ.)

Newburgh. 14 on 1st April (P.H.).

4? GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*)

Two records of this rare visitor to our area. At Bubwith Ings on 14th April, 3 males and 1 female seen on two separate occasions. A similar record from (R.H.) (G.S.). Also early April (G.S.) flushed a female which circled before flying off North.

Healaugh on 13th June, a male with Teal group (P.O.)

49 GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

Recorded in two consecutive years.

On 15th February, near Pocklington Canal a male was flushed; with five Mallard. On 17th March, 6 pairs plus a male were seen at Scampston (J.H.L.) who has recorded Gadwall at Scampston previously.

50 WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

Lower Derwent; Good counts all through January, with c1,000 on 6th and c2,000 on 27th/29th. c2,000 present on 10th February, and again on 10th March (G.S.) (R.H.) (B.C.). Odd birds still present on 25th April (G.S.) (R.H.).

Healaugh:- Two on 18th September (P«D.) (S.R.)

Castle Howard:- a single on 1st May (O.UJ.)

9 males stopped at a small lake for five days in early April - near Brandsby (P.H.).

52 PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

Fairly frequent in Lower Derwent area over winter period, especially after sheetwater formed.

Bubwith/Aughton area:- Four flying on 5th (B.P.) and 6th January (G.S.), 50 on 10th February, 60 on 16th February, 65 on 7th March, 80 on 10th March, and one on 14th April. (G.S.) (B.C.) (R.H.). mid-December, 50 present (G.S.).

⁵³ SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

Good numbers, especially at Castle Howard.

Ten at Healaugh on 28th August, and 1st/18th September (D.W.). Breeding suspected, and frequent displaying noted on 13th May (P.O.). Six near Aughton on 10th February, and twenty on 10th March. Maximum Lower Derwent numbers 19 and 23 (three females) in early May (D.B.) (M.R.) Suspected breeding by 4th May in at least one site (G.S.) and 60 on 16th February at Bubwith (R.H.).

Castle Howard records were mostly of winter birds:-

3 pairs' were present on 15th April (D.lil.) and 12 on 1st May (D.W.). 2 on 10th May (S.M.). 46 counted on 11th September, and 52 on 28th September (S.ITi.). 43 on 3rd November, 34 on 24th November (B.P.) 20 feeding close to shore on 1st December (D.H.I.) and 20 on 8th December, (D.B.).

56 TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)

" Some breeding areas, usually the smaller lakes were abandoned from about October to the following mid-February⁵. Other small lakes attracted increased numbers at roughly the same period. Local examples were Newburgh, Ampleforth, Dale End, Stearsby, none in mid-winter. Castle Howard and two Walton lakes had increased numbers, sometimes forming small rafts (P.H.).

Some counts were;- Castle Howard. 10, 15 and 9 in January (P.H.), 77 on 28th March (R.H.), 12 on 15th April (D.8.) and maximum c100 on 8th December (D.8.). Present throughout the year in varying numbers. .

Other breeding numbers near Walton were:- 4 pairs and 3 pairs, in early July (P.M.); these lakes carried 11 and 25 in January and 9th February (P,H,)c

Dringhouses 10 on 3rd December (D.B.) but the summer pair did not breed. (T.C.).

Skipwith Common (I.C.) counted at least two breeding pairs.
Howsham. Derwent, 21st July, pair with five juveniles (D.H.L.)
Lower Derwent 20 on 16th March (D.UJ.) 20 on 1.0th March (G,S.)
Dale End. 3 breeding pairs plus a female (P.H.).
Newburgh. 4 breeding pairs (P.H.).

⁵ POCHARD; (*Aythya ferina*)

The low numbers and records are probably due to the abnormally mild winter

Bubwith had 70 on 26th January (R.H.) (8.P.)
Lower Derwent., in; mid-November f. small groups totalled 25 (G.S.) and 17 on 15th December (R.H.).
Castle Howard. one on 21st May (P.M.).
Brandsby area ~ three on 30th December (P.M.).

SO GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

Spring and autumn records, with the exception of Howsham, Derwent, when on 21st July, (J.H.L.) spent ten minutes watching a single female which dived readily but made no effort to fly".

Castle Howard, apparently had none until 54 arrived over-night on 3rd February (P.H.) then two on 17th February (B.P.), a single on 15th April (Q.W.). Last spring record, a pair . on 5th May (3.UI.) Three, (one female) on 8th December (D.B.),

Lower Derwent. Small groups in the Aughton area in February (G.S.) and also in November (R.H.) (G.S.).

Stearsby mid-December produced four females - a first for this area (P.H.).

⁷⁰ GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*)

At Bubwith on 9th January, (^P.) counted a flight of 7 and 3 pairs were noted on 7th May (P.B.),

Castle Howard. On 20th January, a group of 32 (Y.K.C.). A large group, mostly females, were noted by (P.H.) in a passing car in early February, but no count possible. Later February counts were 30 on the 17th, 19 on the 28th (8.P.) (R.H.) (P.H.) 5 on 1st March, and 73 in the last week in December (R.H.).

73 SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

All records from Lower Derwent and Healaugh, where a single was noted on 27th August (D.U/.).

Lower Derwent had small numbers (maximum 7) from January to 21st April, 3, 2, 3 and 7. Strong suggestion of breeding pairs this year, displays late April (R.H.) (G.S.) on several occasions,

In autumn, numbers of 4, 2 and 2 from November (G.S.)

⁷⁵ GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*).

Several records this year; three at Bubwith on 16th February, Lower Derwent. a single with Bewick's in December, and a single later in the same month (R.H.) (G.S.).

A single passed over Selby on 14th November (R.H.).

Castle Howard had two spring records, 14th April and the 16th, when five birds were counted (R.H.) (J.H.L.), later increasing to 15. A summer count was 9 on 13th August (D.B.)

In autumn, six were present 28th October (S.IYl.), 31 on 1st December (J.H.L.) and 50 on 8th December (D.B.).

76 WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

Apart from a single at Castle Howard on 20th January (Y.K.C.), all Lower Derwent late winter records. (J.H.L.) saw a single bird among Mallard and Wigeon on 17th February. On the 22nd, and again on the 24th March (G.S. (B.C.)) (8.P.) noted a single with Bewick's Swan flock. On the 23rd March (R.H.) saw a solitary bird.

78 PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*)

All November records except for early January flock of 30, South East (R.H.).

40 North over Skipwith at 7 a.m. (F.O.).

16 South over Cornlands (York) Road, in strong wind and rain (D.B.).

6 over Acomb on 2nd November, (D.B.).

On 3rd November there were two records, one from Castle Howard (3.111.) and a group flying East between 40 and 60 strong, at Wheldrake, (G.S.) (B.C.). Also on 26th December, flea¹ West-North-west at Acomb (P.K.).

61 BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

A single bird was present at Castle Howard in company with resident Canada flock in the spring from mid-March until 16th April (R.H.) (3.H.L.) (B.C.).

Present also on 24th, 26th November, and first meek in December, (B.P.) (J.H.L.) (P.H.).

⁸² CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

A single in the Derwent Valley with Whooper flock in September, (G.S.),

A pair successfully reared a brood of five near Brandsby (P.M.).

Two very pale, possibly hybrids, on 8th December, at Castle Howard (D.B.) where all the remaining records were produced; 210 on 24th November; 185 on 1st December. (J.H.L.) (B.P.).

⁸⁴ MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

8 at Aughton on 8th December. 10 on Lower Derwent 10th March.

⁸⁵ WHOOPER SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*)

Inundation in Lower Derwent in mid-January. (G.S.) noted the most extensive flooding for some years.

40 in one flock grazing stubbles near Bubwith on 30th December, were matched from car (P.M.),

A very late record was on 7th April, it apparently remained during the summer and was not, apparently, crippled (G.S.).

86 BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus bewickii*)

Derwent Valley ; 20 on 20th January followed floods (G.S.); increased to 35 by 27th January. .

On 19th February, 63 were counted near Aughton. 21 of which were juveniles (D.H.L.). In the same period two adults and two juveniles were present 3 miles away (G.S.).

On 3rd March (G.S.) noted the population as 57, 17 of which were juveniles. On 10th March, 48 in three distinct groups were present. By 22nd March, only 35 birds were present. (G.S.). Maximum March count was 90.

(R.H.) noted the last April count on the 14th as 9, but on the 24th April, at 11,50 p.m. a party flew North in the dark (J.H.L.).

A single bird was present in summer - 6th June (3.UJ. et al).

First winter arrivals on 17th October, when a flock of 17 fed on Bubwith/Aughton Ings. (G.S.) commented that the date was about five weeks earlier than usual.

Eight adults at Ellerton on 3rd November (J.H.L.), increased to 39 plus 19 juveniles on 16th November" (B.P.).

Maximum November numbers rose to 58 (G.S.) and 64 in December.

91 BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)

Fewer records this year. (P.O.) observed a single at Howsham Bridge as it soared over the floods and down the valley on 11th January.

Sutton Bank. Two birds soared over the escarpment on 11th July, and remained some days in this area (P*H.).

A single at Heslington was mobbed by Fieldfares on 10th November (G.S.).

92 ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo lagopus*)

Three sightings on 10th November in the Derwent Valley (R,H.) including a hovering but not hunting record; when mobbed it flew off South.

In a nearby area a knowledgeable farmer contacted the Club and gave (G.S.) an accurate description of the species which was not sighted again.

93 SPARROWHAWK. (*Accipiter nisus*)

No increased numbers noted. Probably overlooked to a large extent now. A certain amount of application (or luck) is needed with this species. Two and probably three breeding sites are known to the North of the recorded area, where much leg and ear work was involved.

Winter records were at Scampston from where one, and sometimes two were seen daily (D.UJ.).

Willitoft and Skipwith in January (P.H.) (P.K.). Sheriff Hutton. carrying a Sparrow on 2nd March. (P.H.). • 6th March, Bielby. in pursuit of a Yellowhammer (J.H.L.); 13th March, Askham Bog, male in hunting flight, and later soaring (P.O.),

Seen hunting at Cockey Hill where probably bred (G.S.) and Derwent Valley in September

Pocklington Canal pursued by corvids on 27th October (G.S.) (S.W.) (B.C.).

Castle Howard. A male passed (D.8. et al) low and fast before alighting, on 8th December. .

The earliest pairing noted was near Easingwold on 22nd May; generally the breeding sites in the area were abandoned - "by the first week in August (P.H.).

⁹⁵ RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

A wintering bird left the area in early February, and did not reappear the following winter (P.H.).

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

(R.H.) made the following notes:- 6th January^ and 27th January, . singles, Two on 14th February, one. on 21st April.. All female in the Derwent Valley.

Other records, separate but from the same area, are:-

Three separate and distinct views of a female (B.P.) (P.O.) on 6th January. On the 13th, a single at Driffield Ings.

On 21st January, (G.S.) made five separate records, one of which involved the capture of a small mammal. The previous day the Y.O.C. received prolonged views. On the 31st January, (G.S.) saw a single bird hunting."

In March, (3rd) a female was chivvied by corvids and on the 10th (G.S.) observed a pair; he remarks that at least two birds were present during January, February and early March. The main diet was moles,

¹⁰³ OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) ;

One record only. From 13th to 16th May, on a large pond South East of York. In this time it was observed preening and feeding; it took fish from the pond and used a nearby post as a perch (B.P.) (G.S.).

A probable passage bird report was not sufficiently substantiated South East of York.

104 HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

See Healaugh supplement

¹⁰⁵ PEREGRINE... (*Falco peregrinus*)

A graphic description submitted by (P.D.):- "At Healaugh, while observing the pond, a juvenile flew across causing a general panic among the resident population. It then re-appeared, diving through a flock of Black headed gulls, passed through the trees towards the observers, saw them, and veered away through a mob of Rooks".

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

Three records. One on 3rd January, disturbed by shooting party, near Bubwith (R.IM.) and further along the Derwent Valley on 14th April, (R.H.).

(D.ti/.) matched a bird pass across the A.64 near Whitwell on 24th December.

110 KESTREL. (*Falco tinnunculus*)

The bird seen widely throughout the area. Family groups noted in several areas in September, and early October. In winter records were frequent, and two to four sightings could

be made in a 20 mile ride.

Young were successfully reared in York City centre, and at a large building near the Y.O.C. meeting place.

On 12th June, near Rufforth (T.C.) watched a female take a pheasant chick despite parental defence.

P.H. found two exhausted birds late in the year. Neither survived and wet, rather than cold, weather appears to be an important factor in survival.

October counts showed only a slight increase. Six records a day were not uncommon. (P.H.) (G.S.) (ITL.R.) (D.8.).

115 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*)

Brad near Easingwold, Sheriff Mutton, Strensall, Neu/burgh, Acomb, Rufforth, Wheldrake, Brandsby, Thornton Hill, Stillington, Shipton, Aughton, Castle Howard, Hovingham, York area and Buttercrambe, (P.H.) (G.S.) (T.C.,) (J.H.L.) (8.P.) (D.8.)

Generally the records have not been plentiful.

116 GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

Shooters knout that, numbers continue to fall and much research is being carried out by various scientific bodies.

Currently a non-shooting policy is being advocated as the only answer to rapid extinction. The decline is attributed almost entirely to modern "agri-methods" and intensive grass crop farming.

From a non-shooting viewpoint, they were counted throughout the year in all parts of the area with coveys of four to twelve, and comments like "many breeding pairs", "very active at dusk" and "common in Derwent Valley.

120 "WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

Disappointing results to our purge on this species. At Healaugh (P.D., T.C., et al.) on 13th May, heard a call. No other evidences of breeding was suggested.

Near Brandsby some fishermen described the characteristic call in late September (P.M.).

126 MOORHEN. (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Established in all suitable areas, and may be "said to be common everywhere.

127 COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Present on every sizeable area of water,

¹³¹ OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

A single bird flew around a field and over a pond near Healaugh on 8th May. A single in the same area on 11th August (P.O.).

Two flew South near Selby on 8th August (R.H.).

¹³³ LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Winter counts were:- 500 lower Derwent in January.
c400 Birdford 20th January.
c700 Brandsby 27th "
0350 Ampleforth 27th "

c1,000 to 1,500 Derwent in mid February
c400 Rawcliffe in February
c600 Shipton in late February
180 Stockton Lane in February
c250 Healaugh in March
c350 Stillington in March

On 31st March, first nest and eggs found in Derwent Valley (G.S.). "The second week in July saw post-breeding flocks of 30 to 400 near York (P.M.).

The largest flocks were c1,000 near Malton on 17th November, (I.C.) and 800 - 1,000 at Brandsby at Christmas,

134 RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

All records are from Lower Derwent Valley area:-

4th and 7th March, two near Bubwith. and again on 10th March (R.H.).

2 on 22nd March in Dunlin flock (G.S.).

A single was seen several times at Naburn Sewage Farm in September (G.S.).

135 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

Bred in 10 k.m. square South of York. First pair appeared on 14th April, (J.H.L., G.S.).

140 GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

Many winter flocks in the Ouse/Derwent area. On 1st January and the 6th, flocks of 400 and 600 flew west (R.H.) in the Derwent Valley where G.S. counted a flock of c250 on the 6th January.

They were present in flocks of 70 to about 350 in the Shipton area in January and February, usually in company with Lapwings, but at Rawcliffe in the same period maximum counts were 90 and c160 (P.H.). It seems that several thousand birds are present over much of the winter in the above area.

The last spring record was 14th April, when 12 passed over Derwent. some calling. (G.S.)

The first winter gathering was noticed on 19th August, when 190 passed over Shipton (P.H. (D.W.)). A mixed flock of 55 passed over Askham Bog (T.C.). Also in this month, numbers of 50 to 1,000 passed along the Derwent Valley (G.S.)

At Ryther c600 were counted while foraging on 27th January. (R.H.,)

145 SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Largest gatherings were predictably in Derwent and Ouse valleys. Single records from several areas.

D.8., ffl.R. counted 33 (12 of which were paired and displaying) on 7th May. G.S. counted 150 in flocks in the Derwent Valley.

Displaying was noted at Towthorpe on 31st March (A.ffl.U/,) (3.F.U1.) At Bubwith/Aughton. on 7th March (a total of about 50) and through the month (R.H.) At Castle Howard 9 single birds were active on 6th March, during a downpour (P.H.).

In June T.C. saw displays near Acomb, and on the 18th Ifl.R. and .T.C..heard..a peculiar grating noise coming from a displaying pair.

148 WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Roding near Gilling in early 3anuary, and recorded singly in several areas over the winter.

Present in the breeding period at Skipwith, where at least five were seen in flight on 25th may (J.H.L.). It seems probable that about seven pairs bred here. It bred also at Black Wood, Grimston, Maidensworth, Thorganby, Strensall, Healaugh, Ampleforth, Wheldrake, Shipton and Askham Bog.

150 CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*)

The first pair to prospect an area u/as on 23rd February, near Bubwith. (R.H.) followed by others on 2nd march, North of York, where four were present by 6th March (P.H.) Also in this first meek a general, and usual, inland movement took place in all areas, which seems little affected by the severity or mildness of the weather. D.Qi. remarks that all inland breeding areas appeared to be occupied by 16th'March.

¹⁵¹ WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

A single bird in company with Curlew, Redshank and Gulls on 7th May, was also heard calling.

156 GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)

Several post-breeding and winter passage birds were noted. The species is rarely recorded in the area on spring passage.

In July, there were two records: on the 2nd two fed at Castle Howard, later flying off (D.iif.) and on the 16th at Skipwith (P.O. et al.) flushed two from a pond.

In August, a pair were at Healaugh.(P.O.) on the 12th, until the 27th (D.lil.) and August/September,- five were present most days at Naburn Sewage Farm (G.S.).

A September record was one on the 4th at Healaugh (P.D.); there was a single at Skipwith Common on 6th October, and a late record was of a single at Castle Howard on 3rd November, feeding on the strand. (3.tU,)

159 COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*)

Healaugh had a single bird present from 13th June, and three on 11th and 12th August. (P.O.) (D.IU.)

At Castle Howard, two were present (3.W.) on 25th July. Seven were counted at the same place on 6th September, (A.8.) and one on 5th October.

Three to six were present at Naburn Sewage Farm over much of the autumn (G.S.) and odd singles were seen during the same period in the Derwent Valley. Other Derwent Valley records were a single on 27th July, at the Reserve (R.H.). and on 9th September, near Wheldrake (D.W.)

A single was present on 27th August, at Skewsby Pond (P.H.)

161 REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

The usual numbers of spring and summer records were obtained from the Lower Derwent. Singles regularly noted over January and February.

Three flew over a York suburb in spring (l.C.) Seven pairs bred in the Bubwith area (8,P.). and other, breeding occurred at Strensall, Healaugh, Clifton Ings, and probably the Ouse Valley near Linton, and on the Foss near Towthorpe.

162 SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*)

A.B. reported a single, which flew up and down the lake at Castle Howard before landing, on 6th September.

165 GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

Records from' three localities, none of which were spring records.

At Healaugh,, four birds were present from 11th August, and two on '27th/28th August, were seen in flight and heard to call (D.ltf.). Last noted on 4th September. (P.O.) An earlier record here was a single in company with a .Redshank (3,'JJ.) on 27th June.

A single bird was at Skipwith from the 8th to 10th August (3..HI.) (R.H.)

On the 6th October (S.fyl.) saw a singleton.

At Castle Howard a single was seen and heard on 6th September, near the public footpath (A.B.).

178 DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

Present in considerable numbers in the Derwent Valley in spring and autumn, and many records.

G.S. counted c350 on 27th January, and it was a regular occurrence to see some birds. On 7th May, four, summer plumage birds were present (D.8. (IKI.R.). Also, on the 4th May, c100 crossed the Ings, some of which were.-also in breeding

plumage (G-,S»). Other high counts were 50 on 21st April, c600 on 31st March, and c200 in December (G.S.) (R.H.)

The only other localities were Castle Howard, where on the 21st Duly (3.UI.) recorded two, both in summer plumage, and York City centre Ouse in the spring (P.M.).

^{18<}* RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Two Reeves fed with a Dunlin group on 7th April, in the Lower. Derwent, and again on. 14th April (G.S.) (A.8.) Also, on 7th April and 11th April, a singleton near Aughton. The following day two were at Wheldrake and Bubwith (R .H.) . :

In autumn, on 3rd November, between Aughton and Ellerton, ten males and two females were present (J.H.L.).

At Naburn Sewage Farm on 3rd September, a single was present (G.S.)

At Healaugh from 11th to 28th August, a maximum of four were present, one of which was partially in summer plumage. (P.O.) (O.UJ.).

185 GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

A very pleasing Club record which, as far as can be ascertained, is the first ever for York area. ([fi.lif.) while visiting a lake in a York suburb noted this PHALAROPUS which was later identified as a FULICARIUS. It remained in the vicinity for three days, giving delight to several eminent local "birdy" people.

198 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) .

This' year fewer records in the area, the first reduction in four years.

The majority of the records came from the Derwent Valley over the December/January period.

At Bubwith on the 9th January, four were present (B.p.) and there mare 30 on the 16th (G.S.). They were present in this area an very small numbers throughout January (P,H.) G.S. noted a single bird on 10th March.

At the year end B.P. saw a single at Aughton, but no frequent occurrences noted until after the 9th December.

There were fifteen present near Strensall tip on 15th December, in a mass of about c2,000 Herring, Slack-headed and Common Gulls (P.H.).

199 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*)

Small groups were present in toe Garment Valley through-out winter . (G.S.)

200 HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

Inland groups were seen fairly frequently throughout the spring and winter in the more upland areas, usually in mixed

feeding flocks, but no notes of especial interest were received.

Apart from the Derwent Valley, and areas of the Ouse, the largest numbers assembled at the Strensall tip. The last spring record was of ten at Wheldrake.

²⁰¹ COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*),

Mainly in the Derwent Valley in small numbers in January.

In the Northernmost part of the area very few were observed compared with previous years. They were present until the first week in April at Sheriff Hutton and Newburgh, and in groups of four to ten on passage, as the foul weather conditions improved.

208 BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*)

Some large inland feeding flocks were present from January to March; on 27th January "vast flocks roosted on the floods, c5,000 strong" (G.S.), and counts of 400 to 500 were often seen in the Derwent Valley. In this Valley, 30 pairs colonised an area, but no successful rearing occurred (G.S.).

Further inland feeding winter flocks of 40 to c500 were counted.

There was no study of known breeding colonies.

At the year end - 8th December - c3,000 covered a compact area on Castle Howard lake (P.M.).

212 BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)

Passage birds passed over several parts of the country in May, eight of which fed at Castle Howard lake on the 15th, between 19 and 20.30 hours. They were later joined by a further two (B.C.) (R.til.).

217/18 COMMON/ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*)

A single bird quartered the lake twice before departing East, on 13th May (R.W.).

A further single seen flying South at Haxby in early September (J.F.IB.).

232 STOCK DOVE (*Columba oenas*)

At Towthorpe on 21st April (A.Hi. to.) (3.F.tli.) and from that date seen in all 10 km. squares in the area.

Probably eleven pairs bred in Lower Derwent area, where it was present throughout the season (G.S.)

Bred at Acomb, Rufforth, Brandsby and Strensall. In general, the records for the species are rather erratic - they should be worth closer scrutiny at all seasons. (P.M.) (T.C₀)

234 WOODPIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)

Common "at all times of the year and widely spread as a breeding species.

The first eggs laid on 21st April, in the Derwent I/alley (G.S.) where winter flocks did not apparently exceed c500 (R.H.)

P.H. made the following counts at Grimston Moor (largely softwood plantation) on 20th December, during a one hour observation. All were flying South-West in a wild North wind, with a temperature- of 1 Cs-

12, 12, 55, 35, 90, 52, 30, 93, and 47.

Some other random December counts in this area were:- c200, 350, '250', 270, while the largest feeding flock numbered c250 at this time.

235 TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

Noted in all parts of the area.

COLLARED DOVE. (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Possibly a slight retraction in the numbers of breeding sites. It appears that DECAOCTO typically winters in a location offering an easy food supply - a farmyard or cattle-food mill - and also breeds nearby. It is not yet clear inhere fledged birds disperse, but in at least one area no new breeding pairs appeared, despite the production of many broods over a four year period (T.C.) (P.H.)

237 CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

Heard and seen in all squares.

²⁴¹ BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

widely reported from all parts of the area. Near Easingwold, at least six pairs bred in a one-mile radius, and hunting birds could be expected on known beats:- Wigginton, Hovingham, Coulton, Sproxton, Haxby, Thornton Hill and Ampleforth.

Bred at most of the above places, and also at Rufforth, Shipton, Rawcliffe, Strensall, Wheldrake (2 pairs), Castle Howard, Yearsley, Gilling plus many others. (A.B.) (3.F.UI.) (A.I.I.) (T.C.) (fii.R.) (P.H.) (B.P.) (D.UJ.) (G.S.;

246 LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)

Bred and often seen at Healaugh, Askham Bryan, Skipwith, Haxby, Cawood and Coxwold. (P.O.) (ITI.UJ.) (T.C.) (F.O.) (A.M.) (3.F.UI.) (G.S.) (I.C.)

24? TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco*)

Bred near Selby, Wheldrake, Brandsby, Coxwold, Hovingham and Malton. (I.C.) (R.H.).

248 LONG-EARED OWL. (*Asio otus*)

A single bird' was present at Maidensworth in late February early March, but did not remain after the 7th. (P.H.)

TWO WERE heard calling - both juveniles - on 25th at Skipwith Common (J.H.L.) and on 18th June, two were heard at Rufforth, where one. was. often seen (IK1.R.) (T.C.) These were the only probable breeding records for the area.

249 SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

The Lower Derwent was, as usual, the place to see this bird, especially from January to March. They could be watched on almost any day in this period. Three birds in the air at once was not unusual.

A particularly interesting record came from Bishop Wood, where J.H.L. saw a bird settle in a beet field on 28th October.

252 NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

Five pairs nested near Skipwith.

No breeding occurred anywhere else in the area, and no records were received from Wheldrake area.

255 SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

The first incoming birds arrived abruptly, and over a wide front in May;- on 9th May at York University Campus (J.H.L.), also Stillington (3.W.), the following day over Strensall (S.lfl.) Malton and Easingwold (P.M.), and the day after that, over the Derwent (R,H.) and York Ouse (D.8.). by the 13th May, three were at Healaugh and fifteen over the York Ouse (P.O.) (T.C.)«

Two September departures were Healaugh, a single on the 4th (P.D.) and another single at Castle Howard on the 11th September (A.B.).

258 KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

Bred in two Lower Derwent sites. Further up this river at least four nests were located in a walk from Kirkham to Malton.

Several breeding records from the York Ouse and the Rye.

Noted out of breeding season at Billing, Healaugh, Garment, Rowntrees Park, Skipwith Common, Wheldrake, York and Linton-on-Ouse. (A.B.) (R.Ul.) (S.it!.) (G.S.) (P.H.) (R.H.)

262 GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*)

Apparently maintaining status throughout the area with records from most appropriate areas. Comment was made that after post-breeding groups had dispersed they would return to the area at some weeks intervals, and after asserting themselves for a while, would again move away.

Present at Skipwith (several pairs) Bubwith, Buttercrambe, Hawkhill, Stittenham, Castle Howard, Brandsby (2 pairs), Dale End, Scackleton, Hovingham and Peel Park. CR.H.) (Q.1U.) (F.O.) (P.H.) (G.S.) (B.P.) et al.

253 GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus major*) .

Apparently well established in many areas. In co-existence with *PICUS VIRIDIS* at High Wood during the

summer months (P.H.) In a recent Woodpecker enquiry only 25 breeding pairs were noted for V.C. 64 which must be a very low sighting incidence.

Present and probably bred at Birdsall, Buncombe Park, Ampleforth, Gilling, Hovingham, Strensall Common, Brandsby, Bishop Wilton, Hawkhill, Skelton, Buttercrambe, Heslington, Easingwold and Rawcliffe. CD.W.) (S.ffl.) (R.iiJ.) T.G.) (B.P.) (P.H.)

264 LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus minor*)

Winter birds seen at High Wood (R.H.) on 10th January and 15th February, and Fulford Barracks., near sports field on 25th January (F.O.)..

Probably bred at Thorganby and Skipwith. Common, 9th and 21st April (I.C.) (G.S.) . Healaugh, seen and heard, 13th/15th (Hay (P.O.)). On 9th June, a pair was seen at Skipwith (I*C,). At Ampleforth, P.H. progressed the annual breeding pair via sight and sound until 11th May, when all traces were lost in the ensuing bad weather.

At Black Wood, Brandsby, two records were in May and October only.

265 WRYNECK. (*Jynx torquilla*)

Another first ever record for the York district, discovered, as a road casualty in what must be a truly freakish series of events.

Found at Woodthorpe (York) on 1st September, by P.D. who salvaged a wing and a leg.

²⁷² SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

In January, foraging flocks of 15 to 60 counted on farmlands, but on the 6th at Bubwith, B.P. counted c100.

In March, flocks of 30 to 50 were counted, with displaying on the 7th. At Towthorpe, a walk to Lock House (c2½ miles) produced 50 to 60 birds on 31st March (A.K1.U1.) (3.F.W.).

Two apparent juveniles in a group of six making forays across the river Foss on 21st April. This observation was made within yards of a point where on 31st March, nestlings of ground nesting birds were heard in the grass.

274 SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

The third consecutive spring of unseasonable weather produced a delayed immigration which carried through to a poor breeding season, late nidification and eventual migration. We now know that a great many Northern European birds perished in a late summer weather depression.

4th April (T.C.) (IY1.R.) saw the first incoming birds (4) at Ampleforth, after which three were at Castle Howard on the 11th, and again on the 15th (B.P.) (D.UJ.) (P.H.). Two were at Skipwith on the 14th (G.S.) (J.H.L.) (R.H.). These were the only records in the whole of the area.

The build-up was not evident until after the 30th April, and field workers thought it worthwhile to detail every sighting during the last few days of April.

In fact, the usual surge of prospecting birds did not occur until the third week in May, when building was often started within hours of arrival. Probably as a result of hurried pairing and nesting, several nests later collapsed near Brandsby and no further effort was made to mate.

Last broods flew at Brandsby on 16th October, and departed after two days (P.H.). Each nest had casualties remaining in the nest (five survived out of nine in two separate late broods).

Other migrants were seen at the University - six on the 26th October (D.lli.), the Lower Derwent - ten on 3rd November (J.H.L.), and a single in the same area on 17th November (G.S.),

275 RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Hirundo daurica*)

In the evening of 7th May, a single bird, flying with a Sand Martin over Healaugh Pond for some 10 to 15 minutes. As there were already some 20 plus Swallows, 5 House Martins and 2 Sand Martins around the pond, the distinguishing features stood out easily. (P.D.);

276 HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

A similar pattern of movement to the Swallow, no sighting before 14th April, was reported, when five were present at Castle Howard (G.S.) (R.H.) (B.C.) The first York record was no later than 25th April, at Acomb, flying South (T.C.).

Several late October birds were seen, but a particularly late record was at Selby, where a juvenile passed through on 7th November (R.H.).

277 SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)

RIPARIA is usually the first of the HIRUNOINIDAE to arrive in our area, via the Derwent and Castle Howard lake. The first appearance this year was not until 14th April, at Castle Howard (R.H.).

A flock of 43 were at Howsham on 7th September, but no later sightings were reported.

280 CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone corone*)

Seen daily in every part of the area, and in all seasons.

281 HOODED CROW (*Corvus corone cornix*)

Two on the Derwent on 13th January (Y.O.C.) and near Wheldrake, two seen on 13th and 16th February (D.U^f.) (F.Q.),

282 ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

From a survey in the Cawood area it was noted that rookeries in villages were in decline, but new rookeries had been established in woods some distance from villages.

1st September^ at Shire Oaks, there was a 3,000/3,500 strong roost, including large 3ackdan> group. (P.D.).

²⁸³ JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*)

bred at Brandsby (P.H.) . . .:

Seen with Rooks in large numbers - see No. 282, above.

284 MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

286 JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Occurred in many of cur sizeable woods.

288 GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

289 BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*)

²⁹⁰ COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)

The largest number of records were made over the winter months, with bird table and garden visits, which occurred from early October.

292 MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*)

Odd suburban feeders from January to mid-February, and November/December, in singles.

It bred in several areas such as Skipwith, Brandsby, Cawton, Castle Howard, Strensall and Wheldrake.

²⁹³ WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*)

Noticed most often out of the breeding season, uiith records from Averhams Wood, Maidensworth, Dale End, Newburgh and Bubwith. (P.H.) (R.H.) (3.F.UI.) (G.S.) (S.lfl.).

A nest was parasitised at Strensall by Tree Sparrows

²⁹⁴ LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithelos caudatus*)

Six birds spent most of January/February in Lord Mayor's Walk, York. Other winter foragers in groups of four to nine were at Askham Bog. Haxby and Skipwith.

Fledglings were being fed at Thorganby on 16th May (R.H.) (P.H.).

296 NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

A single record, again from a known breeding sits: D.U/. counted three at Castle Howard and also heard a call on 17th February.

298 TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)

Seen over the spring and winter months in several mature moods, it bred in most of these woods but precise counts are

very difficult to obtain. At least one pair bred at Strensall, High Wood, Skipwith, Hawkhills, Thorganby, Buttercrambe, Stamford Bridge, Ampleforth, Wass and Hovingham. .

Obviously some of these woods would support much more than a single pair.

299 WREN (Troglodytes troglodytes)

Now very widely evident in every part of the recorded area.

³⁰⁰ DIPPER (Cinclus cinclus)

Only one bird appeared at a known nesting site near Easingwold. It did not reappear after 19th February (P.H.).

301 MISTLE THRUSH (Turdus viscivorus)

The earliest nesting took place in early March. Family groups., usually five in number, were seen of ten during . "July/ August. The first pair was seen on 24th February.

Single birds resumed winter territories from late September.

302 FIELDFARE (Turdus pilaris)

No particularly interesting counts or records produced this year. An absence was noticed in early March, when counts were low and sightings few. This was followed on the 13th March by a large return passage across the area, which gradually tapered off into late April when some numbers were 25 on the 27th at Brandsby, 50 at Aughton on the 28th, several heard on the 30th (D.B.) (G.S.). (P«H.) and finally a single on 7th IK! ay (Q.B.) (ffi.R.) at Bubwith.

In September, two crossed Turkers Wood on the 1st (3.L.) within about a week of the first Spurn record. Another flock of 70 crossed WSW over Stockton Lane a meek later (8.P.) and on the 10th the first big influx - c200 passed Grimston in one hour (P.H.).

303 SONG THRUSH (Turdus philomelos)

First singing from 20th January. First eggs laid on 31st march (P.H.) (G.S.), and first young by 12th April.

A common and widespread species.

304 REDWING (Turdus iliacus)

A similar pattern to PILARIS with departing flocks of 20 to 50 through March into April, when passage was "almost nightly" (I.C.). Odd singles fed on Heslington playing fields on 5th May (G.S.)

In early October the first winter visitors crossed near York. (B.P.) (R.H.) (I.C.) (G.S.) (P.H.) (3.IS].).

³⁰⁷ RING OUZEL (Turdus torquatus)

A late March passage bird was present in the beck vicinity at Helmsley on a market day (P.H.) when it fed from the back.

308 BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

³¹ WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

A female was present at Naburn on 13th May (3.W.) and a male passed through the Lower Derwent in the same month (G.S.).

317 STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

A considerable increase this year from one to four, all except one from the Lower Derwent area,

A male was watched for some time at Healaugh, on 19th March (A.B.).

Near Bubwith G.S. noted a bird of the year, and a single male on 12th October, near Wheldrake. On 22nd December, R.H. saw two very late passage birds at Cottingwith

318 WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

The Strensall colony amounted to five pairs (D.IU.) where no brood counts were taken.

Present also at Allerthorpe (3.W.) on 18th July.

Bred at Skipwith Common and seen as late as 6th October

320 REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

Two pairs bred on Strensall Common, and according to 3. ID. several pairs bred in the area of this Common.

At least two broods were reared near Brandsby, but the first bird wasn't seen this year until late July (P.H.).

325 ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Commonly seen throughout the area.

32? GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)

Not by any means widely spread despite the many apparently suitable breeding habitats.

At least one pair bred in the Strensall Reserve area, and a singing male was present but did not apparently remain at Castle Howard from 12th to 25th July. (A. 3.) (3.W.),

³³ REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

The little colony noted last year was present in undisclosed numbers at Melbourne Canal (3. Si¹).

Several pairs were present at Strensall Common when four singing males were noted in early summer (1.C.) (P.M.).

Q.B. and A. 8. surmise the probability of several pairs at

Castle Howard reed beds.

337 SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

Two pairs bred within the area of two 10 Km. squares at Strensall Common (I.C.).

Between Aughton and Bubwith and at Shipton, where a singing male was present over May and June; no nesting resulted (A.B.).

Present over the breeding period at two different sites near Coxwold and one at Brandsby (P.H.).

343 BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

The species is probably overlooked to a considerable extent as the following represents all the submitted records: Healaugh, Askham Bog, Strensall Common, Bishop Wood, High Wood, Dale End, Black Wood.

An interesting late record was in a Selby garden on 8th December, a female (R.H.).

345 GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)

This under recorder species was recorded in only six areas this year.

Three pairs displayed at Healaugh, 19th May (P.D.) and three singing males on the same date at Strensall (A.W.W.) (D.F.W.). Present on 9th May at Bishop Wood (R.H.), Averhams Plantation in late May (A.fifl.W.) and Skipwith Common on 31st July.

Dale End, High Wood and Stearsby each had one pair (P.H.). At Skipwith Common (S.IY1.),

347 WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*)

First singing male was on 27th April, at Averhams Wood (3.F.W.), numbers increased to four pairs by early May (A.rS.W.) and on 11th June, six pairs were present (A.ffl.W.) (3.F.W.).

At Strips Wood there were tu/o singing mains on 30th April (O.B.).

Several pairs bred at Healaugh, inhere display and copulation were noted on 7th May (P.O.).

Breeding occurred quite widely throughout the area - Rufforth/Acomb had at least three pairs (ftl.R.) (T.C.). Strensall Common was not systematically searched but at least nine pairs were noted with five fledglings noted on 23rd June

Wheldrake had at least two pairs (R.H.).

Bubwith - two pairs (D.B.).

Melbourne area had "several pairs" U.W.).

A late single was on 6th September, at Healaugh (P.O.).

³⁴⁸ LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*)

Six records were produced this year, reflecting our intensive three year search and identification of this species, and its status within our area.

Rufforth - heard only on 21st May on 11th June it was heard and observed to be nesting (D«B.) (T.C.) (S.R.). A second pair bred near Rufforth (I.C.) (T.C.).

Brocket Lane - heard on 22nd June (F.O.).

Strensall,- confirmed breeding on 13th June, where A ffi. 1U. and 3, P.m. had previously noted the presence of a singing male.

Bred at Gale Lane, Brandsby, and at Tollerton (P.H. (G.C.).

354 WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

The first singing bird in the area was noted by G.S., R.H. and B..C. on 7th April, near Skipwith. In the following ten days recorded virtually throughout the area,

³⁵⁶ CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

On 7th April they were noted at Skipwith, Strensall and Moorlands (A.m.111.) (3.F.UI.) (G.S.) (3.UJ.)

PHYLLOSCOPUS S.P.

Two exceptional records were:- Brandsby on 23rd November, foraging in sunshine for several minutes (P.H.) and Castle Howard on 1st December, also foraging, watched for about ten minutes by A.B., J.H.L., 3.W. st al., and described as COLLYBITA.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

Heard or seen in almost every softwood plantation, and noticeably active from late March an- early April.

356 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*)

An abrupt absence of records for this species. One confirmed breeding record from Strensall, but absent from many known breeding sites.

Much more attention should be given to this species this year.

371 DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*)

373 MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

Seen in small groups of five to twenty from January to March, especially in the Derwent Valley.

Courtship display was noticed from late March. Bred throughout the area.

³⁷⁶ TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

S.Pfi. noted a displaying male at Strensall (where many pairs bred last year) on 10th May, and this proved to be the earliest record by about ten days. Most records were from the last few days of May onwards. Not a common species, but

present in most suitable habitats.

380 PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*)

A White Wagtail was on the York University campus ;on 17th March (J.H.L.).

Pied wagtails bred widely throughout the area.

Post-breeding flocks of 100 to c250 were noted on 27th June and until mid-August near Skipwith, Brandsby, Rye and near Coxwold. (P.M.) (G.S.).

381 GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

A pair bred near Brandsby, a single being present from late February. No record of the brood when they all moved away in mid-August. Single bird present in late December (P.H.).

All other records were passage birds. The Theatre Royal, York, on 2nd January (3.W.); Lendal Bridge, on 24th September (I.C.); Moor Lane, 23rd October (T.C.); Burton Stone School occasionally in November (I.C.).

382 WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

There were two records for the spring period, one. of a single feeding in a York suburb on 5th March (B.C.) (E.C.) and two on the 7th, near Helmsley (P.H.).

The large winter migration was noted from early November, when a party of five was seen at Copmanthorpe (J.H.L.), after which fifteen were seen at Roujntrees¹ Works from the 24th to 30th November (A.Dfl.W.) (3.F.W.) and also on .the 30th a group of fifteen were present, at Bootham Park (A.B.).

December sightings u/ere from Heworth on the 14th, when five were seen (J.H.L.) who also reported an undisclosed number from the campus, on the 6th, Four were counted at Heworth on the 9th (D.8.) and (T.C.) saw two on the same date at Askham Lane.

One December record came from Crayke, and one from Heworth Golf Course (P.H.)..

384 GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

High counts in Eastern England at both ends of the year produced the following records in our own area: all records are of single birds:-

Wheldrake Reserve on 20th January (T.C.) (G.S.) and Shipton on the 21st (A.8.).

Aughton Church on 19th February, Strensall Common on 25th April

Skipwith Common on 8th October- (S.ffl.) and Strensall, with a mammal, on the 20th (j.liJ.).

Frequently present in the Derwent Valley during November/ December, where probably two birds wintered (G.S.) (B.C.) (R.H.).

On Strensall Common on 21st December (R.ill.).

389 STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

392 GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Few reports of winter flocks, and little noticed until moving into or investigating possible breeding sites from late March.

³⁹³ GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Large numbers of groups from August until October, in many parts of the area.

A flock near Easingwold moving between a garden and a field to feed totalled 34 (P.H.).

The largest parties were noted at Haxby and Strensall, 10 and 19, (A.f.fl.), Askham Bog 14 and 20, (iYi.UJ.), Aughton, York, Kilburn, Hovingham, Slingsby and Wigginton (I.C.) (T.C.) (P.M.) (G.S.) (F.Q.j).

Territorial displaying from late March at the Museum Gardens. I.C. counted eight pairs between Clifton Green and Burton Stone.

394 SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*)

An increase to three records this year.; two in a York suburb on 9th February (Bl.lij.), two at Strensall on 7th April (U.li/.) and two, in March. near Acaster Malbis, per (P.M.).

LINNET (*Acanthis cannabina*)

Bred in many parts of the area.

Winter flocks noted frequently in all months except January, February and March, when they were less remarked upon,

397 REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

Small flocks in the early months from York suburbs, Derwent Valley and Plain of York.

First territorial behaviour noted in mid-May.

Numerous flocks noted after the breeding season,

^{40/1} BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Small groups of two to five frequently seen and some reporters noted a well defined "beat". Usually a pair of birds remained sedentary after broods had dispersed, and could be expected over the winter months,

(8.P.) counted 24 in a mile distance on 11th December, near Holtby.

Breeding occurred at Strensall, Brandsby, Easingwold, Shipton, Crayke, Askham Bog, Grimston and Bubwith.

⁴⁰⁸ BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Fewer records than usual this year. Recorded- as below; On 4th and 7th April, at Terrington, (A.8.) (S.IYI.) in breeding plumage. S.IYI. noted a very late migrant on 7th May, at Strensall. In November, seen at Castle Howard.

⁴⁰⁹ YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Noted daily throughout the area.

CORN BUNTING (*Emberiza calandra*)

First recorded-movement into breeding area iuas in the third week of March.

It seems unlikely that our field markers have even begun, to form an accurate account of this bird's status in the area,

Small winter groups were noted in the Derwent Valley and near Bubwith.

Known breeding sites were at Farlington, Norton, three pairs; Haxby, Askham Richard, two pairs; Strensall, Skipwith Common and Lower Derwent. (G.S.) (S.ffl.) (P.H.) (A.ffl.UJ.) (d.F.Ul.) (3.Hi.) (f.C.) (8.P.).

^{^21} REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

Bred at Castle Howard, Strensall - six pairs in one area. eleven pairs in another.

⁴²³ SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

The first records for the York Plain and the first for the area since 1971.

G.S. recorded a single near Wheldrake in a flock of foraging finches and sparrows on 10th November, and near Willitoft a group of 15 on 30th October.

⁴²⁵ TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

Winter flocks of up to fifty in a few areas.

Breeding occurred at Stearsby, Strensall and Skipwith Common.