

YORK ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB - 1975 REPORT

SUMMARY OF 1975

During 1975 a total of 146 species and one sub—species was recorded, five of which were new to the area:— Corncrake, Little Auk, Alpine Swift, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Lapland Bunting.

Second records were:— Storm Petrel, Gannet, Hobby, Little Stint and Knot. Third and fourth records of Kittiwake. The highest ever spring passage of Black Terns totalled 64 birds. Six Buzzards including two possible species of Buteo lagopus, four Marsh Harriers and an Osprey were also interesting passage birds.

Main interest early in the year were wildfowl in the Lower Derwent. Bewick's Swan numbers reached a peak of 136 in February, Wigeon were well over a thousand in January, February and March and Teal up to 400 in mid—March. Also present during winter months were 500 Mallard, 60 Pintail and 50 Shoveler. The number of Pied Wagtails roosting at York Railway Station reached a maximum of 1,680 in mid-March.

The first spring migrants to arrive were Blackcap in late March, at two localities, and Willow Warbler on 2nd April at Wheldrake. An influx of migrants was evident on 11th and 12th May, when Wheatear, Whinchat, Redstart, Grasshopper Warbler and Whitethroat were the first of their species to arrive. Late May produced a male Red-breasted Flycatcher on Skipwith Common.

The most significant record in June was a Hobby, which flew south over Thorganby. Late July, through to September, brought waders with one Little Stint, two Wood Sandpipers, three Ruff, five Spotted Redshank, nine Greenshank and ten Knot being some of the more interesting. The highlight of September occurred on the 21st, when an Alpine Swift flew north over Wheldrake Ings.

The first large winter gatherings of fieldfare and Redwing were of 3,400 birds on 11th October at Wheldrake Ings. An interesting coincidence was when two birds were found on the same day in mid-October: a Storm Petrel which was, unfortunately, found dead at Sutton—on—the—Forest, and an exhausted immature Gannet near High Catten. A Little Auk was also found exhausted at Leavening in early November. Strong north-easterly winds in early October had obviously blown these birds inland away from their natural habitat. A male Lapland Bunting near Kexby in October, 18 Waxwings at Stamford Bridge in November, and a Great Grey Shrike at Strensall Common in December, finished the year off well.

Full details of species recorded in the area can be found in the Classified List.

ROOK SURVEY

The B.T.O.'s National Rookery Survey in 1975 was obviously a major project. The York Ornithological Club helped by covering the 15 ten-kilometre squares that constitutes the area. Many volunteers contributed work on the census in the period from late March to early May. Some interesting results developed from the survey, a grand total of 6,836 nests counted, of which a high percentage were occupied. The largest rookery comprised of 190 nests, this was in S.E. 56. The most populated square was SE 76 with 1,228 in 43 separate rookeries. The next highest was S.E. 77 with 818. The squares having least density were S.E. 63 with only five nests, and 2 S.E. 53 supporting 49. Total average was 459 per square. The main concentration of rookery sites was in the six most northerly squares, which held twice as many as the remaining nine. If 80% were occupied and each pair successfully reared on average about 2.5 young. then this could bring the rook population in May to 24,790.

In several years time I hope the Club can once again carry out a similar survey so that we can then compare the results.

BRIAN C. PEPPER

April, 1976

CLASSIFIED LIST

GREAT CRESTED GREEE *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding at Castle Howard, Newburgh Priory Pond Head Reservoir (OS, PH).

Numbers up to eight during most of the year at Castle Howard, with maximum of 12 on 5th October (DW). Dringhouses Pond had two present on 15th April (DE).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bred successfully at three sites - Castle Howard, Brandsby and Kirkham. A breeding pair were unsuccessful at Strensall (JU).

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One bird found dead at Sutton—on—Forest on 13th October (OH!!). Second record for the area.

GANNET *Sula bassana*

An immature was found exhausted near High Catton on 13th October (YORK EVENING PRESS). Second record for the area.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One recorded near Sutton Bank on 1st November (PR).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Up to three were recorded in most months throughout the area. Seven on 21st August (CS) and seven on 23rd September (DU) at Castle Howard were the maxima.

MALLARD

A very early breeding record on 23rd January when a female with newly hatched ducklings were on the University Lake, Heslington, They did not appear to survive (Jilt).

The first day of the year produced the largest count of 1,580 at Castle Howard (3W) and 500 in the Derwent Valley (P11). Other numbers at Castle Howard included 500 on 17th August, 1,000 on 18th September (JUL) and 620 on 26th October (IC).

Smaller numbers of Mallard were recorded throughout the area and up to 100 were present on the City stretch of the River Ouse in August (DW).

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Four pairs bred at Newburgh.

Peak winter flocks recorded between Bubwith and East Cottingwith were 350 on 1st January (RH), Wheldrake and Aughton Ings 400 on 9th March (MC). Castle Howard had 100 on 23rd September (JHL), 300 on 28th (NJ) and 200 on 5th October (OW).

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

One pair of these birds was recorded at Sand Hutton Pond on 24th September (DW).

WIGEON *Anna penelope*

1,500 were present on the Lower Derwent Floods on 1st, 25th January and 8th March (FE).

Three birds were still present on 27th April (G~,p0). From 4th October to the year end numbers increased to 2,000 (OW). Numbers up to 20 at Castle Howard during the autumn.

PINTAIL *Arias acuta*

All records were from the Lower Derwent:

40 on 1st January. maximum of 60 on 12th (PH). 50 on 1st February (IC) and 30 were still present on 15th April (OS). Numbers up to 12 in December on Wheldrake Ings (OW).

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Regular during the winter months on flood water in the Derwent Valley with maximum of 50

on 15th March (RH). Castle Howard had good autumn and winter numbers - September had 48 on 10th (IC). 95 on 23rd (JiIL), and 15 on 28th (BGP). October 40 on 5th (OW), and 56 on 26th (IC). November 30 on 1st (JEw) and 40 on 19th (POP). December had 56 on 6th (RH).

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

A full winged male on the University Lake from 3rd March to the year end (JHL). Published with the escape proviso.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Two breeding records - nine pairs at Stearsby and five pairs at Newburgh (PH). Castle Howard had 54 on 1st January (3W) and 17 on 19th (IC). reducing to two on 17th August (DW) and four on 3rd September (Dir). Sand Hutton Pond had peak numbers of 15 on 29th September and 15th October. Dringhouses Pond had six on 22nd November (Dt~'),

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

The largest winter count was of 47 at Castle Howard on 1st January (JT7), the numbers were reduced to 22 on 19th (IC), and only one drake was left by 23rd March. 18 on 10th September (IC) and 22 on 5th October (DW).

Up to three birds at Sand Hutton Pond from September to November.

Three drakes were on Dringhouses Pond on 13th December (DW).

The Lower Derwent Floods only had single figures throughout the winter months (OS).

Spring records include up to four at Newburgh, Stearsby and Dale End (PH).

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Varying numbers at Castle Howard were 14 on 2nd January (RU), 23 on 19th (IC), 10 on 23rd March (DW) and 24 on 5th April (PH). Three on 11th October (JII) was the first autumn record, then six on 19th November and three on 6th December (WI').

A single at Kirkham in early January (PH). One on 10th and two on 13th October at Sand Hutton Pond. Adult male was present in the Lower Derwent from the 15th November to the year end (CS, PC. GW).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Two adult males on the river Derwent, north of Kirkham, on 5th January (J"). A group of 19 birds comprising of six adult males at Castle Howard on 19th January (IC). Two on the River Derwent near Bubwith on 16th February (OS). Three at Castle Howard on 6th March (RN). One on 21st March (DPi) and two on 13th April (Cs) in the Lower Derwent.

November and December records were from Castle Howard: 14 on 23rd November (IC), 2 on 6th December (WI') and a maximum of 57 on 21st (JW, et al.).

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

A pair with eight young in the Lower Derwent (CS).

Up to three birds seen in January and February with a maxima of seven on 23rd March (mi) and eight on 27th April (CS). Three at Castle Howard on 5th May (PH).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Feral birds at Castle Howard were seen in all months with maxima of 29 on 23rd September (JiIL) and 25 on 19th November (BOP).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

One flew from the Lower Derwent in a north easterly direction on 1st January (CS).

Two at Castle Howard on 2nd November (BGP et al.).

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Two feral birds were recorded regularly during January, February, March, April, November and December at Castle Howard (EGP, RW, JHL, PH, 013). A single was at the Lower Derwent on 31st March (GS) and 18th April (ORB).

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Maxima counts at Castle Howard were 130 on 5th March (PH), 192 on 31st August (GS), 190 on 23rd September (JHL) and 178 on 19th November (BGP).

Three in the Lower Derwent on 13th April (GS) and two flew over Towthorpe on 19th April (JFW). Two leucistic birds were amongst the flock at Castle Howard.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Six at the Lower Derwent on 1st February (IC) and one on 13th and 18th April (GS, DPI).

A family party of seven arrived at the Lower Derwent on 21st November, the numbers increased to 18 by the year end (CU). First winter bird was at Castle Howard on 19th November (BGP).

BEWICK' S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*

Wheldrake Reserve had 56 on 1st January (RH) increasing to 100 on 4th (MC). 53 at the Lower Derwent Floods on 1st February (Rlfl, with the maximum number 136 on 9th, one third of which were immatures (JUL, CS). Numbers were down to 38 on 9th March (MC) and 19 on 21st (DPI), CS). Wheldrake Ings had two adults on 23rd October. Wheldrake and Derwent Valley had 11 adults from 22nd November, increasing to maximum of 33 by the year end (CU).

BUZZARD sp

One bird on 26th January was seen flying low over fields by the A.19 near Escrick. 'The bird flew across the road in an easterly direction displaying white rump and underwing pattern (MM). This bird was thought by the observer to be a Rough-legged Buzzard ID. lagopus but insufficient data allowed us to record it as such.

On 23rd March, a bird was seen soaring over East Cottingwith before flying off in a north easterly direction (RH, Cs).

A single was soaring over fields near Castle Howard on 2nd November, it was noted to be uniformly light with black tail band' (MU). The description given indicates that the bird may well have been of the species *B. lagopus*.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

One at Cherry Hill on 11th March. One from Raskelf to Brandsby on 29th and 30th August. A single flew west over Brandsby in early September (PH).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Two or probably three pairs bred successfully in the Brandsby area (PT!), four young flew from one closely watched nest on 5th August (PH).

Recorded usually in ones or twos in most parts of the area and in all months.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

There were four records, three in spring and one in autumn.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

One was seen at Castle Howard in May (per CS).

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

One adult flying south on 11th June over Thorganby (GW). Second record for the area.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

A single flew over Oxtan Pond in a south easterly direction on 30th August (DW). Wheldrake

Ings had a bird between 14th and 16th September (CU). One passed along the south bank of the River Derwent at Stamford Bridge on 26th November (MC).

A single at the Lower Derwent on 21st December

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

A lack of records received may reflect the decline of the species in our area, but more probably indicates that recorders in the field find them quite "common" and not worthy of mention.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

One at Bonneygate on 7th September (per PH).

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

A bird was heard calling at Skipwith Common on 28th May (CS, BC).

A tired bird at Castle Howard on 29th November (IC); one was later found dead (EW).

One on 26th November and two in late December on Wheldrake Ings (GU).

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

One was near Hovingham on 24th July, (per PH). First record for the area.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Large flocks in the early months; 1,800 between Bubwith and East Cottingwith on 1st January, 550 at Cawood on 2nd and 1,500 near Bubwith Bridge on 1st February (RH).

Post breeding flocks assembled from late June at Strensall and Stockton—on—the—Forest (JU, JGP). A flock of 250 near Castle Howard on 19th November (BGP).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

A party of four birds flying with Dunlin on 13th May at the Lower Derwent (CS).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Bred in S.E. 63.

The first spring record was of a pair on 16th April (Cs). There were two present on the Wheldrake Reserve on 11th May.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

The Lower Derwent had flocks of 350 on 1st January (RH) and 150 on 9th February (OW). Present from 6th July with numbers building up to 300 by December (GW, CS).

Other records include 180 at Rawcliffe on 23rd January (PH) and 200 on 23rd March at Hessay (AMW, JFW). August records were singles at Wheidrake and Sand Hutton, three at Bolton Percy, eight at Appleton Roebuck (DW), 30 at Rawcliffe (Pit) and 33 flying south over Castle Howard Lake (GS). Bishopthorpe had 40 on 27th September and a single flying south--west over Acomb on 15th November (DW).

JACK SNIFE *Lynncryptes minimus*

One record of a single bird from a small pond close to the University Lake on 9th October .

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Roding flights at Strensall Common, Stockton—on—the—Forest, Buttercrambe, Upper Helmsley, Skipwith Common and Askham Bog.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Displaying birds at Strensall Common, Hessay, Stockton Lane, Askham Bryan, Rufforth and Askham Richard (AMW, JFW, BGP, DB).

All winter records came from the Lower Derwent, with a maxima of 50 at East Cottingwith on 15th March, and 45 at Wheldrake Reserve on 23rd (RH).

A reasonably sized flock was heard at 04.00 hrs. flying in a N.N.E. direction over York on 19th April (IC).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Two or more birds were heard calling as they flew over Acomb Village at 01.00 hrs on 10th May (DB). Two were present at Wheldrake Ings on 29th July (OW). A bird at Castle Howard on 7th August circled the Lake whilst calling but did not alight (J~, RAI).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

A single at Naburn Sewage Farm on 20th April (GB) and four on 25th July (BC, RH). One in the Derwent Valley south of Malton on 27th July (JW). Up to three were at Oxton Pond from 13th August to the 20th September (DW). A single at Thirlby Beck on 4th November (PH) and one flying southwest between Rufforth and Acomb on 8th November (03).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa Glareola*

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 29th July (OW) and Oxton Pond on 23rd August (OW). Third and fourth autumn records for the area.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*

Singles at Castle Howard in May (BC, RIO). The first autumn record was at Kirkham on 24th July, when one was present (JW at al.). Castle Howard had single birds regularly in August with up to three at times (JW, GS). Sutton Pond had seven on 11th August, and one flew over Woodthorpe on 14th (Ow).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

The only successful breeding records came from the Lower Derwent where several pairs nested (GS). Five present at Bubwith on the 12th January (RH), three on 7th March and two on 18th April, in the same area (DED). Two on 31st March and one on 19th May, on the River Foss between Towthorpe and Strensall (JFW).

The first autumn records were 7th and 10th August, when singles occurred at Castle Howard (3W, EM).

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

A male in black" plumage at the Lower Derwent on 7th May (CS).

The first autumn passage record was at Kirkham on 24th July, "a partially mottled bird (JW, ThAI). Castle Howard had a bird present from 7th to 10th August (JIT, PAI). Two at Wheldrake Ings from 9th August to the month end (CU).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

A single at the Lower Derwent on 16th February (05). First winter record for the area. One between 29th and 31st July at Wheldrake Ings (CU). All other records were in August. Castle Howard had six from 7th to 10th, which had reduced to two birds by the 22nd (J'J, RAI, et al.). A single flew over East Cottingwith calling on 20th (Cs).

KNOT

Ten at Wheldrake Ings on 7th March (BED).
Second record for the area.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

One feeding at Castle Howard on 26th August (AMp). Second record for the area.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Seen regularly during the winter months in the Lower Derwent Valley from where all records came:

200 birds in a single flock on 12th January was maximum. Other counts were 30 on 1st February and 50 on 9th (RH). On 27th April, several birds in a party of 50 showed 'black bellies'. The last spring record was on 11th May, when 130 were observed (CS). Three from 4th to 10th August, with 15 on 11th (ci). 100 birds were present on 21st December (CS, BC).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 30th July (OW), Castle Howard on 10th August (JW) and Appleton Roebuck on 25th (OW).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Two were present at Wheldrake Ings on 1st December (Gil).
Third and fourth records for the area.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Three spring passage records; 11 birds at Full Sutton on 6th May (PH), 40 at Stillington on 21st, seen flying east and 12 feeding at Castle Howard on 29th (PH).

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Three birds flying east over Melbourne Canal on 29th May

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Two birds flying north over Wheldrake Ings on 4th June (GW). A single feeding at Castle Howard on 14th September (CS, BC), and a bird from 28th September to 3rd October at Wheldrake Ings (CU).

ARCTIC TERN

A single flew south over Wheldrake Ings on 24th September.

LITTLE AUK

An exhausted bird was recovered from Leavening Beck on 5th November
First record for the area.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oena*

Breeding records from Upper Helmsley, Askham Bryan, Askham Bog, Rufforth, Brandsby, Strensall, Lower Derwent and Sutton—on—the-Forest (DV, HOP, P~ DB).

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

The largest gatherings were at Terrington,, 3,000 in mid—January (PH).

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

First record at Buttercrambe Woods on 13th May (DW). The last autumn bird was at Stamford Bridge on 3rd October (MC).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

A male at Sutton—on—the—Forest on 27th April was the first record of the year (Dry).
Recorded in early May at Strensall, Acomb, Haxby, Heslington, Skipwith, Lower Derwent and Buttercrambe (BGP, GS~ JFW, DB, DV, SM).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Recorded in all months with a maximum of four birds within a one mile radius of the Loner Derwent (CS). Singles at Heslington, Thorganby, Appleton Roebuck, Sutton—on—the—Forest, Stamford Bridge, Warthill, Strensall, Wigginton, Red Park, Stillington, Gilling, Shipton and Easingwold (RW, DW, MC, BGP, PH).
Two at Stamford Bridge on 21st August (MC).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Singles recorded in June and July at Bubwith. Acaster Airfield, Acaster Malbis, Bishopthorpe, Askham Bryan, Marton-on-Forest, Moorlands (DV), Rawcliffe, Crayke, Red Park, Oulston, Stearsby (PH) and Lower Derwent.

LONG-EARED OWL

Singles at Skipwith Common on 28th May (CS, BC), Averhams Wood on 19th November (DW), Stamford Bridge on 30th (MC) and Averhams Wood again on 4th December (Dw).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Singles recorded at the Lower Derwent - during early winter months (CS).
Wheldrake Ings had one from 28th September, increasing to three by December (CU).
Single at Skelton on 4th November (MC) and four at Heslington Common on 14th December (MKW).

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Only recorded from Skipwith Co., on, with the first bird arriving on 14th May (CS).
There were no breeding counts made this year.

SWIFT

The first spring record was of three birds over York on 12th May (DB, TC).

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

One flew north over Wheldrake Ings on 21st September (GS).
A full description has been submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee.
First record for the area.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Bred at Sand Hutton (DW), Stamford Bridge (MC) and Bishopthorpe (BGP).
In July, singles were on the River Foss at Cowslip Hill (ANW) and on the City stretch of the River Ouse (BGP). Singles at Heworth on 22nd September (fIED), Strensall on 6th December (JU) and Gilling Beck on the 11th (PH).
A bird found dead at Fulford Golf Course on 7th December was a road casualty.
Singles were at Castle Howard throughout the summer (per CS).

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

The only probable breeding record was from the Derwent Valley north of Kirkham where birds were observed in April and July (3W).
Singles at Strensall Common, Skipwith Common, Buttercrambe Woods, Grimston Moor and the Lower Derwent (W7, CS, SM, DRD).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*

A small influx into the Wheldrake Ings area on 22nd September (GW).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor*

Singles at Ampleforth on 1st April, Wigginton on 24th (P11). Strensall Common on 11th May and 1st June (J'~), and Stamford Bridge on 8th August (MC).
A pair near Castle Howard in mid-June (PH).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

The first records were at Naburn Sewage Farm on 13th April (RW, BC), and at Acomb on the 19th (DE). The last record was of a juvenile near Upper Helmsley on 31st October (DW).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Several birds along the River Derwent on 27th April were the first (CS).

30 were flying within a half-mile stretch of the River Foss on 15th June (JFW).
The last record was at Clifton on 10th October (IC).

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone cornix*

Singles at the Lower Derwent on 16th February (GS), Heworth on 24th October (D3), Sand Hutton on 7th November (D9) and near Riccall on the 16th.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

After an extensive survey of nesting sites within our area a grand total of 6,886 nests were counted the largest rookery comprised of 190 nests.

The largest winter count was of 3,000 birds near Aughton Village (RH).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

A small influx into the Wheldrake Ings area at the end of September (CU).

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

A pair at Sand Hutton seen entering a nest hole in early June (Mw).

Singles at Castle Howard on 1st and 2nd January (.r~RW), Ampleforth on 23rd April (PU) and Sand Hutton on 13th May (WI), A pair at Castle Howard on 11th December (PH).

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

2,000 were flying N.NW. in parties of ten to fifteen near Aughton Village on 15th March (Rh).

100 were feeding near Sutton-on-the-Forest on 30th March (ANW,JFU).

Lower Derwent had a flock of 50 on 13th April (CS).

A single bird summered at Westow (per BGP). First winter records were 3,000 arriving at Wheldrake Ings on 11th October (GW), 18 over Heworth on 20th (DB) and 500 flying in loose formation in a southerly direction on the 21st over Haxby (AM!!).

A roost consisting of 300 birds at Castle Howard on 1st November (JFW).

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Night passage on the 6th, 7th and 8th of March over York (Ic). 200 flying in N.N.W. direction over Aughton Village on the 15th (RH).

The first nocturnal passage of the winter was over York on 7th October (IC), with a particularly heavy passage on the 9th over York and Acomb (IC,DB). Wheldrake Ings had up to 400 on the 11th (OTT).

A bird was found dead near Aughton Village on 26th October, subsequent information revealed that it had been ringed at Tynemouth on 5th October 1973 (PH).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Passage birds were a female at Castle Howard on 1st May (RE), a male at Wressle on the 11th, and a female, the same day at Brind (CS) a female at Buttercrambe on 29th July (RW) and three at Wheldrake Ings in early September (GW).

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

A male bird wintered in the Lower Derwent (CS,R1-).

Singles at Strensall Common were a male on 11th May (3W) and 28th November (fit7) With a pair on 6th December (3W) Wheldrake Ings had up to three from 4th October to the year end (GW).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

The only breeding record was from Strensall Common

Two spring records were from the Lower Derwent - a single on 30th April and a male on 11th May (Cs). East Cottingwith had a female on 20th August (CS). Present at Wheldrake Ings from 31st July to the end of September with a maximum of eight in August (CW).

The last bird was at Stamford Bridge on 18th October(MC).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Four or possibly five breeding pairs at Strensall Common with fledged young seen on 22nd June. A female was at the Lower Derwent on 11th May (CS).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Crayke produced the only breeding record (PH). First of spring were singles at the Lower Derwent on 30th April (CS) and Clifton Ings on 12th May (DE). One singing at Sand Hutton on 20th June (OW). Singles singing in June and July at Strensall (JFW).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Small breeding colonies at Melbourne Canal (3'S), Skipwith Common and Askham Bog(GS).

SEDGE WARBLER. *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The earliest record was at the Lower Derwent on 30th April (CS), then at Sutton-on-the-Forest on 14th May (AMW,JFtl) and Strensall on the 19th (JFU).

A male singing at Clifton Ings on 10th June (lc). Birds also heard at Towthorpe, Castle Howard and Skipwith Common (JFW,DW).

The last was at Stamford Bridge on 3rd October (MC).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

The first arrivals were in the Brandsby and Strensall areas on 27th March (PH,BGP).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Only recorded breeding at Brandsby with at least nine breeding pairs in the area (PH). A single seen at Upper Helmsley on 16th June (fIU).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

The first was at Buttercrambe Woods on 12th May, increasing to six by the month end (DW). A bird at Averhams Plantation on 21st September was the last of the year (AMW,JFW).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

A single bird at castle Howard on 10th September (IC) was the only record.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The earliest were at Blackwood, Wheldrake on 2nd April (JFW) and. Naburn Sewage Farm on the 20th (CS).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

One at Buttercrambe Woods on 12th April was the first record (WI).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

The maximum number was 30 at Skipwith Common on 25th October (DRD).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

The first was at Aughton on 25th May (CS), with the next at Poppleton Road on 5th June (MW). The last recorded was in the Museum Gardens on 29th September (140).

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

A male bird in full summer plumage was observed for 60 minutes whilst it fed on insects at Skipwith Common on 27th May. A bird was seen 24 hours later, some several hundred yards from the original location (PC).

Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

First record for the area.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

The first one was at the University Campus on 16th April (JiL).

Displaying birds at Sand Hutton, Buttercrambe Woods and Strensall Common (DW~SM)

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

A large roost at the York Railway Station had 1,680 birds on 13th March, 1,020 on the 18th and 1,328 on the 20th. 947 on 8th November, and 875 on the 23rd (JW).

The observer estimates that there could be 2,000 birds at times in March, before breeding dispersal.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Brad at Brandsby and Ampleforth (P11).

Two at St. John's College Sports Field on 21st and 24th October (DE). Singles at Castle Howard on 26th October (IC) and at Sand Hutton on 4th and 14th November (wi).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

The first spring migrants at Wheldrake Ings on 18th April (DPD). Next at Naburn Sewage Farm on the 23rd (CS).

The last was at Sand Hutton on 11th September (Dt).

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

Two at Foxwood Lane on 25th February (BE) and 13 at Stamford Bridge Viaduct on 16th November (NC).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Two records~ a single at Wheldrake Ings on 11th October (GW) and a bird at Strensall Common on 13th December was seen in hot pursuit of a Blue Tit (JW).

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

A flock of 55 at Pond Head Wood on 14th April were the maximum (JiL).

32 at Sand Hutton on 12th May (DW). Singles from the 13th to 30th November at Averhams Wood (B!). Three at Acaster Malbis on 26th November and five on the 29th, feeding with Redpoll (*A.flammea*) (OW).

December records were three at Strensall Common (JW) and nine at Heworth (JHL).

LINNET *Acanthis cannabina*

Some large flocks near Leavening in the early winter months had up to 150 birds (BGP).

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*

Small flocks in the Sand Hutton area during September, October, November and December (ON).

Two flocks of 130 and 200 at Strensall Common on 6th December were the maxima (3W).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

A male at Skipwith Common on 25th October showed characteristics of Parrot Crossbill *L. pytyopsittacus*, but could not be positively identified as such (33RD).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Wheldrake Ings had three on 2nd October, and a maximum of six by the year end (G'fl, all remaining records were in November - one at Sand Hutton on the 5th (33W), a female at Strensall Common on the 8th (J") and a flock of 32 at Wheldrake Village on the 30th (JiL).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

A feeding flock of 40 birds at Strensall Common throughout December (JW).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

A male bird in a ploughed field near Kexby on 19th October (MC).

Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

First record for the area.

The following species also occurred but were not included in the Classified List, due to insufficient records. More information on the birds listed below would be appreciated for the 1976 Report.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Coot *Fulica atra*

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Lesser Black-backed Gull Great Black-backed Gull *Larus*

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Magpie *Pica pica*

Great Tit *Parus major*

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Willow Tit *Parus montanus* Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Mistle Thrush *Turdus Wren*

Song Thrush *Turdus Philomelos*

Blackbird *Turdus merula* Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Greenfinch

Goldfinch Bullfinch

Chaffinch Yellowhammer

Corn Bunting House Sparrow

Tree Sparrow *Passer*

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