

## REPORT 1980

### YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

This report has been compiled by members of York Ornithological Club and nearly all the records have been submitted by members who are active in watching an area of about 550 square miles around York which the Club is responsible for recording.

The Club has a membership of about 80 enthusiasts. It meets once a month in the Priory Street Sports and Community Centre, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, for a full programme of talks and discussions and for the informal exchange of information which bird-watchers find invaluable.

In addition, on the first Sunday of each month, there is a Club excursion to an area of ornithological interest, usually outside the recording area.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is a great pleasure to report that club membership has increased to an all-time high. Meetings are well attended and this enables the committee to invite visiting speakers of considerable repute.

May I urge new members not to be shy about coming forward. If you have slides to show or can give a talk on your particular interest in birdwatching, please let us know. And the committee and Promotions Officer, Mrs. June Pepper, are always glad to receive offers of help and ideas for fund-raising.

Many Club members are involved in surveys, wardening schemes, working parties and wildfowl counts, etc. This is admirable and surely enhances the reputation of the Club both locally and nationally.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the Club's hard-working committee for their devoted efforts and excellent results.

Happy "birding" to you all.

G. SMITH

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Threats to the future of two important sites in the Club's "patch" - Tillmire common, Heslington, and the Lower Derwent Valley - caused consternation among members in 1980.

Happily the plan to fence off and cultivate a major part of the Tillmire now seems to have been dropped and the Club can take some satisfaction in having added its voice to the chorus of opposition to the scheme. But as far as we know, a pump drainage scheme for the Lower Derwent Valley is still a possibility. It would be a great shame if this wildfowl habitat of national importance was destroyed or diminished. We shall watch developments closely and, if it comes to it, be ready to join in the fight to save it.

Although a lot of meeting time in 1980 seems to have been taken up by discussion of these two important topics, we left ourselves time to enjoy talks from some excellent speakers. Andrew Grieve, warden of the R.S.P.B. reserve at Blacktoft Sands spoke about Birdwatching in Portugal; Mike Blackburn, warden of the R.S.P.B. reserve at Strumpshaw Fen, spoke about the birds and his work there; John Tucker, a former Club member chose Ornithological Oddities as his subject; Dr. John Lawton, a Club member, told us about the summer he spent in New Mexico; and Tim Dixon and Roger Innes spoke about ringing in Western Europe.

In October, Michael Clegg, a club member as well as a TV celebrity, gave an illustrated talk in the Tempest Anderson Hall on the Birds of Yorkshire to raise money towards the cost of this report. It was a great success and we are most grateful to him. He has agreed to give another talk for us in the Physics Lecture Theatre at York University

on Wednesday 28th October at 7.30pm.

#### BRITISH BIRDS

Membership of the York Ornithological Club allows members a substantial reduction in subscriptions to 'British Birds' - a monthly magazine that gives the latest ornithological news, identification papers, rare breeding birds summary, personalities, mystery photographs, readers notes, etc. This excellent magazine builds into annual volumes.

For details of the reduced subscription contact the Y.O.c. Secretary.

#### ORNITHOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 1980

169 species and three sub-species were recorded during 1980, three of which were new to the area. These were Snow Goose, Peregrine and Ring Ouzel.

#### RAPTOR MOVEMENTS

Graph Showing No of Raptors Recorded  
in Y.O.C. Area 1980.

**Graph omitted because of formatting issues**

From the graph it is clear that there was a significant increase in the number of raptor records in September, a month in which there was apparently a passage of such birds through the York area. Associated with this was a similar trend in August and October.

Species	K*	SH*	MH	GH	Osp	CB	M	BSp
August	0	5	2	3	0	1	0	1
Sept	19	5	5	1	5	3	0	0
Oct	0	4	0	2	0	0	3	0
Total	19	14	7	6	5	4	3	1

\*Thought by recorders to be above the 'normal' population.

From the table of bird days above we can get at least an impression of the rank order of abundance during the passage period. Although the exercise is rather subjective it does nevertheless give an interesting indication of autumn raptorial migration through the York area.

#### ROOKERY SURVEY

During 1980 a Rookery Survey was undertaken for the British Trust for Ornithology in four 10 km squares, SE 76, 73, 57 and 54. The results from this census showed an increase in nests in comparison with the 1975 survey. The total number for each square were SE76: 45 rookeries with 1,614 nests; SE73 13 rookeries with 378 nests; SE57 11 rookeries with 536 nests; SE54 10 rookeries with 424 nests;

SE 53: Five rookeries with 49 nests.

SE 54: 19 rookeries with 286 nests.

SE 55: 107 nests.

SE 56: 14 rookeries with 721 nests.

SE 57: Nine rookeries with 491 nests.

SE 63: One rookery with five nests.

SE 64: 16 rookeries with 428 nests.

SE 65: 16 rookeries with 471 nests.

SE 66: 14 rookeries with 688 nests.

SE 67: 22 rookeries with 736 nests.

SE 73: 19 rookeries with 570 nests.

SE 74: Nine rookeries with 168 nests.

SE 75: Seven rookeries with 109 nests.

SE 76: 42 rookeries with 1,228 nests.

SE 77: 28 rookeries with 818 nests.

#### WILDFOWL COUNTS

The wildfowl Counting between Wheldrake and Bubwith in the Lower Derwent during autumn, winter and early spring has proved to be an invaluable source of data, especially in this day and age when Ings land is under great threat from drainage. Only since counting began in 1979 are we realising the full importance of all the Lower Derwent Ings as a winter refuge for wildfowl. The table below lists the monthly counts since counting began in February 1979.

	1979						1980						
	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mallard	1410	339	400	550	480	5900	3400	2258	450	300	550	1455	1435
Teal	424	419	100	250	172	2050	2370	2966	400	50	150	961	2024
Wigeon	4500	1455	3	30	51	4000	3580	5584	2300	3	15	2352	2442
Pintail	10	30			6	69	27	105	92			3	43
Shoveler	2	78	5	15	12	25	13	62	40	6	3	6	4
Pochard	221	715		1	12	163	240	3115	450			189	339
Tufted	70	90				48	98	258	250			4	40
Goldeneye		8			1	2	8	16	23			9	1
Goosander	11	1											
Shelduck		22				7	6	23	18			8	
Greylag	21	29				44	14	34	24		24	48	4
Canada	56	65			44	139	75	121	16	31	1	140	80
Mute				1		5	4	12			2	12	
Whooper		6				5	4	7	16			4	
Bewick's	53	100			1	59	187	141				32	214

Graph showing monthly counts of wildfowl in the Lower Derwent

***Graph omitted because of formatting issues***

It is still too early to see any real trends emerging but hopefully this may be possible in years to come. However it is quite obvious to anyone who has visited the Lower Derwent that you do not have large numbers of wildfowl without large expanses of flood water.

D Braithwaite

**RINGING NOTES**

**Northern Section**

1980 was the best year so far for ringing in the northern section of the Club's area. In all 2,366 birds of 61 species were caught, compared with 1,328 of 52 species in 1979.

One reason was that more catching hours were put in and more effort employed in 1980 but other factors were that I was able to work some very productive sites and that there were more birds about than in previous years.

The year was also notable in seeing the establishment of the Anchor Plain field station and nature reserve between Strensall and Sheriff Hutton. As a result of a coffee evening held at Brickyard Farm, close to the reserve, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. B.R. Piercy, £78 was raised to buy netting for a Heligoland trap for use in 1981. In addition a caravan was purchased in June to serve as a laboratory and information centre.

The site is private but visitors are welcome. They should get in touch with me, Roger Innes, 21 Kirklands, Strensall, telephone York 490883.

Anchor Plain was by far the most productive site in the northern section and the birds there did so well that by 6th July the ringing total for the whole of 1979 had been exceeded. Between June 1977, when ringing started there, and the end of 1980 a total of 2,932 birds of 53 species were ringed at Anchor Plain, a staggering number for a nine acre site.

Seven new species were added in 1980 to the list of birds ringed at the site - Brambling, Mistle Thrush, Tawny Owl, Swallow, Cuckoo, Wood Pigeon and Great Spotted Woodpecker. One new breeding species was recorded - a Chiffchaff. Redstarts also appeared regularly during the summer and three were ringed - a 5 male on 14th April, an adult female on 10th July, and a 3J on 12th August. The female was a very dark bird with heavily abraded primaries and tail feathers which at first suggested Black Redstart.

Warblers increased, in some cases substantially, and seven species were ringed although these did not include Reed Warbler, a species which was caught in 1979. All seven warbler species caught bred in the area of the reserve. The number of breeding pairs was as follows:- three Sedge Warblers, four Lesser Whitethroats, 10 Common Whitethroats, one Garden Warbler, nine Blackcaps, one Chiffchaff and 19 Willow warblers.

All, except the Sedge Warblers, had a very successful season. The failure of the Sedge Warblers was due to a severe thunderstorm on 30th July when the fledglings were within a day or two of flying. They were wiped out by the deluge. Only two juveniles had been caught before the storm and none were caught afterwards. It showed how susceptible birds are to abnormal weather.

During the year 28 per cent of the birds caught at Anchor Plain were warblers - an indication of the importance of the site to birds of this family.

Wrens and Long Tailed Tits made a good recovery for the severe losses they suffered the previous year and Goldcrests and Coal Tits, which were absent from the 1979 ringing list, were caught again.

As in previous years there was no ringing at Anchor Plain in June because of the danger of disturbance to breeding birds. 6th July the first ringing date after the nesting season, was awaited eagerly. Nets were opened at 3 a.m. and they remained open until 10.30 p.m. In all, 223 birds of 23 species were ringed - a record for one day. There were 36 re-traps, 15 from previous years. Of the total catch 37.7 per cent were warblers - 23 adults and 61 juveniles - giving visitors and volunteer helpers from the Club and the York members group of the R.S.P.B. a rare opportunity of comparing similar species in the hand, notably Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs and Common and Lesser Whitethroats. We also ringed a Sparrowhawk. The number of experienced ringers and extractors present meant that we were never under pressure. At the peak of the catching two people were ringing, one was recording and three extracting birds from the nets. Runners were taking birds back to the caravan for processing.

Winter ringing in the yew garden on the York University campus at Heslington resumed after a break of some years. A large number of Blackbirds (maximum c.450) roost in the ancient trees along with Thrushes and Finches.

During February and March a total of 125 Blackbirds were ringed in the yews on five visits. Ringing was resumed in November and between then and the end of the year 68 Blackbirds were caught.

Blackbirds were also ringed at New Earswick, Strensall and Anchor Plain in 1980 and earlier and from the recoveries a migration pattern is emerging indicating their Continental origins.

Summer ringing at the university is centred on the lake and in 1980 two new species were added to the York area ringing list when five Canada Geese and six Shelducks were caught. Unfortunately one of the Canadas was found dead in the lake a month later with a fishing line wrapped round its tongue - a sad reminder of how deadly discarded fishing line can be.

Fulford Ings provided another ringing first for the area when a juvenile Water Rail was caught whilst we were working a Yellow Wagtail roost. Four Wagtails were ringed during this session.

Naburn sewage works was visited on 1st, 2nd and 3rd June when 94 birds of 20 species were ringed. The most interesting was a Kingfisher originally ringed at New Earswick on 15th May, 1979 and controlled at Naburn on 3rd June, 1980. On both occasions a distinct brood patch could be seen.

Eastmoor Road, Sutton on the Forest was visited on six occasions and a total of 142 birds of 20 species were caught, including 78 retraps. One of the re-traps was a Bluetit ringed as an adult on 4th October, 1976, making it at least seven years old, and another was a Willow Warbler ringed as an adult on 2nd June, 1977, making it at least five years old. Two Barn owl pulli were ringed on 27th June and subsequent visits proved the success of the nest between straw bales in an old hay barn. Unfortunately ringing at Eastmoor has been curtailed for the foreseeable future so that it will be impossible to follow up a ringing programme which goes back to October 1975 or to continue the monitoring of breeding warblers.

Also curtailed is the Reed Bunting study, started in 1976, in a phragmites bed where the species roosts in good numbers. A total of 123 birds were ringed but only one visit was possible in 1980 when six birds were caught. One male was re-trapped from 26th September, 1977, when it was aged as a bird of the year, making it four years old.

It was a great surprise and disappointment that the tens of thousands of Starlings which roosted on the New Earswick Nature Reserve in the winter of 1978/79 did not return the following winter. Blackbirds and Song Thrushes were also fewer and on three visits in February and one in early March only 38 Blackbirds and five Song Thrushes were caught. Even so, 80 birds of 16 species were ringed on the New Earswick reserve this year, including a young male Kingfisher on 4th March.

## South West Section

The controlled Song Thrush (see control and recovery list) was caught at one of my three regular ringing sites in Ryther. During an eight hour session on 2nd November I ringed 23 Blackbirds (45 per cent of 1980 total), seven Song Thrushes (33%) and three Redwings (75%). Several of the Blackbirds were of the 'stockhamsel' type and an unusual first year female had "thorn" type feather tips to greater coverts, similar to those carried by juvenile Song Thrushes.

## General Notes

Most of my ringing in 1980 was done close to Ryther. My main three sites were within 20 yards, 50 yards and 100 yards of the main street. One of the sites, a 200 yard long by 50 yards wide strip of common land (known locally as 'The Fleet' because a dyke runs through the middle) proved very productive, especially of Sylvia Warblers. Whitethroat certainly bred successfully in this area and probably Blackcap and Garden Warbler.

A second site, at the river side of the village flood bank and 100 - 200 yards to the north of site one, was also very good. When the Water Authority erected the flood bank in 1979 they created a small bay on the riverside. This has "self sown" with willow, grasses and other heavy seed bearing plants. The bay is less than an acre in size. It was here in late August and September that the majority of the Linnets, Reed Buntings and Greenfinches were ringed, 188 in total. Nearby a more open area of mud and shallow pools was attractive to hirundines (Swallow and House Martin) and using a tape lure, I was also able to attract passage Meadow Pipits.

I have still not solved the problem of catching the open habitat feeders, such as Lapwing, Golden Plover and Snipe, which over-winter in good numbers around the area. My latest efforts at "wader dazzling" have not been successful. This technique has been tried and tested at such places as Spurn, but obviously needs adapting for catching Snipe on damp partially flooded water meadows.

This is perhaps one of the major attractions of ringing. No matter how hard you work, or how knowledgeable you become in identifying, ageing and sexing birds, or about catching methods, there will always be something new to learn. While you are striving for the impossible, you can still learn a great deal about local bird populations and migration patterns in the area, and at the same time contribute to wider knowledge through the national Ringing Scheme. The B.T.O. plans field trials in 1981 and beyond, of a constant Ringing Site Index. This should add greatly to our awareness of population fluctuations and will complement other activities such as the Common Bird Census, and the Waterways Birds Survey.

MALCOLM PAULSON.

When permission was obtained, in November 1980, to erect mist nets and catch and ring birds in Stub Wood, Acaster Malbis, we were told that there were 15 acres of rhododendrons in the 50 acres of woodland, the remainder being very mixed, mainly deciduous.

Thoughts of roosting finches flashed through the mind, with supporting tits, Blackbirds, Robins, etc., and were not to be disappointed.

Having expected the Greenfinch to be the dominant species, we were surprised that the Chaffinch turned out to be the principal bird in the roost. In fact, no other finch-type has so far been caught, although on one occasion a few Greenfinches were seen.

In the six visits to the wood in November and December 1980, 116 Chaffinches were caught and ringed, totals for each visit ranging between 16 and 23. For a roost, the size of which is difficult to quantify due to the inability to see all the birds arriving, these totals are not large. An estimate on the number of Chaffinches in the roost may suggest between 300 and 400 birds.

On past experience, there are three points worthy of consideration:-

1. Chaffinches and Greenfinches do not appear to roost in the same immediate area, although Bramblings will roost with either species.
2. Generally all birds are influenced by the wind strength and

direction when choosing where to roost each night.

3. Probably the most important point is that Chaffinches, much more so than Greenfinches, when disturbed in a roost will move to an adjacent area on subsequent nights, and at Stub Wood the choice is very large indeed.

This point is borne out by the fact that only one Chaffinch has been retrapped during the six visits, although the three main net sites have not been varied at all. On the last two visits, because of the poor catching rate at the main sites, additional sites were used which provided a reasonable number of Chaffinches, although they had not done so previously.

In addition, on the fourth visit (06.12.80) six of the male Chaffinches we caught had wing lengths of 91 mm and over. We believe that these birds had recently moved into the area, as some of them showed evidence of Continental origin.

Turning to the 116 Chaffinches caught, 63 (54%) were males, and 53 (46%) females. A further breakdown of age, wing length (using the maximum chord method) and weights is perhaps best illustrated on the diagram at the end of these notes.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that the Chaffinch, in common with most other species, does not undergo a complete moult until it is about 15 months old. At that time the new primary feathers grow to a length slightly longer than the feathers they replace, which helps to explain the variation in the wing length between birds of the same species and same sex. The imbalance between the number of female birds - 13 adult (second year and older) and 40 juvenile (birds born in the current year) is difficult to explain, but there is some evidence to suggest that the different sexes tend to roost in different parts of the same roost. To illustrate this point the main catching net, on the first four visits, caught almost all male birds. On the fifth and sixth visits the same net contained only females. Perhaps the juvenile females tend to stay in closer contact with the male birds for reasons of security learnt from their father whilst in the nest, and the males shepherd the juvenile females to ensure the continuity of the flock. No doubt the adult females, with their greater experience, can look after themselves.

NB Control and Recovery List not included due to formatting difficulties.

#### CLASSIFIED LIST

The sequence and scientific nomenclature used is that of Professor K.H. Voous 1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species.

#### LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis

Two pairs bred at Brandsby and at Strensall Common, where a pair double brooded, three pairs at Wigginthorpe and a pair at North Duffield, Oxton Pond, Castle Howard, Selby canal, Kexby and probably Skipwith.

Recorded from another 21 sites generally throughout the area. Maxima were: five on the River Ouse at Naburn on 1st and 26th January three (including two juveniles) at Wheldrake on 21st September, where there were four birds on 25th and 30th November.

#### GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus

Bred at Selby and Castle Howard where certainly two young were reared at Dringhouses Pond where one pair reared three young, and where a pair were in full display in March and built a nest platform which they eventually left, the successful pair arriving on 9th May (DW).

One on the River Ouse at Clifton on 3rd January and two at Bubwith on 6th. Six at Castle Howard on 21st February, when display was noted, and when there was a single at Wheldrake. Up to 20 at Castle Howard in March generally with a maximum of 27 on 2nd (DW), and up to three at Dringhouses Pond and Sand Hutton also in the month, the same number were recorded from Bubwith, Aughton, Wheldrake and on the River Ouse at Naburn and Bishopthorpe, where a pair displayed during the following month. 16 at Castle Howard on 14th May.

A single at Bank Island on 27th August and 10 at Castle Howard on 30th, six there on 6th September and up to 11 in October which reduced to five in November with singles at Wheldrake on 9th and Dringhouses Pond to the year's end.

#### SLAVONIAN GREBE Podiceps auritus

One in full winter plumage was at Dringhouses Pond from 10th to 24th February. Accepted by the YNU.

#### GANNET *Sula bassana*

An adult flew east over York city centre on 21st March (TMC) and an immature flew in a similar direction over Wheldrake Ings on 2nd September (AGH).

Fourth and fifth records for the area.

#### CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One was present at Wheldrake Ings from 22nd to 25th March (TMC, TED, EBB). One flew north over Crayke on 21st August (PH), and an immature was found dead near Sand Hutton on 20th September (per DB).

#### GREY HERON

Bred in the Lower Derwent where there were eight pairs at a now well established heronry. Records from Castle Howard, Brandsby, Gilling, Newborough and Pond Head must surely indicate that there is a heronry in the north of the area and similarly records from the area around the Wharfe/Ouse confluence must also indicate that there is a heronry in that proximity.

A pattern has now established itself whereby the largest counts occur in June, July, August and September, when adults with young are to be found together after the young have left the nest and before winter dispersal. Dave Waudby's counts from Castle Howard illustrate this point. His monthly maxima were four in May, eight in June, 15 in July and August, 11 in September, four in October and two in November.

The largest number elsewhere was of seven at Bank Island on 29th August (DB).

#### MUTE SWAN

More records this year, the larger counts were: 11 at Wheldrake on 6th January and six at Aughton on 20th, where there were nine on 17th February. The same number were at Wheldrake on 9th March when there were 11 at Hagg Bridge.

Nine at Wheldrake on 22nd October and again on 8th November, where there were seven on the River Wharfe by Oxtun. Six on the Pocklington Canal on 21st December.

#### BEWICK'S SWAN

171 including 24 immature birds in the Lower Derwent on 1st January with 196 on 27th. 22 on flood water north of Church Fenton on 12th February and 180 in the Lower Derwent on 23rd where there were 146 on 3rd March, which had reduced to 25 by the 9th. The last of the winter were two between Bubwith and Aughton on the 27th April and exceptionally the 5th May. The first of the following winter were 15 at Wheldrake on 8th November when an adult bird was found dead. Inspection of the corpse revealed that it had been shot! There were 101 birds in the Lower Derwent by the end of the month, where there were up to 263 by the year's end. Two flew east over York University on 16th December.

#### WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

All but two records were from the Lower Derwent Valley, where the monthly maxima were; 10 in January, nine in February, 16 in March, four in April with the last being recorded on 17th May, 24 in November and 37 in December.

The first returning records were of 17 flying north over Acaster Malbis at 1100 hours on 8th November and the same number in the same direction and at the same time over Averhams Plantation on 11th (OW).

#### GREY GOOSE *Sp Anser sp*

40 flew west south west at Stillingfleet on 2nd January (DW). 75 flew north over Fulford Ings on 27th February (JG).

#### **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus***

100 flew over Skipwith on 12th January. A single bird was present at Castle Howard during February and March. Up to four were present at Wheldrake Ings from 6th April until the 22nd with one remaining until the 12th May.

A single bird at Wheldrake on 17th September. One was present at Castle Howard from 18th October until 14th December.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Two immature 'pink billed' birds were present at castle Howard from 11th February until the 30th March, a single remaining until 16th May (DB et al). A single immature was also present at Castle Howard during November (BGP et al) .

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Bred in the Lower Derwent and at Castle Howard.

Records remain to be mainly from Castle Howard and the Lower Derwent, from which sites the monthly maxima were: Castle Howard, 79 on 18th January, 90 on 11th February, 101 on 9th March, 70 on 13th April, 25 juveniles on 13th May (no count for adults), 90 (adults) on 9th June, July - October none recorded, 85 on 15th November, 85 on 27th December. Lower Derwent, 17 on 18th January, 66 on 17th February, 70 on 9th March, 45 on 22nd April, 41 on 11th May, 25 juveniles and 10 adults on 1st June, July none recorded, eight on 8th August, September none recorded, 75 on 4th October, 110 on 30th November, 89 on 27th December. Other records: 184 flew west over York University on 5th January (CCG). A pair at Skipwith on 5th April and at Brandsby Dale on 6th. Two at Fulford on 4th May.

There was some dispersion in April, and again an almost total absence in July, August and September the moult period for adult birds and it is to be assumed that the disappearance is associated with this.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

A large blue phase immature was recorded in the area on several occasions from 5th to 27th April. It first flew south over Naburn Sewage Works on the morning of 5th April (TED), and later turned up at Wheldrake Ings where it stayed until 22nd. It later appeared at Castle Howard on 27th (DW)

From the colouration of the 'bare parts' the bird was probably in its first spring. Bill, purplish-grey, with, in some lighting, a pinkish tinge, the nail and the cutting edge was black. Legs and feet, purplish-pink with a slight orange tinge, particularly to the feet (DW).

Both at Wheldrake and Castle Howard the bird preferred the company of Canada Geese, rather than Greylag Geese.

Published with the escape proviso. First record for the area.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Bred at Stearsby, Sand Hutton, the Derwent Valley, Castle Howard and York University Lake.

85 in the Lower Derwent in January with 148 there in February, when there were 50 at Castle Howard. The March and April pre-nesting dispersal brought up to 10 from Strensall Common, Dringhouses Pond, Haxby, Fulford Ings, Naburn Sewage Works, Anchor Plain and over York City centre.

No large numbers were recorded immediately after breeding.

43 flew north over Strensall Common on 3rd September and 55 flew south over Naburn on 3rd October. 227 at Castle Howard on 16th November, when there were 160 in the Lower Derwent, which were present until the year's end. 113 were recorded at Castle Howard on 14th December.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Nine at Wheldrake on 4th January (DB), where there were five on the 20th, two at Castle Howard on 18th, 27 there on the 8th and 9th March (DW), with one remaining until July and up to five between August and November.

The water bailiff at Castle Howard removed a .22 bullet from the stomach of a dead bird found in early September! (per OW) .

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*



Bred in the Lower Derwent Valley and at York University.

Now more numerous than ever before. Is present in the Lower Derwent Valley in small numbers during the winter months, which is an increasing tendency. Two at Dringhouses Pond on 16th February. Largest numbers occurred in March with up to 30 in the Lower Derwent Valley and pairs recorded from York University, Elvington Airfield, and Fulford Ings.

In April pairs were recorded from Naburn, Skipwith and Ryther where they remained until 19th June. Up to 20 at Wheldrake during April, with the same number being there on the 13th May, and where one pair had 10 young on 15th. The last immature departed from Wheldrake on 19th August.

The first back from moult were three at Ellerton on 16th November. 20 at Wheldrake on 14th December when there were two at Bubwith.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Probably bred in the Lower Derwent Valley.

Main concentrations were in the Lower Derwent Valley from where the monthly maxima were: 3,400 in January, 2,258 in February, 4,000 in March, 500 in April, three in May, two in June, 10 in August, three in September, 20 in October, 3,500 in November, 5,000 in December. A leucistic drake was again present in the Derwent during early March.

Smaller concentrations were noted in the winter months from Dale Pond, Dringhouses Pond and Castle Howard.

GADWALL

Bred in the Lower Derwent.

Up to three in the Lower Derwent during January, with two there on the wildfowl count of 17th February. Two drakes and a duck at Castle Howard on 11th and two ducks and a drake on 21st, with a pair present during March, two at Bubwith on the 1st of the month and a pair at Wheldrake on the 9th. A pair at Dringhouses Pond on 24th April and up to five at Wheldrake during the month, where there were up to three in May, with a drake at Castle Howard on 16th which was just going into eclipse. Three adults and four immatures at Wheldrake during August, with nine there on the 16th and 19th and six in September. A duck at Castle Howard on 13th, where there were three drakes on 5th and two ducks on 11th, with a drake at Stearsby on the following day, when there was one at Wheldrake. A drake at Castle Howard on the 23rd November and three birds at Wheldrake on 30th were the last records.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

The major concentration again came from the Lower Derwent Valley in the wildfowl counts which read: 2,370 on 20th January, 2,966 on 17th February, 400 on 16th March, 50 on 14th September, 150 on 12th October, 96 on 16th November, and 2,024 on 14th December.

Smaller concentrations were recorded throughout the year, but mainly in the winter months from Stearsby, Newborough, Wiganthorpe, Ryther, Oxtun, Acaster Malbis, Skipwith, Stillingfleet, Castle Howard, Coxwold, Fulford, Naburn Sewage Works, Riccall and Dringhouses Pond.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Breeds quite generally throughout the area, the first nest and eggs were noted at Ryther on 16th March and the first brood at Fossbank on 7th April.

Wildfowl count totals for the Lower Derwent Valley read: 3,400 on 20th January, 2,258 on 17th February, 450 on 16th March, 300 on 14th September, 550 on 12th October, 1,455 on 16th November, 1,435 on 14th December.

1,000 on the frozen Castle Howard Lake on 8th January, 200 at Dringhouses Pond on 15th and 5,000 at Wheldrake on 27th. 500 at Castle Howard on 10th February had reduced to 250 by 21st.

660 at Castle Howard on 9th November and 3,000 at Wheldrake on 30th, where there were 1,000 elsewhere in the Lower Derwent. 690 at Castle Howard on 14th December, with 1,450 there on 27th.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Wildfowl count records for the Lower Derwent read: 27 on 20th January, 105 on 17th February, 92 on 16th March, three on 16th November and 43 on 14th December.

10 at Wheldrake on 6th April and a female was still present on 11th May. A single at Wheldrake on 13th August and two there on 30th when there were three at Bank Island. A duck at Wheldrake on 7th September and three birds at Aughton on 22nd October, 65 at Wheldrake and 37 at Starwood on 30th November.

The only records from outside the Lower Derwent Valley were, a drake at Acaster Malbis on 20th February and two birds of the year at castle Howard on 11th October.

GARGANEY

Now listed as a "rare breeding bird", by British Birds, therefore no specific sites will be given. Probably bred in the Lower Derwent where distraction display was noted in June.

All records from the Lower Derwent. A pair at Aughton on 20th April and a drake at Ellerton on 26th and one at Wheldrake on 29th. A duck at Wheldrake on 8th June, where there was a single bird recorded on 17th August and 30th September.

SHOVELER

Bred in the Lower Derwent Valley.

13 in the Lower Derwent Valley on the wildfowl count of 20th January, with 62 on 17th February and 60 at Wheldrake on 9th March, when there were 14 at Starwood. Up to 70 at Wheldrake during April, where there were two ducks with broods in May. 20 again at Wheldrake on 31st August. Up to 15 at Stearsby, Dale Pond and Wheldrake during September, with

24 at Castle Howard on 6th, where there were 25 on 11th October.

35 east of the Lower Derwent Valley on 16th November. Up to eight in the Lower Derwent to the end of the year.

Small numbers, up to five, were recorded from Fulford Ings and Naburn Sewage Works from February to October but no breeding was proved.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Wildfowl count records for the Lower Derwent Valley read: 240 on 20th January, 3,115 on 17th February, 450 on 10th March, 189 on 16th November, 899 on 14th December.

Four pairs were still present at Wheldrake in April, when there was a bird at Skipwith. A duck remained at Wheldrake in early May, where there were seven on 10th August and four on 25th September.

Away from the Lower Derwent Valley up to 20 were recorded during the winter months from, Stearsby, Fulford, Dringhouses Pond, Sand Hutton, Wiganthorpe and Wharfe Ings.

TUFTED DUCK

Bred in the Lower Derwent Valley, Strensall Common, Skipwith Common and in the Brandsby Parish.

The largest concentrations were in the LDV, the wildfowl counts for which read: 98 on 20th January, 258 on 17th February, 250 on 16th March, four on 16th November and 40 on 14th December. The maximum count was of 400 at Wheldrake on 27th January.

Up to 30 were recorded from Dringhouses Pond, Fulford, the Brandsby Parish, Sand Hutton and Castle Howard during the winter months.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

A duck at Bubwith on 1st January {DIMW} had been present on the three previous days, where there was a drake on 11th and 13th {DB et al}. A female was present there again on 17th February {per TED}.

Three drakes in eclipse at Bank Island on 30th August was an unusual record {DB, TED, EBB}. A duck at Dringhouses Pond on 14th October {DW}.

COMMON SCOTER

One at Wheldrake Ings on 27th January (TED, EBB), and duck and a drake were present at Dringhouses Pond during the late afternoon of 11th April.

## **Fifth and sixth records for the area.**

### **GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula**

One adult drake at Castle Howard on 8th June and two drakes and eight ducks on the Pocklington Canal on 26th, with up to five at Wheldrake during the month, where there were up to 16 during February and three at Ellerton on 10th, the same number being at Bubwith on the 1st of the following month when there was an adult duck at castle Howard. Large numbers at Wheldrake during March with a maximum of 40 on 9th, a single at Ryther on 19th. A single duck remained at Wheldrake during April and there was a single at Aughton on 19th. An adult female was accompanied by a first spring drake at Castle Howard on 3rd July {DW}.

A 'red head' at Bank Island on the 23rd August was unusually early and unfortunately too distant to determine its age {DB, FWO}. Two adult drakes and two 'red heads' at Wharfe Ings on 25th October {DW}. Up to three were recorded from Sand Hutton, Castle Howard, Stearsby, Bubwith, Wheldrake, Fulford and Naburn during November with nine at the latter site on 22nd, which increased to 16 to the year's end. A single at Stearsby in December and one on the River Ouse by Lendal Bridge on 1st.

SMEW Mergus albellus

A drake on flood water between Bubwith and Aughton on 26th January (DIMW)

Third record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

GOOSANDER Mergus merganser

12 flew west over Ryther on 1st January, where there was a female on the River Ouse on 13th (JMPa). Single drakes at Coxwold on 23rd {PW} and Bubwith on 29th {DIMW} with a single duck at Stamford Bridge on 31st. A single duck was also present at Castle Howard during February with 14 at Ryther on 5th (JMPa) and two drakes and a duck at Wheldrake on 16th. Two drakes at Castle Howard on 3rd March {DB}, where there was one on 26th and 2nd April {DW} and at Wheldrake on 7th {GS}. A single duck at Castle Howard on 3rd May was an interestingly late record {DW}.

Two at Wheldrake on 20th September (MC, HP). Three 'redheads' at castle Howard on 15th November (OW). Four at Sand Hutton Park Lake on 16th {KD}, and a female on the Pocklington Canal on 30th {GS} when there was a male and female at Wheldrake. The last record of the year was of a duck and drake at Bank Island on 21st December.

MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus

One at Wheldrake on 16th April (PA) and again on 16th August which was seen again on 28th and described as a 'cream crown' {ARP}. An adult male was seen further down the Derwent Valley at Aughton on 13th September where it was present until the month's end {GS, DB, RAI, TED}.

HEN HARRIER

Disappointingly fewer records than from the two previous years.

A 'ringtail' at Bubwith Bridge on 2nd March {VW, TW} and one at Skipwith on 5th April {PP}

### Amendment to 1979 Report

A 'ringtail' Harrier recorded at Wheldrake on 2nd June, should only be considered as being a Circus sp., and not specifically as a Hen Harrier. Eds.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER Circus pygargus

A magnificent male crossed the road at Dyen Beck near Bowthorpe and followed the rough margin of the beck until out of sight on 4th May (FW).

Second record for the area, the first being of a male at Rufforth on 20th August, 1967.

Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee

#### GOSHAWK

A bird was seen at Dunnington Common on 22nd August, where, on the

following day, it was seen soaring and being mobbed by hirundines (TW). A bird thought to have been an immature, but did not give good views of its underside, flew over Bank Island on 30th August (DB, TED, EBB) was seen again at greater distance over the same area on 14th September (DB, TED, AP) and a male between Aughton and Bubwith on 30th October (DIMW)

All accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

#### SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Breeding recorded from Brandsby Parish, Sutton on Derwent, Skipwith, Scoreby Wood, Gilder Beck, Burythorpe and Averham's Plantation, with probable breeding at Anchor Plain, Sand Hutton and Hull Road Tip.

There were more records of this species than ever before with records coming from all parts of the area and PH's comment in the 1979 reports that, "the pre 1958 population density is now recorded in SE 57, 67 and 77", must surely hold true for the rest of the Y.O.C. area although this cannot of course be proven.

There was some evidence of autumn migration in the south of the area, when three birds were seen together over Selby on two separate occasions, the first on 24th August (PR) and the second on 14th September (GF).

#### BUZZARD *Sp Buteo/Pernis SP*

One over the Museum Gardens on 28th August (TMC).

#### BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Singles recorded at Anchor Plain on 25th August (RAI), Aughton on 14th September (GS), east over Selby on 21st (PR), over Haxby about the same date (per PR).

#### ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

One in the Stillingfleet area was seen on 4th and 18th January (OW, EBB).

Fourth record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

#### OSPREY

One was present at Newborough Priory from 1st to 14th September (per PH).

#### ~~KESTREL~~ *Falco tinnunculus*

Recorded quite generally in the area.

Two at Bubwith on 6th January tumbled to the ground, locked together in combat (DB et al). Six in the Lower Derwent on 14th September with 12 on 20th and four at Cawood Bridge on 26th which were moving south and being chivied by a fifth, all of which may indicate some movement through the York area in that month.

One of the brood of five youngsters ringed at the B.S.C. works (York) in 1979 was found dead on a railway line in Kent (per FWO). No further details

#### MERLIN

A female at Kirkham Abbey on 25th January (SM), one unsexed flew north over York University on 28th (CG) and a female at Bubwith on 29th (DIMW). There was an adult male at Stillingfleet on 13th February (DW).

One at Naburn Sewage Works on 19th and 20th August (JG, VG) was an early record, and there was also one at New Earswick on 22nd September (DB). A female at Naburn Sewage Works on 20th October (JG) and single males at Wheldrake on 25th (GS) and Brandsby Dale on the following day (PH) with a female at Stearsby on 27th (PH). A brown bird at Bulmer on 23rd November, when there was a probable male at Acomb, hunting through suburban gardens (DW), with a presumed female at Askham Bog on 26th (DW). A male was seen to make a 'kill' at Fulford on 23rd December (TED, EBB).

#### HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

One at Naburn on 1st June was mobbed by hirundines (DB, TED, RAI, BD, JG).

Eighth record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

A single bird crossed the Lower Derwent Valley near Wressle castle on 21st December (FWG).

First record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports committee.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

The largest covies were: 20 at Riccall on 1st February, Starwood on 18th October, Elvington on 21st and 12 at Loftsom Bridge on 26th. 10 at Catterton on 2nd November, with 15 there on 9th, when there were 13 by Wheldrake Lane.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Largest covies were 25 at Ellerton on 4th January, 17 at Stillingfleet on 5th, 17 near Naburn Sewage Works on 12th and 13th and at Aughton on 20th. 12 at Brandsby in August and up to 14 along the Pocklington Canal in the winter months.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Only records received were of up to 100 birds on several occasions in the Buttercrambe area.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Two at Wheldrake on 6th January (GS, DB) and singles at Stamford Bridge on 20th (TMC), Wheldrake on 27th (TMC) and Strensall Common on 1st March (DW) Two at Fulford Ings on 22nd July (BGP, JMP), where a juvenile was ringed on 11th September (TED, RAI). One at New Earswick Nature Reserve on 2nd November (AC) with one dead at the B.S.C. works, Clifton on 4th (KD). Up to four were present at Fulford Ings in the winter months (BG, JG), and a single at Strensall Common on 28th December (JR).

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

One calling at Wheldrake Ings on 17th May (TMC, MC, AP) and again on the 6th June (TB).

MOORHEN

The first clutch of eggs was noted at Storwood on 13th April.

24 between Naburn Sewage Works and Fulford Ings on 2nd January, with the same number between Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis on 8th February. 10 at Acaster Malbis on 10th February and 15 at Wheldrake on 1st March. 11 at Castle Howard on 16th November.

COOT *Fulica atra*

Breeding records from Strensall, Oxton, the Lower Derwent and Dringhouses Pond, where a bird was incubating a brood of eggs on 15th March.

300 at Wheldrake on 27th January and up to 74 at Dringhouses Pond during the month. 103 at Wheldrake on 18th February where there were 210 on 29th March. There was a total of 380 in the whole of the Lower Derwent on 13th April, 230 of which were at North Duffield.

Up to 300 at Wheldrake during November and 51 at Dringhouses Pond on 13th, which increased to 68 by the year's end. There were 500 in the Lower Derwent On 27th December.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Continues to spread in the Lower Derwent with indications of breeding from Kexby, Newton, Melbourne, Wheldrake, Ellerton, Aughton, North Duffield and Bubwith.

Tending to arrive earlier on breeding sites with the first birds being singles at Wheldrake Ings and Bubwith Ings on 16th February. Numbers then slowly increased and by early April most birds had arrived and were displaying and holding territory.

Seen away from the Lower Derwent as follows: singles at Skipwith Common on 7th April, Naburn Sewage Works on 23rd and Strensall Common on 27th. Two at Ryther on 17th May and one at Barlow Grange on 29th June.

Most birds had left the breeding areas by mid July. Autumn passage birds were one calling in darkness over Fulford Ings on 11th September and one at Farlington on 19th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

One pair bred in SE 64, and one pair bred successfully in SE 55, three chicks being seen on 25th June and two fledged young on 25th July. Three pairs probably bred at two sites in the Lower Derwent. The only bird seen away from the breeding areas was a single at Naburn Sewage Works on 5th July.

#### RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

One calling over Dringhouses Pond in darkness on 18th February was very early, as were two at Castle Howard on 8th March (DW) . A single at Aughton on 13th April, two at Wheldrake Ings on 16th and two at Fulford Ings on 25th. Three at Wheldrake Ings on 11th May with four there on 12th and 13th, four at North Duffield Carrs on 13th, five at Wheldrake Ings on 14th with a single next day.

Return passage began with two at Wheldrake Ings on 28th July, singles at Bubwith Ings on 18th August and Bank Island on 28th with two at the latter on 30th and a single on 31st. A single at the B.S.C. works, York from 9th to 17th September.

#### GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Some high counts this year. Wintering flocks were noted in the Derwent Valley, Bishopthorpe, Stillingfleet and Bumper Castle in January and February with some high counts being 450 between Wheldrake and Bubwith on 20th January and 516 there on 17th February.

Numbers built up in March with 1,500 at Bubwith on 2nd, 2,200 there on 4th, 2,350 between Wheldrake and Bubwith on 9th (TED, EBB) and 1,500 at Bubwith on 26th. A heavy spring passage in April with many flocks noted along the Lower Derwent and the Ouse below York, some of the larger concentrations being: 500 at Ryther on 10th April (JMP) , 310 at Bolton Percy on 13th, 200 at Wistow on 15th, 400 at Bumper Castle on 16th, 250 at Ryther on 17th, 500 at Wistow on 18th (PR), 500 at Bubwith on 19th (CS) when 640 were at Bishopthorpe (OW) , 200 at Acaster Malbis on 23rd, 1,100 at Bishopthorpe on 24th (DW), 1,000 at Bubwith on 27th (DIMW) , 545 at Bishopthorpe on 28th (OW) . In May 158 at Bishopthorpe on 2nd, 90 at Aughton on 4th with 200 there next day when nine were at Wheldrake Ings.

The majority of birds seen in April and May were characteristic of the northern form *P. apricaria altifrons*.

First returning birds were two south—west over Ryther on 5th July (JMP) and one southeast over Castle Howard on the same date (OW) . A sudden arrival on 12th August when 155 were at Acaster Malbis (DW) and 200 at Aughton (V & TW) . Numbers then built up, with 300 at Bubwith on 19th August, 600 at North Duffield Carrs on 14th September, 550 at Ellerton on 12th October, 800 at North Duffield Carrs on 8th November, 1,000 at Cawood on 22nd (RH), 1,500 at Bubwith on 27th (RH), 800 at Bumper Castle on 15th December, 500 at Barlow Grange on 16th, 500 at Bubwith on 21st, 500 at Bishopthorpe on 22nd with 3,000 there next day (BD, JG) 2,250 at Bubwith on 25th (O1MW), 1,500 at Storwood on 28th (CS) and 800 at Cawood on 29th.

#### GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Another good year. Two at Bubwith on 20th January. . All other records from Wheldrake Ings - four on 4th January (08), singles on 30th March (TED, EBB, OW) , 1st April (BC), 3rd August (OW), 16th August (OW) Six on 23rd November (BB) and three on 26th December ( TB).

#### LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Many detailed records received for this species enabling a comprehensive account to be drawn up.

Early in the year, 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 16th and 20th January and 300 at Knapton on 3rd February were the only flocks of note. A sudden return in mid February with 500 at Bubwith on 14th, 1,000 at South Ings on 15th when 650 were at Bumper Castle, 2,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 17th (BB), 1,000 at Bubwith on 19th, 1,500 at Wistow on 22nd (PR), 2,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 1st March (TED, EBB), with 2,000 at Bubwith next day (TED, EBB), 1,500 at Wheldrake Ings on 5th and 8th. On the night of 8th/9th March an unprecedented fall of Lapwing and associated waders (c.f. Golden Plover, Curlew, Redshank, Dunlin) occurred. On the 9th an estimated, 17,000 Lapwing were on the Ings land between Wheldrake and Bubwith (CS, TED, EBB) . These birds dispersed very rapidly and by 16th only 1,000 remained. 750 at Wheldrake Ings on 25th decreased to 250 by 30th and 100 by 1st April with 20 next day. 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 6th, by which time local birds were incubating (CS), may well have been northern birds, similarly flocks of 50 at Wheldrake Ings on 9th and 120 there on 26th. Flocks of first year birds began to build up from mid June with 50 at Wheldrake Ings on 15th increasing to 120 on 28th and 200 on 10th July. 350 at Knapton on 19th and 300 at Wheldrake Ings on 28th. Numbers built up rapidly in August as adults joined the flocks. 800 at Askham Richard on 8th and 14th, 1,000 at Skirpenbeck on 8th and 12th, 350 at Church Fenton on 16th, 500 at Bubwith on 19th and 300 in the Wheldrake area from 24th to month end. Birds then dispersed exceedingly quickly and no flocks were recorded until 180 at Stillington on 30th September. 260 at Wheldrake on 12th October with the main influx occurring from late October onwards. 1,000 in the Lower Derwent on 22nd October, 2,000 at Cawood on 28th (PR), 550 at Healaugh on 2nd November, 1,100 in Lower Derwent on 9th (TED, EBB) increasing to 1,582 on 16th (GS), 2,000 on 22nd (TED, EBB) and 4,000 on 27th (RH) . 1,000 at Cawood on 22nd November and 500 at Bishopthorpe through November with 1,000 on 22nd and 2,000 on 23rd (BD, JO). In December 2,000 in Lower Derwent on 21st (RH), 1,000 at Bishopthorpe on 26th, 2,500 in Lower Derwent from 28th to 31st (OS), 1,500 at Cawood on 29th (TED, EBB) when 2,000 were at Bishopthorpe (OW)

#### KNOT *Calidris canutus*

One at Bubwith on 23rd March (DB, TDC, RH, SM)  
Fifth record for the area

#### STINT Sp *Calidris* sp

One at Aughton Ings on 12th February (DIMW)

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 26th July (ES) and 30th July (RAM, RC) probably refer to one individual. Sixth record for the area.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

One at Bank Island, near Wheldrake Ings on 30th August (DB, TED, EBB). First record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 14th August (TB) . Fourth record for the area.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

The usual high counts from the Lower Derwent Valley. 20 at Bubwith on 4th January had increased to 200 on 26th (DIMW) with 100 there on 14th February. 130 at Bumper Castle on 15th February (RAI), 150 between Wheldrake and Bubwith on 17th, 420 at Bubwith on 23rd, 200 at Bubwith on 2nd March, 350 between Ellerton and Aughton on 9th (TED, EBB) . 350 at Bubwith on 22nd (DB) when 104 were at Wheldrake Ings, 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th. Numbers then decreased rapidly with 72 in the Lower Derwent Valley on 6th April, 30 at Ellerton on 13th, 11 at North Duffield Carrs on 20th. One or two at Wheldrake Ings on eight dates throughout May. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 26th and 27th July and 9th to 13th August. 10 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th August with one at Bubwith next day. Two at Bank Island on 29th August with four there on 30th, six on 31st and two on 1st September. Two at Wheldrake Ings on 13th September with singles there next day and on 26th October. Eight there on 2nd November. Five flew west over Anchor Plain on 4th. A sudden arrival on 8th November when 200 were at North Duffield Carrs (TED, EBB). Up to 200 seen regularly thereafter until year end in Lower Derwent, with maximum of 280 at Wheldrake Ings on 26th December (TB, BB).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Unprecedented numbers in the Lower Derwent Valley in autumn. Now wintering in the Lower Derwent. Three at Bubwith on 11th January, two at North Duffield Carrs on 13th, one at Aughton on 26th. One at North Duffield Ings on 3rd February, one at Aughton on 10th, two at Bubwith on 16th and 17th. Six at Wheldrake Ings on 1st March with two there regularly from 9th to 30th. Four at Ellerton on 30th, one at Wheldrake Ings on 4th April with two there on 6th and 7th on which dates two were also at Aughton, six at Aughton on 10th, two at North Duffield Carrs on 13th, five at Bubwith on 19th, five at North Duffield Carrs on 20th, four at Wheldrake Ings on 24th with three next day. One there on 12th May with four on 13th and a single on 23rd.

First returning bird was a single at Wheldrake Ings on 27th July. Seven at Bubwith on 18th and 19th August, one at Wheldrake Ings on 19th with four there on 23rd. Nine at Bank Island on 23rd with one there on 26th, four on 27th, 33 on 29th, 70 on 30th, 57 on 31st, 40 on 1st September. Five at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd, 14 on 7th, 30 on 8th, 33 on 11th, 55 on 12th, four on 14th, 12 on 21st, 14 on 22nd, two on 25th, one on 1st October, and 17 on 15th. A total of 421 bird days during autumn passage in the Lower Derwent.

Three at North Duffield Carrs on 9th November, singles at Wheldrake and Ellerton Ings on 16th, Bubwith on 30th and 7th December, seven at Wheldrake Ings on 21st and two there on 28th.

Away from the Lower Derwent, four at Clifton Ings on 8th August, singles at B.S.C. property on 1st and 3rd September with three on the 4th and 5th, two birds remaining to the 12th.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Two at Fulford Ings on 1st January, singles at Ryther on 13th, Fulford Ings on 19th and 20th and 17th and 19th February, Wheldrake Ings on 23rd March and 10th April. Two at Fulford Ings on 12th October, singles at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd November, Walmgate Stray on 1st December and Fulford Ings on 23rd with two there on 28th.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

Counts in the early parts of the year were: 118 at Aughton on 18th January with 180 there on 20th, when 35 were at Wheldrake Ings. Up to 36 in the Lower Derwent in February, 70 at Stillingfleet on 1st February, 40 at Bishopthorpe on 2nd, 75 at Stillingfleet on 12th and 56 at Fulford Ings on 25th. 50 to 60 regularly in the Lower Derwent in March with 190 on 16th when 58 were at Ryther. Flocks dispersed rapidly in April as birds took up territories. At least 60 drumming birds were located in the Lower Derwent.

A post breeding flock of 60 was at Naburn Marsh throughout July. The autumn influx began in late August. 40 at Bank Island on 28th and 29th August increased to 250 on 30th, 200 on 31st, 100 on 1st September, 50 at Fulford Ings on 4th, 20 flew south over Dringhouses on 9th, 30 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th increased to 70 on 20th, 50 there on 9th November when 20 were on Storwood Ings, 60 at Wheldrake Ings and 50 at East Cottingwith Ings on 30th. 200 at Fulford Ings on 23rd December, 86 there on 25th, 118 on 26th and 76 on 28th.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Roding birds noted at Dale End, High Wood, Anchor Plain, Grimston Wood, Thorganby, Askham Bog, Strensall Common, Skipwith Common, Dunnington Common and Crambeck. At the latter site at least 10 birds were roding on 17th June.

Outside the breeding season singles were seen as follows: at Dalby on 13th January, Wheldrake Ings on 3rd February, Acaster Malbis on 13th, Selby on 3rd March, Sand Hutton on 4th, Averhams Plantation on 6th October, Garrowby Hill on 9th November, Fulford Ings on 14th, Stubb Wood on 18th, Averhams Plantation on 26th and 9th December and Hazelbush Plantation on 22nd December.

#### BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Three at Bubwith on 6th April, three at North Duffield Carrs on 7th, two at Wheldrake Ings on 15th and 18th, four there on 19th when four at Aughton may have been the same birds, four at North Duffield Carrs on 20th, two at Wheldrake Ings on 26th, four there on 27th with singles on 28th and 29th, two on 7th May, two on 9th and singles on 20th, 21st, 23rd and 24th.

#### WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

More records than ever before. One flew over Selby on 6th April, two at Wheldrake Ings on 15th, three flew north there on 20th, a single on 22nd. Birds were heard calling over Selby in rain for two hours on the night of 23rd (PR). Nine at Wheldrake Ings on 27th, three on 28th, five flew north on 3rd May, two on 5th, singles on 6th and 7th, five on 8th, one on 9th. singles at Bubwith on 10th and Wheldrake Ings on 11th with three on 16th. Three at Wheldrake Ings on 29th July, 12 on Fulford Golf Course on 8th August (PW), one calling over Black Woods, Wheldrake on 14th, three flew south over Castle Howard on 16th and five at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd September.

#### CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Continues to increase at all times of year.

Breeding season records from 17 sites in the Derwent between Howsham and Bubwith, four sites on the Pocklington Canal, Anchor Plain, Strensall Common, Skipwith Common, Dunnington Common, Nun Appleton, Bolton Percy, Acaster Ings, Naburn, Cawood Ings and Ryther.

Birds returned very early with singles at Acaster Selby on 4th January and Wheldrake Ings on 13th, 23rd, 27th and 10th February, South Ings on 14th and 15th, Wheldrake Ings on 15th and 16th and Bubwith on 16th.

Three at Bubwith on 17th when five flew north over Brandsby.

Spring passage was heavy and protracted in the Lower Derwent and characterised by large flocks arriving at intervals with small numbers recorded in between. The first major arrival was 22 at Wheldrake Ings on 18th February, 20 there on 23rd, 28 on 1st March reduced to three on 3rd, a large arrival of 87 between Wheldrake and Aughton on 9th with only five on 11th. 30 at Wheldrake Ings and 20 at North Duffield Carrs on 16th (by which time local birds were holding territory), then single figures until 50 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th when five were at Ryther, 14 at Wheldrake Ings on 4th April, 30 on 6th, only four next day, 37 on 8th, 32 on 14th, 25 on 17th, eight on 20th, 18 on 24th and 19 on 1st May with a final late flock of 11 on 21st.

Return passage began with 15 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th July, 46 on 26th, 12 on 28th, 34 immatures on 6th August, 15 on 8th and up to nine regularly to month end. Six came down in rain at Bugthorpe on 11th August, two flew south west on 14th with two on 22nd and three on 25th. 12 flew north west at Gilder Beck on 26th. Seven at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd September decreased to one by 22nd. Two at Wheldrake Ings on 9th October, singles at Ellerton on 12th, Wheldrake Ings on 22nd October and 20th November. Eight at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd November were the last.

#### SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

One at Bubwith On 23rd March. One at Wheldrake Ings on 14th August, two at Bank Island from 28th to 30th with four on 31st. Two at Bank Island on 1st September and one at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd.

#### REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

A further increase in records. Now established as a wintering bird.

Bred at 20 sites in the Derwent between Kexby and Wressle, at four sites along the Pocklington Canal, and at Ryther, Fulford Ings, Naburn Sewage Works, Strensall Common and Elvington Airfield. Up to five seen in Lower Derwent during January with two at Naburn Sewage Works on 2nd. An arrival On 14th February when 14 were at Wheldrake Ings, 10 in Lower Derwent on 17th, six at Acaster Malbis on 20th, four at Fulford Ings on 25th. 22 between Wheldrake and Ellerton on 9th March, 14 at Ryther on 19th, seven at Middlethorpe Ings on 21st, 14 there on 28th and nine on 30th, 43 between Wheldrake and Bubwith on 30th, 50 in the same area on 7th April was the last arrival.

Most birds had left the area by early August, but singles were at Wheldrake Ings on 20th and 21st September and 26th October with four on 2nd November, 12 at Grimston Park on 8th when 50 were on North Duffield Carrs with 20 there next day. Three at Ellerton on 16th, three at Wheldrake Ings and two at Bubwith on 23rd, 12 at Bubwith on 30th, nine between Wheldrake and Bubwith on 14th December, a single at North Duffield Carrs on 21st with 20 there on 27th.

#### GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

An exceptional year. One at Aughton on 20th January (DIMW). Singles at Aughton, Bubwith and North Duffield Carrs on 6th April and at Aughton next day probably refer to the same individual. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 12th and 13th with three on 17th. One at Naburn Sewage Works On 24th. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 7th, 11th and 12th May.



Return passage started early. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 4th, 13th and 22nd July. Three there on 24th, one on 26th, two on 27th, three on 28th. One at Castle Howard on 27th, three at Strensall Common on 30th. Passage in August was heavy especially in the Wheldrake area. Six at Wheldrake Ings on 1st and 3rd, one on 5th, two on 6th and 8th, singles on 9th, 11th, 13th and 14th. Seven at Bubwith on 18th with one next day when nine were at Bank Island/Wheldrake. Two at Bank Island/Wheldrake on 22nd, seven there on 23rd, three on 24th, four on 25th, singles on 26th and 27th, nine on 28th, six on 29th, at least 20 and possibly up to 30 On 30th, 10 on 31st, one on 1st September, two on 3rd, singles on 13th and 17th and 2nd October. A total of at least 119 bird days on autumn passage in the Lower Derwent.

Recorded elsewhere as follows: singles at Strensall Common on 2nd August, Rosscarrs on 9th, three at Clifton Ings and three at Dunnington Common on 11th, singles at Rosscarrs on 24th and Strensall Common on 1st September, three at Langwith on 14th September.

#### GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

More records than ever before. Singles at Naburn Sewage Works On 2nd and 4th January, Bielby Beck on 10th, Fulford Ings on 2nd, 8th and 11th March, Middlethorpe Meadows on 19th, Naburn on 27th, two at Middlethorpe on the 30th with four on 1st April and three on 2nd, singles at Strensall Common on 3rd April and Castle Howard on 16th May.

A strong autumn passage. Up to three at Wheldrake Ings on eight dates from 19th July to month end (13 bird days). Also in July singles at Castle Howard on 27th and 30th, two at Strensall Common on 30th.

In August up to four at Wheldrake Ings on 12 dates throughout the month (22 bird days) , up to three in Fulford Ings/Naburn Sewage Works area on five dates (10 bird days), up to two at B.S.C., York on five dates (eight bird days), elsewhere two at Castle Howard on 2nd, two at Strensall Common and one at Rosscarrs on 9th, two at Clifton Ings on 11th, singles at Stearsby on 13th and Stub Wood on 24th and three at Askham Bog Tip on 26th. In September, singles at Bank Island and Fulford Ings on 1st, two at Stearsby on 6th with one there on 8th, singles at Askham Bog Tip on 9th and 13th, Fulford Ings on 14th, Wheldrake Ings on 17th, Stearsby, Naburn Sewage Works and Fulford Ings on 20th1 three at Castle Howard on 23rd, singles at Askham Bog Tip on 28th and B.S.C. on 29th. One at Askham Bog Tip on 5th October, two flew southeast over Grimston Park on 8th, one at Askham Bog Tip on 18th, two at Stearsby on 22nd and 23rd, when one was at Askham Bog Tip. Two at Stearsby on 3rd and 4th December and a single at Escrick Brick Quarry from 6th to 11th.

#### WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

A very good year. Singles at Skipwith Common and Wheldrake Ings on 13th May, Castle Howard on 16th and Wheldrake Ings on 23rd. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd, 24th, 26th to 28th July and Strensall Common on 30th. Three at Wheldrake Ings on 1st August, singles at Naburn Sewage Works on 6th and 9th and Wheldrake Ings on 16th.

#### COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Present during the breeding season and probably bred at Kirkham, Scrayingham and a site in the Lower Derwent.

The first was one at Bishopthorpe on 16th April, singles at Wheldrake Ings on 21st, 22nd, 25th and 27th. Up to three on 10 dates at Wheldrake Ings (16 bird days) between 5th and 18th May. Singles at Newton on Derwent on 4th May, Castle Howard on 9th, Bubwith on 10th, Naburn Sewage Works on 12th and 13th with four on 14th, singles at Castle Howard on 16th and 17th, Naburn Sewage Works on 17th and Barlow on 21st. In June singles at Oxtan Pond on 13th and Wheldrake Ings on 30th.

Up to six (30th) at Wheldrake Ings on eight dates between 13th and 30th July (22 bird days). Singles at Riccall on 5th July, Naburn Sewage Works on 6th and B.S.C. on 11th and 31st.

Up to four (on 1st and 31st) in the Wheldrake/Bank Island area on 18 dates throughout August (39 bird days). Up to five (on 4th) at B.S.C. on 10 dates from 1st to 20th August (25 bird days). Elsewhere, four at Naburn Sewage works on 8th August, one at Elvington Airfield On 17th, two at Bubwith on 18th, singles at Askham Bog Tip on 25th and 26th and Fulford Ings on 28th. One at Stearsby on 6th September, an unprecedented flock of 25 at Castle Howard on 11th (DW) had reduced to a single by 13th. Singles at Aughton on 14th, Castle Howard on 16th, 19th and 23rd and B.S.C. on 27th and 30th.

#### MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

A first winter bird at Stamford Bridge on 18th March (DW) . Second record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

#### LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Two first summer birds at Wheldrake Ings on 11th May, two adults there on 20th July. An adult winter bird at Fulford Ings on 2nd November and a first winter bird at Wheldrake Ings on 30th November. These latter birds are the first to be recorded in November in the area.

#### BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Bred at Strensall Common - two colonies of 47 and 45 pairs, Skipwith Common - several colonies totalling about 500 pairs, North Duffield Carrs - 50 pairs but success minimal at this site. Large numbers roosted at Wheldrake Ings in winter months. Birds arrived at 14,720/hour on 13th January. At the University 8,000 flew towards the Derwent between 1700 and 1800 hrs. on 13th February and 6,000 similarly next day. 29,356 flew in over the

North Bridge at Wheldrake on the afternoon of 16th February and 50,000 were estimated on the water the next day. 40,000 there on 1st March had declined to 12,000 on 9th and 2,000 on 29th. In autumn, 15,000 on 22nd November, 4,500 on 30th, 10,000 on 14th December and 5,000 on 21st. Otherwise significant counts were as follows: 600 at Ellerton Tip on 6th January, 300 at Bishopthorpe Ings on 2nd February, 600 there on 12th, 1,000 at South Ings on 15th, 500 at Acaster Malbis on 20th, 600 at Wheldrake Ings on 28th July and 2nd August with 400 there on 8th and 200 on 14th. 500 at Ellerton on 8th November and 500 at Stockton on Forest on 11th, 400 at Askham Bog Tip on 28th and 29th. Up to 750 at Dringhouses Pond throughout December.

#### COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Birds were present at the Wheldrake gull roost during winter months with 100 on 4th January, 2,000 on 16th February, 1,000 on 1st March, 200 on 29th, 600 on 22nd November and 850 on 30th. Otherwise, 60 at Ellerton Tip on 6th January, 50 at Knavesmire on 11th February, 300 at Castle Howard on 12th April, 50 at Wheldrake Ings on 8th August, 224 at Burnholme School on 17th, 450 on Knavesmire on 20th, 55 at Fulford Ings on 14th September, 60 there on 8th November when 350 flew west at Knavesmire at dusk. 300 flew west at Knavesmire on 18th, 200 at Selby throughout December.

#### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Mainly low single figures in Lower Derwent in January and February, maximum 15 at Ellerton Tip on 6th January. 50 at Wheldrake Ings on 1st March, 70 there on 9th and 18 on 30th were probably passage birds. Many records of mainly single figures throughout the area from April to July. 15 at Wheldrake Ings on 6th August, 70 at Askham Bog Tip on 25th and 67 at Ashfield School on 4th September. Thereafter mainly low single figures in the Lower Derwent to year end.

#### HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

22 at Askham Bog Tip on 3rd January with 50 there on 5th, 15 at Ellerton Tip on 6th, 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 12th with 120 on 13th and 14th, 27 at Fulford Ings on 27th. 800 at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd February, 117 on 16th, 64 on 17th, 200 on 1st March and 100 on 9th. Thereafter low single figures throughout the area until 50 at Askham Bog Tip on 28th November and 120 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th.

#### ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

A single 'white' bird seen at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd and 29th November and 6th December (BB, TB) . Third record for the area.  
Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

#### GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

The limping adult seen in December 1979 remained until 9th March and was seen at various places in the Lower Derwent. Single second year birds were seen at Wheldrake Ings on 21st February and 9th March (TED, EBB). The limping adult returned again and was first noted at Aughton on 8th November (TED, EBB) being seen at various places throughout the Lower Derwent until the year end. Fifth, sixth and seventh records for the area.  
Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

#### GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

350 at Ellerton on 1st January, 60 at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd, 100 at Wheldrake Ings and 130 at Ellerton on 4th, 100 at Wheldrake Ings and 80 at Ellerton on 6th, 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 8th, 80 there on 13th and 14th, 67 on 16th, 100 on 3rd February, 216 on 16th, 100 on 1st March, 50 on 9th, 30 on 9th May. Thereafter low single figures throughout the area until 10 at Bubwith on 9th November, 13 at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd, 10 at Askham Bog Tip on 28th, 45 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th, 18 at Askham Bog Tip on 8th December, 27 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th with 23 there on 21st.

#### KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

All records of single adults at Wheldrake Ings on 30th March (DB) 2nd April (BE), 22nd July (TB) , 28th July (TED) and 26th October (OW).  
Seventh to eleventh records for the area.

#### TERN Sp *Sterna sp*

Two flew northeast over New Earswick on 15th May.

#### COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 5th May, one at Naburn Sewage Works on 8th and two at Wheldrake Ings on 11th.

#### COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 4th May, four flew north at Stamford Bridge on 7th, one at Wheldrake Ings on 9th, two at Pocklington Canal on 11th, three at Wheldrake Ings on 12th, two there on 14th and singles there on 1st June and 28th June.

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 1st August, an adult there on 6th, a juvenile at Dringhouses Pond on 15th, two adults at Castle Howard on 30th. One flying northeast along the Hovingham to Sheriff Hutton road in a snow storm on 28th November (AC) - an exceptional record.

**ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea***

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd, 11th and 12th May, three there on 14th, one at Castle Howard on 15th, five at Kexby on 1st June (TW, VW) when one was at Wheldrake Ings.

**LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons***

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd May (SM) and Fulford Ings on 14th June (JC). Second and third records for the area.

**SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis***

Two immatures flew south at Fulford Ings on 20th September (JG). Eighth record for the area.

**BLACK TERN**

Three at Wheldrake Ings on 12th April, one there on 9th May with two on 11th when one was at Bubwith. Singles at Wheldrake Ings and Bubwith on 13th and at Wheldrake Ings on 15th.

One was seen and well described by an angler on the Ouse at Red House in mid August (per TED), one at Castle Howard on 19th September.

**STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas***

Very few records received for this species. Bred at Fulford Ings, Archbishops Palace, Brandsby, Storwood, Skipwith and Aughton. Present in the breeding season at Newton on Derwent. The only counts were 18 at Fulford Ings on 9th March, seven at Newton on Derwent on 15th March, 24 at Healaugh on 14th September, 24 at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd November and eight at Bubwith on 27th November.

**WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus***

100 in Aughton/Bubwith area on 6th January, 150 at Ryther On 18th March and 200 at Aughton/Bubwith on 6th April. 500 at Aughton/Bubwith on 12th and 18th October, 750 at Healaugh and 260 at Oxtan On 2nd November, 1,090 at Catterton on 9th, 300 at Bubwith on 16th, 450 at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd, 500 at Anchor Plain On 29th. Up to 300 near Averhams Plantation through November where a roost flight built rapidly - 450 on 27th, 850 on 1st December, 1,300 on 2nd, 1,800 on 4th, 2,000 on 6th, 2,200 on 8th and then promptly ceased with 400 on 9th and 100 on 10th, all birds flew east-north-east in late afternoon (DW) . 2,000 near Selby on 11th December, large numbers at Bubwith throughout the month with maximum of 2,000 on 27th.

**COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto***

A welcome increase in counts this year. 70 at Knapton on 22nd March, 120 at Selby B.O.C.M. on 31st October, 52 at Oxtan on 2nd November, 76 between Aughton and Ellerton and 44 at Riccall on 9th, 20 at Escrick on 14th, 25 at Aughton on 27th December. A leucistic bird was in a Heworth garden on 1st January (per TED)

**TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur***

Bred at Storwood, Anchor Plain and Fulford Ings (two pairs) and probably bred at North Duffield, Wheldrake Ings, Grimston Wood, Bishop Wood, Skipwith Common and Strensall Common. Thought to be not particularly common around Brandsby this year. First birds were at Storwood and Wheldrake Ings on 3rd May (GS, TMC, TB), with the main arrival about a week later. The last bird was at Wheldrake Ings on 12th October (BB) - the latest date on record.

**CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus***

Present throughout the area in all suitable habitats. Several observers commented that this species seemed unusually common this year.

First birds were at the University (TED) and Wheldrake village (AD) on 18th April. The main arrival occurring at the end of the month. One was seen being pursued by Starlings at Escrick on 27th May (RH) The last was one at Fulford Ings on 31st August (BD, JH).

**BARN OWL *Tyto alba***

Only three pairs confirmed breeding at Eastmoor and Thorganby (two pairs). PH comments that the status of this species is unknown at Brandsby with only two hunting territories noted in SE 57.

Records from Thorganby, Aughton, Hagg Bridge, Wheldrake Ings, Ellerton, Wressle, University, Dunnington Common, Fulford Ings, Anchor Plain, Heslington, Moor Monkton, Stillingfleet, Fulford and Elvington Airfield. Mainly singles in the winter months. Disturbingly few records away from the Lower Derwent. Unconfirmed reports of birds being shot and sold to taxidermists give cause for concern.

**LITTLE OWL**

Noted from more sites than ever before. Recorded in the breeding season at Menthorpe, Burn, Selby Sewage Works, Wheldrake, Hagg Bridge, Storwood, North Duffield, South Duffield, Thorganby, Elvington, Escrick, Fulford Golf Course, Naburn Sewage Works, Bugthorpe, Dunnington Common, Nun Appleton, Kexby, Skipwith Common, Wressle, Heslington and two sites near Brandsby.

Elsewhere recorded at Whixley, Castle Howard, Howden, Askham Bryan, Acaster Airfield, Gilder Beck, Anchor Plain, Wistow, Stillingfleet, Bishop Wood and Barlow. At least four were calling at Skipwith Common on 15th May (TED, EBB).

An interesting example of kleptoparasitism noted at Selby Sewage Works where at least three young were raised. The adult birds were seen taking earthworms from Blackbirds after they had pulled them out of the ground (GDF).

#### TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Confirmed breeding from Dunnington Common (two pairs), Skipwith Common, Ryther and behind a supermarket on Fishergate, York.

Present all year at New Earswick Nature Reserve (two pairs), Rawcliffe Grove, Clifton, North Duffield, Nun Appleton, Anchor Plain and through out SE 57, 67 and 77. Five territories located in centre of SE 63. Elsewhere noted from Acaster Malbis, Howden, Wheldrake, Brighton, Naburn, Stillingfleet, Stub Wood, Ozendyke, Kexby, Brayton Barff, Crambeck, Bank Island, Askham Bryan, Catterton, Quaker Wood, Garrowby, Poppleton and Nunnery Lane and Lord Mayors Walk in York. Tawny Owls are extremely sedentary and breeding probably occurred at most of these sites.

#### LONG-EARED OWL

One pair bred at Skipwith Common where a juvenile was seen on 2nd June, and probably bred at Black Plantation, Fangfoss where two juveniles were noted on 7th July. Singles noted at Dunnington Common on 27th January and 23rd April, Naburn Sewage Works on 15th April, Thorganby Common on 22nd June, Gilder Beck on 3rd August and Sand Hutton on 4th December. A bird attempted to take Blackbirds at the University roost on 18th November and 15th December.

#### SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

A very poor year for this species. Singles at Wheldrake Ings On 17th February (BB) and Elvington Airfield on 3rd April (TW, VW). Two at Poppleton on 21st December (PW)

#### NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Three pairs bred at Skipwith Common where the first birds were heard on 13th May (TED, EBB et al)

#### SWIFT *Apus apus*

One flying over the Foss in York on 29th April (JMPa) and one at Naburn Sewage Works on the same date (BD, JG) were the first. Two at Naburn Sewage Works next day with birds at Castle Howard and Wheldrake Ings on 3rd May and North Duffield on 6th. Birds were not well distributed until the third week of May. The only concentration of note was 120 at Bridge on 20th September (TMC).

#### KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Still not recovered from depletions of 1978/79 winter. Bred at Naburn Sewage Works, Fulford Ings, Stearsby and Anchor Plain. Noted in the breeding season at Askham Bog but no proof of breeding. Noted elsewhere from Ryther (where three were ringed), Tillmire, Dringhouses Pond, Deighton Grove, University and Strensall Common. Six records of singles at Wheldrake Ings (four in 1979). Three separate records of birds in observers' gardens at Selby on 5th August (PR), Escrick on 16th August (RH) and Fulford on 20th September (TED, EBB) - these presumably wandering first year birds.

#### GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Breeding confirmed at Yearsley, Peel Park, Spellar Wood, Grimston Wood, Castle Howard, Hagg Wood, Kirkham Gorge, Skipwith Common and Brayton Junction.

Present in the breeding season and probably bred at Elvington, Langwith, Strensall Common, Howsham and Crambeck.

Singles noted at Selby Railway Wood during January and February, Dunnington Common on 4th April, Wheldrake Ings on 25th April, Bossall on 13th July, Thicket Priory on 27th July, Scoreby Wood on 19th August, Gilder Beck on 26th August, Aughton on 14th September, Averhams Plantation on 3rd and 15th October, Fulford Golf Course on 23rd November, Knavesmire Wood on 3rd December and Sand Hutton on 21st December.

#### GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*

Many records received, mainly of singles from 36 sites throughout the area. A paucity of records from the extreme south east corner of the area probably reflects a lack of observer coverage rather than a lack of woodpeckers.

#### LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor*

A further increase in records of this elusive and very local bird. Bred at Ampleforth, Potterhill and Archbishops Palace. Two pairs probably bred at Askham Bog and one pair at Fulford Ings. Noted elsewhere as follows: a female at Stillingfleet on 25th January, a single at Upper Helmsley on 26th March, a male drumming and excavating at Dringhouses Pond from 29th March to 4th April, a pair at Howsham on 15th April, one at Woodthorpe on 20th with a male displaying there on 23rd, a male at Bolton Percy on 26th. One at Stub Wood on

1st June, a male at Wheldrake Ings on 27th July, two at Anchor Plain on 19th October and a male at Dunnington Common on 23rd November.

#### SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

First singing birds were heard at Wheldrake Ings on 17th February, with 50 singing there on 30th March. Largest counts were: 70 at Stillingfleet on 15th January (DW), 122 flew west over Wheldrake Ings on 12th October, there was also a heavy *Turdus* movement at this time (TED), 100 flew west over Anchor Plain on 19th October (RAI, TED), 45 at Acaster Selby on 25th (DW) and noticeable movement west occurred at Cawood on 28th (JMPa). 120 at Aughton and 60 at North Duffield Carrs on 8th November (TED), 50 on the Knavesmire on 8th (EM), 100 at Bank Island, Wheldrake on 9th (DB, TED), and 205 at Wheldrake Ings on 13th (TED). 100 at Cawood on 26th (RH), 29 flew northwest at Bubwith on 27th (RH), a flock of 120 flew southeast at Averhams Plantation on 8th December (ow), 200 at Bank Island, Wheldrake on 21st and 260 at Wheldrake Ings on 27th (TED).

#### SAND MARTIN

The first was 18 days earlier than last year when a single was recorded from Fulford Ings on 23rd March (per TED). Several sightings from 6th to 15th April with the largest numbers arriving at: Castle Howard on 18th April when 40 birds were present (DW), 60 at Wheldrake Ings on 20th (PW) and 45 at Naburn Sewage Works on 21st (TED).

60 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th September was the last record (TED, EBB)

#### SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Three at Easingwold Golf Course on 6th April (PH) and a single in the Lower Derwent the next day were the first. Numbers increased to 25 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th (TB) and 75 at Naburn Sewage Works on 25th (TED, EBB) 1,500 roosting at Wheldrake Ings on 6th August (oW), 200 at Fulford Ings on 9th September (TED), 200 over Dunnington Common on 14th (VW, TW), and 500 arrived at Wheldrake Ings at 1845 hours on 22nd (TB). Steady southerly passage over Fulford Ings on 5th October and 1,000 there on 9th (TED). Birds were still present at several localities up to 13th October.

The last bird was at Bishop Wilton on 13th November (AC).

#### HOUSE MARTIN

First arrivals were: singles at Wheldrake Ings (DW) and Knavesmire School (EM) on 12th April. 250 at Fulford Ings on 8th September (TED) with numbers becoming less towards the end of the month with 20 on 30th, however numbers increased on 11th October when 78 birds moved south (HO, JG). Five at Escrick on 23rd October and seven at Bishopthorpe the next day (PWGC).

The last record was of two flying east over Selby at 1500 hours on 6th November (GF).

#### TREE PIPIT

Bred at: Yearsley, Peel Park, Bishop Wood, Skipwith Common, Strensall Common, Blackmoor four pairs, Brandsby Dale three pairs, Fulford Ings three pairs and Naburn Sewage Works one pair.

Singing birds at Wheldrake Ings, Thorganby, Terrington and Gilder Beck were the only records.

First was at Fulford Ings where a bird was displaying on 30th March. The next were at the University on 19th April and Skipwith Common on 20th (50). The last record was of 10 at Fulford Ings on 14th September.

#### MEADOW PIPIT

Bred at: Lower Derwent, Strensall Common, Skipwith Common, Fulford Ings, Naburn Sewage Works and the University.

60 at Stillingfleet in early January, increased to 100 from 17th to 6th February (DW). 30 at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd, 80 at Crockey Hill on 11th (OW), 50 at Naburn Sewage Works on 22nd March and 56 there on 3rd April. A total of 50 in ones and twos flew west over Wheldrake Ings on 14th September (DB) and heavier passage near Flaxton on 17th with 80 coming down on to stubble at 1700 hours (DW). 80 at Naburn Sewage Works on 9th November (TED) and 106 there on 23rd December (BD, Jo), 60 at Castle Howard on 23rd and 27th November and 60 at Sand Hutton on 23rd December (DW)

#### YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Breeding at: Bossall, Bubwith, Kexby, Sutton—on—Derwent, Melbourne, Thornton, Wheldrake Ings, Bank Island, Storwood Ings, East Cottingwith, West Cottingwith, Ellerton, Thorganby, near Poppleton, Fulford Ings, Aughton, North Duffield Carrs, Brighton, Wressle, Strensall, Skipwith and Naburn Sewage Works.

First spring birds were two at Wheldrake Ings Reserve on 6th April (GS) nine at Naburn Sewage Works on 14th increased to 40 on 23rd, females at Naburn arrived 11 days after the males. 12 at Wheldrake Reserve on 20th (BGP, DB) and 15 there on 27th (TED). Eight on Clifton Ings on 11th August, 35 roosting on Fulford Ings on 31st increased to 70 on 9th September and then numbers dropped to 24 by 30th (TED) with no more after this date. Birds showing characteristics of the Blue-headed race *M.f. flava* were present at Naburn Sewage Works with one on 10th May, three on 11th (TED), one on 13th, three on 14th, two on 15th and one on 17th (BD, JO).

#### GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

No definite breeding records this year. Numbers were up again similar to 1978 counts with mainly singles from 18 localities throughout the area compared with only 10 in 1979. Maxima were eight at Naburn Sewage Works On 9th November (TED, EBB)

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*

Roosting at York Railway Station but no counts were made.

60 at Naburn Sewage Works on 22nd March, 30 near Poppleton in July, 20 at Askham Bog Tip in August, 26 at Castle Howard on 3rd September and 40 at Naburn Sewage Works on 9th November.

Two males showing characteristics of the White Wagtail *M.a. alba* at Naburn Sewage Works on 23rd April (TED) and a bird at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th and 15th May (TMC, BGP).

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

Present during summer months at Crambe Beck (IS). Singles at Howsham on 15th June (ED) and Gilling Beck on 18th October (PH).

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

An increase in numbers again after the 50% decrease of the 1978—79 winter.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

21 at Fulford Ings on 16th March, 20 there on 17th April and 14 caught and ringed at Anchor Plain on 6th July were the maxima counts.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

A bird singing in Scarcroft Road during darkness on 19th February (FWO) and one in the Museum Gardens also heard in February (BGP). 22 at Fulford Ings on 4th October and 20 there on 11th (BD, JG).

A melanistic bird on Dunnington Common from 26th October to year end showed dark wings, head, back, belly, flanks and tail With breast a dull red (TW, VW)

**NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One singing in Bishop Wood from 8th May until the end of June (oF, PR)

**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

An increase in breeding records with at least one pair at Blackmoor, Grimston, Anchor Plain and Gilder Beck with one juvenile.

A singing male at Strensall Common on 27th April. A nest at Scoreby Wood was believed to be of this species (DW) .

The first to arrive was at Anchor Plain on 14th April (RAI) . Singles at Westow on 29th April (PH), Wheldrake on 8th May, Skipwith Common on 11th (SC) and Wheldrake on 9th August (TMC).

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

Bred at: Hagg Bridge and Strensall Common but no counts made. Probably bred on Clifton Ings where a pair and one juvenile was observed on 15th August (DW). Two adults and four juveniles at B.S.C. property from 19th to 23rd August (KD).

Other records of single birds came from Anchor Plain on 8th May, Spellar Farm, Gale Lane on 16th (PH) and Wheldrake Reserve on 17th. A pair at Ryther on 10th July, an immature male at Wheldrake Ings on 6th August and a juvenile at Menthorpe on 27th (DB). Singles at Acaster Airfield on 6th September, Ellerton, North Duffield and Bolton Percy on 14th with a pair at Bubwith on 14th and Kexby on 23rd.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*

One near Bubwith on 13th January (GS) , a female at Flaxton on 21st and 23rd February (PW) , one male at Skipwith Common on 13th May (TED) and a male at Strensall Common on 30th November (JR).

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first breeding record for the area. A female arrived on the Knavesmire on 3rd April and was joined by a male towards the end of the month, the pair were observed regularly to the end of August. Four fluffy juveniles and both adults were on the Knavesmire on 26th August, were thought to have bred on or in the vicinity of the Knavesmire (EM).

Singles at Barmby Moor and Ryther on 12th April, Tang Hall Tip on 12th (BGP), Crayke, Elvington Airfield on 21st and Ryther on 26th, Smorgate on 7th May and Naburn Sewage Works on 1st June.

Return passage began on the same date as last year with one at Crayke on 9th July (PH) . A juvenile at New Earswick on 21st July (DB), singles at Wressle on 18th August. Wheldrake on 22nd, Acaster Airfield on 24th and Gilder Beck on 27th. One at Cawood on 1st September, Howden on 9th with two at Cawood on 11th. Singles at Menthorpe on 13th September, Aughton and Acaster Airfield on 14th, and the University on 19th. Two at Naburn Sewage Works on 21st, a male at the University on 21st and 23rd September was the last.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

A male at Wheldrake Ings Reserve from 13th to 16th April and a female present on 14th (TMC, PA , MeG)

First record for the area.

#### BLACKBIRD

600 in roost at the University in early January, numbers dropped to 150 by mid-February, 20 remaining throughout the summer, increased to 100 in November and 250 at year-end (TED) . Low double figures at Anchor Plain in late March and early April, with smaller numbers during July and only up to 10 birds until the end of September. 100 flew WNW on 19th October and 50 were present until year-end (RAI). Some large counts on Fulford Ings were: 74 on 27th February, 75 on 2nd March, 86 on 13th July (BD, JO), 50 on 20th September and 70 on 27th, 78 on 11th October, 200 on 12th, 150 on 14th, 50 on 16th, 86 on 21st and 250 on 3rd November (TED). A flock of 80 flew south over Dringhouses on 28th October (EM) and nocturnal passage over York on 31st and 5th November (TED, EBB) . An influx into the New Earswick area was noted on 6th November although the large roost of 1979 never established. Other large gatherings were 75 at Tillmire on 23rd November (DB) and 40 at Upper Helmsley on 6th December (KD).

A colour ringed male at the University present during the year was ringed there in 1972 and aged now at 10 years old (TED).

A male with a white head and speckled neck at Cawood on 8th February and 21st March (RH) , a male with white on head to eye level at Wilberfoss on 4th November (FW) and a bird at Nunthorpe School showed white head and upper breast on 25th, 26th and 27th November (NT). A male showed white mainly to upper parts was observed through the year at Fulford and thought to have bred with a white headed female which was only observed on several occasions (Ba, JG).

#### FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

300 at Heslington in February (PW), 300 at Fulford Ings on 3rd February, 100 at Storwood on 30th March (GS), 60 at Buttercrambe on 5th April, 117 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th (Tn), 80 at Thicket Priory on 4th May. Autumn birds arrived in a big fall which occurred on 12th October with flocks of up to 385 arriving at several localities: 119 flew over Wheldrake Ings, 385 at Hagg Bridge (GS) , 100 over Poppleton and 50 at over 2,000 were counted between York and Malton, 1,500 over Copmanthorpe and 4,000 flew west over Anchor Plain the following day. 600 at Wharfe Ings on 25th (DW), a large influx arrived in the Selby area on 28th (PR), and 550 at Fulford Ings on 3rd November. 1,000 between Hagg Bridge and Storwood, 300 at Wheldrake Ings, 400 at Ings on 22nd (TED).

#### SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Highest counts were: 65 on Fulford Ings on 22nd March, 70 on 8th September, 40 on 9th, 100 on 20th, 150 on 12th October and 50 on 14th. 60 over Anchor Plain on 19th October (RAI).

#### REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Winter maxima were: 60 at Acaster Malbis on 26th January (PW, GC), 200 at Bubwith the next day (GS), 88 at Acaster Malbis on 1st February,, 339 at Fulford Ings on 2nd, 80 at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd, 470 at Acaster Malbis on 20th and 350 at Fulford Ings on 24th (BDJG). 30 on Wheldrake Ings on 2nd April, 30 at Buttercrambe on 5th and the last to depart were two at Thicket Priory on 3rd May (TMC).

First of the autumn were only three days later than last year with birds heard at Dringhouses on 3rd October at 2030 hours, York City centre at 2100 hours and 16 flew west over Dringhouses Pond on 5th (OW).

The main arrival occurred on 12th October with 1,200 birds flying south-west over Brandsby between 0900 hours and 1000 hours (PH) , 593 flew west over Wheldrake Ings in three hours (TED), a large movement west over Poppleton (PW), 30 arrived at Dunnington (TW, VW), first birds reported for the Selby area (PR) and 250 came in to roost on Fulford. Nocturnal passage over Fulford from 12th to 22nd October. Heavy westerly passage occurred to the end of October with maximum of 3,000 over Anchor Plain on 19th and a large influx in to the Selby area on 28th (PR).

#### MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Maxima gatherings were: 21 at Fulford Ings on 2nd February, 23 on 27th July and 39 there on 20th August (BD, JG). 28 at Huby on 6th October (PW). Up to 11 birds at Wheldrake, Morton, Fulford Ings, Brandsby and Stockton-on-the-Forest

#### GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Bred at: Bishop Wood, Wheldrake Ings with three singing males and Skipwith Common with six singing males. Singing birds at Strensall Common, Brayton Junction, University, Castle Howard, near Rufforth and Askham Bog. The first was at Wheldrake Ings on 27th April (FWO).

#### SEDGE WARBLER

Breeding at: numbers were down this year at Wheldrake Ings with only 24 pairs, 10 pairs at Naburn Sewage Works, three pairs at Castle Howard and three pairs at Anchor Plain. However only two young survived due to heavy rain. Singing birds recorded from Fulford Ings, University, Skipwith Common, Strensall Common, Crambe Beck, Aughton, Bubwith, North Duffield Carrs, Ellerton, East Cottingwith, Elvington, Sutton-on-the-Derwent, Kirkham, Pocklington Canal, Storwood Ings, Kexby and Bishopthorpe.

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 16th April were the first (TB) and four there on 17th September were the last (TED).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Bred at: Strensall Common, Castle Howard, Askham Bog, Skipwith Common, 15 pairs at Ross Carrs, seven pairs at Wheldrake Ings, three pairs at Naburn Sewage Works, one pair at Hagg Bridge and Fulford Ings. Present in breeding season at Aughton and North Duffield Carrs.

First to arrive were two at Naburn Sewage Works (TED) and one at Askham Bog on 10th May (DW). The last was at Wheldrake Ings on 17th September (TED).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Recorded from 14 localities, the same number as 1979. Bred at Fulford Ings, Naburn Sewage Works, Wheldrake Ings, Thorganby, Kexby, Ryther and four pairs at Anchor Plain.

Singing birds heard in Bishop Wood and Strensall in May, Fulford Ings on 14th and 21st June and 6th July. One at Dunnington Common on 8th June and Appleton Woods on 16th. Eight caught and ringed at Anchor Plain on 6th July (HAI). Singles at Castle Howard on 30th August, Fulford Ings on 6th September, Skipwith Common on 9th, New Earswick on 16th and the last at Wheldrake Ings on 17th (TED).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

The gradual increase of this species since the decline in the late sixties appears to have reached a level with numbers similar to 1978 and 1979.

The first was at Wheldrake Ings on 25th April (TED) with the main arrival from 6th to 11th May. 36 caught and ringed at Anchor Plain on 6th July (HAI)

The last was at Anchor Plain on 25th September.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

The last three or four years has seen an increase in this species.

Bred at: Crambe Beck, Bishop Wood, Ryther, Stub Wood and Skipwith Common. Nine pairs at Grimston Moor (PH), four pairs at Kirkham and one pair at Naburn Sewage Works. Three holding territory at Wheldrake in mid—May and singles singing during May at Dringhouses, Wheldrake Wood, Askham Bog and Castle Howard.

Two at Anchor Plain on 19th and 22nd May. One at Dunnington Common on 8th June and Strensall Common on 21st. One at Castle Howard on 11th July and up to two at Gilder Beck during August (DW).

First bird of the year arrived at Bishop Wood on 29th April (CAP, RH).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

The only breeding records were: Wheldrake Wood, Stubb Wood, Bishop Wood, Naburn Sewage Works, Fulford Ings, Barton—le—Willows, Thicket Priory, Thorganby Common, Skipwith Common, Brandsby and nine pairs at Anchor Plain.

Over—wintering birds were a female in Escrick Wood on 1st January and a female at Haxby during February (per JHL).

The first migrants to arrive were at Tadcaster Road, York (VW, TW) and Naburn Sewage Works on 12th April (BD, JG) . Birds arrived at seven localities during the third week of April.

The last were singles at Naburn Sewage Works on 27th September (BD, JG) and a juvenile female caught and ringed at Ryther on 5th October (JMPa).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Three possible breeding records: a bird carrying food at Thorganby Wood on 18th May and another bird present, both observed again on 25th (RET), 1st June (AP) and 9th (SM) . One singing in Bishop Wood on 21st May (AP) and two singing there on 23rd (BGP, RH, AP). One singing at Skipwith Common on 30th May (FWO) and a pair there with male singing on 8th June (GS).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Breeding recorded from: New Earswick, Strensall, Crambe Beck, near Wheldrake, Skipwith Common, Naburn Sewage Works, Askham Bog and Anchor Plain.

Single singing birds heard in April at Selby, Brandsby Dale, Bishop Wood, Nun Appleton, Ulleskelf, Aughton, Grimston Wood, Upper Helmsley and Scoreby Wood. Six singing in Stub Wood on 26th April.

The first of spring were singles at Askham Beg on 26th March (DRF) and Wheldrake Ings on 29th before the main arrival on 6th April when birds were recorded from five localities.

Late singing birds were reported at Dringhouses on 17th August, Skipwith Common on 9th September, Naburn Sewage Works on 14th and Brandsby on 31st (PH). One at Naburn Sewage Works on 22nd November (BD, JG) and at Averhams Plantation near Flaxton on 7th December (DW).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Only three breeding counts: 150+ pairs at Skipwith Common (SC), 19 pairs at Anchor Plain (Rh) and 20 pairs at Stub Wood (DB).

First bird to arrive was at Skipwith Common on 6th April (SC), this was six days earlier than last year. The main influx occurred on 13th and 14th when 11 localities held birds. 34 were caught and ringed at Anchor Plain on 6th July and 23 on 25th (RAI). Birds were seen regularly in a garden at Woodthorpe during July and August (DW) , singles singing at Castle Howard on 19th September (DW) and Fulford Ings on 27th (TED). The same date as last year produced the last record with one at Fulford Ings on 30th September (TED) . A nestling was predated by an Adder *Vipera berus* on Strensall Common on 5th June (RAI, RW).



#### GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A good increase in records which hopefully signifies a recovery from the severe winter of 1978.

Breeding in all suitable habitat in SE 57, 67 and 77. Also bred at Gate Fulford Hall, Delwood, Croft Fulford, Bishopthorpe, University and Anchor Plain.

One at Tillmire on 6th January and singles observed at Skipwith Common during April and May. Six at Naburn Sewage Works on 1st June and 27th September (BD, JG). A large influx in to the area occurred during the first two weeks in October, probably birds from a successful breeding season in Scotland which were moving south. The following are some of the larger counts made: 40 at Anchor Plain on 1st (RAI), 30 at Averhams Plantation during first week increased to 60 on 15th (DW), 12 at Stub Wood on 18th, 22 in Stillingfleet Wood on 21st (DW) and eight on Fulford Ings on 30th (TED). Many birds were still about up to year-end with 10 at Hazelbush Plantation on 17th November, 12 at Sutton wood (BGP) and 30 on Dunnington Common on 23rd November (VW, TW), 20 at Brayton Barff during November (GF) and 30 at Averhams Plantation also in November (DW).

60 at Averhams Plantation in a mixed flock with Coal Tits *Parus ater* and Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* on 1st and 3rd December increased to over 100 during the rest of the month (DW), 25 at Hazelbush Plantation on 23rd December (DW).

#### SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Bred throughout SE 57, 67 and 77. Up to three pairs breeding at Sheriff. Hutton, Escrick, Strensall Common, University, Thicket Priory, Naburn village, Naburn Sewage Works, Heslington, Castle Howard, Fulford Ings, Bishopthorpe, Thorganby Common, Kirkham Abbey and Gilder Beck. A pair bred successfully again in Tang Hall Wood, York (BT, RT) and at Merchant Adventurers Hall, Piccadilly, York. One at Strensall Common on 15th May was the first (DB) and one on Fulford Ings on 22nd September (TED) was the last.

#### LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

An increase in numbers at Anchor Plain which were now back to the pre-1978 level. 25 were ringed compared with only three in 1979 (RAI). Maxima counts were: 13 at Naburn Sewage Works in 13th and 14th September, 14 at Wheldrake on 12th October, 25 at Sutton Wood on 23rd November (BGP), 30 at Averhams Plantation on 1st and 3rd December (DW), 26 at Anchor Plain on 12th and 40 at Dunnington Common on 28th (TED).

#### MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Bred at: Spellar Wood, Blackmoor, Maidensworth, High Wood, Peel Park, Dale End (PH), Castle Howard (DW), Anchor Plain (PAI) and Bishopthorpe.

Mainly single records from: Kirkham Abbey, Wheldrake Ings, Fulford Ings, Sand Hutton, Upper Helmsley, Strensall Common, Stub Wood, Scoreby Wood, Bugthorpe, Kexby, Averhams Plantation, Hazelbush Plantation, Gilder Beck, Stillingfleet Wood and Naburn Sewage Works.

#### WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Breeding at: Spellar Wood, Blackmoor, Brandsby Dale (PH), Skipwith Common and Scoreby wood two pairs. Singing males: three at Upper Helmsley, two at Yapham, one at Strensall and two at Black Plantation near Wheldrake. Six at Stillingfleet Wood in February, five at Catterton on 9th November and 12 on Dunnington Common on 28th December were maxima. Up to three birds recorded from 12 localities throughout the area.

#### COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Maxima gatherings were: 20 at Stub Wood on 19th October, 20 at Averhams Plantation during October and November increased to 60 in early December (DW), All other records were of up to four birds throughout the area.

#### BLUE TIT

Maxima were: 86 at Fulford Ings on 27th February (80, JG), 52 caught and ringed on Anchor Plain on 6th July (RAI), 21 at Fulford Ings on 28th September and 21st October (TED) and up to 70 on Anchor Plain during December (RAI).

#### GREAT TIT *Parus major*

A pair successfully reared nine young in a nest box at Ryther (JMPa). Maxima were: 18 on Fulford Ings on 14th April, 25 caught and ringed on Anchor Plain on 6th July (RAI) and 21 on Fulford Ings on 11th October (BD, JG)

#### NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Bred at: Brandsby village, Gilling, Potterhill Wood (PH), Castle Howard and near Bishopthorpe (BD, JG). One at Fulford Ings on 26th January and one calling at Naburn Sewage Works Ings on 22nd March (TED). A singing male was present during the spring at Fulford Ings (BD, JG). One at Bugthorpe on 2nd November (per TED).

#### TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

The only breeding records were at Upper Helmsley, Anchor Plain, Tang Hall Wood, York, Naburn Sewage Works, Fulford Ings and Bishopthorpe. Singing males at: Howsham Bridge, Castle Howard, Black Plantation and Scoreby Wood.

Up to four birds recorded from 20 localities.

**GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus*

A male was heard and later observed flying at Aughton at 1105 hours on 8th June (GS, BC, SM).  
Third record for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

**JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

The only breeding records came from Strensall Common, Skipwith Common, Grimston Wood, Brandsby Dale, Huby Wood, Stub Wood and Aughton Common. 20 at Averhams Plantation near Flaxton during September and October was maximum (OW).

**MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

A bird carrying nest material at Storwood on 10th February (CS).

Maxima counts: 37 at Acaster Malbis Wood on 10th February (PWGC), 45 at Askham Bog on 17th March (OW), 27 at Murton on 12th October (per TED) and 38 at Askham Bog on 4th December (TED, EBB).

**JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

This species is always under-recorded with only seven records. Seven pairs bred at St. Oswalds Road, Fulford and several pairs in Naburn Hospital grounds. Up to 10 at Bishopthorpe and Dalby (PWGC), 30 at the Old Rectory, Brandsby, 30 pairs at Bilborough and up to 10 on Anchor Plain.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

Largest flocks were: 500 at Aughton on 20th January (PW) , 408 at Acaster Malbis Wood on 10th February (PWGC), 200 at Anchor Plain on 30th October (RAI) and 450 at Dalby on 9th November (PWGC), 2,000 corvids near Aughton on 27th November held at least 50 of this species (RH). A leucistic bird, very dark chocolate brown with three white spots on coverts and showing a creamy-white wing bar was observed between Wistow and Cawood on 15th February (RH).

See Rook Survey.

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

The only counts were: 100 at Strensall Common on 1st March (OW), 30 at Askham Bog on 7th April, 120 there on 10th May (DW) , 19 on Fulford Ings on 3rd October (TED, EBB) , 240 at Anchor Plain on 30th (HAI) and 100 at Askham Bog Tip during October and November (OW).

**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

2,000 flew over Bishopthorpe on 12th February (PWGC), 500 flew SSE over Storwood on 7th June, 1,000 over Wheldrake Ings moving NNW on 12th October (GS), 759 at Strensall on 15th December (RAI) and 5,000 on Fulford Ings on 22nd (BD, JG).

A leucistic bird at Dringhouses during November and December (EM).

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

A bird with a white head and breast was observed at Nunthorpe School on 22nd October (MT).

**TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Two fed regularly at a bird table in Heworth, York from 27th January to 28th February (JHL) and one was seen feeding at a bird table at North Duffield on 18th May, 22nd June, 12th July, 16th and 23rd November (AGH, AH). 100 at Stillingfleet on 11th February (DW), 30 at Fulford Ings on 18th March and 60 at Crockey Hill on 22nd (TED, EBB) . 60 at Wheldrake Ings on 17th September, 30 at Anchor Plain on 20th increased to 120 by 20th October (HAI), 100 at Fulford Ings on 2nd and 3rd November (TED, EBB), 50 near Haxby on 1st December (BGP) and 140 at Gate Helmsley on 1st December (BGP) were maxima.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

All counts made were: 40 at Stillingfleet on 11th February, 35 at Dalby on 14th (PWGC), 140 at Upper Helmsley on 14th March, 50 at Oswaldkirk on 21st and 60 at Crockey Hill on 29th.

70 mainly juveniles and females at Scoreby Wood on 7th July, 30 at Gilder Beck on 25th August, 40 near Appleton Roebuck on 18th October, 100 at Anchor Plain flew west on 19th, 30 at Stillingfleet Wood on 21st and 22nd and 60 at Stub Wood on 25th. 30 at Garrowby on 9th November (BGP), 57 at Dalby same date, 50 on Strensall Tip on 18th, 30 at Anchor Plain on 29th, 220 at Castle Howard on 23rd and 50 at Dunnington Common on 30th. 60 near Haxby and 40 at Gate Helmsley on 1st December (BGP) , 150 flew in to roost at Sandburn Wood on 23rd December. Averhams Plantation held a roost of 400 cm 1st December, 350 on 8th and 200 on 30th (DW).

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

This species continues to increase with 1980 producing the highest numbers ever recorded. Over 50 records from 26 localities.

Maxima were: 50 at Oswaldkirk on 21st March (PW), 80 at Crockey Hill on 29th (TED, EBB), 70 on Strensall Common on 27th April (DW), 250 at Averhams Plantation on 24th November (DW), up to 200 at Joseph

Rowntree School Gardens in late November (DB), 150 at Averhams Plantation on 1st December, up to 50 at Malton in December (per TED) and up to 60 near Carr Lane, Acomb during December (FF). First of the autumn was 32 at Naburn Sewage Works on 11th October (BD, JG).

#### GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

100 at Stillingfleet on 8th and 11th February (DW), 50 at Bishopthorpe Ings on 13th (PWGC), 70 at Upper Helmsley on 28th February and 6th March (DW), 40 at Acaster Malbis on 23rd April and 50 on Fulford Ings on 22nd June (BD, JG). 30 flew WNW over Anchor Plain on 19th October (HAI), 120 at Castle Howard on 23rd November (DW) and 45 at Elvington on the same date (BGP). 30 at Stub Wood on 29th November (DW) and 30 on Dunnington Common on 30th (VW, TW) were maxima counts.

#### GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Small flocks numbering 20 to 35 birds were reported from Stillingfleet Wood in January, Riccall in February, Stillingfleet Wood in April, near Selby in May and June, Wheldrake Reserve in July, B.S.C. property during summer months, Fulford Ings and Anchor Plain during September and October. 35 flew over Scarcroft Hill, York on 28th September.

#### SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

An increase in records towards year-end in comparison with previous years but early winter months counts were down.

Six in Escrick Woods on 1st January, six at University on 11th February, 120 at Askham Bog on 17th March (DW), five at Upper Helmsley on 9th April and five in Stillingfleet Wood on 11th. Five flew west over Wheldrake Ings on 14th September (55), 40 at Brayton Barff on 21st, eight were near a garden in Selby and one was feeding on peanuts in a garden at Selby on 28th (PR). Six at Castle Howard on 5th October, four in Escrick Wood on 9th, two at Wheldrake Ings on 12th, 12 on Fulford Ings on 13th, two at Averhams Plantation on 15th, five at the University on 16th October increased to 15 by year-end (TED). Six flew NNW over Anchor Plain on 19th October, two in Stillingfleet Wood on 21st, two on Anchor Plain on 30th and five at Wheldrake Ings on 9th November. 60 in Escrick Wood on 10th (PP), two at New Earswick on 16th (DB), four at Anchor Plain on 24th and two there on 29th. 30 at Askham Bog on 28th November, five in Averhams Plantation on 1st December, 35 in Hazelbush Plantation on 19th and up to 22 on Fulford Ings during winter months (BD, JO)

#### LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

40 on Tang Hall Tip, York on 15th April (BGP), 50 at Naburn Sewage Works on 24th (TED), 30 at Gilder Beck on 26th August and SO at Cawood on 11th September. A flock of 200 to 300 were at Ryther during September some of which were caught and ringed. 63 were caught in several days at a feeding area, with only two retraps from the 63 birds, this suggests heavy passage with possibly up to 1,000 birds involved (JMPa). 118 flew west over Wheldrake Ings on 12th October, 20 west over Anchor Plain on 19th. 19 at Castle Howard on 15th November, 50 at Hagg Bridge on 16th and 100 at Castle Howard on 23rd were maxima counts.

#### REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

The only breeding records came from Stearsby, Hagg Wood (PH), Strensall Common (DW) and 20 pairs at Naburn Sewage Works (JO, BD).

Maxima counts were: 50 at Askham Bog on 17th March, 30 at Upper Helmsley on 8th and 9th April and 80 in Stillingfleet Wood on 11th. 150 on Allerthorpe Common on 28th September (DIMW) and 300 at Selby on 28th (PR). 40 flew west over Anchor Plain on 19th October, 30 at Stub Wood on 25th and 30 in Averhams Plantation on 31st increased to 120 on 24th November (DW). 70 at the Outgang, Heslington on 3rd November, 35 at the University on 13th (TED), 30 on Dunnington Common on 23rd and 50 there on 30th (TW, VW) - 30 at Hazelbush Plantation on 11th December (DW).

A bird showing characteristics of the Mealy Redpoll A.f. *flammea* was at Dunnington Common on 23rd December (TW, VW).

#### BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Largest gatherings were: SO on Anchor Plain on 19th October (TED, RAI), 20 near Stockton—on—the—Forest in November and 30 on Strensall Common in early December (HOP).

#### HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

All records were of singles at: Heslington on 2nd January (JHL), Fulford on 27th (BD, JO), Stamford Bridge on 8th March (TMC), Upper Helmsley on 8th April (DW), Strensall Common on 27th May (TW, VW) and 18th June (TED), Fulford Ings on 20th September (TED), Whitwell—on—the—Hill on 12th October (BC), Outgang, Heslington and Fulford Ings both on the same date 3rd November (TED).

#### YELLOWNANMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Some high counts were: 60 on Skipwith Common on 1st February, 100 at Stillingfleet on 8th, 80 on 11th, 35 at Upper Helmsley from 1st to 19th March and 24 at Barton Hill on 15th. 50 at Anchor Plain on 25th September and 19th October, 45 at Acaster Malbis on 25th, 17 at Oxtou Pond on 2nd November, 23 at Catterton on 9th, 25 at Copmanthorpe on 22nd, 50 on Tilmire on 23rd and 18 at Sand Hutton on same date. 90 on Fulford Ings on 23rd

December, 20 roosting at Naburn Ponds on 23rd, 120 on Dunnington Common on 28th and 45 at Storwood on 28th.

#### REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

75 were caught and ringed at Ryther during September with only eight retraps, showed that high numbers must have passed through the area (JMPa). 30 at Anchor Plain on 19th October increased to 60 on 12th December (RAI), 60 on Fulford Ings on 23rd, 180 on 25th and 80 on 26th (TED) and up to 30 roosting at Naburn Ponds during winter months (BD, JG).

#### CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

A welcomed increase in records. Breeding at: three pairs bred between Strensall and Haxby, three pairs at Naburn, three pairs at Anchor Plain (RAI) and four pairs at Warthill and Norton. Singing males at: North Duffield from 6th April (AGH, All), nine singing between Ryther and Church Fenton on 13th (JMPa), one on Wheldrake Reserve on 18th May and six on Acaster Aerodrome in early June.

Some pre-roost counts were: 100 at Stillingfleet on 8th February and 80 there on 11th (DW), 30 in Wheldrake Lane on 15th (DB) and eight at North Duffield on 1st March (TED, EBB).

Up to 10 at roost on Anchor Plain towards year-end, 25 at Barlow Grange on 16th December (GF) and 16 at Copmanthorpe on 20th (DW).

#### ADDENDUM

1980 saw the publication of the Y.N.U. Ornithological Report for the missing years 1967, 1968 and 1969. This contained many records for the Y.O.C. area which are not documented in the relevant Y.O.C. reports. This prompted a literature search for other missing records, from 1966 (the year of the first Y.O.C. Report) up to 1979. All relevant Y.N.U. reports and the 1974 and 1975 Goole Birdwatchers' Club Report were scrutinised.

Some records are spectacular such as the Black Kite in 1979 which illustrates this addendum; others such as the Lower Derwent wildfowl counts are valuable in view of the recent attention focussed on this area; others such as arrival dates of migrants and counts of commoner species are more mundane. However, in order to provide as detailed a picture as possible of the avifauna of our recording area and to facilitate future research, the records are published in their entirety.

Records are not attributed to observers unless they are contributors to the Y.O.C. Report. Any further outstanding records would be gratefully received.

#### GANNET *Sula bassana*

1967 One at Newton-on-Ouse in mid-September.

#### NIGHT HERON

1978 One at Wheldrake Ings on 30th May. First record for the area.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

#### MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

1966 Up to 20 visited floods at Aughton during January and February.

#### BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*

1966 On Lower Derwent floods, 153 on 3rd January, 206 on 30th, 278 on 13th February, 228 on 20th March. 63 at Bubwith on 10th December.

1967 174 on Lower Derwent floods on 15th January.

1969 158 on Lower Derwent floods on 23rd March, 235 there on 26th December.

1970 163 on Lower Derwent floods on 8th March was maximum and four on 29th were the last.

1971 the Lower Derwent floods attracted 43 on 10th January, 152 on 17th, 83 on 7th and 14th February, 36 on 7th March, 22 on 28th November, 37 on 11th December.

1972 The Lower Derwent floods held large numbers, from 10 on 15th January the herd built up to 83 by 23rd and 188 by 29th. 229 on 5th February, 250 on 24th, 251 (including 23 juveniles) on the 27th was the peak. Numbers declined slowly to 98 by 19th March and all had gone by 28th.

#### WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

1966 Small numbers visited the Lower Derwent floods from January -March. Maximum 10 on 6th February. One at Castle Howard on 16th October and 13th November.

#### PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

1966 75 at North Duffield on 11th December.

#### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

1966 Six on the ice at Bubwith Ings on 4th January.

1974 One at Bubwith Ings on 17th and 22nd February and from 23rd to 30th March.

#### GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

1972 44 at Castle Howard on 23rd October.  
CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*  
1966 Up to 84 at Castle Howard during November and December.

#### SHELDUCK

1966 Nine at Bubwith Ings on 5th January. At Aughton Ings eight were seen on 28th May and possibly attempted breeding.

#### WIGEON *Anas penelope*

1967 3,000 on Lower Derwent floods on 19th February.  
1968 2,250 on Lower Derwent floods on 18th February.

1969 3,000 on Lower Derwent floods on 16th March and 2,000 on 26th December.  
1970 3,000 on Lower Derwent floods On 1st February, 4,000 on 8th, 4,500 on 14th, 5,000 on 8th March and 5,500 on 15th.  
1971 2,500 on Lower Derwent floods on 10th January, 3,000 on 17th, 3,500 On 7th February, 3,000 On 21st, 1,000 on 28th decreasing to 25 on 11th April. 1,000 there on 11th December.

#### TEAL *Anas crecca*

1966 1,000 on Lower Derwent floods on 13th March. 200 at Skipwith Common on 6th February.  
1967 1,000 On Lower Derwent floods on 19th March.  
1968 500 on Lower Derwent floods on 18th February.  
1970 1,000 on Lower Derwent floods on 1st February, 3,000 on 8th and 8th March, 1,700 on 15th March and 100 on 29th.  
1971 Up to 1,000 on Lower Derwent floods during January and most of February.

#### MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

1966 1,200 at Castle Howard on 16th January, 1,750 there on 13th November.  
1970 650 on Lower Derwent floods on 15th March with 400 on 29th.  
1971 Up to 500 on Lower Derwent floods during late January and early February.  
1974 1,500 on Lower Derwent floods in early January.

#### PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

1966 20 at Skipwith Common on 6th February, 100 on Lower Derwent floods on 13th February and 130 there on 20th March.  
1967 100 on Lower Derwent floods on 26th February and 19th March.  
1971 60 on Lower Derwent floods on 10th and 17th January, 75 there on 7th February.  
1972 35 on Lower Derwent floods on 15th January, 70 there on 13th February.

#### SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

1966 several pairs certainly bred on Lower Derwent.  
1970 15 on Lower Derwent floods on 22nd March.  
1971 20 on Lower Derwent floods on 7th February.

#### POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

1966 Up to 1,500 on Lower Derwent floods in February and March.  
1970 270 on Lower Derwent floods on 18th January, 1,100 on 1st February, 500 on 1st March, 350 on 8th and 200 on 15th. and Ring Ouzel.  
1972 250 on Lower Derwent floods on 12th February with 700 next day.

#### GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

1966 A female at Castle Howard on 13th February

#### BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

1979 One at Bubwith on 19th May. First record for the area. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

#### HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

A male at Strensall Common on 24th February (DW).

#### MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

1967 A male near Rufforth on 20th August. First record for the area

#### MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

1975 One flew over Selby town centre on 19th February (PR).  
1979 One at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd December (PM) .

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

One at Naburn Sewage Works on 11th August (VW). Eighth record for the area. Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

1966 One at Skipwith on 14th August.

1978 Five in ploughed field at Wistow Lordship on 6th May (GDF).

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Late July produced notable birds at Wheldrake Ings, with two adult

1966 One in York City centre on 20th October. Little Gulls on the 20th, Kittiwakes on the 22nd and 28th, a Wood Sandpiper from the 22nd to the 28th and a Little Stint from the 26th

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* to the 30th.

1970 One calling at Kelfield Grange during April and May.

1971 One at Nun Appleton West Ings during the summer

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* 14th.

1968 Bred at Ellerton.

DOTTEREL *Eudromius morinellus*

1971 One in a beet field at Cawood on 25th May.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

1974 800 at Barlow Grange on 8th September (PR)

1975 1,500 at Selby on 26th January (PR).

1978 2,500 on Sherburn Airfield on 5th February.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

1966 One at Aughton on 28th May.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

1971 1,400 at Castle Howard during August.

1974 1,000 at Ulleskelf Mires on 18th January, 500 at Barlow Grange on 8th September (PR)

1975 900 at Selby on 26th January (PR)

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

1966 Two by flood water at Elvington Airfield on 23rd January.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

1966 160 at Bubwith Ings on 24th April.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

1966 One at Bubwith Ings on 24th April.

1967 Five at Wheldrake Ings on 26th March and 14 there on 16th April.

1975 Three at Barlow on 27th August, one staying until 15th September (PR).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

1969 24 at Ellerton Ings on 27th April.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

1974 One at Barlow Grange on 30th August (PR).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

1975 Five at Barlow on 31st August and 15th September (PR).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

1975 One at Barlow from 26th July to 27th August with five on 28th August (PR).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

1966 An adult in full breeding plumage stayed in a small Black-headed Gull colony in the Derwent Valley, from 14th to 28th May, and was seen displaying at the other gulls. First record for the area.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

1972 One at Ellerton on 12th February.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

1966 One in Derwent Valley On 21st May. First record for the area.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

1975 600 at Selby on 26th January (PR) , 4,000 flew into a roost on Skipwith Common on 8th February.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

1975 200 near Selby in January (PR).

LONG—EARED OWL *Asio otus*

1967 A roost at Skipwith Common had 16 on 11th November and eight on 30th December.

1978 Two pairs bred on Skipwith Common.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

1974 One at Barlow Grange on 8th August (PR)

SWIFT *Apus apus*

1975 1,000 hawking over Selby on 27th July (PR)

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

1974 Bred at Selby Brick Pond (PR).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

1967 One at Wheldrake on 26th March was the first.

1972 Two at Castle Howard on 1st April were the first.

1975 3,000 at Selby on 15th September, 4,000 at Barlow on 23rd September (PR)

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

1974 One at Selby Water Tanks from 25th September to year end (PR)

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

1974 One at North Howden on 8th January.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

1975 One sang in a wood east of York for three weeks in May.

1979 One sang in Bishop Wood during May (GDF)

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

1970 20 on Cawood Ings on 20th September.

1974 One at Barlow Grange on 8th September (PR).

1975 One in a Selby garden from 5th November to 11th December was caught and ringed on 8th November (PR).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1974 Two at Barlow on 26th September (PR).

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

1975 Birds moved west over Selby at 500 per hour on 21st October (PR)

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

1975 Birds moved west over Selby at 200 per hour on 26th October (PR).

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

1975 25 at Foggathorpe on 10th July.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

1975 Birds present in June and July on Skipwith and Allerthorpe Commons.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

1975 A bird ringed at Selby on 27th August was retrapped at Dungeness on 17th September (PR).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

1975 One at Selby on 8th November (PR)

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

1974 One at Selby on 23rd December (PR).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

1975 A roost at Barlow held 100,000 on 31st July (PR).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*  
1967 600 at Melbourne on 27th March.  
1975 200 in Selby Forest on 26th October (PR)

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*  
1974 1,000 at Brayton on 6th October (PR)

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*  
1969 A juvenile killed in a strawberry net at Osbaldwick on 27th June.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*  
1974 500 at Brayton On 6th October (PR).

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*  
1972 300 to 400 feeding on birch seeds at Thorganby On 5th February.  
1975 1,000 in Selby Forest on 26th October (PR) . A spectacular influx into Yorkshire in 1975 included many 'mealies'. A flock of 30 feeding on poinsettia in a Selby garden on 9th November consisted of birds much paler than normal mealies (PR). These birds presumably originating from the distant end of the population

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*  
1966 Seen during the breeding season near Easingwold and Tollerton.