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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.

EDITORIAL

The recorders would like to thank all the observers who have contributed records, both for the report and the atlas. All records submitted are retained and analysed for the species accounts, thus the 'List of Contributors' acknowledges all observers whether or not their individual records appear in the text. The Y.O.C. is fortunate in having a large and increasing number of competent and disciplined observers. Thanks are also due to the many visiting birdwatchers who enter their observations in the log books at Wheldrake Ings. Records from Wheldrake Ings were made on 290 days and for the Lower Derwent generally on 317 days. Consistent coverage such as this enables much more meaningful statements to be made about the status of many species, especially the more common species which are usually under-recorded. Contributors are reminded that records of rare and unusual species must be supported by a field description. Standard forms for this purpose are available from the recorders. Species requiring descriptions were last listed in the Y.O.C. Report 1980.

The emergence in 1982 of the Yorkshire Birder, a quarterly newsletter for birdwatchers, published by the Y.N.U. is a welcome development. We wish it well. However, the continuing practice of the Y.N.U. of publishing in its Ornithological Report records which have been rejected by the British Birds Rarities Committee remains a cause for concern. It serves no scientific purpose.

The assistance afforded by the R.S.P.B. Avocet shop and the Y.W.T. in providing outlets for the Y.O.C. report is gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks are due to the artists David Braithwaite, Adrian Clay, Alan Done and David Mead whose work enlivens the following pages, and to Elaine Blake for much assistance throughout the production of this report.

D.BRAITHWAITE T.E.DIXON

ORNITHOLOGICAL REVIEW OF 1982

The ability of birdwatchers to find unusual and interesting birds in the York area has continued apace. A total of 187 species and nine distinct sub-species were recorded during the year, once again a record number. It is difficult to believe that ten years

ago the 1973 Report listed only 141 species. The upward trend has continued since the first Y.O.C. Report in 1966, one wonders when it will end. Four species were new to the area - two Long-tailed Ducks at Stearsby, a Stone Curlew at Wheldrake Ings, a Baird's Sandpiper at Castle Howard and a Guillemot at Wheldrake Ings. Additionally, Ring-necked Parakeet is elevated to the classified list following its recent acceptance into the Category C of the British and Irish list. (The number of species recorded in the area since 1966 now stands at 235).

The year opened with a Waxwing on New Year's Day in York. The main interest, however, lay in the lower Derwent with three Smew, three Bean Geese, Glaucus Gull, a male Hen Harrier which remained for ten weeks and a large influx of wildfowl at the month end with 6,500 Wigeon, 6,500 Mallard, 4,450 Teal and 1,350 Pochard. Interesting birds elsewhere included Rock and Water Pipits, Little Auk and up to four Waxwings which stayed in York for four weeks and delighted the many birdwatchers and passers-by who saw them.

February was quiet with Smew, Hen Harrier, Rock Pipit and Waxwing providing continuing interest. New arrivals were 15 Bean Geese at Wheldrake Ings, a Bittern at Askham Bog and two Bearded Tits flying across the A64 at Heslington.

March opened with a Glaucus Gull and a Spotted Redshank and had an interesting assortment of early passage waders - a Greenshank, Ringed and Little Ringed Plover, Knot and a flock of 144 Curlew. Other records of note were a count of over 8,000 Mallard in the Lower Derwent, two records of Twite and a southern Cormorant. By the end of the month several summer migrants had arrived; these were, in order, Sand Martin, Yellow Wagtail, Chiffchaff, Common Sandpiper, Garganey, Blackcap and Willow Warbler.

Up to 40 Ruff were in the Lower Derwent in April which was a month with several interesting species - Ring Ouzel, Osprey, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Dotterel, Hoopoe - unfortunately dead - and Sandwich Tern.

May was not as exciting as in recent years but did produce Black Terns, Quail and three Ruddy Ducks at Wheldrake Ings which displayed then promptly departed, as did a pair of Fieldfares at Elvington. Interesting waders were Turnstone Temminck's Stint and a new bird for the area, a Baird's Sandpiper at Castle Howard.

June was very quiet, enlivened by six singing Quails, eleven drake Common Scoters at Castle Howard and an extraordinary record of a Guillemot (presumably very lost) flying over Wheldrake Ings.

July saw the arrival of a long staying Marsh Harrier in the Lower Derwent, a Nightingale, two Bar-tailed Godwits and a Corncrake. Passage raptors were a feature of August and September with two Hobbys, Merlin, Peregrine, Osprey, Hen Harrier and Marsh Harrier. Other notable birds were several Knot and Little Stints, an early Jack Snipe, Grey Plover, more Wood Sandpipers than usual, Black and Sandwich Terns, Little Gull, a party of five Quail and two Ruddy Shelducks. Undoubtedly the best bird was a Stone Curlew at Wheldrake Ings and later at Elvington Airfield - a new bird for the area.

A Rock Pipit at Castle Howard on 2nd October and a Mediterranean Gull at Dringhouses Pond on the 9th were third and fourth records for the area respectively. Further good birds followed with two Stonechats, five Bearded Tits, two Red Breasted Mergansers and a Peregrine. Two immature female Long-tailed Ducks arrived at a small trout lake at Stearsby and remained into 1983, providing many local birdwatchers with a new bird for their area lists.

November produced more surprises with some late summer visitors appearing - House Martin and Swallow on the 4th and 7th respectively and an astonishingly late Turtle Dove on the 13th. Green-winged Teal appeared at Wheldrake Ings for the second year running, two birds this time. They were in company with a female Red-crested Pochard. Other interesting birds were Egyptian Geese, Bittern, Great Grey Shrike, Stonechat, Black Redstart and another Long-tailed Duck at Riccall. The 28th saw an intriguing collection of waders on a patch of flood water at Anchor Plain - Redshank, Ruff, Grey Plover and Common Sandpiper.

December was quiet but produced Smew, Great Grey Shrike and Glaucus Gull. An Eider Duck on the Ouse at Poppleton on the 29th was the first live bird for the area, the only other record is of one shot in 1966. The last days of the year saw 76 Bewick's Swans and ten Short-eared Owls in the Lower Derwent.

TIM DIXON

SURVEYS NEED YOU!

Most readers will no doubt be aware that the club is endeavouring to produce a breeding bird atlas of the recording area. This is a personal message about the value

of such undertakings.

Birds are good indicators of the state of the environment and census work can often provide solid evidence to highlight the effects of, for instance, farming practices, e.g. in the decline of the Corncrake. However, an important byproduct of this survey has been the discovery of 'new' areas of wetland, meadows, old hedgerows, etc.

The importance of this cannot be over-emphasised. If you think you have found, or know of, a species-rich meadow or ancient woodland do not keep it to yourself. Inform the Y.W.T. or the N.C.C. It may not be there next year!

In 1979 I came across the finest hedgerow in the Selby area. 60 feet wide and 1,300 yards long. In December 1980 I arrived one morning to find bulldozers where once stood oak, blackthorn and hazel. Now there is only a transparent line of hawthorns alongside a dyke of doubtful necessity to mark its former presence. Unfortunately, this is happening all too often. In the past two years I have seen three ponds filled in, several old meadows ploughed and a 100 acre washland saved only by a legal technicality, not before, however, it had been damaged.

We need to know immediately about such sites, hence the value of surveys. The presentation of scientific data is an important weapon in the battle for their preservation. "The last site in Yorkshire" or "The only one in Eastern England" are good slogans with which to enlist public support. To do this we need to prove both the fact and our credibility.

To-day, more than ever, birdwatchers have a duty to help in the collection of information in order to preserve what little we have left. Just a few hours from a lot of people can go a long way in both increasing accuracy and lessening the burden on those already committed to such work. So please contact an Atlas Committee member. NOW!

G.D.FLOWER

WILDFOWL COUNTS

Dr. Barry Thomas of York University has kindly forwarded to us his 1980/81 and 1981/82 winters' wildfowl counts for Castle Howard. When added to the Lower Derwent totals they provide an indication of the order of numbers of wildfowl in the York area in these two winters.

TABLE 1 Numbers of wildfowl in the Lower Derwent and at Castle Howard for the winter 1980/81.

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Lower Derwent	390	730	5,243	6,686	10,657	15,866	5,800
Castle Howard	1,409	822	1,978	1,147	827	1,321	101
Total	1,799	1,552	7,221	7,833	11,484	17,187	5,901

TABLE 2 Numbers of wildfowl in the Lower Derwent and at Castle Howard for the winter 1981/1982.

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Lower Derwent	457	460	1,137	2,621	13,296	9,433	14,545
Castle Howard	1,643	1,057	1,115	568	102	431	283
Total	2,100	1,517	2,252	3,189	13,398	9,864	14,848

Further details of wildfowl counts may be found in the individual species accounts in the Classified List.

DAVE BRAITHWAITE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF BREEDING WADERS OF WET MEADOWS

Results from the Derwent Ings

Lowland wet meadows are currently one of the most threatened wildlife habitats in Britain. They support many breeding bird species, the decline of several of which is now causing concern, particularly the waders. In 1982 Dr.K.Smith organised, for the BTO, a national survey to assess the present population levels of lowland breeding waders.

The Lower Derwent Valley between Bank Island and Wressle and the Pocklington Canal between Melbourne and Hagg Bridge were surveyed. The total numbers of breeding pairs of waders were as follows:

Snipe 120, Redshank 96, Lapwing 250, Curlew 57, Oystercatcher 12.

For several reasons the results under-estimate the number of birds present. Estimates of breeding pairs were deliberately conservative; only when it was reasonably certain that pairs were breeding were they included. Due to difficulty of access the majority of sites were not systematically searched, but merely viewed

from the boundaries. This inevitably led to under-recording. Several new sites adjacent to, but outside, the area surveyed were found to hold breeding waders during Atlas work in 1983. Finally, the weather in 1982 distorted the picture somewhat. The very dry early spring caused many waders to leave the area to find other more suitable sites. The breeding success of those remaining was then much reduced by the appalling weather in late May and June, with a consequent reduction in territorial activity.

The national results are now being analysed. They reveal that there are now very few breeding waders in lowland England and Wales. The totals were approximately 2,100 pairs of Snipe, 2,500 pairs of Redshank, 7,000 pairs of Lapwing, 500 pairs of Curlew and 700 pairs of Oystercatcher.

The survey indicates that the Derwent Ings are of national importance for breeding waders and destined to become even more important as more sites elsewhere are destroyed.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The first season of fieldwork for the tetrad atlas was completed in 1982 and results so far have amply justified the Club's decision to support this project. An Atlas Co-ordinating Committee consisting of Elaine Blake, Dave Braithwaite, Geoff Flower, Peter Watson, Terry Weston and Val Weston has been formed. In addition to undertaking a good deal of fieldwork the committee members have handled the tasks of allocating tetrads to fieldworkers and collecting results with far fewer teething problems than might have been envisaged.

Completed cards were received for 59 tetrads, an annual figure we would hope to improve on as support for the project grows. Perhaps, inevitably, coverage in the northern part of the area has so far been sparse. The average number of species per tetrad is 52, a figure which compares very favourably with other published atlases and suggests that tetrads are being covered comprehensively. The total number of species recorded so far in suitable breeding habitat is 115, of which 96 were proved to breed and a further 12 probably bred.

Some of the highlights have been Short-eared Owls proved for the first time since 1972, singing Quails in seven tetrads, female Blue-headed Wagtails paired to male Yellow Wagtails in three tetrads, Redstarts proved on Strensall Common for the first time for five years, new sites for Little Ringed Plover, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch and as if to prove it is not necessary to go far to find interesting breeding birds, the discovery of nesting Sand Martins in York city centre.

However, it is the commoner, more everyday, birds which have produced some of the pleasanter surprises and thrown up most of the puzzles. Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat appear to be more widespread than hitherto suspected, with the first two present in approximately half the tetrads surveyed. However, species such as Turtle Dove, Spotted Flycatcher, Meadow Pipit, Redpoll and Corn Bunting appear to have a curiously scattered distribution.

Every tetrad surveyed has held surprises in terms of the presence or absence of species. Thanks are due to the observers who took part in the project in 1982; it is hoped that they and others will continue to support the project in future years.

TIM DIXON

RINGING REPORT

This report covers the years 1981 and 1982 and includes all birds known to have been ringed in the area during the two years. Ringers operating in the area are listed at the end of this report. Richard Ward-Smith has a study area which, unfortunately, straddles the western boundary of the Y.O.C. area. However, in order to document his interesting hirundine study all his results are incorporated in this report.

With around 15,000 birds ringed in the last five years compared with 22,000 in the preceding eighteen years, ringing effort has reached a level where dividends should soon appear in terms of more recoveries and analysis. Among the more interesting recoveries are two Derwent bred Mallard from the same brood, one wintering in the Midlands and the other abmigrating to West Germany, a Reed Warbler in its eighth year and relatively long movements for Long-tailed Tit and Blue Tit.

Anchor Plain Field Station and Nature Reserve Trust

The Anchor Plain Trust has now been accorded Charitable status and is still striving to acquire this important wildlife site. Ringing has continued but at a reduced level due to the time-consuming efforts of fund raising. However, it is intended to step up ringing effort in 1983 when Anchor Plain will be used as a BTO Constant Effort site. Constant Effort sites are the ringing equivalent of Common Bird Census sites and enable annual fluctuations in breeding populations, both locally and nationally, to be monitored. For some species the method is more accurate than the CBC.

Whilst ringing has been at a low level, bird counts have continued. In 1982 ninety species were recorded including eight new for the reserve, bringing the total recorded to 124. On 8th May, the day of a sponsored bird watch, 76 species were seen - an astonishing number for a four hectare clay pit. Investigations into many aspects of the ecology of

the site have now been set in train. A spider survey by Mr.Clifford Smith produced an uncommon species which had not been recorded in Yorkshire since 1952.

It is pleasing to report that no further tipping has occurred since 1980. Negotiations for the acquisition of the site have so far failed. However, the Trust remains confident that the protection of the site, our most important aim, will continue as well as fund raising. It is most unfortunate that we seem likely to lose a grant of £3,500 from the Countryside Commission because no sale has been forthcoming. Educational visits have continued with small groups of Adult Education students and school children visiting the reserve.

Thanks are due to the many people who have helped in various ways throughout 1981 and 1982. Help is always needed, particularly with wildlife recording, especially invertebrates, and also with donations of items for sale such as hard and soft backed books and postage stamps.

Finally, especial thanks are due to the owner of Anchor Plain, Mr.R.Piercy, for his continued permission for us to use the site.

St.Peters School Ringing Group

St.Peters School were very active in 1982, virtually doubling the 1981 total for adult birds. This may be attributed entirely to greater ringing effort and more available nets.

The main disappointment was a 20-25% decline in the number of Swallows returning to the main study area. This followed a most successful breeding season in 1981 when 612 pulli were ringed.

In mid-June much of Yorkshire was subjected to six days of continual rain, with temperatures around 10 C. This had a disastrous effect on the Swallow project, with some 80% of pairs deserting. The birds which did not forsake eggs or young were found in the main to be experienced adults, ringed whilst breeding in the 1981 season or before.

When the weather improved, several pairs re-used the same nest for their second breeding attempt. One female incorporated a partly feathered, dead, ringed pullus into the nest lining and raised four young despite the maggots. Two others re-laid new eggs into nests containing deserted ones, so that one was sitting on a mixed clutch of nine eggs and the other on eight. Finally, three other pairs quickly cleared their nests of newly hatched dead young and then started again successfully. There is no sentiment about survival.

Ringers Operating in the Y.O.C. Recording Area

Gordon Craine	A	St.Peters School
Steve Flack	A	Elvington
Roger Innes	A	Anchor Plain/York University
Pete Reid	A	Selby
Geoff Rogers	A	Stub Wood
Tim Dixon	C	Anchor Plain/York University
Malcolm Paulson	C	Ryther
Richard Ward-Smith	C	Bilton/St.Peters School
Geoff Flower	T	Training with Pete Reid
Dave Waudby	T	Training with Geoff Rogers

YORK AREA RINGING TOTALS 1960-1982

	1960-80	1981-82	1960-80	1981-2
Greylag Goose		6	4541	595
Canada Goose	5	6	35	12
Shelduck	5	2	908	165
Mallard	6	4	1313	110
Pochard	2		58	10
Sparrowhawk	4	10	1	
Kestrel	11		282	51
Pheasant	3		260	43
Water Rail	1		60	12
Moorhen	12	11	412	74
Coot	6		45	7
Lapwing	23	2	208	86
Snipe	5	1	49	10
Woodcock	4	1	784	228
Redshank	1		130	87
Common Sandpiper	1		38	26
B. Headed Gull	170	44	379	144
Common Gull	2	2	22	8
Wood Pigeon	44	4	151	47
Collared Dove	8	11	90	17
Turtle Dove	2	1	1979	565
Cuckoo	6	1	639	183
Barn Owl	2		78	36
Tawny Owl	2	6	25	5
Long Eared Owl	1		6	5
Short Eared Owl	1		3	
Swift	430	25	4	4
Kingfisher	14	4	8	
G.S. Wood pecker	7	2	3935	535
Skylark	20		1542	69
Sand Martin	139	234	589	58
Swallow	2258	391	2313	405
House Martin	432	151	556	20
Tree Pipit	4	1	6481	210
Meadow Pipit	49	3	81	12
Yellow Wagtail	93	10	7	
Grey Wagtail	11	5	572	61
Pied Wagtail	145	60	471	77
Wren	499	147	8	
Dunnock	1250	163	515	125
Robin	872	173	274	65
Redstart	4	1	656	100
Whinchat	5		9	17
		TOTAL	37072	5776

GRAND TOTAL 1960-82: 42,848 birds ringed of 85 species.

Three new species were ringed in 1981/82: Greylag Goose, Pochard and Pheasant.

The Current Top Ten List of Birds Ringed

	1960-82		1981-82
Greenfinch	6691	Blackbird	595
Blackbird	5136	Blue Tit	565
Starling	4470	Starling	535
Chaffinch	2718	Chaffinch	405
Swallow	2649	Swallow	391
Blue Tit	2544	Willow Warbler	328
House Sparrow	1611	Sand Martin	234
Redwing	1423	Greenfinch	210
Duncock	1413	Great Tit	183
Song Thrush	1073	Robin	173

RINGING RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1981-82

KEY

<u>Age:</u>		<u>Sex:</u>		<u>Manner of Recovery</u>
Pull	Pullus (nestling)	M	Male	V Caught and released
Juv	Juvenile	F	Female	+ Shot or killed
1Y	Bird in its first year			X Found dead or dying
Ad	Adult (at least 1 year old)			

MALLARD

ROBIN

A607652	Ad	15.02.80	Heslington, York	
	V	19.10.80	Anchor Plain	15Km N

BLACKBIRD

XJ82807	Ad M	09.03.81	York University	
	X	06.09.81	Howe, Sandnes, Norway	699Km NE

SONG THRUSH

NX73355	Juv	08.12.80	Strensall	
	X	16.02.81	Gate Helmsley	10Km SE
NX73375	Ad F	30.03.81	Anchor Plain	
	X	16.12.81	Colton, Tadcaster	20Km SW

REED WARBLER

A541871	Ad M	18.05.80	Retford, Notts.	
	V	11.06.82	Selby	47Km S
KB25545	1Y	10.08.75	Selby	
	V	31.07.77	Selby	
	V	28.07.82	Selby	

LONG TAILED TIT

5C8136	Ad	30.10.80	Anchor Plain	
	V	03.10.82	Pickering	26Km NNE

COAL TIT

A607614	Ad	11.02.80	New Earswick	
	X	22.09.80	York University	6Km SE

BLUE TIT

A869671	Juv	10.07.80	Anchor Plain	
	V	24.01.81	Retford, Notts.	82Km S

STARLING

CA94717	?	16.01.65	Wetherby	
	X	01.07.67	Strensall	25Km NE
XK26432	Juv F	29.08.81	Selby	
	V	01.03.82	Macclesfield	120Km SW
XN02023	1Y F	07.02.82	Selby	
	+	31.05.82	Strumpshaw, Norfolk	200Km SE

THRE

E LEGGED MALLARD

On 20th November 1982 a freshly dead drake Mallard was picked up at Newburgh Priory, North Yorkshire. On examination it proved to have three legs. The third leg was joined to the outside of the left leg approximately 2cm. above the tibio-tarsal joint and was fully formed other than the absence of the hind toe. It was of normal colouration with the exception of the claws which were white.

The overall length, from the junction with the left leg to the tip of the middle toe, was 93mm. of which 48mm. comprised the middle toe, the two outer toes being 43mm. in length.

The bird was apparently normal in all other respects and at a weight of 1235g. was of average size. Other measurements were:

Wing	183mm.
Bill	55mm.
Tarsus	47mm.
Middle Toe	65mm.

The cause of death has yet to be determined and the specimen is presently held by the Yorkshire Museum for further investigation and preservation.

T.BARKER

AYTHYA HYBRID AT WHELDRAKE INGS

At 10.45 a.m. on 31st January 1982 whilst scanning a party of 30 Pochard on the pool at Wheldrake Ings, I noticed a bird bearing a superficial resemblance to a Pochard, but on closer examination the bird was obviously a hybrid.

Size and Structure

Very slightly smaller than Pochard. Rounder headed and not so high crowned but with an even flatter forehead. The long, almost parallel-sided bill was slightly shorter than Pochard. The tail was held cocked recalling Ring-necked Duck. The bird sat lower in the water than Pochard.

Plumage

Head, neck and chest a deep red/chestnut, identical to Pochard but lacking the white chinspot of that species. Narrow dark brown collar at base of neck. Back, rump, tail and upper tail coverts - dark brown. Sides of body and flanks - light grey/brown giving similar pattern to Tufted Duck. Undertail coverts - very pale grey, rest of underparts white.

In flight it showed a distinct wing bar, with white on the secondaries darkening slightly onto the primaries but extending right across them. Although very distinct the wing bar was not as pronounced as in Tufted Duck due to the grey/brown of the rest of the wing failing to provide contrast, especially on the primaries.

Bare Parts

Iris-amber. Legs and feet - very dark grey or black. Bill - blue/grey (slightly darker than Pochard) with dark slate nail, tip and down centre.

The bird associated only with Pochard, with which its habits appeared identical, including the throwing back of the head in display. The bird was only seen close to on 31st January but was seen in flight with Pochard on several occasions to 13th February; it could be picked out easily at great distance due to the conspicuous wing bar.

T.BARKER

ABERRANT CURLEW AT WHELDRAKE INGS

Whilst watching a party of 10 Curlew on the edge of the pool at Wheldrake Ings on 11th August 1982 I noticed one bird slightly paler than the others. On closer observation, however, further unusual features were noted.

The mantle was noticeably paler than the other birds in the party (both adults and immatures). The head pattern was similar to that of a Whimbrel, though less striking, with pale eye stripe and crown stripe. The breast streaking was much sparser than on the accompanying birds and was restricted to the upper breast, leaving the lower breast and belly pure white. In flight it could be distinguished by its darker and more contrasting wing tips.

The bird was thought to be an adult as the bill length appeared equal to that of the other adults in the party (the immatures having noticeably shorter bills). It appeared identical in overall size to the other birds. The bird gave typical Curlew alarm calls and was identical in behaviour to the others.

The bird was seen on three other dates up to and including the 16th August and was also seen by S.James.

T.BARKER

CLASSIFIED LIST

The sequence and scientific nomenclature used is that of Professor K.H.Vous, 1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species. The three figures which follow the scientific name of many species indicate breeding status and refer to the number of tetrads in which breeding was considered possible, probable and confirmed respectively. The figures refer only to the 59 tetrads surveyed for the Atlas Project so far and not to all breeding records.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 4, 3, 2

Bred at Riccall Ings, Wiganthorpe, Brandsby, Castle Howard, Ellerton, Aughton and Strensall Common where three pairs reared eight young.

Up to four recorded mainly in the winter months from Stearsby, Dringhouses Pond, the river Wharfe at Bolton Percy and Wharfe Ings, the river Ouse at Poppleton, Newburgh Priory, the Pocklington Canal, Aughton, Bubwith, Anchor Plain and Wheldrake Ings where there were six on the 26th March.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* 1, 1, 3

Generally a late breeding season mainly due to low spring water levels. Breeding recorded from Heworth Pond where two young were reared, Dringhouses Pond (one young), Castle Howard (only three young), Sand Mutton Pond (two young), Wiganthorpe Pond and Selby (three young).

The largest numbers were, again, in spring at Castle Howard where the maxima were 19 on 14th March, 28 on 27 April and 21 on 7th May.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One at Riccall Ings on 13th February. A bird at Wheldrake Ings on 20th March was considered to be of the race *P.c.sinensis* (T.M.C.), where there was a different bird of the nominate race on 24th and 25th. There were two at Wheldrake Ings on 12/13th April and an immature on 10th October. Singles at Riccall Ings on 21st November and at Bubwith on 18th/19th December.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

One at Askham Bog on 15th February (T.M.C.) and one at Wheldrake Ings on 14th November (T.B., A.F. et al). Fifth and sixth records for the area.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* 17, 0, 0

Bred in the Lower Derwent (11 pairs) and probably near the Wharfe/Ouse confluence.

Usually singles recorded throughout the year from all districts with up to 16 in the Lower Derwent. The largest number were at Castle Howard, monthly maxima were 13 in May, 17 in June, 32 in July, 30 in August, 24 in September, 10 in October and two in November (D.W., T.B.).

Four adults were at Castle Howard on 14th December.

GREY GOOSE Sp *Anser Sp.*

150 flew north-west over York on 13th February.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Three adults of the nominate race, *A.f.fabalis* present since November 1981 were in the Lower Derwent throughout January (T.B., T.M.C., A.F. et al). A skein of 15 flew into Wheldrake Ings from the north on 17th February, 11 of which flew off shortly afterwards with the other four remaining all day (T.B., R.S.). A single was then seen regularly until 13th April (T.B., D.W., R.S. et al) with two at Ellerton on 14th February (G.S., B.C.).

First and second records for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

PINK FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One at Low Catton on 10th January. Up to three at Wheldrake Ings between January and May with five on 29th January and 80 north west on 13th February (T.B., R.S.). Up to two at Castle Howard between March and May.

Forty flew east towards Howden on 20th November (F.W.O.), 13 at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd with one there on 27th and eight on 9th December.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

More records than usual. Three birds showing characteristics of the nominate race *A.a.albifrons* were present at Wheldrake Ings from 10th January to 24th (D.W., T.B. et al). An immature of the same race was present there from 12th to 16th May, on 8th June, 19th to 21st September and on 20th November by which time it had acquired some barring on its' belly. The same bird was at Castle Howard on 20th and 30th October (T.B., D.B. et al). Two adults at Wheldrake Ings on 5th December (T.B.) and at Wharfe Ings on 24th (D.W.).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

1, 4, 3

Bred at Castle Howard and several sites in Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal, the first goslings being noted at Wheldrake Ings on 8th May.

The main concentrations were again in Lower Derwent and at Castle Howard and continue to increase. Monthly maxima were: 230 in Lower Derwent on 31st January, 500 north over York University on 13th February with 164 at Castle Howard and 218 in Lower Derwent on 18th, the total of 382 grounded birds being the highest on record. 77 in Lower Derwent on 14th March with 172 at Castle Howard next day; 36 there on 12th April, 52 on 30th May, 120 on 13th June, 134 on 31st July, 148 on 15th August, 89 at Wheldrake Ings on 19th September, 115 on 21st October, 122 on 14th November, 104 in Lower Derwent on 12th December when 126 were at Castle Howard.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

A pair of blue phase birds held territory at Wheldrake Ings and copulation was noted during March and April. The first time breeding has been attempted in Yorkshire.

Records largely relate to the same pair, which were seen at York University, Castle Howard and Wheldrake Ings from January to May, at Castle Howard from 8th June to 15th September and at York University from 19th September to 30th October. A single blue phase bird arrived at Wheldrake Ings on 1st December and remained until year end. (T.B., T.E.D. et al).

In addition to the blue phase birds, an immature white phase bird was at Castle Howard from January to March with an adult there from February to March. (D.W.).

None of these birds have their origins from Flamingo Park Zoo as they have never kept free flying Snow Geese, although the staff there had recorded two blue phase birds on a number of occasions during the summer, (per T.B.).

Third, fourth and fifth records for the area. All published with the escape proviso.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

5, 1, 8

Bred at Escrick, Selby, York University, Heworth, Stearsby, Wiganthorpe, Castle Howard, Lower Derwent (several sites) and probably at Newburgh Priory. The first goslings were at Wheldrake Ings on 26th April.

The main concentrations were again at York University, Castle Howard and the Lower Derwent. Maxima were: 200 at Lower Derwent in January and February, 249 at Castle Howard on 30th August and 240 there on 12th December when 122 were in Lower Derwent, totalling 362 the largest number ever recorded.

An easily recognisable leucistic individual was recorded both at Castle Howard and Wheldrake Ings on numerous occasions, indicating the amount of cross-over between the two sites.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Up to four were recorded in the Lower Derwent between January and April. Up to 40 at Castle Howard from February to March with 51 on 7th March (D.W., R.S., T.B.). Three at Wheldrake Ings on 8th June and at Castle Howard on 27th, where there were 27 on 11th July, seven on 1st August, 45 on 9th October with 11 on 12th. The maximum was 53 at Castle Howard on 18th December. (T.B.).

There is little doubt that these birds originate from Flamingo Park Zoo where there is a free flying flock of about 60 birds that disperses in winter and returns in spring when a few pairs breed. This is further borne out by the presence of Barnacle X Bar-headed Goose hybrids, *B.leucopsis* X *Anser indicus*, that are with the flock and have been recorded at both Wheldrake Ings and Castle Howard.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Two spent a fortnight grazing with cattle at Castle Howard in mid-November (per

T.B.).

Published with the escape proviso.

Fourth record for the area.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

A pair at Wheldrake Ings from 17th to 26th August (D.W., D.B., T.E.D. et al).

Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

Published with the escape proviso.

Third record for the area.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

0, 5, 3

Bred at York University and at several sites in Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal. The first young were at Wheldrake Ings on 6th June.

Mainly recorded from the Lower Derwent where the maxima were 20 on 31st January, 26 on 14th February, 36 on 14th March, 44 on 17th April, 28 on 8th May and 13 on 18th June with four immatures remaining until 26th. One immature was present at Wheldrake Ings on 7th and 8th November with a female at Bubwith on 26th December and at Wheldrake Ings on 29th.

Away from the Lower Derwent, recorded as follows: 4 south at Stillingfleet on 23rd January, a pair at Acaster Malbis on 21st and 24th March, the University pair arrived on 31st. A pair were seen regularly in Naburn S.W. area from mid-March to mid-May. A pair at Castle Howard on 7th/8th May and at Eskrick on 8th. An immature at Wiganthorpe Pond on 8th August and 15 immatures flew W.N.W. over Dringhouses Pond on 23rd. Two were last recorded at York University on 29th.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

0, 0, 1

Bred at Wheldrake Ings with three pairs present during the breeding season. A female with one fluffy duckling on 11th July and a pair with five flying young from 22nd July to 5th August.

The main concentrations were from the Lower Derwent where the monthly maxima were: 6,500 in January, 4,400 in February, 3,898 in March declining to 1,500 by end of month, 800 in early April, 150 by mid-month with up to nine present until September, 139 in October, 900 in November and 2,000 in December.

Up to 25 recorded in winter months at Kexby, Riccall, Kirkby Wharfe, Castle Howard, Red House, Dringhouses Pond, Skipwith, Bolton Percy, Poppleton, Wharfe Ings and Naburn.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

1, 3, 0

Up to four birds in Wheldrake Ings area in January, with two drakes and a duck there on 7th February and a pair at Hagg Bridge on 19th. Up to 12 at Wheldrake Ings in March, two pairs in April with up to five between May and September. A pair at Hagg Bridge throughout May and June. No proof of breeding was obtained.

Three at Castle Howard on 30th October and four at Wheldrake Ings on 31st remaining to 9th November with one until 13th.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

6, 3, 4

Monthly maxima in Lower Derwent were 4,450 in January, 4,000 February, 1,661 in March, 200 in August, 400 in September, 100 in October, 550 in November and 387 in December.

Smaller numbers, up to 50, were recorded mainly in the winter months from Kexby, Upper Helmsley Common, Clifton Ings, Stearsby Pond, Acaster Malbis, Dringhouses Pond, Skipwith Common, Riccall, Naburn Sewage Works and Bielby, with 55 at Castle Howard on 27th August, 119 on 27th September, 102 on 11th October and 65 on 3rd November. 300 at Wharfe Ings on 24th December and 250 at Riccall Ings on 27th.

A drake showing characteristics of the Nearctic sub-species *A.c.carolinensis*, colloquially known as Green-winged Teal, at Wheldrake Ings on 7th November with two there on 8th. (T.B.).

Submitted to British Birds Rarities Committee. Second record for the area.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

8,13,30

Monthly maxima from the two main winter haunts are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Derwent	6,500	1,520	8,147	600	600	434	1,559
Castle Howard	102	195	42	856	502	737	1,022

Smaller numbers of up to 200 were recorded in the winter months from: Newburgh Priory, Kexby, York University, Clifton Ings, Dringhouses Pond, Acaster Malbis and the River Ouse at Bishopthorpe with 247 there on 23rd December and 250 at Wharfe Ings on the following day.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

0, 1, 0

A duck at Kirkby Wharfe on 16th January. In the Lower Derwent up to 78 in January, 60 in February and 12 in March with two pairs remaining until 11th April. A female at Wheldrake Ings on 1st August was joined by a drake and three immatures on 29th with singles at Castle Howard and Newburgh Priory on 30th, 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 28th September, seven at Castle Howard on 2nd October with nine at Wheldrake Ings next day, six there on 7th November and 10 at Bubwith on 28th with up to 20 in the Lower Derwent to the year end. Two ducks at Sand Hutton on 11th December, a drake at Poppleton on 17th and a duck at Wharfe Ings on 24th.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

A pair at Wheldrake Ings from 27th to 28th March was the only record (T.B., D.B., T.E.D.). The worst showing since 1977.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

0, 2, 3

Bred at several sites in Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal and possibly at Skipwith Common.

The largest counts were in the Lower Derwent with maxima of 54 in February, 150 in March, 20 in September and October and 30 in November and December.

Records from elsewhere were: a drake at Naburn Sewage Works from 19th to 24th April, up to 20 at Dringhouses Pond, 26 at Castle Howard on 21st September and one on the River Ouse at Poppleton on 6th December.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

A female, possibly a first year bird, at Wheldrake Ings from 8th to 10th November (T.B.). Although published with the escape proviso, this bird presents good credentials for being a genuine vagrant, coinciding as it did with a massive movement of wildfowl on the Yorkshire coast and several other records of this species in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

Third record for the area.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

1, 0, 1

Bred at Wheldrake Ings where a duck was escorting a single duckling on 31st May (D.W.).

Large numbers in the Lower Derwent, mainly at Aughton/Ellerton coincided with a short-lived deep flood in late January with 508 on 17th, 985 on 24th and 1,350 on 31st. Up to 100 at Wheldrake Ings in February and 190 in March. The only other notable count being 88 there on 31st December.

Away from the Lower Derwent up to 30 were recorded, chiefly in winter months, at: Castle Howard, Naburn, Middlethorpe, Wiganthorpe, Stearsby, Brandsby, Riccall, Kirkby Wharfe; 46 at Wharfe Ings on 26th December, 123 at Naburn on 28th and 47 at Dringhouses Pond on 29th.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

2, 8, 4

Bred at Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal (several sites), Strensall Common, Wiganthorpe, Stearsby, Newburgh, Brandsby and Riccall Ings. Probably bred at Skipwith Common.

Maxima were: 120 in Lower Derwent on 9th January, 185 on 31st, 150 on 7th February and 57 on 20th March. Up to 30 largely recorded in the early part of the year at Acaster Malbis, Kexby, Dringhouses Pond, Castle Howard, Red House,

Anchor Plain, Bishopthorpe, Naburn Sewage Works and Skipwith Common.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

A duck at Dringhouses Pond on 30th January left at 1230 hrs. (D.W.) and arrived at Wheldrake Ings at 1315 hrs. (T.B., R.S.) where it remained until 6th February (D.W., A.R.P.). Two first year drakes at Wheldrake Ings on 4th September (T.E.D., E.B.B.)

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

A female on the River Ouse at Poppleton on 29th December (DA).

Second record for the area, the first being a bird shot at Bubwith in winter 1965/66.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Two female birds of the year at Stearsby from 27th October to year end (P.H. et al). An immature at Riccall on 27th November (P.P.). There was an influx of this species into inland England in autumn 1982.

First and second records for the area.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Eleven drakes resting on Castle Howard lake on 20th June (D.W.) were presumably on a moult migration to the west coast.

Seventh record for the area.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

The largest numbers were again in the Lower Derwent with maxima of 36 on 10th January, 18 on 23rd February, 56 on 14th March, 58 at Wheldrake on 24th with 45 there on 1st April, when copulation was noted, reducing to three females on 16th which remained to 22nd. The first returning was a redhead at Wheldrake on 7th November increasing to seven by year end.

Elsewhere up to five in winter months at Kexby, Castle Howard, Dringhouses Pond, Bolton Percy, Wharfe Ings, Naburn, Stamford Bridge, Riccall, Stearsby, Brandsby, Wiganthorpe, Kirkby Wharfe and Bishopthorpe.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

Two drakes at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd January (D.W., T.B. et al) with a drake and a duck there on 10th with the drake remaining on the following day (T.B., G.S. et al) and recorded again on 23rd (T.B.). A redhead at Aughton seen regularly from 24th January to late February (A.F., T.E.D., E.B.B. et al) paying occasional visits to Wheldrake where it was last seen on 27th (T.M.C.).

A single redhead at Wheldrake Ings on 5th December (T.B., S.S.).

Fifth to eighth records for the area. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

More records this year following an increasing trend. A female at Riccall on 20th January (P.P.), a drake at Castle Howard on 17th and 19th February (A.R.P., D.W.) and a duck regularly at Wheldrake Ings from 20th March to 14th April (T.B. et al). Two redheads at Wheldrake Ings on 24th October (B.C., G.S.).

Seventh to tenth records for the area.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

More records than usual this year. In the first winter period records, mainly from Lower Derwent but also Stamford Bridge, River Ouse at Poppleton, Ryther, Riccall, Castle Howard, Stillingfleet Beck and River Wharfe at Oxtun.

Ten bird days in January mainly in Derwent, maximum four at Stamford Bridge on 10th. 122 bird days in February with 17 at Ryther on 6th and ten to nineteen at Wheldrake Ings regularly in second half of the month. 97 bird days in March, maximum 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th where a female remained to 14th April. 14 at Oxtun on 3rd April. An exceptionally late record of three females at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd May.

The first returning birds were five red-heads at Wheldrake Ings on 15th October

with two there on 24th and a single on 8th with a drake on 9th when there were two red-heads on the Ouse at Poppleton and eight at Hagg Bridge on 11th. A drake at Poppleton on 7th December, a single at Dringhouses Pond from 18th to 21st, a drake at Wharfe Ings on 23rd with a red-head there next day. A drake on the Wharfe at Oxtun on 25th, a female at Wheldrake Ings on 29th and 31st and a pair at Newburgh Priory on 30th.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Two drakes and a duck at Wheldrake Ings on 10th May (P.M., T.M.C., D.A.R., T.B.).

Third record for the area of a species which is increasing rapidly in the county. Accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

HARRIER sp *Circus Sp*

A ringtail at Bielby on 7th June (P.D.).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

An adult female at Wheldrake Ings on 8th and 9th April (A.C., T.B., B.W., D.A.R.) was seen to take a Coot, *Fulica atra*. An immature male going through its final moult into adult plumage was seen regularly in the Lower Derwent between Wheldrake and Menthorpe from 6th July to 4th August (T.B. et al). It was seen following hay turners and balers and capturing disturbed small mammals on a number of occasions. A cream-crown, lacking a pale forewing, was seen hunting over a stubble field at Wheldrake on 25th August (T.B.) and a very similar marked bird which may have been the same at Cawood on 29th (D.B.).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Several records of a male, probably the same bird, at Aughton on 12th January (A.F.), Hagg Bridge on 23rd and 8th February (TB), North Duffield Carrs on 28th (F.W.D.) and again on 14th March (A.F.) when it was also seen at Aughton (E.B.B., B.C., T.E.D., G.S.) and at Menthorpe on 31st (A.G.H., A.H.).

A ringtail at Flaxton on 25th September (T.B.) and an adult male at Wheldrake Ings on 19th/20th November (T.B. et al).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

One at York University on 7th January (S.C.) and 28th March (T.E.D. et al). One displaying on 7th April and one nearby on 13th July (localities and observers names withheld). A female in York City Centre on 19th April was mobbed by corvids and appeared tired and had plumage in poor condition, possibly an escapee (T.E.D.). One flew west over Milford Common on 11th October (D.B.).

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

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

28, 9, 6

Breeding proved at Fulford, Elvington (two sites), Dunnington Common, Bishop Wood, Aughton and Sutton-on-Derwent. Recorded in a further 37 tetrads in the breeding season. Recorded from 41 sites outside the breeding season.

There is some indication that the species is becoming more suburban, being seen regularly at Heworth (J.H.L., S.C.) through the spring and up to three at Dringhouses during November and December (D.W.). An adult male dropped onto a fledged Red Jungle Fowl, *Gallus gallus*, chick in front of a class of children at Joseph Rowntree School, York. It was chased off by the mother and a teacher - the chick was relatively unscathed.

There was an indication of some migratory movement in mid-October with an increase in records.

BUZZARD Sp *Buteo/Pernis sp*

One soaring over Riccall on 6th June (G.S., B.C.) and one north-east over York University on 8th November (per T.E.D.).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

One near Elvington on 12th April (A.C.). One flew south over Wheldrake Ings on 12th September (D.B., T.E.D., E.B.B., T.B.) and was mobbed by corvids.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

26, 11, 11

Breeding proved at Brandsby, Grimston, Dunnington Common, Bielby, Laytham, Wheldrake, Elvington, Sutton-on-Derwent and three pairs around Naburn.

A male was calling from York Minster on 22nd and 24th April. A bird at Nether Poppleton was chasing small passerines. Up to eight in Lower Derwent during the winter months.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Continues to occur in good numbers. All records of singles, at Bishopthorpe Marsh on 10th January, dead at Brayton on 29th, Naburn Sewage Works during the first week of February, Upper Helmsley Common on 2nd. York City Centre on 13th March, Wheldrake Ings on 12th April, An immature male at Bielby from 20th August to 5th September, Stillingfleet on 24th October, Catterton and Anchor Plain on 31st, Hambleton on 5th November, Hagg Bridge on 18th, Anchor Plain on 8th December, Stearsby on 11th, Storwood on 19th and Wharfe Ings on 24th.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

One at Stearsby on 2nd August (P.H.) and an immature at Wheldrake Ings on 30th September (TB).

Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Single immatures at Wheldrake Ings on 27th August (G.W.) and 23rd October (T.B.).

Second and third records for the area. Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* 13, 17, 12

The largest covies were: 97 at Langwith on 22nd August (probably fresh from release pens.eds.), 21 at Melbourne on 14th September, 13, at Stillington on 5th December and 17 at North Duffield on 29th.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* 9, 12, 18

Notwithstanding the fact that it was recorded in 66% of tetrads and is still regarded as "common" in SE 57, 67, and 77 (P.H.), this species is undoubtedly becoming thinly distributed, particularly in the lower lying parts of the area. Atlas workers found it heavily outnumbered by the preceding species. Covies were generally much smaller this year and despite the comments from the northern fifth of the area there were very many fewer records from elsewhere. The largest groups were: six at Terrington on 24th September and ten at Poppleton on 23rd November.

Results from the Common Birds Census shows a national decline of 23% in 1982 to the lowest level ever recorded. Observers are urged to submit all records for this species.

A bird showing characteristics of the extremely rare "montana" morph was seen at Button Common from late September to the year end. It was accompanied by six or seven normal birds. "The head, neck and upper chest were pale orange-buff, the lower chest and belly were dark chestnut and the whole of the back appeared very pale from a distance due to heavy white or buffish mottlings and flecks" (T.B.). See British Birds Vol.59: pp.15-22.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* 2, 4, 0

A shooting syndicate at Melbourne have "put down" Quail in 1978, '79 and '80 amounting to 180 birds in all. It seems unlikely that any of these have survived to bias the following records.

Three at Bubwith on 22nd May (B.C., G.S.), up to three calling at Hagg Bridge through June (T.B.) with one at Askham Bryan (P.O.) and two at Brighton Airfield (J.B.) through June and July. One at Bielby on 16th July (P.O.) and at North Duffield from 24th to 30th (A.F., T.E.D., E.B.B.). Five at Hagg Bridge on 4th September and two on 8th (T.B.).

After only six birds recorded in the ten years 1971 to 1980 there have now been at least thirty one in the last two years.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* 10, 18, 21

An all white bird at Catterton on 19th April and an all white cock, except the head which was normally coloured, at Storwood on 22nd May. 137 in a stubble field near Bossall on 30th August were probably fresh from release pens. Another all white bird at Castle Howard on 18th December.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

A male at Anchor Plain on 8th May (T.E.D., E.B.B.) and another near Melbourne Airfield from early September to year end (T.B.). Second and third records for the area.

Published with the escape proviso.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* 1, 3, 0

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd January, dead at Storwood on 13th, at York University on 16th February, Wheldrake Ings on 20th, at York University on 5th March, Wheldrake Ings on 26th with two at Strensall on 28th. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd April and 7th May and at Anchor Plain on 8th.

An immature was seen regularly at Wheldrake Ings throughout September. Singles at Castle Howard on 9th and 11th October, at Wheldrake Ings on 7th and 14th November, at Naburn S.W. on 9th, dead in Selby on 19th and Fulford Ings on 25th/26th. Two at Hagg Bridge on 16th December. One at Anchor Plain on 28th was fighting with a Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

One calling at Aughton Ings on 12th July (T.E.D., E.B.B.).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* 12, 7, 38

An almost ubiquitous breeding species recorded in 97% of tetrads surveyed. The first clutch was at Bielby on 13th April.

Maxima were: 35 at Elvington on 17th January, 51 at Storwood and 21 at Low Catton on 31st. 35 at Kexby on 21st April. Up to 38 near Elvington throughout October, 29 at Newburgh Priory on 20th November and 20 on the Foss at Haxby throughout December.

COOT *Fulica atra* 2, 5, 17

More widespread as a breeding species than hitherto realised with records from 41% of tetrads. A poorer breeding season reported at Dringhouses Pond where only three pairs bred. The first clutch was at Melbourne on 16th April. A pair began building a nest platform at Dringhouses Pond during a mild spell in December.

Maximum flock counts were: 120 at Wheldrake Ings on 12th January, 137 at Castle Howard on 16th and 200 at Aughton on 24th.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* 2,12,0

Seven or eight pairs probably bred along Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal. Signs of colonisation of the Ouse above and below York with birds present in the breeding season at Kirkby Wharfe, Cawood, Poppleton and Red House Reservoir.

The first returning birds - three on Elvington Airfield on 10th February are the earliest on record. Single figures in Lower Derwent from then until 17 on 14th March, the largest arrival on record. Birds were displaying and copulating by late March. Five were at Red House Reservoir on 10th March. Breeding success was minimal due to bad weather in May/June, no young being seen this year. Breeding areas were deserted early, by late June/early July with the last bird at Wheldrake Ings on 19th July.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* 0, 3, 2

Breeding birds were noted as follows: a pair at Whitmoor Mine raised at least one young. Low water levels at Castle Howard induced two pairs to attempt breeding, one pair probably laid but no young resulted probably due to rising water levels later in the season. A pair laid three eggs near S.Milford which were destroyed by agricultural operations. A pair probably bred at Escrick. A pair held territory in Lower Derwent but were unsuccessful.

The first arrival was a displaying bird at Aughton Ings on 14th March followed by another displaying at Naburn S.W. on 31st. The main arrival was from mid-April. Up to three at Wheldrake Ings from 17th April to 9th June and a juvenile from 11th to 15th August. No other records away from breeding areas.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

An early arrival with birds in Lower Derwent as follows: Singles on 24th and 28th February, 13th, 14th and 26th March with three on 28th; three on 8th and 13th April with singles on 23rd and 24th; two on 12th May and one on 9th June. One

on 12th August, two on 29th and an immature from 30th August to 5th September.

Elsewhere, singles at Castle Howard on 15th April, 16th May and 23rd May.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius marinellus*

One with a Golden Plover flock at Eskrick on 20th April (T.B.). Third record for the area, the previous two were in May 1970 and May 1971.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

50 at Dringhouses on 5th January but otherwise none until the severe weather abated when numbers built up rapidly. In Lower Derwent 21 on 23rd, 280 on 24th increasing to 2,165 by 30th. Up to 1,200 in Lower Derwent in February with 400 at Rosscarrs on 10th, 150 at Bishopthorpe on 12th and 133 at Low Catton on 21st. Up to 1,200 in Lower Derwent in March declined to 635 by 26th and 42 by 1st April. Numbers increased in mid-April as northern birds moved through with 250 at Poppleton on 11th, 450 in Lower Derwent on 13th, 580 at Eskrick on 20th with 450 there on 22nd, 900 at Brind on 24th, 98 at Poppleton and 178 in Lower Derwent on 25th and the last were 18 at Wheldrake Ings on 26th.

First of the autumn were three S.W. at Wheldrake Ings on 10th July. Passage flocks seen passing over and making short stays continuously until late September.

Larger counts were 50 in Lower Derwent on 17th July, 73 there on 27th, 142 on 1st August, 78 on 8th when 50 were at Cawood, 125 at Cawood on 29th, 150 at Kelfield on 2nd September, 300 at Stillingfleet on 26th and 110 in Lower Derwent on 30th. An increase in October, 250 at Naburn Sewage Works on 2nd increased to 500 on 5th; 450 in Lower Derwent on 3rd increased to 1,350 by 15th, 300 at Seaton Ross on 10th and 500 at Acaster Airfield on 16th. The usual winter flocks failed to appear however, perhaps due to the lack of wet margins or the very mild weather. Numbers fell with 300 at Cawood on 10th November, 163 at Elvington Airfield on 15th, 395 in Lower Derwent and 450 at Acaster Malbis on 5th December, 200 in Lower Derwent on 27th and 420 there on 29th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 26th January, one there on 4th August and one at Anchor Plain on 28th and 29th November. An occurrence pattern has yet to emerge for this species. Birds have occurred in all months except July.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

11,19,19

Scarce until the mild weather at the end of January, with 100 at Dringhouses on 5th the only record until flocks of 250 in Lower Derwent and near York on 30th. Numbers in Lower Derwent then built up rapidly with 1,400 on 31st and 5,200 on 6th February. Numbers declined slowly thereafter with 4,075 on 14th, 3,300 on 8th March and 1,700 on 14th and then rapidly with 150 on 6th April and 61 on 14th, the last spring flock.

The wet late spring weather had a dramatic effect on breeding success and a flock of 200 had re-appeared at Wheldrake Ings by 8th May. Similar flocks of presumably failed breeding birds were present at various sites throughout the area from then until early July. Numbers then increased as successful birds and their young formed flocks. In Lower Derwent 250 on 11th July increased to 500 on 13th, 680 on 22nd and 1,850 on 23rd declining to 1,500 on 25th, 650 on 3rd August and 34 on 14th. Numbers throughout the area were then generally low with only occasional flocks seen - 300 at Stillington on 21st, 250 at Cawood on 31st, 350 at Castle Howard on 11th September and 300 in Lower Derwent on 25th. Numbers increased in October but no large numbers were seen until late December, probably due to the mild weather. Large counts were 850 in Lower Derwent on 15th October, 430 at Anchor Plain on 29th November, 600 at Acaster Malbis on 5th December, 1,500 between Acaster Malbis and Wharfe Mouth on 24th and 2,000 in Lower Derwent on 29th and 31st. Smaller flocks of 200 to 400 noted from Bishopthorpe, Acaster Airfield, Naburn Sewage Works, Haxby, Flaxton and Oxtun.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 9th August was on Elvington Airfield next morning (T.B.). First record for the area. Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 10th August (T.E.D.), 18th September (T.M.C.) and 27th September (T.B., T.W.). Eight to tenth records for the area.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Recorded for the third successive year. A bird in summer plumage at Castle Howard on 30th May (I.B., D.W.). Third record for the area. Accepted by Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

BAIRDS SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii*

One at Castle Howard on 15th May (D.W.). First record for the area and only the second Nearctic wader so far recorded. Submitted to British Birds Rarities Committee.

KNOT *Calidris canuta*

Two at Aughton Ings on 14th March (T.E.D., E.B.B.). Singles at Castle Howard on 8th/9th August (D.W.) and 2nd (R.G.P.), 8th/9th September (T.B.).

Sixth to ninth records for the area.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

A sudden return to Lower Derwent in late January with two on 9th, 30 on 17th and 510 on 31st. Large counts thereafter were 208 on 28th February, 278 on 24th March and 360 on 26th and 85 on 3rd April. Low numbers then present with two on 4th May the last. Elsewhere, one at Riccall on 10th January, two at Cawood on 28th February, four at Castle Howard on 15th April and three there on 16th May.

First returning birds were singles at Castle Howard on 27th June and Wheldrake Ings on 13th July with two at Wheldrake on 23rd. Up to four in Lower Derwent in early August with one or two almost daily throughout September, up to three from October to mid-November, then 12 on 28th November, 65 on 11th December and 49 on 26th. At Castle Howard one on 6th August, three on 30th and one on 20th October. Two at Wharfe Ings on 24th December.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

All records from Lower Derwent except two at Riccall Ings on 22nd August and a single at Anchor Plain on 28th November with two there the next day.

In Lower Derwent singles on two days in January, up to six on 10 days in February, up to 15 (mainly males) throughout March. In April up to 24 at one site where lekking was noted on one date, up to 15 at another site and 13 at a third site on one day only. There was thought to be no interchange of birds between the first two sites suggesting that around 40 birds were present. The very dry early spring did not induce birds to stay and only occasional single males and females were noted in May and June.

Autumn passage was again very poor with a single on 23rd July and up to two from 25th August to 5th September (11 bird days). Wintering birds were two on 14th November, singles on 20th November, 25th and 26th December with five on 27th.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce at both ends of the year due to abnormally severe and mild conditions respectively.

In January singles at Askham Bog Tip on 2nd, Naburn Sewage Works from 11th to 15th and University on 13th. Four at Fulford Ings on 24th March and one at Wheldrake Ings on 25th April. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd August and 12th September were extremely early and may refer to the same individual. One at Fulford Ings on 8th December was the only year end record.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

4, 8, 9

Counts were very low. Only one count of significance from Fulford Ings (normally a stronghold for this species) of 29 on 13th March, these presumably passage birds. Monthly maxima for Lower Derwent were 19 on 24th January, 88 on 24th February, 108 on 14th March, 59 at Aughton including 19 drumming on 15th April, 15 on 22nd May, five on 28th June, 8 on 30th July, 21 on 12th August, 31 on 1st September, 40 on 5th October, 25 on 10th November and 26 on 31st December, all at Wheldrake Ings except for the April count.

Ten pairs bred in the Naburn Marsh area. For breeding in Lower Derwent see p.11.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

3, 9, 3

Breeding season records from the usual sites. A nest (C/4) at Bishop Wood on 1st August was late (D.W.).

Outside the breeding season significant records were: eight at Barlow Grange on 29th January, an obvious influx of migrants in late October/early November with singles at Fulford Ings on 31st, dead at Huntington School on 3rd, dead on roadside in Tang Hall Lane, York on 8th and at Wheldrake Ings on 14th. One in a York garden on 3rd December and five at Hagg Bridge on 16th.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Two flew south at Bubwith on 12th July (T.E.D., E.B.B.). Tenth record for the area.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 12th April were the first with singles on 16th, 20th and 24th. In May two there on 3rd, five on 4th with one or two on ten dates to 20th with one on 7th June. 27 bird days. One at Walmgate Stray on 11th May.

A poor autumn passage with singles at Wheldrake Ings on 24th July, Castle Howard on 6th August, Wheldrake on 15th, south in darkness at Fulford Ings on 18th and at Millfield Lane, York on 30th September.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

10, 15, 10

Breeding widely reported from the usual sites throughout the area. Few counts received but 10+ pair at Laytham was noteworthy. See p.11 for Lower Derwent counts.

Continues to increase in the early part of the year. In January singles at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd, Moor Monkton on 19th and in full song at Poppleton on 22nd. In February one at Poppleton on 5th, in Lower Derwent two on 6th increased to five on 7th, 23 on 13th, 25 on 14th and 50 on 28th. High numbers present in Lower Derwent continuously from March to late April. Larger counts were 48 on 2nd March, 144 on 4th of which 114 left northwards, 84 on 9th, 75 on 14th, 98 on 18th, 50 on 26th, 28 on 8th April, 40 on 13th and 53 on 22nd.

Many hundreds, if not several thousand, must have passed through in spring passage. Co-ordinated counts would no doubt reveal higher numbers still.

First post breeding flock was 22 west over Wheldrake Ings on 26th June. Breeding success locally was minimal and most birds had left by early July. Autumn passage in Lower Derwent was very light, presumably reflecting similar lack of success elsewhere. Maximum flock was 20 on 12th August. Last autumn birds were three on 7th September with a single on 13th November.

Only 139 bird days in August and six bird days in September compared with 310 bird days in September alone in 1981.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Singles in March at Storwood from 1st to 4th, at Wheldrake Ings on 13th and Aughton on 28th may have referred to one individual. One at Wheldrake Ings on 14th May. In autumn singles at Castle Howard on 10th July and Wheldrake on 23rd August and 1st September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

4, 11, 5

Bred at usual sites (see previous reports) and probably at Red House Reservoir and Poppleton but success very limited. See p.11 for Lower Derwent breeding counts.

A further increase in records for the early part of the year in Lower Derwent. Five on 16th January increased to 11 next day with a major arrival of 57 on 31st of which 55 were at Aughton. In February 55 on 6th/7th declined to eight by month end. 36 on 14th March with 76 on 23rd (of which 60 were at North Duffield Carrs) and 89 on 26th. Birds were copulating on 27th. Co-ordinated counts would probably reveal even higher numbers. By early April most birds were paired up and holding territory with no indication of further passage. The only chicks seen were two at Wheldrake Ings on 4th June and two at North Duffield Carrs on 11th. Birds apparently left the Lower Derwent rapidly in mid-late June, with a single on 1st July the last until passage birds appeared in late July with three on 23rd and one or two until 2nd August and one on 5th September. Wintering birds returned in November with two on 14th increasing to 11 on 28th and 13 by year end.

Significant records from elsewhere were six at Fulford Ings on 10th January, two at Elvington Airfield on 18th February, two at Cawood on 4th July, two at Poppleton on 4th October and singles at Anchor Plain on 29th November, Red House Reservoir on 19th December and Wharfe Ings on 26th.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

A poor spring passage with singles at Bubwith on 4th March, Wheldrake Ings on 28th April and 13th May, Hagg Bridge on 14th, Storward, Wheldrake Ings and Castle Howard on 16th, Castle Howard on 1st and 5th June with one at Wheldrake Ings on 4th.

In contrast, a good autumn passage in Lower Derwent with 83 bird days. Records mainly from Wheldrake Ings as follows: four west on 24th July with two on 28th. Up to seven (4th) throughout August. Singles on six dates in September to 18th with two on 11th. One on 3rd October. Elsewhere, one at Castle Howard on 10th/11th July, two south at Cawood on 2nd August, four at Red House Reservoir on 8th with two on 15th and one on 29th. Singles at South Milford on 8th September and Red House Reservoir on 12th with two at Roscarrs on 13th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Too many records to list individually, although fewer than in 1981.

A wintering bird at Escrick Brick Ponds from 1st January to 11th April. Other singles in January and February at Naburn Sewage Works, Hobmoor, Poppleton and Stockton-on-Forest. A small mid-April passage in Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal (six bird days). Singles at Naburn Sewage Works and Skipwith Common on 19th June and Castle Howard on 20th were interesting. Autumn passage began with two at Wheldrake Ings on 12th July and was concentrated mainly in the Lower Derwent. Peak numbers were in mid-August and slowly declined to late October. Highest counts were six at Wigganthorpe Pond on 31st July and the same number at Wheldrake Ings on 5th, 21st and 26th August and at River Foulness near Holme-upon-Spalding Moor on 28th. Very few wintering birds noted at the end of the year, presumably due to the mild weather, with singles at Brandsby on 24th November, Dale Beck on 23rd December and Wheldrake Ings on 29th.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

No spring records but the best ever autumn showing. All records of singles from Wheldrake Ings as follows -daily from 26th July to 1st August, on 7th, 11th, 22nd and 25th August and 7th and 16th September.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* 2, 1, 0

Bred on the Rye south of Salton and probably on Pocklington Canal and on Lower Derwent where birds were present in mid summer.

More records than usual in both spring and autumn. The first and earliest ever was a single at Acaster Malbis on 24th March followed by singles at Castle Howard on 23rd and 29th April. Main passage was in May (27 bird days) with one or two from 4th to 19th at Lower Derwent, Poppleton, Elvington Industrial Estate, Clifton Ings, Red House Reservoir, Stearsby, Castle Howard and Stamford Bridge S.W. The majority (63%) were in the Lower Derwent. The peak was on 16th when a total of eight birds were present at five sites.

First returning birds were a single at Red House Reservoir on 27th June, two at Poppleton on 30th and one at Fulford Ings on 5th July. Seven at Wheldrake Ings on 13th July was unusually early for such a large party. Birds were then present regularly until mid-September with records from Lower Derwent, Stearsby, Castle Howard, Riccall and Naburn S.W. The majority (75%) were in Lower Derwent with six on 5th August and five on 16th and 17th as maxima. A few stragglers moved through in late September with singles at Wheldrake Ings on 27th and 29th and North Duffield Carrs on 3rd October. One at Anchor Plain on 28th November was extraordinarily late and associated with an unusual fall of other waders -Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Ruff and Redshank.

One at Castle Howard on 29th/30th July was feeding on anglers maggots.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

One in full summer plumage at Red House Reservoir on 15th May (D.W.). Eighth record for the area.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

A first winter bird flew north at Wheldrake Ings on 27th September (T.B.).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

A first winter bird at Dringhouses Pond, York on 9th October (DW). Fourth record for the area. Accepted by the YNU Records Committee.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* 10, 1, 3

Bred at Strensall Common - 80 pairs, 34 young fledged Skipwith Common - no counts but usual numbers present, i.e. c.500 pairs.

Roost counts were: Wheldrake Ings, 50,000 on 28th February decreasing to 4,000 by 3rd April with the same number on 13th. Castle Howard: 2,200 on 21st February, 1,500 on 13th March, 800 on 6th August.

Counts of non-roosting birds were: 1,000 at Askham Bog Tip from 1st to 9th January, 3,000 on Clifton Ings on 16th, 1,000 at Aughton on 6th February, 2,000 at North Duffield Carrs on 30th March with 1,350 there on 1st April. 150 immatures summered at Naburn Sewage Works. 120 at Castle Howard on 19th June with 400 (including two juveniles) there on 4th July.

Southerly roosting movements in late afternoon over Wheldrake Ings from early July but very few counts made - 112 on 8th July, 166 on 13th, 84 on 31st August, 550 on 3rd October, 371 on 11th, these being only a fraction of the true numbers as a half hour count on 24th October revealed 440 birds.

450 at Askham Bog Tip on 9th October, 400 at Castle Howard at Castle Howard on 30th, 2,000 at Acaster Malbis floods and 1,000 at Wharfe Ings on 24th December; 1,000 at Naburn Sewage Works on 25th, 800 at Acaster Selby on 26th and 1,200 at Acaster Malbis on 29th.

A bird at University on 19th November was still in full summer plumage.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Up to 1,000 at Askham Bog Tip from 1st to 9th January, 10,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 28th February and 700 at Castle Howard on 13th March. No other early winter counts received except for up to 100 at University in early January and early February.

350 (50% Ad, 50% 1st Y) arrived in small parties at Castle Howard on evening of 17th April, made brief stays and left east and south-east. An interesting movement. Again, evidence of 1st summer birds moving in June and 2nd summer and adult birds in July but rather few records received. 1st S birds noted at three sites from 19th to 27th June. 40 (1st S, 2nd S, Ad) at Castle Howard on 4th July. Mainly adults with some 2nd S at three sites from 6th to 20th July. Juveniles at Castle Howard on 1st (one) and 6th (seven) August. The main influx of adults came from mid-August with 186 at Wheldrake Ings on 16th, 60 at Willitofth on 22nd, 108 at Ashfield School, York on 23rd, 38 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th and 13 returning to University on 25th. Thereafter the only significant counts were 119 at Wheldrake Ings on 20th September, 300 at Clifton Ings on 14th November, 200 at University on 18th November and 200 at Fulford Ings on 25th December.

Observers are urged to count and age all gulls at all times, especially between April and September.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Small numbers (maximum four) at Wheldrake Ings from late January to mid-March with 14 on 21st March. Small numbers mainly at Wheldrake Ings from mid-April to mid-July, maximum nine there on 14th June.

Autumn saw the largest passage yet recorded. Records began to increase in early August with single figure counts of grounded and southward moving birds, then 13 at Willitofth on 22nd, 24 at Ashfield School, York on 23rd/24th, 244 between Howden Station and Sutton-upon-Derwent on 10th September, 47 at Ashfield School on 11th, 14 south at Wheldrake Ings on 12th, 66 south there in two hours on 13th, 60 south on 14th, 62 south on 19th when 500 were following a plough at Melbourne, 40 at Askham Bog Tip on 24th, 18 there on 2nd October with 14 on 10th and 17 on 11th. Most birds had left by mid-October - 110 at Ellerton Tip on 1st declined to eight by 10th. Small flocks were present regularly at Laytham and Brighton throughout August and September and at Castle Howard from early August to mid-October.

The majority of birds were adults. Very few recorded after mid-October with five adults at Naburn Sewage Works on 26th December, the largest party.

One at Wheldrake Ings on 20th March, two at North Duffield Carrs on 9th

September and one at Wheldrake Ings on 19th were characteristic of one of the Scandinavian races, *L.f.intermedius/L.f.fuscus*.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Again very few records received. 250 at Askham Bog Tip on 9th January with the same number at the Wheldrake roost later in the day. 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th January. Thereafter only single figure counts for the rest of the year with the exception of 15 west over Brandsby on 9th August, 22 southwest at Wheldrake Ings on 26th December when 10 were at Naburn Sewage Works and up to 20 at Ellerton Tip in November and December.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

An adult at Aughton on 3rd January (T.M.C.), an immature south at Storwood on 1st March (T.B.) and an adult south at Wheldrake Ings on 29th December (E.G.). Ninth to eleventh records for the area. Submitted to Y.N.U. Reports Committee.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Few records received. Maximum was 130 at Askham Bog Tip on 7th January with the same number later in the day at the Wheldrake Ings gull roost. Presumably the same birds involved at both sites. Up to 30 at Wheldrake Ings for the rest of January. Thereafter only single figures until 74 at Ellerton Tip on 30th September, 80 there on 25th October, 88 on 21st December and 45 on 27th. 28 at Wheldrake Ings on 26th December.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

A freshly dead immature at North Duffield Carrs on 17th January, three adults at Wheldrake Ings on 18th February after strong westerlies and single adults there on 31st October and 13th November.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

One at Red House Reservoir on 16th May, one east at Wheldrake Ings on 20th June when two were at Castle Howard, one north at Cawood on 30th June. Eight flew southwest into a F8 westerly near Bishop Wood on 20th August and two at Wheldrake Ings on 29th August. Most of these birds coincided with specifically identified Common Terns.

TERN Sp *Sterna sp*

An unidentified *Sterna* tern flew south over Stockton Lane, York on 23rd July.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Three at Castle Howard on 16th May, one there on 5th June with three on 19th, one at University in heavy rain on 22nd. Two northeast at Wheldrake Ings on 8th July and two at Bubwith on 24th August.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

One at Sherburn-in-Elmet on 4th June with one there on 2nd July. Four at Castle Howard on 23rd July and a dead adult at Red House Reservoir on 8th August.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

One at Castle Howard on 29th April (I.B.) and an immature southeast at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd September (T.B.).

Ninth and tenth records for the area.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 4th May when four were at Castle Howard. Three at North Duffield Carrs on 9th June and singles at Wheldrake Ings on 16th and 20th. An adult and three juveniles at Castle Howard on 7th September with one there on 12th.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

One flew east low over Wheldrake Ings during heavy thunder storms on 29th June (TB). First record for the area.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

One found alive at Sand Hutton on 9th January died later (per T.M.C.). Second

record for the area, the first being in November 1975.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* 15, 23, 8

Atlas results suggest that this species is present throughout the area. Eight pairs bred around Archbishop's Palace, Bishopthorpe. A pair at Elvington Industrial Estate raised three broods.

Few counts received - 37 at Kirkby Wharfe on 16th January, 13 at East Cottingham on 21st February, 20 at Cawood on 23rd April, 17 at Catterton on 31st October, 10 at Anchor Plain on 28th November. Six flew west at Wheldrake Ings on 10th November in association with a passage of Wood Pigeons. On 6th December one landed on the frozen pool at Wheldrake Ings, pecked at the ice for several minutes and was apparently taking small food items.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* 7, 20, 30

700 at Upper Helmsley Common on 28th January, 300 at Storwood on 14th February, 250 at Cliffe Common on 21st February and 400 at Hagg Bridge on 14th March. 380 at Catterton on 31st October, evidence of an influx in November with 635 at North Duffield Carrs on 6th, 171 flew west in small parties at Wheldrake Ings during morning of 10th, 650 near Wheldrake next day, 317 at Dunnington Common on 25th and 394 at Anchor Plain on 28th. 250 at Poppleton on 12th December, 300 at Skipwith Common on 13th, 1,000 at Wharfe Ings on 24th and 26th, 800 roosting at Askham Bog on 28th, 1,170 in Oxtan/Catterton area on 29th and 2,000 at Oulston on 30th.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* 10, 20, 11

Not as widely distributed as might be expected with records from 69% of tetrads covered.

200 at Selby on 4th January, 32 at Aughton on 6th February and 80 at North Duffield on 20th. 55 at Knapton Lane on 18th September, 33 at Riccall on 10th October, 52 at Osbaldwick Sewage Works on 31st, 53 at Poppleton on 3rd December, 57 at Aughton on 24th and 52 at Wharfe Ings on 26th.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* 4, 21, 6

Recorded in 52% of tetrads with a curiously scattered distribution for which a pattern has yet to emerge.

First birds were a pair at Elvington Airfield on 15th April (B.C.P.) then singles at Rufforth on 23rd and Woodall on 27th. Birds were reported from Low Catton, Wheldrake Ings, South Milford, Anchor Plain, Naburn Sewage Works, Allerthorpe Common and Bubwith on the first nine days of May but the first bird did not reach the northern part of the area until the 16th at Stearsby. 13 on North Duffield Carrs on 23rd June was the only party of note. Most birds had left by mid-August with six at Cawood on 31st, two at Wheldrake Ings on 21st September, one at Wheldrake on 3rd October and an exceptionally late bird at Wheldrake Ings on 13th November.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* 17, 27, 6

First returning birds were two at Dunnington Common on 10th April (V.W.) well ahead of the next at Rufforth on 21st and Hagg Bridge on 22nd. Birds recorded at six more sites by month end but the main arrival came from 4th May onwards. A party of six were chasing each other at Storwood on 16th May. A rufous phase bird seen regularly at North Duffield Carrs throughout the summer and one at Roscarrs on 11th May. Most had left by mid-August with the last birds singles at Skipwith on 20th September, Dunnington Common on 26th and Wheldrake Ings on 29th (T.B.).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* 12, 1, 8

Bred at Dunnington Common (three young), Wheldrake, Thicket Priory, Hovingham (two young), Heslington (two pairs, one pair reared two young), Elvington Airfield, Aughton, Bielby (two pairs), Selby, Storwood, Riccall (two pairs) and Great Habton. A total of 15 pairs at 12 sites. Recorded at a further 15 sites during the breeding season and eight more in winter months. An increase in breeding pairs from three in 1981 to fifteen in 1982 appears very significant; however, 10 pairs were found by Atlas workers. Further, the total number of sites at which birds were recorded only increased from 31 to 35. Indeed the species is reported to be decreasing around Bielby. An unsuccessful attempt was made to shoot the breeding pair at Thicket Priory, unfortunately the criminals were not apprehended.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* 11, 2, 9

Bred at North Duffield, Dunnington Common (two young), Elvington (three pairs),

Brandsby (two pairs), Wheldrake (four pairs), Sutton-upon-Derwent (two pairs), Hagg Bridge, Laytham, Selby (two pairs), Clifton Airfield, Stearsby and Castle Howard. Recorded at a further 18 sites during the breeding season and five more in winter months. An increase in breeding pairs and breeding season records was probably due to the Atlas project.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* 14, 18, 5

Recorded at 50 sites throughout the area during the breeding season. Breeding probably occurred at all these sites although only proved at 12. One was perching on scaffolding on York Minster on 23rd October.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asia otus* 0, 0, 2

Two pairs bred at different sites on Skipwith Common, one pair rearing at least three young (T.E.D., E.B.B.). One pair bred at Fangfoss (T.M.C.). Probably bred at Bishop Wood where birds were calling in the breeding season and at Buttercrambe Woods where a dead juvenile was found on road on 30th July.

Outside the breeding season more records than for many years with singles at University on 11th January, Fulford G.C. on 20th February, Naburn Sewage Works on 9th April being mobbed by Great Tits and Magpies - probably a migrant; near Melbourne Airfield on 14th September and at Anchor Plain on 31st October and 28th November.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asia flammeus* 0, 1, 1

An excellent year. A pair which had been present since October 1981 in the Lower Derwent bred successfully - a recently fledged juvenile was seen in company of the moulting adults on 20th July, all three birds remaining into 1983 (T.E.D., E.B.B., A.F.). A pair held territory on Strensall Common but left after a large fire in early May (J.R., M.R.).

In the early part of the year two at Riccall Ings from 1st January to 4th February, singles at Poppleton from 22nd January to 14th February, at Brind from 24th February to 26th March, at Brayton on 13th March and south over York on 28th. Many records from Lower Derwent indicate the presence of four birds at the southern end and at least one in Wheldrake area. One was found dead at Melbourne on 30th March.

Autumn migrants arrived early and heralded another good winter for this species. Singles south over York on 20th August, at Brind on 31st, at Riccall Ings on 11th September, northwest over University on 11th October, south there on 18th, two at Cawood on 23rd, singles at Poppleton on 24th, Riccall Ings on 6th November, at Stearsby on 7th, Bolton Percy Ings on 5th December and two at Anchor Plain on 28th. Records from Lower Derwent complicated by the continued presence of the breeding birds with up to three regularly from August to November, but an obvious increase in December with up to four in Wheldrake area, four in Aughton/North Duffield/Bubwith area and two in Brighton area.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* 1, 2, 1

First was at Skipwith Common on 13th May where at least three males held territory but only one pair bred, presumably because most of the suitable habitat was destroyed by fire in early May, the successful pair using the only suitable habitat which escaped the fire. Also bred at Allertorpe Common (no counts) and Strensall Common (at least two singing males). Two singing males in Wheldrake Woods on 13th June were not heard again but may presage recolonisation of this site as predicted in 1981 Report.

SWIFT *Apus opus* 29, 18, 10

First birds were singles at Brind (A.H., A.G.H.) and Wheldrake Ings (T.B.) on 3rd May with birds at Dringhouses Pond, Clifton, Heslington, Naburn Sewage Works, North Duffield, Anchor Plain and Malton over the next four days. 80 at Malton on 6th May was the largest spring party.

Feeding flocks of up to 100 regularly at Naburn Sewage Works during the summer, otherwise 160 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th June and 400 at Castle Howard on 21st June the only flocks noted. As usual most birds had left by late August but many more September records than usual with 200 at Castle Howard on 7th, 80 there on 12th and 10 at Heworth on 14th - the largest counts, but records of ones or twos at a further 10 sites to the last at Wheldrake on 29th (T.B.). 314 bird days in September compared with three bird days in September and one in October in 1981. A possible explanation is that the wet late spring/early summer weather seriously retarded breeding.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* 9, 4, 2

Single pairs bred at Fulford (where the first brood was successful, the second

clutch was dug out by egg collectors and the third washed out in June flood) at Poppleton and at Tilmire. Present in the breeding season at Anchor Plain, Bielby, Wheldrake/Hagg Bridge, Roscarrs and Kirkham.

Recorded elsewhere from Thorpe Willoughby, Kirkby Wharfe, Bishopthorpe, Hobmoor, Dringhouses Pond, University, Crockey Hill, North Duffield/Bubwith, Melbourne, Kexby, Howsham and Flamingo Park Zoo. The slow recovery from the depletions of the 1978/79 winter halted and probably reversed with only three breeding pairs located in spite of Atlas efforts.

A bird at Flamingo Park Zoo, Kirkby Misperton was taking small, apparently dead, fish from the penguin pool and was quite unperturbed by the large number of people all around (T.B.).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

One found dead on roadsides near Fangfoss on 26th April (per JHL). Second record for the area.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* 12, 3, 5

Slightly fewer records received this year, perhaps due to the hard winter; birds were certainly reduced in numbers on Skipwith Common. Away from the strongholds in the north and the lowland heaths birds were recorded at Wheldrake Ings, Hagg Bridge, Naburn Sewage Works, Brayton, Thorpe Willoughby, Poppleton, Heslington, Rufforth, Menthorpe and Escrick.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major* 17,7,10

Noted from a record 59 sites throughout the area compared with 46 sites in 1981 (itself a record), the increase probably due to the Atlas project.

As in 1981 birds were noted flying east at dusk at New Earswick - two on 2nd February - presumably to roost.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor* 3, 1, 0

No confirmed breeding but probably bred at New Earswick where a pair displayed in March and April, and at Hobmoor where a pair displayed on three dates to mid-April. Other breeding season records of singles at Woodthorpe, Acomb Wood, Castle Howard and Beningborough. Outside the breeding season noted at Fulford on 13th/14th February, New Earswick on 16th August, 20th October and 11th November, Wheldrake Ings on 22nd/23rd December and Naburn Sewage Works on 31st December.

LARK Sp *Lullula/Alauda sp*

A Lark with 15 Skylarks on Walmgate Stray on 12th October had a very short tail, broad rounded wings and floppy flight. Unfortunately it was not seen well enough to determine the species (J.H.L.).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* 7, 32, 14

The bird with aberrant song noted in 1981 was again present and holding territory at University in spring.

Flocks were noted as follows: 40 at Stamford Bridge on 8th January, 80 at North Duffield Carrs and 37 at Bubwith Ings on 9th, 58 southeast over Kirkby Wharfe and 173 at Dunnington Common on 11th, 60 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th. 100 at Duffield Carrs on 25th September, a small westerly passage over Wheldrake Ings on 9th October with 42 there on 24th. 350 at Riccall on 18th December.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* 12, 3, 8

First birds were two at Bubwith on 21st March (G.S.) and singles at Wheldrake Ings on 26th and 1st April. The first real arrival came from 6th April when three were at Naburn Sewage Works and 11 at Wheldrake Ings increasing to 42 on 7th when 22 flew south at North Duffield Carrs. Birds were not widely distributed until the month end after another arrival which saw 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd and 24 at Naburn Sewage Works on 26th with 30 on 28th.

Bred at several sites on Ouse above and below York, with 25 pairs at Poppleton, also at Bubwith and Bielby Beck. 100 pairs bred in a sand quarry at Burythorpe.

One pair bred in a drainpipe at the Viking Hotel on the Ouse in York (S.C.). Breeding success in river bank sites was minimal due to flooding of nest holes.

In the autumn, 80 at North Duffield Carrs on 20th August with 700 roosting at Wheldrake Ings on 21st. Birds flew south at Wheldrake Ings all morning on 12th September, 30 at Bielby on 19th with up to seven in Lower Derwent to 26th. One over York on 20th October was the last and rather late (S.G.).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

10, 16, 28

A late arrival, singles at Wheldrake Ings on 6th April, Castle Howard on 12th with two at Naburn Sewage Works, Ulleskelf on 16th, Askham Bryan on 20th and York on 22nd with the first major arrival on 23rd, when 28 at Wheldrake Ings, and next few days. Breeding success was extremely poor and reflected in low autumn roost counts, both in York area and elsewhere in Britain (R.Fuller, pers.comm.). Roosts of 300 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st August and 500 at Aughton Ings on 28th compared with up to 10,000 and 18,000 respectively in 1981. 550 at Castle Howard at dusk on 7th September. Southward passage noted on several days in Lower Derwent from 12th to 29th September with counts of 300 per hour on 25th and 70 per hour on 29th.

Many more records than usual through October, presumably reflected late breeding attempts. 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd, 50 at North Duffield Carrs on 5th, 20 south at Wheldrake Ings on 9th with 12 on 10th, up to four at seven sites to month end with one south at Wheldrake Ings on 7th November, the last.

One with completely white plumage south over Dunnington on 5th September (T.W.).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

13, 6, 30

Five at Naburn Sewage Works on 7th April (J.G.) were the first with 10 at Castle Howard on 8th, singles at Wheldrake Ings on 14th and York on 21st with birds at many localities in the next few days.

200 at Heslington on 10th September, 70 at University on 15th, 200 at Castle Howard on 2nd October with one at Brandsby on 5th, the last in north of area although young still in a nest on King's Staithe, York, on 7th. Up to five at several sites until 24th with one at Hambleton on 4th November, the last.

A bird at Wheldrake Ings on 19th July had great difficulty flying due to an 18 inch length of sheep's wool tangled round its feet and legs.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

2, 8, 7

First was at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd April (T.B.) but most did not arrive until early May. Breeding proved at Skipwith, Strensall, Allerthorpe and Kexby Commons, University, Wheldrake Ings, Storwood, Blackmoor, Spellar Wood, Snargate and Dale End. Present in the breeding season at Brighton, Castle Howard, Cawood, Crook Moor, Naburn Sewage Works and Anchor Plain. A curious distribution. Last was one south at Cawood on 10th September (D.B.).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

9, 13, 5

Bred throughout Lower Derwent from Kexby to Brighton, at Naburn Sewage Works, Fulford Ings, Willitof, Barmby Moor, Anchor Plain, Strensall Common and Brandsby. Present in the breeding season at a further nine sites. Away from the river valleys this species has a scattered distribution, becoming very scarce in the north of the area.

More records received of flocks and movements this year. 50 at Naburn Sewage Works on 31st January and 30 there on 1st February, the only flocks of note in first winter period. 40 at Strensall Common on 31st July and 40 at Red House Reservoir on 8th August were probably locally bred. Passage of presumably northern British birds from mid-September, 30 south at Wheldrake Ings on 12th with 45 grounded, 29 at Dalby on 13th, 100 roosting at Bubwith Ings on 17th had gone next day, 50 at North Duffield Carrs on 25th. Birds flew west all morning at Castle Howard and south all day at Cawood on 2nd October, westward passage all morning at Wheldrake Ings on 9th and small numbers south there with Fieldfares on 30th and 31st. 20 at Naburn Sewage Works on 9th November increased to 78 by year end. 210 at Bank Island on 26th December decreased rapidly to 72 on 28th, 30 on 29th and 12 on 30th.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

The bird at Naburn Sewage Works present in November 1981 was seen on 4th and 6th January and 6th February (J.G., J.H.L.). A bird showing characteristics of the nominate race *A.s.spinoletta*, presumably the other 1981 bird was seen there on 4th and 31st January (J.G.) and one of indeterminate race there on 14th February (J.G.).

One flew west with Meadow Pipits at Castle Howard on 2nd October (D.W.). Third record for the area.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

5, 13, 10

Breeding season records from many sites, in the southern half of the area, even in areas of intensive arable. No records north of Anchor Plain in the breeding season.

First spring bird was a male at Hagg Bridge on 22nd March (T.B.), the earliest ever, followed by singles at Naburn Sewage Works on 7th April and Wheldrake Ings on 8th with five there on 9th. Birds were not widespread until month end. Some major arrivals were 25 at Naburn on 12th April, 50 at Bubwith Ings, 27 at Naburn Sewage Works and 16 at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd and 60 at Riccall Ings on 1st May. Obvious passage from late August, peaking in mid-September. 13 on River Foulness on 28th August, present regularly on Elvington Airfield with 10 on 30th, increasing to 23 on 13th September decreasing to 7 on 24th. 35 on Hobmoor, York, from 11th to 15th September, 12 flew south at Wheldrake Ings on morning of 12th, five there on 30th with three at Naburn Sewage Works on 3rd October.

Birds showing characteristics of Blue-headed Wagtails, *M.f.flava* were present in unprecedented numbers. At Naburn Sewage Works a male on 12th April with up to nine birds from 24th to mid-May (B.G.P., J.G.). At Wheldrake Ings two on 25th April (T.M.C.) with up to four from 3rd to 13th May (T.E.D., E.B.B., T.B.). Singles at Elvington Sewage Works on 15th May (T.B.) and at Stillingfleet on 18th (D.W.). Female Blue-headed birds bred as follows: At Naburn Sewage Works at least three seen feeding young, thought to have bred with Yellow Wagtails (J.G.). One carrying food at Hagg Bridge from 19th May to 9th June, its mate was not seen (T.B.). One feeding young in the nest near North Duffield on 20th June (A.F.).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

2, 0, 0

No proved breeding but probably bred at Crambeck and present in breeding season at Brandsby and, surprisingly, at Strensall Common in May.

Up to four at Naburn Sewage Works from 1st January to 14th March with singles at Clifton and University in January. In autumn up to four at Naburn Sewage Works from 30th August to year end. One or two at six other sites in September, four sites in October and at Bishop Wood in November and Stearsby in December with three at Elvington Industrial Estate from 28th October to year end. Records suggest passage birds from mid-September to early October with wintering birds arriving in mid-October.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

14, 8, 17

Birds noted in the breeding season in 65% of tetrads, fewer than might be expected and absent from several previous breeding sites, probably a result of the hard winter.

No large counts until the severe weather abated at end of January. 136 at Naburn Sewage Works on 31st January, 170 there on 6th February with 153 on 14th, 32 at Poppleton Ings on 28th. 25 roosted on a flat-roofed building in Malton throughout February. 80 at Naburn Sewage Works on 14th March. Unfortunately no counts received from the very large roost at York Carriage Works.

24 at Castle Howard on 23rd April with up to 35 until 9th May were presumably migrants. 30 at Strensall Common on 31st July and 100 at Elvington Airfield on 8th August were presumably locally bred. Evidence of passage from late August to early October with two peaks suggesting movements of northern British and Continental birds respectively. At Naburn Sewage Works 70 on 30th August, 103 on 6th September, 83 on 25th, 91 on 2nd October with 36 to 38 for rest of month. A long series of counts from Elvington Airfield - 42 on 24th August, 58 on 30th, 49 on 31st, 46 on 6th September, 45 on 13th, 32 on 27th, 55 on 1st October, 30 on 14th, 12 on 22nd with single figures thereafter. 22 at Naburn floods on 29th December.

Birds showing characteristics of White Wagtail, *M.a.alba*, were seen as follows. Singles at Naburn Sewage Works on 8th, 22nd and 27th April, at Elvington Airfield on 18th, two at Wheldrake Ings on 20th. One at Castle Howard on 8th May. One at Elvington from 13th to 24th September.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

One at Poppleton on 1st January (D.A.), one at Copmanthorpe on 29th (P.W.), two or three at Tadcaster Road, York, almost daily from 22nd until 19th February with four on 29th January (T.W., V.W. et al). Two at Merchant Adventurers Hall, York, on 20th February (T.B.).

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

1, 0, 0

Present in the breeding season and probably bred at Crambeck. Present in the

breeding season at Menethorpe Beck.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* 10, 28, 20

As expected, Atlas results show this species to be ubiquitous. The limited data available suggest that it survived the hard winter well.

One at Wheldrake Ings on 31st October showed white wing bar in flight due to white greater coverts and possibly median coverts also (TB).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* 12, 22, 25

Noted in every tetrad, but some evidence of a decline after the hard weather with CBC results from Askham Bryan showing a fall from 18 to eight pairs (B.C.).

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* 9, 21, 29

Noted in every tetrad surveyed. No significant records received other than a melanistic bird at Leatherdog Plantation, Sutton-on-Derwent from April to June (T.B.). This bird showed very dark brown, almost black, crown and nape; rest of upper parts and belly and flanks dark chestnut and very dark red, almost maroon breast. A similar bird was seen at Dunnington Common, three miles away, in 1979.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One near Elvington on 14th July (S.C.).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A female/immature at Cawood on 4th September (S.C.) and another at University on 10th November (D.I.). Third and fourth records for the area.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* 3, 1, 2

More records than for several years. One pair bred at Brandsby (P.H.) and three pairs at Strensall Common (J.R., M.R.). A male at Skipwith Common on 2nd May, a female at Dringhouses Pond on 3rd, singing males at three sites near Castle Howard on 9th, a male in York City centre on 12th, a male at another site at Skipwith Common on 22nd/23rd. A female at Toft House on 5th July, a juvenile at Poppleton on 17th July and at Grimston on 6th August; one at Riccall Ings on 28th and an immature male at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* 4, 1, 1

Bred at Strensall Common (no counts) and one pair at Stockton Common. Probably bred at Poppleton.

Elsewhere, one at Hagg Bridge on 20th April, singles in May at Wheldrake Ings on 4th, Marton-in-the-Forest on 9th, Spellar Farm on 12th and Wheldrake Ings on 19th. In autumn, singles at Bubwith on 15th August, Riccall Ings on 28th, Wheldrake Ings on 1st September, Hagg Bridge on 6th, Dunnington Common and Toft House on 13th.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Singles at Heslington Outgang on 20th October (J.H.L.) and Wheldrake Ings on 24th (T.B., B.G.P., G.S. et al) and 9th November (D.W.). All female/immature birds.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 10th April was the first, then one or two at Wheldrake Ings, Wheldrake Village, Elvington Airfield, Cawood, Escrick, North Duffield, University, Laytham, Strensall Common, Stamford Bridge and Nether Poppleton to 23rd May (17 bird days). One at Wheldrake Ings from 9th to 11th May was in full song.

A male stayed at Naburn Sewage Works for three weeks in late May/early June.

In autumn, one to three birds from 3rd August to 9th October at Acaster Airfield, Red House Reservoir, North Duffield, Willitof, Elvington Airfield, Cawood, Riccall, Poppleton, Hobmoor, Warren House and Grimston. 23 bird days.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

A male in a large garden at Heworth, York, on 8th April (R.S.P.). Fifth

record for the area.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

9, 9, 41

No large counts received for first part of year other than 400 at University roost in January declining to 100 by mid-March. In autumn, small numbers flew south at Cawood on 6th/7th November with Fieldfares. Nocturnal passage over University on 10th with 250 newly arrived there next day. University roost held up to 500 in November and early December with a sudden increase to 1,000 on 12th December declining to 700 by year end. A sudden influx at Anchor Plain of at least 900 on 12th December.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Other than 63 at Elvington Airfield on 6th January birds were scarce until 200 at Storwood on 24th and 100 at Naburn Sewage Works on 31st. 350 at Fulford Ings on 2nd February, 100 at Storwood on 21st March with 140 at Wheldrake Ings on 26th. 170 flew north at Anchor Plain on 1st April, 120 at North Duffield Carrs on 3rd, 100 at Castle Howard on 17th, 130 at Bank Island on 25th with 350 at Bugthorpe and 41 at Acaster Malbis on 27th, the last until one at Elvington Airfield on 11th/12th May.

On 13th May a pair were found at Elvington Airfield and were seen copulating and displaying throughout the day. Unfortunately they could not be found subsequently. (T.B.).

Autumn passage was the most protracted ever with birds moving through the area from early October to year end. The first was one south-east over Wheldrake Ings on 6th October with birds at several sites over the next few days. 124 west at Wheldrake Ings in two hours on 15th when 200 west over Bishopthorpe. Smaller numbers west at four sites on 17th, 235 at Wheldrake Ings on 20th with 350 on 21st and 860 west on 24th. 500 south at Cawood on 30th and 31st with 500 grounded at Storwood on 31st. 300 south at Cawood on 6th and 7th November with 2,000 in Lower Derwent on 7th. 1,350 west over Wheldrake Ings in four and a half hours on 10th with 950 grounded there on 13th; up to 200 at several places to month end. Another influx on 5th December when 1,500 at Nun Appleton, 700 near Wigginton, 450 at Wheldrake Ings and 250 at Anchor Plain, 600 at Aughton/ Bubwith on 11th, 750 at Anchor Plain on 12th and 1,500 at Storwood on 13th. A large influx at Christmas when a total of 4,000 flew west near Tadcaster on 23rd-25th. 3,000 between Bishopthorpe and Wharfe Ings on 24th, 1,690 grounded and 250 west at Oxton on 25th and 1,000 at Wharfe Ings on 26th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

7, 9, 39

The only significant counts were isolated peaks of 200 at University on 7th October and 70 at Anchor Plain on 12th December, the latter associated with other Thrushes. A bird was in full song on Skipwith Common on 31st December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

No large flocks noted until 80 at Fulford Ings on 21st March with 75 there on 28th, 22 flew north at Anchor Plain on 1st April, 140 at Stearsby on 10th were the last in the north of the area, although small parties were seen in the south until the last bird at Acaster Malbis on 27th April.

As with Fieldfare, autumn passage continued into late December. The first were two in darkness at Dringhouses on 6th October with nocturnal passage at several places nightly to 10th. 39 west at Wheldrake Ings on 7th, 45 at Moreby Park on 8th when 30 south at Cawood. 500 west in 90 minutes at Castle Howard on 9th, 60 west at Stillingfleet on 15th, 72 at Coxwold on 19th, 80 at Anchor Plain on 23rd increased to 170 by month end. Another peak of passage in early November, nocturnal passage at North Duffield on 4th and York on 9th, 200 south at Cawood on 6th and 7th, 800 at Wheldrake Ings on 7th when a small influx noted at Poppleton Ings, 120 newly arrived at University on 11th, 170 at Fulford Ings on 14th with a small influx at Anchor Plain also; nocturnal passage over York on 16th and 17th, 196 at Dunnington Common on 25th, nocturnal passage at North Duffield on 5th December and York on 8th with Anchor Plain experiencing small influxes on both dates with a large arrival of 1,100 there on 12th declining to 110 by 17th. 300 between Bishopthorpe and Wharfe Ings on 24th, 140 at Oxton on 25th and 120 at Copmanthorpe on 29th.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

12, 8, 20

Only two post breeding flocks noted and these small. 16 at Skipwith on 29th August and 14 at University on 10th September. Possibly a result of a poor breeding season. One was in full song at Askham Bryan on 31st October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

1, 3, 0

Present in the breeding season and probably bred at Hagg Bridge, Wheldrake Ings and Brighton Airfield.

One at Wheldrake Ings on 12th April (B.C.P.) was early, two at Anchor Plain on 8th May, up to three at Wheldrake Ings in May, singles at Black Foss Beck on 20th July, Cawood Ings on 3rd August and one in a cotoneaster bush in a York garden on 12th September (C.A.T.).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 8,10,12
Breeding season records from 53% of tetrads surveyed, scattered throughout the area north to Castle Howard. By no means restricted to wet habitats. Atlas workers recorded birds singing from oak trees on a disused railway line, gorse bushes on dry heathland and from rape fields. Counts suggest that, in the Lower Derwent at least, more birds were present than for several years; even so this species has obviously been seriously under-recorded in the past.

First spring bird was at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd April (A.H., J.L.) with the main arrival on 8th May. 27 singing males at Wheldrake Ings between bridge and pool hide on 16th May, giving an extrapolated total of at least 150 males on the Reserve on that date. No full counts made but certainly more numerous than of late with, perhaps, 100 pairs breeding.

Last birds were singles at Naburn Sewage Works on 25th September (J.G.) and at Hagg Bridge next day (T.B.).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 4, 4, 2

More breeding records than ever before with breeding or probable breeding from Wheldrake Ings (12 pairs), Rosearrs (eight), Naburn Sewage Works (six), Brighton (six), Strensall Common (four), Swincarr Plantation (four), Castle Howard (three), two sites at Skipwith Common, Fulford Ings, Askham Bog and the Pocklington Canal where Atlas work and used nest counts revealed at least 20 pairs and possibly considerably more.

First returning birds were two males at Wheldrake Ings on 25th April (T.O.C.) with the main arrival from 8th May onwards. Last one was at Hagg Bridge on 16th September (T.B.).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* 8, 13, 4

With records in the breeding season from 30 sites throughout the area this species has reached a new level of occurrence due, no doubt, to the Atlas project. Comments in the 1978 report that the species is present but very under-recorded are now shown to be correct. Breeding was confirmed at Elvington Airfield, Anchor Plain, Nun Monkton, Brighton Airfield, Dunnington Common and Bury-thorpe with probable and possible breeding at a further 16 and six sites respectively. Two observers commented that the species was scarce in 1982, how many are present in a good year?

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* 12, 14, 23

Another good year in terms of breeding pairs if not success. Present in 83% of tetrads surveyed. The first at Brind on 14th April (A.H., A.G.H.) was early, followed by singles at Wheldrake Ings and Heslington Outgang on 22nd with the major influx from 7th May onwards. The last was at Hagg Bridge on 17th September (T.B.).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* 9, 12, 7

Recorded in 47% of tetrads surveyed and 30 sites in total. Breeding proved at Skipwith Common, Anchor Plain, Poppleton, Dunnington Common, Strensall Common, Brandsby and Stearsby with probable and possible breeding at a further 14 and nine sites respectively.

The first at Castle Howard on 15th April (B.C.P.) was early with one at Bishop Wilton on 20th, two at Dunnington Common from 23rd with the main influx from 8th May. The last was with a mixed party of Tits and Warblers at Skipwith Common on 26th July (T.E.D., E.B.B.).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* 19, 15, 11

A widely distributed breeding bird throughout the area with records from 78% of tetrads.

One at Haxby on 24th January, a male at Naburn Sewage Works on 30th March. First spring migrant was at Bishop Wood in 19th April with birds at several places over the following days. One was with a mixed Warbler and Tit flock at Skipwith Common on 26th July. Most had left by late August with one at Naburn Sewage Works on 1st September, the last until two at Howsham Bridge on 15th October and one at Wheldrake Ings on 16th, which coincided with the winter Thrush influx and were probably incoming wintering birds. A female at Stamford Bridge on 6th December and a male feeding on asparagus

berries in Wheldrake on 7th.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* 0, 2, 0

A singing male at Bishop Wood on 11/12th May (D.W.), two males at Skipwith Common on 23rd and 30th May (R.A.H.), a pair on Strensall Common for most of May (J.R.D.) and a single at Wheldrake Woods on 17th June (T.B.).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* 11, 15, 3

Breeding proved at only three sites, Brighton, Anchor Plain and Brandsby, but present in the breeding season at a further 25 sites.

First spring bird was at Poppleton on 26th March (D.A.), with one at Dale End on 27th and two at Skipwith Common on 31st. Birds were well distributed by early April. Last bird was at Dunnington Common on 18th October (T.B.).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* 14, 10, 31

Almost ubiquitous with records from 93% of tetrads. First was at Naburn Sewage Works on 30th March (J.G.) with birds at University, Hobmoor, Bank Island and Bishop Wood from 5th to 7th April, an influx on 9th and a larger one on 18th when 41 were singing in Allertorpe Common (A.R.P.). 33 singing males at Dunnington Common on 23rd (T.W., V.W.). 22 pairs bred in Naburn Sewage Works/Fulford Ings area and 15 pairs at Anchor Plain.

70 were in a mixed Warbler and Tit flock on Skipwith Common on 26th July (T.E.D., E.B.B.). The last was at Wheldrake Ings on 27th September (T.B.).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* 8, 14, 3

Confirmed breeding at Blackmoor, Grimston, Brandsby, Wheldrake Wood, Brayton and Sutton Wood. Absent from several suitable conifer woods, presumably due to the severe winter.

Higher counts received were 20 at Scoreby Wood on 4th January, 119 at Dunnington Common on 11th January (T.W.), 45 in Wheldrake Woods during October, 100 at Tilmire on morning of 17th October were feeding constantly and appeared to be newly arrived migrants (T.E.D.). Influxes of 20 at Anchor Plain on 23rd October, 30 on 31st and 23 on 29th November, up to 20 at Bishop Wood in November/December and 34 at Skipwith Common on 12th December.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* 11, 15, 15

Recorded in the breeding season in c.50% of tetrads surveyed scattered throughout the area. The first was at Wheldrake Ings on 17th May and the last at Naburn Sewage Works on 23rd September.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

One near Heslington on 10th February (V.W.). A pair at Wheldrake Ings on 21st October with a female there on 23rd and two males and three females next day (T.B. et al). Sixth and seventh records for the area.

Five of the seven records to date have been at Wheldrake Ings in October/November and presumably refer to erupting birds from Blacktoft Sands.

LONG TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Largest flocks noted were 61 at Dunnington Common on 11th January, 30 at Bishop Wood on 21st November, 80 at Skipwith Common on 12th December and 38 there next day.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris* 7, 5, 8

Recorded in the breeding season in 34% of tetrads surveyed and outside the breeding season from a further 11 sites. Generally commoner in the north of the area where it may outnumber the following species in some sites.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus* 9, 9, 12

Recorded in the breeding season from 51% of tetrads surveyed and outside the breeding season from a further 14 sites. In the winter generally less localised and more mobile than the preceding species. An unprecedented 74 at Dunnington Common on 11th January (T.W.) and 17 at Wheldrake Woods on 22nd June were maxima.

COAL TIT *Parus ater* 10, 8, 11

More widespread as a breeding species than hitherto suspected with records from 59% of tetrads surveyed, mainly, but by no means exclusively, from

coniferous plantations. 27 at Dunnington Common on 11th January and 23 at Black Woods on 28th December were maxima.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* 6, 10, 40

93 at Dunnington Common on 11th January. 70 at Skipwith Common on 26th July were in the company of 30 Long Tailed Tits, 30 Great Tits, 10 Willow Tits, 5 Marsh Tits, 70 Willow Warblers, a Blackcap, and a Garden Warbler (T.E.D., E.B.B.). 30 at Acaster Wood on 23rd October and 25 at Anchor Plain on 29th November were maxima.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* 7, 12, 37

25 at Dunnington Common on 11th January and 30 at Skipwith Common on 26th July were maxima.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* 3, 0, 1

Bred near Brandsby and birds calling in spring at two other sites nearby. Elsewhere one at Castle Howard on 6th January with two there on the 16th. Singles at Naburn Sewage Works on 1st May, at Brinkworth Hall, Elvington on 25th August and Castle Howard on 22nd September.

TREE CREEPER *Certhia familiaris* 15, 9, 7

Widely distributed throughout the area at all times of year. At Bishop Wood a nest was found on the ground in dead bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum*, against a tree trunk (D.W.).

Six birds were seen on the same tree at Castle Howard on 16th January.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Singles at Sutton-on-Forest on 7th November (D.W.) and at Anchor Plain on 17th December (R.A.I.).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* 11,8,6

"Probably breeds in every suitable woodland. One of the most overlooked species, although always conspicuous in September and October when it wanders freely from wood to wood". (D.W.). The foregoing remarks are borne out by Atlas work which shows the species present in the breeding season in 42% of tetrads surveyed.

Maxima were eight at Wheldrake Woods on 22nd June and five at Askham Bog on 28th December.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* 12, 13, 24

Nest building was noted at Hob Moor, York, on the early date of 23rd February. Maxima were: 18 at Storwood on 31st January, 26 at Fulford Ings on 30th October and 73 flying into a roost at Askham Bog on 28th December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* 9, 8, 19

Recorded in the breeding season in 61% of tetrads surveyed. Maxima were all of roost flights as follows: 400 with Rook, *C. frugilegus*, at Scoreby Wood on 8th January. 125 at Wheldrake on 6th April, 50 at Coxwold on 19th October and 50 at Askham Bog on 28th December.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* 21, 3, 8

The largest gatherings were 1,000 at Scoreby Wood on 8th January, 500 at North Duffield on 9th and 200 at Elvington on 31st. 1,000 at Castle Howard on 4th July and the same number at Barton Hill next day. 800 at Strensall Common on 18th December and 680 at Dunnington Common on 26th.

A bird with white wing bars at Church Fenton on 20th August.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* 15, 14, 22

Maxima were: 30 at Wheldrake Ings on 31st January, up to 50 at Askham Bog Tip from August to year end and 225 flying to roost at Askham Bog on 28th December (D.W.).

A bird showing characteristics of the sub-species Hooded Crow, *C.c. cornix*, flew north-west over Wheldrake Ings on 8th April (T.B.).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* 13, 7, 32

Maxima were: pre-roost flocks of 2,000 over Heworth Golf Course in February and March, 1,000 at Acaster Selby on 24th December when 2,000 were between Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis, 7,000 at Strensall Golf Course on 28th. A leucistic bird at Ampleforth on 30th December showed plumage pattern and colour similar to Rose-coloured Starling, *S.roseus* (T.B.).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* 9, 8, 33

Surprisingly absent from 15% of tetrads surveyed. No significant flock counts received.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* 14, 10, 14

Maxima were 40 at Heworth on 9th January, 110 at Hagg Bridge on 7th September with 85 there on 1st October. 40 at Elvington on 25th November and 50 at Cliffe on 25th December.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* 10, 28, 20

In common with other Finches, flock sizes were lower this year. Maxima were: 80 at Upper Helmsley Common on 29th January and 2nd February, 53 at Hagg Bridge on 6th September and 82 at Dunnington Common on 25th November.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Largest counts were 46 at Aughton on 9th January, 30 at Barlby on 8th February, up to 20 in a Heworth garden during January and February and 60 at Dunnington Common on 24th November.

Smaller numbers were recorded from Askham Bog, Bishop Wood, Appletree Village, York; Fulford, Bank Island, Wheldrake, Hobmoor, York; Wheldrake, Anchor Plain and Cawood.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* 14, 12, 21

The only significant counts were 30 at Aughton on 9th January, 45 at Ellerton Tip on 25th October, 36 at Anchor Plain on 29th November and 29 at Kirkby Wharfe on 25th December. The worst showing for at least six years.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* 11, 16, 18

The largest counts were all of post-breeding flocks with 200 at Walmgate Stray on 4th September, 39 at Bubwith on 13th, 30 at Poppleton on 2nd October, 45 at Bank Island on 3rd, 40 at Overton on 10th, 27 at Wheldrake Ings on 31st and 8th November, 30 in Brandsby area during December and 23 at Wheldrake on 11th.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Again no increase in records, the maxima were 40 at Stamford Bridge on 4th January, 30 at Nunnington on 5th, 60 at Cattal on 18th, 18 at Naburn Sewage Works on 23rd, 15 at York University throughout January and February, 20 at Kirkham Abbey on 14th March and 16 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st.

20 at York University on 20th October, 15 at Wheldrake Woods on 25th, 52 at York University from November to year end, 20 at Chrookmoor, Skipwith on 14th November, up to 15 at Stamford Bridge throughout December and the same number at Kirkby Wharfe on 25th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* 14, 15, 20

Largest counts were: 40 at York University on 15th April, 43 at Elvington Tip on 10th September, 80 at Red House Reservoir on 12th, 80 at Cawood on 29th where there were 200 on 27th October, 44 at Naburn Sewage Works on 26th December.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

One at Aughton on 14th March flew north (T.E.D., E.B.B.) and one feeding on the river bank at Wheldrake Ings on 20th (T.B.).

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea* 10, 17, 9

The only flocks of note were - 25 at York University on 10th January where there were 18 on 8th November and 17 at Anchor Plain on 14th November.

Two birds showing characteristics of the Mealy Redpoll, *A.f.flammea*, were at York University on 17th December (D.I.).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Up to three at Bishop Wood from September to year end (D.W.) and up to 30 near Yearsley from November to year end (T.B. et al).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* 12, 18, 10

The largest counts were - nine at Stamford Bridge on 4th January, six at Hob Moor during April, 17 at Dunnington Common on 25th November, 16 at Anchor Plain on 29th and 20 at Skipwith Common on 30th December.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* 1, 4, 0

Again a good number of records. One at Fulford Golf Course on 9th January, one at Skipwith Common on 10th with four at Wiganthorpe Woods on 24th. Two at Howsham Wood on 8th February, one at York University on 2nd April, two at Naburn Sewage Works next day, one at Walmgate Stray on 5th and three at Fulford Golf Course on 8th. One at Bishop Wood on 14th May.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* 13,27,16

The largest counts were 20 at Dunnington Common on 22nd January, 70 at Hagg Bridge on 11th February, 30 at Fulford Ings on 8th December, 30 at Anchor Plain on 12th, 100 at Skipwith Common on 27th and 31 at Oxtun on 29th.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* 14, 13, 13

Few large counts this year, maxima were: 12 at Wheldrake on 12th January, 26 at Bishopthorpe Ings on 26th and up to 18 at Anchor Plain from October to year end.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* 14, 17, 2

The largest counts were: 25 between Aughton and Ellerton on 3rd January, 20 at Bubwith on 16th and 25 at Ellerton next day. 45 at North Duffield Carrs on 2nd April, 20 at Towthorpe Lane on 13th November, 40 at Anchor Plain on 12th December and 22 at Strensall Common on 18th.

ESCAPED BIRDS

CHILEAN FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

One in the Wheldrake Ings area from 13th to 22nd April.

ADDENDUM

Once again several previously undocumented records have reached the Recorders. All records have been accepted by the Y.N.U. Reports Committee where applicable and refer to 1981 unless otherwise stated. Records are not attributed to observers unless they are contributors to the Y.O.C. Report.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One soaring high over Wheldrake Ings left to north-west on 29th June (T.B.).

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*

187 (11 first year) in Lower Derwent on 23rd February

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

One on Castle Howard lake on 1st June 1980.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

5,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 27th January 1980.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

A male at Wheldrake Ings on 7th May (T.M.C.).

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

The drake at Wheldrake Ings from 14th to 23rd April was also present on 25th (D.W.).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Two drakes at Wheldrake Ings on 5th April (D.A.R.).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A drake at Wheldrake Ings on 8th March with a pair (different drake) on 4th April remaining to 12th (T.M.C.).

HONEY BUZZARD *Pemis apivorus*

One at Bishop Wood on 2nd June. First record for the area.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

One at Arglam on 26th December 1980.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

One over Osbaldwick mobbed by Carrion Crows and hirundines on 3rd September left to the north-west (D.A.R.).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

A pair with three young plus another male on York Minster on 17th July (T.M.C.).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

A male near Wheldrake on 25th January (T.M.C.).

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

One flew south near Wheldrake on 15th August (T.M.C.).

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

A pair at Wheldrake Ings on 13th June (T.M.C.).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two at Bank Island, Wheldrake on 10th October (D.A.R.).

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 24th October (T.M.C.).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Two at North Duffield Carrs on 12th April 1980.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

A second-summer bird at Eskrick from 25th to 27th May 1980. Third record for the area.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Four adults and three first summer birds at Wheldrake Ings on 28th April.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Four at Wheldrake Ings on 8th May with one on 20th (T.M.C.).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

One in Landing Lane, Wheldrake Ings on 30th May (T.M.C.).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

One flew north at Castle Howard on 22nd March (D.A.R.).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Bred at Kirkham Abbey where adults were seen feeding young (T.B.).

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

One flying west with a flock of Wood Pigeons on 25th December 1980 near Holme-on-Spalding Moor (D.I.M.W.).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Two juveniles at Wheldrake Ings on 26th August (D.A.R.).

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

One at Gate Helmsley on 27th September (T.M.C.).

THE FOLLOWING SPECIES HAVE ALSO BEEN RECORDED IN THE AREA SINCE 1966 BUT DID NOT APPEAR IN 1982

Red-throated Diver
Black-throated Diver
Slavonian Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Shag
Night Heron
Purple Heron
Fulmar
Storm Petrel
Gannet
Lesser white-fronted Goose
Brent Goose
Mandarin
Blue-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck
Velvet Scoter
Black Kite
Red Kite
Montagu's Harrier
Honey Buzzard
Rough-legged Buzzard
Red-footed Falcon
Spotted Crake
Crane
Kentish Plover
Black-tailed Godwit
Sanderling
Pectoral Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
Grey Phalarope
Great Skua
Iceland Gull
Roseate Tern
Little Tern
Bee-eater
Alpine Swift
Wryneck
Woodlark
Red-rumped Swallow
Firecrest
Pied Flycatcher
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Red-backed Shrike
Golden Oriole
Lapland Bunting
Snow Bunting
Cirl Bunting

GRAND TOTAL SINCE 1966: 235

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