

YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB - REPORT 1967

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

In 1967 the York Ornithological Club decided that the area to which its efforts should be directed should be fifteen of the 10 Kilometre squares of the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The squares are those numbered SE53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77- This is a vast area covering over 500 sq. miles and whilst it was not in the minds of the Committee at the time of its adoption that every locality would be systematically watched, the adoption of the area has recently increased in importance due to the decision taken by the British Trust for Ornithology to start in the 1968 breeding season with a five-year scheme to map the distribution of breeding birds on a 10-kl square basis. This decision follows 'trial runs' in the 1966 and 1967 seasons to determine the extent of the undertaking and the experience of some ornithological societies which have already embarked on similar programmes.

It is hoped that by the time this report is published members will have been given more information at an indoor meeting of the Club as to how they can help. It is obviously of importance that the Club should take as active a part as possible in the task. To quote from B.T.O. News for February 1968:

"A growing population is constantly exerting new pressure on habitats, frequently those which can be least spared because of their limited extent already. To mention but a few other factors, we have to take account of pollution in many forms, changes in farming practice, development of fisheries and afforestation, and population shifts into new towns. We must remember too that as populations of the more local species diminish, so they become more vulnerable to change, the fragmentation of habitat, and sheer human pressure through increasing use of the countryside for leisure. It follows that during the next half-century changes in bird numbers and distribution are as likely to be influenced by pressures from the human environment as by climate, so that an atlas of bird distribution in our countryside around 1970 has a great potential as a conservation document."

The recording card devised by the Committee of the Club for use in the field is aimed, amongst other things, at picking up those records which are so often never written down - i.e. those of the common species whose presence is taken for granted. In this capacity the cards will form a useful basis for recording in the manner required by the mapping project. Details about the cards are set out in Recording arrangements for 1968 at the end of this Report.

The species list in this Report is confined to birds seen in the area adopted by the Club. Of necessity the records are selective and for the convenience of beginners common birds are denoted by asterisks:

- *** indicates species widely distributed in the area, common throughout the year and breeding
- ** indicates species widely distributed in the area as summer visitors, common and breeding
- * indicates species widely distributed in the area and common as winter visitors.

It is appreciated that "common" is an inexact term and means little as to actual numbers or the relative abundance of different species. It must not be assumed that species not so marked are unusual or scarce. Included in this Report are some of the results obtained in the Common Bird Census carried out by PP on 50 acres of Skipwith Common. The numbers of pairs of species given are the numbers estimated with the assistance of the British Trust for Ornithology based mainly on the presence of singing males in the area. Also included are some results obtained by CFT on his survey of the Square SE64. For the 1967

survey the square was divided into 25 tetrads (each of 4 square kilometres).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wish to record their grateful thanks to R. S. Bellhouse, Esq., the City Engineer, and S. Bowes, Esq., the Manager of the Naburn Sewage Purification Works, for facilities for bird watching at Naburn Sewage Farm. Miss S. White cut the stencils and our thanks are due to her for much hard work.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species are arranged in the order of the Check-List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland published by the B.O.U. (London 1952) subject to the changes decided upon by the Editors of British Birds and notified in that journal (Vol. 46 pp. 1-3). The number preceding the name of each species refers to that given in the Check-List.

5. Great Crested Grebe

At Castle Howard up to 10 were recorded on dates in Feb. and Mar. (JAG) and c.12 on 9 Apr. (JS). 3 pairs noted there in breeding season (PP), 2 present on 13 Nov. (PH). The only other water from which the species was recorded was Pond Head Reservoir, Yearsley, which held 2 on 12 Mar. (PH).

9. Little Grebe

One pair attempted unsuccessfully to breed at Naburn S.F. (CFT). Birds present in breeding season at Escrick (CFT), Yearsley (PH) and Castle Howard (EH). Noted outside breeding season in ones and twos at a number of localities on the Ouse and Derwent and on the University Lake, Heslington - max 3 from early Aug. to early Oct. (jVl).

30. Grey Heron

No records suggestive of breeding received. A small number of records of single birds at a variety of places notably along the rivers. Max. number was 3 at Colton on 10 Jun. (ED), 2 were in the Derwent valley in the autumn (IDM, CFT).

38. Bittern

One was seen at Hagg Bridge on 9 Nov. (CS), one, possibly the same bird, was flushed at a range of 10 feet at Naburn S.F. (7 miles east of Hagg Bridge) on 29 Nov. (CFT).

45. Mallard ***

Apparently widespread as a breeder but disappointingly few breeding records received. Bred Naburn S.F. (several pairs); Badger Hill,, York; University Lake, Heslington (CFT); Skipwith Common (PP); New Earswick (JKB) and Nun Monkton (EC). An estimated 25 pairs at Naburn S.F. and Fulford Ings on 25 Apr. (ED) but many clutches on the Ings must have been lost in a flood in early May. During winter months noted in many localities on the Ouse and Derwent, mainly in small parties e.g.80 at Acaster Malbis feeding on stubble, and c.200 at Bolton Percy on 15 Jan. (RD). Larger flocks confined to Castle Howard - c.400 on 13 Nov. (PH), and Derwent - at Wheldrake c.100 on 4 and 18 Oct.; c.300 on 21 Oct.; c.1000 on 12 Nov. and 1000+ on 19 Nov.(CFT).

46. Teal.

Records of breeding were confined to Skipwith Common where there were 2 pairs on the census area, and young were seen on another area (PP). Few counts made on the Derwent in the latter part of the year and the largest to hand is 300 at Wheldrake on 21 Oct. (CFT) but it is known that larger numbers were present during floods in Nov. Elsewhere small parties from July to end of year.

47. Garganey

A pair at Aughton on 24 Apr. and 2 m. and 1 f. at Wheldrake on 27 Apr. (PP, CFT) and a pair there on 1 May (VJP, CFT).

48. Blue-winged Teal

A male of this North American species was found at Wheldrake Ings by CFT on 26 Apr. and subsequently seen by a number of members and other ornithologists. It was last reported on 3 May. This record which is about the twentieth for Great Britain and Ireland has been accepted by the Rarities Committee of "British Birds". The probability is that it was a genuine vagrant and not an escape as few are kept in captivity and because of their value it is unlikely that any would be allowed to escape. The point, of course, cannot be proved.

49. Gadwall

A pair at Wheldrake Ings on 26 Apr. (CFT).

50. Wigeon

Recorded from Derwent and Ouse, Skipwith Common and Castle Howard mainly in small flocks of up to 50. Last of spring at Wheldrake were 4 on 30 Apr., One at Naburn S.F. on 26 Sep. (CFT). The larger flocks were recorded from the Derwent - at Wheldrake numbers in latter part of year were: 7 on 18 Oct.; c.150 on 21 Oct.; 'some hundreds' on 12 Nov.; c.50 on 22 Nov. (CFT)

52. Pintail

Recorded only from the Derwent in small numbers up to March and from October to the end of the year.

53. Shoveler

4 at Castle Howard on 15 Jan. (JAG). Recorded during spring passage at Wheldrake Ings - 3 on 17 and 24 Apr.; 4 pairs on 27 Apr.; 3 on 18 May (CFT). Naburn S.F. 1 pair 8 Apr. and 2 May (DW), regularly recorded at Naburn S.F. during July and Aug. - max 10 on 11 Aug. (CFT). At Wheldrake Ings c.10 on 21 Oct. (CFT). One certain breeding record - Fulford where TC saw female with 6 unfledged young on 2 July.

56. Tufted Duck

Three pairs were introduced on to the University Lake, Heslington, and subsequently disappeared due to disturbance through building operations (EDA) * Up to 3 m. and 2 f. seen at Naburn S.F. during the breeding season (possibly the Heslington birds) and one pair bred unsuccessfully - 2 young seen 23 June but not subsequently (CFT). During Apr. and May pairs at Skewsby and Brandsby; four pairs at Newburgh (PH); 5 pairs at Castle Howard and 1 m. at Dringhouses Brick Pond, York (VJP) .

No large counts at either end of the year but recorded in suitable localities including Derwent valley in small parties e.g. 14 at Castle Howard on 19 Mar. (JAG).

57. Pochard

No breeding season records but otherwise recorded in small parties from a number of areas e.g. Castle Howard 50 on 12 Feb.; 10 on 19 Mar. (JAG); Naburn S.F. up to 8 in July (CFT); Fulford Ings 12 on 25 Sep. (TC); Wheldrake Ings 25 on 21 Oct., c.100 on 12 Nov. (CFT).

60. Goldeneye

Recorded in area only from Castle Howard: 2 on 12 Feb. (JAG); 3 on 5 Mar. (RD) and on 19 Mar. (JAG) and 1 on 9 Apr. (RD).

69. Red-breasted Merganser

One m. at Castle Howard on 12 Feb. (JAG).

73. Shelduck

Two flew W over Knavesmire (York) on 16 Apr. (DW) and there were 4 at Wheldrake Ings on flood water on 18 May (CFT).

75. Greylag Goose

At Castle Howard at the beginning of the year 4 were present - presumably introduced or feral birds (JAG).

78. Pink-footed Goose

A single bird was seen with the Canada Geese at Castle Howard in the early part of the year (JAG).

81. Barnacle Goose

One at Wheldrake Ings on flood water on 12 Nov. (CFT).

82. Canada Goose

Reports from the main water for this species in the area, namely Castle Howard, give varying numbers set out below, due most probably to movements between this and other waters outside the area.

12 Feb.	67 (JAG)	9 May	20 (PP)
5 Mar.	40+ (PH)	27 Jun.	97 (EH)
19 Mar.	55 (JAG)	13 Nov.	c110 (PH)
9 Apr.	25 (RD)		

On 15 Jan. there was one at Stearsby (PH) and on 5 Mar. one on flood water at Moor Monkton.

84. Mute Swan

Few records were received for this species and breeding records (including negative records for suitable localities) are wanted in 1968. Up to 8 at Aughton in early part of year, and 12 at Wheldrake on 23 Mar. (CFT). Bred Yearsley (PH) and Gilling (EC).

85. Whooper Swan

One on the Ouse at Beningbrough on 15 Apr. (EC).

86 Bewick's Swan

None was noted on the Derwent on 7 Jan. (RDA) . Numbers of unidentified swans, probably this species, on the Derwent were 40+ on 26 Feb. (MW) and 35 on 21 Mar. (CFT). Up to 24 noted in November but birds apparently passed on due to subsidence of floods, as only one was seen on 26 Nov. (IDM) and none on 6 and 23 Dec. (CFT).

93. Sparrowhawk

One definite breeding record north of York (R.J.Oliver). At Skipwith Common 1m. on 8 Feb.; 1 f. on 6 Oct.; 1 at Appleton Roebuck on 16 Jun.(PP).

100/102 Harrier spp

'Ringtails' at Grimston Moor near Gilling on 22 Oct. (PH) and Skipwith Common on 18 Nov. (PP) . Both birds most probably Hen Harriers.

(103. Osprey)

There can be little doubt about one reported by anglers to have been seen taking a fish at Castle Howard on 18 Jun.

110. Kestrel

Known to have bred in Squares SE 53, 54, 63, 64, 65, 74 and 76. Probably bred in SE 73 and present in breeding season in SE 55, 56 .

115. Red-legged Partridge

Two pairs bred University site, Heslington (JAG). Up to a dozen pairs along A19 road between Escrick and Selby (JAG). Present in breeding season in at least 9 tetrads of Sq. SE 64 (CFT).

116. Grey Partridge ***

3 pairs bred at Naburn S.F. (CFT).

117. Quail

Eight were hand-reared and released at Skipwith in early Sep. 1 shot near Wheldrake in Oct. and other 7 seen (PP).

118. Pheasant ***

120. Water Rail

Two Naburn S.F. on 12 Apr. (CFT). Thereafter singletons up to 2 May (KJ).

126. Moorhen ***

A number of pairs bred Naburn S.F. and numbers there at the end of the year were 50+ (CFT). In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 13 tetrads (CFT). 5 pairs bred on census area of Skipwith Common (PP).

127. Coot

In Sq. SE 64 bred at Naburn S.F., Deighton, Escrick (CFT) and Fulford (TC).

131. Oystercatcher

Two at Linton just in the Club's area on 22 Jul. (EC).

133. Lapwing ***

Proved breeding at Naburn S.F.; Heslington Tilmire (CFT) and Skipwith Common (PP).

134. Ringed Plover

At Naburn S.F. 2 on 19 Aug.; 3 from 26 to 30 Sep. and 1 on 2 Oct. (CFT). At University Lake, Heslington, 1 on 28 Aug. (FW).

140. Golden Plover

At Overton there were c.12 on 5 Mar. (EG). Bubwith Ings held c.200 on 21 Mar. (CFT). Earliest of autumn were 5 at Acaster Malbis on 8 Aug. and 4 Sep., where numbers rose to 55 on 14 Sep. and increased later to 200+ (DW). At Wilberfoss c.200 wintered from late Oct. (PP). At Wheldrake c.50 on 21 Oct. and c.70 on 17 Dec. (CFT, DW). At Bolton Percy 150+ on 31 Dec. At Bubwith c.40 on 10 Dec. (VJP).

145. Snipe

In breeding season in Sq. SE 64 recorded in five localities, namely south of Escrick, Heslington Tilmire, Elvington Airfield, Thorganby and Wheldrake Ings (CFT). 3 pairs bred on census area of Skipwith Common (PP). Recorded at Naburn S.F. from 2 Jul. (one) to end of year with numbers rising to max. of 50+ in late Sep. (CFT). After the initial autumn flood the adjoining Fulford Ings attracted most of the birds from the S.F. and held c.200 on 1 Dec, (VJP). Several records of 100+ from the Derwent in last quarter of the year.

147. Jack Snipe

One at Wheldrake Ings up to 7 May (CFT). One at Fulford Ings on 1 Dec. (VJP).

148. Woodcock

Only one definite breeding record received - near Tilmire Farm (map ref. 641462) where TC saw young on 5 Apr. Present in breeding season at Skipwith (PP), Wheldrake Woods (CFT). 'Roding' at Yearsley in Apr. (PH).

150. Curlew

Breeding season records for many localities including Brandsby, Crayke (PH), near Overton Wood (MW, LM), an area WNW of York (JAG), Wheldrake, Thorganby, Escrick, Elvington (CFT), Colton (ED) and Strensall (DW), Breeding proved at Appleton Roebuck and Skipwith (PP). A few winter records of single birds.

151. Whimbrel

Two at Naburn S.F. on 16 May (CFT). One at Foxwood Hill (York) on 22 May (JAG).

155. Bar-tailed Godwit

One at Wheldrake Ings on 1 May (VJP, CFT).

156. Green Sandpiper

Spring passage records: singletons at Naburn S.F. on 28 Apr. and 14 May. One Skipwith Common 24 Jun. (CFT). Autumn passage: singletons at Naburn S.F. on 20, 28 and 31 Jul. (ED, CFT); 19, 22 and 23 Aug.; 2 Oct. (CFT). One Skipwith Common 7 Jul (PP). 5 at Stillingfleet Beck on 30 Aug. (FWO). One was in the Derwent valley on 21 Nov. (IDM).

157. Wood Sandpiper

One spring passage record: one at Skipwith Common on 23 Apr. (PP). In autumn singletons at Naburn S.F. 19-21 Jul. (CFT, JAG); 17 and 24 Aug. (JS CFT)

159. Common Sandpiper

On spring passage singletons at Naburn S.F. on 30 Apr. and 14 May; 2 on 28 May (CFT). First of autumn passage one at Skipwith Common on 7 Jul. (PP) and thereafter recorded regularly at Naburn S.F. up to 29 Aug. with maxima of 5 on 11, 13 and 29 Aug. (ED, CFT) and 6 on 17 Aug. (JS). Two there on 4 Sep. (MW) and one 17-20 Sep. (CFT).

161 Redshank

Recorded in breeding season in meadows of Ouse and Derwent, and breeding proved at Naburn S.F., Wheldrake and West Cottingwith Ings (CFT). Winter records: 1 at Naburn S.F. on 11 Nov. (CFT) and 2 in Derwent valley on 21 Nov. (IDM).

162. Spotted Redshank

One at Naburn S.F. on 9 Jul. (JAG, DWn); 1 at Wheldrake Ings on 4 Oct. (CFT).

165. Greenshank

One at University Lake, Heslington on 16 Aug. (JVG); 5 at Naburn S.F. on 22 Aug. (CFT).

171 Little Stint

One at Naburn S.F. 17-20 Sep. (CFT).

178. Dunlin

Seven at Aughton on 5 Jan. (VJP). Flock of up to 80 at Wheldrake Ings from 24 Apr. to 1 May (CFT). At Naburn S.F. 1 on 21 Jul. (RD); 2 on 13 Sep.; 1 on 27 Sep.; 2 on 13 Oct. and 1 on 19 - 20 Oct. (CFT).

179. Curlew Sandpiper

One at Naburn S.F. 14-20 Sep. (CFT).

184. Ruff

A pair at Fulford Ings 9-14 Apr. At Wheldrake Ings in Apr.: 14 on 16th; 13 on 17th; 7 on 27th and 1 on 29th. One there on 1 May (CFT). At Naburn S.F. recorded on twelve days between 2 Jul. and 26 Aug. with max. of 4 on 11 Aug. (JAG).

198. Great Black-backed Gull

199. Lesser Black-backed Gull

200. Herring Gull

Records of these three species are disappointingly few and the conclusion is inescapable - that they have been under-recorded. As would be expected, the Lesser B.B. Gull occurred on passage and the other two species in the winter but it would be pointless to say more on the records received.

201. Common Gull *

About a dozen immatures summered at Naburn S.F. and vicinity (CFT).

208. Black-headed Gull

An estimated 50 pairs in colony at Skipwith Common. c.65 unfledged young present in late June (NCPM, VJP, CFT).

212. Black Tern

Two at Clifton over the Ouse on 16 May (JAG, VJP).

217/218 Common/Arctic Tern

Four "Commic" terns at Wheldrake Ings on 18 May. One Common Tern at Naburn S.F. on 11 Jun. (CFT).

232. Stock Dove

Present in breeding season in at least 4 tetrads of Sq. SE 64 (CFT) and at Skipwith (PP) .

234. Wood Pigeon ***

Collared Dove

During 1967 birds were again present at Barlby and Skipwith and recorded, apparently for the first time, in York where up to 3 were seen at Heworth. The 1966 breeding site at Askham Bryan was deserted in 1967 (JAG).

235. Turtle Dove **

Present in breeding season in at least 5 tetrads of Sq. SE 64 (CFT) and at Wheldrake Woods an estimated 7 pairs (PP). At least 6 pairs at Buttercrambe (PP) and 5 pairs on Skipwith Common census area (PP) .

237. Cuckoo **

241. Barn Owl

Breeding proved in Sqs. SE 53, 54, 56, 63, 64, 65 and 74, and present in breeding season in SE 55 and 57.

246. Little Owl

Recorded in breeding season at Castle Howard (EDA), Brandsby (PH), Wheldrake, Appleton Roebuck and Buttercrambe (PP) Skelton (RJO), Cawood (TG) and outside breeding season at Deighton and Fulford (TC) and Colton (RD).

247. Tawny Owl

Breeding proved in Sqs. SE 53, 54, 57, 64, 65, 73 and 74, and present in breeding season in SE 55 •

248. Long-eared Owl

Recorded only from Skipwith Common where 3 pairs bred (PP) . A winter roost there held 8 birds on 30 Dec. (TC).

249. Short-eared Owl

At Aughton 1 on 21 Mar. (CFT); 1 on 21 Nov. (IDM) and 23 Dec, and 2 on 6 Dec. (CFT).

252. Nightjar

One pair bred at Barlow near Selby; 5 or 6 pairs at Skipwith Common during breeding season (PP). Present in breeding season at Wheldrake Woods (VJP).

255. Swift **

258. Kingfisher

One at Fulford on 25 Oct. (TC).

262. Green Woodpecker

Present in breeding season at Grimston and Kilburn (PH), Castle Howard, Wheldrake Woods and Skipwith Common (PP), Strensall (TC) and Elvington (CFT).

263. Great Spotted Woodpecker

Bred Brandsby (PH), and present in breeding season at Wheldrake Woods and Skipwith (PP) and Escrick (CFT).

272. Skylark ***

274. Swallow **

276. House Martin **

277. Sand Martin

280. Carrion Crow ***

282. Rook ***

283. Jackdaw

In York colonies in Fulford Road area and Foss Islands Road/Aldwark area. Present in breeding season Skipwith Common (PP) and "many" in Escrick Park (CFT).

284. Magpie ***

In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 4 tetrads (CFT). Noted as less common than Jay on Skipwith Common (PP).

286. Jay ***

In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 5 tetrads (CFT).

288. Great Tit ***

Four pairs on census area Skipwith Common (PP).

289. Blue Tit ***

Six pairs on census area Skipwith Common (PP).

290. Coal Tit

Bred Skipwith Common (PP) . Present breeding season Wheldrake Woods and Naburn (CFT), None noted in area around Brandsby (PH).

292. Marsh Tit

Bred Brandsby (PH); Skipwith Common (PP). More information is required on this and the next species .

293. Willow Tit

Bred Skipwith Common (PP) and present at Bransby and Grimston (PH) and Tholthorpe (JS).

294. Long-tailed Tit

Many records received of pairs breeding or presumed to be breeding and of family parties. List of localities (not exhaustive) include Brandsby and Grimston (up to 16 and 26 respectively in early part of year - PH); Skipwith Common (up to 11+ in that period - PP); Claxton (6 in Aug. - JS); Strensall (9 on 22 Oct - MW); Naburn S.F. (a few - CFT). Breeding proved at Naburn, Deighton, Wheldrake and presumed at Heslington and Elvington (CFT). 2 pairs on Skipwith Common census area (PP). A pair bred at Colton, Hagg Wood (ED).

298. Treecreeper

This species is probably more common than the records received indicate. Bred Brandsby (PH), Buttercrambe (PP). Present in breeding season at Grimston (PH); Naburn, Escrick and Wheldrake (CFT) and Skipwith (PP). Outside breeding season recorded at a number of suitable localities.

299. Wren ***

Four pairs on census area of Skipwith Common (PP)

300. Dipper

One at Yearsley on 5 Oct. (PH).

301. Mistle Thrush ***

Proved breeding at Yearsley (PH), Appleton Roebuck (PP), Nunthorpe Grammar School, York (JAG), Clifton (VJP), Escrick (CFT), Haxby and Strensall (NCPM).

302. Fieldfare *

Widespread at both ends of the year. Recorded in spring up to late April. Largest flock recorded was 300+ at Wheldrake Ings 21 Oct. (CFT).

303. Song Thrush ***

304. Redwing *

308. Blackbird ***

311. Wheatear

Two at Naburn R.F. on 16 Sep. (PH). Other records are of single birds only during spring and autumn passage,

318. Whinchat

In Sq. SE 64 only one pair found in breeding season, namely at Thorganby (CFT) . Present in breeding season at Skipwith Common (PP) and Allerthorpe Common (CFT). Bred Overton Wood (MW, LM) and between Acaster Malbis and Acaster Selby (FWO).

320. Redstart

Few records received: at least 3 pairs bred Brandsby area (PH); Skipwith Common (1 pr. on census area). Present in breeding season at Wheldrake Woods (PP).

325. Robin ***

One sang at night under a street light at Foxwood Hill, York from 11 p.m. to 12.45 a.m. on most nights for a fortnight from 25 Nov. The Skipwith Common census area had 16 pairs (PP).

327. Grasshopper Warbler

No proved breeding but song heard or birds seen at the following localities: Elvington and Wheldrake Woods in Kay (CFP); Overton Wood from May to July (MW, LM); Wheldrake Ings at end of June (CFT); Buttercrambe in July (JAG); Skipwith (PP) and Grimston - 3 in June and 6 in July (PH).

333. Reed Warbler

Present in breeding season on Skipwith Common as usual but no estimate of population made (PP).

337. Sedge Warbler **

Three pairs on Skipwith Common census area (PP).

343. Blackcap

Three pairs on Skipwith Common census area. Present in breeding season at Buttercrambe and Wheldrake Woods (PP).

346. Garden Warbler

Present in breeding season at Buttercrambe and Skipwith Common (PP).

347. Whitethroat **

354. Willow Warbler **

There were an estimated 34 pairs on the Skipwith Common census area (PP). Recorded in breeding season in most woods in Sq. SE 64 (CFT).

356. Chiffchaff **

Far less common than Willow Warbler. In Sq. SE 64 found only in Wheldrake Woods though the search of the Sq. was not exhaustive (CFT). Wheldrake Woods held 6 singing males on 9 Jul.; Buttercrambe c.5 singing males on 5 Jul. and there was one pair on Skipwith Common census area (PP). Most of the spring records obviously relate mainly to birds still on passage.

364. Goldcrest

Recorded in winter in small parties from many areas. Present in breeding season Wheldrake Woods (PP).

366. Spotted Flycatcher

Present in breeding season at Buttercrambe, Escrick, Skipwith (PP), Naburn, Wheldrake, Thorganby (CFT), Clifton (definitely bred) (VJP), New Earswick (JKB), Fulford (definitely bred) (JAG), Brandsby (PH), Middlethorpe and Acaster Malbis (RD, DW).

371. Dunnock ***

373. Meadow Pipit

In Sq. SE 64 in breeding season found only at Naburn S.F. (1 pr. suspected of having young) and Heslington Tilmire (6 prs) (TC, CFT). Present in breeding season at Brandsby (PH) and Skipwith (PP). Recorded in many areas in winter and on passage with up to 35 at Naburn S.F. in autumn (CFT).

376. Tree Pipit

In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 4 tetrads (CFT). Present in breeding season at Buttercrambe and Skipwith (PP).

380. Pied Wagtail ***

In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 5 tetrads. A concentration of breeding pairs at Naburn S.F. where gaps in the brick work supporting the filters was a favourite nest site (CFT).

381. Grey Wagtail

A few records received of singletons at Naburn S.F. outside the breeding season.

382. Yellow Wagtail

In Sq. SE 64. bred at Naburn S.F. or vicinity and present in breeding season at Heslington and Wheldrake Ings (CFT). On spring passage largest concentrations were at Wheldrake Ings - 12 on 27 Apr.; 10 on 1 May and at Naburn S.F, - 15 on 2 May and 30+ on 5 May. On autumn passage present in some numbers at Naburn S.F, (CFT) and University Lake, Heslington (JW),

383. Waxwing

One at Fulford Road, York, on 25 Nov. (PP).

389. Starling ***

The roost at Rufforth (map ref. 550517) which held possibly over one million birds in the winter of 1966/7 appeared to be largely deserted in the latter part of the year and held only c.1000 on 25 Dec. (CFT).

391. Hawfinch

One on 18 Jan. at York University (JAG).

392. Greenfinch ***

The large winter roost at Moorlands continued to be used.

393. Goldfinch

In Sq. SE 64. present in breeding season in at least 11 tetrads (CFT).

394. Siskin

18 at Fulford on 30 Jan. (TC); 30 at Castle Howard on 12 Feb. (JAG); 8 at Strensall on 26 Nov.

395. Linnet ***

8 In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 9 tetrads (CFT).

397. Redpoll

Present in breeding season at Crayke (PH); Wheldrake Woods (CFT); Buttercrambe and Skipwith Common (PP) .

401. Bullfinch ***

In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season in at least 11 tetrads (CFT).

407. Chaffinch ***

408. Brambling

Largest flock recorded was only of 10 at Grimston on 19 Feb. The latest was one at Skewsby on 27 Apr. (PH).

409. Yellowhammer ***

410. Corn Bunting

In Sq. SE 64 present in breeding season at least in 9 tetrads (CFT).

421. Reed Bunting ***

424. House Sparrow ***

425. Tree Sparrow ***

In Sq. SE 64 present in most areas in breeding season (CFT).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS 1968

Members are reminded that all records are worth keeping and are wanted of even the commonest species. The aim of the Club is to build up a body of information on the numbers and distribution of birds in the fifteen 10 Km squares which the Club covers. This information will be of use in the five-year mapping scheme of the B.T.O. referred to in the Introduction to this Report. No scheme for recording will succeed without the co-operation of members and the Committee have given careful consideration to the method of securing the necessary information best suited to this Club.

The Recording Card This has been devised as a convenient method of securing records. It is intended for use in the area at any time of the year, but the time of its particular importance will be during the breeding season which, for the purposes of the B.T.O. mapping scheme is 1 April to 31 July with the following exceptions: pigeons and doves April to August;

Mistle Thrush March to June;

Corn Bunting May to August;

summer visitors 1 May to 31 July.

The presence of species in the area visited will normally be recorded by a tick but during the breeding seasons it will be of particular value if some evidence of breeding is secured, in which case instead of a tick a special notation should be made against the species name on the card. The notation probable breeding is:

S if singing male present

T if bird or pair apparently holding territory

B if nest building or excavation of nest hole observed

N if bird seen to visit probable nest site

D if courtship and display seen

The notation for proved breeding is:

NE if nest and eggs seen or bird is sitting and not disturbed or egg shells found away from nest

NY if nest and young seen

FY if adults seen with food for young

FL if recently fledged young seen

FS if bird seen carrying faecal sac

DD if distraction display or injury feigning seen

ON if adults seen entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating nest and not mere prospecting e.g. bird stays in hole, or on high nest, or leaves hole or high nest having been inside or on the nest for a considerable time or pair changing over at nest.

UN if used nest found

It must be emphasized that in completing the cards species not positively identified should not be recorded as present out of a fear that the species will otherwise be assumed, to be absent from the area. The card should be used even if the information on it covers only a few species leaving others unrecorded e.g. it should be used to cover an inspection of a small pond where note was taken only of Moorhen and Pied Wagtail and other species ignored. It is realised that care will be needed in interpreting the completed cards due to the fact that many species e.g. hirundines, swifts and ducks occur in the breeding season in many areas where they do not breed.

Other records: records not submitted on cards should be submitted in list form before the end of the year.

Scarce or unusual species; these need confirmation and should be reported immediately to the Recorder or other officer of the Club. In the case of breeding species care will be taken that the birds are not disturbed and the confidentiality of the record will be respected. It is essential to (*next page apparently missing*)