

## YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB REPORT 1968

### OFFICERS

Chairman: Peter Pearson  
Secretary: Sylvia White  
Recorder and Report Editor: Peter Hutchinson  
Treasurer: Margaret Weeden  
Assistant Recorder: Terry Chilton  
Excursion Secretary: Brian Caffrey  
Committee: Ena Clark, Brian Pepper

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1968 was another year of consolidation for the Club and also one of change. The changes mainly related to the officers who, by a complicated "musical chairs" operation managed to ensure a new look after our October A.G.M. The thanks of the members are preferred to Colin Turner who returned to the "sunny South" after an all too brief look at the North. Despite the shortness of his stay he has left an indelible impression on us and his quiet conviction and objective point of view on all matters ornithological will be remembered for years to come. David Wilson also stood down from the Committee after a spell of over five years and we thank him for as well representing the younger members. Vic Pulleyn had to stand down because of his impending temporary (we hope) absence from York. His cheerful and friendly presence will be missed.

The membership showed a further increase to a total of 75. Further pressures on the Club were exerted by children who wished to join. Because of this and a desire to encourage an interest in nature, the Club has decided to proceed with a limited experiment of a junior section. This will be subject to review at the next A.G.M. In the meantime, 12 to 20 juniors (ages up to 13 years inc.) will be accommodated at special indoor meetings and some field trips will be organized. The names of suitably interested children should be sent to me and any adults wishing to assist in the supervision and organisation of this scheme will be very welcome.

Unless the Club attempts to encourage and educate young people then we will fail in our duty to the next generation of potential senior members.

Subscriptions had to be increased for 1969 because of the constant increase in costs generally and the expansion of Club activities which outweighed even the growing membership income at the old rate.

It is sometimes alleged that the Club is too concerned over the formalities of administration, with minutes, agendas, cards, reports, etc. More time, it is suggested, should be given to talking about birds and bird watching. This is a very desirable ambition and we must always strive to perform our declared intentions as set out in the Constitution. However, without a businesslike approach, a Club of this size would quickly descend into a rabble. It is only out of order and some discipline that any good and worthwhile ventures can proceed. Even so, your Committee is anxious of the need to satisfy these basic demands and new methods and approaches are being considered and tried. Ideas and suggestions from members are a great help and the number received gives an indication of the health of the Club.

The decision to adopt a standard Field Record Card as announced in the 1967 Report was soon proved to be a wise one. Indeed the designers of the card can take comfort in the fact that by their foresight (or was it accident?) the Card achieved an enhanced usefulness when the B.T.O. Atlas Project was announced in April 1968. Our Field Record Card is ideally suited to the needs of both the Club Report and the Atlas work. The Recorder has something to say on another page about ways in which we can improve on the completion of these cards.

Here again is an example of what a Club is about. Some might feel that Survey; and Censuses are either a needless or, at best, merely a time-consuming exercise not for them. Others, who have tried this work, discover that it is the most interesting and rewarding 'birding' they perform and, indeed, the very discipline they required. Most of us realise that without the co-operation of the amateur observer these Surveys could not be undertaken and this would, in time, inevitably lead to a reduction in the quality/quantity of what there was to be enjoyed. Without such effort by Clubs like ours basic national and local conservation policy decisions could not be taken. It is our means of putting something 'back' in return for the enjoyment we get from bird watching.

One of the most pleasing signs of the Club's increasing influence and maturity is the growing number of members involved in the work of other Societies, and organisations such as the Y.N.T., the Y.N.U. and also with Nature Reserve Management Committees. Two of our members, I am assured, are highly regarded members of the Fairburn Ings Committee and several are wardens of the Skipwith Common Reserve, There are other examples in addition.

Another welcome trend is the number of members with an interest in more than just the ornithological branch of natural history. Beyond a certain point ornithology cannot be studied in isolation and it inevitably becomes necessary to broaden one's interest and viewpoint. More members are becoming photographically interested and this is evident from the excellent work shown at our meetings) The standards are most obviously rising. Members are also involved in ringing and the results of this work are well earned for they are hard won, as anyone will know who has done this work in all weathers,

Finally, a plea is made that during 1969 more members will use the excellent facilities for bird watching which exist on our own doorstep. No one can deny that the high quality facilities at Naburn S/F were sadly ignored before Colin Turner arrived from Kent to show us! Wheldrake Woods and the Derwent Valley are other areas worthy of closer attention. In case anyone feels that these areas are the poor relations of more distant delights then I suggest that they try these and half-a-dozen more and then make a sober appraisal of the results bearing in mind the time and money spent travelling as well as the results obtained.

I would like to see more members treating the longer distance trips as well-earned relief and relaxation from regular and methodical studies nearer home, and not the primary raison d'etre of ornithology.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Our Chairman has decided to donate a prize to be awarded at the meeting on 16th September, 1969. The rules are quite straightforward:-

1. The competition is for colour slides of a bird or birds»
2. It must be the sole work of the entrant who must have been a paid member at the time the "photo was taken,,
3. It must be taken within Yorkshire.
4. The laws relating to Bird Protection must be observed,,
5. In judging merit, regard will be had to the species portrayed and emphasis will be placed upon the degree of difficulty of photographing certain species.  
Photographic and artistic ability will, of course, be important but, all things being equal, will not over-ride the ornithological achievement.
6. The slide must- be projected at the Club meeting on 16th September 1969 and be submitted a few days before to the Chairman for consideration
7. The prize will be a book-token or gift voucher (as required) to the value of 30/-

### RECORDERS REMARKS

The general response from Club members has been very encouraging and has resulted again in a worthwhile Report. The B.T.O. Atlas survey record cards were made up directly from our Club report,,

About 250 cards and other reports were received and processed. Contributors numbered 24, an increase of one over 1968! Your Recorder noted a more detailed entry in nearly every case. Obvious examples were B.T.O. key notations instead of a mere; mammals, descriptions and remarks; precise map areas and habitats; dates written down instead of numbered, CFTen wind and temperatures. A few members are using "forged" Y.O.C. cards!, it would be appreciated if these members could produce a more accurate facsimile and thus avoid giving future Recorders a sore thumb! The work submitted on these cards was of a high standard so I do not propose to invoke the copyright act!

Every card was scrutinized and, wherever possible used according to value. In some cases e.g. Little Gull, the record of the original observer was mostly used, in others a single record might be discounted by other overlapping records,, But don't think your record was ignored.

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Two further matters of interest quickly became obvious., namely that SE 63 and 64 are under constant scrutiny by the Club and that Naburn sewage farm is watched by a large percentage of members. I make no comment (the attractions of a sewage farm require no elaboration from me) other than to draw attention to the following adjacent and salubrious areas - River Ouse - Clifton Ings - Askham Bog - Castle Howard - Buttercrambe Woods - Allerthorpe Common and all areas in SE 53 55 54.

A brief analysis indicates SE 63 64. 65 produced three record cards to every other square (12) 1. Again no comment is called for,

Here then, are the results of your interest and enthusiasm. I enjoyed collecting them and hope for more and more contributors from now on.

PETER HUTCHINSON

## CONTRIBUTORS

Lois Foster Carter	E/M Poole
Terry Chilton	Peter Pearson
Bill Taylor	Brian Pepper
Ed Clark	Victor Pulleyn
Geo Clark	Colin Simms
Ena Clark	Geoffrey Smith
Francis Elgee	J» Summerton
Peter Hutchinson	Colin Turner (CFT)
Iris Lemare	Geo/M Todd
Nicholas Marsden	Margaret Weeden
John Mather	Sylvia White
	John Williamson

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee wish to record their thanks to R.S. Bellhouse Esq., the City Engineer and to S. Bowes Esq., the manager at Naburn Sewage Farm for facilities granted in bird observation there.

Also to the owners and agents of the many estates who have allowed access and the Forestry Commission Conservancy.

## RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS 1969

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 1st April to 31st July with the following exceptions!

Pigeons and Doves - April to August  
Mistle Thrush - March to June  
Corn Bunting - May to August  
Summer Visitors - 1st May to 31st 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 for probably 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 probably 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 take notes in the field, before books have been consulted, concerning the following points:

- (a) description of bird as seen
- (b) distances from which seen
- (c) duration of observations
- (d) light and weather
- (e) optical aids used
- (f) other species nearby for comparison
- (g) whether anyone else saw the bird and his opinion

Records of extreme rarities on the list of the Rarities Committee of "British Birds" can only be accepted if agreed by that Committee. It is not proposed to set out in detail all the species for which written evidence is required. It will suffice

- (a) species known to be scarce or unusual in the area and
- (b) all out of season migrants

For the avoidance of doubt the following list (which is not exhaustive) do require written evidence:

- All divers
- Grebes except Great Crested and Little
- Petrels
- Shearwaters
- Shag
- Hérons except Common
- Bitterns
- All Sea ducks and sawbills
- All Geese except Canadas
- All Harriers, Hawks and Falcons except Kestrels
- Osprey
- Quail
- Rails and Crakes except Water Rail
- Unusual Passage Waders including Wood Sandpiper
- All Skuas
- Glaucous and Iceland Gulls
- All Terns except "Commic" at normal passage dates
- All Auks
- All Larks except Skylark
- Dipper
- Unusual Warblers
- All Shrikes
- Twites
- Crossbills

It is hoped that none of the more experienced observers will regard the necessity for written evidence on some species with which they are familiar as an imposition. It is essential for three reasons, (i) any reader of the yearly report is entitled to know that records have been carefully vetted and no unusual record accepted solely on the Committee's opinion of the observer's ability and experience - we can all make mistakes! (ii) the less experienced members should have the same assurance and (iii) the County Recorders of the Y.N.U. need to be satisfied with a record before including it in the bird report in "The Naturalist". It is hoped that no member will be deterred from submitting a record in which he has personal confidence.

#### ATLAS PROJECT

1968 proved to be a very good year for the B.T.O. Atlas survey work and the Club report has proved very successful as one can see with a good deal of field work undertaken; but I must point out that most of the record work has been undertaken in the squares SE64 and SE 63 which contain Skipwith Common, Wheldrake Woods and Wheldrake lngs.

These areas are probably the best venues in the Club area and it is only reasonable to assume that they are the most popular for bird watching.

The purpose of this article is to point out the importance of getting out into the other squares within the Club's area and getting more records that must be there for the recording. For instance, the squares to the north of the Club's area, SE 57, 67, 77, Coxwold, Helmsley and Malton, first class birding haunts but hardly covered at all, possible breeding haunts of the Grey Wagtail, Dipper and Pied Flycatcher.

This also applies to the other squares in the east and the west which contain some very fine habitats which cannot afford to be overlooked. One can never tell when one of these areas may be visited by some unusual species.

It has been suggested by several members of the committee, special weekend trips could be directed from the more popular venues to those more remote areas to try and do a year's survey work as it were, in one day. I suppose this would work if we had enough volunteers but we will have to go into this more fully at a later date.

Meanwhile, we must go into the 1969 season with determination to do even better than 1968 and really get cracking into survey and report work; with the increased membership and efficiency this should not be too difficult.

Terry Chilton.

• Coxwold SE 57	• Hovingham SE 67	SE 77 Malton
• Easingwold SE 56	Sherriff Hutton SE 66	SE 76 Acklam •
Skelton • SE 55	SE 65 • York	• Skirpenbeck SE 75
Askham Richard SE 54	SE 64 Es crick	Sutton • Upon Derwent SE74.
Church • Fenton SE 53	• Skipwith SE 63 e, Selby	• Bubwith SE 73

### CLUB CENSUS AREA

### RINGING 1968

The Ringing during 1968 was more than halved as Colin Turner moved out of the area and Vic and I both had exams at different times in the year. We still managed to ring a total of 466 birds as opposed to 1,052 for 1967. Ringing was mainly confined to Naburn Sewage Farm, in April/May, and Moorlands in January/February. No rare birds were ringed except a Sparrowhawk near Brandsby which was caught by a game-keeper and released, but the more interesting were 4 Swift, 1 Skylark, 6 Long-tailed Tit, 2 Fieldfare, 2 Sedge Warbler, 14 Yellow Wagtail, 1 Goldfinch, 3 Brambling and the most common were 99 Greenfinch, 65 Sand Martin, 48 Swallow,

47 House Martin and 43 Blackbirds. All the birds with the exception of 5 Great Tits were trapped in mist nets and Swifts are not exactly easy to catch any way.

Recoveries from other ringers (1) and the public (2) were reported to the British Trust for Ornithology? totalled 13. Among these were:-

Redwing ringed at Moorlands on 26th November 1967. Found shot near Hull on 20th January 1968, - 30 miles.

Greenfinch ringed at Moorlands on 2nd December 1967 trapped and released in Flanders, Belgium on 22nd January 1968.

Barn Owl ringed as a pulli at Osgodby, Nr. Selby ringed 12th July 1967, found shot at Pollington, Snaith - 8 miles.

Song Thrush ringed at Strensall, York on 29th October 1967, was killed striking a window on 28th April 1968 at Hook, near Goole - 24 miles. Other reasons for being reported were - blown against tree in high wind, dead - killed by car - caught in pheasant pen, released,. Entered conservatory - died after handling - just found dead (5).

Only two birds were caught (April) both which were ringed by other ringers of other areas, both were Sand Martins, being ringed at East Retford, Notts., in June 1967 and at March, Cambs, in August 1966,

We have great hopes for 1969.

VIC PULLEYN  
NICK MARSDEN.

## ANALYSIS OF ATLAS PROJECT WORK 1968

Square SE	"Name" of Square	Birds Seen Col, 1	Possible Breeding	Breeding Col. 3	Total	Notes
53	Cawood	-	-	-	-	Poor
54	Askham Bog	2	-	4	6	Poor
55	Ouse – W. York	22	12	6	38	Mod.
56	Shipton/Overton	8	20	9	37	Mod.
57	Coxwold	14	31	19	64	Good
63	Skipwith Common	11	20	57	88	V.Good
64	Naburn/Wheldrake	23	13	67	103	V.Good
65	Strensall (South)	10	12	42	64	Good
66	" (North)	10	24	39	63	Good
67	Brandsby	15	22	23	60	Good
73	Bubwith	27		6	33	Mod.
74	Allerthorpe	1	-	2	3	Poor
75	Stamford Bridge	2		1	3	Poor
76	Buttercrambe	19	9	47	75	V.Good
77	Castle Howard	34	19	18	71	V.Good

### SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species are arranged in the order of the check-list of The Birds of Great Britain and Ireland published by the BOU (London 1952) subject to the changes decided upon by the editors of British Birds and notified in that journal. The number preceding the name of each species refers to that given in the check-list.

#### 5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Recorded in only two areas - Pondhead Reservoir. Yearsley, and Castle Howard Lake as follows:

10th March - Pond Head - pair displaying, also 12th April and 3rd June with 2 juveniles (PH).

24th March - Castle Howard (VP NM) and 29th May - 5 adult one only juvenile (PH) 3rd November - 1 (LFC)

10th November - 8 (PH)

#### 9. LITTLE GREBE

Better response from members show this species recorded in eleven different areas:

Naburn, Pond Head, Aughton, Strensall Foss, Deighton, Stillingfleet, Castle Howard, University Lake, Skipwith, Barlby and Newburgh. Bred successfully Naburn (1C Of), Pond Head (PH) probably University Lake and elsewhere.

3rd June Deighton Family (TC) 141 Juveniles Barlby Anagrams (PP)

#### 30. GREY HERON

Recorded in area with reasonable frequency but no apparent nesting. Breeding records Rydale (PH), Scampston (IOC), Commonly at Castle Howard, Aughton, Naburn, Tadcaster, Deepdale, Wheldrake, Barlby Anagrams, Bubwith, and Skipwith.

#### 38. BITTERN

Not recorded during 1968.

45. MALLARD

Widely dispersed throughout area. Many reports of breeding records, viz.  
Naburn, Skipwith Common, Fulford Ings, Yearsley, Stearsby, Brandsby, Castle Howard., (PP. TC. OT. GS.)  
First brood University Lake 23rd April (JW)  
Large Winter Rafts Castle Howard c1000 10th November PH  
Aughton c700 November TG.

46. TEAL

Probable breeding Yearsley, Newburgh March/April (PH) Skipwith, Fulford (CFT, TC, PP)  
Many records throughout the year from areas SE 64/74.  
Otherwise as follows: Hereby Hall, Heslington, Bubwith, large numbers Derwent Valley over winter.

47. GARGANEY

Wheldrake Ings 14th April 1 CFT.  
Wheldrake Ings 28th April 1 female CFT.

48. BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Not observed during 1968.

49. GADWALL

No records

50. WIGEON

Castle Howard, Skipwith Common, River Ouse. Mostly small groups. At the turn and early part of the year numbers from 120 to c1500 were recorded from Derwent Valley floods.

52. PINTAIL

Records from Derwent area only.  
21st January Wheldrake Ings 6 (TC)  
28th January Wheldrake 15 (PP) Also 18th February c60 Bubwith.  
18th May University Ponds introduced two ducklings not seen after this date (JH)  
1st December Aughton 8 (TC. JS. BT) 15th December Aughton 38 (BP)

53. SHOVELER

Recorded in winter at Aughton, Castle Howard, Naburn, Kirkham, Wheldrake, Skipwith Common, University, Fulford. Steady records over July/August periods. Nested Naburn S/F, Wheldrake Ings (BT. JB<sub>0</sub> TG). Other records from GS, VP, HM, BP.  
Maximum numbers: 20th December Aughton 20 (BP), 24th March Castle Howard 21 (NM UP)  
Possibly bred Skipwith Common (PP)

55. SCAUP

First record for Skipwith Common - specimen had unfortunately been shot (PP)

56. TUFTED DUCK

Reports from most suitable habitats.  
20th March Newburgh 30 (PH) 24th March Castle Howard 32 (VP. HM) First young 29th June 8 at Skipwith Common (CFT)  
Bred also Yearsley, Middlethorpe., Castle Howard. Breeding records should perhaps be more plentiful than this.  
Winter flocks of 100+ Aughton December (TC. JS. BT.)



57. POCHARD

No large numbers - maximum 20 Wheldrake Ings

28th January Settled (introduced?) University Lake but without breeding success (one female wounded).

Total records as follows:

21st January Wheldrake Ings 12 (TC)

28th January Wheldrake Ings 20 (PP)

24th March Castle Howard 4 (VP. NM)

12th May University 2 (JW)

1st December Aughton 1 (JW)

60. GOLDENEYE

24th March Castle Howard 24 (4 females) (VP. HM) 13th October Naburn S/F 1 (GS) 7th December Naburn S/F 1 (GS)

69. RBMERGANSER

70. GOOSANDER

73. SHELDUCK

75. GREYLAG GOOSE )

'GREY 'GEESE SP. ) 28th January Wheldrake Ings 2

) 7th November Barlow 150/200

78. PINK-FOOTED GOOSE )

81. BARNACLE GOOSE

82. CANADA GOOSE

Most records from Castle Howard although recorded in smaller (c 3 acres) stretches of water in the colder month. However, Castle Howard is the chief breeding ground and numbers exceeding 200 have been counted.

84. MUTE SWAN

1st January Wheldrake Ings and throughout year in SE 64. A pair at Yearsley SE 67 apparently produced no young although aggressive. Broods from River Ouse Coxwold, Tadcaster, Naburn and University Lake.

85. WHOOPER SWAN

21st January Wheldrake Ings 35 (TC)

28th January Wheldrake Ings 11

18th February Bubwith Ings 3

86. BEWICKS SWAN

28th January Wheldrake Ings 28 (PP)

18th February Bubwith Ings 7 (PP)

17th November SE 63 77 (TC. GS)

1st December Hagg Bridge 80 (TC. BT. JS)

11th December Aughton 65 (BP) 1

5th December Aughton 62 (BP)

93. SPARROWHAWK

This raptor is apparently recovering ground - records were made (3 during 1967) three of which indicated breeding. Only gamekeepers now appear to prevent the bird from flourishing. Your recorder believes they do so systematically and without compunction., Where more than one pair breed in an estate the keeper might leave one reduced brood, even co-operating with his neighbour in this one matter, i.e. One pair with half young

over two pheasant-rearing estates. Full records for area:

21st January Fulford female (TC)

4th February Heslington female (TC. BT.)

5th "March Heslington male (TO)

31st March Sutton Derwent (TC. BT)

31st March SE 67 in hand - injured. Failed to recover and refused post-mortem examination by gamekeeper (PH)

28th April SE 67 passed 20 yards away (PH)

24th May SE 67 (PH)

25th August SE 67 pursued prey through a barn male (PH)

28th August SE 67 2nd year female ringed YOC (PH)

5th June SE 64 nest (TC)

Several dates, April and November single birds Skipwith Common (PP)

Members are asked to scrutinize 'Gibbets' for signs of persecution and to act according to advice laid down in 'Protection of Birds' Act handbook (RSPB Publication)

It is realised that circumspection will be required, this is preferable however, to wringing ones hands and doing nothing. (This now applies to many birds of course).

#### HARRIER SP.

Not observed SE 67/77 during year (PH)

1st December SE 73 (TC, BT, GS) very good observation at Aughton

#### 100. HEN HARRIER

SE 63 - 2 (PP. JM)

#### RED-FOOTED FALCON

SE 66 - 1 (OS)

#### 103. OSPREY

Despite a daily watch over a seven-day period at Castle Howard, the spring visitor recorded over 1966/67 was not recorded (PH).

#### 110. KESTREL

To be seen daily in area particularly from late summer. Better records 1968 showing nesting in squares SE 53, 54-, 63, 64., 65, 66, 74, 76, 57, 67.,

First display flights 28th April Grimston (PH) First Nesting 31st March SE 67 (PH)

Present in most squares during breeding season and young fledged successfully in at least four squares.

#### 115. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Comparatively sparse. Recorded in squares SE 56, 67, 74.

17th April Naburn (PP) and 24th April Tilmire (TC) were the only nesting records.

#### 116. GREY PARTRIDGE \*\*\*

Common

#### 117. QUAIL

None this year

#### 118 PHEASANT \*\*\*

Common

#### 120. WATER RAIL

13th September Naburn S/F 2 (PP)

10th November Wheldrake Ings (TC. BT. GS)

28th December Skipwith Common (PP)

126. MOORHEN \*\*\*

Recorded in every suitable habitat and often within sound and sight of people,  
28th April Deighton first nest (TC<sub>0</sub> CFT. JB) 11th August nest with four eggs Naburn S/F (TC)

127. COOT

Heavy populations on most suitable waters. Many waters i.e. Castle Howard -Yearsley - Newburgh appear to be over-populated.

131. OYSTERCATCHER

16th June Redhouse (Ouse) (E GL) 7th July Overton (S CL)

133. LAPWING

Proved breeding SE 64. (TO) should be many more breeding records. Otherwise holding status over area.  
Max. numbers c250 October 4th (EG. MW)  
c750 December 1st Wheldrake (PP)

134. RINGED PLOVER

No record 1968

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

A nice newcomer into SE 64 but not yet in breeding season. All Naburn S/F.

12th August 1 imm. (CFT)

16th August 1 (GS)

2nd October 1 (GS)

4th October 1 (BP)

140. GOLDEN PLOVER

Good numbers in early part of year building up to maximum c300 15th April (E GL) Poppleton. Smaller groups after nesting 11 Naburn S/F 12th August (CFT), 'Wheldrake 12th August (CFT) Stillington 17 7th March (PU), Poppleton 300 (E CL). 3rd November 100 at Wheldrake village (TC. BT. GS). Groups from 100/600 late winter in Derwent Valley (PP).

145. SNIPE

Recorded SE 63 and 64 during breeding season (TG. PP.) Particularly well-observed in all Ings areas. Observed many other squares during year including single birds at roadside puddles during late dawn hours.

Briefly:

Naburn S/F September 13th 30 (PP)

Naburn S/F October 11th 50 (IL. FE)

Wheldrake December 1st 90 (PP)

SE 54. April 21st/24th (GH. MT. GE. HP.)

First nesting 11th May Heslington (TG) Drumming 4th June (CFT)

147. JACK SNIPE

Few records.

20th January Heslington Common 1 (TC)

30th March SE 64 1 (TC)

1st December Wheldrake Ings 3 (PP)

148. WOODCOCK

Recorded from Skipwith Common 3rd March in large numbers 10 (TC) and during breeding season as follows:

27th April Fulford 'Whistling' (TG. BT)

19th April Strensall Common 'roding' (PP)

28th April Brandsby (Roding) (PH)  
30th April Yearsley (PH)  
20th May nest with 4. eggs Crocky Hill (TC)  
24th May Yearsley - from 20ft. (PH)  
30th May SE 64 (GS)  
3rd June Yearsley 2 (PH) ,

#### 150. CURLEW

Many breeding records indicating breeding in suitable habitats throughout area from 25th March Crayke (PH)  
Also: Strensall Common 12th May 11 (PH). Naburn, Escrick Park a pair holding territory 28th April (TC. CT. JB). Huntington pair on 1st April (GC). Oulston (LFC) 27th July nest. 3rd June first fledgling Yearsley (PH)  
Skipwith Common (PP).

#### 151. WHIMBREL

No records 1968

#### 155. B/T GODWIT

No records 1968

#### 156. GREEN SANDPIPER

No spring passage reports

Autumn passage:

7th July Tilmire 1 (TO)  
4th August Naburn S/F 3 (TO)  
13th August Naburn S/F 1 (PP)  
14/16th August Skipwith Common (JW)  
11/17th August Naburn S/F (CT. GS)  
18th August Naburn SF 5 (GS. CFT)

#### 157. WOOD SANDPIPER

#### 159. COMMON SANDPIPER

On Spring passage Naburn S/F 1 (TC) 15th March

First Autumn passage birds 5th July Poppleton/Nun Monkton 6 (ED.C) then steadily building up:

13th July Naburn S/F 1 (TC)  
10th August Naburn S/F 10 (CFT. GS)  
11th August " " 11 (CFT. GS)  
16th August " " 4 (GS)  
18th August " " 4 (GS)  
21st August " " 6 (BP)  
2nd October " " 5 (GS)

#### 161. REDSHANK

Records predictably from S. York Ings with good breeding records:

28th April Wheldrake 1 (TC)  
10/15th March Fulford 6 (GS)  
10/15 March Wheldrake Ings (TC. BT)  
1st June Fulford Ings Family (BT)  
4th June Naburn 1 Juvenile (CT)  
30th June Naburn S/F 4 imm(CFT)  
21st July SE 64 'Several' (GS. CFT)

#### 162. SPOTTED REDSHANK

N/R 1968

165. GREENSHANK

Autumn passage records in each case.

Also Naburn S/F being the only place showing records. The amount of work put into Naburn S/F by CFT over the past two years and results obtained have been remarkable. The farm is now under constant scrutiny - as a result, members are advised again to use caution when going up the creeks - "don't lose your paddle".

17th August 2 (TG)

30th August 1 (CFT)

14th September 3 (CFT)

26th September 1 (GS)

2-3rd October 10 (MB. EG)

14th October 3 (CFT)

171. LITTLE STINT

178. DUNLIN

Few records but:

18th February c60 Wheldrake Ings

18th February c75 Bubwith (PP)

14th July Naburn S/F 1 (CFT)

28th July Naburn S/F 1 (CFT)

179. CURLEW SANDPIPER

31st August Naburn S/F 1 (CFT)

1/2/16 Sept. " " 1 (CFT)

25th Sept. " " 1 (MW. EC. FE)

1st October " " (CFT)

2nd October " " (GS)

6th October " " (BP)

16th October " " (CFT AND OTHERS)

198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Small numbers present throughout year at rubbish tip near Skipwith (PP)

199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

6 records 1 )

3rd February Manby Hall 1 ) TC

11th February Deighton 1 )

30th March Fulford Ings 1 )

4th June Bishopthorpe 1 (TC. GS)

4th October Naburn S/F 1 (BP)

17th November Skipwith Common 30 (TC. GS)

Bird present on Wheldrake Tip in large numbers all winter TC. There should be more records of passage birds than this - watch those 'Gulls' please.

200. HERRING GULL

10th January Strensall Tip 2 (TC)

9th March Wheldrake Ings 1 (TC)

27th April Fulford Ings 1 (TC)

21st July Wheldrake Tip c50 (3 imm) (GS. TG. BT.)

Noted as late as May/June at Skipwith (PP) . The latter probably non-breeding birds.

201. COMMON GULL\*

25th February Stillingfleet 1 (TO)

20th June Pond Head 9 (PH)

10th July SE 55 20 (JS)

208. BLACK-HEADED GULL

Colony at Skipwith Common apparently thriving. Several dead birds found over colder months (TO)

Generally well recorded over at Naburn S/F area at other times of year.

27th February Castle Howard c130 several in change of plumage (PH)

29th June Skipwith Common 30 Juveniles (CFT)

207. LITTLE GULL

Yet another rare visitor to Naburn S/F and the Club's first record for the area.

30th June from 25 yards

13th July. 14th July. An immature bird

27/28th July Immature moulting into first winter plumage (CFT. GS)

11th August As above

211. KITTIWAKE

13th October Naburn S/F 1 (GS)

212. BLACK TERN

217/18. COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

21st April (vide DC) Ouse while fishing 2 (PH)

26th September Naburn S/F 1 (GS)

232. STOCK DOVE

30th May Skipwith Common (GS)

1st December Skipwith Common 1

28th December Skipwith Common 10

with one brooding pair

234. WOOD PIGEON \*\*\*

Eggs - 13th October Bishops .Wood (GS)

Winter Flocks c3000

Plague proportions in several squares

COLLARED DOVE

More records for 1968 but no positive breeding. i.e. eggs - fledglings - feeding - nests reports.

3rd May Brandsby 1

13th May Yearsley 1

24th May Brandsby on lawn 2

2nd July Easingwold 2 PH

16th July Wheldrake Woods 2 (BT. TC. JB. JS) one of these birds was definitely holding territory TC.

Barlby - flock regularly feeds at Oil & Cake Mills jetty.

As this bird cannot well be overlooked the assumption could be made that it is not yet widely established in the area.

235. TURTLE DOVE \*\*

Seen and heard in nine squares - 57, 67, 77, 66, 76, 55, 64, 63, 53

Again few positive nesting records although probably bred in most squares.

24th April First of season - Skipwith Common (PP)

9th June 7 recorded (Family?) (BT. TO. JB)

4 pairs bred SE 63 (PP)

237. CUCKOO \*\*

10th April Askham Bog (GS) Then all areas.

241. BARN OWL

Records poor compared with 1967 - probably due to the now defunct owl census

7th January Potter Hill Casualty 1 (PH)

15th April Brandsby 1 (PH)

14th May Brandsby (PH)

6th June F. bird left nest with young top of pine Wheldrake Lane (TO)

Also observed at Wilberfoss, Hayton, Bishop Wilton and Fulford (PP)

This species is present in good numbers in the Fulford and Tilmire areas. Farmers report seeing it in barns and hunting regularly (TC)

246. LITTLE OWL

The diurnal owl by comparison is much in evidence. Recorded in breeding season:

4th March (hunting) Crayke (PH)

15th April Brandsby (PH)

3rd May (from nest) SE 64 (TO)

2nd May (from old nest) Cawood (TC)

3rd June Deighton (TC)

Also, Smargate, Castle Howard, Strensall, Cawood, Hagg Bridge.

SE 54 (GH. MT. GE. HP) Fulford and Fulford Hall,

247. TAWNY OWL

Present during breeding season in squares SE 65 (several pairs) SE 64, 63, 57, 67, 77. Also many woods of any size appear to hold at least one pair. Several records of daylight observation.

Generally, many owl records appear to be 'woolly' and there is difficulty in making an accurate assessment of the status when 'hearing' rather than 'sight' records are made.

248. LONG-EARED OWL

Skipwith Common - breeding records maintained.

7th January Skipwith Common 8 roosting (TC)

24th March Skipwith Common 1 (PP)

12th June Wheldrake Woods 1 (YOC)

1st December Skipwith Common 9 roosting (PP)

Broods of 3 and 4 raised at latter.

249. SHORT-EARED OWL

28th January flushed from long grass 1 (TC. BT.)

3rd March 1 (TC)

28th December Skipwith Common 1 (PP)

Pair present in breeding season at Millington (per PP)

252. NIGHTJAR

Bred Skipwith Common and Wheldrake Woods. Rumoured pair SE 57 unauthenticated.

2nd June Wheldrake Woods 3 (l) (CFT. GS)

3rd June Wheldrake Woods - singing 9.35 p.m. (CFT)

12th June Skipwith Common - pair (DW. DA. PH)

30th June Wheldrake - hatching (GS)

24th July Wheldrake (GS)

255. SWIFT \*\*

24th April Naburn S/F 6 First migrants (JP)

285. KINGFISHER

Presumably slow in re-establishing after 1963 decline.

27th January Fulford Beck 1 (TC)

1st June SE 55 1 (JS.)

18th August Fulford 1 (TC)

12th July A family party of two adults and three young was seen at Fulford (TC)

This bird has been reported by anglers breeding on River Kyle and seen at Poppleton, Beningbrough, Newton Kirkham (TC)

262. GREEN WOODPECKER

Present in breeding season - Escrick Park, Skipwith Common, Fulford Hall, Heslington (TC. BT. JB) Coxwold, Snargate, Yearsley, Brandsby (PH) Strensall Common.

263. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Bred Skipwith Common, Heslington, Escrick Park. (TC. GS. BT.) also Kirkham Woods.

Present during breeding season Fulford, Morbey Hall (TC. GS)

Yearsley, Brandsby, Smargate (PH)

Rufforth (ED.c)

Bird killed by car near Escrick (PP)

Adult bird picked up dead Skipwith Common (TC)

264. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

One in Spring on Skipwith Common (per PP.)

265. WRYNECK

14th September Skipwith Common (GS) This is the first record for the area.

271. WOODLARK

Skipwith Common Singing (PP) 24th April

This bird must be overlooked and a possibility each year at our heaths viz: Strensall, Allerthorpe, Skipwith. A knowledge of the song will place an identification beyond doubt,

272. SKYLARK \*\*\*

274. SWALLOW \*\*

First 15th April Skipwith Common (TC)

276. HOUSE MARTIN \*\*

First 15th April Fulford (TG)

277. SAND MARTIN \*\*

First. 15th April Fulford (TO)

278. GOLDEN ORIOLE

25th April - an as yet uncorroborated report of bird in garden near Skipwith Common. The circumstances are such that whilst 'proof' is unavailable, this sighting can hardly be discounted, (per PP)

280. CARRION CROW \*\*\*

Albino Fulford (TC)

282. ROOK \*\*\*



283. JACKDAW

Nine nesting colonies - purely nominal.

284. MAGPIE \*\*\*

286. JAY \*\*\*

288. GREAT TIT \*\*\*

Used newly-erected nest boxes Skipwith (TC)

289. BLUE TIT \*\*\*

Also used nest boxes Skipwith (TC)

290. COAL TIT

Bred Skipwith Common (PP. TC. GS) Brandsby during breeding season

More information required on this and following two species.

292. MARSH TIT

One pair bred Skipwith Common (PP) but other records inconclusive

6th July Two adults two young Fulford Golf Course (TG) Seen during year in SE 63 and 64 mostly in pairs (TC)

293. WILLOW TIT

SE 63 (PP) SE 67 (PH)

Again few likely breeding records except Skipwith Common (PP)

A pair were seen boring nest hole at Skipwith (TC. BT. GS)

294. LONG-TAILED TIT \*\*\*

Many records received both in and out of breeding season. Briefly: SE 57, 67, 77, 64, 63, 74, 65, 66. Bred Brandsby, Skipwith., Strensall Common, Naburn, Wheldrake. Species obviously increasing.

296. NUTHATCH

18th February Holly Carrs (Escrick) 1 (TC)

Not recorded Castle Howard (PH)

298. TREECREEPER

Good number of winter reports - SE 57, 67, 76, 64, 63. Probably bred Brandsby, Buttercrambe, Grimston, Wheldrake, Skipwith, Tilmire, Kilburn. A pair nested in the wooden kiosk at Castle Howard Lake - outcome not known (PH)

299. WREN \*\*\*

Reported from many areas. Bred successfully in at least six squares.

300. DIPPER

Not recorded over 1968

301. MISTLE THRUSH

Present in breeding area - Wheldrake, Strensall, Heslington, Naburn, Moreby Hall, Cockey Hill, Escrick Park. (TC. CFT. GS. BT. JB. MW. EC). Successfully at Yearsley 12th April (PH)

17th April SE 54 (GHM.GMP)

6th June Fulford (TC)

4th March Bird sitting on nest Acomb Green (TG)

302. FIELDFARE \*

October 13th SE 53 Small Group . (GS)

Seasonal build-up into max. flocks c300 and reducing in following April 20th to single bird.

303. SONG THRUSH \*\*\*

3rd May Brandsby first fledglings

304. REDWING \*

308. BLACKBIRD \*\*\*

311. WHEATEAR

25th March Poppleton 1 (MW)

15th April Brandsby (PH)

21/24th April SE 54 (GHM. GMP)

16th May SE 67 (PH)

6th June SE 64 (TC)

All passage birds - nearest breeding known to be two miles north York area.

318. WHINCHAT

Present in breeding season at Skipwith Common (TC) Overton (MW) Strensall (GS)

Bred at Strensall 12th May (PH).

A general shortage of records.

320. REDSTART

20th April SE 63 First (PP)

21st April SE 57 1 (PH)

24th April SE 57 (PH)

28th April Grimston 3 (PH)

12th May Strensall 3 (PH)

4th June Wheldrake Woods (CFT)

6th June Heslington (Nesting) (TC)

8th June Wheldrake (GS)

13th June Yearsley (Nesting) (PH)

19th June Wheldrake (Nest) (BT. CT. TC)

325. ROBIN \*\*\*

327. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Only one positive breeding report but present in many suitable areas over breeding season. All song records unless marked '0'.

22nd April Hagg Bridge 2 '0' (GS)

24th April Yearsley (PH)

28th April Soury Hill 3 (PH)

8th May Overton (SW. MW)

24th May Brandsby (PH)

24th May Yearsley (PH)

4th May SE 56 (FC)

12th May Strensall Common 4 (PH)

9th June Wheldrake Woods (BT. TG. JB) '0'

11th August Tilmire (PP)

Bred Skipwith Common - several (PP)

333. REED WARBLER

Skipwith Common during breeding season (PP). More information required during 1969.

337. SEDGE WARBLER \*\*

Recorded over a large portion of the area but more information on status would be welcomed.

22nd April Naburn S/F 2 (VJP)

1st May Naburn (PP)

3rd May Fulford Hall (TG) and throughout breeding season at Heslington, Fulford, Wheldrake (TO. BT. JC. JB) Strensall, Skipwith (GS) Castle Howard (PH). Numbers higher this year on Skipwith Common (PP)

343. BLACKCAP

Bred Fulford (Golf course) 6th July (1C) Wheldrake floods 6th June (TG. BT. JB) Skelton (PP) Coxwold 5th June (LFC) East Moors (PH) Skipwith Common (PP) Bird seen Naburn S/F (TG) Otherwise records sparse - more welcomed. Your recorder feels that our area should produce many further records,

346. GARDEN WARBLER

20th May Skipwith Common Singing (PP) 26th May Moreby Hall Displaying (TO)  
See comments regarding 343.

347. WHITETHROAT \*\*

20th April Naburn S/F 1 (VP) 28th April SE 64 Singing (PH)

First Eggs 30th June SE 64 (GS)

Widely distributed.

348. LESSER WHITETHROAT

9th June Wheldrake Woods Nesting (TC. BT. JB)

354. WILLOW WARBLER \*\*

First:

4th April Singing University Grounds (JW)

28th April Soury Hill Singing (PH)

Then apparently in all suitable woods throughout area. First mentioned bird appears to be very early in establishing territory.

Over 40 pairs present in breeding season on Census Area of Skipwith Common (PP)

356. CHIFFCHAFF \*\*

Thinly dispersed:

12th April Coxwold Singing 1 (PH)

20th April Naburn 1 (VP)

20th April Escrick Park Pair (TC)

24th May Yearsley (PH)

4th June Wheldrake Wood (TFC)

Present during breeding season in squares SE 57, 77, 66, 76, 63. Nest and eggs Crocky Hill (TO)

357. WOOD WARBLER

July 21st A pair in an oakwood West Plantation, Wheldrake (TC. CS) Probably bred.

364. GOLDCREST

Recorded many areas: 64, 67, 77, (TC. PH). 64, 63 (PP.GS) throughout year. Scattered winter parties of 4/5 being quite timid around January/February for no apparent reason - approached by son, dog and self to within seven yards (PH).

12th April First singing male (PH)

28th April First nest Escrick Park (BT. TC. JB)

366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

16th Hay Newburgh 1 (PH)  
24th Hay Yearsley Pair (PH)  
30th June Skipwith Common (GS)  
6th June Skipwith Common Pair (TC)  
12th June Wheldrake Woods (YOC)  
4th July Smargate Family (PH)  
Bred Skipwith Common (PP)  
Two separate families within 300 yards at High Woods, Brandsby (PH)

371. DUNNOCK \*\*\*

373. MEADOW PIPIT

Recorded in nine squares throughout year. Breeding season Wheldrake, Heslington Common, Aughton (TC. PP. J3. BT) Hagg Bridge (S3) Brandsby, Newburgh (PH) Wigginton. Bred Heslington, Aughton (TC) Naburn (PP. TC)

376. TREE PIPIT

Present and probably bred in ten localities viz:

28th April Strensall Display Flight (PH)  
17th April Naburn (TO)  
27th April Tilmire (BT. PP)  
2nd May Heslington (TC)  
30th May Wheldrake (GS)  
31st May University Display (JW)  
6th June Fulford Singing (PP)  
9th June Escrick  
June Soury Hill High Wood  
Pair bred on Skipwith Common - where numbers should increase (PP)  
Nest and eggs seen Skipwith (TC GS)

380. PIED WAGTAIL \*\*\*

Throughout area during breeding season in all suitable areas particularly filter beds. Large groups in Spring culminating in flocks of c50/100 feeding together, majority being juvenile.

381. GREY WAGTAIL

11th October Naburn S/F 1 (GS) 7th December Naburn S/F 1 (IL. FE)

382. YELLOW WAGTAIL

Two large nesting areas; Strensall Common (PH) and Naburn environs (IOC)  
24th April Naburn S/F (VP)  
1st May Easingwold 1 (PP)  
12th May Strensall Common (PH)  
31st May University (JW)  
First juvenile) 18th June Strensall (Pil) ) 29th June Naburn S/F (TC)  
Nest with young Bishopthorpe (TC)

383. WAXWING

No 1968 records

384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE

1 bird present from October onwards. 2 birds in April (vide PP) Millington Wood.

385. RED-BACKED SHRIKE

No record

389. STARLING \*\*\*

Few reports of truly vast flocks, Maximum numbers c2/300

391. HAWFINCH

Nesting pair about four miles north YOC area only. See Item 'Rarities'.

392. GREENFINCH \*\*\*

Common all areas over summer months and becoming much less numerous from October. Roost at Moorlands still maintained.

395. GOLDFINCH

Present in breeding season seven squares. Not a single record of positive breeding success. This is an increasing species..

394. SISKIN

4th February Kirkham 3 )  
10th February Fulford Ings ) TC  
24th February Fulford )  
15th December Holly Carrs 8 (TC. BT. GS)

395. LINNET \*\*\*

During breeding season in six squares. SE 66, 65, 64, 63, 57, 67. Several nests containing eggs on Tilmire, one containing pure white eggs (TC) Otherwise few records.

396. TWITE

7th January Skipwith Common 2 (TC. BT)

397. REDPOLL

Present in breeding season

15th April Fulford G.C. 1 (TC)  
8th May Overton Woods 1 (SW. MW)  
24th May Coxwold 1 (PH)  
2nd June Wheldrake Woods (CFT)

Two pairs bred successfully in survey area of Skipwith Common (PP)

401. BULLFINCH \*\*\*

Present in seven squares apparently with little movement over seasons.  
Bred Brandsby, Escrick Park, Wheldrake Woods. Two pairs bred Fulford (TC)

407. CHAFFINCH \*\*\*

Several nests with eggs - Heslington Tilmire (TC)

404. CROSSBILL

Wheldrake Wood at Close range 1st June 2 (CFT)  
Wheldrake Woods 6th June 2 pairs (CFT)  
CFT expresses opinion of possible nesting area SE 64 Tetrad T  
Birds also seen in Kirks Rein Wood, Wheldrake (TC)

408. BRAMBLING

Latest Grimston 2nd April (PH)

Earliest High Woods, Brandsby 1st November Single

High Woods, Brandsby 2nd November 6

Largest number being nine with Chaffinch foraging flock.

409. YELLOWHAMMER \*\*\*

410. CORN BUNTING

Many good records over 1968

1st and 20th April       Huntington 1 (GC)

4th and 21st April       SE 54 (GMT, GMP)

20th April       Naburn 2 pairs       (TC)

8th May       Overton Wood (MW. SW)

1st June       Naburn Singing (CFT)

2nd June       Heslington 2 (TC)

8th June       Wheldrake Woods (GS)

415. CIRL BUNTING

August Skipwith Common 1 bird (TC)

421. REED BUNTING \*\*\*

An increasing species particularly so on Skipwith Common. Large autumn/winter roosts noted. (PP)

424. HOUSE SPARROW

425. TREE SPARROW

27th April Tilmire First Eggs (BT. TO)

Present during breeding season squares SE 63, 64, 55, 57, 65, 74, 67, 56, 54.

RARITIES - POSSIBLE ESCAPED BIRDS AND MAMMALS

If we include Sparrowhawk and Kingfisher as 'rare' birds (and a good case could be made for so doing) 15 species were recorded in the club area as below:

SCAUP (PP)

HEN HARRIER (PP vide JM)

REDFOOTED FALCON (CS)

HAWFINCH (PH)

LITTLE GULL (CFT PP GS TC ETC)

TWITE (TC BT GS)

LESSER WHITETHROAT (TC)

KINGFISHER (TC vide PP)

HOODED CROW (PH)

SPARROWHAWK (PH TC PP)

WRYNECK (GS)

CROSSBILL - Several pairs possibly bred (CFT)

REDHEADED BUNTING - probable escaped bird (GS.CFT)

CIRL BUNTING (TC)

WOOD WARBLER (TC. GS)

MAMMALS

RABBITS

HARES

DEER (sp)

PYGMY SHREW  
WATER VOLE  
RATS (SP)  
FOX  
HEDGEHOGS  
FIELD MICE  
GREY SQUIRREL  
WEASEL  
STOAT

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

LIZARDS (SP)  
TOADS  
FROGS  
GRASS SNAKE  
NEWT

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

PAINTED LADY, BROWN CHINA MARK & MANY OTHERS