

YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB REPORT 1970

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PREFACE

This has been a rather unsatisfactory year insofar as, due to several factors, the Report has come off the press at a late date.

It is intended to complete the preparation and editing at a much earlier date in 1972. In this context it should be mentioned that Atlas records will be required by mid-August this year.

Once again the 10 Km. square system has been used, occasionally as a deliberately vague reference but more often with a place name. The 10 Km system is generally agreed to be a useful method of dividing our total area.

Ideas for improving the format or content will be welcomed.

The Editor thanks all contributors and members of the Committee for reading and advising on the proofs, our cover artist Frank Weeden and typist Rosemary Shanks.

PETER HUTCHINSON

OBITUARY

Ena Clarke died on the 8th May 1971 and her many friends were saddened. Ena joined the Club early in 1963 just as it was changing from its original informal organisation to a more formal one. It was a difficult period and Ena soon joined the Committee on which she sat until just before her death.

She brought a charm and warmth to meetings especially those held at her home where she was a gracious hostess. Her sound and sensible ideas did much to placate the often divergent views of members.

Ena's interest in birds was almost equally matched with her capable interest in botany.

All members will wish her husband, George, and her grown-up family their sincere condolences.

RECORDER'S REMARKS

I begin my Remarks with a list of books, most of which, might be considered required reading for those interested in natural history. All are vaguely alarming for various reasons. Rachel Carsons "Silent Spring" started the flow in 1962. Since then the available information (some researched many years previously) has been collected, edited, published and made into many books, some of which became "best sellers". This last fact, reflecting a wide interest, is one of the few reasons for optimism in regard to conservation.

Man, Monkey and Violence?-
The Doomsday Book - Gordon R. Taylor
Wild Harvest - Olive Roots
Wildlife in Peril - R.S. Fitter and Prince Philip
This Plundered Planet - Dr. Fairchild Osborne
Naked Ape - Desmond Morris
The Social Contract - Robert Ardrey

I somehow found the time to read all the above during 1970 and whilst normally diffident about recommending books hope that on this occasion the interest of the subject will compensate for any presumption.

Last year I criticised at length the Forestry Commission and various County road authorities. Since that time I have been in contact with both bodies. The points of contention previously detailed have been enlarged and developed in other equally influential quarters. The Sunday Times has become the mouthpiece for many perturbed and dismayed people who know only too well that "Monoculture is Dead". So far, two penetrative articles have been published during 1970. Dr. Charles Elton in his "The Pattern of Animal Communities" relates that he was approached by an amenity body seeking his advice on a projected Atlas on national parks:- should the Forestry Commission forests be listed under "Open Spaces" or "Areas of Natural Development"? "Neither", he replied. "They are sterile areas, register them rather under "Suburban Development"!

The Pine Looper moth is bound to become endemic in U.K., but we add that criticism of the Forestry Commission comes from your Recorder only with difficulty; it is ironic perhaps that a policy of 20% hardwood (a mere 12.5% increase) would see them with nothing but friends. A proviso would curtail further softwood afforestation developments.

The second matter raised last year concerned the "Enclosure Act 1966". This unofficial enactment (allowing agriculturists to cultivate wide roadside verges, thus increasing the acreage of their holding at no cost to themselves) was almost passed by default. However, after a great many acres had been put to the plough over a period of five years (from 1966 in fact) the N.R.C. Council rose up in wrath and dragged a large farming combine into court. A nominal fine has failed to bring repentance because the company and many other farmers in the area have continued to develop public property. My letter of commendation to the Chief Road Engineer elicited information only indicating a very enigmatic Road Engineer. The reply can be read on request, also the correspondence with F.C. Chief Officer.

A happier subject is the Atlas Survey now approaching the 4th year. British Trust for Ornithology state that all expectations have been exceeded. They add an exhortation to work even harder in the final two seasons. I shall speak about this in detail later in the year. There can be no question that the Atlas, when published, will be the most important work since The Handbook of British Birds at the turn of the century. There is still scope for recorders in certain 10 km areas

RECORDER PETER HUTCHINSON

THE MILD WINTER 1970 -71

We may all well remember the effects the 1968/63 winter had on our bird life when the numbers of many species were drastically reduced. Last winter, being a mild one would supposedly be noted as uneventful without much to take note of, but it is quite the contrary. The mild winter has brought some unusual happenings.

Throughout this mild winter there have been numerous sightings of up to 1000 rooks, seen within a small area. This sight would more commonly be seen in hard weather. Could the majority of these birds have come from Scandinavia? There has been plenty of activity in the rookeries this early Spring, indicating that the birds may have taken advantage of the mild start.

The kingfishers' abundance does vary dramatically. Some summers they are very scarce, due to the

movement to better feeding and nesting areas, caused possibly by pollution, plus the fact that hard winters do reduce the numbers. The more recent records of kingfishers have been higher than usual, sightings becoming more common, even in towns. Possibly this is showing us already the real asset this gentle winter has been for these beautiful birds.

As most people are aware, the Waxwing is somewhat a periodical visitor, being much commoner in some winters than others, this being caused by the lack of food in Northern Europe. This generally causes the birds to invade Great Britain, but on the other hand, extremely cold weather here does not necessarily produce increased numbers. Mild winters, as the one we have just experienced, has shown us that the number can still be high and sightings common, e.g. one district this winter, a suburb of York, produced eleven sightings in the short space of twenty one days: the maximum number in one flock being six. Earlier this winter, very large flocks of waxwing, up to 400, were reported in the county of Durham, invading town parks.

Most winters the Derwent valley holds a fair quantity of short eared owls. Up to a dozen could be seen with little effort, but this winter has proved poor. Could it possibly be due to the lack of food or the mildness of the winter? I think the latter is more acceptable. Could the birds have been tempted to stay on the hills due to the weather being more favourable than it usually is in these months. There has also been a shortage of harrier reports. I wonder have these birds also kept to the hills?

I often wonder how many people are aware that the gull population is rapidly on the increase inland. Large flocks are definitely increasing in our area. At one time, if there were large flocks of gulls inland, this could have meant colder weather approaching, but now this does not seem to be the case, Even though this winter has been mild, there has been no sign of any reductions. There have been many single roosts of up to 3000 birds. Probably the best known is Castle Howard, which has 2000 to 3000, the majority being Black-headed Gulls, with about one fifth Common Gulls. Undoubtedly gulls are adapting to inland areas.

The mild winter had one cold snap, this being at the end of December. Very cold, direct northerly winds coming from the Arctic produced rare gulls along the Tynemouth coast. An Ivory gull and the very rare Ross's, a Great-Black-headed, an Iceland and a small number of Glaucous gulls appeared. The outlook seemed promising for a good gull winter, but, as the weather changed bringing milder conditions, so the gulls began to disappear.

This was to be the end of the cold weather. I feel sure you will agree that mild winters will always be welcome and that this one has brought some unusual reports.

ASSISTANT RECORDER BRIAN PEPPER

SPECIES LIST IS COMPILED FROM BIRDS RECORDED IN Y.O.C. AREA BELOW

Asterisks denote as follows:-

- *** Species widely distributed, and common throughout year
- ** Species widely distributed as common breeding summer visitor
- * Species widely distributed as common winter visitor

f = female m = male

CLUB CENSUS AREA.

• 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 Escrik	Sutton • Upon Derwent SE74.
Church • Fenton SE 53	• Skipwith SE 63 e, Selby	• Bubwith SE 73

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CLASSIFIED NOTES

The order used is that of the B.O..U. Check List of The Birds of Great Britain and Ireland (1952) and English names follow current practice. Observations, unless otherwise stated, refer to 1970 and records are of single birds except where stated. As usual, only the most salient or significant records have been selected. Map reference numbers from 10 km Ordnance Survey maps.

DIVER SP

SE 63 - 1 February - Aughton Area (RD)

5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

SE 54 - 3 December - Healaugh Pond (DS)

SE 73 - 23/26 April - Bubwith/Aughton Pair and a single (GS PE)

SE 77 - 22 March - Castle Howard 8 birds some displays (AJW)

8 April - Castle Howard 20 some displaying (DJ.ED.SR)

15 May - Castle Howard "Young" (GS) 5 breeds from apparently

8 pairs June (PH)

8 November - Castle Howard - 6 birds (PH)

8. BLACK-NECKED GREBE

SE 55 - 10 October - Overton Ouse (EC)

SE 63 - 17 January - Derwent Valley immature bird (ED. PP)

SE 65 - 16 January - York Ouse Two (EC)

SE 73 - 24 January - Derwent At 30 yards feeding (GS)

SE 77 - 8 April - Castle Howard Moulting (ED.DB.SR.)

11 May - A pair (PH)

9. LITTLE GREBE

SE 57 - 2 April - Pair. This pair bred successfully (EI)

SE 63 - 28 February - N. Duffield Ings (GS)

SE 64 - 1 February/21 March to 18 April - Wheldrake Ings ; (AP.GS)

21 March/ 11 April - Naburn Sewage Farm. (GS)

SE 73 - 24 January/8 March - Bubwith (GS)

28. CORMORANT

SE 63 - 1 February/ 28 February - Derwent Feeding (RD)

SE 64 - 1 February - Derwent Flying down (GS)

SE 73 - 31 January Two 1 March (GS)

30. GREY HERON

SE 54 - 15 June - Healaugh 7 3 Juv. (DB)

SE 57 - January/February - Brandsby

January to October - Newburgh (PH)

SE 63 - January/April/August - Bubwith/ Aughton/Ellerton (GS.RD.PP)

SE 64 - Throughout year - Naburn Sewage Farm Fulford Golf Club

(TG.GS.PP)

13 April - Attacked by 2 Rooks

16 May Croaking (GS)

SE 65 - 22 May - Ouse

25 August - City Edge (TO)

SE 67 - 24 January - Grimston

8 February - Gilling Feeding from a small stream (PH)

No new nesting records for the area which is widely used for feeding purposes.

45. MALLARD

Bred in 9 10 km squares as follows:-

SE 54/55/57/63/64/65/66/74/77

5 April - with eggs (TC, BT)

11 May - First young (PH) Large winter numbers of 250 for

area SE 57 (EH)
3 December - Healaugh 400 (DB)
21 November - Castle Howard 640 (PH) The Derwent flood climax
(During 1st week February) gave counts of 500 to max. 1100
(RD.GS.TC.)

46. TEAL

SE 54 - 3 December - Healaugh 400 (DB)
SE 57 - 7 March - Newburgh 70
12 March down to single (PH)
SE 63 - July to September Recorded (GS.FO)
22 August - Skipwith increase (GS)
1 February Max. about 1000 (RD)
SE 64 - January to 26 April - Tilmire A pair (TC.BT.Gi3)
SE 73 - January to April - Derwent Numbers 120 11 January
250 1 February 500 14 February 80 15 March (EP.BE.TC.GS.EP)
SE77 - 8 April - Nest (DB.RC.RD)
12 March - Castle Howard 9 (PH)
No definite nesting numbers.

50. WIGEON

Large winter flocks corresponding with volume of winter flood levels in Derwent Valley :-

SE 63/64/73/76 - January First birds building up quickly to 3000 (RD)
and 3500 (BP.PP.GS.RD)
4 July A single in eclipse (GS)
8 April Displaying birds (RD.RS.DB)

52. PINTAIL

Derwent Valley in small numbers as follows :-

SE 63 - January 17/20 15

1 February 100

1 March 40 RD increasing to 200 by 8 March (PP) but "Nest (10 eggs) probably one of two nests in area" (PP) First nesting record in this area, reflecting a large amount of work and effort by PP.

SE 64 - 18 April (GS)

SE 73 - January/February/March/April Small numbers, largest being
30 24 January (GS)

53. SHOVELER

SE 63 - Bred in this 10 km square

25 April 4 Pairs (GS)

9 May Two nests both successful Duffield area (PP)

Otherwise good counts over the year (GS) and c110 1 February

SE 64 - 5 April (GS)

SE73 - 14 February Highest number 10 but numbers of 3/4 and 5
over early months (GS)

2 May Two nests, one with 11 eggs (GS)

SE 77 - 22 March - Castle Howard 5 - 3m Displaying (AJW)

11 May A pair probably bred (PH)

56. TUFTED DUCK

Once again few breeding records produced. This duck almost certainly breeds most wintering areas

SE 57 - 6 May Population about 14 reduced to 2 pairs. Presumably bred (EH)

Also Newburgh Priory - 5 breeding pairs (EH)

SE 63 - 1 March - Hollycarrs 140 (RD.TC.GS.)

SE 64 - February - Derwent in small numbers

SE 67 - Stearsby Ponds A pair stayed and bred (PH)

SE 73 - February/March/April - Bubwith Derwent (EP.GS)

SE 77 - 12 March - Castle Howard 6 (PH)

23 November 10 (PH) "Present over most of year"

57. POCHARD

No breeding evidence. Records with two exceptions from Derwent Valley.

SE 63 - 1 February c100 (HD)

1 March 250 (RD)

8 February - Aughton c700 (PP)

SE 64 - 24 January 200 (GS)

7 February 500 (GS)

February/early March reducing to 6 and 10 (GS.BT.TC)

21 March - Naburn Sewage Farm (GS.FO)

SE 65 - 8 January - Sand Hutton (AJW)

SE 73 - 24 January 150

3 January c400

1 February c90 (BS)

15 March c50 (HP)

60. GOLDENEYE

SE 63 - 1 February m (RD)

28 February - Two (GS)

SE 64 - 5 April - Wheldrake Ings (GS)

11 April - Naburn Sewage Farm (GS)

SE 73 - 31 January - Bubwith 3f (GS)

1 February - 14/15 February 2f 5m. (GS)

1 March/ 7 March 11 (GS)

SE 77 - 8 April - Castle Howard 6 Displaying (RD, SE DB)

This is the total number recorded.

70. GOOSANDER

SE 57 - Newburgh A f bird stayed four days 20/24 January (PH)

SE 63 - 28 February - Derwent 11 (GS)

8 March 11 (FO)

SE 73 - 14/15 February - Derwent 4m 3f (GS)

1st week March 14 and 23 - Aughton (GS)

15 March - 6 (BP)

SE 76 - 8 April - Castle Howard 3 (RD)

An increase of six records.

73. SHELDUCK

SE 57 - 8 February to 12 March - Newburgh (EH)

SE 63 - 17 January - Aughton (RD)

14/19 March - Aughton (PP)

SE 73 - Present over breeding period as follows :-

March/April/May - Bubwith area (GS.BP)

April/May - Aughton (BP.PP)
25 April - Brighton A pair (GS)

75. GREY GEESE SP.

SE 63 - 6 December - York Ouse 17 flying (PH)

10 February - 55 flying NW (PP)

Excluding captive greylag Castle Howard and Stearsby.

78. PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

SE 65 - 19 November - Fulford 8.40 a.m. 60 Flying NE (FO)

82. CANADA GOOSE

Records from 2 additional 10 km squares, 57/73/76

Brandsby and Bubwith. 1 juv. 24 May (AJW)

84. MUTE SWAN ***

85. WHOOPER SWAN

SE 63 - 5 January - First group of 17 (PP) Then through February/ 30 March (PP) Also 1 dead Ellerton (PP) 13 December - 6 feeding (GS) But largest number 50 coincided with flood climax (GS)

SE 73 - From 11 January
15 February - Duffield 50 Ellerton 70
1 March 36
7 March 35.
22 March - Decomposed bird (GS)

86. BEWICK'S SWAN

SE 63 - 1 February 63 (RD)
13 December 23 in Flight 1 juv (GS)
SE 64 - 1 February 14 (GS)
SE 73 - 1 January 43 (GS) 14/15 February
75 7 February 89
11 January - Partly eaten bird (GS)
22 February c110 (GS)
7 March 44
15 March. 135 (JP.GS)
6 December 11 plus 6 Juvenile birds (EH)
14 March 160 Maximum (PP)

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD

SE 75 - 18 March. - Kirby Underdale (PP)

91. BUZZARD

29 April For interest only Carlton Moor (AJW)

SE57 - 11 September - Brandsby Riding the thermals over village until attacked by corvids (PH)

SE 67 - 11 July - Over Grimston Moor 2
6 August a single in the same area (PH)

93. SPARROWHAWK

Last year's optimism not realised. Records fewer and mostly from one area where they are tolerated and, within limits, allowed to feed their broods in peace.

SE 56 - In breeding season (PH)

SE 57 - 9 March m Accidentally trapped when attacking ornamental birds. Released 12 March (PH)

20 March Prospecting f flew overhead at treetop height in a situation illustrating the ease with which ambush can be carried out by the species (PH) 3 April - Fast, low flight along reed bed and into trees.

Later a single in high gliding flight (PH)

1st week November A loose group of 4 birds observed by game beaters. Substantiated by game keepers present who were aware of approximate numbers. (per PH). This is a remarkable record.

SE 63 - 17 February - Aught on Church (PP)

SE 67 - 2 March - Brandsby n

23 March - Grimston Flying along wall top 20

November - Ampleforth area (PH)

99. MARSH HARRIER

SE 63 - 5 September " f closed from 300 yards to 60 yards descending to quarter ground' (GS)

100. HEN HARRIER

SE 65 - 1 April (TC) Reported later in year as "Large brown with slow flapping flight" (per PH)

103. OSPREY

SE 77 - Late Spring for 3 days. Seen feeding. Preening. Carrying prey (GS.PH) etc.

110. KESTREL

Continues successful in area. Recorded throughout year in all 10 km. squares. Some points of interest :-

SE 57 - 11 May - Easingwold Fledgling (PH) Also flew into the path of my car when in close pursuit of blackbird on 4 March (PH)

SE 67 - 23 May - "Juvenile harassing corvid" (PH)

31 May - Fulford Hatched (TC.BT)

SE 64 - 18 April Territorial Pair (TO)

18 April Attacked by Lapwing (GS)

SE 63 - 22 August With mouse (GS)

21 December - Grimston Pair circling high.

SE 73 - 15 March Pair hovering (GS)

8 March Took and ate a shrew" (GS)

SE 65 - 16 January - Fulford Scattered a flock of birds with a swoop (FO)

SE 55 - 10 March - Stubbs Wood Displaying (FO)

Bred Overton (LM)

A family in October(PH)

115. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

SE 65 - 31 January - Fulford area (TO)

May/ June/ July Bred (AJW)

SE 67 - Bred Seen often (PH)

SE 73 - 25 April (GS)

SE 57 - Bred Easingwold area (PH)

SE 66 - Seen here over breeding period (PH)

116. GREY PARTRIDGE ***

Some notably large coveys right up to year's end. Coveys of 10 to 14 were remarked upon.

SE54 - 3 December Counted a total of 54 in short afternoon (DB)

Described as "common" . Presumably recovered from decline of past seasons.

117. QUAIL

SE 54 - Askham Bryan. Heard at midday.

118. PHEASANT ***

120. WATER RAIL

SE 67 - April Suspected because of half identified call (PH)

126. MOORHEN ***

Known throughout the area wherever habitat suits. 100 at Healaugh November (DB)

SE 63 - 9 May - Duffield 108 (PP)

SE 73 - 2 May Eggs (GS)

SE 55 - 30 April - Askham Bog Eggs (DB)

SE 64 - 9 May - Naburn eggs (DB)

SE 77 - 24 May - Castle Howard Eggs (AJW)

SE 65 - 22 May - Ouse Young (EC)

Also SE56.57.66.67.76.

127. COOT ***

SE 75 - 25 April - Aughton Eggs (GS)

SE 77 - Numbers about 300 max. over winter (PH)

131. OYSTERCATCHER

SE 63 - 22 April - Aughton (BP.PP)

SE 64 - 3 May - Skipwith. Common Calling (TC)

SE 65 - 23 May - York Ouse two (SO)

SE 73 - 23 April - Bubwith Ings 5 Feeding (GS)

133. LAPWING

Winter flocks building up from late September to about 1200 in arable field west of York City (DB) and about 2000 feeding SE 63 (GS) but North of area smallish winter flocks of about 90 were usual (PH)

22 February - Bubwith Displaying (TC.BT.GS)

2 May Eggs (GS)

5 May - Acomb Nests (DB)

134. RINGED PLOVER

SE 54 - 30 September - Healaugh Pond (DB)

SE 63 - 19 April - Derwent Parties of 5 and 9 (PP)

25 April 25 (AP)

17 July - Duffield (GS)

3 May - One among Dunlin flock (Pp)

SE 73 - 25 April 6 in Dunlin flock (PP)

2 May Two feeding (GS)

135. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

SE64 - 18 August - Naburn Sewage Farm Two (PP)

139. GREY PLOVER

6 December - Bubwith. (EH)

140. GOLDEN PLOVER

No significant records.

SE 53 - 17 December - Ryther about 500 (EH)

SE 63 - 1 February - Derwent (ED)

28 February - Duffield 10 (OS)

17 July 6 in summer plumage (GS)

31 January a single with Lapwings (GS)

1 March 40 (GS)

7 February 50 (GS)

SE 73 - 22 February - Derwent 40

22 March 60 (GS)

13 December - Bubwith, 250 (EH)

20 December about 1200 in day.

SE 65 - 5 May

12 January - Fulford 4 overhead (FO)

SE 66 - 20 March - Sutton Forest Two (PH)

142. DOTTEREL

SE 66 - 15/16 May - Flaxton area of Strensall Common "Three feeding and resting. Seen clearly and at length without binoculars" (per GS) via Len Smith

143. TURNSTONE

SE 63 - 5 May Two singles (PP)

145. COMMON SNIPE

Reported from all suitable habitats throughout area.

SE 63 - 18 April Bred in two areas Eggs (GS.TC)

22 April Eggs (BP)

SE 73 - 8 March Drumming

25 April Eggs

SE 64 - 10 April - Heslington Displaying (TC) Also from (PH.PP.BT.EC) etc.

148. WOODCOCK

SE 63.64.54.57.67.66. Recorded during breeding season in these 10 km squares. Wheldrake Woods producing "several" (TC) (GS.DB.PH.)

150. CURLEW

Again bred throughout the larger part of recorded area and usually in small groups.

24 January - Naburn First call note (GS) Usually prospecting by mid March all areas

SE 54 - 2 May - Eggs (DB)

151. WHIMBREL

SE 63 - 9 May - N. Duffield 2 (PP)

156. GREEN SANDPIPER

12 February - New Earswick A single spring record (PP)
22/23 August - Skipwith Lagoons 3, 1 giving "alarm call and aerial alarm."
(GS)
5 September - Bubwith. Ings 4 (GS)
11 September - Naburn sewage farm (DB)

157. WOOD SANDPIPER

19 May - Duffield Ings (PP) A scarce spring migrant.

159. COMMON SANDPIPER

SE 64 - 18 April - York Ouse Feeding (GS)
11 August (DB)
SE 63 - 17 July - Over a short distance along river 8 (GS)
1 August (GS)

161. REDSHANK

22 March - Fulford Recorded 3 areas with about 140 (GS.TC.FO.)
18 April - Aughton Displaying
25 April Eggs (GS)
2 May - Acomb Displaying (DB)
29 August (SR.DB)
Aldwark Ouse (EC)
7 August - Brandsby (PH)

162. SPOTTED REDSHANK

York Ouse per (PP) Bubwith Ings a "single at 30 yards flying
with an extended leg" (GS)

165. GREENSHANK

SE 55 - York suburb calling overhead (FO)
SE 63 - 23 August and 5 September - Bubwith (GS)

169. KNOT

25 April - Lower Derwent Feeding (GS)

178. DUNLIN

A clear increase reported, all but two being spring records
17 July Breeding plumage (GS)
1 September (PP) And all Lower Derwent region.
March to mid May - several groups of about 100, 50, 90 and 20
recorded (PP)
Late April Breeding plumage prevailed 25 April About 60 mostly summer plumage (GS)
SE 63 - 1 February about 300
28 February 5 (GS.FO)
29 April - Aughton 30 (BP)
SE 64 - 1 February about 200
18 April Full plumage (GS)
10 May - Naburn sewage farm (PH)
SE 73 - 11 January - Aughton 40
1 February 35 (RD.FO.GS.)
15 May (RE)
7 February about 75 (GS)
1 March about 70 (GS)
24 January 40 (GS)
13 December about 50 (GS)

184. RUFF

22 March - Bubwith Ings
15 September - Bubwith Ings (GS)

198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

SE 63 - 22 August - Skipwith
22 November - Duffield (GS)
SE 66 - 21 January - Strensall 9 also several undated reports of small groups (about 10/20) over
November to February period at refuse dump (PH)
SE 73 - 15 March. 10 (BP)
2 May 4 in Black Gull roost (GS) Obviously overlooked to some extent.

199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Recorded in seven localities usually in small groups.
21 January - Strensall Tip 18 (PH)
5 September through to March - Derwent Valley (GS)
Between January and 15 May - Naburn, Wheldrake, Bubwith and
Castle Howard carried numbers from 1 to 10 (PH.GS)
SE 67 - 15 November - Grimston Moor (PH)
Probably a fraction of the year-end increase but no less interesting.

200. HERRING GULL

January to April - Fulford Numbers of about 30
Hollycarrs, Bubwith, Strensall, Castle Howard, New burgh, Pond Head.
SE 63 - 20 June - Skipwith Common "Immature bird disturbing Black headed
nest area (GS)
17 July Group of about 125 including 25 immature (GS)

201. COMMON GULL

Recorded over all recorded area during winter period, including recreation fields in York.
Groups of 100/250 following ploughs as late as 10 April Gilling and Brandsby (PH)

203. BLACK-HEADED GULL

Winter records throughout area including "signs of summer
plumage on 14 February" (GS) otherwise the change was from
early March. Breeding sites at Skipwith Common, Duffield and
Strensall where few were successful due to disturbance by
military.

SE 73 - 23 April - Duffield Ings About 100 pairs breeding (GS)
2 May - Skipwith Common About 250 pairs, an increase
of about 30% from 1970
17 July Several juvenile birds
SE 63 - 23 May "Over-population caused nesting in
conspicuous and inappropriate sites nearby" (GS)
SE 66 - 29 July - Remnants only left about 10 pairs (PH)
SE 65 - 18 February - Ouse Noted plumage change (FO)
23 November - Castle Howard Group of 500/600
29 November Increasing to about 2000 (PH)

211. KITTIWAKE

22 April - Aughton A newly dead specimen. Gunshot (BP)

212. BLACK TERN

SE 54 - 8 May - Healaugh in breeding plumage (DB)
SE 63 - 9 May - North Duffield (PP)
11 May - Castle Howard Stayed three days (Hi)

217/8. COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

S3 63 - 10 May - Aughton (PP)

23 August - Derwent feeding at 30 yards (GS)

232. STOCK DOVE

All records shown.

SE 73 - 1 January - Aughton, Bubwith Record
1 March (GS.PH)

SE 66 - 5 June - Strensall Nest (JB)

SE 63 - 4 July - Skipwith Common Eggs (C-S)

SE 57/67 - July Several pairs in this area, about 20 records (PH)

SE 77 - Throughout year - Castle Howard seen frequently (PH)

234. WOODPIGEON

3 December - Acomb Winter numbers of about 1500 (DB)
Stearsby/Brandsby about 600 (PH)

25 April - Fulford Golf course Eggs

235. TURTLE DOVE

Present in breeding period.

27 May - Skipwith Common 11 pairs, an increase of 5 pairs
in a week. (GS)

27 June, 1 July, 17 July - North Duffield area (GS)

1 June - Overton (115)

12 June - Sutton Forest (PH)

21 June - Brandsby

1 August - Easingwold

2 September - Husthwaite

19 June - Stearsby

21 June - Newburgh

1 August - Hovingham (PH)

The pair noted at Hovingham over winter for the second year are probably domesticated (PH). The record could be progressed.

COLLARED DOVE

SE 54 - 4 December - Acomb (DB)

SE 77 - 21 January - Malton

12 June - Amotherby (PH)

SE 57 - 28 July - Brandsby

2 November - Ampleforth Pair (PH)

237. CUCKOO **

241. BARN OWL

SE 73.- 1 March - Aughton Dead (GS.TC)

SE 63 - 18 March - Hollycarrs Dead by impact (GS)

SE 57 - 17 March - Sutton Forest

2 July - Brandsby Seen in various localities (PE)

22 April - Cherryhill

29 November - Stillington (PH)

SE 67 - 12 March and 28 April - Hovingham Woods (PH)

246. LITTLE OWL

SS 54 - 13 October - Healaugh (DB)

S3E55 - 10 March. - Stubbs Wood (FO)
24 June - Wighill (FO)

SE 57 - January - Cherry hill
27 November (PH)

SE 63 - 28 August - Skipwith Common (PF)
3 December (FO)

SE64 - 13 September - Fulford Fledgling (TO)

SE65 - 26 June - University (FH)

SE 66 - 9 June - Strensall Common (HI) SE 67 - June/ July/

August - Gale Lane Records of breeding pair (PH)

Also seen hunting in the Stearsby area (PH)

247. TAWNY OWL

An interesting record (per TM) of an immature taking a woodcock in flight

SE 57 - 6 September - Brandsby Village (PH)
12 June 20 paces midday (PH)

SE 65 - 15 August - York City with prey (FO)

SE 67 - 8 February - Highwood
23 May (PH)
29 December - Cawton (PH)

Many additional sound records. . No pairing (March). Dialogue of note.

248. LONG-EARED OWL

A single locality only.

SE 63 - 2 March - Skipwith Common roost (TO)

27 June (GS.FO)

1 July (GS)

249. SHORT-EARED OWL

SE 63 - 28 February - North Duffield Hunting (GS.RD)

SE64 - A good record and particularly interesting:
15 March 4 birds spiralled and dipped for 4 minutes before
going to cover (TC) The first record for 5 years
confirming vague golfers reports of "a large flapping
brown bird".

28 March - Tilmire Two (FO.GS)

SE67 - 29 November - Grimston Moor first recorded in daylight
but no subsequent sighting (PH)

SE73 - 24 January - Derwent Attack by gulls (GS)

15 February three in area (FO.BT.GS)

1/8/7/22 March 1 to 5 birds (GS.BT.FO)

252. NIGHTJAR

No expansion to other territories. Persistent rumours from SE 57/67 still unsubstantiated. A probable passage bird called for two nights early June per (MST)

SE 63 - 23 May-27 May - Nothing. First male 12 days later than 1969.

27 June 1 egg 2nd brood

1 July Eggs 4 July 5 unfledged broods.1 surplus male. 6 pairs

successful Skipwith Common. Some nests moved to a different area noted. (GS)

SE64 - 27 May Male recorded. Probably five pairs bred here (GS.PH)

255. SWIFT

SE 56 - 12 April - Overton (IM.JG)

SE 73 - Derwent Valley (GS) Early records.

258. KINGFISHER

SE 55 - 7 March. - Linton Ouse (PH)

SE 64 - 4 September/early October - Escrick Park (PH)

13 September - Fulford Ings Family of seven (TO)

SE 65 - 10 October - York Ouse (EC)

SE 66 - 13 March - Farlington Beck A pair (PH) Breeding records generally disappointing.

262. GREEN WOODPECKER

Recorded in breeding period as follows:-

SE 54 - Askham Bog

SE 63 - Skipwith Common, Fulford, Tilmire , Hollicarrs

SE 64 - Escrick Park, Hollicarrs

SE 66 - Strensall (Three areas)

SE 67 - High Wood, Blackmoor, Grimston, Hovingham

SE 77 - Castle Howard (Three areas) Bulmer (DB.GS.FO.PH.TC)

263. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Nothing significant. Breeding period records:-

North Duffield, Skipwith Common, Naburn, Wheldrake , Healaugh, Castle Howard, Strensall , Woodlands, Highwood (Bred), Smargate , Hovingham, Ampleforth (JB.TO.PH.GS.DB)

264. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

SE 57 - Heard late April. Seen Mid-May Bred here (PH)

SE 65 - Mid April heard over several days (PH)

272. SKYLARK ***

Territorial from mid-March.

274. SWALLOW **

SE 63 - 18 April First migrants 9 Derwent Valley (TG.GS)

276. HOUSE MARTIN **

SE 63 - 20 April - Bielby 20 (P?) 277.

277. SAND MARTIN

SE 64 - 11 April - Sewage Fo.na 6 (GS)

17 April (PP)

18 April - Tilmire (TC)

18 September - Skipwith Common 60 (PP)

280. CARRION CROW ***

282. ROOK ***

283. JACKDAW ***

Bred in SE 54/57/64/67/73/77 10 km Squares.

284. MAGPIE

SE 67 - 18 February Group of 18 (PH)

SE 54 - 10 June - Askham Bog Juvenile (DB)

Bred throughout area.

286. JAY ***

Bred in eight 10 Km. squares.

SE 54/56/57/63/64/66/77

22 March - Display (TC)

16 April - Fulford Nest

22 August - Skipwith Common Fighting (GS)

23 May A dead bird

288. GREAT TIT ***

20 April - Fulford golf course territorial (TC)

289. BLUE TIT ***

18 April - Tilmire Territorial (TC)

30 April Eggs (DB)

289. COAL TIT

SE 56 - Overton A pair (LM JG)

SE 57 - Dale End Bred (PH)

SE 63 - March/ June - Skipwith Common (TC.GS.)

SE 64 - Fulford Hosting (TC.GS)

SE 66 - Strensall (JB)

292. MARSH TIT

Bred Tilmire , Fulford, Skipwith Common, Hollycarrs, Brandsby, New burgh (GS.TC.PH) Probably the most elusive of Tits. We should produce many more records of this and the following species.

293. WILLOW TIT

SE54 - 4 December - Rufforth A group of 4

SE 57 - Dale End Two pairs bred

SE 63 - 22 March - Skipwith Common

SE 64 - Fulford 4 building pairs

SE 67 - 21 February - Grimston (DB.TC.GC.HI)

294. LONG-TAILED TIT

Several winter records of small parties. Breeding records:-
Skipwith Common 4 pairs. Fulford, Tilmire , Askham, Brandsby.

298. TREECREEPER

Fewer breeding records 10 km squares

SE 54/63/67/75 only Winter records from 8 localities.

299. WREN ***

Breeding season records:

SE 64/63/54/55/66/57/67/77. Winter records from many localities.

301. MISTLE THRUSH ***

Noted throughout recording area. Bred Wheldrake (2 sites), Strensall, Fulford, Coxwold, Brandsby, Askham, Skipwith, Hovingham, Gilling.

302. FIELDFARE *

Few truly large flocks. 17 October saw about 150 in Derwent Valley then daily building up to flocks of about 300 to 400 in late February. By mid April return flocks were 10 and about 40 .

303. SONG THRUSH ***

303. REDWING *

Arrivals 24 October and disappearing, apparently, by mid March.

308. BLACKBIRD ***

20 April-York Nest , Juveniles flew 4 May. Nest relined 9 May three eggs. Disturbed 10 May 11 May Replaced and sitting, etc. Otherwise nothing of significance .

311. WHEATEAR

SE 54 - 17 August - Acomb (DB)
SE 57 - 2 May - Brandsby (PH)
SE 63 - 23 August - Bubwith f (GS)
SE 64 - 16 April -- Fulford golf club (TC)
SE 67 - 21 April - Hovingham (PH)

318. WHINCHAT

Breeding season records from Fulford Golf Club, Skipwith Common, Strensall Common. The 29 May record from Overton (PH) did not apparently result in breeding (IM) . The Skipwith Common record was " several pairs" and Strensall was noted as " about 8 pairs on 21 June" (EE.TC.IM)

320. REDSTART

Bred SE 57/67 Three records. Highly probable that these localities support many more pairs (PH). Otherwise passage records only.

325. ROBIN ***

A nest on 16 April Fulford (TC)

327. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

- SE 54 - 1 May - Askham Bog Singing
10 June A pair
24 June (DB.FO)
SE 56 - 12 May - Overton Woods Two singing (LM. JG)
SE 57 - 3 June - Kilburn Two pairs (PH)
SE 63 - 20 and 27 June - Skipwith Common
1 July Several pairs (GS.FO)
SE 66 - 24 April - Haxby A pair (AJW)
20 May - Strensall Common (PH)

Noticeable in two areas (Grimston, Blackmoor) that desertion occurs when habitat becomes changed by coniferous tree growth (PH)

333. REED WARBLER

- SE 57 - Brandsby, Newburgh Two pairs (HI)
SE 63 - 20/27 June - Skipwith Common 12 pairs (FO.FS)
SE 77 - 24 May 20 June - Castle Howard Bred (PH. AJW)
The Skipwith record shows a large increase and SE 57 is a new record.

337. SEDGE WARBLER **

Recorded in breeding season.

Askham Bog (eggs 16 June) Wheldrake Woods, Stearsby, Skipwith Common, Bubwith Ings, Overton Woods, Castle Howard, North Duffield, Heslington.

343. BLACKCAP

- SE 54 - 24 June - Askham Bog Host (FO)
SE 56 - 28 April - Woodlands (Frl)
SE 57 - 10 May - Newburgh Woods (PH)
SE 64 - 16 May - Wheldrake Several Pairs (GS)
SE 66 - 27 January - Haxby One of two probable wintering birds (AM)
20 April - Haxby (AJW)
SE 67 - May - Highwood Two pairs (PH)

346. GARDEN WARBLER

SE 56 - 15 June - Woodlands Singing. Not recorded on two subsequent visits (EH) No other records.

347. WHITETHROAT

Recorded in breeding season SE 56/57/54/63/64/77/66
No records at all in SE 67 and generally low counts in some localities.
Grimston Wood abruptly abandoned. Kilburn was noticeably low in population.
(LM. KD . DB . EH)

348. LESSER WHITETHROAT

SE 64 - 3 May - Fulford Ings Eggs (TC.BT) A single record.

354. WILLOW WARBLER **

Throughout recorded area in all suitable habitats.

18 April - Tilmire

21 April - Overton (TC.BI)

28 August - York City Centre Dead. (PP)

356. CHIFFCHAFF ***

18 April - Hollycarrs Singing (TC)

21 April - Overton (LM)

18 September - Skipwith Common (PP)

357. WOOD WARBLER

SE 63 - 18 to 22 May - Skipwith Common A singing male (PP)

No further breeding evidence.

364. GOLDCREST

Present throughout breeding period as follows:-

Skipwith Common, Wheldrake Woods, Newburgh, Maidensworth, High Wood, Kilburn. Otherwise no significant reports.

366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Widely dispersed throughout the area and apparently successful. Believed to produce two broods in SE 57/67 (EH). No significant records. Strensall, Castle Howard, Wigginton (a farmyard record), Wheldrake, Skipwith, Brandsby, Coxwold, Stearsby. 7 10 km Squares.

371. DUNNOCK ***

373. MEADOW PIPIT

7 April - Increase from early April with display flights.

8 February - Wheldrake Singing.

18 April A nest (TC) (GS.TC.PH. JB)

376. TREE PIPIT

SE 57 - S3 May - Brandsby Displaying (PH)

SE 63 - 23 May - North Duffield Ings, Skipwith Common Displaying (BT.GS)

SE 64 - 20 April - Fulford Golf Club Displaying (TC)

SE 66 - Late April - Strensall Young 5 June (JB.PH)

380. PIED WAGTAIL ***

Records during breeding season from virtually all 10 Km squares. Large post breeding groups late August/September at Brandsby, Sutton on Forest, and Huby. Hovingham early September about 90 (PH)

382. YELLOW WAGTAIL

SE 63 - 18 April - Hollycarrs Duffield Ings Two family parties (TC.GS)

SE 64 - 18 April - Tilmire (TC)

1 September - Naburn Sewage Farm About 75 (PP)

SE 65 - 23 May - Killingbeck Pair (EC)

SE 73 - 23 April - Bubwith (GS)

No significant records from Strensall, Clifton Ings or Naburn.

383. WAXWING

SE 55 - 25 November - Bishopthorpe (PH)

SE 64 - 1 March. - Heslington, Milfield Lane (TC.BT)

SE 65 - 16 April - York Suburbs (PP)

SE 67 - 29 December - Hovingham 24 cleared cotoneaster shrub of berries in two days (PH)

Many reports from adjoining areas suggest this may be a very large eruption.

384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE

SE 63 - 22 November - North Duffield Ings Hawking insects Harassed by Skylarks (GS) Detailed report. 10 December - Skipwith Common (PP)

SE 64 - 1 February - Wheldrake Woods area (G8.FO.RD)

24 March - Detailed report from (TO) "First seen feeding on gamekeepers gibbet" Tilmire . Wheldrake Ings at 30 yards for about 15 minutes (GS. TC.BT)

389. STARLING ***

Said to be in extremely large flocks North Duffield area late in year (GS) 22 March - Skipwith Common Displaying (TC)

392. GREENFINCH ***

Breeding records from almost all 10 km squares. Displays began second week April (TC)

393. GOLDFINCH

Probably bred SE 56/57/66/67/73/76

Generally a good year but no records of large Spring/Autumn flocks.

The bulk of the records were for post breeding singles.

394. SISKIN

SE 64 - 8 February - Fulford Ings 12 feeding in Alder ; (TC.BT)

395. LINNET ***

SE 64 - 16 April Flock Fulford

18 April - Tilmire A singing m (TC)

Breeding season records:- Overton, Alne , Skipwith, Escrick, Bubwith, Strensall, Askham Bog. Small flocks make up all other records.

Maximum number about 45.

397. REDPOLL

Mid April singing males Tilmire (TC). Bred in many suitable areas Skipwith, Strensall, Wheldrake , Tilmire, Heslington. 10 Km squares SE 55/56/63/64/76.

401. BULLFINCH ***

SE 54 - Stubbs Wood (FO)

SE 55 - Overton Wood (IM)

SE 56 - Shipton (PH)

SE 63 - Skipwith (OS)

SE 64 - Tilmire, Fulford (TC)

SE 65 - Fulford (TC)

SE 66 - Strensall (JB)

The above are breeding season records. After the breeding season, until

the year end in fact, singles or pairs were seen literally throughout the whole recorded area. It will be found that an abrupt increase in population occurred in 1970.

407. CHAFFINCH ***

18 April - Tilmire First nest (TC)

408. BRAMBLING

Few records.

28 April - Tilmire

28 March - Naburn Sewage Farm

28 March - Skipwith 3 in Finch flock.

28 March - Bubwith

27 November - Foston. (GS.FO.PH)

409. YELLOWHAMMER ***

All areas. Began prospecting from early April.

410. CORN BUNTING

SE 54 - 8 May - Acomb/Healaugh (DB)

SE 55 - 23 April - Stubbs Wood (FO)

SE 56 - 12 May - Overton (IM.JG)

19 May - Shipton (EH)

SE 57 - 4 April - East Moors (FE)

SE 63 - July and November - North Duffield (GS)

SE 64 - 10 April - Wheldrake Ings, Fulford Ings 4 pairs at Fulford Golf Club

18 April - Displaying (TC)