

**YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB  
REPORT 2002**

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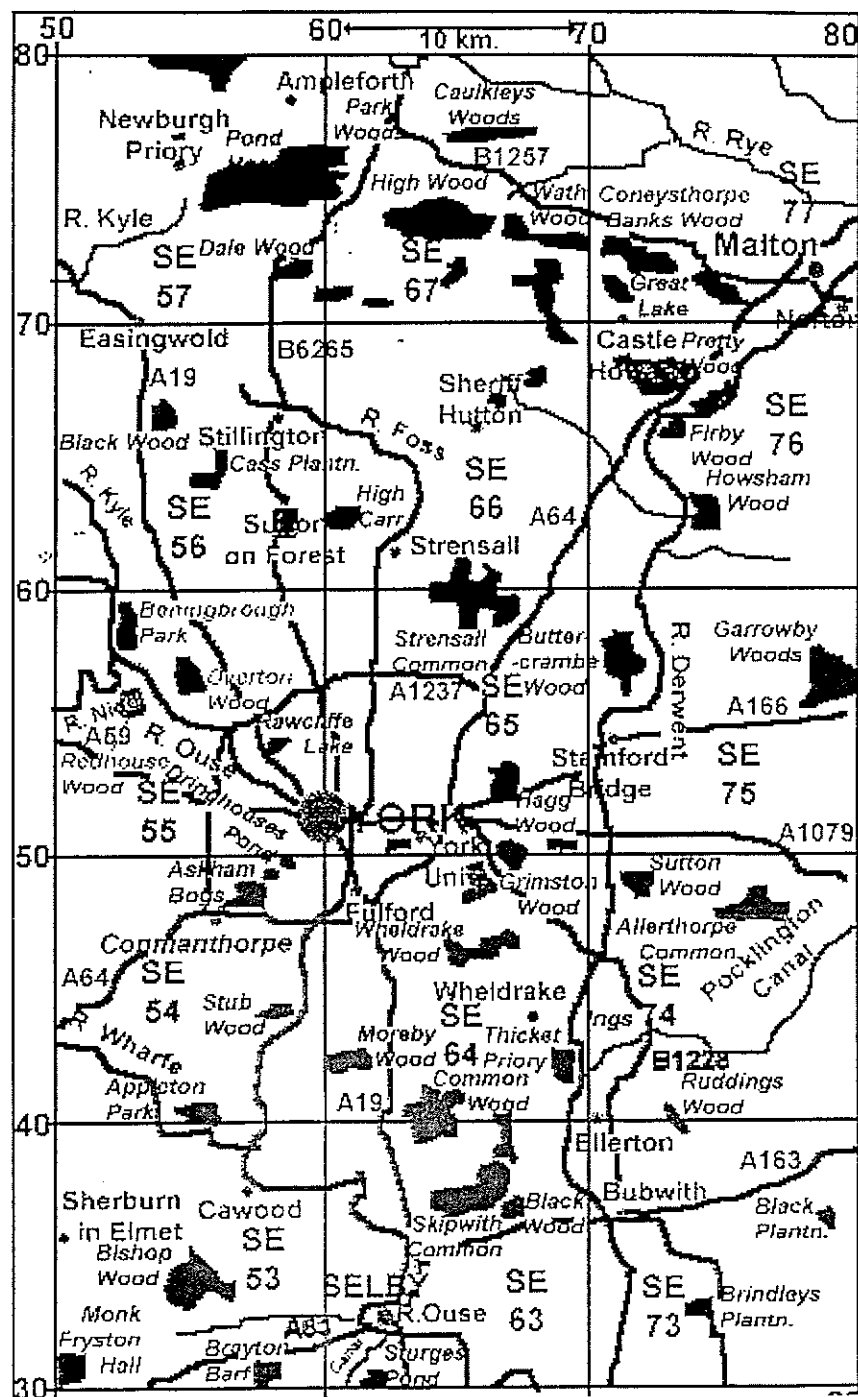
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CLUB RECORDING AREA



## YORK ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

This report has been compiled by members of the York Ornithological Club with nearly all the records submitted by members who are active in watching an area of 550 square miles around York which the Club is responsible for recording. The area covers wetlands (Lower Derwent Valley), deciduous woodland (Hambleton/Howardian Hills), coniferous woodland (Yearsley and Ampleforth), lakes (Castle Howard) and large agricultural areas of the vales of York and Pickering.

The Club has a membership of about 70 and meets on the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August) in the Friends' Meeting House, Castlegate, York for a full programme of talks and discussions and for the informal exchange of information which birdwatchers find invaluable. In addition, excursions are arranged to areas of ornithological interest, usually outside the recording area.

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2002 edition of the YOC Report complete with a full colour cover which will hopefully be the start of future embellishments to Club reports! First and foremost I must apologise for the (seriously!) late production of this report. This was due to a variety of reasons which I will not go into here, but was compounded by a knock-on effect of the delayed publication of the 2001 Report. Please rest assured that the Committee is making every effort to catch up so that subsequent reports will be published on a more timely basis so that they are more relevant to the year in question. Many thanks are due to all observers who submitted records for this report.

2002 saw two new records for the YOC recording area with Leach's Storm-petrel at Malton and a much visited and admired Buff-breasted Sandpiper in the Lower Derwent Valley. In fact, the latter species could be seen together with a Pectoral Sandpiper on occasions, providing members with a unique Yankee double whammy!

The species accounts have been compiled by Nigel Stewart (Divers to Ducks), Andy Booth (Raptors to Coot), Peter Watson (Waders to Auks), Ruth Traynor (Doves to Dunnock), Peter Reed (Thrushes to Flycatchers) and Christine Jakeman (Tits to Buntings) and edited by Andy Booth. Murel Pirozek has been responsible for the final production of this report. Andy Booth and Nigel Stewart have kindly provided the illustrations which enhance the text. The processing of the Report involves a great deal of unseen work which has been carried out voluntarily by the above persons to whom we are deeply grateful.

Thanks are also due to other members of the Committee who have worked hard throughout the year to ensure the successful running of the Club. Some of our best talks have been given by members of this Club, to whom we owe our sincere thanks, and we also thank members who have offered lifts to those without transport for our various outings.

We welcome all new members and wish to encourage others, particularly younger people, to join the Club. We aim to provide a report of interest which is as comprehensive and accurate

as possible and encourage all members to submit their sightings, however insignificant they may seem. Guidelines for submitting records can be found in the 1998 Report and on the YOC website. Please note that from the 2004 Report records should be submitted in the new taxonomic order issued by the British Ornithologists' Union and not in the traditional Voous order we are used to! A complete list of species recorded in the YOC recording area since 1966 in the new order is accessible on the YOC website or is available from the Recorder.

Records of scarce or rare birds need to be supported by a description. A list of species requiring written evidence is included in the 2000 YOC Report or can be obtained from the Recorder. Please note that as 'official' records are no longer available for the Lower Derwent Valley, members should submit their own sightings for this area and we would encourage observers to provide counts of birds, particularly commoner species, where possible.

As we aim to have the Report available as soon as possible it would help us greatly if observers submit their records as soon as possible at the end of the year.

Andy Booth

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2002

### January

A very mixed month weather wise, though mostly mild with periods of heavy rain and some colder interludes.

The highlight of the month was a Great White Egret found on wetlands just north of Riccall on the 8<sup>th</sup> and remaining until the 16<sup>th</sup>. However, its habit of feeding in deep ditches made it a rather elusive bird. Up to 41 Whooper Swans were present throughout the month at North Duffield Carrs, joined on the 25<sup>th</sup> by two Bewick's Swans.

Wintering raptors were noticeable by their absence with the only records being a Peregrine in the Lower Derwent Valley on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a Merlin near Cawood on the 29<sup>th</sup>. While the Lower Derwent Valley attracted the usual range of wildfowl and waders, including some overwintering Ruff, there were none of the scarcer species that have turned up during this month in previous years. The only wildfowl record of note was a flock of 100 Pink-footed Geese over York on the 29<sup>th</sup> while an adult Mediterranean Gull at Castle Howard was the only white-winged gull reported.

Six Mealy Redpolls were at Rawcliffe Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and an overwintering Chiffchaff was found sheltering from heavy rain and wind in the Garganey Hide at North Duffield Carrs on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Fieldfare and Redwing were seen in reasonable numbers throughout the month while Blackbird, Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush had all started singing regularly by the month end.



## February

February was mild, very windy and extremely wet while there was a short-lived cold spell late in the month.

An exhausted Leach's Storm-petrel, picked up near Malton on the 5<sup>th</sup> after strong westerly winds, was the first record for the YOC recording area. Regrettably the bird later died in care. The Whooper Swan flock remained in the North Duffield area with 43 present at Derwent Cottage Farm on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The only other wildfowl of note was a female Scaup present on floodwater at Acaster Malbis.

A pair of Peregrines in the Lower Derwent Valley on the 1<sup>st</sup> was the month's only notable raptor record while Fulford Ings proved to be the place for unusual gulls with sightings of Western Yellow-legged Gull, Iceland Gull and Glaucous Gull. The only waders of interest reported were Ruff and Jack Snipe.

Good numbers of Fieldfare and Redwing were still present across the recording area but 14 Crossbills at Yearsley Moor was the only sighting of this species for the year. One or two Mealy Redpolls were feeding with Lesser Redpolls in Askham Bog on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## March

The month was unsettled but generally mild.

The highlight of the returning summer visitors was a pair of Black-necked Grebes nest building in front of the Swantail Hide at Wheldrake Ings on the 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>. Other early summer visitors included Sand Martin, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. A single Brambling was present with a flock of Chaffinches at New Earswick on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Interesting waders included Ruff, Jack Snipe, Little Ringed Plover and 14 Black-tailed Godwits of the Icelandic race. Flocks of up to 200 Fieldfare and up to 30 Redwing were still present while Peregrine continued to be seen in the Lower Derwent Valley.

The only unusual gull record for the month was a first-year Little Gull at Bubwith Ings on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Wheldrake Ings on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## April

April was dominated by high pressure producing a cool northeasterly airstream and dry conditions until the very end of the month.

Bird of the month was a Hoopoe in a Knapton garden on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and an unusual wildfowl record concerned two Egyptian Geese at Wheldrake Ings on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The influx of summer visitors continued apace with the first records of Cuckoo, Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. Several Wheatears were seen during the spring passage period including a female of the Greenland race. This

month produced the only Wood Warbler record for the year. It also saw the departure of the last of the overwintering Peregrine, Fieldfare, Redwing and Golden Plover.

Interesting waders included two Avocets at Wheldrake Ings on the 25<sup>th</sup>, five summer-plumaged Golden Plovers at Haxby Road Farm on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Little Ringed Plover at Bank Island on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and a single Common Sandpiper at Cawood on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A roost of Whimbrel at Wheldrake Ings increased steadily in numbers while the first 'roding' Woodcock of the year were noted at Skipwith Common on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## May

A very unsettled month in contrast to April with cool, southwesterly winds resulting in rather wet weather.

The most unusual record this month concerned a female Red-footed Falcon seen by one lucky observer in the early morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> at North Duffield Carrs. The only other interesting raptor records were a Red Kite over Selby on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a Buzzard at Skipwith on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Wheatears continued to pass through the area while a male Whinchat was at Strensall Common on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The first Turtle Dove and Nightjar were heard during the month.

Other interesting records included two Avocets at Wheldrake Ings, five Black-tailed Godwits, several sightings of Greenshank and Common Sandpiper and up to 92 Whimbrel at the Wheldrake roost.

## June

June was generally warm with occasional thunderstorms mid-month.

The month's highlight was an adult Rose-coloured Starling in Stillington on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Nightjars were seen and heard at Skipwith, Yearsley Moor and Bishop Wood while both Common and Arctic Terns were seen on passage during the month.

Raptor sightings included Red Kite, Marsh Harrier and Hobby with interesting early returning passage waders including Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper.

## July

A generally cool and unsettled month but hot weather towards the last week was followed by exceptional thunderstorms.

An adult Pectoral Sandpiper was on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> while other waders of note included two Avocets, Little Ringed Plover, Greenshank and Common Sandpiper.

Raptor records included Marsh Harrier hunting at Wheldrake Ings on the 17<sup>th</sup> and Hobbies between Naburn and Stillingfleet on the 6<sup>th</sup> and over Dunnington Common at the end of the month. The first Quail record of the year was one heard calling at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

## August

August was mainly warm and humid with frequent thunderstorms mid-month.

An eclipse drake Garganey on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings, on the 10<sup>th</sup> was the first record of this species for the year. A Corncrake was heard in the Lower Derwent Valley on the 21<sup>st</sup> while Quail were again heard during the month at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest. A returning Common Tern passed over the Central Science Laboratory at Sand Hutton on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The month produced a number of interesting raptor records with up to six Marsh Harriers present in the Lower Derwent Valley, a Goshawk that stopped briefly on the roof of a house in Huntington in the late afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup>, a pair of Buzzards over Garrowby Hill on the 19<sup>th</sup> and a Hobby over the Pocklington Canal.

Passage waders in the Lower Derwent included Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper.

A temporary pool in a pig field beside the back road between Sutton-on-the-Forest and Strensall attracted up to 11 Ruff during the month.

## September

An exceptionally dry month with high pressure predominating and periods of strong northerly winds.

The highlight of the year for many YOC members was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Bank Island from the 25<sup>th</sup> – a first for the YOC recording area. Bank Island also produced sightings of Pectoral Sandpiper, Little Stint, Ruff and Jack Snipe.

Outside the Lower Derwent Valley, temporary pools beside the back road between Sutton-on-the-Forest and Strensall attracted a diverse range of passage waders including Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlin, Snipe, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Redshank, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper. These pools were also frequented by up to ten Yellow Wagtails and much larger numbers of Pied Wagtail.

A juvenile Garganey on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings, on the 14<sup>th</sup> was the only other record of this species for the year. Raptor sightings included Marsh Harrier, Buzzard, Goshawk, Merlin and Hobby. A single Redstart was on passage at Clifton Ings on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## October

A settled start gave way to a series of Atlantic depressions producing significant amounts of rain.

Seven Bewick's Swans flew southeast over New Earswick on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the first returning Pink-footed Geese were seen over Strensall on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The last Marsh Harrier of the year was seen over Bank Island and Wheldrake Ings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> while a Short-eared Owl over

Clifton Ings on the 13<sup>th</sup> was the only record of this species for the year. Up to ten Jack Snipe were seen during the month at Bank Island.

The month saw the first of the returning Fieldfare, Redwing and Brambling while there were late sightings of Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Yellow Wagtail, Wheatear, Blackcap and Spotted Flycatcher.

## November

November was dominated by Atlantic weather systems with often windy conditions and heavy rain.

A Great Grey Shrike was seen at Strensall Common on the 10<sup>th</sup> while five Swallows over Dunnington on the 2<sup>nd</sup> could be a record late date for this species in the YOC recording area. Brambling sightings were restricted to one or two birds, mostly at Castle Howard. Jack Snipe were noted beside the River Rye at Lower Butterwick on 12<sup>th</sup> and at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Whooper Swans returned to the Lower Derwent Valley with up to 55 birds present at North Duffield Carrs during the month.

Other wildfowl records of note were a flock of 130 Pink-footed Geese over York on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a Brent Goose with a small flock of Pink-footed Geese at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a Juvenile Scaup at Castle Howard from the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

## December

A rather mild month to end the year although strong easterly winds brought a chill in the second week and torrential rain caused some flooding at the month end.

A Firecrest was discovered in New Earswick on the 13<sup>th</sup> and remained to the end of the year. Single Waxwings were seen at Broadway in Fulford and at Askham Bar while up to two Bramblings were still present at Castle Howard. Six Mealy Redpolls were seen at Rawcliffe Lake on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Whooper Swan numbers increased in the Lower Derwent Valley with 170 present at North Duffield Carrs late in the month along with 20 Bewick's Swans. Other interesting wildfowl records from the Lower Derwent Valley included nine Tundra Bean Geese, 27 White-fronted Geese and one to two female Scaup at Bank Island from the 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> while six Smew between Aughton and Ellerton on the 22<sup>nd</sup> were the only records of this species for the year.

Malcolm Douglas

#### Earliest and latest dates for summer visitors/passage migrants

Species	Arrival date/first reported	Last reported
Black-necked Grebe	24 <sup>th</sup> March	27 <sup>th</sup> March
Garganey	10 <sup>th</sup> August	14 <sup>th</sup> September
Marsh Harrier	9 <sup>th</sup> June	3 <sup>rd</sup> October
Hobby	11 <sup>th</sup> June	14 <sup>th</sup> September
Quail	4 <sup>th</sup> July	2 <sup>nd</sup> August
Corncrake	24 <sup>th</sup> August	
Little Ringed Plover	27 <sup>th</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> July
Black-tailed Godwit	25 <sup>th</sup> March	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Common Sandpiper	27 <sup>th</sup> April	24 <sup>th</sup> September
Common Tern	8 <sup>th</sup> June	7 <sup>th</sup> August
Turtle Dove	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	13 <sup>th</sup> July
Cuckoo	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	25 <sup>th</sup> August
Nightjar	29 <sup>th</sup> May	mid June
Swift	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	27 <sup>th</sup> October
Sand Martin	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	9 <sup>th</sup> September
Swallow	7 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> November
House Martin	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	20 <sup>th</sup> October
Tree Pipit	28 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> July
Yellow Wagtail	17 <sup>th</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> October
Whinchat	8 <sup>th</sup> May	20 <sup>th</sup> September
Wheatear	4 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> October
Grasshopper Warbler	21 <sup>st</sup> April	19 <sup>th</sup> July
Sedge Warbler	19 <sup>th</sup> April	29 <sup>th</sup> July
Reed Warbler	27 <sup>th</sup> April	14 <sup>th</sup> September
Lesser Whitethroat	27 <sup>th</sup> April	10 <sup>th</sup> August*
Whitethroat	24 <sup>th</sup> April	8 <sup>th</sup> September
Garden Warbler	24 <sup>th</sup> April	10 <sup>th</sup> August
Blackcap	30 <sup>th</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Woodwarbler	27 <sup>th</sup> April	
Chiffchaff**	8 <sup>th</sup> March	13 <sup>th</sup> October
Willow Warbler	29 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> September
Spotted Flycatcher	8 <sup>th</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> October

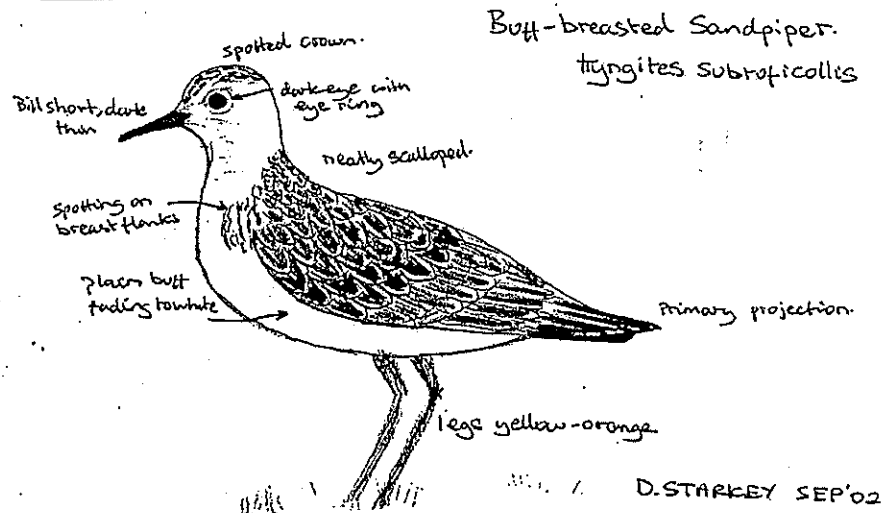
\* One unusual winter record on 12<sup>th</sup> December

\*\* Overwintering birds seen on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> December

#### Earliest and latest dates for winter visitors/passage migrants

Species	Last reported in Spring	First reported in Autumn
Whooper Swan	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	4 <sup>th</sup> November
Pink-footed Goose	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	20 <sup>th</sup> October
Goldeneye	19 <sup>th</sup> February	23 <sup>rd</sup> November
Goosander	mid February	20 <sup>th</sup> October
Golden Plover	25 <sup>th</sup> April	31 <sup>st</sup> August
Jack Snipe	28 <sup>th</sup> March	29 <sup>th</sup> September
Green Sandpiper	20 <sup>th</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> July
Fieldfare	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	9 <sup>th</sup> October
Redwing	11 <sup>th</sup> April	6 <sup>th</sup> October
Brambling	4 <sup>th</sup> March	13 <sup>th</sup> October

Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Wheldrake Ings



I arrived at the Bank Island car park at Wheldrake Ings at 08.45 on 25th September 2002 to look for a Little Stint *Calidris minuta* that had been reported the previous evening. The day was bright and sunny with a brisk northwesterly wind. I proceeded to the far hide that overlooks the flooded meadows adjacent to Bank Island and began scanning through the assembled waders. I noted 30 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, ten Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, two Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and a Little Stint. Whilst watching these birds I noticed a small wader feeding in the short grass between the hide and the area in which the others were feeding at around 0900. The bird was approximately 40 metres from my vantage point enabling me to gain excellent views using an Opticron ES 80 telescope with 20-50x HDF zoom lens.

The general colouration of a plain buff breast and flanks contrasting with scalloped upper parts recalled a juvenile female Ruff. However, my bird appeared too small and compact for a Ruff and the bill was too short. The bird passed close to a Dunlin and I could see they were of similar size. The combination of plumage pattern and colour suggested to me that the bird could only be a Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. It was observed feeding for 20 minutes during which time a detailed field description was taken and a field sketch made. The bird was flushed by a flock of grazing sheep and flew off low to the north and was lost to sight at 09.20.

It had failed to return by 09.45 and I returned to the car park. By making reference to my field notes and both the Collins Bird Guide and Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification I was able to confirm my suspicion that the bird was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Based on some of the plumage details I placed the bird as being a juvenile. I telephoned Birdline Northeast and the details were released at 09.49. Several observers saw the bird later in the day and also identified it as being a juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

## Description

**HABITS:** The bird fed in short grass at the front of the wader scrape. It was constantly moving and changing direction as it did so. It walked briskly taking high steps. It fed by dipping down its head and pecking at the surface of the grass every few steps. The bird kept to the grass and at no time did its feet get wet. It appeared quite bold and was the last to take flight as the sheep approached. When flushed it flew low and in a slightly twisting, erratic manner.

**HEAD:** Small, rounded head with short, straight, thin, dark bill. Face bland with large dark eye prominent within pale eye-ring. Crown slightly streaked giving capped appearance.

**UPPERPARTS:** Scapulars and wing coverts neatly scalloped with dark brown centres and thin, neat buff edges. Intricate scalloping on nape and mantle faded into spotting on the sides of the breast giving the impression of a dark breast band. Tertiaries and secondaries were dark brown with paler buff fringes. Primaries appeared all dark and projected slightly beyond the tail which also appeared dark. No wing bars or rump or tail patches were noticed in flight.

**UNDERPARTS:** Sides of head, breast, belly and flanks were a uniform, plain pinky-buff fading to buffish-white towards the vent. Underwings appeared pale in flight.

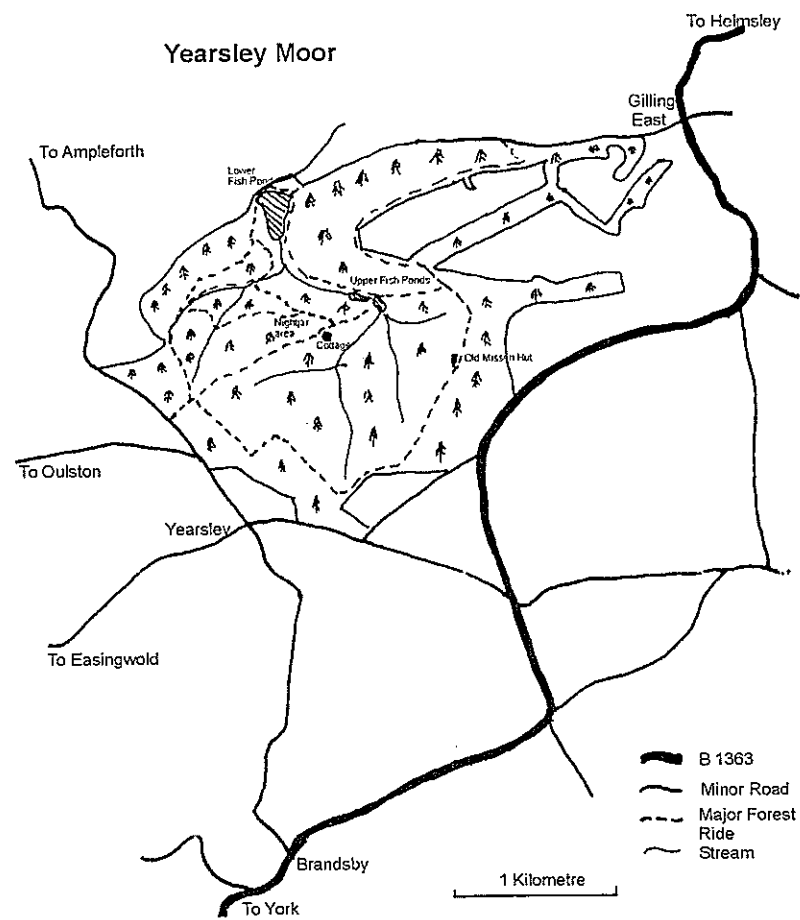
**BARE PARTS:** Legs uniform, bright yellowish-orange. Bill dark, fine, straight.

**CALL:** No calls were detected.

Darren Starkey

Postscript: The bird was later identified in the hand as an adult female.

## LOCAL PATCH GUIDES





### **Habitat**

Yearsley Moor is a largish area of man-made forest, surrounded by agricultural land, within the western portion of the Howardian Hills. It lies on the northern edge of the first range of hills north of the Vale of York, some 6 miles northeast of the market town of Easingwold and 2 miles south of Ampleforth Abbey and College. The varied topography, gentle crests, dissected valleys and a steeply sloping escarpment contributes to the diversity of habitats. While the Moor is dominated by conifers (notably spruce and pine), patches of mixed deciduous woodland (oak, beech, sycamore and silver birch), some with large mature trees, can be found scattered throughout but particularly along the bottom of the central valley. This valley also contains 3 'fish ponds' (2 small and one medium size) with varying patches of reeds and water lilies. Periodic felling on the Moor has also added to its diversity, producing several cleared sections, and replanted tracts of different ages.

A number of well-defined rides and forest tracks provide a variety of circular walking routes (1-2 hours duration) that are well used by dog walkers, horse riders and joggers.

### **Species**

With Nightjar numbers in decline on Skipwith Common, this is now one of the most reliable sites within the YOC recording area for seeing this species. Woodcock are also common during the breeding season and can be seen roding at dusk. Tawny Owls are resident with the young being particularly vocal after leaving the nest in late spring early summer. Moorhen nest on all 3 ponds, while Coot and Great Crested Grebe nest on the larger bottom pond. Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pochard and Tufted Duck are occasional visitors to the bottom pond. Small mixed flocks of Swifts, Swallow, House Martin and Sand Martin will gather over the bottom pond in late summer, when Grey Wagtail may be present on the dam wall. Sparrowhawk can be seen early morning soaring over the central valley. The extensive larch plantations have attracted winter flocks of 20-30 Crossbill and 50+ Siskin, with on occasion a few birds remaining all year. Common residents (ie. seen on most visits) include Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest, Long-tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Treecreeper, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. Regular summer migrants include Cuckoo, Tree Pipit, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. Turtle Dove were seen and heard for the first time in May 2003.

### **Timing**

A 1-2 hour walk, at any time of year, will usually produce a worthwhile number of the resident woodland bird species. Dusk in late May to mid-July is best for Nightjar, Woodcock and Tawny Owl. April, May and June are best for the summer migrant passerines, while November to March are best for the winter thrushes (in the surrounding farmland), Crossbill, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll.

## Access

From the York Northern By-Pass (A1237) head north on the B1363 (signposted Helmsley) through the villages of Sutton-on-the-Forest and Stillington to the village of Brandsby. 100 yards past the village shop (on the right) turn left onto the minor road (signposted Yearsley). Follow this road down into the valley and up the steep hill on the other side. The fields to the right of the road between Intake Lodge and the reservoirs just before Yearsley village will usually have flocks of Lapwing, Fieldfare and Redwing during the winter months. Continue straight across the crossroads at the village (more like a hamlet) for approximately half a mile to reach the main entrance to the Moor on the right (about 100 yards past the road off on the left to Oulston). Pull off the road and park near to the gate.

For the best Nightjar site walk down the main forest track to the Forester's Cottage (grid ref SE 592757) continue past this and take the first track to the left. Continue for a further 100 yards until the track forks. Stop at the fork and at dusk check out the slope and cleared area in front of the cottage for both Nightjar and roding Woodcock. In recent years a male has been regularly churring close to the cottage (on one occasion from the top of the roof). In June 2003 at least two Grasshopper Warblers were reeling in the scrubby regrowth on the slope about 50 yards further along the track from the Nightjar viewing point.

For a good circular walk from the main entrance, walk about 100 yards down the main track and take the first track to the right. Keep on what is then the main track avoiding any to the right or left. After about half a mile the track does a 90° turn to the left. Directly ahead is a cleared area with a dead tree trunk in the middle. This area is worth checking in May and June for Tree Pipit. From here carry on down to the left and follow the main track round to the right and keep on it (avoiding the road to the right with the radio mast) as far as the old prefab hut (grid ref SE 600756). The cleared area below the hut is also good for Tree Pipit. In 2003 the area of larches either side of the track just before getting to the hut was one of the most reliable sites for Crossbill. In winter check out the tops of the tall trees 100 yards down the main track from the hut. There is usually a large flock, mostly Greenfinches, in the area but it often includes Brambling, Siskin and/or Lesser Redpoll.

Continue on the main track to reach a wooden gate. Shortly after this turn left and follow the road down the hill. This track leads down past the 2 smaller fish ponds to the larger bottom one. On the way down check out the deciduous woodland areas for titmice, Nuthatch and Treecreeper. Cross over the dam wall. The trees below the wall are good for titmice (including Marsh Tit and very rarely Willow Tit). The wooden pier in the pond and outlet point are worth checking for Grey and Pied Wagtail. After crossing the bridge turn left and follow the track through the wood. In summer Spotted Flycatcher are regular through this first (often muddy) stretch of path. Start climbing back up the track with a mature pine plantation on the left (regular Treecreeper site) to where another track comes up from the left, ignore this and carry on along the upper track.

Continue on this track to where it joins a major forest road. At this junction one road goes down to the left, another almost directly across follows the slope round to the left (and will lead to the Nightjar viewing site below the Forester's cottage) while the main road leads up the hill to the right. Follow the main road up the hill. The cleared area on the right half way up is a regular site for Bullfinch. Continue climbing the hill to the wooden gate and rejoin the main track turning right to go back to the entrance (or left to walk down to the Forester's

cottage). In summer Garden Warbler are regular in the shrubs beside the Brandsby Ampleforth road either side of the main entrance to the Moor.

### Calendar

This includes the conifer plantations, deciduous woodland, ponds and surrounding agricultural land.

*All year:* Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Pheasant, Moorhen, Coot, Black-Headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-Backed Gull, Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Tawny Owl, Kingfisher (rare), Green Woodpecker (occasional), Great Spotted Woodpecker, Skylark, Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest, Long-Tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit (uncommon), Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Starling, Tree Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Yellowhammer.

*Winter (October - March):* Pochard, Tufted Duck, (and very infrequently Goldeneye and Goosander), Lapwing, Fieldfare, Redwing, Brambling, Siskin, Crossbill, Lesser Redpoll.

*Spring and summer (April to August):* Woodcock, Curlew (pass through area in early spring), Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Nightjar, Swift, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Tree Pipit, Grey Wagtail (late summer/early autumn), Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler (rare), Spotted Flycatcher.

The above species lists are based on my personal sightings. I have been informed by other club members that Goshawk used to be present and there are a few recent records in YOC reports from the Gilling area just to the north east of Yearsley Moor - so worth looking closely at any distant soaring Sparrowhawks just in case. There is at least one record of Redstart along an overgrown track on the western side of the central valley. If anyone has recorded any woodland species in this area in addition to those listed I would be delighted to hear from you.

Malcolm Douglas

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The sequence and scientific nomenclature is that of Voous, K.H., List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Status: Resident breeder

Present all year at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits with a maximum of eight on 13<sup>th</sup> October. At least one pair bred. Also resident at Castle Howard Lake with a maximum of six on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Birds were seen in the Lower Derwent Valley and Pocklington Canal area throughout the year but no significant counts were received.

A pair was on the pond by the River Ouse at Riccall on 9<sup>th</sup> February with singles seen throughout May and June and an adult with a chick on 23<sup>rd</sup> July while two were on a pond at Strensall Common on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, three on Towthorpe Grange Pond on 14<sup>th</sup> April, two pairs at White Quarry Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a single bird on the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve pond, New Earswick on 21<sup>st</sup> September and a pair on Wistow Clough Pond on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*  
Status: Migrant breeder and passage visitor

Present all year at Castle Howard Lake with a maximum of ten on 20<sup>th</sup> October and at least two pairs bred. A pair on Wistow Clough Pond from 29<sup>th</sup> April had two broods while birds also bred at Pond Head Farm, Yearsley Moor Ponds and York University Lake.

Elsewhere, singles were noted on and off throughout the year at Rawcliffe Lake with pairs at Sturges Ponds on 5<sup>th</sup> March and Wheldrake Ings on the 8<sup>th</sup>; a single was on the pond by the River Ouse at Riccall on the 12<sup>th</sup> and one or two adults along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*  
Status: Summer visitor

A pair at Wheldrake Ings from 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March was observed building a nest in front of Swantail Hide.

**Leach's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*  
Status: Vagrant

An exhausted individual was picked up near Malton on 5<sup>th</sup> February after strong westerly winds but died later in care (per JP). First record for the area.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Status: Passage and winter visitor and recently established resident

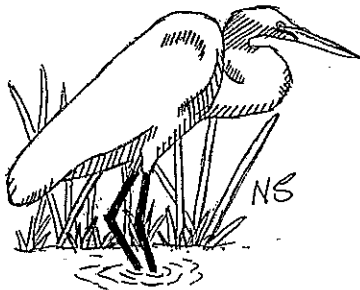
Birds roosted throughout the year and probably bred at Wheldrake Ings with a maximum of 71 there on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Numbers were also into double figures at Castle Howard Lake all year with a peak of 35 on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Elsewhere, nine birds flew south at Riccall on 28<sup>th</sup> March with singles noted throughout the year from Buttercrambe, Clifton Ings, Dudley Hill Farm, Forest Farm (Warthill), Limefield Farm (Dunnington), Wharfe Ings (Cawood) and along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from April to July with four there on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Other sightings involved two birds present at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 9<sup>th</sup> September with four there on 16<sup>th</sup> November and a single over Blossom Street, York on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Great White Egret** *Egretta alba*

Status: Vagrant



A single bird found on wetlands just north of Riccall on the 8<sup>th</sup> January remained until the 16<sup>th</sup> but proved rather elusive by feeding in deep ditches during its stay (DT *et al.*).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Status: Resident breeder

Present throughout the year in the Lower Derwent Valley/Pocklington Canal area but the only significant count was of 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Breeding was noted at Castle Howard Lake with up to eight birds there throughout the year and a maximum count of 11 on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Five birds were along the River Ouse at Riccall on 29<sup>th</sup> July with singles seen throughout the year at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, Dunnington Common, Limefield Farm (Dunnington), New Earswick, the River Ouse south of York down to Naburn and north of York up to Poppleton, Ryther, Sand Hutton CSL, Skipwith Common and Towthorpe Grange Pond.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Status: Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

Present all year in the Lower Derwent Valley/Pocklington Canal area but the only significant count was of 19 at Bubwith Ings on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

At Castle Howard, a pair was on the new River Pond on 10<sup>th</sup> February and 11 on the Great Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October increased to 18 by the year end.

Elsewhere, a pair with two immatures on the River Ouse in York city centre on 11<sup>th</sup> January had moved south of the city by the 27<sup>th</sup> with a single bird there from 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June and a pair with three cygnets from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 18<sup>th</sup> July. On the Ouse to the north of the city, a pair was at Poppleton from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May moving down to Clifton lngs on the 30<sup>th</sup> whilst that or another pair was at Poppleton on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

A pair was present all year at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits and a pair was seen at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on several dates from 27<sup>th</sup> July to the end of the year. Four birds were at Newburgh Priory Lake on 16<sup>th</sup> January with three there from 23<sup>rd</sup> October to 26<sup>th</sup> November and breeding was noted on the pond by the River Ouse at Riccall and at White Quarry Farm.

#### **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

Status: Winter visitor

A disappointing year for this species with just two birds noted at North Duffield Carrs on 25<sup>th</sup> January being the only record early on.

Seven were seen flying southeast and calling over New Earswick on 26<sup>th</sup> October and 20 were present in the Lower Derwent Valley in late December.

#### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Status: Winter visitor

In the Lower Derwent Valley, the flock in the North Duffield area peaked at 41 early in the year. Up to 55 were noted there through November increasing to 170 by late December. Elsewhere, 43 were in an oilseed rape field at Derwent Cottage Farm on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 42 flew north over Clifton lngs on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 14 were at Terrington on 4<sup>th</sup> November, two at Bank Island on the 10<sup>th</sup> and five flew east over New Earswick on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Bean Goose** *Anser fabilis*

Status: Winter visitor and late winter passage migrant

The only record this year was of nine tundra race birds *A. f. rossicus* in the Lower Derwent Valley in December (EN). Observers are requested to note the race of this species wherever possible.

#### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

Early in the year, 100 flew northwest over York on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 130 flew west over Dunnington on 3<sup>rd</sup> March with four at Wheldrake lngs the following day.

The first returning birds were 80 over Strensall on 20<sup>th</sup> October and then in November 130 flew northeast over York on the 4<sup>th</sup>; a single (feral bird?) was with the Greylag Goose *Anser anser* flock at Castle Howard from the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. There were 22 in a field by Forest Farm, Warthill on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 90 flew over there on the 12<sup>th</sup>. 210 flew over Wheldrake lngs on the

9<sup>th</sup> with a single there on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17 flying over on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 31 were at Ellerton on the 17<sup>th</sup> and a single with Greylags at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

Status: Winter visitor

27 birds noted in the Lower Derwent Valley during December was the only record.  
Observers are requested to note the race of this species wherever possible.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Status: Resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

Good numbers were noted in the Lower Derwent Valley throughout the year with maxima of 300 at East Cottingwith on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 700 at Wheldrake Ings on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 500+ at North Duffield Carrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Good numbers were also reported from Castle Howard with a peak of 800+ on 5<sup>th</sup> December and up to 300 were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits during the winter months. 42 birds were at Pond Head Farm, Oulston from 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the year end.

Also present in the Skeldergate Bridge/Rowntree Park area of York with a maximum of 100 on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Breeding was noted from all the usual sites plus a pair bred for the first time at the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve in New Earswick.

Small numbers were moving around early in the year with flocks noted at Newburgh Priory Lake, Terrington and York University Lake during January and 40-50 birds commuted to and from Rawcliffe Lake throughout the year.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Once again, a common goose recorded from and breeding on many bodies of water throughout the recording area. There were the usual concentrations in the Lower Derwent Valley during the year with a notable count of 400+ at Wheldrake Ings on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Also present throughout the year at Castle Howard with a maximum of 400+ on 20<sup>th</sup> October with Allerthorpe Gravel Pits holding good numbers all year and a peak count of 100 on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Other notable flocks included 94 at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 56 at Rowntree Park, York on 29<sup>th</sup> September. A pair was noted as breeding for the first time in many years at the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve in New Earswick.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Status: Winter visitor and feral wanderer

Two birds were with Canada Geese *Branta canadensis* at Castle Howard on 19<sup>th</sup> February with a single there on 18<sup>th</sup> July and again from 1<sup>st</sup> October to the year end with two birds present on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

At Wheldrake Ings, one bird with the Canada Goose flock was noted on several dates from 14<sup>th</sup> September to the end of the year and another was with Canada's at Rowntree Park, York on 27<sup>th</sup> April with 18 there on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Status: Scarce winter visitor and spring passage migrant

One with Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* at Forest Farm, Warthill on 7<sup>th</sup> November was the only record.

Observers are requested to note the race of this species wherever possible.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Status: Rare visitor

Two birds flew over Wheldrake Ings on 21<sup>st</sup> April and landed at Thicket Priory and another was with Greylag Geese *Anser anser* at Rawcliffe Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Status: Winter visitor, migrant breeder and scarce autumn passage migrant

In the Lower Derwent Valley, numbers at Wheldrake Ings peaked at 76 on 27<sup>th</sup> January with 44 still there on 10<sup>th</sup> April. It would be presumed that a small number stayed on to breed but the only summer record was of four to five birds at Bank Island towards the end of August, although numbers had built back up to 24 by 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Elsewhere, a pair was on a pond at Strensall Common on 18<sup>th</sup> April and another pair was on floods by Riccall on 19<sup>th</sup> May. In September, four juveniles were on a pig wallow near Strensall from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> with one there from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> followed by two adults on 11<sup>th</sup> November. A single bird was seen at York University Lake on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and two at Newburgh Priory Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Status: Winter visitor, spring passage migrant and resident breeder

There were the usual high numbers wintering in the Lower Derwent Valley early in the year with peak counts received of 1000 at North Duffield Carrs on 13<sup>th</sup> January and 2500 at Bubwith Bridge on 20<sup>th</sup> February. A drake spent the summer on the pool at Wheldrake Ings where 300 returning birds were present on 24<sup>th</sup> September; numbers then quickly built up with 3500 birds noted between Bubwith and Ellerton in early November and 3000 at Wheldrake Ings by the end of the year.

At Castle Howard Lake, a single male was present early in the year and 35 birds on 1<sup>st</sup> October increased to 150+ by the year end while in other areas a pair was on the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve pond in New Earswick on 11<sup>th</sup> October, eight birds at Newburgh Priory Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 11 at Pond Head Farm, Oulston the same day. Ten birds flew over Clifton Ings on 26<sup>th</sup> November while four were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits in early December and a drake on Joseph Rowntree Trust NR pond on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Status: Winter visitor and migrant breeder

Present at Castle Howard Lake throughout the winter months with a maximum of 14 on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Also wintered in the Lower Derwent Valley though no counts were received. A pair was on floodwater by the River Ouse at Riccall on 9<sup>th</sup> May and a drake was noted on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*

Status: Winter visitor and resident breeder

Wintering birds were widely spread throughout the Lower Derwent Valley with counts of 100 at North Duffield Carrs on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 250 at Bank Island on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> October while 200 at Wheldrake Ings in early October increased to 3000+ by the end of the year. Also present at Castle Howard Lake during the winter months with peak counts of 70 on 26<sup>th</sup> January and 200+ on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Elsewhere, a pair was on the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve pond in New Earswick on 13<sup>th</sup> February with three there on the 17<sup>th</sup>, six at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 17<sup>th</sup> March with a pair there from 20<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> December. A pair on a pond at Strensall Common on 1<sup>st</sup> April with eight birds there on 27<sup>th</sup> December, ten at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 32 at Newburgh Priory Lake the same day with 20 remaining there on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: Winter visitor and resident breeder

A widespread and common species throughout the recording area. The usual wintering flocks were present in the Lower Derwent Valley though no counts were received. At Castle Howard Lake there were 300 - 400 all year, up to 60 all year at Rawcliffe Lake and up to 80 along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year.

Also present at Pond Head Farm, Oulston with peak counts of 120 on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 133 on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 260 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 210 on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Other gatherings of note included 80 feeding on oilseed rape at Hemmingborough on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 100 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 20<sup>th</sup> October and 250 at Newburgh Priory Lake on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Status: Winter visitor and scarce migrant breeder

Most sightings involved birds in the Lower Derwent Valley with maxima of 34 at North Duffield Carrs on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 58 at Wheldrake Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 130 at Aughton on 20<sup>th</sup> March. A drake spent the summer on the pool at Wheldrake Ings then four birds at Bank Island on 4<sup>th</sup> September were the first returning migrants with numbers then building up to 150 at Wheldrake by the end of December.

The only records outside the Lower Derwent were of one at York University Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> January and a female at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Status: Migrant breeder

An eclipse drake was on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> August with a juvenile there on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Seen throughout the Lower Derwent Valley early in the year with a peak count of 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 27<sup>th</sup> February. A few birds remained throughout the summer but numbers were slow to build up later in the year and the largest count was just 30 at North Duffield Carrs on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Elsewhere, two birds were at York University Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> January, a drake graced the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve pond in New Earswick on 28<sup>th</sup> March with a pair there from 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> December. A pair was at Castle Howard Lake from 11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October and a single bird at Newburgh Priory Lake on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Status: Winter visitor and migrant breeder

Poor counts in the Lower Derwent Valley this year with only 30 noted during February and March although numbers improved slightly towards the end of the year with maxima of 78 at Wheldrake Ings on 15<sup>th</sup> November and 73 at North Duffield Carrs on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Up to 100 were present during the winter months at Castle Howard Lake and Pond Head Farm, Oulston held 25 birds on 31<sup>st</sup> December while ones and twos were noted from several other sites throughout the recording area during the year.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Status: Winter visitor and migrant breeder

Up to 200 were at Castle Howard Lake during the winter months whilst in the Lower Derwent Valley there was a peak of 34 at Wheldrake Ings on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Small flocks were noted on the rivers in York and at several other sites in the recording area. Up to 24 were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits through March and April with at least two pairs staying on to breed and a female with seven young was noted at Wheldrake Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**Scaup** *Aythya marina*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers

A female on floodwater behind the church at Acaster Malbis from 8<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February was the only record early in the year.

Later on, a juvenile turned up at Castle Howard Lake on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and remained until the 17<sup>th</sup> and there was a female at Bank Island on the 25<sup>th</sup> with two there on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

Two birds were on the River Ouse at Rawcliffe Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> January with up to 15 at Wheldrake Ings during the early part of the year. At Castle Howard Lake there was a peak count of just ten on 19<sup>th</sup> February with up to ten also there during the latter part of the year.

Elsewhere, a female was at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Smew** *Mergus albellus*

Status: Almost annual winter visitor

The only record concerned six birds between Aughton and Ellerton on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

A pair flying over the River Rye near Nunnington on 1<sup>st</sup> January was probably the same as that found at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Four birds were seen flying south along the River Ouse at Riccall on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and a pair was on floods at Fulford Ings on the 9<sup>th</sup> whilst up to 19 birds were on floodwater behind the church at Acaster Malbis mid-month and there were peak counts of 42 from Wheldrake Ings and 15 from Castle Howard Lake early in the year.

In the latter part of the year there were 11 birds at Pond Head Farm on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, five 'redheads' at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and a pair on the Ouse at Clifton Ings on 24<sup>th</sup> December with 15 flying over there on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A 'redhead' on the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve pond in New Earswick on the 27<sup>th</sup> was the first of this species to be recorded there. The peak count from Wheldrake Ings during this period was of 100+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and 43 on 20<sup>th</sup> October was the maximum for Castle Howard Lake.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: Migrant breeder

Castle Howard Lake held up to four birds all year. Three seen throughout the year at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits with three males and two females seen there during May and a female with five young on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Four males were on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 16<sup>th</sup> March with at least one remaining until 9<sup>th</sup> June; a pair was on a pond at Strensall Common on 8<sup>th</sup> May and a male on the pool by the River Ouse at Riccall on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Status: Increasing visitor following recent reintroductions in the country

Singles over Selby on 18<sup>th</sup> May (DC) and at Huttons Ambo on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (PB *et al.*) were the only records received.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Status: Passage migrant and rare breeder

As expected, all records came from the Lower Derwent Valley.

Two 'cream-crowns' were hunting at Wheldrake Ings on 9<sup>th</sup> June with a single there on the 13<sup>th</sup> and again on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Up to six birds were noted throughout the valley during August with three 'cream-crowns' hunting together at Wheldrake on the 15<sup>th</sup> where a single was seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> and two on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Further singles were recorded at the same site on 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September with a late individual over Bank Island and Wheldrake on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Status: Passage visitor and rare breeder

The only records involved a single which stopped briefly on a house roof in Huntington on the late afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> August before heading south (per PT) and an immature which flew south over Copmanthorpe on 5<sup>th</sup> September, pursued by a mob of small birds - at a respectful distance! (JB).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Status: Resident breeder and passage migrant

Widespread reports were received from 33 sites throughout the year with evidence of breeding noted in several areas.

A pair was seen at Askham Bog on 9<sup>th</sup> February with displaying birds at Dunnington on 19<sup>th</sup> March, Middlethorpe Ings on 7<sup>th</sup> April and Dunnington again on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A male carrying prey was seen at Fulford Ings on 12<sup>th</sup> May with a female doing likewise at Dunnington on 12<sup>th</sup> August and a pair feeding two young in New Earswick during that month. Juveniles were noted at Stamford Bridge on 4<sup>th</sup> November and Huby on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Possibly two pairs bred in the New Earswick area and breeding was confirmed at Brayton Barff.

Of those birds sexed, 20 were males and 16 were females with reported victims including Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, Skylark *Alauda arvensis*, Great Tit *Parus major* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Two birds were fighting at Osbaldwick on 4th October and sightings were regularly made in urban areas including York city centre.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Status: Increasing passage migrant and rare breeder

One was seen at Charity Farm, Skipwith on 20<sup>th</sup> May with a pair known to be present in the area. A pair was also at Garrowby Hill on 19<sup>th</sup> August with one to two birds near Bubwith during September and four flying high southwest over the New Earswick area on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Another four were soaring together over Shaw Wood, Castle Howard on 3<sup>rd</sup> November - perhaps a family party - and the last was a single, also at Castle Howard, on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: Resident breeder

Birds were noted from 25 sites throughout the year with most records consisting of single birds. Favoured areas were around the York outer ring road and along the A1079.

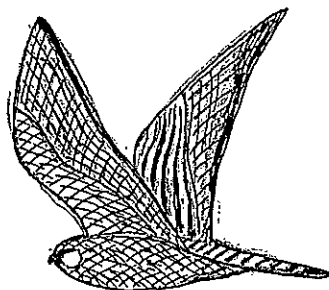
There was little evidence of breeding but two downy young were sitting outside their nest in a dead ash tree at Upper Helmsley on 15<sup>th</sup> July with a juvenile there on the 17<sup>th</sup> whilst juveniles were also noted at Fulford lngs from the 4<sup>th</sup>.

A hunting bird was seen at Osbaldwick, where they are not often seen, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January and a male took a Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* only nine metres from the observer at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (!). Other birds were observed hunting Goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis* at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 20<sup>th</sup> September and Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* at the same site on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

This species appears to be increasing in the northern part of the recording area and although most records were received from rural areas, birds were occasionally seen in York city centre.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

Status: Vagrant



A female was observed for five minutes at North Duffield Carrs in the early morning of 19<sup>th</sup> May (M1). This record has been accepted by BBRC and is the sixth for the YOC recording area, the last being in June 1992.

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**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Status: Passage migrant and winter visitor

A male perched on a mound in a field near Cawood on 29<sup>th</sup> January was the only record in the first part of the year.

Returning individuals in the autumn consisted of a female or juvenile male hunting Reed Buntings *Emberiza schoeniclus* at Wheldrake Ings on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, a juvenile mobbing a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* at Terrington on 1<sup>st</sup> October and a juvenile female at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with a juvenile male there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as well as 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Status: Increasing summer visitor

The first was one flying southwest over Bishopthorpe on 11<sup>th</sup> June followed by another chasing Swifts *Apus apus* over Strensall on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a single was chasing Swallows *Hirundo rustica* at Dean's Garden Centre, Stockton-on-the-Forest on the 24<sup>th</sup>. One to two were reported near York Technical College, York on the 28<sup>th</sup> with one at Dunnington Common the next day and others hunting Swallows between Naburn and Stillingfleet on 6<sup>th</sup> July and flying south over Dunnington Common at the end of the month.

Singles were observed hunting Swallows coming in to roost by the Pocklington Canal at Melbourne on 29<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September and also one at Dunnington Common on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

None were then seen until a juvenile female was identified at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 11<sup>th</sup> October with probably the same bird flying over the A64 east of Fulford the same day and a single east over Dunnington Common on the 19<sup>th</sup> was surprisingly the first for that area. Subsequent records consisted of probably the same male at Wheldrake Ings on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Wintering birds in the first part of the year were confined to the Lower Derwent Valley with a single at Wheldrake Ings on 18<sup>th</sup> January, a pair displaying somewhere in the valley on 1<sup>st</sup> February, males at Wheldrake on 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March, with a male there again 10<sup>th</sup> April and a bird hunting at East Cottingwath on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Status: Resident breeder

12 at Dunnington Common on 1<sup>st</sup> January was the largest covey noted during the year. Six birds were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 4<sup>th</sup> March with two at Forest Farm, Warthill on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> April, four pairs at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup>, four birds near Riccall on the 20<sup>th</sup> and three on farmland near Bugthorpe on the 25<sup>th</sup>

May records consisted of singles or pairs at Poppleton from the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, Lilling Green on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Bootham Stray, York on the 6<sup>th</sup> and at Bugthorpe again on the 31<sup>st</sup> where an adult with ten young was seen on 21<sup>st</sup> June; three birds were near Riccall on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a pair at Towthorpe Grange on the 20<sup>th</sup>. An adult with ten young was also noted at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 8<sup>th</sup> July with 12 birds at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 13<sup>th</sup> August and ten at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

A pair was north of Huby on 19<sup>th</sup> October with a single in a Strensall garden on the 29<sup>th</sup> and another at Lilling Green on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Meanwhile, four were on farmland north of Strensall on 22<sup>nd</sup> December with six at Haxby Road Farm on the 31<sup>st</sup> and up to six throughout the year on farmland in the Naburn/Bishopthorpe area and at Middlethorpe Ings.

#### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Status: Declining resident breeder

All records are included.

Five were in a field north of Easingwold on 25<sup>th</sup> January with a single in a cornfield at Rawcliffe Bar on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Twos were at Thornton Grange Farm near Thornton-le-Clay on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Park Farm, Sand Hutton on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Two pairs were at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April with a single at Youlton next day and pairs at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 17<sup>th</sup> and down Sustrans cycle track, Eserick on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

In May, a pair was at Skates Lane, Huby on the 6<sup>th</sup> with a single bird at Dunnington Common on the 14<sup>th</sup>. June saw further singles at North Duffield Carrs and Wharfe Ings near Cawood on the 9<sup>th</sup>, near Strensall on the 13<sup>th</sup>, near Riccall on the 15<sup>th</sup> and at Dunnington Common again (no date).

Eight were at Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 29<sup>th</sup> July with pairs at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest and Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 8<sup>th</sup> August, Sutton Farm, Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Blue Coat Farm, Foston on the 21<sup>st</sup> with five birds 1km north of Stonegrave on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

September records consisted of a single at Hagg Wood, Dunnington on the 1<sup>st</sup>, eight at Sutton Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup> and also eight at East Moor on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 15 birds were at Forest Farm, Warthill on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October with a covey of five at Riccall on the 29<sup>th</sup> and a pair in a field near Hassacarr Nature Reserve on 2<sup>nd</sup> December with an 'undated' pair seen on farmland at Harton.

#### **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: Summer visitor which breeds in good years

Calling birds (same bird?) were noted at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July and on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August (PB *et al.*).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Status: Resident breeder

Up to seven were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with birds regular in the Huby area and otherwise common in the northern part of the recording area with up to three in the New Earswick area throughout the year. A male was in Askham Bog on 9<sup>th</sup> January with numbers noted as being up in the Dunnington area - 51 were on the common on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Three were at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April with four near Forest Farm, Warthill on 6<sup>th</sup> May and six south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> June; also recorded at Bank Island on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

A female with 16 young was at Crayke on 11<sup>th</sup> July but no further records were received until six birds were seen in a cornfield at Rawcliffe Bar on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Status: Resident breeder and winter/passage visitor

Singles were seen at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March while calling birds were noted at Wheldrake Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> April and Bank Island on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Two were calling at dusk at the latter site on 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October with one again at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 26<sup>th</sup> and calling there on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Singles were also seen in the flooded car park at Wheldrake Ings on the 19<sup>th</sup> and at Castle Howard Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup> with others noted yet again at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Status: Passage migrant and rare migrant breeder

One was heard in the Lower Derwent Valley on 21<sup>st</sup> August (TW).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Up to ten were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with birds also recorded in Askham Bog and up to six at Rawcliffe Lake where at least one pair bred. 'Good numbers' were reported at Clifton Ings and also noted in the Dunnington area although no young were seen at Hassacarr Nature Reserve - possibly due to water levels being too high. Numbers had increased in the northern part of the recording area and up to ten were reported from the New Earswick area. Over ten were at Newburgh Priory Lake on 16<sup>th</sup> January with 20 at Bank Island on the 25<sup>th</sup> and ten at Castle Howard Lake the following day where numbers had increased to 50 by 19<sup>th</sup> February. An adult with two small young was at Gate Helmsley on 28<sup>th</sup> March and other breeding records included young noted at Rowntree Park on 4<sup>th</sup> May, four pairs at Naburn Sewage Works on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a nest with seven eggs at Frog Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> (hatched 25<sup>th</sup>), a nest with three eggs three metres up a hawthorn bush at Wharfe Ings near Cawood on the 19<sup>th</sup>, an adult with a small chick on the River Foss in York on the 17<sup>th</sup>, three nests with eggs near Strensall on 11<sup>th</sup> June, an adult on a nest three metres up a hawthorn at High Carr, Strensall on 28<sup>th</sup> July, an adult with two juveniles at Huby on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 20+ including young at Castle Howard Lake on the 18<sup>th</sup>. An adult with three juveniles



was by the Wigginton turn-off on 26<sup>th</sup> August, an adult and a juvenile on the River Rye near West Ness on the 31<sup>st</sup> and a pair with four juveniles on the top pond at Yearsley Moor on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Higher counts later in the year included 100+ at Castle Howard Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October, ten at Wheldrake Ings on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 23 at Bank Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 13 at Rowntree Park on the 26<sup>th</sup>. 100+ counts were also recorded at Castle Howard Lake on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December dropping to 50+ by the 12<sup>th</sup> with widespread reports of lower numbers from elsewhere in the region.

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Up to six were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with ten pairs at Ravcliffe Lake where at least four produced young while up to nine were at New Earswick Nature Reserve throughout the year.

Small numbers were noted at York University Lake and on the River Foss in York early in the year. Higher counts including 100+ at Castle Howard Lake on 26<sup>th</sup> January with 300+ there on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 85 at Wheldrake Ings on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 79 at Bank Island on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Breeding records included a pair with five chicks at New Earswick Nature Reserve by 6<sup>th</sup> May (only one survived) and a second pair with three chicks there by the 19<sup>th</sup> (only one may have survived?) and a pair nesting at Naburn Sewage Works on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Nesting was noted at Towthorpe Grange in June, a pair with five well-grown young on the Pocklington Canal on 24<sup>th</sup> July, at least one pair on the bottom pond at Yearsley Moor and a count of 200+ at Castle Howard Lake on 18<sup>th</sup> July included many adults with young. Only four pairs bred at Sturges Ponds.

Numbers built up during the autumn and included counts of 500+ at Castle Howard Lake by 20<sup>th</sup> October, 20 at Newburgh Priory Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, c.1000 at Castle Howard Lake on 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December and 20 on the bottom pond at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Status: Passage migrant and migrant breeder

The first returning birds were two at North Duffield Carrs on 25<sup>th</sup> January with one at Wheldrake Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Ten were displaying at Wheldrake by 4<sup>th</sup> March increasing to 31 by the 8<sup>th</sup> and 46 by the 10<sup>th</sup>. A single flew over Clifton Ings on 30<sup>th</sup> March and a pair was at Poppleton on 7<sup>th</sup> April with two near Riccall on the 20<sup>th</sup> while up to three were present in the Naburn Sewage Works area from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> July with a bird sitting on a nest observed on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

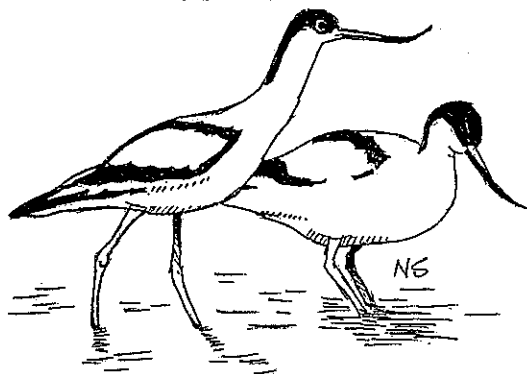
Breeding reports in April came from Huntington, Naburn and Old Earswick with birds noted at Haxby Road Farm from 21<sup>st</sup> March to the end of July. A pair was in a field at Cliffe on 21<sup>st</sup> May with two birds at Skipwith Common on 21<sup>st</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June. Three were seen in flight over Brecks estate in Strensall on 8<sup>th</sup> May with two at Thornton in the Lower Derwent Valley on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two territories were occupied at Towthorpe Grange during the summer with evidence of fledging on 21<sup>st</sup> May. A single bird was at Moreby on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

with a pair near Barlby on 4<sup>th</sup> July and one bird at Moorlands YWT Reserve, Wigginton on the 15<sup>th</sup>; two were on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on the 17<sup>th</sup> with a single there on the 26<sup>th</sup>, another was present on 20<sup>th</sup> August with two at a pig wallow near Strensall on 4<sup>th</sup> September being the last.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Status: Rare visitor

Two were seen from the Swantail Hide at Wheldrake Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> April with perhaps the same birds feeding in shallow water on the reserve on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May. Two were also seen between Appleton and Colton in July (per AH).



**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Status: Passage migrant and migrant breeder

The first was at Bank Island on 27<sup>th</sup> March followed by others on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April with a pair there on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Four birds were on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 16<sup>th</sup> July with three there the following day while an adult and three juveniles were seen at a pool by the River Ouse at Barlby on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

Nine were at North Duffield Carrs on 12<sup>th</sup> January rising to 1500 by the 27<sup>th</sup> with 15 at Riccall on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 21 were at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with 32 on farmland between Bishopthorpe and Naburn on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 560 were at Sim Balk Lane, Bishopthorpe on the 26<sup>th</sup> falling to 200 by the 28<sup>th</sup>. 800 were at North Duffield on 4<sup>th</sup> February with 400 at Wheldrake Ings on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 300 near Haxby on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 13 flew over North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April with 40 at Holtby on the 11<sup>th</sup> and one over Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The monthly totals for the New Earswick area are given below. Compared to 2001, numbers were well down at the start of the year but had returned to normal in the autumn/winter period. Despite large numbers in the area in December 2001 none was seen in January, but the flocks around Bootham Stray and the New Lane area were very evident throughout February. The highlight for this species in 2002 was five summer-plumaged birds which were seen at Haxby Road Farm on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Returning birds were first noted on 31<sup>st</sup> October and several large flocks of up to 350 birds were again seen in the usual locations until the year end.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	400	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	400	300	600

Four post-breeding birds were back at Wheldrake Ings on 31<sup>st</sup> August with 300 at Rufforth Airfield on 8<sup>th</sup> September and 100 in newly cultivated fields near Riccall on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 50 were in winter wheat fields at Tuft House Farm, Hovingham on 9<sup>th</sup> October with 50-120 at Forest Farm, Warthill from the 13<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> while 150 were two miles north of Wigginton on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Notable numbers in November included 40 at East Cottingwith and 150 at Ellerton on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1200 in a newly-sown field at Sherburn-in-Elmet on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 950 at Bubwith on the 11<sup>th</sup> increasing to 3700 by the 17<sup>th</sup>, 500 two miles north of Wigginton on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 200 at East Cottingwith on the 16<sup>th</sup>, ten at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1000 at Wheldrake Ings on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 1000 by the A64 at Fulford on the 28<sup>th</sup>. December counts included 100 at Nunnington, 300 at Ellerton and 300 at Wheldrake Ings - all on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 50 north of Strensall on the 22nd and 100 by the River Derwent on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Status: Migrant breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

The New Earswick area monthly totals give a guide of trends for the year generally:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
150	500	42	7	2	0	2	0	13	290	280	650

1000 were at North Duffield Ings on 13<sup>th</sup> January with 1500 at North Duffield Carrs, a further 40 at Bank Island and 300 at Wheldrake Ings - all on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 300 were near the Wetherby roundabout on the A1237 ringroad on the 26<sup>th</sup> with 27 between Haxby and Strensall on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 100 in a field beside Yearsley Moor on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 25 in a field beside Castle Howard Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 50 behind the car park there on 10<sup>th</sup> February when 500 were in a field near Brickyard Farm between Sheriff Hutton and Strensall. 140 were near Haxby on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Helmsley on 7<sup>th</sup> March and 800 at Middlethorpe Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup> with 400 passing over Wheldrake the same day.

During the breeding season, pairs were noted at Riccall and in set-aside at Dunnington Common with a single at Towthorpe Grange on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 30 in a flooded meadow at Hessay on the 20<sup>th</sup> and six near Lilling Green on 5<sup>th</sup> May while the following pairs were reported: six at Kexby on 12<sup>th</sup> April, two at Londesborough Lodge Farm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and six at Wharfe Ings, Cawood. By 1<sup>st</sup> May, out of five pairs at Kexby three had young while at Londesborough Lodge Farm there were six pairs by the 17<sup>th</sup> with one pair having two young and another

having three and an additional pair was noted there on the 19<sup>th</sup>; Charity Farm at Skipwith held eight birds and two family parties on the 21<sup>st</sup> while the first chick at Hagg Bridge was noted on the 24<sup>th</sup>. An adult was mobbing a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* at Thornton on the 30<sup>th</sup>. At Wharfe Ings there were 11 birds present on 9<sup>th</sup> June but of the seven pairs which attempted to nest here, only one seemed to have been successful.

Post-breeding flocks included 15 in front of the Pool Hide at Wheldrake Ings on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 300 in a meadow at Wood House Farm, Strensall on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 150 north over Wigginton on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 16 at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 20 at Easingwold on 6<sup>th</sup> August. 200+ were in a flooded field beside the B1363 north of the Wigginton turnoff on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. 25 birds were beside Carr Lane northwest of Strensall on 4<sup>th</sup> September with c.150 between the Training Gallops and Ing Beck northeast of Sheriff Hutton the same day. About 5000 were with 100 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* on turf fields at Duncombe Wood, Strensall on the 12<sup>th</sup> when 91 flew south at East Moor. Ten were at Bank Island on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September while Forest Farm counts for October consisted of 100 on the 15<sup>th</sup> 120 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and 80 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 90 were in a meadow near Duncombe Wood and a similar number over the Brecks estate, Strensall on 9<sup>th</sup> October with 200+ in fields behind the car park at Castle Howard Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 300+ were at Castle Howard Lake on 12<sup>th</sup> November and 100 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Three parties of over 100 were reported from East Cottingwith with another of 150+ at Ellerton on 3<sup>rd</sup> November when 220 were near Lilling Green and 80 on turf at High Roans Farm, Strensall. 60 were in a field behind Castle Howard Lake car park on the 26<sup>th</sup> with 50 there on 3<sup>rd</sup> December when 100 were at Nunnington with 250 at Clifton Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Several hundred were along the margins of the flooded Lower Derwent Valley, seen from Thorganby, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December while 22 were north of Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2300 at Wheldrake Ings the same day.

#### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Status: Passage migrant and rare winter visitor

A juvenile was at Bank Island from 25<sup>th</sup> September into October, with three there from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Status: Vagrant

An adult was on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings from 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July. A juvenile was at Bank Island on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October and was also reported from Wheldrake Ings during this period.

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Status: Infrequent passage visitor

A juvenile was present on a temporary pool in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September with two there on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Status: Passage migrant and winter visitor

15 at North Duffield Carrs on 12<sup>th</sup> January increased to 100 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 130 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 370 were feeding on grass by floods at Wheldrake Ings on 4<sup>th</sup> February while 200 were at Aughton Ings on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 100 were with Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* at Bubwith Ings on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Later in the year, an adult and a juvenile were on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August. A juvenile was on a temporary pool in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park, Sutton-on-the-Forest 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 12 birds were at Bank Island on the 25<sup>th</sup> with four there on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and three on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 18 birds were by the River Derwent at North Duffield Ings on 12th November with up to 50 by the 12<sup>th</sup>. Finally, nine were at Wheldrake on 3<sup>rd</sup> December increasing to 300 by the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

Status: Vagrant

A single bird was at Bank Island from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October (DS *et al.*) and attracted many visitors during its stay. It was trapped and ringed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and proved to be an adult female. This appears to be the first record for the YOC recording area of this delicate and attractive species which seems to be easier to see in Britain than in its native North America!

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Status: Rare breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor

11 were at North Duffield Carrs on 13<sup>th</sup> January with six there on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 65 were at Aughton Ings on 14<sup>th</sup> February with 35 there on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 22 were along the water's edge at Bank Island on the 29<sup>th</sup> with 30 there on 8<sup>th</sup> April, eight on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12 on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Probable return passage was indicated by four females at Wheldrake Ings on 29<sup>th</sup> June with a male on the main pool there on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Four birds were behind the Swantail Hide on 10<sup>th</sup> August with six at Bank Island on 20<sup>th</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> September, seven there on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and two on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A single bird was at Wheldrake on 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August with 35 at Ellerton on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 20 at North Duffield on the 10<sup>th</sup>, nine near Thorganby on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and five at Breighton on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The temporary pool in a pig field near Sutton-on-the-Forest held 11 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August, ten on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, four on the 4<sup>th</sup>, five on the 5<sup>th</sup>, six on the 6<sup>th</sup>, three on the 7<sup>th</sup>, four on the 8<sup>th</sup>, two from the 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> and a single on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

Two were at Wheldrake Ings on 8<sup>th</sup> February with singles flushed at Fulford Ings on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Rawcliffe Bar car park on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Later in the year, birds seen included two at Bank Island on 29<sup>th</sup> September and three there on 3<sup>rd</sup> October with ten on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> while singles were by the River Rye at Lower Butterwick on 12<sup>th</sup> November and at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Sniipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: Resident and migrant breeder and passage visitor

38 were at Clifton Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> January when one was in a flooded meadow at Brecks Lane, Strensall and another at Dunnington Common with two at Hassacarr Nature Reserve. 42 were counted within 150 square metres at Wheldrake Ings on 8<sup>th</sup> February with four at Fulford Ings on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and one to two there on 13<sup>th</sup> April; a single bird was flushed at Rawcliffe Bar car park on 28<sup>th</sup> March. 12 were flushed from set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Two to three were 'drumming' at Strensall Common on 18<sup>th</sup> April with one displaying there on 1<sup>st</sup> May and three performing on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Four birds were on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 17<sup>th</sup> July with one there on the 26<sup>th</sup> followed by four and then three flying over the Swantail Hide on the same date. 19 were at Bank Island on 20<sup>th</sup> August with 20 there on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 30 on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 20 again on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A temporary pool in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park near Sutton-on-the-Forest held two birds on 30<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September, three on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one on the 5<sup>th</sup>, four on the 6<sup>th</sup>, two on the 7<sup>th</sup> and one on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with a single bird seen in a meadow behind Walbutts Sewage Works, Strensall on the 18<sup>th</sup> and another at Clifton Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 20 were at Bank Island on 1<sup>st</sup> October with 52 there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 40 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, one was probing on a mossy lawn near a feeding station in a Poppleton garden on the 12<sup>th</sup> before being chased off by Blackbirds *Turdus merula* while another was at Allertorpe Gravel Pits the next day.

At least 21 birds were flushed from the margins of a marshy pool adjacent to the River Rye near Lower Butterwick on 12<sup>th</sup> November while two were with a large flock of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* in a flooded field beside the B1363 two miles north of the Wigginton turn-off the following day. Four were at Helmsley Common on the 18<sup>th</sup> while up to 90 birds flew over Strensall Common in a series of small flocks (five to 20 birds per flock) during a five minute period on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 30 were at North Duffield Carrs on 14<sup>th</sup> December with 78 counted at Clifton Ings on the 21<sup>st</sup> and five at Strensall Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Singles were noted at the start of the year in an open field near Cliffe on 6<sup>th</sup> January, were flushed in Askham Bog on 9<sup>th</sup> February and seen at Skipwith Common on the 11<sup>th</sup> with two there on 26<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March.

'Roding' birds were noted at Skipwith Common on 17<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May with four there on 1<sup>st</sup> June and birds still 'roding' on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Five birds were performing these territorial display flights on 29<sup>th</sup> May with three singles and a 'pair' doing likewise at Yearsley Moor on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Another bird was 'roding' at Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup> July with two flying together there on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

In the autumn, one was seen at the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve in New Earswick on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November with two at nearby Sessions Nature Reserve following a large influx

reported in Yorkshire. Others were seen feeding at dusk in a stubble field at Forest Farm, Warthill on 7<sup>th</sup> November, in a garden off Hull Road, York on the 15<sup>th</sup> and at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Status: Passage migrant and rare breeder

14 at Wheldrake Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> March were thought to be of the Icelandic race *L. l. islandica* with deep russet on the underparts almost down to the undertail coverts, three birds were still at Wheldrake on the 30<sup>th</sup> with five there on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Five were again at Wheldrake on 7<sup>th</sup> August with five seen from the Swantail Hide there on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and four on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Two juveniles at Bank Island on the 24<sup>th</sup> were the last for the year.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: Passage migrant

April figures from the roost at Wheldrake Ings were 19 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 30 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 64 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This rose to 92 by 5<sup>th</sup> May while 15 flew over Stockton-on-the-Forest on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Status: Passage migrant, migrant breeder and winter visitor

Single birds returned to Wheldrake Ings and Middlethorpe Ings on 18<sup>th</sup> January while 61 were seen from the Tower Hide at Wheldrake in a snow storm on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Three were at Strensall Common on 10<sup>th</sup> March with two there on 1<sup>st</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April and a single on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Six were on set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April with two flying over Brockfield Park on the 14<sup>th</sup> and one at Hessay on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Spring birds also included singles at Moreby on 12<sup>th</sup> May, Dunnington Common on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Skipwith Common on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Eight were at Wharfe Ings, Cawood on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May, two in the Strensall area on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May and one at Allerthorpe on the 1<sup>st</sup> with six there the following day.

Seven birds were at Wheldrake Ings on 16<sup>th</sup> July with two on the main pool there on the 17<sup>th</sup> and another two at Strensall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Later, six birds were seen from the Swantail Hide at Wheldrake on 10<sup>th</sup> September with singles also there on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Status: Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

An adult in non-breeding plumage was at Wheldrake Ings on 29<sup>th</sup> June with a different bird seen there on 7<sup>th</sup> August. Another was at a pig wallow near Strensall on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September with further singles at Bank Island on 11<sup>th</sup> November and Ellerton on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Status: Passage migrant, migrant breeder and winter visitor

Four at North Duffield Carrs on 13<sup>th</sup> January increased to eight on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 90 were counted at Aughton Ings on 2<sup>nd</sup> March while eight flew over Bubwith Ings on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Birds were regularly seen or heard at Middlethorpe Ings from March to June and two adults were at Wheldrake Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> June with four birds there on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Adults were giving alarm calls to their young at Riccall on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Return passage was probably indicated by 20+ birds on the main pool at Wheldrake on 17<sup>th</sup> July with ten there on the 26<sup>th</sup>, six on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and four on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The pig wallow near Strensall held two birds on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and one on the 4<sup>th</sup>. 12 were near Ellerton on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 70 at North Duffield Ings by the 10<sup>th</sup>. The year ended with 100+ on flooded fields by the River Derwent at Brighton on 5<sup>th</sup> December increasing to 200 by the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Status: Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Singles were at Wheldrake Ings on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and again in July. August records from this site included two on the 7<sup>th</sup>, six on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two again on the 26<sup>th</sup> while 26 were at Bank Island on the 20<sup>th</sup>, ten on the 24<sup>th</sup> and one on the 31<sup>st</sup> with 16 there on 20<sup>th</sup> September and six three days later.

The Strensall pig wallow held three on 4<sup>th</sup> September, five on the 8<sup>th</sup> and two on the 13<sup>th</sup> while one flew over the Swantail Hide at Wheldrake Ings on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

A single at Clifton Ings on the 7<sup>th</sup> was a new record for that area.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Status: Passage migrant and winter visitor

A wintering individual was seen in the Clifton Ings/Rawcliffe Meadows area on 14<sup>th</sup> February with two there on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Passage birds included up to six at Wheldrake Ings (mostly on the main pool) from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> September with singles at North Duffield Carrs on 9<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Birds were also present on a pool by the River Ouse at Barby from 29<sup>th</sup> July until 4<sup>th</sup> September with a maximum of five on 23<sup>rd</sup> August while four were at Melbourne on 27<sup>th</sup> July with two there on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Three were feeding in a small flooded pool on set-aside at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 11 there on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Later in the year, one was at Wheldrake Ings on 3<sup>rd</sup> October with two at Bank Island on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> while another two were at Allertorpe Gravel Pits on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A single was seen at Forest Farm, Warthill on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November with one at Clifton Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> December being the last.



**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Status: Passage migrant

A single representative of this delightful species was at Wheldrake Ings on 29<sup>th</sup> June with two there on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August, five on the 7<sup>th</sup> and three on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleuca*

Status: Passage migrant and rare migrant breeder

Singles were at Wharfe Ings near Cawood on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May when two birds were by the River Ouse at Rawcliffe Ings with one again noted at Wharfe Ings on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Others were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 12<sup>th</sup> May, on the towpath opposite Rowntree Park, York on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, further down the River Ouse at Fulford Ings on the 29<sup>th</sup> and on the main pool at Wheldrake Ings on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August while a calling bird was heard flying over Heworth at 0100 hours the same day. Five were at Bank Island on 20<sup>th</sup> August with two there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and four at nearby Wheldrake on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Birds in September included two at Barlby on the 4<sup>th</sup> one at Nunthorpe, York on the 15<sup>th</sup> and another flying over the Central Science Laboratory at Sand Hutton on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Status: Passage migrant and winter visitor

Adults were seen at Castle Howard on 30<sup>th</sup> January and Wheldrake Ings on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

Status: Passage migrant

A first-winter was at Bubwith Ings on 20<sup>th</sup> March with a first-summer at nearby Wheldrake Ings on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. These records could well have involved the same bird!

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Status: Resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant

The usual widespread winter records were received with large numbers noted at several winter roosts.

32 were along Navigation Road, York on 1<sup>st</sup> January while 300 were with 300 corvids near Skipwith Common on the 19<sup>th</sup> with 40 at York Technical College playing fields, Sim Balk Lane on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 2000 were at the Castle Howard roost on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 50 were at Monk Stray, York on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 3500 at Wheldrake Ings on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Winter afternoons produce large numbers building up into thousands of birds flying south over Dunnington, heading for the Lower Derwent Valley to roost with many birds also noted flying south over Poppleton with other gulls at this time. This species is a regular winter visitor to Rawcliffe Lake and seen all year along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with a maximum of 250+ on floods at Fulford Ings on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

In the spring, 80 were at Strensall on 1<sup>st</sup> April with 15 at Towthorpe Grange on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 14 were at Strensall Common on 8<sup>th</sup> May while summer floods attracted 400+ to Clifton Ings from 20<sup>th</sup> July into early August with 200 on floods near Aughton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1500 at Wheldrake Ings on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

100 were at East Moor near Sutton on the Forest on 26<sup>th</sup> September with 350 at Harewood Whin tip, Rufforth on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 100 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 13<sup>th</sup> with 20 there on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 300 were at Dunnington Common on 2<sup>nd</sup> November while 150 were at York racecourse on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 35 at Newburgh Priory Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The general trend throughout the year was reflected in the following monthly totals from the New Earswick area where it is a common bird in the evening roost flight of gulls heading east:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
160	310	90	0	1	5	35	0	0	0	350	100

Elsewhere, the winter flock on Osballdwick sports field peaked at 30 birds on 26<sup>th</sup> January but most had gone by 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The first returning birds were noted on 15<sup>th</sup> July building up to 70 by November when additional birds were attracted by standing water.

#### Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

12 were along Sim Balk Lane, Bishopthorpe on 21<sup>st</sup> January with similarly small numbers noted at Rawcliffe Lake in the winter months. Odd birds were also seen in the centre of York during the winter, with Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus*. 400 were at the Castle Howard roost on 26<sup>th</sup> January and birds were regularly seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn outside the breeding season with a maximum of 30 on floods at Fulford Ings on 11<sup>th</sup> February when 180 were at Dunnington Common where one bird had been feeding from a garden bird table! 2500 were at Wheldrake Ings on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Birds returned to Wheldrake on 17<sup>th</sup> July with 20 on floods in front of the Tower Hide on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Two birds were on the YWT reserve at Strensall Common on 6<sup>th</sup> October with 50 at Castle Howard on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a single at Newburgh Priory Lake on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Winter roost numbers at Wheldrake Ings built up to 1000+ by 5<sup>th</sup> December with 3000 counted there on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Monthly counts from the New Earswick area reflected the general trend throughout the year:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	82	38	0	0	0	0	0	13	8	500	100

The count for November was, however, exceptional!

This seasonal pattern was also noted at Osballdwick sports field with up to ten birds noted early in the year. All had gone by 5<sup>th</sup> April with a few returning on 15<sup>th</sup> July increasing to 12 by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*  
 Status: Passage migrant and scarce winter visitor

Up to 50 birds were counted daily at the pre-roost gathering on floods at Fulford Ings from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February (DP). Up to six were seen flying over the River Ouse between York and Naburn from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> July with four flying northwest over Selby on 21<sup>st</sup> March. One was at Riccall on 15<sup>th</sup> June with at least three at Wheldrake Ings on 17<sup>th</sup> July while a flock of c. 200 was in a pigfield opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park southeast of Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 26<sup>th</sup> with 150 in fields west of Cass Wood, Huby on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 136 at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest the next day. 81 were near Burn Fishing Ponds on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 340 flew over Dunnington the same day.

'Large numbers' were reported between Cawood and Stillingfleet during August. 42 were beside Carr Lane northwest of Strensall on 4<sup>th</sup> September with 40 flying south at East Moor on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Later in the year, five birds were in the gull roost at Castle Howard on 20<sup>th</sup> October with three there on 12<sup>th</sup> December and one at Monks Cross, York on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Monthly totals for the New Earswick area are set out below.

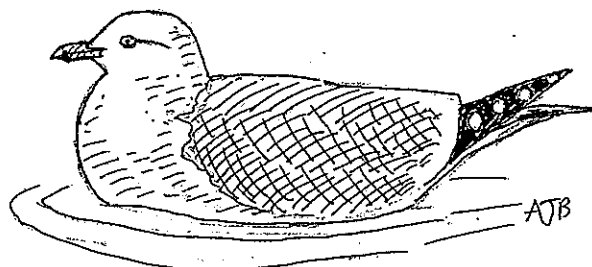
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	3	2	0	7	7	8	12	0	2

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*  
 Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

Regularly seen flying south with Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* over Dunnington during late afternoons throughout the winter months and also regularly seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn outside the breeding season but a pre-roost gathering with other gulls on floods at Fulford Ings from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February numbered up to 400 birds. Birds were also regular at Rufforth tip and seen heading south over Poppleton towards roosting sites in the winter months. Nine were in Stockton Lane, York on 2<sup>nd</sup> April with four over Huby on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Later in the year, 50 were seen flying south to roost over East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 17<sup>th</sup> September with 166 counted on floods at Wheldrake Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Reports from the New Earswick area were almost always of flyovers in the late winter evenings, in the company of Black-headed and Common Gulls *Larus canus*, going east or occasionally south to roosting sites but birds were only very rarely seen on the ground. 63 and 50 were however seen in August and September respectively, which were well above normal winter counts.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans*  
 Status: Rare visitor



An adult of the race *micahellis* (Western Yellow-legged Gull) was observed closely on floods at Fulford Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February (DP). Description received.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*  
Status: Scarce winter visitor

A first-winter bird was seen with other gulls in a pre-roost gathering on floods at Fulford Ings on most evenings between 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February with a third-winter also noted there on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> while a first-winter was also seen at the Wheldrake Ings roost on 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March. A first-winter at Fulford Ings on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February was seen well on the second date and showed some features suggesting the race *kumlieni* (Kumlien's Gull) (DP). Description received.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*  
Status: Scarce winter visitor

A first-winter was present mid-afternoon on floods at Fulford Ings on 9<sup>th</sup> February with possibly the same bird noted at Wheldrake Ings on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. A second-winter was seen in fields opposite the Alne Brickworks landfill site in February (exact date unknown).

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*  
Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

This species was recorded as a new bird for the New Earswick area with a single flying south over Haxby Road Farm on 19<sup>th</sup> January. Up to 400 were seen daily at a pre-roost gathering of gulls on floods at Fulford Ings from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Later in the year, another bird was seen over the New Earswick area, flying east with Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* while yet another was seen on 27<sup>th</sup> December. Wheldrake Ings roost counts were 338 on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 540 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 167 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 192 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*  
Status: Passage migrant and rare migrant breeder

One was seen at Marston Moor Station during the YOC birdrace on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June while two birds flew up the River Ouse at Clifton Ings on 27<sup>th</sup> June and two were also seen at Wheldrake Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> July. A single was at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*  
Status: Passage migrant

Two birds seen briefly over ponds by the River Ouse at Riccall on 6<sup>th</sup> June was the only record (DT).

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Status: Resident breeder

Common - and a nuisance - in the centre of York: we could do with some urban Peregrines *Falco peregrinus*! Mass display flights were seen frequently over Osbaldwick and 50 were counted round Heworth church on 1<sup>st</sup> March. 12 were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May while 200 were at Hagg Wood, Dunnington on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Status: Resident breeder

16 were on a newly-cultivated field at Riccall on 9<sup>th</sup> January and 20 at Grimston near York on the 12<sup>th</sup>. 15 were feeding amongst Wood Pigeons *Columba palumbus* at Clifton Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> February while 12 at Dunnington Common on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was the highest count there. Ten were at Storwood on 4<sup>th</sup> March, two at Strensall Common on the 10<sup>th</sup>, two at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 17<sup>th</sup> and six on arable fields at Riccall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A maximum of ten was counted in March in the New Earswick area where they were generally seen with Wood Pigeons along the northern and western edges.

A pair was at Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April and three at Langton, Malton on the 21<sup>st</sup> while a pair at Limefield Farm, Dunnington nested in an old barn with other pairs breeding in the field centre at Dunnington and in a Barn Owl *Tyto alba* box east of the village. 18 were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May with 11 there on 22<sup>nd</sup> June while a pair was at Towthorpe Grange on 21<sup>st</sup> May and another at Bank Island on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

A single bird was in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park near Sutton-on-the-Forest on 6<sup>th</sup> September with six seen flying over Walbutts Sewage Works, Strensall on the 18<sup>th</sup> and one sitting on a nest of two eggs in an owl box at Brayton Barff on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A single was in a field near the car park at Castle Howard Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> October with nine there on 26<sup>th</sup> November while a flock of 41 was on electricity wires at Goose Farm on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Five were in Skates Lane, Huby on 6<sup>th</sup> December with up to 15 seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year and two or three pairs resident on Clifton Ings.

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Status: Resident breeder

100 were at Grimston near York on 12<sup>th</sup> January with 200+ in fields east of Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 50 at Strensall Common itself on 10<sup>th</sup> March while 200+ were behind Walbutts Farm, Strensall on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 440 on oilseed rape at Riccall on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Nests were seen in May and June at Wharfe Ings near Cawood and 80 were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May with 86 there on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. 110 were feeding in a set-aside field at Riccall on 4<sup>th</sup> June and nest building was observed in Osbaldwick on 13<sup>th</sup> June and in Flaxton on 3<sup>rd</sup> July while recorded as having bred at Brayton Barff.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September, five birds were sitting on nests along the River Ouse and two nests with eggs and young were noted at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 20<sup>th</sup> while 50 were at Forest Farm, Warthill on 16<sup>th</sup> October with 100 there on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 80 were at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 29<sup>th</sup> when 100 were at Londesborough Farm. 200 were at Forest

Farm on 5<sup>th</sup> November with 50+ counted in flight near Lilling Green Farm, Strensall on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

'Good numbers' were present all year on Clifton Ings and seen daily around Huby throughout the year whilst being noted as widespread in the northern part of the recording area. Common in the New Earswick area during the year with the largest concentrations being seen around Kettlestring Farm with counts of over 250 not being unusual. Also seen in the centre of York and up to three visited a Strensall garden regularly throughout the year. Resident and common along the River Ouse between York and Naburn where no significant counts were recorded.

#### **Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

Status: Resident breeder

One pair was nesting in Kings Square, York on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Six were at Storwood on 6<sup>th</sup> March and four visited feeders in a backyard near York Cemetery on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Three were at Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April and a pair was nest building at Buttercrambe on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Bred as usual in Dunnington village gardens but numbers seemed to be lower there this year. Two juveniles were seen taking food from a garden in Heworth on 24<sup>th</sup> July

Display flight was seen in Osbaldwick on 11<sup>th</sup> September with 19 birds at Skipwith on the 16<sup>th</sup> including a partial albino. 14 were at Low Catton on 29<sup>th</sup> October when 30 were at Gate Helmsley while 17 were at Dunnington Common on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and at least 30 in a tree near Storwood the following day with six seen bathing in a puddle at the back of a house in Osbaldwick on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Up to ten were seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year and noted as being regular visitors to gardens in Osbaldwick and Strensall all year. Also seen daily around Huby and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area. Common throughout the New Earswick area, particularly near human habitation and also reported from Brayton Barff.

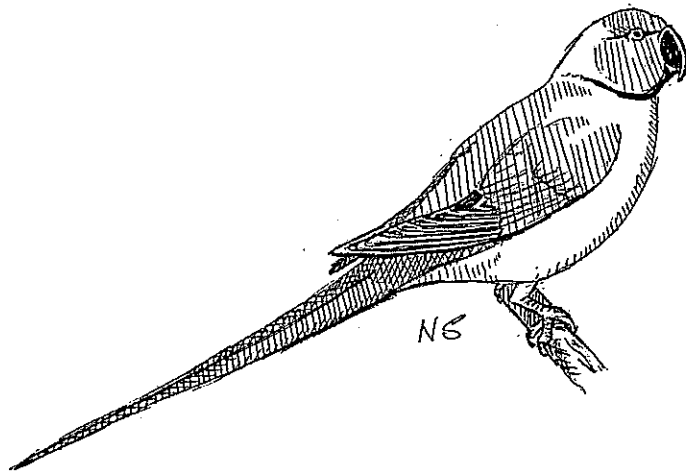
#### **Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

Status: Migrant breeder and passage visitor

Heard 'purring' from the old Army camp at Brayton Barff from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May and again on 9<sup>th</sup> June though only one bird was present, probably due to removal of two hectares of scrub for the Selby bypass. One was at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 19<sup>th</sup> May with a pair there on the 26<sup>th</sup> when one was 'purring' from overhead wires at Barlby Sewage Works. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, one was drinking from a puddle on a track at Charity Farm, Skipwith and another heard calling from an ash tree in Riccall on 1<sup>st</sup> June while others were along the Selby Canal near Burn in June and flying south along the River Ouse at Naburn Bridge on the 29<sup>th</sup>. At Riccall, a pair flew west over the Ouse on 4<sup>th</sup> July and birds were seen on a pond island there on the 12<sup>th</sup>, so they almost certainly were breeding in the area, whilst the last record was of a pair at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Status: Occasional visitor



One was in a Sheriff Hutton garden on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Status: Migrant breeder

The first was at Wilberfoss on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and thereafter heard at Limefield Farm, Dunnington and Forest Farm, Warthill on the 24<sup>th</sup> with another noted at Wheldrake Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> when also at Bugthorpe. Birds were heard at Skipwith Common on 27<sup>th</sup> April, Hagg Wood, Dunnington on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 1<sup>st</sup> May when also heard near Triangle Meadow, New Earswick with two there on the 6<sup>th</sup> when one was calling at The Brecks estate in Strensall and heard there daily at various times until 1<sup>st</sup> June. Another heard at Strensall Common on the 4<sup>th</sup> May with at least four birds present there on the 8<sup>th</sup> when three were seen on the firing range and the first bird was heard in Huby; also heard in Fulford on the 12<sup>th</sup> and at Frog Hall and Moreby (near Naburn) the same day while two males and a female were in the Warren, Dunnington on the 14<sup>th</sup> and two birds at Pocklington Canal on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Others were heard near Haxby on 21<sup>st</sup> May and in Poppleton on the 27<sup>th</sup> while one flew over a Yearsley Grove garden on 1<sup>st</sup> June with up to three calling in the Naburn/Bishopthorpe area early the same month and a bird still calling at Triangle Meadow, New Earswick on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Heard at Skipwith Common on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June and in Huby on the 11<sup>th</sup> while a fledged juvenile was seen along the riverbank at Wheldrake Ings on 17<sup>th</sup> July (fed by an unidentified small passerine). Another juvenile at Dunnington Common from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August was the last record for the year.

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***  
Status: Resident breeder

A bird was calling at Forest Farm, Warthill on 10<sup>th</sup> January and one was seen hunting there the following day when also seen hunting over Wheldrake Ings at 12.30 hours and again there on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Also observed hunting over the banks of the River Derwent in the same area on 12<sup>th</sup> February whilst others were hunting near Thorton-le-Clay on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Brownmoor Farm, Stillington on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Forest Farm, Warthill on 12<sup>th</sup> March. A bird was seen carrying a large prey item at 17.15 hours on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and another with prey seen flying in the opposite direction there at 18.30 hours, and others were hunting near Melbourne on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also at Bank Island on 8<sup>th</sup> April and carrying prey at Wheldrake Ings on two dates in April. A bird was seen in Kexby on 1<sup>st</sup> May, hunting along the A1079 at 20.00 hours and many pellets were found in one of the old buildings at Naburn Sewage Works on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Hunting birds were seen at Bank Island on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> June and at Wheldrake Ings on 13<sup>th</sup> and again on the 1<sup>st</sup> July while on the 6<sup>th</sup> one was seen flying high over the reserve carrying food to trees at Thicket Priory and three were seen at the Ferry Boat Inn on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The next day, two hunting birds came into contact resulting in much hissing and a vertical climb. The day after that, one flew past the water tower at Riccall at 20.10 hours and two were in the Bank Island area on the 17<sup>th</sup>. At least four were seen on the YOC evening trip to the Melbourne area and someone even managed to turn a person riding a bicycle into one! Meanwhile, three were seen at Wheldrake on the 11<sup>th</sup> with one on the 15<sup>th</sup> and regularly seen hunting around the meadows at dusk.

Bred on the edge of Dunnington Common raising three young with a bird seen hunting east of the village during the summer months, but no nest was found. A male was seen perched outside a new nest box on the common in early September. One was mobbed by Carrion Crows *Corvus corone* while carrying prey at Wheldrake Ings on the 4<sup>th</sup> and four were at Bank Island on the 26<sup>th</sup> - one carrying prey - with a single bird in the same location early next morning. Another was hunting near Hagg Bridge at 22.30 hours on 9th October and again at Bank Island on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> while young were heard calling from an ash tree at Wheldrake on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

In November, birds were seen hunting at Skipwith as well as on the Derwent banks while a single was heard on several occasions in New Earswick village. One was found dead by the A64 at the bottom of Whitwell Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> December while a single bird flew over the B1363 two miles north of the Wigginton turn-off on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Up to three were seen all year in the Aughton and East Cottingham areas.

**Little Owl *Athene noctua***  
Status: Resident breeder

One was heard calling at Stockton-on-the-Forest on 10<sup>th</sup> January with another seen in a hedge near the car park at North Duffield Carrs on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Singles were also at Harewood Whin Tip, Rufforth on 15<sup>th</sup> February and Blue Coat Farm, Foston on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Three were at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 14<sup>th</sup> March with one heard calling at the Brecks estate in Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and two near Dunnington on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Two were at Thorganby on 7<sup>th</sup> April when singles were also at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits and 1km west of Tollerton while one was heard calling at Strensall Common on the 8<sup>th</sup> and another seen in flight over Wistow on the 29<sup>th</sup>.



A pair raised two young on Dunnington Common despite the male being killed by a car and a further four pairs were known to hold territories on the common with another pair east of the village at the end of Intake Lane. Singles were in a derelict building between Stittenham Wood and Mowthorpe Wood on 4<sup>th</sup> June and at Moorlands YWT Reserve, Wigginton and just outside Skipwith village on the 8<sup>th</sup> when one a bird was at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory and seen and heard there later in the year.

A single was seen daily on the school field in Upper Poppleton from 5<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July with a pair noted on 8<sup>th</sup> June which continued calling into August. Two were 'singing' at High Roans on 18<sup>th</sup> June with three the following day while one was at Bugthorpe on the 21<sup>st</sup> and another at Moreby, Naburn on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. One was on the York outer ringroad near Monks Cross on 5<sup>th</sup> July, perched on a lamp post, while a pair was at Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Heard calling from a roadside tree at North Duffield on 10<sup>th</sup> November and from Forest Farm, Warthill on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Probably resident at Kettlestring Farm, New Earswick but lack of public access made accurate recording impossible; single birds are regularly seen at favoured daytime perches in the vicinity of the farm. Also reported from Dudley Hill Farm (Sheriff Hutton), East Cottingham, East Moor (Stockton-on-the-Forest), Hassacarr Nature Reserve, Storwood and Wistow.

#### **Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

Status: Resident breeder

One was seen hunting in the open at Wheldrake Ings at 1800 hours on 25<sup>th</sup> April while a female was heard calling from Limefield Farm, Dunnington at 1500 hours on 17<sup>th</sup> May with a male calling at Frog Hall at 1400 hours on the 19<sup>th</sup>. An adult was seen perched on a telegraph pole in broad daylight at Bank Island on 8<sup>th</sup> June at the same time and place as last year!

Breeding was suspected in the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve, New Earswick, but not proven. Two adults were calling at Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and at least two young were heard begging for food while a single bird was seen in Wass Wood on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In Dunnington, a nest in an old silver birch tree in the Warren failed and yet a bird of the year was seen in the evenings sitting on a farm sign during August.

One was in a Strensall garden on 7<sup>th</sup> September with young birds heard in Heworth and Osbaldwick on the 30<sup>th</sup>. A young bird was seen at Hassacarr Nature Reserve during November, being mobbed by Blackbirds *Turdus merula*.

Also reported from Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, Bishopthorpe, Brayton Barff (where bred), East Lilling, Gate Helmsley, Hagg Wood (Dunnington), Hendwick Hall Farm (Stamford Bridge), High Roans, Huby, Monks Cross (York), Pocklington Canal, Pond Head Farm (Oulston), Poppleton, Skipwith Common, Storwood, Upper Helmsley Common and Yearsley Moor.

#### **Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

At Skipwith Common, a bird was seen hunting at sunset on 15<sup>th</sup> June, at least two young heard calling on the 18<sup>th</sup> and one was flushed from a pine tree on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

A bird reported as a Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* hunting at Bishop Wood at 2100 hours on 19<sup>th</sup> June was more likely to have been this species considering the date and locality.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Status: Casual breeder and passage and winter visitor

A single flying high over Clifton Ings on 13<sup>th</sup> October, being mobbed by corvids, was the only record (NS).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Status: Migrant breeder

One was heard 'churring' at Skipwith Common on 29<sup>th</sup> May with two heard there on 1<sup>st</sup> June and one very distantly on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Also reported from Yearsley Moor where a male was heard and seen 50 metres from the Forester's cottage and a possible female seen flying in the same area on 12<sup>th</sup> June. One was seen displaying at Bishop Wood in mid-June.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

Status: Migrant breeder throughout the area

The first of the year was at York University on 22<sup>nd</sup> April followed by others at Sheriff Hutton on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Thornton on the 8<sup>th</sup> with three in central York on the 9<sup>th</sup> and two in Heworth and Osbaldwick the same day (possibly the same birds). Two were at nest sites in Poppleton on the 11<sup>th</sup> with two at Bishopthorpe on the 12<sup>th</sup>, eight at Cawood on the 14<sup>th</sup> and three over East Mount Road, York on the 15<sup>th</sup> when an influx brought five over the city centre, seven or eight in Osbaldwick and six over Strensall with the first birds noted in Huby and New Earswick.

30 were over Dunnington Common on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, three at Hempland Avenue, York on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 15 at Limefield Farm, Dunnington, following the River Derwent north; eight were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 20+ were over Osbaldwick on 12<sup>th</sup> June with more there on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but 20 was the usual number, 20 were also over Fulford Ings on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers over New Earswick were only up to 18, significantly lower than last year, while up to 15 were in the Strensall area during the summer where birds were seen entering the eaves of two houses. Eight were at Flaxton on 3<sup>rd</sup> July with 25 there on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 36 at Dunnington Common on the 15<sup>th</sup> with six to eight were over the bottom pond at Yearsley Moor on the 11<sup>th</sup> with Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* and House Martins *Delichon urbica*.

The maximum count at Poppleton was 70 on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 36 were feeding over Buttercrambe Moor Wood on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, three days later small groups were slowly moving south over the same location with at least 700 birds moving through between 15.30 and 1700 hours. 30 were over Heworth on the 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Present throughout the summer over the Clifton/Rawcliffe area, though no large counts. The last bird in New Earswick was seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August with the last three at Poppleton on the 8<sup>th</sup> when seven were over Heworth and the last were seen in central York. Birds departed Sheriff Hutton on the 11<sup>th</sup> with the last three in Osbaldwick on the 12<sup>th</sup>, numbers having decreased in August. The last in East Cottingham were seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> when there was a mass exodus of

the breeding population from Riccall while the last at Dunnington was on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A very late bird was seen in Sheriff Hutton on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Status: Resident breeder

One was seen along The Sike at the eastern edge of Strensall Common on 6<sup>th</sup> January while up to eight birds were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Bishopthorpe throughout the year with probably three or four pairs present. At least two pairs were seen regularly at Clifton Ings all year and seen regularly at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits where two males were fighting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Three were at Wharfe Ings near Cawood on 19<sup>th</sup> May. One flew west along Dam Dike at Riccall on 7<sup>th</sup> June and another flew along the River Derwent at Bank Island the next day with one along Selby Canal on the 20<sup>th</sup>. An injured bird was released at Hassacarr Nature Reserve on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and presumably this same bird stayed till the end of the year.

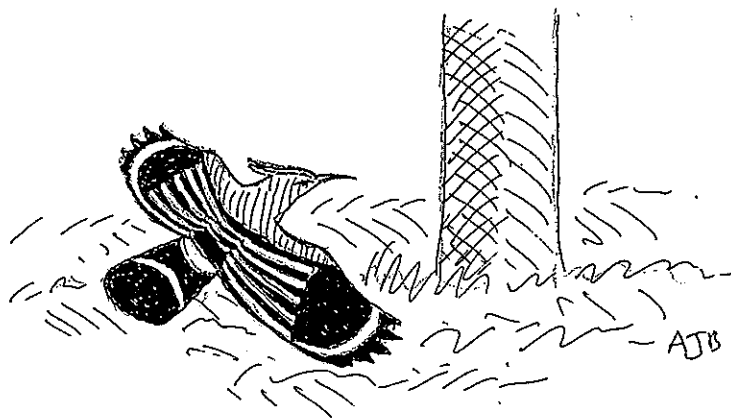
Seen hunting along the River Derwent at Wheldrake Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> July and over the scrape there on the 20<sup>th</sup>, also reported from Wheldrake Ings on 6<sup>th</sup> October. One was seen on the bottom pond at Yearsley Moor on 11<sup>th</sup> July with another on the River Foss near Lock House, Strensall on 18<sup>th</sup> September and two were at opposite ends of Castle Howard Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> October with a pair there on the 20<sup>th</sup> and single birds seen on other dates. Singles were by a pond in a Huntington garden on 5<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December, at a flooded beck on the YWT reserve at Strensall Common on the 18<sup>th</sup>, by the River Foss in York on the 24<sup>th</sup> and on the pool by the River Ouse at Riccall on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Seen regularly at Forest Farm, Warthill and Pocklington Canal with others also seen at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest and Nunthorpe. A pair was seen along the Foss and the old course of the Foss in New Earswick but no evidence of breeding was obtained. Also a frequent visitor to the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve pond and noted at Sturges Ponds, Selby.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Status: Vagrant

One was present in a Knapton garden on 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling!) and 2<sup>nd</sup> April (per JP).



**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Status: Resident breeder but not widespread

One was on the YWT reserve at Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> February with two on the common on 10<sup>th</sup> March and also reported from there later in the year with a pair seen together on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Six were counted round Brayton Barff on 3<sup>rd</sup> March where birds later bred. One was calling at Skipwith Common on the 6<sup>th</sup> and another was at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 12<sup>th</sup>. One or two were heard calling along the River Ouse between the Millennium Bridge, York and Fulford Ings from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May. Two were at Towthorpe Grange on 14<sup>th</sup> April and one was at Moreby, Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Heard at Skipwith Common on 9<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> July, one was calling at Upper Helmsley on the 19<sup>th</sup> when another was seen at the rear of Grange Farm, Haxby with a juvenile in the Warren, Dunnington the following day. One was at Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 8<sup>th</sup> August with another at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 22<sup>nd</sup> September while one flew over Bishop Wood on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Also seen in November at Warren Wood, Dunnington.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Status: Resident breeder throughout the area

A pair was on Skipwith Common on 19<sup>th</sup> January and a male was a regular visitor to a Bishopthorpe garden for three weeks during that month. Four were in Askham Bog on 9<sup>th</sup> February with one calling from an isolated willow at Cliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup>. At Wheldrake Ings, three were 'drumming' in trees along the River Derwent on the 17<sup>th</sup> February while one was heard 'drumming' at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Seen at Clifton Park, York on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and subsequently with a pair seen feeding young at Wistow on 26<sup>th</sup> May while fledged juveniles were first noted along the River Ouse on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Probably at least three different pairs were present in the New Earswick area around the two nature reserves, near Huntington Church and on Bootham Stray; 'drumming' males were heard in four different locations in early spring.

An adult with two juveniles was at Bank Island on 13<sup>th</sup> June and also bred at Brayton Barff. A male, female and at least two juveniles were feeding on peanuts in a garden in Dunnington on 3<sup>rd</sup> August with three males and two females there on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Two were seen at Grimston Bar, York on 21<sup>st</sup> August and three heard at different locations at Yearsley Moor on the 28<sup>th</sup> with a pair seen and three others heard there on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Birds were feeding on peanuts in a Strensall garden on 18<sup>th</sup> September and up to at least five seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year. A pair was at Strensall Common on 20<sup>th</sup> November and one was seen and at least two others heard in woods around Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Two to three pairs were present all year at Clifton Ings.

Also reported from Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, Askham Richard, Bugthorpe, Buttercrambe Moor Wood, Butterwick, Cass Wood (Huby), Castle Howard Lake, Dudley Hill Farm (Sheriff Hutton), East Cottingham, Hagg Wood (Dunnington), Melbourne, Moreby, New Earswick Nature Reserve, Pocklington Canal, Slingsby, Snowball Plantation (Stockton-on-the-Forest), Storwood, Sutton on Derwent, Terrington, Thornton and Towthorpe Grange.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

Status: Resident breeder

One was seen along the car park lane at Wheldrake Ings on 14<sup>th</sup> April. A female feeding amongst a tit flock in the Warren, Dunnington on 22<sup>nd</sup> November was the first record there for about six years.

The status of this very elusive bird is somewhat uncertain in the New Farswick area; confirmed sightings in 1998 and 1999 having recently come to light and one was reported from the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve in April with another possible but unconfirmed sighting at the same location. Known to be present in Askham Bog.

**Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea*

Status: Recent colonist in small numbers

One was present at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on 26<sup>th</sup> February with two there on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Three pairs were present at this site from April with males heard singing most days while two birds were seen collecting food on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

One was singing over a farmland/woodland edge at Towthorpe Grange on 20<sup>th</sup> June while five or six were seen in one flock at Sand Hutton on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September and one was at Forest Farm, Warthill on 15<sup>th</sup> October in the company of Skylarks *Alauda arvensis*.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

200+ were at Dunnington Common on 1<sup>st</sup> January, a frosty morning, with 20 in a stubble field there the following day together with c.100 Yelbowhammers *Emberiza citrinella*; 60 were on stubble south of Skipwith Common on the 5<sup>th</sup> while the peak count at Rawcliffe Cornfield Nature Reserve was 44 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Five were on arable land south of Castle Howard on 10<sup>th</sup> February, including one singing, when seven were counted in a meadow off Oak Busk Lane, Flaxton; six, including four singing birds, were at a winter wheat field north of Wiganthorpe near Terrington on the 17<sup>th</sup> when 20 were at Poppleton while two were singing at Strensall Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 15 were at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 5<sup>th</sup> March and six males at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 55 at Dunnington Common on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

30 were seen in winter wheat and set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April - an excellent record for this declining species - while seven pairs were at Limefield Farm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with one pair nest building and one was at Sustrains cycle track, Bishopthorpe the following day. On farmland at Bugthorpe there were nine (four singing) on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 13 (seven singing) on 31<sup>st</sup> May and four on 21<sup>st</sup> June while 'good numbers' were at Dunnington Common in May. 26 were counted in a one kilometre square by Riccall on 30<sup>th</sup> April with 20 there on 15<sup>th</sup> June while six were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May with eight there on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

A nest with four eggs was found at Charity Farm, Skipwith on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and on the 29<sup>th</sup> ten to 12 fledged young were seen at this site. Small numbers bred on Clifton Ings while six territories were found during a farm survey at Towthorpe Grange during the summer and five

territories in a farmland survey near Langton, Malton. Five males were singing on farmland at Barlow Grange on 20<sup>th</sup> June with six breeding territories occupied on Rawcliffe Cornfield NR while seven pairs were at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Post-breeding flocks included ten at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on 21<sup>st</sup> August and another ten at Storwood on 3<sup>rd</sup> September with 25 at Sutton Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The remains of a freshly dead bird were found on a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* plucking post the same day. A maximum count of 130 was recorded in stubble fields at East Moor in September while 30 were in a stubble field at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

200 were at Forest Farm on 8<sup>th</sup> October while on the 13<sup>th</sup> small numbers were moving over Allerthorpe Gravel Pits most of the day. 100 were at Forest Farm on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October with a maximum of 150 there in November. 20 were at the Strensall end of Carr Lane on 18<sup>th</sup> October with 33 at Rawcliffe Cornfield NR on 21<sup>st</sup> November and up to 62 seen around Haxby Road Farm from early December to the year end. c.200 were seen in a field off Lilling Low Lane on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 19 on farmland north of Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and two singing in bright sunshine at Barby on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 20 were counted in a meadow at Lilling Green on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Up to at least eight birds seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year. Abundant at Strensall Common during the spring and summer with a few present in winter. Still in good numbers in the New Earswick area where seen regularly on Bootham Stray, near Huntington Church and at Haxby Road Farm, also common around Huby throughout the year and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area. Still seems to be a common breeding bird in the area despite declining in similar lowland areas.

#### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

The first to arrive was one at Wheldrake Ings on 23<sup>rd</sup> March followed by four at Sand Hutton on 3<sup>rd</sup> April before a single was seen along the River Ouse near Terry's chocolate factory, York on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Up to five were seen along the river between York and Naburn until 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Breeding colonies were noted in York along the River Foss near Monk Bridge and behind the Castle Museum. Seen at nest holes in Poppleton from 7<sup>th</sup> April when eight were present with 30 there on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Two were at Clifton Bridge, York on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 20 at Wharfe Ings near Cawood on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 400 were over Castle Howard Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> May with five counted on the firing range at Strensall Common during the YOC field trip on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Two were at Ouse Bridge on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a pair nested in a drainage pipe over the River Ouse opposite the City Screen in the centre of York.

Young were seen peering out from their nest at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on the 12<sup>th</sup> while six to eight were seen with a party of Swifts *Apus apus* and House Martins *Delichon urbica* over the bottom pond at Yearsley Moor on 11<sup>th</sup> July and a small party were with Swallows *Hirundo rustica* there on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Present in good numbers all summer on Clifton Ings with one or two seen occasionally at Rawcliffe Lake. The largest single flock at Dunnington was of 50 on the common on 1<sup>st</sup> September although many more could have been involved. Six were feeding over a newly-ploughed field at Storwood on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and seen again with House Martins the following day. Small numbers were moving south over Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup>, totalling about 20 birds.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

Two mobbing a Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* by the River Ouse near Terry's chocolate factory, York on 7<sup>th</sup> April were the first. One at Warthill Common on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 were feeding over open water at Wheldrake Ings on the 10<sup>th</sup> and one flew over Dunnington Common on the 15<sup>th</sup> while a male was singing at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 16<sup>th</sup> with four there by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two were in Ampleforth on the 17<sup>th</sup> with singles at Aughton, East Cottingwith and Storwood the same day and on the following day one was at Sheriff Hutton and three at Bishopthorpe. Five were in New Earswick on the 19<sup>th</sup>, several in Riccall on the 20<sup>th</sup>, one at Langton, Malton the following day and two over Priory Street, York on the 24<sup>th</sup> when four were at Forest Farm, Warthill, also at Fulford on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Seen at Rawcliffe Meadows on 1<sup>st</sup> May with two at Poppleton on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the first in Huby on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 15 were counted at the firing range at Strensall Common on the 8<sup>th</sup> while two were counted in the BBS square south of Naburn on the 12<sup>th</sup> with ten there on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

A pair nested in a building at Towthorpe Grange and two birds were seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from late April with fledged juveniles first noted on 28<sup>th</sup> June while 30 were counted on power lines near Great Wood, Flaxton on 18<sup>th</sup> May. At Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, two pairs nested in stables with five eggs in each nest and had two broods.

Fairly scarce again this year on Clifton Ings and numbers in the New Earswick area were noted to be well down on last year. Nine were over farmland at Bugthorpe on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June with 60 feeding over Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 29<sup>th</sup> July while small numbers were gathering before roosting there on the 31<sup>st</sup>. 50 were at Clifton Moor on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 30 at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits the next day while eight were in Hempland Avenue, York on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. A small number was with Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* over the bottom pond at Yearsley Moor on the 28<sup>th</sup> and several seen in York city centre on the 30<sup>th</sup>, apparently on passage, when an exceptional number of up to 4000 hirundines, mostly Swallows, were roosting in a field of sweetcorn on Dunnington Common. 3000+ were still there on 1<sup>st</sup> September with numbers quickly tailing off thereafter. 50+, mostly juveniles, were on telephone wires at Stockton-on-the-Forest on the 4<sup>th</sup> with 1000 roosting along the Pocklington Canal at Melbourne on the 9<sup>th</sup> and still present on the 14<sup>th</sup>, in maize fields. 398 were counted there on the 12<sup>th</sup>, all flying southeast starting at 06.40 hours with 12 birds followed by groups of various sizes, the last at 07.37 hours. Hundreds were feeding over ponds at Strensall Common on the 14<sup>th</sup> while 50 were at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 350 flew southeast at 1600 hours over East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Seen regularly in Osbaldwick until the last seen there on the 20<sup>th</sup> when 20 passing early with Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*. 30 were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 1000 roosting at Bank Island on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Four were over Wheldrake Ings on 6<sup>th</sup> October with the last five at Allerton on the 15<sup>th</sup> while 32 passed Forest Farm on the 16<sup>th</sup> and three were at Bielby on the 17<sup>th</sup>. At Bank Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> a party of three birds was followed later by a party of six birds, then a party of 25+ birds were seen from the Pool Hide at Wheldrake Ings. Two were over Bootham Stray on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two over Castle Howard Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup> while two were at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on the 29<sup>th</sup> with another there on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The last of all were five flying over the field centre at Dunnington on 2<sup>nd</sup> November - possibly a record late date for this species?

A Swallow x House Martin *Delichon urbica* hybrid was trapped and ringed on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*  
Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

The first were eight at Dunnington Common on 3<sup>rd</sup> April where birds were seen regularly throughout the summer months drinking from the main pond at Hassacarr Nature Reserve. The first in Strensall was on the 19<sup>th</sup> with birds frequently seen in the summer in nests off York Road. The first two were back at their breeding site at Scarcroft Primary School, York on 24<sup>th</sup> while two were seen flying north the following day at Limefield Farm, Dunnington with Swallows *Hirundo rustica* when one at Bugthorpe.

Two were at Clifton Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and in Osbaldwick the following day but were not seen regularly there until the end of the month. The first in Huby was on the 6<sup>th</sup> when 47 moved through Allerthorpe Gravel Pits in small numbers. One was at Bishophorpe on the 7<sup>th</sup>, seven at Cawood and eight at Stillingfleet on the 8<sup>th</sup> and one near Rufforth on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Three birds were collecting mud from a puddle at Londesborough Lodge Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup> with 12 there on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first at New Earswick were on the 20<sup>th</sup> and three were over houses at Strensall on the 21<sup>st</sup> when birds were starting to build nests at Sim Balk Lane, Bishophorpe; five pairs were successful, less than usual. Numbers were down in New Earswick also, but less of a decline there than with Swallows. Two were at Bugthorpe on 31<sup>st</sup>. Several on Fourth Avenue, Tang Hall, York on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Up to 12 pairs nested around Rawcliffe Lake while 20 were at Flaxton on 11<sup>th</sup> July when up to ten birds, with a party of Swifts *Apus apus* and Sand Martins *Riparia riparia*, were over the bottom pond at Yearsley Moor. Up to 30 were seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn in the breeding season and a flock of 200+ was over Clifton Ings on 25<sup>th</sup> July with 30 at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The largest count at Dunnington Common was 175 on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

At least two pairs were still feeding young in nests at South Bank, York on 1<sup>st</sup> September with one pair still there on the 14<sup>th</sup> and one nest with at least three well-grown young on the 21<sup>st</sup> when birds were still noted beside nests in Strensall. 30 were feeding over a newly-ploughed field at Storwood on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with c.50 gathering at Poppleton the following day. Small numbers were moving south at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup> with 50 counted in total.

The last at Dunnington Common were 75 on the 10<sup>th</sup> September with 30 over Brayton Barff on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Nunthorpe on the 15<sup>th</sup> when some were still in Fulford. Small numbers were moving south over Dunnington on the 16<sup>th</sup> and birds were regularly seen in Osbaldwick until the 20<sup>th</sup> when a large number was seen apparently moving through then no more were noted there until the last two on 5<sup>th</sup> October. 25 were at Rowntree Park, York on 29<sup>th</sup> September and five over Castle Howard Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> October while a single bird was with a party of Swallows at Bank Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> with the last at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits - also with Swallows - seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The final bird had left New Earswick by the end of the month.



#### **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Status: Migrant breeder though numbers have declined recently

A single bird was at Wass Wood on 28<sup>th</sup> April with another seen at Bishop Wood in June while one was singing at Wheldrake Wood on 9<sup>th</sup> June when one was on Skipwith Common with at least eight there on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Status: Resident and migrant breeder and passage migrant

A 'good flock' of 42 birds on Dunnington Common on 1<sup>st</sup> January was the only double figure count there with ten birds at Mill Farm beside the River Rye between West Ness and Nunnington and two birds above Stonegrave. Two were seen beside the River Foss in Strensall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> while 83 were at Poppleton on the 13<sup>th</sup> and c.60 feeding in a grassy field near Terry's chocolate factory, York on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

24 were at Clifton Ings on 1<sup>st</sup> February with up to 38 in the New Earswick area during the month. Small numbers were seen flying north at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 17<sup>th</sup> March and at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 20<sup>th</sup> while six were feeding in set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Three were at Strensall Common on the 1<sup>st</sup>, two on the 18<sup>th</sup> and small numbers again in May and November. One territory was recorded during a farm survey at Towthorpe Grange on various dates throughout the summer and a pair was feeding young at Riccall on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

30 were roosting in set-aside at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on 10<sup>th</sup> September where a total of 236 was counted two days later flying south in small flocks, starting with 142 at 06.00 hours and ending with the last four at 08.05 hours. 20 were at Strensall Common on the 14<sup>th</sup> while two were in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park southeast of Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 15<sup>th</sup> with one there on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Small numbers moved south throughout the day at East Moor on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and through Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 13<sup>th</sup> October while 50 were at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 21<sup>st</sup> with 30 there on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Four were in a meadow at Lilling Green near West Lilling on 18<sup>th</sup> December with five there on the 28<sup>th</sup> and singles were around Hassacarr Nature Reserve throughout the autumn. The flock on Bootham Stray had increased to at least 12 by the year end and birds were seen on Haxby Road Farm for the first time. Up to six were seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year and also present in good numbers at Clifton Ings all year.

#### **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

The first was at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 17<sup>th</sup> April followed by a male at Londesborough Lodge Farm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with another bird at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 24<sup>th</sup> and a pair at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The first at Wheldrake was on the 27<sup>th</sup> and one at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on the 29<sup>th</sup> was feeding with six Pied Wagtails *Motacilla alba*. Four were at Dunnington Common on 4<sup>th</sup> May and three at Forest Farm on the 6<sup>th</sup> while two pairs were at Limefield Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup> when four pairs were at Londesborough Lodge Farm. One was at Sutton upon Derwent on the 30<sup>th</sup>. An adult male was feeding a fledged chick at Charity Farm, Skipwith on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Eight birds were on the east bank of the River Ouse at Riccall on the 26<sup>th</sup> May with birds also in fields there on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June and a male at Towthorpe Grange was singing amongst a lettuce crop. Another male was seen along the road between Sheriff Hutton and Strensall on the 9<sup>th</sup> and two birds were at Thornton on the 12<sup>th</sup> while three pairs were around Barlow Grange farmland on the 20<sup>th</sup>, one pair at Ross Carrs and an adult and a juvenile at Hagg Bridge and two were at Moreby, Naburn on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Up to two birds were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> July, probably breeding in the Naburn Sewage Works area, while a pair bred at Manor Farm, Eddlethorpe (near Westow). Two were at High Roans on 3<sup>rd</sup> July when a bird was also at Sheriff Hutton - the first there for 25 years! Nine were in a loose post-breeding flock at Riccall on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Two were at Storwood on 3<sup>rd</sup> September when ten were in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park, Sutton-on-the-Forest with four there the following day and one the day after that; another single was seen by the Ouse on the 4<sup>th</sup> when birds were still present at Riccall. Two at Clifton Ings on the 7<sup>th</sup> was the first sighting in three years of a bird that used to breed there. Singles were also seen at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits and Hagg Wood while birds were seen flying high to the south at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 12<sup>th</sup>. A single bird with a flock of 20 Pied Wagtails at Bootham Stray on the very late date of 3<sup>rd</sup> October was the only record for the New Earswick area.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
Status: Resident breeder

One was beside the River Rye 0.5km west of Nunnington on 1<sup>st</sup> January and another near York Minster on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a single at Walbuts Sewage Works, Strensall on the 12<sup>th</sup> and again on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Birds were also seen in the Dunnington area in January while a male was at the sewage works near Wheldrake Ings on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A male was in song at Norton on 7<sup>th</sup> March and one at Stamford Bridge on the 21<sup>st</sup> with another at Sand Hutton on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Two, possibly young birds, were on the River Ouse at Bishopthorpe Palace on 12<sup>th</sup> May and again on 2<sup>nd</sup> June with three juveniles near Rowntree Park, York the same day indicating successful breeding in the area. Singles were at Newburgh Priory Lake on the 9<sup>th</sup> and at Gilling on the 17<sup>th</sup> with a pair on the River Derwent at Howsham Bridge on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

An unseasonal bird was at Clifton Ings on 20<sup>th</sup> July then at least two seen regularly there from 28<sup>th</sup> September to the year end. One was in Wigginton on 8<sup>th</sup> September and another at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup> with two along the Pocklington Canal on the 14<sup>th</sup> and two on the River Ouse in York the following day; one was at Rowntree Park on the 29<sup>th</sup> with a single at Rawcliffe Lake next day and another at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory. One was in Osbaldwick village on 4<sup>th</sup> October and again on the 26<sup>th</sup>, with singles seen at York University on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Rowntree Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Dudley Hill Farm, Sheriff Hutton on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Other singles were by a garden pond in Strensall on 9<sup>th</sup> November, at the Old Sewage Works Woods, New Earswick on the 12<sup>th</sup> and at Castle Howard on the 17<sup>th</sup> while one flew over Piccadilly, York on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and another was seen in a garden at the railway crossing on the YWT reserve at Strensall Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Up to three were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Status: Resident breeder

Eight were feeding on stubble near Skipwith Common on 6<sup>th</sup> January and six at Poppleton on the 13<sup>th</sup> with 13 there on 21<sup>st</sup> February. 12 were near Dalby Bush Farm west of Terrington on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 200+ flew in to roost at Rawcliffe Sewage Works while six were on the edges of pools at Wheldrake Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 31 at Hassacarr Nature Reserve on 3<sup>rd</sup> March was the highest count there; six were feeding on a manure pile at East Cottingwith on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Four were at Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April, a pair was nest building under a parked farm trailer at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 24<sup>th</sup>, later seen with a small chick and three eggs and another pair was feeding young above a walkway at Sand Hutton Central Science Laboratory on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Two birds were seen at Walbutts Sewage Works, Strensall on 18<sup>th</sup> May. An adult was feeding three fledged young at Wharfe Ings, Cawood on 9<sup>th</sup> July and three juveniles seen at Sand Hutton CSL on 4<sup>th</sup> with nine seen there on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 13<sup>th</sup> August and 54 on 4<sup>th</sup> September when large numbers were at a pig wallow near Strensall.

40+ were counted in a pig field opposite Goose Farm Caravan Park southeast of Sutton-on-the-Forest on 12<sup>th</sup> September when ten were also seen flying northeast over East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest. 100+ were gathering to roost at Sand Hutton CSL on 22<sup>nd</sup> October with a similar number coming in to roost in trees in Parliament Square, York on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and up to 300 reported from there in December.

Up to three were seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year and present all year at Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Lake with birds seen in Heworth and on Strensall Common while a pair frequently visited a garden in Strensall throughout the year. Seen regularly around Huby during the year and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area. Resident breeder in the New Earswick area and also bred at Brayton Barff.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: Occasional winter visitor

One was at Broadway, Fulford from 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December and another was reported from Askham Bar in the same month.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: Resident breeder throughout the area

Five were counted along a quarter mile stretch of the River Foss at Strensall on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and one was found sheltering in the Geoff Smith Hide, North Duffield Carrs during heavy rain and winds on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Four were around Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> February and six were singing along the Osbaldwick to York cycle track on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

A pair built their nest in a nest box at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits with five young seen on 6<sup>th</sup> May while a nest was seen under the roof of a car park at Frog Hall, Allerthorpe Common on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Eight birds were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May and again on

22<sup>nd</sup> June while a family party with newly-fledged young was seen at Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

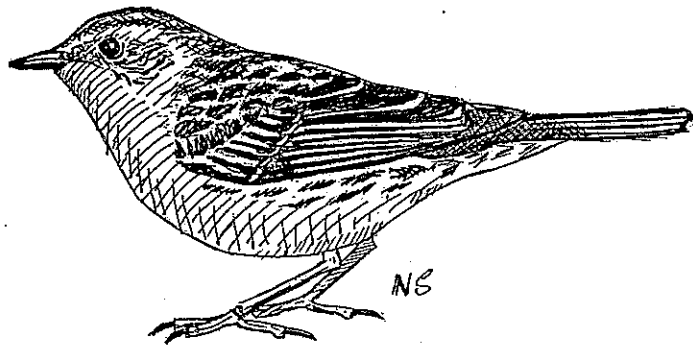
Song was noted throughout the year in Osbaldwick, Strensall and many other places. Resident and common along the River Ouse between York and Naburn, seen regularly in Huby and widespread throughout the New Earswick area and the northern part of the recording area. Also noted at Askham Bog, Castle Howard Lake, Clifton Ings, Forest Farm (Warthill), Rawcliffe Lake, Poppleton, Terrington and Yearsley Moor as well as being a regular visitor to a Strensall garden throughout the year.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

Status: Resident breeder throughout the area

Heard singing from 18<sup>th</sup> January in Osbaldwick while five were counted on the 27<sup>th</sup> along the River Ouse between York and Naburn where birds were resident. Pre-mating behaviour was noted at Tang Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> with 20 singing along the Osbaldwick to York cycle track on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Eight were around farmland at Bugthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> April and a nest with five eggs found in a hawthorn hedge at Charity Farm, Skipwith on 22<sup>nd</sup> May when adults were also seen feeding fledged young. Four were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 22<sup>nd</sup> June while three territories were found during a farm survey at Towthorpe Grange on various dates in the summer. An adult was seen feeding a juvenile in Heworth on 9<sup>th</sup> July and on the 15<sup>th</sup> a family party of two adults and three young were feeding in a garden.



One was heard singing in Osbaldwick on 29<sup>th</sup> October and noted as a common breeding bird in Dunnington with 12 in the hedgerow along Hagg Lane being the highest count of the year. Seen daily in Huby throughout the year and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area. Also a resident breeder throughout the New Earswick area and noted in Askham Bog, Clifton Ings, North Duffield, Rawcliffe Lake, Strensall, Terrington and York.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: Resident breeder throughout the area

Resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with about ten counted on 27<sup>th</sup> January while the highest count at Dunnington Common was 15 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Singles were seen at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on 10<sup>th</sup> February and New Earswick Nature Reserve on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with about six in the Terrington area on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Five were around Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> February and another five were singing along the Osballdwick to York cycle track on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Nine were counted around the YWT reserve at Strensall Common on 20<sup>th</sup> March and one was seen in a garden in Osballdwick with nesting material and carrying grubs on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Seven were near Forest Farm, Warthill on 1<sup>st</sup> April, six singing at Skipwith Common on 29<sup>th</sup> May and five counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on the 12<sup>th</sup> with two there on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

It was a good breeding season at Hassacarr Nature Reserve and other breeding records included fledgelings seen in Strensall on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Fulford Ings from 18<sup>th</sup> June onwards and Osballdwick on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Present all year at Brayton Barff, Clifton Ings, Huby, New Earswick, Rawcliffe Lake, Strensall, Wheldrake Ings and Yearsley Moor as well as widespread throughout the year elsewhere in the northern part of the recording area. Also recorded at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, Askham Bog and North Ings and Park farms, Terrington while four were around Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage visitor

A single passage bird was at Clifton Ings on 19<sup>th</sup> September (NS).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: Casual migrant breeder and passage visitor

A male was seen at Strensall Common on 8<sup>th</sup> May during a YOC field trip but was not seen subsequently. A single passage bird was at Clifton Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> September and another was with a Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Status: Casual breeder and passage visitor

A male was at Riccall on 13<sup>th</sup> January and a pair near Huntington on 7<sup>th</sup> March while a female was at Bootham Stray, York on 12<sup>th</sup> March with a male at Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

A bird was with a Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on 19<sup>th</sup> September and a male was at Bank Island on 1st and 6th October. A pair was noted at Strensall Common on 10<sup>th</sup> November with three birds there on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and it may have been these birds which stayed on to breed in 2003. A male returned to its wintering site at Riccall on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and a pair was seen there on 22<sup>nd</sup> December while a male was by the River Derwent at North Duffield on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: Summer visitor

A maximum spring passage of two males and one female was noted at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on various dates between 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April while a female of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorrhoa* was caught and ringed there on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Other records consisted of one at Linton-on-Ouse on 24<sup>th</sup> April and a male seen at Strensall Common on 8<sup>th</sup> May during a YOC field trip with six there on the 1<sup>st</sup> and two were near Lilling Green on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Return passage birds were seen at North Duffield Carrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, Blue Coat Farm, Foston on the 21<sup>st</sup> and East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on 18<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Status: Resident breeder, winter visitor and migrant

Resident and common along the River Ouse between York and Naburn and also noted at Askham Bog and frequently seen in Strensall gardens all year.

Up to 15 were present in Poppleton in January and early subsong was heard in Osbaldwick on the 12<sup>th</sup> in mild weather with full song briefly noted on the 14<sup>th</sup> while one was singing regularly by the end of the month; all song was finished by 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Four birds were near Castle Howard Caravan Site on 10<sup>th</sup> February with six around New Earswick Nature Reserve on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Four were also with a mixed finch and sparrow flock at New Road, Terrington on the 17<sup>th</sup> and c.20 were around Strensall Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 18 were feeding in pasture on the edge of Skipwith village on 6<sup>th</sup> March and 11 were around farmland at Bugthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> April with eight there on 31<sup>st</sup> May. 19 were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May and again on 22<sup>nd</sup> June while a fledgeling was at Fulford on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Nest building and nests with eggs or young were noted in many areas including Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, Brayton Barff, Dunnington Hall Nature Reserve, Limefield Farm and Wilson's Plantation (both Dunnington), Osbaldwick, Sand Hutton, Strensall and York. It was noted as being a common breeder at New Earswick Nature Reserve.

Present all year at Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Lake with a large influx into the area during the latter part of the year. Widespread at Huby and elsewhere in the northern part of the recording area throughout the year.

In the autumn, at least six were with Redwings *Turdus iliacus* eating elder and hawthorn berries by Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October and ten were seen at Forest Farm, Warthill with many in hawthorn hedges in Osbaldwick during the rest of the month. There was a notable influx at New Earswick Nature Reserve in early November rising to 100 birds in December. 17 were counted at Rowntree Park, York on 1<sup>st</sup> December and at least six were on farmland north of Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The species wintered in good numbers at Hassacarr Nature Reserve where 32 were seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> December while 12 were at Wheldrake Ings on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

Status: Winter visitor

On 1<sup>st</sup> January, 30+ were at Caulkley's Bank, Stonegrave with scattered birds along the River Rye between West Ness and Nunnington while 90 were in Dunnington. 12 were in Thorganby on the 6<sup>th</sup> and at least ten were with Redwings *Turdus iliacus* at Woodlands Farm east of Strensall Common the same day with 50 at Poppleton on the 13<sup>th</sup> where 22 flew north on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A flock of 30 was in a beech wood near Brayton Barff on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 200 were in a field near Yearsley Moor with 100+ at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Six were near the River Ouse at Riccall on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Large flocks continued to be seen during February with c.200 in a wheat field at Flaxton on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 200 in a mixed flock with Redwings there on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 150+ near Cass Wood, Huby on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 150 north of Huby on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 250 at the site of the medieval village of East Lilling on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Smaller numbers were noted north of Terrington and near Foreside Hill, Scackleton on the 17<sup>th</sup> and in a mixed flock with Redwings near High Roans Farm, Strensall on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a maximum count of 51 in New Earswick during the month.

200 were at East Cottingham and 150 at Hendwick Hall, Stamford Bridge on 4<sup>th</sup> March with 120 there on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 200+ on a school field at Poppleton on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 109 flew south at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 40 were at Ellerton on the 7<sup>th</sup> with 100 at Benningborough on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 50 at East Cottingham on the 22<sup>nd</sup> while various counts in fields north of Strensall reached a maximum of 200 with 30 Redwings on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers generally decreased during April with 20 at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 22 southeast over Strensall Common the same day and 23 at North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 180 were near Towthorpe on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Forest Farm on the 11<sup>th</sup> and ten flew over Strensall Common on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The last of the spring was a party of 16 at Hendwick Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The first of the autumn were ten near Tuft House, Hovingham on 9<sup>th</sup> October followed by five at Wheldrake Ings on the 13<sup>th</sup> and a flock of 23 flew west at Forest Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Smaller numbers moved west there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 50 were in a field below Pond Head Farm, Oulston the same day. 310 were feeding on turf at High Roans Farm on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and small parties were noted at Sheriff Hutton and Allerthorpe Gravel Pits where they increased to 200 by 1<sup>st</sup> December, roosting in willows on small islands.

It was an excellent year in the Dunnington area with good numbers feeding on apples in the autumn and winter months, the highest count being 350 on the common on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Other parties in November consisted of 80 flying north along the River Ouse at Wistow on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 220 at Forest Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 200 there on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On 11<sup>th</sup> November, 150+ were near Sutton-on-the-Forest, 200+ near Huby and three with four Redwings at Rawcliffe Meadows. 70 moved south at Wheldrake Ings on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 400+ were near Appleton Roebuck on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

50 were seen with 200 Redwings near Askham Richard on 7<sup>th</sup> December and this species was part of a 50-strong flock with Redwings along Sheriff Hutton Road north of Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 250 present at Lilling Low Lane near West Lilling on the 18<sup>th</sup> were still there ten days later.

Also present on Clifton Ings during the winter months with up to 300 during the latter part of the year while the maximum number in the autumn at New Earswick was 37 in November.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Status: Resident breeder but in decline in some areas

Up to ten were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with three singing there on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Singing was also noted in Osbaldwick on the 12<sup>th</sup> while three were singing along the Osbaldwick to York cycle track on the 31<sup>st</sup> with ten there on 28<sup>th</sup> February before numbers declined and birds recommenced singing at the end of May continuing into July. One was singing in Strensall on 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January with another at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Other records involved singles at Terrington during February and April, three near Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> February and singing at Bugthorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> May with two there on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Evidence of nesting was found in Osbaldwick where one bird was carrying food on 26<sup>th</sup> July and adults were collecting food at Sheriff Hutton on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Breeding was confirmed at Brayton Barff where four were singing on 10<sup>th</sup> February. One pair started to build a nest on the sloping roof of an unoccupied nest box in a garden in Strensall on 14<sup>th</sup> June; a piece of wood was quickly nailed on to stop the nest sliding off and four eggs were counted on 21<sup>st</sup> June, hatching by 5<sup>th</sup> July with four juveniles fledged on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Birds started singing in Osbaldwick again on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and occasionally throughout the autumn and winter with two singing there on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Another was singing at Monk's Cross on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Present all year at Bishopthorpe, Clifton Lngs and Rawcliffe Lake and noted as beginning to increase in numbers in Dunnington where they bred at Hassacarr Nature Reserve. Also seen most days around Huby and was widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area.

In the New Earswick area, resident birds often proved elusive in winter but overall a small increase over 2001 was noted. They definitely bred in both nature reserves and at least two other locations, with possibly more than six pairs in the area. For the first time winter visitors were recorded, albeit briefly, with at least 15 birds seen together in the Joseph Rowntree Nature Reserve on 8<sup>th</sup> October which coincided with a large influx on the east coast that morning, but they moved on quickly as no more was seen of them.

Elsewhere, one was by Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October and two were at Wheldrake on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Status: Winter visitor

At least ten were at Caulkley's Bank, Stonegrave on 1<sup>st</sup> January with scattered birds alongside the River Rye between West Ness and Nunnington the same day. One or two were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn early in the year while numbers at the Joseph Rowntree Nature Reserve, New Earswick built up at the beginning of the year to 40+ present in March but all had left by the month end.

At least 30 were with Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* at Woodlands Farm, east of Strensall Common on 6<sup>th</sup> January and 30 were in a mixed flock with Fieldfares and Mistle Thrushes *Turdus viscivorus* at Grimston near York on the 12<sup>th</sup>. 20 were in a wheat field near Flaxton on 10<sup>th</sup> February, eight near Huby on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30 near Strensall Common on the 24<sup>th</sup> the highest count at Dunnington Common being 40 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.



Lower numbers were seen in March with 17 at Dunnington Common on the 12<sup>th</sup>, six at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 30 with 200 Fieldfares near Strensall on the 20<sup>th</sup> and one at Skipwith Common the following day. Some were heard flying over York at 2100 hrs on the 30<sup>th</sup> and the last record of the spring was of one at Hendwick Hall Farm on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The first of the autumn were heard flying over Bank Island on 6<sup>th</sup> October then 36 were seen at Dunnington Common the following day with 31 at Hassacarr Nature Reserve and nocturnal passage over Osbaldwick and other locations in the region was noted over the next few days. There were four at two separate sites near Huby on the 8<sup>th</sup> with others at the Joseph Rowntree Nature Reserve, New Earswick on the 9<sup>th</sup> where numbers built up steadily through November before several large influxes saw numbers peak at a record 130 in December.

50 flew southeast at Forest Farm, Warthill on 10<sup>th</sup> October with 50 also there on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Ten were at Yearsley Moor on the 16<sup>th</sup> while 20+ were near Sutton-on-the-Forest and 50+ near Huby on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Thereafter, flocks were widespread in the northern part of the recording area and it was noted that numbers often matched those of Fieldfare whereas in previous years they were far less common.

Two were seen eating elder berries by Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October then they joined a party of at least 20 flying across the lake. Other October records consisted of flocks of 20 and 30 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits mid-month, two in York on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 14 over the York to Osbaldwick cycle track on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20 at Rowntree Park, York on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 100 were at Rawcliffe Meadows on 16<sup>th</sup> November and c. 60 at Fulford Ings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 150 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 20+ near Appleton Roebuck on the 26<sup>th</sup>. c. 200 were seen with Fieldfares in a meadow near Askham Richard on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 100 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 8<sup>th</sup> and some were part of a 50-strong flock with Fieldfares along Sheriff Hutton Road, north of Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Present on Clifton Ings during the winter months with up to 500 in the latter part of the year and also noted at Brayton Barff during the year.

#### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Up to at least eight were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with two singing there on 27<sup>th</sup> January. One was at The Hall, Strensall on 6<sup>th</sup> January and another singing in Strensall on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Also heard in song along the York to Osbaldwick cycle track on the 15<sup>th</sup> and then regularly throughout the early part of the year.

One was by Castle Howard Caravan Site on 10<sup>th</sup> February, two near New Road, Terrington and one in South Wood near Hovingham on the 17<sup>th</sup> with five around Strensall Common on the 24<sup>th</sup> including one singing bird. Three were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 17<sup>th</sup> March and a pair was behind the school in Strensall on 2<sup>nd</sup> April with another pair at North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Also recorded in April at Towthorpe on the 8<sup>th</sup> with two near Bugthorpe on the 25<sup>th</sup> and one singing there on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

On 24<sup>th</sup> April, one pair was seen feeding young in a nest in a 'Dutch barn' at Scoreby Moor, Dunnington and they continued to do well at Hassacarr Nature Reserve where birds bred. 26 at the common on 18<sup>th</sup> July was the highest count there. Breeding was also recorded at

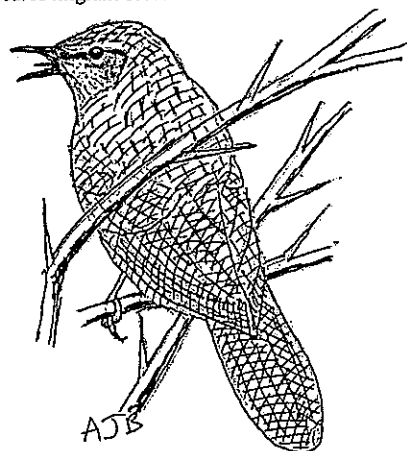
Brayton Barff and New Earswick while fledged juveniles were noted between York and Naburn on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Two were south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May and again on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and three pairs were in a fallow field near Galtres Golf Course, Wigginton on 15<sup>th</sup> July with eight at Strensall Common on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Present on Clifton Ings all year with a flock of 50+ from 11<sup>th</sup> July into early August and also in the New Earswick area in varying numbers with a maximum of seven in July.

Seen most days around Huby and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area during the year. Singles were also recorded by Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October and in Strensall on 22<sup>nd</sup> December with three at Osbaldwick on 9<sup>th</sup> October and three at Rowntree Park, York on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Status: Scarce migrant breeder



Birds were heard 'reeling' at Wheldrake Ings on 21<sup>st</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> July while one was singing from a dogthorn bush in a hedgerow at White Quarry Farm near Tadcaster on 2<sup>nd</sup> May

A male was singing at Fulford Ings from at least 1<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May with at least two fledged juveniles seen well there from 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July indicating successful breeding. One was also singing at Skipwith Common on 29<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

The first was heard singing at Wheldrake Ings on 19<sup>th</sup> April while others were noted at Fulford Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup> with eight singing there by 12<sup>th</sup> May and nine on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Around nine pairs were counted there on 16<sup>th</sup> July with birds still present on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Present singing at Kelfield Grange Farm by the River Ouse at Wheldrake on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> July, Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> July, Wharfe Ings near Cawood on 19<sup>th</sup> May and Poppleton on 9<sup>th</sup> June. One was singing by the River Derwent at Howsham Bridge on the 19<sup>th</sup> and eight were singing along the Selby Canal from Burn to Brayton on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

The first were at Wheldrake Ings on 27<sup>th</sup> April with birds later recorded singing there and otherwise noted in June and July.

Four were singing at pools by the River Ouse at Riccall on 26<sup>th</sup> May while on the 31<sup>st</sup> birds were singing at a pond near Wistow and at Fulford Ings and the Millennium Bridge, York. One was also singing at Fulford Ings on 4<sup>th</sup> June with a juvenile seen there on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Along the Selby Canal there were 26 singing males on 20<sup>th</sup> June with 14 at Ross Carrs the same day while up to six were recorded at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on various dates from May to early September. Also heard singing from a small patch of reeds at Barlby on 4<sup>th</sup> July and a pair was in reeds at the western edge of Castle Howard Lake on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A pair was still present at Wheldrake Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> September and the last bird was seen along the Pocklington Canal on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Status: Migrant breeder

One was singing at Wharfe Ings near Cawood on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> June with two along the York-Osbaldwick cycle track on 8<sup>th</sup> May and one at Clifton Ings the next day. Seen at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September with a juvenile there on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Also bred at Brayton Barff where the first bird was noted on 4<sup>th</sup> May with another singing around the old Army camp between 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June and two there on 17<sup>th</sup> May. One pair was feeding young at Dunnington Common on 18<sup>th</sup> June and another pair raised at least one young near Triangle Meadow, New Earswick.

Two were singing along the River Ouse between York and Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May with one heard there on 4<sup>th</sup> June and two to three birds, possibly juveniles, were seen at Fulford Ings on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Also noted at Red House Lane on 9<sup>th</sup> June with two males along Selby Canal on the 20<sup>th</sup> and others at Sand Hutton on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July.

A single was at Wheldrake Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> August with another seen there briefly on 12<sup>th</sup> December which was thought to be an eastern race bird and also the first winter record of this species for Yorkshire (RS).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Status: Migrant breeder

The first was a single at Bugthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> April followed by three singing males at Fulford Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup> with others at Wheldrake Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Hagg Wood (Dunnington) on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Ryther on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Also noted at Wharfe Ings near Cawood on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May when four were present. Up to 12 singing males were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from 4<sup>th</sup> May with six present at Fulford Ings. Up to ten, including juveniles, were then seen at Fulford Ings during June and July with the last bird seen there on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Two were between Huby and Sutton-on-the-Forest on 6<sup>th</sup> May with singles at Cass Wood, Huby and the York-Osbaldwick cycle track on 8<sup>th</sup> May, increasing at the latter site to three by the 16<sup>th</sup>. Also seen in May at Poppleton on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Forest Farm (Warthill) and Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Poppleton, Terrington and Thornton on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Haxby on the 21<sup>st</sup> and Bugthorpe on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

The first in the New Earswick area was noted on 1<sup>st</sup> May, three days later than last year, then sightings were few and far between with none of last year's breeding sites apparently being occupied. However, in July a pair was seen feeding four young in Rowntree allotments with another presumed non-breeding pair at the same site.

It was not thought to be a good year at Hassacarr Nature Reserve where the first singing male was noted on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

There were ten to 12 pairs on Clifton Ings and three family parties of one to two adults and one to three juveniles between Huby and Sutton-on-the-Forest on 11<sup>th</sup> June with a pair carrying food in Huby on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Also bred at Brayton Barff. One was at Marston Moor on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 13 singing along Selby Canal from Burn to Selby on the 20<sup>th</sup>, two singing at Bugthorpe on the 21<sup>st</sup> and three at Langton on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Two were at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Status: Migrant breeder

Bred at Brayton Barff where eight birds were singing on 17th May and one was at Skipwith Common on 8th June with another in Dunnington on 6th August.

One near Strensall on 24<sup>th</sup> April was followed by others singing at Bishopthorpe Crematorium on 4<sup>th</sup> May and Strensall on the 5<sup>th</sup> with two seen at Cass Wood, Huby on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at Osbaldwick on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Also noted singing at Wheldrake Ings on 9<sup>th</sup> May with at least three singing along the riverbank there on 9<sup>th</sup> June and singles later seen on 26<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status. Migrant breeder with some birds overwintering

The first were noted at Brayton Barff and Wheldrake Ings on 30<sup>th</sup> March followed by others at Fulford on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Clifton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and up to 12 singing along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from the 6<sup>th</sup>. Birds arrived in the New Earswick area on 7<sup>th</sup> April with at least five singing males there on the 14<sup>th</sup> and one confirmed successful breeding pair was noted. Recorded at Warren Wood, Dunnington on 10<sup>th</sup> April and they had a good breeding season at Hassacarr Nature Reserve where birds were recorded up to 16<sup>th</sup> September.

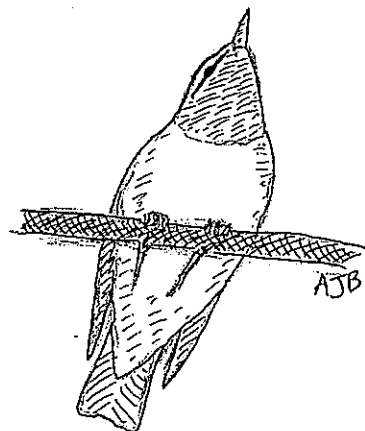
Singles were also recorded singing at Braithwaite's Wood near Barton-le-Willows and Buttercrambe Moor on 12<sup>th</sup> April and St Nicholas Fields, York on the 17<sup>th</sup> with twos in Riccall on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Hagg Wood (Dunnington) and Bugthorpe on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Sicklebit Wood on the 27<sup>th</sup> and by Tang Hall Beck, York on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Three were singing at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 6<sup>th</sup> May with four on 14<sup>th</sup> July while fledged juveniles were first noted there on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Singles were at Moreby, Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, three by the York-Osbaldwick cycle track on 8<sup>th</sup> May and one near Bugthorpe on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Five to six pairs were on Clifton Ings and they bred at Brayton Barff where 15 were singing on 10<sup>th</sup> May and young were being fed on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Recorded later in the year at Osbaldwick on 4<sup>th</sup> July and Pond Head Pann, Oulston on the 27<sup>th</sup> and Wheldrake Ings on 10<sup>th</sup> August where a bird was attempting to sing while the last was a female at Poppleton on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: Scarce passage migrant which used to breed



One singing and displaying near the pinewood at Brayton Barff on 27<sup>th</sup> April was the only record (DC).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant with some birds overwintering

One sheltering in the Garganey Hide at North Duffield Carrs during heavy rain and wind on 25<sup>th</sup> January had presumably overwintered. An early individual was at Clifton Ings on 6<sup>th</sup> March with another at Grimston Wood on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The first at Skipwith Common was heard on 13<sup>th</sup> March with others at Wheldrake Ings on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Strensall on the 20<sup>th</sup> while seven were singing at Giants Hill Wood on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and four were singing along the River Ouse between York and Naburn the following day (three at Fulford Ings) increasing to ten singing birds by 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Other March records involved birds at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hovingham on the 28<sup>th</sup>, St Nicholas Fields, York on the 27<sup>th</sup>, York city centre on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and Strensall Common on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In the New Earswick area the first arrived on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 12 days earlier than last year with five singing males there by the 28<sup>th</sup>.

By early April birds were present over most of the recording area with numerous reports received and the species was noted as being common at Strensall Common and Yearsley Moor

during the summer. Bred at Brayton Barff where nine were singing on 17<sup>th</sup> May and at Sessions Nature Reserve, New Earswick with breeding suspected at four other sites nearby. During September birds lingered at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (five), Wheldrake Ings on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Sand Hutton on the 24<sup>th</sup> while three were still singing in the York-Naburn area on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Two at Clifton Ings on the 6<sup>th</sup> increased to six by the 28<sup>th</sup> and birds were still present at Wheldrake on the 24<sup>th</sup> and ?5<sup>th</sup> with two in the Huntington area until the end of the month.

Two were at Castle Howard Lake on 1<sup>st</sup> October while the last were at Hassacarr Nature Reserve and Wheldrake on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, St Nicholas Fields on the 4<sup>th</sup>, York city centre on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 13<sup>th</sup>. What was presumably an overwintering bird was at Rawcliffe Lake on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage migrant

Singing birds were at Hagg Wood, Dunnington on 29<sup>th</sup> March with six there on 18<sup>th</sup> April and at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. First noted singing at Skipwith Common on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Poppleton on the 7<sup>th</sup> with six at Strensall Common on the 18<sup>th</sup> and others at Ampleforth and St Nicholas Fields, York on the 19<sup>th</sup>. At Old Foss Woods birds were first seen on 5<sup>th</sup> April, four days earlier than last year with four singing males present but no confirmed breeding was reported.

Two were singing along the River Ouse between York and Naburn on 6<sup>th</sup> April increasing to 15 singing birds by the 27<sup>th</sup> and then declining to ten singing birds by 4<sup>th</sup> May with up to five singing thereafter. Many were present at Clifton Ings throughout the summer. Noted as common on Yearsley Moor and bred at Brayton Barff where seven were singing on 2<sup>nd</sup> May with two pairs present at Rawcliffe Lake. However it was a poor year at Dunnington where birds were not as numerous as in the past.

In the late summer, two were recorded at Strensall Common on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, two at Wheldrake Ings on the 10<sup>th</sup> and singles at Hagg Wood on 1<sup>st</sup> September, Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Appletree village, York on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The last was at Brayton Barff on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

In January singles were seen in shrubbery at Clifton Moor shopping centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> and in a mixed tit flock along Riccall cycle track on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Two were in Strensall village on the 16<sup>th</sup> and recorded as 'common' in woods near Pond Head Farm, Oulston the same day.

15 were in Grimston Wood on 15<sup>th</sup> March and two at Stockton Lane, York on the 28<sup>th</sup> while up to four were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with the first noted singing on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Recorded at Strensall Common on 18<sup>th</sup> April and in small numbers on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November.

Up to three were regularly seen in the New Earswick area all year although establishing the extent and success of breeding there proved difficult. A juvenile was seen at Fulford Ings on

29<sup>th</sup> July and a family party was in Wass Wood on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Others were seen in Cass Wood, Huby on 1<sup>st</sup> September, Skipwith Common on the 24<sup>th</sup> where six were present and at Yearsley Moor where 'common' on 28<sup>th</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> September. Also seen along the York-Osbaldwick cycle track on 11<sup>th</sup> October and Hassacarr Nature Reserve where five were counted on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Present at Clifton Ings all year.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

Status: Rare visitor

One was discovered in New Earswick on 13<sup>th</sup> December and was seen by many local birdwatchers up to the month's end (PT et al.). Although sometimes elusive, when found it generally gave good views down to a few feet at times. It favoured the area between Lock Cottage and the link road roundabout, often frequenting the pines adjacent to the Joseph Rowntree Trust Nature Reserve and occasionally venturing over the Foss into Sessions Nature Reserve. It also visited Lock Cottage garden where it was seen at least once from the kitchen window.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Status: Migrant breeder and passage visitor

A pair returned to a Huby garden in late May and used a nest box favoured in previous years, raising two broods. Also bred at Brayton Barff where three were seen on 19th June.

The first was a very early bird at Poppleton on 8<sup>th</sup> April (DA) before others appeared at Bugthorpe on 31<sup>st</sup> May, Bishopthorpe Palace (three) on 1<sup>st</sup> June and singles at Castle Howard, Strensall Common and Wheldrake Ings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Poppleton on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A passage bird kept trying to drink at a garden pond in Strensall on 3<sup>rd</sup> June but gave up because of harassment from a resident Blackbird *Turdus merula*. One was in Langton Churchyard near Malton on 29<sup>th</sup> June with a pair by Castle Howard Lake on 18<sup>th</sup> July and at Wass Wood on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Two were found in the woodland at Huntington school in August but it was not known if they had bred. Singles were at Sand Hutton on 6<sup>th</sup> August and Huby on the 30<sup>th</sup>. At Strensall Common, there were up to ten birds in a mixed tit flock on 4<sup>th</sup> September while there was also a small autumn passage in the Clifton Ings area with six birds from 7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August and nine on 10<sup>th</sup> September with one remaining until at least 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: Resident breeder

Along the River Ouse, 'good numbers' were present throughout the year on Clifton Ings with at least 20 between York and Naburn where the first juveniles were noted on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Also an occasional visitor to Rawcliffe Lake and present all year in woods, hedgerows and gardens in the New Earswick area where the highest counts were of 32 in July and 30 in December. Frequently seen on Strensall Common and parties occasionally visited gardens in Strensall village and Osbaldwick during the year. Though present on many days throughout the year, 23 on 1<sup>st</sup> January was the highest count on Dunnington Common.

During January parties of up to 16 were reported beside the River Rye between West Ness and Nunnington, beside the River Foss, in Strensall and on the common, in a York garden, at Bishopthorpe Crematorium, near the Garganey Hide at North Duffield Carrs, along the Riccall cycle track, in woods near Pond Head Farm, Oulston and at Forest Farm, Warthill.

In February, c. 30 were in Askham Bog, a party of about four birds was at Bog Hall, Castle Howard and at least 20 were around New Earswick Nature Reserve. Seven were in Walbutts Lane, Strensall with eight there on 20<sup>th</sup> March while there were four pairs and a group of four around Strensall Common on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

In April, a pair was nest building in a hawthorn hedge at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a nest with two eggs was observed on the 24<sup>th</sup> while a nest with five eggs was noted there on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Two birds were south of Naburn the same day and parties were in York city centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ten, including some juveniles being fed aphids, were in Poppleton on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> August while three family parties were in the Bugthorpe area on 21<sup>st</sup> June and breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff.

In October, two parties were along the River Derwent at Wheldrake Ings and a party of 15 was at North Duffield Carrs on the 6<sup>th</sup>. A family party was by Castle Howard Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 20 were near Wheldrake Ings on the 13<sup>th</sup>. At least 20 were at East Cottingham on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and ten were at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Finally, four were at Lilling Green on 18<sup>th</sup> December and eight at Strensall Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

In July, family parties of eight to ten were at Sand Hutton, Upper Helmsley, along the Pocklington Canal and along the River Derwent at Wheldrake Ings. Also common on Yearsley Moor from July to the year end with a party of at least 30 there on 28<sup>th</sup> December while at least eight were in a Bishopthorpe garden on 19<sup>th</sup> August, eight in a mixed tit flock at Wheldrake and 14 at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Marsh Tit *Parus palustris***

Status: Resident breeder

Two or three were in woodland above Stonegrave on 1<sup>st</sup> January and two were by the Sustrans cycle track, Heron Wood near Escrick on the 13<sup>th</sup>. In February, at least three were in Askham Bog on the 9<sup>th</sup>, two fed in a garden by Low Water north of Terrington on the 17<sup>th</sup> and also present in Yearsley Wood on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two were in Warren Wood, Dunnington on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and one was in Braithwaite's Wood near Barton-le-Willows on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Later in the year, reported as common at Yearsley Moor on 28<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> December with at least five there on 25<sup>th</sup> September. A pair and three juveniles were in Breck's Lane, Strensall on 6<sup>th</sup> October while at the north end of Castle Howard Lake there were two on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November. Small numbers were in the woods beside the ponds at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 31<sup>st</sup> December.



**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

Status: Resident breeder

Singles were reported from Skipwith Common and Yearsley Moor in February and four were in Askham Bog on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Also seen regularly at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits with six there on 11<sup>th</sup> February while an excellent count of eight was recorded at Grimston Wood on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

In June, singles were in Askham Bog on the 9<sup>th</sup> and at Sturges Ponds and the Selby Canal on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Two juveniles were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 14<sup>th</sup> July and one was at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Singles were at Forest Farm, Warthill and near the route of the Selby bypass at Brayton Barff on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Coal Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

Status: Resident breeder

Small numbers were present on Clifton Ings all year and resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn where up to three were seen or heard. Also resident at the New Earswick and Sessions nature reserves and seen regularly in gardens in Hawthorn Spinney in Huntington and Yearsley Grove in New Earswick. Seen daily around Huby all year and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area with one or two visiting Strensall and Osbaldwick gardens regularly during the year. Other reports from January to March came from Askham Bog, Pond Head Farm (Oulston), Skipwith Common, Strensall Common and Terrington while a flock of 14 was in Grimston Woods on 14<sup>th</sup> March and two at Braithwaite's Wood near Barton-le-Willows on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

An adult with young was in a Yearsley Grove garden in New Earswick on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and young were in gardens in and around Dunnington during the breeding season. Breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff while two birds were south of Naburn on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and young were noted in a Strensall garden on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

At the end of the year, the species was noted as common in woods near Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at Strensall Common on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November and at Yearsley Moor from July to December. One was at Rawcliffe Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> November and two were at Strensall Common YWT reserve on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Seen throughout the year along the River Ouse between York and Naburn and at Clifton Ings. Also noted at Huby, Strensall village (12 in Breck's Lane on 16<sup>th</sup> February), Strensall Common (15+ on 24<sup>th</sup> February), New Earswick, Osbaldwick, Askham Bog and Rawcliffe Lake where four to five pairs were present all year. Other February reports consisted of two at East Lilling and at least eight at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> and present in all suitable habitats around the Terrington area on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The highest count in the Dunnington area was of 20 at Grimston Wood on 12<sup>th</sup> March and 17 were in the area of Forest Farm, Warthill the same day.

Common and thriving in the New Earswick area with nearly 100 young in 17 nest boxes in the two nature reserves (New Earswick and Sessions) in addition to over 100 full-grown birds

ringed. Breeding activity was also reported from Heworth, Huby and Strensall while at Brayton Barff 11 nest boxes were occupied on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Food carrying was observed on 27<sup>th</sup> May and a pair nested in a hole in a house wall in Osbaldwick while up to seven were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June.

The first fledged juveniles along the River Ouse between York and Naburn were reported on 1<sup>st</sup> June and juveniles were seen in Heworth on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Reported as common at Yearsley Moor on all visits from July to December. From October to December reports of at least ten were received from the north end of Castle Howard Lake with up to five at Wheldrake Ings, six in Askham Richard and 12 at Strensall Common YWT reserve.

#### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Regularly seen throughout the year at Clifton Ings, Huby, New Earswick and Rawcliffe Lake where two or three pairs were resident. Also resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn while it was a good year in the Dunnington area with 12 at the common on 1<sup>st</sup> January and two in Moorlands YWT Reserve, Wigginton the same day. Seen regularly in the Strensall area all year with at least ten around the common on 24<sup>th</sup> February and ten in Breck's Lane on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

One was in a York garden on 4<sup>th</sup> January with two there on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Eight were singing at Brayton Barff on 8<sup>th</sup> January and two were at East Lilling on 10<sup>th</sup> February with two at the north end of Castle Howard Lake.

A pair was at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April while at Brayton Barff five nest boxes were occupied on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The first fledged juveniles were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn on 31<sup>st</sup> May and a pair nested in a Huby garden nest box with young seen in an Osbaldwick garden again on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Up to seven were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June and reported as common at Yearley Moor on all visits from July to December.

At least six were with other tits and finches at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October and singles were singing at Rowntree Park, York on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Status: Resident breeder

One was at Brierham Lane (Moorside plantation) west of Pond Head Farm, Oulston on 16<sup>th</sup> January while in February singles were at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> and near Low Water, north of Terrington on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Two pairs were at Brayton Barff in March and one pair bred there in roadside woods with single birds seen at Castle Howard on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Singles were also at Horse Coppice, west of Hovingham on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and at Ampleforth on 15<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*  
Status: Resident breeder

Present on Clifton Ings all year and up to five were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with ones and twos seen in most months in the New Earswick area in both nature reserves (New Earswick and Sessions) and along the River Foss.

Between January and March, ones and twos were reported from various locations including the River Rye between West Ness and Nunnington, woods above Stonegrave, woods south of the Pond Head reservoir (Oulston), on the Sustrans cycle track, Heron Wood near Escrick, at Sand Hutton, in Askham Bog, at the southeast corner of Castle Howard Lake, in the Warren and Grimston Wood (both Dunnington) and on Skipwith Common where nest building was observed on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Strensall Common held up to six birds during this period.

Breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff with one bird near Bugthorpe on 31<sup>st</sup> May and an adult carrying food at Wistow the same day. Ones and twos were reported from Allertorpe Gravel Pits, Blue Coat Farm (Foston), Buttercrambe, Frog Hall, Horse Coppice west of Hovingham, Moor Wood, Rowntree Park (York) and Strensall Common between May and October.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*  
Status: Rare visitor

The sole report was of one at Strensall Common on 10<sup>th</sup> November which was not seen subsequently.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*  
Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

In January and February, reports included singles at Hassacarr Nature Reserve, Upper Poppleton, by the cycle track at Escrick and at Bank Island. A pair was in hawthorns at the edge of Skipwith Common and seen regularly on Strensall Common with a pair there on 18<sup>th</sup> May. At least two remained at Clifton Ings from autumn 2001 until 30<sup>th</sup> March or later while one was at Terrington on 6th March.

One or two were reported from March to October at Buttercrambe, Dunnington, Sand Hutton, Skipwith Common, Stamford Bridge and Upper Helmsley. In April one flew over the York bypass near Askham Bog on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and another was at Allertorpe on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A single was also noted at Laytham/Aughton on 7<sup>th</sup> May and a pair was at Cass Wood, Huby on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was recorded at Brayton Barff and a family party of five was in Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Up to four were at various locations between August and December. These included Bishop Wood, Coulton, Dunnington Common and Pond Head Farm (Oulston) with regular sightings on Strensall Common and Yearsley Moor.

### **Magpie *Pica pica***

Status: Resident breeder

Seen daily throughout the year around Huby with 'good numbers' at Clifton Ings and three to four at Rawcliffe Lake. Resident and common along the River Ouse between York and Naburn and a common and widespread bird in the New Earswick area all year with large numbers using the two nature reserves (New Earswick and Sessions) to roost, especially in the winter, with counts of 86 in February and 93 in November. 12 at Dunnington Common on 1<sup>st</sup> January was the highest for that area.

In February, ones and twos were noted at Askham Bog, Heworth, Monk Stray and near Strensall Common. One was nest building in Heworth on the 13<sup>th</sup> and nine were in willows along the River Ouse at Riccall on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In March, two were in Breck's Lane, Strensall and a pair was nest building at Sutton upon Derwent on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was recorded at Brayton Barff and seven young were in a nest at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge on 12<sup>th</sup> May. A pair was repairing a nest on the Osbaldwick cycle track on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***

Status: Resident breeder

Seen at various locations throughout the year including Clifton Ings, Easingwold, Huby, Nunnington and Sutton-on-the-Forest. Up to ten were heard or seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn all year and also noted around the Castle Howard estate with at least 20 in the car park and 30-40 east of the Great Lake on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Common in the New Earswick area with large numbers in agricultural areas and small numbers in gardens and on rooftops. The highest counts were of 60 in February and 93 in November. 15-30 were regularly seen at Walbutts Sewage Works, Strensall while in the Dunnington area, 73 on 28<sup>th</sup> h January was the highest winter count on the common.

In March, 30 were in fields at Riccall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and one was nest building at Elvington on the 25<sup>th</sup> while in April, three pairs bred in holes in oaks near Hagg Farm, Dunnington, 27 flew over North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup> and two were in a York garden on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 500 were gathering to roost with Rooks *Corvus frugilegus* at Black Plantation on 8<sup>th</sup> August and a flock of at least 80 was near Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October with 100 at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

Status: Resident breeder

30+ were at Clifton Ings and three large flocks along the A1079 between Dunnington and Barmby Moor all year. Up to ten were seen along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year and also noted feeding on York city centre streets early in the morning. Seen daily around Huby all year and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area. 'Good numbers' were in the New Earswick area all year although no breeding activity was recorded with the largest count being 94 near Kettlestring Farm in September. In January, 500+ roosted at Frog Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 300 flew over Sim Balk Lane, Bishopthorpe on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A flock of 50 was at Walbutts Sewage Works, Strensall on 16<sup>th</sup> February while on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 215 were with 30 Jackdaws *Corvus monedula* in fields at Riccall

and 20 nests were occupied at Blue Coat Farm, Foston. At least 18 nests were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits and Beechwood House on the 4<sup>th</sup> when 30 nests were noted at Full Sutton. 87 nests were found at Dunnington Common and 17 were along the Hull road on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The rookery at The Old Rectory, Strensall held about 11 nesting pairs during the breeding season.

Up to five birds were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June while 280 were feeding in a newly cut meadow at Wheldrake Ings on 20<sup>th</sup> July with 445 there the following day. About 2000 were gathering to roost with Jackdaws at Black Plantation on 8<sup>th</sup> August and 375 were similarly gathering in the Warren, Dunnington on 1<sup>st</sup> September. 1000+ were gathering to roost with smaller numbers of Jackdaws and Carrion Crows *Corvus corone* at Forest Farm, Warthill on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Status: Resident breeder

Seen regularly throughout the year at Castle Howard, Clifton Ings, Dunnington, Huby and New Earswick with up to six present at Rawcliffe Lake. Resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with about ten there on 28<sup>th</sup> June and also recorded in Askham Bog. Up to six were on Strensall Common in January and February with three on Monk Stray, Heworth on 24<sup>th</sup> January. A pair was nest building at Tang Hall, York on 7<sup>th</sup> March and 14 were at Walbutts Sewage Works, Strensall on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Nine were around North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April and a pair nested near the BT depot in Strensall with breeding also recorded at Brayton Barff. Up to eight were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June and a family party of four was at Heworth, York on 13<sup>th</sup> July. The highest count in the Dunnington area was of 30 on the common on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: Resident breeder and winter visitor

Resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with a maximum of c. 50 in July. Also present all year at Huby and Rawcliffe Lake with birds seen regularly on Clifton Ings where there was a flock of 300+ on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Abundant in the New Earswick area where generally more numerous than in 2001 and also recorded from Askham Bog. 75 were at Poppleton on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

c.100 were with Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* in the Foreside Hill area north of Scackleton on 17<sup>th</sup> February with 200 feeding in flooded fields near Monks Cross, York on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 100 were at Rossmoor Grange on 6<sup>th</sup> March while in April, two were collecting nest material at Hull Road, York and one was feeding young under a roof at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge. Juveniles were feeding on Osbaldwick sports field on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and small numbers were around North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup> with c. 30 near a York garden on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

19 were at the Strensall Common firing range on 8<sup>th</sup> May and birds were also regular visitors to Strensall gardens where a pair nested in house eaves and up to eight fledgelings were present in May. Also in May, three juveniles were being fed by their parents at Heworth, York on the 11<sup>th</sup>, three young fledged from a nest on East Mount Road, York on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 40 fed in stubble at Charity Farm, Skipwith on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff.

In July, 40-50 fed in a Heworth garden, 30 fed in pea fields at East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest and c. 60 were feeding around Scarcroft Primary School, York on the 18<sup>th</sup>. c. 1500 fed in a pig field at High Carr on the former East Moor airfield, near Stockton-on-the-Forest on 4<sup>th</sup> September and on through the month with a leucistic individual seen with the flock on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Other September reports were of 200 at Huntington on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 75 feeding on elderberries at Hassacarr Nature Reserve on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

During October, up to 200 fed in winter barley at Forest Farm, Warthill, 50 were at South Bank, York, 50 fed in a pasture field near Sand Hutton, 110 were in a barley field at East Lilling and c. 100 were in fields behind the car park at Castle Howard Lake. In the Strensall area, 30 were at Walbutts Sewage Works and c. 300 flew over Breck's Lane on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Evening displays occurred in York city centre during October and November and a flock of c. 150 was at East Cottingham on 3<sup>rd</sup> November while in December, c. 120 flew over Askham Richard on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 300-400 were over farmland north of Strensall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 300 were at Dunnington Common on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

Status: Vagrant

An adult was with Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* at Stillington on 14<sup>th</sup> June (per JP).

#### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Status: Resident breeder

Resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with about ten counted on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Up to 40 were present all year at Rawcliffe Lake and birds were seen daily around Huby and widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area, but numbers were down slightly compared to previous years. Up to six regularly visited a York garden and 'good numbers' were noted around Dunnington with 100+ opposite the Costcutter offices on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Very common and widespread in the New Earswick area, especially near human habitation, with maximum counts of 54 in March and 40 in September and December.

January and February reports consisted of up to six in Breck's Lane, 12 near High Roans Farm and up to 16 in gardens - all in the Strensall area with 30 at Forest Farm, Warthill and at least 50 in hedges near Moor House Farm, north of Terrington.

One was present in a Bishopthorpe garden on 25<sup>th</sup> March where three adults were seen with two young on 20<sup>th</sup> May. 'Good numbers' were at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April with fledgelings noted in Fulford on 5<sup>th</sup> May and in a Strensall garden on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Up to 20 were around a garden in Knapton Close, Strensall where they flourished nesting in house eaves. The first fledged juveniles were seen at Fulford Ings on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 'good numbers' were noted in Riccall and Osbaldwick with the first young seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Ten were at High Roans Farm near Strensall the same day.

In August, 80 were at Flaxton on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 100 were at Thornton on the 15<sup>th</sup>. From September to December up to 18 were seen regularly in mature hawthorn/blackthorn hedges in Breck's Lane, Strensall and 30+ were in hedges at Storwood on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Status: Resident breeder and passage visitor

Small numbers wintered at Clifton Ings with one or two pairs staying on to breed. In the Dunnington area, more colonies were found than previously and up to 30 fed in a garden on seed and peanuts throughout the year while breeding was reported from Hassacarr Nature Reserve for the first time. In the New Earswick area, the wintering population at Chestnut Grove held similar numbers to previous years with 13 in January decreasing to nine in April. All had departed by the end of April and no nesting attempts were recorded.

Still widespread in the northern part of the recording area and commonly seen in small flocks during the autumn and winter months. Seen occasionally around Huby during spring and summer with numbers increasing during the autumn with up to ten coming to garden feeders during November and December while 20+ were recorded on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

In January, three were in a Bishopthorpe garden on the 1<sup>st</sup>, ten north of Bubwith Bridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> and at least 12 in a hedge near the English Nature car park at North Duffield Carrs on the 13<sup>th</sup>. 15 were at Riccall allotments on the 17<sup>th</sup> with 12 along Landing Lane, Riccall on 15<sup>th</sup> February and five there on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

In the Terrington area there were six at New Road, two near Low Water and two near Moor House Farm on 17<sup>th</sup> February. One was at Whitethorn Farm, Stockton-on-the-Forest on 19<sup>th</sup> March and two at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 20 were at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 19<sup>th</sup> March with four there on 24<sup>th</sup> April while six were at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In May, six were at Charity Farm, Skipwith on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 15, including adults and fledged young, were there on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A nest with young was at Wistow on the 29<sup>th</sup> and up to four were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June while one was near Bugthorpe on 31<sup>st</sup> May with a family party of six nearby on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Also in June, about five were on farmland near Bishopthorpe on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, several pairs feeding young at Riccall on the 6<sup>th</sup> and reported at Marston Moor Station on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A small flock of five was at Brayton Bridge along the Selby Canal on the 20<sup>th</sup> and ten were feeding amongst pigs near Langton, Malton on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Between six and eight were at Upper Poppleton during the same month with two to four there from September to December. Rawcliffe Meadows held a small breeding population and also present during the breeding season at Burythorpe, Eddlethorpe, Flaxton, Langton Wold, Menethorpe and Old Malton.

In August, 20 were part of a mixed flock with Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* at Londesborough Lodge Farm with 80 at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge, 40 at Limefield Farm, Dunnington and 20 at Blue Coat Farm, Foston. In October, up to eight were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, four at Forest Farm, Warthill and ten at Limefield Farm, Dunnington while up to 15 returned to the New Earswick area and remained until the year end. November and December reports included up to 20 at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, c. 50 at Ganthorpe near Castle Howard, 115 near Aughton, 50 at Riccall Grange Farm and at least six near Park House Farm, Strensall.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

Up to five were seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with 'good numbers' on Clifton Ings. Also seen daily around Huby and regularly in a Strensall garden with the species noted as being common in the New Earswick area, especially during the winter with the highest count being 15 in December. Present in flocks mixed with Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* of 70 in January and 20 in February in the Poppleton area. At least 20 were in a field by Breck's Lane, Strensall and 50 in a field at Woodlands Farm east of Strensall Common on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

February reports included five in Askham Bog, four at East Lilling, six at Busk Lane (Flaxton), six around Strensall Common and a flock of 20 in a field beside nearby Great Wood. In the Terrington area, 12 were at New Road, 30-40 near Moor House Farm and c. 40 at Dalby Bush Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup> with two birds singing along the Osballdwick cycle track on the 28<sup>th</sup>. In March, ten were in a mixed species flock in a stubble field at Breck's Lane, Strensall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20 were with Greenfinches *Carduelis chloris* in a meadow near the Breck's estate on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 20 were near East Coltingworth on the 4<sup>th</sup> and reported as a common breeding bird in the Dunnington area with 36 at Grimston Wood on 12<sup>th</sup> March being the highest count.

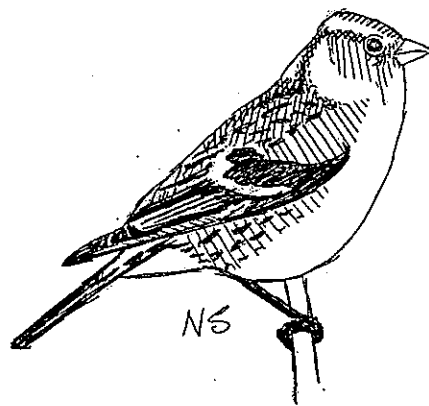
April reports included birds at North Ings Farm, Terrington and a female nest building near Hagg Wood, Dunnington on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 15 were singing around Brayton Barff woods on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and breeding was recorded in the area while a nest with five young was at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Two were in Walbutts Lane, Strensall on the 18<sup>th</sup> and up to 24 were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June.

25 were at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on 21<sup>st</sup> August and reported as being common at Strensall Common on 4<sup>th</sup> September and numerous in a mixed flock of at least 100 finches with Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* and Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: Winter visitor and passage migrant

A single bird with Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs* in the New Earswick area on 24<sup>th</sup> March was the only record for the first part of the year..



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In October, singles flew southeast over Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and over Sand Hutton on the 14<sup>th</sup>. One was in Rowntree Park, York on the 19<sup>th</sup> with another at Hassacarr Nature Reserve on the 21<sup>st</sup>, two at Skipwith Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>, three at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 25<sup>th</sup> and one at York University on the 26<sup>th</sup> while several were feeding with Chaffinches near Castle Howard Lake on the 27<sup>th</sup>.



In November, two were at Castle Howard on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, two on the 26<sup>th</sup> and c. 20 on the 17<sup>th</sup> when one was also at nearby Ganthorpe while two were again at Castle Howard on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

'Good numbers' were on Clifton Ings with up to ten at Rawcliffe Lake all year. Also seen daily around Huby and resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with up to 20 noted. 20-30 were seen daily in Upper Poppleton with birds in a flock mixed with Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs* of 70 in January and 20 in February. Common and widespread in the New Earswick area until midsummer when numbers began to decline dramatically. Early autumn saw very few returning to local gardens and numbers never picked up apart from a small flock around the Triangular Meadow at New Earswick Nature Reserve with the maximum count being 20 in January. In the Strensall area, up to 18 visited gardens all year and two to three were along Breck's Lane on 6th January.

February reports included 171 on wires near broiler huts at Riccall on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 370 on wires at Barby Sewage Works on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and ten at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 11<sup>th</sup> with 20 there on the 24<sup>th</sup>. c.12 were in a field by New Lane, Terrington on the 17<sup>th</sup> and five were around Strensall Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In March, 21 were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits and a male was displaying at Sutton-on-Derwent on the 17<sup>th</sup> while 20 were in stubble near Breck's Lane, Strensall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 25 were in a meadow by Breck's estate on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Six were at Stockton Lane, York on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers were in the woodland and set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April with two counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 12<sup>th</sup> May when a pair fed fledged young in Heworth where four birds fed on black sunflower seeds on 12<sup>th</sup> July and five were present on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff and large numbers were in Osbaldwick all year with young seen on 19<sup>th</sup> August while an adult fed three well-grown young in a nest at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

At least 12 were in trees beside Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October and present at Hassacarr Nature Reserve all year with 25 there on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 40 on Dunnington Common on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ten were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 24<sup>th</sup> November and 40 were at Riccall Grange Farm on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

Good numbers were present on Clifton Ings all year with a flock of 300+ on 7<sup>th</sup> August while up to 15 were at Rawcliffe Lake all year and seen most days around Huby. Resident along the River Ouse between York and Naburn with up to 20 noted and a fairly common resident in the New Earswick area, seen at garden feeders in winter and moving out to the fields and hedgerows in summer. Maximum counts were 19 in February and 20 in September. Present at Hassacarr NR all year with the highest count of 27 on 16<sup>th</sup> January and seen most months in the Poppleton area with a maximum of 15 on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

From January to March, small numbers were reported from Strensall gardens, farms and the common, East Parade, Heworth and Stockton Lane (both York) and Askham Bog. 20 were on stubble south of Skipwith Common on 6<sup>th</sup> January and 80 were on bushes in the reeds and c. 50 in the lane leading to Wheldrake Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 34 were on a willow bush in the reeds at Wheldrake Ings on 6<sup>th</sup> February and a flock of 40 flew around gardens in Strensall on the 17<sup>th</sup> while 40 were at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on 4<sup>th</sup> March and six were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 17<sup>th</sup> where a nest with four eggs was found on 6<sup>th</sup> May. A flock of 25 was on the YWT reserve at Strensall Common on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

In April, a flock of 28 was at Cliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, five in a mixed flock on set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a pair at Strensall Common on the 18<sup>th</sup> and six near Bugthorpe on the 25<sup>th</sup> with three there on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Also in May, three were in the Poppleton area on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A pair was collecting nest material and believed to be nesting in a Strensall garden during May and June and breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff.

Up to six were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June while a female was sitting on a nest at Sand Hutton on 17<sup>th</sup> July and a party was in an Osballdwick garden in mid-July (one being found dead there on 17<sup>th</sup> September thought to be a cat kill).

In September, five were at Monk's Cross (York), a post-breeding flock of 40 by the River Ouse, 25 at Hagg Bridge and 250 at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest. At least 20 were in a mixed finch flock of at least 100 birds at the north end of Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October while 17 were on thistles by the River Ouse at Riccall on 25<sup>th</sup> December and eight were at Lilling Green on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Siskin Caudalis spinus*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

In the New Earswick area, good numbers remained from the end of last year, with flocks around both nature reserves (New Earswick and Sessions) and in woodland along the River Foss. 35 were counted in January, 12 in February and 18 in March after which all had departed. The first autumn arrivals were noted on 6<sup>th</sup> November and numbers rose to 27 by the year end.

A flock of 50+ was beside the River Rye between West Ness and Nunnington on 1<sup>st</sup> January and c. 100 were at King's Moor Plantation on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In the Strensall area, one fed on peanuts in a garden on 31<sup>st</sup> January and early February with two there on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Two were in Brecks Lane on the 16<sup>th</sup> while five were on the common on the 24<sup>th</sup> and a male was feeding in a village garden on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Also in February, at least five were feeding in Askham Bog on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one in Upper Poppleton on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a pair with Coal Tits *Parus ater* at Skipwith Common on the 18<sup>th</sup> and seen regularly at Rawcliffe Lake during the winter with a peak of 32 on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Four were in a Bishopthorpe garden on and off from 26<sup>th</sup> February until the end of March. Also in March, 17 were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 17<sup>th</sup> where numbers had fallen to six by the 24<sup>th</sup> and a male was in the Poppleton area on the 17<sup>th</sup>. A male also visited a Strensall garden on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Linnet** *Carduelis camabina*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

Three returned to Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 9<sup>th</sup> September with eight there by the 22<sup>nd</sup> while five were at Sand Hutton on the 24<sup>th</sup> and four were in birches beside Castle Howard Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Hassacarr NR held a good wintering population feeding in the alders with 47 there on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Also in November, a flock of eight was by the River Derwent on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a flock of 20 was at Clifton Ings on the 26<sup>th</sup>. In December, about 15 were feeding in trees in Micklegate, York on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Rowntree Park, York on the 7<sup>th</sup> and flocks of at least 50 were at Yearsley Moor on the 28<sup>th</sup> and in woods beside the top pond at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

20-30 were at Rawcliffe Cornfield NR throughout January with 31 there on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

First heard singing in Osbaldwick on 6<sup>th</sup> February, by Metcalfe Lane, where they apparently bred and 12 were near Haxby on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In the New Earswick area, two were present in March but numbers rose to 50 in April with birds feeding in set-aside near Huntington Church. Small numbers remained until July when all departed after the field was ploughed and sown. Two were at Riccall and three were on the Elmpark Estate, York on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

April reports were of three on Strensall Common on the 1<sup>st</sup>, an excellent flock of 125 on set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup>, three near Towthorpe on the 8<sup>th</sup>, five at Towthorpe Grange on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 30 on set-aside at Limefield Farm, Dunnington during the month. Single figures were normally seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year, but over 30 were counted on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Two pairs and two singles were in the Bugthorpe area on 25<sup>th</sup> April with a party of eight there on 31<sup>st</sup> May and seven in the area on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

In May, ten were at Strensall Common on the 1<sup>st</sup> and three singles and several pairs were there on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Two were in the Poppleton area and a pair was in Huby and another bird at Sutton-on-the-Forest cemetery on the 6<sup>th</sup> where a male was singing on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Seven were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

During the summer there one territory was held at a farm near Langton, Malton and two at Towthorpe Grange with small numbers present at both Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Lake. 14 were near Barby sewage works on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 60 in set-aside at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a male near Stillington Road, Huby on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a pair at Strensall Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

In August, 20 were at Londesborough Lodge Farm as part of a mixed flock with Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a single male was west of Nunnington on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In September, 50 were at Hagg Wood, Dunnington on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 30 at Sutton and 100 at The Sykes southwest of Stittenham on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 30 at East Moor on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 11 were at Dunnington Common on the 16<sup>th</sup> and five at Hassacarr NR during October and November. In October, up to 200 were at Forest Farm, Warthill and 50 were in a stubble field near Wilberfoss on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A party of six was at North Duffield Carrs on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a flock of at least 100 finches at the north end of Castle Howard Lake held a large number of birds of this species with two other groups of about 20 east of the lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 60 were at Forest Farm on 4<sup>th</sup> November and c. 40 were at Ganthorpe near Castle Howard on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 40 were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

In January, four were at Rawcliffe Lake on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one at Skipwith Common with Goldcrests *Regulus regulus* on the 26<sup>th</sup> and five feeding on rooftop moss in Woodland Place, New Earswick on the 27<sup>th</sup>. February reports included a flock of 17 near Greystone Farm, Towthorpe Common on the 5<sup>th</sup>, c.30 feeding in Askham Bog on the 9<sup>th</sup> and three in New Earswick NR on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A small flock was at Hassacarr NR during February and March with 12 being the highest count on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Also in March, about ten were at Forest Farm, Warthill on the 12<sup>th</sup>, one with Goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis* at Skipwith Common on the 13<sup>th</sup> and eight in the car park lane at Wheldrake Ings on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The only records along the River Ouse between York and Naburn were of two on 7<sup>th</sup> April and one at Fulford Ings on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

In October, eight were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 13<sup>th</sup> and six were at Skipwith Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>. November reports included a flock of 20 at Bishop Wood, Cawood on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup> and small numbers at Rawcliffe Lake from early November peaking at 26 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Mealy Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Status: Scarce winter visitor

Six were at Rawcliffe Lake on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and also on 4<sup>th</sup> December (NS). One or two were feeding with Lesser Redpolls *Carduelis cabaret* in Askham Bog on 9<sup>th</sup> February (AB).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: Casual breeder and passage visitor

14 were at Yearsley Moor on 24<sup>th</sup> February, descending from trees to eat snow.  
Reported to be in Wheldrake Wood sometime during May.

Flocks of ten and 14 were feeding in larches at separate locations on Yearsley Moor on 28<sup>th</sup> December and a flock of c. 50 was in woods beside the top pond at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: Resident breeder and passage and winter visitor

Up to six were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year with eight or nine regularly seen at Clifton Ings. Present all year in the New Earswick area with at least six pairs occupying territory during the spring. In January, eight were at The Warren, Dunnington on the 1<sup>st</sup> a female in Huby on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one near Rufforth on the 10<sup>th</sup> and a pair in a Bishopthorpe garden on the 13<sup>th</sup>. In the Strensall area, two females were in Brecks Lane on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and three pairs were there on the 12<sup>th</sup> with a male in a village garden on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

This species was a regular winter visitor to an Osbaldwick garden with three pairs there on 26<sup>th</sup> January, though seen less often in spring and summer. Two pairs were at East Lilling on 10<sup>th</sup> February and a pair was at Strensall Common on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A flock of eight, including six males, was at Skipwith Common on 11<sup>th</sup> February and seven were there on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Two were near Dunnington on 13<sup>th</sup> March and a pair at Clifton Bridge, York on 24<sup>th</sup> April. A pair was also at Towthorpe Grange on 14<sup>th</sup> April with a male seen there on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

At Allerthorpe Gravel Pits, two were observed in February, March and May with two juveniles there on 14<sup>th</sup> July and four birds on 13<sup>th</sup> October. A pair briefly visited a Strensall garden on 31<sup>st</sup> May, another on 10th June and two on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

A female was seen carrying nesting material along the River Ouse between York and Naburn on 7<sup>th</sup> April and fledged juveniles were first noted there on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Two males were with a female at Allerthorpe Common on 14<sup>th</sup> June and a pair was at Hassacarr NR from May to July. Two pairs bred at Rawcliffe Meadows where birds were feeding on stinging nettle seed in December. Breeding was also recorded at Brayton Barff and probably occurred at Metcalfe Lane, Osbaldwick. A pair was beside Castle Howard Lake on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Pairs were in Cass Wood, Huby on 1<sup>st</sup> September and at Yearsley Moor on the 25<sup>th</sup>. In October, two birds were by the River Derwent at Wheldrake Ings on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a pair on the eastern edge of Easingwold Golf Course on the 8<sup>th</sup>, two at separate locations on Yearsley Moor on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a pair on the riverbank at Wheldrake on the 18<sup>th</sup> and one in the Poppleton area on the 19<sup>th</sup>. November reports included four at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 24<sup>th</sup> and two males on Strensall Common and one at Storwood on the 26<sup>th</sup>. In December, a female was at Coulton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and single males at Askham Richard on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lilling Green on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Three males were at Melbourne and at Scackleton on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a pair at Wheldrake Ings on the 30<sup>th</sup> and a pair in woods beside the top pond at Pond Head Farm, Oulston on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: Resident breeder and winter passage visitor

Up to six were noted along the River Ouse between York and Naburn throughout the year. Also seen regularly around Huby all year with flocks of up to 30 common in the winter months along Robin Lane, Gracious Street and between Skates Lane and Sutton-on-the-Forest cemetery. Still widespread throughout the northern part of the recording area and a winter visitor in small numbers to Clifton Ings with at least 20 at Rawcliffe Meadows during January.

In the Strensall area, four were between Haxby and Strensall on 1<sup>st</sup> January with c.100 in stubble by Brecks Lane together with Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and c.35 there on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. c.40 were in a meadow near the Brecks estate during February and up until 2<sup>nd</sup> March while two came into a nearby garden to feed on 10<sup>th</sup> February. A flock of 15 was around the route of the Selby bypass at Brayton Barff on 10<sup>th</sup> February and two were singing there from 19<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> June with 20 in a hedge alongside the River Ouse at Riccall on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

In the Poppleton area, pairs were observed in January, April and May and one was near Forest Farm, Warthill on 12<sup>th</sup> March while in the Dunnington area, 30 roosted in a holly bush at Limefield Farm on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 90 were on set-aside by Hagg Wood on the 13<sup>th</sup> with 30 still there on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The highest count in that area was of 37 near the village on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Also in April, a pair was at Strensall Common on the 1<sup>st</sup> with two individuals there on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 15 around the common on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Up to 50 were on set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April, a pair near Towthorpe on the 8<sup>th</sup> and three at Forest Farm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Eight were in the Bugthorpe area on the 25<sup>th</sup> with nine there on 31<sup>st</sup> May. A single was in Upper Poppleton on 17<sup>th</sup> May and a nest with two young was at Charity Farm, Skipwith on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Up to 16 were counted on a BBS square south of Naburn in May and June. Also in June, six were near Riccall on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 14 were singing along the Selby Canal between Selby and Burn with three singing on Barlow Grange farmland on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There were seven occupied territories on a farm near Langton, Malton and five at Towthorpe Grange during the summer. Young fed in a Dunnington garden during June and July.

A summer visitor in the New Earswick area with singing birds near Kettlestring Farm, along the York-Scarborough railway line, along the southern end of Bootham Stray and once at Haxby Road Farm. Breeding was confirmed near Huntington Church and the maximum count in the area was seven in September. One was carrying food at Blue Coat Farm, Foston on 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Singles were at Brecks Lane, Strensall on 12<sup>th</sup> September and 26<sup>th</sup> November and three were near Appleton Roebuck on the latter date. Also in November, up to 22 were at Forest Farm, Warthill and 25 at Hassacarr NR on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with four on farmland north of Strensall on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. 15 were in a meadow at Lilling Green on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Status: Resident breeder and passage visitor

A winter visitor to Clifton Ings with a few pairs staying on to breed and seen occasionally at Rawcliffe Lake during the winter months. Two were at Hagg Lane, Dunnington on 1<sup>st</sup> January and one was there on 1<sup>st</sup> April. A male was at the east end of Strensall Common, near The Sike, on 6<sup>th</sup> January and one was at Wheldrake Ings on the 27<sup>th</sup> with 11 at Rawcliffe Meadows on 1<sup>st</sup> February. In March, a female was at Bootham Stray on the 12<sup>th</sup> and six were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 17<sup>th</sup> where there were three singing on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> July. A pair was at Strensall Common on 1<sup>st</sup> April with two males there on the 18<sup>th</sup>, six birds on 1<sup>st</sup> May and eight on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Six males were feeding on set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on 6<sup>th</sup> April and in the Poppleton area pairs were observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Four males were noted in the Riccall area where two nests were found on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

One territory was occupied on a farm at Langton, Malton during the summer, a female present at Bootham Stray on 9<sup>th</sup> June and a male at Stillington Road, Huby on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Selby Canal from Selby to Burn held eight singing males with eight also at Ross Carrs on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Up to six were normally seen or heard along the River Ouse between York and Naburn, but eight singing males were counted on 13<sup>th</sup> July with the first juveniles noted on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Two birds were on Bootham Stray on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and at least five at Wheldrake Ings on the 17<sup>th</sup> while four were near Wilks Plantation near Strensall Common on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

A female was near Kettlestring Farm, New Earswick on 7<sup>th</sup> September and one was on the riverbank at Wheldrake Ings on 18<sup>th</sup> October. In November, four were on Strensall Common, one roosted on set-aside at Hendwick Hall Farm, Stamford Bridge and 20 roosted in a small reedbed at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Corn Bunting** *Milaria calandra*  
Status: Resident breeder

In the Dunnington area, winter flocks included 40 at Hassacarr NR in mid-January and 54 on the common on 28<sup>th</sup> March. A bird fed in a Strensall garden on 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> February. At Rawcliffe, the peak counts were 82 on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 32 on 21<sup>st</sup> December - a few remained into early May, but there was no evidence of breeding. In March, a flock of 35 was around the route of the Selby bypass at Brayton Barff on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, two between Ellerton and East Cottingham on the 7<sup>th</sup>, three singing at Limefield Farm, Dunnington on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one at Benningborough on the 16<sup>th</sup> and c. 50 roosted near Melbourne on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A winter visitor to Clifton Ings with a peak of 25 on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

In April, singles sang at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Pottery Pond, Strensall on the 30<sup>th</sup>. One was at Whitehorn Farm, Stockton-on-the-Forest on the 1<sup>st</sup>, nine on set-aside at North Ings Farm, Terrington on the 6<sup>th</sup>, one between Thornton and Bielby on the 9<sup>th</sup> and two at Riccall on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Six were singing in the Riccall area at the end of May with two in song at Limefield Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup> and another singing at Dunnington Common on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

In June, one or two males were singing on farmland just south of Bishopthorpe from the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> until the farmer cut the hay. Two were singing from wires along the road between North Duffield Cams and the village on the 9<sup>th</sup>, three sang at East Moor near Sutton-on-the-Forest and one was at Stillington Road, Huby with another along the path to Sutton-on-the-Forest cemetery on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Singles were singing near Strensall on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> while three were at Riccall on the 15<sup>th</sup> and one was between Ellerton and East Cottingham with four singing on Barlow Grange farmland near Selby on the 20<sup>th</sup>. In July, three were singing at East Moor on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, two singing near Barby sewage works on the 4<sup>th</sup> and one was at Skates Lane, Huby on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Three were near Melbourne on 6<sup>th</sup> August with six at East Moor on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

15 were on telephone wires at Aughton on 16<sup>th</sup> September while up to 19 fed on stubble barley and sugar beet fields at East Moor in September and six roosted there on 7<sup>th</sup> October. 19 returned to Hassacarr NR on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and four were at Forest Farm, Warthill late in the month.

## ESCAPES/INTRODUCTIONS

### **Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

One flew north from east of Swantail Hide, Wheldrake Ings on 20th August.

### **Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

A single bird was resident at Castle Howard Lake throughout the year.

Two were on York University Lake on 1st January.

One was at the Central Science Laboratories, Sand Hutton on 8th August.

### **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

Eight birds at York University Lake on 1st January would be presumed to be of suspect origin.

A single at Castle Howard Lake on 3rd December was intermediate in plumage between the blue and white phases and was seen again on the evening of the 5th.

### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

One came in to roost at dusk at Castle Howard Lake with a flock of 500+ Greylag Geese *Anser anser* on 5th December.

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One was at York University Lake on 1st January.

### **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

A white bird was present in the Ouse Bridge area of York all year.

### **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*

An adult and a leucistic individual were on the River Derwent opposite the Ferryboat Inn at Thorganby on 12th January.

### **Asian Blue Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*

One was present in the back garden of a house in Malton Road, York for a few days in mid-June.



**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

A bird first seen in New Earswick NR on 20th August was heard subsequently on several occasions but not seen again until October when it was in the adjacent Sessions NR, after which time it disappeared.

**Parakeet sp.**

One was seen at Clifton lngs on 23rd September.

Description: green head, creamy yellow bill, yellow underparts, yellow base colour to breast with red patches, greeny yellow wings and rump, orangey red back, loud chattering call, about the size of a cockatiel.

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