

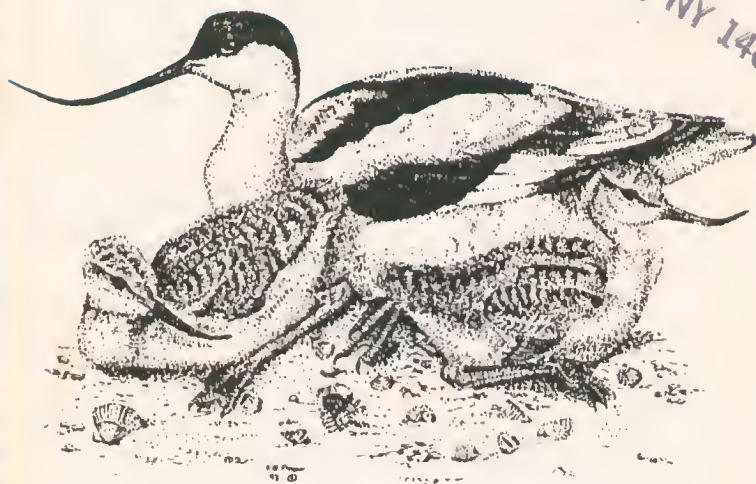
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



BIRD REPORT for 1992

Compiled by W. F. CURTIS

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During the latter months of 1993 several changes occurred to the above committees with the result that the present composition is as above excepting:-

Chairman of the Reports Committee: J. E. Dale, address as above.

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Report for 1992 Edited by W. F. Curtis

During the course of this year, 288 species were recorded in the county of which 149 were known to have bred with a further five possibly doing so. Additions to the County List were, Pallid Swift and Paddyfield Warbler, both at Flamborough whilst the Spectacled Warbler at Filey was also an addition to the British List.

The total of 149 breeding species would appear to be the highest ever for the county; of these; two bred for the first time; Golden Oriole and Scarlet Rosefinch. This latter species appeared in large numbers along the coast during spring with birds remaining at Flamborough to breed; this occurrence being the first for England. No less noteworthy was the successful breeding of Avocet at Blacktoft Sands; the first in Yorkshire since 1837. Hopefully this last species will consolidate its' toe-hold in the county. Two pairs of Black-necked Grebes bred, at separate locations; Gannet continues to increase, as does Fulmar. Heron would appear to be increasing though, as with many species, more thorough reporting may also be the reason for the indicated or apparent increase. Canada and Grey Lag Geese continue to increase and spread, particularly the latter, whilst Barnacle Goose bred, or at least attempted to breed, at three locations. (not including Flamingoland, the source of origin of the Hornsea Mere wintering flock). Snow Goose was not considered to have bred successfully this year but Whooper Swan, joining the ever growing list of 'fence jumpers', did so at Studley. There was an increase in the number of breeding Wigeon with the first occurrence from VC 63; Garganey had, by all accounts, a good season along the Derwent though full details were not forthcoming; Pintail probably bred at the same location. The number of breeding Pochards reported was less than in recent years whilst Red-breasted Merganser maintained its slender hold in the county, at Redmires Res., with the

other sawbill, Goosander, continuing to both increase in numbers and spread. Ruddy Duck continues its relentless colonisation of the more easterly and northern areas while consolidating those areas already occupied.

Raptors again fared well. Honey Buzzard definitely bred this year whilst Marsh Harrier did so after an absence of several years; this time on the north bank of the estuary. Goshawk gives every indication of spreading slowly and consolidating; details of this species being far from complete but all signs are favourable. Hen Harrier was recorded during the summer from locations suitable for breeding but no records were received to indicate any more than 'mere' presence. Buzzard also gives indications of finally increasing and spreading after many years of threatening to do so whilst Peregrine is certainly doing well but when will we see them along the sea cliffs? No definite records were received concerning Hobby though there is a possibility of at least one pair breeding in the south of the county.

More than usual numbers of Black Grouse were reported though this was considered to be a direct result of survey work carried out in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Both species of partridge would, if anything, appear to have suffered a slight decrease. Black-tailed Godwit bred, but regrettably unsuccessfully, along the Derwent whilst Ruff may have done so in the same area. The Little Tern colony at Easington continues to thrive but once again success was very poor owing to a combination of reasons, not least being the predation of chicks by a female Merlin. Nightjars moved into recently felled and cleared areas of the forests along the periphery of the North York Moors, appearing in good numbers at some locations. Bearded Tit bred at Hornsea Mere though this species only had an average year at its stronghold, Blacktoft Sands. Yellowhammer shows a decline in some areas whilst Corn Bunting is rapidly becoming a scarcity in the east.

Moving away from the breeding records, 1992 was, although the total number of species recorded was not as high as some recent years, a good year for rarities. Herons were represented by Night Heron; Cattle Egret (including a party of five); Little Egret; Purple Heron and Spoonbill. Ring-necked and Ferruginous Ducks were again present, occasionally, at locations along the River Aire whilst both Mandarin and Red-crested Pochard were reported in increased numbers, particularly the former. Of the rarer sea ducks only Surf Scoter put in an appearance.

Sightings of Red Kite increased, no doubt reflecting the continued introduction schemes whilst the rarer Black Kite was also reported. The nationwide influx of Red-footed Falcon was reflected throughout the county though mainly in the east and south. Spotted Crane was reported in slightly higher numbers than usual whilst Corncrake was also reported. Occurrences of the rarer waders were down on latter years though both Pectoral Sandpiper and Spotted Sandpiper put in appearances, the former being recorded from several widely spaced locations, whilst the latter, seen near Bradford, may have been the individual recorded in VC 63 in previous years. Record numbers of Black-tailed Godwits were present on the Humber whilst the autumnal passage of Whimbrel was the highest ever reported. Dotterel were again present in spring at the usual, favoured, locations but Jack Snipe still continue to be scarce notwithstanding good numbers at a few haunts. Greenshank also appeared along the estuary in record numbers; a party of 59 at Haverfield being nearly twice the previous highest total for the county. Green Sandpiper continues to increase both as an autumnal migrant and a wintering bird.

The skuas were all reported in small numbers in comparison to recent years; Sabine's Gull though was noted slightly more frequently than usual. Of the more common gulls, Herring continues to increase as does the Yellow-legged race (not considered to be entirely due to increased observer awareness). Great Black-backed Gull was reported in record numbers for Yorkshire and again, both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were well represented and, as with recent years, particularly at inland locations. The rarer terns were well represented with the second county record of Bridled and appearances of both Gull-billed and Caspian. Black Terns were recorded in larger than usual numbers during autumn. Little Auk was particularly conspicuous by its absence, 1992 being considered as the worst year on record for this species. Of the larks, Shorelark gave indications of a return to the numbers of yesteryear whilst an individual of one of the eastern races of Short-toed was present at Sprun. A very early Sand Martin was noted otherwise records of hirundines were inauspicious. Richard's and Red-throated Pipits were both well represented as were the various Continental races of the Yellow Wagtail. Water Pipit would appear to be becoming more numerous though is still very scarce in the east of the county.

Several parties of Waxwings remained from 1991 in various locations of VC 63 and VC 64. Thrushes and chats generally were inauspicious though again individuals of one of the eastern races of the Stonechat were reported and record numbers of Wheater, of the Greenland race, were present along the coast in spring. Warblers were very well represented with the second Marmora's for both Yorkshire and Britain; the first record in Yorkshire of a spring Botted plus occurrences of Savi's; Subalpine; Sardinian; Greenish; Bonelli's and Pallas's whilst of the lesser rare ones, Icterine; Marsh and Yellow-browed were all reported in more than usual numbers. Red-breasted Flycatcher was also recorded at several locations in autumn whilst Penduline Tit; Rose-coloured Starling; Ortolan and Rustic Buntings were also noted. A Red-headed Bunting was located at Sprun during a period of weather, together with associated species, which would point towards genuine vagrancy.

Finally, may I, on behalf of the Reports Committee, express gratitude to local recorders and the very many individuals throughout Yorkshire who have submitted records to the YNU. As Editor, may I also extend my thanks for the assistance given by the VC Recorders in the compilation of this report.

Bill Curtis May 1994.

Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder, Report Editor or direct to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, if the observer so wishes. The system used by the panel for indicating geographic locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of 'England North' though, should the observer request omission of the county name, the panel will respect that wish and use the regional name only.

A full list of species considered by the panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: 102-103. Species that are known to have bred or to have attempted to breed in the county in recent years for which the panel requests data are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe	Quail
Little Bittern	Corncrake
Pintail	Avocet
Garganey	Ruff
Pochard	Black-tailed Godwit
Honey Buzzard	Little Gull
Marsh Harrier	Golden Oriole
Montagu's Harrier	Black Redstart
Goshawk	Fieldfare
Hobby	Scarlet Rosefinch
Parrot Crossbill	

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor or direct from the RBB Panel (Dr. M. A. Ogilvie, Glencaim, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN.)

Photographs

The inclusion of photographs in this Report is once again due to a contribution from Birdline Northeast to whom the YNU Ornithological committee wish to express their thanks and appreciation.

Birdline Northeast

A bird information service for the Northeast region which comprises the counties of Northumberland; Tyne and Wear; Durham; Cleveland; North, South and West Yorkshire; Humberside and Lincolnshire. The service provides news of all birds of interest occurring in the region, including summaries of movements, concentrations and arrivals as well as presence of rarities and sub-rarities in the area.

For further information contact: John McLoughlin, 8 Harrison Grove, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4QJ. Tel: 0423 881630.

Classified List

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee and, unless otherwise specified, found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers. Where applicable, records have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC) unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K.H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977), B.O.U., 1977.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Recorded during all months from the coast with up to 30 at Spurn in January and February excepting 79 on 28th February. This status was repeated at other locations though 109 passed Flamborough on 13th January with 209 on 23rd February. Larger numbers were reported in March, indicating passage, with 300 at Spurn on the 8th when 150+ were reported from Ulrome and a similar number off Flamborough. 80 at Spurn on 21st with 100 on 22nd; 153 on 25th and 71 on 28th when 436 flew north at Grimston and Hornsea with 280 at Flamborough. Only small numbers were reported north of Flamborough during these months. April saw generally small numbers at all locations though 40+ were reported from Flamborough on four days whilst on the 2nd, 90 flew north at Barmston.

One to five were occasionally reported from most locations during the period May to August then almost daily during September with up to 35 at both Spurn and Flamborough but up to 65 at Filey. 57 at Flamborough on 10th October with 80 at Spurn on 23rd. Similar numbers during November then heavy passage at Spurn during the latter part of December when 462 passed on 19th and 145 on 20th; 180 were recorded at Flamborough on 19th.

Small numbers were occasionally recorded along the Humber at Sunk Island during October to December; usually one or two birds but 20 west on 15th November, 12 of which were seen to return east later that same day. One over Blacktoft Sands on 11th October heading east towards the Humber.

Occasionally recorded from fresh water locations with singles at Hornsea Mere from 15th to 26th February; 14th March; at Kelk on 29th February; Tophill Low N.R. on 21st January; Burton Riggs G.P. (Seamer) on 3rd April (full summer plumage); Ogden Res. on 13th December and finally, the individual at Farnham G.P. remaining from 1991 until 4th January.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Recorded along the coast during the periods January to March and August to December. The majority of the records concerning one or two birds but three occasionally at Spurn during the early months whilst a little more frequent there during the latter months. A similar situation at Flamborough though being more frequent there in October when 26 individuals were reported on 13 days with nine on the 9th. Six near Tunstall on 4th January. Only reported very infrequently from the coast north of Flamborough; the only records coming from Scarborough and Whitby; all singles excepting two at Scarborough on 25th January and 29th March.

Away from the coast, singles at Sunk Island on 15th November and 5th December; the latter seen to return east towards the coast.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Single birds, not infrequently, along the coast during both winter periods whilst three were at Spurn on 17th September with four at Flamborough on 14th and three on 29th November; three also there on 16th October. Two at Filey on 8th November. Outside these periods; single birds at Flamborough on 16th/17th May; 13th August and at Spurn on 27th June.

One in full breeding plumage at Gouthwaite Res. from 4th to 10th August with what was presumably the same bird at Lumley Moor Res. on 12th August.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bred at the following locations in VC 61; Filey Dams, four pairs, ten young; Kelk, eight pairs, five broods, 12 young; Lower Derwent N.N.R., 15 pairs, no further details; Riccall, one pair. In VC 62; Selby, two pairs; Brandsby, one pair; Sturge's Pond, one pair. In VC 63, a total on 76

pairs were located at 28 waters rearing about 123 young whilst in VC 64, at least 31 pairs bred though no further details available. Bred in VC 65 at Bolton-on-Swale; Scorton Quarry; Pallet Hill; Kirby Fleetham and Nosterfield (no details of actual numbers).

Outside the breeding season, peak gatherings were 27 at Kelk on 28th January with up to 24 regularly during January to March then post breeding total of 28 (site record). Good numbers on the River Hull where 21 were present between Wansford and Driffield on 7th February whilst up to 14 were near Brigham/Tophill Low N.R. with 12 at Pulfin Bog on 12th September increasing to 25 on 26th then down to 16 in October and ten on 24th December. Monthly maxima at Filey Dams were 15 in June/July; 17 in August and 14 in September.

Maxima in VC 63 were 35 at Broomhill Ings on 2nd August with up to 28 in January; 33 on 12th January along the lower reaches on the River Don (Sheffield area) and 27 on Scout Dyke Res. on 7th September. In VC 64; 28 at Mickletown Ings on 3rd September with 20 on 18th October; no other location recording more than 16. Peaks in VC 65 being 23 at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th October and up to 24 at Nosterfield during September.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The only breeding records received from VC 61 were of two pairs at Pulfin Bog (four young); two pairs on the Lower Derwent N.N.R. (seven young) and one pair at Riccall. In VC 62 breeding was reported from Selby (two pairs); Castle Howard (three pairs, three young); Pond Head, Yearsley (four pairs, two young); Newburgh (one pair, two young); Wiganthorpe (one pair); Ampleforth, (one pair); Sand Hutton (one pair, one young) and Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough (one pair, three young). A total of 90 pairs bred at some 25 locations in VC 63 resulting in at least 115 young being reared from some 70 pairs. Of these, 27 pairs bred at the Winterset Reservoirs but the success rate was poor particularly on the Low Lake (22 pairs) where extreme eutrophication of the water devastated the food supply of the young; nest sites were also subjected to disturbance by the presence of fishermen (not deliberate).

In VC 64; bred at 22 locations with mixed success and in VC 65; one pair with one young at Bolton-on-Swale; one pair, two young, at Catterick; one pair failed at Pallet Hill; two pairs, one young each at Scorton Quarry and one pair with two young at Nosterfield.

The maxima in VC 61 at fresh water locations were 17 at Hornsea Mere on 19th October and 15 at Pulfin Bog on 18th April (location record). The coastal wintering flock in Bridlington Bay held 63 on both 26th February and 5th March but 80 present on 8th March. 34 here on 22nd November with 30 on 7th/8th December. Up to 25 in Filey Bay in March and 21 in January.

The only location in VC 62 to hold more than ten was Castle Howard where 15 were present on 31st July; 17 on 11th August and 14 on both 22nd and 26th September.

Winterset Res. as usual, held the largest numbers in VC 63 with 42 on 24th January and 80 on 21st April. Peaks at other locations were 30 at Southfield Res. on 24th April; 30 at Wentworth on 16th March; 28 at Treton Dyke on 8th April and 22 at Thrybergh C.P. on 5th March. Spring peaks in VC 64 were 20 at Knotford Nook on 4th April and 23 at Swillington Ings on 18th May whilst post breeding gatherings were 25 at Eccup Res. on 30th June with 23 at Hay-a-Park G.P. in September and 22 there in October.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps griseigena*

Single birds occasionally along the coast at Spurn; Easington; Tunstall; Aldbrough; Hornsea; Barnston; Atwick; Flamborough and Filey during the periods January to April and September to December. Outside these periods, singles were at Flamborough on 19th July; 8th and 29th August. Passage was noted at Flamborough during October when birds were reported on 11 days with three on both 20th and 24th then on four days in November with four on the 15th. Singles were at Sunk Island on 31st August, a juvenile flying west, and on 15th November when one flew east.

The only fresh water records were of singles at Tophill Low N.R. on 1st September and at Hornsea Mere on 6th October.

Addition to the 1991 Report: singles at Ingbirchworth Res. on 21st January and at Winterset Res. on 31st October.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Singles at Hornsea Mere from 29th April to 2nd May and Beaverdyke Res. from 30th May to 11th August. Single birds along the coast at Scarborough on 12th March; at Flamborough on 10th October and Filey on 10th and 23rd February with three there on 2nd April.

Additions to the 1991 Report: single birds at Pugneys' C.P. on 25th May; at Winterset Res. from 26th May to 1st June and at Potteric Carr on 22nd October.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

A pair bred successfully at the Lower Derwent N.N.R.; the first time at that location. A pair arrived on 13th April being seen with two small young on 14th June; the last record being of one of the juveniles on 14th August. On 22nd July a summer plumaged adult with a fledged juvenile was also present (additional to the breeding pair) giving rise to conjecture that a second pair may have bred nearby. A pair reared two young at a second location in the county. (TED:WFC *et al*).

Recorded in VC 61 at Kelk on 24th May (BJA); Tophill Low N.R. from 27th June to 5th July; 11th to 14th; 24th/25th and 27th July then from 7th August to 13th September with at least two individuals being involved (many obs). One in Filey Bay on 17th May (ABe *et al*).

In VC 63; three at Treeton Dyke on 7th May; two at Pugneys' C.P. from 12th to 17th June and singles at Southfield Res. on 8th May and 13th July; at Winterset Res. on 7th and again on 11th August and at Wombwell Ings on 16th whilst in VC 64; three were at Swillington Ings on 6th June and one at Mickletown Ings on 31st May.

Addition to 1991 Report: one at Catwick G.P. on 1st January (TI).

Fulmar *Fulmar glacialis*

Breeding numbers at Flamborough/Bempton and Filey areas apparently unchanged. Large counts as usual at Flamborough with 1500+ on three January days; 4366 on 15th March with 2130 on 24th and 4132 on 28th; smaller counts in April peaking at 2124 on 18th. 3140 on 2nd May being the highest count of that month with 3480 on 6th June. Poor numbers in August excepting 7450 on 14th; 3500 an 4th September then good numbers in October when this species is usually scarce with 1580 on 10th; 1980 on 11th and 1440 on 31st. 5150 on 13th November then moderate counts in December but 4550 were reported on 19th. Other locations mirrored these counts but again with much lesser numbers being recorded; the maxima at Spurn being 213 on 8th August with 240 on 14th August and 570 on 4th September whilst at Filey, 550 were on or around the cliffs between Carr Naze and Newbiggin on 21st December, this being by far the largest count for that location.

In VC 61, the only birds away from the sea were at Hornsea Mere with singles on seven days and on the Humber at Sunk Island where five were seen on 24th May; 30 to the west (12 later returning eastwards) on 6th June and up to two occasionally during August and September.

Inland; one at Sutton Bank on 28th June; one over High Batts N.R. on 9th April and at Angler's Lake, Winterset on 9th August whilst singles were reported over the River Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 14th June and 11th November.

'Blue-phased' birds were reported frequently at Flamborough, usually one to four but 11 on 15th March whilst singles were reported from Filey on four days.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Singles at Spurn on 29th August (BRS *et al*); at Flamborough on 14th July; 8th and 22nd August and 5th September (PAL:DB:JCL:BR:MN:DIMW *et al*) and at Filey on 8th and 22nd August (same as Flamborough) (ABe:PRB:CCT:JH *et al*). Two at Flamborough on 4th September (AG:PAL:MN)

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

A very unseasonal bird off Flamborough on 15th March (DB:BR:BH:PJW:JCL) whilst another was seen here on 9th October (PAL). One at Spurn on 4th September was the first at that location since 1953 (GB).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A very poor year; the first being at Flamborough on 20th June then singles occasionally in

July. The maximum count in August being ten on the 15th then recorded on nine days during September with 26 on the 5th. In October, a total on 134 birds were reported with peaks of 54 on 9th and 50 on 10th. Three birds were recorded in November with one on 26th December. Other coastal locations also reported very low numbers with maxima at Filey of seven on 9th August; at Spurn, of six on 9th October and at Scarborough of 16, also on 9th October.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

As with the previous species, a poor year though at Spurn an improvement on 1991 where the maxima were 22 on 31st July; 51 on 1st August with 17 on 2nd; 34 on 8th then 47 on 4th September.

One at Flamborough on 26th January with birds on four days in March then becoming slightly more frequent by May when the maxima were 52 on 3rd; 117 on 9th and 72 on 17th. Only 153 individuals reported in June: almost daily during July, in small numbers with a total of 533 and a daily maximum of 75 on 25th. A little more numerous in August with 132 on 1st; 163 on 9th and 120 on 14th. Only recorded on 11 days in September with 297 on 5th and then on 11 days in October totalling 60 birds. Singles on three November days and on 20th and 24th December. Recorded only very occasionally at Filey until July when the monthly maximum was 37. The highest count of the year came on 9th August with 201 whilst one to ten were occasionally recorded at Barmston; Hornsea and Scarborough with 14 at Scarborough on 5th July and 13 at Barmston on 16th.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

Scarce away from Flamborough with singles at Spurn on 9th September and at Filey on 11th. One at Flamborough on 30th July; nine on eight August days; four on three days in September and four singles in October.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Tape luring was carried out at Filey where a total of 34 were caught; 13 of which were on 19th July (PJD *et al*); at Flamborough with five on 8th July; 20 on 11th; six on 15th; four on 18th; ten on 22nd; ten on 26th then one on 6th August (PAL *et al*). Three were attracted to lures at Scarborough on 20th June.

The only other record was of one picked up at Sheffield B.R. Station on 14th September being released by the RSPCA on the west coast.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

One flew east at Sunk Island on 6th June (CJHP:HS:JW). Three at Spurn on 10th October when one was at Flamborough; one at Spurn on 11th and three at Flamborough on 12th.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Again no count of the breeding colony at Bempton received but still continues to increase. Good numbers recorded at Flamborough with maxima of 350 on 26th January; 400 on 15th February; 461 on 15th March then larger numbers in April with 776 on 12th and 1200 on 19th; 1050 on 7th June and 858 on 27th then 1590 on 29th August with 2500 on 4th September after which numbers decreased to October peaking in that month with 660 on 12th thereafter becoming scarce. Similar situation at other coastal locations; Spurn having a maxima of 213 on 8th August then 536 on 4th September with 200 on 5th; 205 on 6th and finally 200 on 4th October. Maximum at Filey was reported on 31st December with 165 south and a further 78 in the bay.

Recorded quite frequently along the Humber at Sunk Island with seven on 6th June; 15 west on 5th September with 23 the following day. Further up river; four at Blacktoft Sands on 26th September with one there on 3rd and two on 25th October.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

'Bred as usual on the cliffs to the north of Filey Brig' (FBOG); 20 birds being there on 4th April with 19 nests counted on 24th June. Well distributed along the coast with maximum of 105 at Spurn on 4th September. Small numbers at Flamborough; up to 35; until August then 70 on

18th with 87 on 29th. Larger counts during September with 180 on 4th; 104 on 5th and 112 on 12th. Numbers then decreased into October with a peak of 64 on 9th; less than 25 daily during November and December.

Well distributed at fresh water locations with maxima at Hornsea Mere of 117 on 12th January; 56 on 6th April and up to 45 in May. 26 were present on 16th June then 66 on 9th September; 23 on 19th October after which up to 40 in November and 88 on 20th December. 32 at Hempholme on 10th January and 6th February whilst individuals were present at Puffin Bog all year where the maximum was 20 on 3rd April. Nearby Tophill Low N.R. recorded birds daily with up to 21 in January. Two coloured ringed individuals seen at that location occasionally between 27th September and 10th October had been ringed at Abberton Res. (Essex) in June 1992.

In VC 63 continues to increase both in numbers and locations particularly during the periods March to May and August/September. Recorded almost daily at Blacktoft Sands and Southfield Res.. At the former, peaks were 25 on both 4th January and 27th February whilst up to ten were present at the latter during February/March with up to 12 there during November/December. Other gatherings in this VC were 14 north over Harthill Res. on 17th January; eight northeast over Thorpe Marsh on 1st April; nine at Ingbirchworth Res. on 19th April and eight at Broomhill Ings on the 4th October. Three, followed by 11, north over Sheffield on 20th April.

A similar increase also noted in VC 64 with double figures at Swillington Ings regularly to mid-May and again from late October, maxima being 26 on 2nd February and 31 on 23rd December. At Farnham G.P., 13 in January and at Staveley N.R. also 13, in February.

Present at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, during all months excepting July with maxima of 39 on 2nd January; 50 on 2nd February and 35 on 30th October. Large counts were also recorded at Thornton Steward Res. with 25 on 26th January and 35 on 26th February.

Individuals considered to belong to the Continental race *P.c sinensis* were reported from many locations, usually one or two birds at each but of the birds seen at Hornsea Mere during spring, about 10% showed these characteristics. Up to seven were reported from Tophill Low N.R., also in spring. A small spring passage of this race was reported from VC 65 with a peak of seven at Bolton-on-Swale on 3rd April. Elsewhere, two at Ingbirchworth Res. on 27th April and one at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd March.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

No reports of breeding status received. Largest counts, as usual, were from Flamborough where 208 were present on 19th January. Smaller numbers in February/March then up to 40 daily to mid-August when 70 were reported on 15th and 140 on 22nd. A total of 2662 were recorded on seven days in September with 375 on 12th; 439 on 21st; 620 on 26th and 513 on 27th. Similar numbers were present during October with peaks of 615 on 3rd; 484 on 6th; 504 on 24th then 400+ on four November days peaking with 455 on 14th. Maxima in December were 428 on 13th and 410 on 25th. Smaller counts at Filey with 38 north on 5th October and 56 offshore on 22nd December otherwise one to six there occasionally. Similar small numbers reported from several other coastal locations though 16 at Barmston on 1st October with 23 on 3rd.

One flew west at Sunk Island on 12th December returning east towards the coast later that same day. One on the R. Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 11th October whilst singles were at Southfield Res. on 6th January; from 13th to 28th February with a second individual on 17th; on 4th, 6th, 23rd March and 9th June. One found at Kettlesing (VC 64) on 15th September, being released at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 16th, had been ringed as a nestling at North Berwick on 27th June.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Two at Hornsea Mere on 23rd January with singles there on 26th/27th January; 2nd, 4th and 10th February; 15th March; 10th, 16th and 24th November; 2nd and 28th December. One by the R. Hull, near Tophill Low N.R. on 31st January.

Singles, in VC 63, at Pugneys' C.P. from 1st January to at least the 17th February with another during December; at Potteric Carr from early January to 3rd March and 20th December to the year's end; at Elland G.P. from 1st to 26th January and on 11th March; at Winterset Res.

on 26th January; at Broomhill Ings on 8th September and at Thorpe Marsh on 5th November. Only one record from VC 64 a single at Staveley N.R. on 14th January.

Addition to the 1991 Report: one found dead, enmeshed on barbed wire on a gate post, near Ripon in late November.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

An immature at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R on 29th June with another (or the same?) there on 4th-6th; 14th; 18th and 19th September (many obs.). Not yet submitted to BBRC.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

An adult at Hornsea Mere from 6th to 8th May being present again from 13th to 16th (TDC: EWC *et al*). A party of five, photographed, near Nunnington on 6th May (D. & Mrs. J. Turner)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd May (AG *et al*) whilst one was present at Sandsend (Whitby) from 30th June to 4th July (JM:DR). What was probably the same bird was present from 11th to 15th July between Whitby and Ruswarp being photographed (Yorkshire Birding 2:67) though no further details of this last occurrence have been forthcoming.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Of 35 nests at one location near Driffield on 17th April most appeared to be occupied. 20 pairs bred in the lower Derwent with good success reported but only seven nests were occupied at Scampston. In VC 62; 21 occupied nests at Hutton Ruddy with ten occupied at Sleightholmedale. 21 pairs reared at least 55 young at Bretton Park, VC 63, whilst also in that VC; 14 young were reared from eight to ten nests at Wentworth; at least six nests in the Harden area (Bradford) on 17th May with eight at Great Gate Wood (near Doncaster); eight occupied nests at Bawtry Forest with one pair rearing two young at Sprotbrough Flash. In VC 64; 19 pairs at Dob Park; 30 pairs at Askwith; about seven at Westwick and also bred at Healaugh where no figures were reported. In VC 65, no count was received from Kirby Fleetham.

Large concentrations were reported from areas in the vicinity of these heronries with up to 58 at one trout farm near Driffield and possibly as many as 100 in that area yet exceedingly scarce at Hornsea Mere where birds were reported on only four days throughout the year. Maxima in VC 63 were 45 at Wentworth on 15th April; 23 at Sprotbrough from 23rd to 25th June and 19 at Broomhill Ings on 24th June and 10th August. Peaks in VC 64 being 30 near Westwick Lock in December and 26 at Lindley Wood Res. on 11th September.

Along the coast probable migrants were 12 at Flamborough on 13th June whilst five were observed coming in off the sea at Spurn on 5th September; these no doubt being the birds seen at Sunk Island later that same day.

One bearing a French ring was found dead at Scorton, VC 65; no further details as yet.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

An immature flew west at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 1st May (AG). An immature at Bishop Monkton Ings (PB:CS *et al*) on 14th May was seen later that same day at Staveley N.R. (MGM:RE) before flying off to the southwest. One flew west at Sunk Island (CJHP:JW) on 16th May being seen later that day flying north at Tophill Low N.R. (DB:T1:SM) and north at Flamborough (PAL).

One at Blacktoft Sands on 17th June was joined by a second bird on 29th which may have been the bird seen flying west at Sunk Island on the 21st (JW). The two birds remained at Blacktoft Sands until 10th July with one remaining until the 22nd (AG *et al*). One at Spurn on 18th; 20th and 21st September also being seen at nearby Beacon Lagoons on the 23rd (TC *et al*).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeders in VC 61 were; four pairs at Hornsea Mere (five young); three at Tophill Low N.R. and vicinity; two at Pulfin Bog and one each at Spurn; Scampston (eight young) and Foston. 13

pairs along the lower Derwent where nine pairs reared 23 young. Elsewhere in the York area (VCs 61; 62; 64) a further nine pairs were present; six laying 33 eggs resulting in 18 cygnets though only eight survived. In VC 62; one pair at Burton Riggs G.P. whilst in VC 63; 38 breeding pairs were located of which 27 reared about 98 young. At least 13 pairs were successful in VC 64 whilst in VC 65, single pairs bred at Bolton-on-Swale (four young); Scorton Quarry (six); Leeming Bar (four); Forcett Park (eight) and Nosterfield (two).

The Hornsea Mere flock held 73 on 12th January decreasing to 22 on 16th February and 20 on 15th March. 83 were present on 16th May increasing to 118 by 24th; 163 on 7th June; 194 on 13th; 206 on 17th then 197 on 19th. The maximum count of 255 on 7th July was a record for that location. Only 33 were present on 9th October with 61 on 14th November and 49 on 20th December.

Elsewhere, in VC 61, 62 were between Wansford and Driffild, along the canal and R. Hull, on 7th February and 44 at Hempholme on the 6th. Monthly maxima along the lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area were 60 in May; 56 in June; 72 in July with 56 in both August and September; 45 present at Tophill Low N.R. on 25th October.

Peak counts in VC 63 were 38 at Pugneys' C.P. on 12th March; 31 at Broomhill Ings in January; 23 at the Rother Valley C.P. on 15th March with 42 there in November whilst in VC 64; 59 at Micketown Ings on 6th April was the largest count with 22 at Staveley N.R. in October.

Regrettably, once again, no records have been forthcoming from Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve; the main location for this species in the county.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*

Continues to decline at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. where up to 22 were present during January; 23 in February; 30 in March then one in April remaining to 3rd May. 14 had returned by 22nd November with six on 30th December. Elsewhere in VC 61; 11 over the Humber at Spurn on 2nd February with ten at Tophill Low N.R. on 21st/22nd February. Four south at Filey on 6th November no doubt being the four reported at Flamborough the following day whilst nine flew south at Filey on 10th December.

In VC 63; regular in the Idle valley (Yorks/Notts borders) to the 15th March with maxima of 67 on 26th January; 68 on 4th February; 57 on 1st March then 26 on 28th December. 14 were at Edderthorpe on 16th January whilst at Broomhill Ings, eight were reported regularly to 5th March. During the latter months; 13 north over Langsett on 8th October also being seen that day over the Loxley valley; 33 at Winterset Res. on 10th December.

A poor year in VC 64 with only seven records; 15 departed from Swillington Ings on 7th March with ten northwest there and later over Roundhay Park (Leeds) on 29th. Six at Thruscross Res. on 18th January. Two at Knotford Nook on 8th and 18th December with one at Staveley N.R. on 17th.

Also scarcer in VC 65 than in recent years with one at Nosterfield from 4th to 9th January and another there in December. Singles occasionally in early spring at Great Langton (no birds wintering there this year).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

A pair with two cygnets at Studley Park on 11th August.

In VC 61 the monthly maxima at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. were; January 35; February 25; March 28 then ten in April with the last two on 17th. Two had returned by 8th October increasing to 22 in November and 48 in December. 28 flew south at Spurn on 8th March whilst one remained at Hornsea Mere from 27th April to 10th May. During the latter months; 13 south at Filey on 7th November; 11 south at Spurn on 5th December whilst one to eight were occasionally recorded at a further seven locations. In VC 63; up to 27 were reported regularly at Broomhill Ings from 1st January to 20th March, these no doubt being the birds reported from Edderthorpe on 11th January; 15 at Broomhill on 2nd/3rd April when 17 were at Pugneys' C.P. Five had returned to this location by 11th October increasing to 26 by the end of that month; 28 from 5th November to 12th December then 29 from 15th to 31st. Elsewhere in this VC; one to eight being reported from 11 locations during the early months with one to six at nine during the latter months.

Up to ten at 12 locations during the early months in VC 64; the last being on 20th April. Up to 40 were reported from the Birkin area with 15 in the Swillington area on 1st February. 18 over High Batts N.R. and Staveley N.R. on 23rd March on which date ten passed over Scar House Res.. 25 over Ripon on 28th September were the first returning birds with 15 in Ripon Parks during early October. Ten at Gouthwaite Res. on 27th and 12 over Eccup Res. on 28th October. Up to nine at many locations during the last three months of the year.

In VC 65, the wintering flock at Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton had 29 from 4th to 18th January; 26 during February then 25 to 15th March. The first to return in this VC were seven at Great Langton on 17th October followed by strong passage throughout the area during this month and early November involving possibly 150 birds. The Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton flock held 46 from 29th November to 19th December then 48 from 20th to the year's end (this being a record count for that area). One to six were occasionally reported from a further five locations.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

One at Kelk remained from 1991 to 11th January; one at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. on 10th February. Two at Blacktoft Sands on 11th January with one west there on 19th. One at Boothwood Res. on 10th May with one at Great Langton on 27th/28th November.

Birds considered to belong to the Russian race *A.f.rossicus*, were present at Hay-a-Park with three between 11th and 16th January; one, probably of this race, at Great Langton from 1st January to 3rd April whilst one showing some characteristics of this race was at Broomhill Ings from 12th January to 3rd April.

Addition to the 1991 Report: Singles at Hornsea Mere on 5th; 19th; 26th January and 23rd February.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Scant records from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge where up to 34 were reported in January and 115 in February. During January skeins were reported from many locations with 300 west over Harrogate on 5th; 102 north at Blacktoft Sands; 102 at Pellon; 200 west at Broomhill Ings; 200 at Pugneys' C.P. and 200 over Otley, all on the 7th with 260+ over Otley on 12th. On the 13th, 130 over Skipwith; 100 over Pateley Bridge; 210 northwest over Lindley Moor with 54 west at Winscar Res. and 200 southwest over Thorne Moors. On 20th; 200 southwest at Glasshoughton and 100 west at North Anston the following day. In February, 280 flew north at Blacktoft Sands on 14th with 300 southwest at Crookes that day. 400 flew west over Shipley, in four skeins, on 20th and 150 northwest over Thorne Moors. 150 west at Lindley Moor on 27th March with 106 west at Law Moor on 29th.

One to four remained through the summer, in company with Greylag or Canada Geese, at several locations.

The first returning birds were two at Spurn on 27th September then during October, up to 60 occasionally reported passing southwest over VC 63 and, in November, slightly more passage with, on the 7th, 187 south at Spurn; 38 east at Sunk Island and 70 west over Lindley Moor. 240 west at Southfield Res. on 20th and, on 28th, 400 southeast over Strines Top and 112 east at Thrybergh C.P.. Widespread passage on 12th December with 290, in four skeins, west at Walshaw Dean; 120 west at Scamonden Dam; 200 over Leighton Res., Gouthwaite Res. and Pateley Bridge; 120+ over Ilkley and 130 over Gladhow, Leeds.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

The only record during the early months was of two at Forcett Park on 26th January. 11 flew east to the Humber at Blacktoft Sands on 17th October with nine from the east at Sunk Island on 24th. Singles at Filey Dams on 12th November; Tophill Low N.R. on 12th; 14th and 19th December; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th whilst three called briefly at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. on the 30th.

Two of the Greenland race *A.a.flavirostris* were at Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton from 1st January to 9th April.

Individuals which may involve feral or semi-feral birds were reported from Kelk, on many days of the year and at Hornsea Mere where two were present on 10th May; one on 14th; four on

28th June with six on 2nd July remaining to 9th; nine on 16th then six again on the 20th.

Addition to the 1991 Report: Six over Barnsley on 17th October and one at Blacktoft Sands on 6th December.

Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*

Although greatly under reported in VC 61, breeding status would appear to be one of increase and spread. Two pairs; seven young at Pulfin Bog; four pairs with 14 young at Kelk; two pairs at Tophill Low N.R.; 15+ pairs at Hornsea Mere but no young (all predated). Bred as usual along the Lower Derwent Valley N.R. (no details) and at Skipwith Common. One pair with seven young on the R.Foss in York. In VC 62, one pair at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough whilst in VC 63; three pairs with three young at Blacktoft Sands; one pair, three young at Potteric Carr and one pair with three young at Thorne Moors. Still increasing in VC 64 with breeding now occurring on the moors above Pateley Bridge as well as at many lowland locations. In VC 65, also increasing as a breeder with 27 young at Bolton-on-Swale; 75 at Scorton Quarry; 13 at Stapleton and eight at Cleasby. Also bred along the R. Swale between Great Langton and Catterick although no numbers were reported.

Large counts were reported from many locations with peaks of 445 at Hornsea Mere on 12th January; 616 on 16th June and 625 on 19th July; at Tophill Low N.R. up to 100 during the early months then 400 on 4th August increasing to 600 on 16th; 1000 on 19th with 1660 on 25th and 1500 on 26th thereafter decreasing to 450 on 28th. 250 at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. in December with 800 flying into there in parties of up to 120 during the three hours to dusk on the 6th. Up to 508 at Castle Howard in January and 465 there in November. 87 over Lower Gorpel Res. on 29th March was the largest count in VC 63. In VC 64, widespread with 500 at Farnham G.P. in September; 367 at Staveley N.R. in December; 250 at Hay-a-Park in September whilst in VC 65; 638 in the Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton area on 26th January; 714 on 28th March; 448 on 11th April; 530 on 31st October and 760 on 20th December. 300 at Stapleton on 15th October and 460 at Nosterfield on 15th September.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Two pairs on Dallowgill Moor during spring but considered to have failed in breeding as no increase was noted at the usual post breeding locations. Up to six birds frequented several lowland locations in the Harrogate area during the year excepting during May/June.

Singles at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th June and from 9th to 12th August. One south at Spurn on 21st April.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

As with Greylag Goose, under reported in VC 61 with breeding only reported from Filey Dams; Hornsea Mere and the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. One or two pairs bred at five locations in VC 62 producing about 30 young. In VC 63, breeding was recorded at 23 locations where some 39 pairs were located; full details of young not being reported. In VC 64, 'numerous pairs bred at many locations - continues to be very successful'. A single pair bred at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, being the first occurrence at that location.

Large gatherings at many locations; maxima in VC 61 being: 1000 at the Lower Derwent Valley N.R. on 21st November though generally less than 250 there; 192 at Hornsea Mere on 12th January; 156 at Filey Dams in December (Primrose Valley birds). Castle Howard, VC 62, had 180 in February whilst in VC 63 maxima were; 580 at Pugneys' C.P. on 27th and 29th August; 390 at Winterset Res. on 11th November; 320 in the Rother Valley C.P. during November with 300 at Harthill Res. on 12th September; 296 at Bretton Park on 18th October; 280 at Cannon Hall on 17th November and 264 at Newmillerdam on 13th September. In VC 64; 640 at Eccup Res. on 29th August; 465 at Farnham G.P. during February; 450 at Hay-a-Park in October; 400 at Gwendale, Ripon in January and 320 in Harewood Park on 18th October. 348 were at Nosterfield, VC 65, on 25th August with 249 at Thornton Steward Res. on 18th January.

Birds of one of the smaller races, but of unknown origin, were reported from Nosterfield with four on 1st October; one at Southfield Res. on 10th June and one in the Rother Valley C.P. from 10th May to 1st June.

Barnacle Goose *Brant leucopsis*

Single pairs bred at Catton Hall (one young); Bretton Park and Blacktoft Sands; no young at the last two. Up to six birds were present at lowland gravel pits in the Harrogate area during the year whilst one to three were resident in the Leeds area.

The flock at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge remained from 1991 into the present year with 34 being reported until 7th January then single birds occasionally during the remainder of that month though 14 flew west there on 21st. 33 on the Humber at Blacktoft Sands on 9th January would be the Refuge birds. Elsewhere, 28 south at Filby on 22nd April with 38 over West Layton (VC 65) on 4th November. Five were at Otley G.P. on 1st January with three at Stapleton on 18th April. Singles at Sunk Island on 8th/9th February and at Spurn on 4th/5th October.

Small numbers in company with the Greylag Goose flock at Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton during both winters with five on 28th December as maximum.

Birds of probable feral origin were occasionally recorded during the summer months at Tophill Low N.R. and Puffin Bog whilst the wintering flock at Hornsea Mere, considered to originate from Flamingoland, held 147 on 12th January; 151 on 9th February then four on 15th March and seven on 25th April. 143 had returned by 14th November with 140 on 20th December.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Recorded at Spurn during every month except August with maxima of 258 in January; 461 in February; 270 in March; 149 in April then 28 in May with up to five in June; the last being two on the 22nd. One present on 25th/26th July then one from 2nd to 12th September; three on 17th thereafter increasing to 61 by the 30th when 51 also flew south offshore. Up to 185 during October with 110 in November and 282 in December. Also regularly reported from nearby Beacon Lagoons with high numbers during the early months when maximum was 500+ on 15th February.

Very few along the coast with 11 at Filey on 23rd September and eight at Scarborough that same day. Eight also south at Barmston on 30th September. Two were at Flamborough on 20th June whilst one was at Filey on 22nd July. Small numbers also along the Humber at Sunk Island during February/early March also with 18 there on 14th November. Singles were reported from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 17th January; 11th and 19th February whilst further upstream at Blacktoft Sands three were present on 3rd March with one on 8th; two on 30th September; five on 4th and one on 27th October; one on 1st November.

Inland; two north over Southfield Res. on 14th May with three there on 9th November. One in the Knaresborough/Staveley area from early January to 7th March. Two on the R. Aire at Woodlesford on 11th February. One at Swillington Ings on 11th June.

Individuals of the race *B.h.hvota* (Pale-breasted Brent Goose) were on the Humber at Spurn on 13th and 22nd June. One at Flamborough on 22nd July with two on 23rd September whilst one was at Filey on 11th November.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Four at the Rother Valley C.P. on 7th March whilst singles were at Givendale on the 14th February; Nosterfield on 19th April; Tophill Low N.R. on 5th May and at Broomhill Ings from 10th to 12th May.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

All records published with the escape proviso. Two at the Rother Valley C.P. on 1st April; 5th May and 24th June. Two at Worsbrough Res. on 28th April; Carlton Marsh on 4th May. A pair at Harthill Res. on 18th and 21st June; a pair at Redcar Tarn (near Keighley) on 1st September and Tophill Low N.R. on 2nd.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

The only breeding record from coastal/estuarine locations was of an estimated ten pairs at Blacktoft Sands; no young were seen on the lagoons but a creche of 35 was on the river on 30th July. Inland, bred in VC 61 at Tophill Low N.R. where four pairs suffered heavy predation; one pair at Puffin Bog; an estimated 40 pairs at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. but no further

details being received. In VC 63; one pair with eight young at Carlton Marsh though one survived; one pair, seven young at Lighthazzles Res.; two pairs, 13 young at Armholme Res. and three pairs, 11 young in the Idle valley. In VC 64; at Swillington Ings, three pairs; Leventhorpe, one or two pairs. 16 young were present at Masham G.P., VC 65, in June with single pairs at Bolton-on-Swale with three young; Leyburn with eight young; Scorton with seven young whilst 16 young were also present at Nosterfield. Birds/pairs were also present at a further 14 locations in the county during the summer months but no definite breeding reported.

Along the Humber, up to 300 at Spurn in January with 158 in February then less than 50 to September when increased to 107 with 697 in October falling to 20 in November and 32 in December. At Sunk Island usually less than 100 until late May when 368 were present on the 29th then 510 on 28th June; 946 on 10th July; 2240 on 10th August decreasing to 300 on 26th September then less than 150 excepting 260 on 8th November. The monthly maxima at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were 385 in January and 690 in February whilst at Blacktoft Sands up to 44 were present in January increasing to 254 on 24th April then 165 in May after which fewer during the rest of the year excepting peaks of 86 in October and 61 in December.

Inland, numbers in VC 61 were small though 42 at Tophill Low N.R. in late March. In VC 63, the highest counts were generally associated with passage; 58 east in two parties at Gorple Res. on 6th July on which date 63, also in two parties, flew southeast at Wintersett Res. 71 east at Thornton Moor Res. on 19th July. 16 flew west at Southfield Res. on 7th September with 20 west there on 18th. 32 at Swillington Ings, VC 64, on 18th May with 21 there on 20th December.

Easterly passage was recorded at Spurn in June with 107 between the 10th and 15th; 348 between 22nd and 25th and, in July, 782 between the 7th and 12th then 369 from 16th to 22nd. 283 were seen to leave to the east at Sunk Island on 10th July. Westerly passage at Blacktoft Sands on 31st August with 47 then 28 on 2nd September and 42 on 10th.

Excepting 228 passing Flamborough on 9th July and 110 at Barmston on 30th November, few were noted along the coast.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

An increase in records. In VC 62, a male was present all year at Castle Howard; a pair on 2nd March and 23rd September with a second male on 5th May. In VC 63, a female present at Holmfirth for most of the year; a female at Worsbrough Res. from January to March; Tong Park Res. from 16th April to 16th May; Broomhill Ings on 2nd February; 18th; 22nd and 25th August. A male at Potteric Carr from 10th to 18th October and a female at Notherwood Marsh on 25th October. A pair was on the R. Don at Beeley Wood on 8th November whilst eight (four males) were at Broomhead Res. on 28th November with up to nine (five males) present there during December.

In VC 64, a male at Bardsley (near Leeds), on 26th May; two males at Wothersome Park, Leeds, on 30th May. Single males on the R. Aire at Hirst Wood, Bradford, on 3rd June and at Cottingley Bridge the same day and again on 13th December. A single female at Roundhay Park, Leeds, on 29th November.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Confirmed breeding from the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. where a single juvenile was seen with a female on 15th July. Additionally at least six other pairs summered there. Bred in VC 63 at Redmires Res. where a single pair successfully reared two young; the first confirmed breeding occurrence for this VC. Bred at Grimwith Res., in VC 64, where two broods of four and eight were present on 26th May. Three pairs were present at Whitaside Tarn, VC 65, on 3rd June with birds also present at Summerlodge Tarn.

Monthly maxima at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. were 3300 in January; 4000 in February; 1000 in March with 750 in April; 300 in October; 2500 in November and 7000 in December. Tophill Low N.R. had 1020 in January; 1390 in February; 1700 in March with 100 in September; 652 in October; 500 in November and 1000 in December. Only small numbers at Hornsea Mere where 466 in January was the maximum. 1200 at Hempholme on 12th January with 1250 there on 27th but only 60 on 6th February then increased to 980 by 4th March decreased gain to 270 on 15th.

Generally 3000 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during January but 4300 on 26th with 2500

during February though with peaks of 3540 on 12th and 4020 on 20th. At Blacktoft Sands, VC 63, 1100 were present on 30th January then up to 265 in February; 320 in March; 220 in October; 260 in November and 560 in December (27th). 397 at Broomhill Ings on 26th January was a record for that location with 388 there in February and 396 on 14th March; numbers during the latter months had increased to 300 by the year's end. Winterset Res. also reported record numbers of 395 on 2nd February with other large counts of 288 on 29th January and 284 on 28th December. Up to 200 in the Rother Valley C.P. during February whilst no other location in this VC recorded more than 200.

Swillington Ings, VC 64, held the largest numbers in this VC with 275 on 12th January; 177 still present on 4th April after which birds were occasionally recorded until early May. Returning birds from late July slowly increasing to 400+ on 5th November. Elsewhere, Eccup Res. had 182 on 11th January; 172 on 5th February and 130 on 31st December.

Record counts for VC 65 were reported from Bolton-on-Swale with 2190 on 26th January then 1650 on 17th February and 1200 on 15th March. 834 were present on 28th November increasing to 1350 by 27th December. Maxima elsewhere in this VC were 315 at Thornton Steward Res. on 29th February; 326 at Leyburn on 22nd February and 350 at Forcett Park on 1st November.

Southerly passage at Spurn reported in autumn with 260 on 29th September; 234 on 27th October and 608 on 9th November. Further north, 160 south at Barnston on 1st; 100 on 3rd October and 135 on 30th November. 141 at Flamborough on 10th October; 87 at Filey on 23rd September when 85 flew north at Scarborough.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

An average breeding season at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. with probably seven pairs; the first young being seen on 8th June. Single pairs at Blacktoft Sands and Methley C.P. with seven and six young each; two pairs at Potteric Carr with a total of 12 young and three successful pairs at Denaby Ings. The only reported breeding in VC 64 was at Swillington Park where two pairs reared 15 young.

The highest counts in VC 61 were from Hornsea Mere where 148 were present on 12th January; 79 on 16th February then below 35 until an increase in June with 50 on 16th but only 45 in July thereafter increasing to 124 on 23rd August then 165 on 9th September; 73 on 19th October; 232 on 14th November and 205 on 20th December. Peaks at Tophill Low N.R. were 59 in January; 28 in February; 12 in March; 44 in September; 70 in October; 31 in November and 18 in December. Up to 25 at Nafferton Mere during the early months whilst small numbers were reported from Filey Dams; Puffin Bog and Kelk which would indicate a slow spread in this VC.

The main location in VC 63; Potteric Carr; held up to 56 in January; 50 in March; 102 in September; 95 in October with 120 on 14th November (record for the Doncaster area). 24 at Denaby Ings on 7th March. The largest gatherings in VC 64 were at Swillington Ings where over 100 were recorded during seven months of the year with a peak of 140 on 9th September. Mickletown Ings had 32 on 6th February and 44 on 10th November whilst at Farnham G.P., the maxima were 22 in January and 32 in both November and December. Small numbers only in VC 65; one to three at Bolton-on-Swale during both winters and four present at Forcett Park from 29th August to 6th September.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Between 30 and 32 pairs estimated to have bred at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R.; this being the only breeding in VC 61. No breeding records from VC 62 whilst in VC 63 only nine pairs were reported from upland locations but at least 29 from lowland ones. Bred at Gouthwaite Res., in VC 64, and at Whitaside Tarn, VC 65.

Monthly maxima in the Lower Derwent were; January, 950; February, 4000; March, 140; September, 250; October, 450; November, 1800 and December, 2000. Tophill Low N.R.; January, 300; February, 181; March 256; September, 320; October, 532; November 310 and December, 210.; at Hornsea Mere: January, 298; February, 159; March 15; September, 150; October, 215; November 376 with 410 in December. Up to 622 were present on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in January with 240 in February. Very few at Sunk Island during the early months with no comment for the latter though passage noted with 116 on 22nd August; 155 on

5th; 272 on 6th September and 111 on 4th October. Few also at Spurn though southerly passage in autumn with 106 on 30th August; 220 on 6th September; 577 on 11th October with 245 on 29th then 290 on 9th November. Similarly, at Flamborough, 215 on 7th and 228 on 11th September whilst on this latter date, 426 were reported at Barmston.

Very few reported from VC 62. Maxima reported from VC 63 were; Blacktoft Sands; January 275; August, 420; September, 820; October, 1050 (22nd) and November, 646. At Broomhill Ings; 531 on January 26th with 361 in September, 413 in October and 339 in December. Other maxima in this VC being; Potteric Carr, 500 in January and 450 in December; Thorpe Marsh, 398 in October with similar counts in November; Blaxton G.P., 300 in October and the Idle valley, 450 during October/November. Up to 250 occasionally at a further 12 locations.

Peak counts in VC 64 were 365 in January and 659 in October at Gouthwaite Res.; 363 on 18th January with 244 on 13th December at Swillington Ings. Several other locations occasionally holding 100 to 200 during the winter though 100 in January at Roundhill Res. was a very good number for that location. Only Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, held large numbers with peaks of 322 on 12th January; 240 on 19th February and 197 on 19th November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

250 to 300 pairs bred at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. No other details on breeding though status would appear to be unchanged.

The only locations in VC 61 to hold more than 1000 were the Lower Derwent with 1050 in January; 2000 in November and 3200 in December; Tophill Low N.R. with 1990 in January; 2000 in February then 1150 on 11th August, following an influx, 1700 in September; 1700 in October and 2250 in December. 1433 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in January.

The highest count from VC 62 was of 371 at Castle Howard on 16th September where seven small ducklings were present on 7th November. In VC 63; 933 at Broomhill Ings on 25th August with 600 in December. 800 at Thorpe Marsh in September; 725 at Potteric Carr in January and 600 in December with 606 at Cridling Stubbs on 7th December. The peak of 440 at Blacktoft Sands on 12th September was the lowest 'peak' ever reported from that location.

Peaks in VC 64 were 610 at Eccup Res. on 27th January; 588 on 28th October and 636 on 23rd November whilst 395 were at Farnham G.P. in January. 354 at Gouthwaite Res. in December and 350 at Harewood Park on 30th October. In VC 65, 1189 at Leighton Res. on 20th December whilst Bolton-on-Swale had much lower than usual numbers with 430 in December as the peak.

Addition to the 1991 Report: 1000 at Leighton Res. in January.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Three pairs probably bred along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. being reported regularly from early April to mid May, appearing to be on territory. The maximum count here being 12 on 5th December.

Up to six at Sunk Island during the early months. Westerly passage there from 23rd August with up to 20 on many dates and 32 on 4th October. Up to six occasionally at Spurn from January to March then, in autumn, offshore passage with 23 south on 30th August and 62 between 7th and 11th September with 13 on 23rd; 18 on 29th and 11 on 4th November. Similar situation at other coastal locations though with smaller numbers; 12 south at Filey on both 29th August and 16th September; 18 at Barmston on 13th and 27 on 29th September. Excepting 18 on 17th September, very few at Hornsea Mere whilst at Tophill Low N.R. also very few though 71 present on 23rd September.

In VC 63, up to five at some 15 locations during the early months and up to seven at ten during the latter. Larger counts were reported from Blacktoft Sands with 36 on 30th August; up to 55 during September; 28 on 7th October and 101 on 3rd November with few afterwards. 40 flew west there on 7th September with 65 west on 13th. Elsewhere, 13 north at Broomhill Ings on 20th February and 13 present during September. 31 west at Southfield Res. on 7th September (see Blacktoft) with 12 west on 9th when seven flew southwesterly at Winterset Res.. After 14 west there on 1st, 15 west at Skelmanthorpe on 3rd and ten west at Redmires Res. on 1st September.

Singles, mainly, during the early months at six locations in VC 64 but up to ten in January at

Swillington Ings with nine in February and 12 during March/April. This location had seven in September; 13 in October; six in November with eight during December. Ten at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th September. Marked passage in autumn but usually only of singles though recorded at 14 locations including Malham Tarn where normal very scarce.

Scarce at Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, with maximum of only three on 12th February; also one to three occasionally at Leighton Res.; Forcett Park; Stapleton and Nosterfield.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Up to seven pairs were present on the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. where it is considered that between four and six pairs bred with the first young seen on 12th July.

A pair were present at Wombwell Ings on many days of May and June whilst at Edderthorpe a pair was present from 22nd to 26th March; from 8th to 16th April then on 29th May and 1st/2nd June with a drake from 4th to 6th May and regularly from 3rd to 22nd June – breeding may have been attempted.

A male was at Hornsea Mere on 16th February being the earliest ever reported in Yorkshire; this bird remaining until 1st March with one or two occasionally in May. Two pairs present at Filey Dams during most of June with three birds there during the last week of July and four from 4th August to 1st September then one or two to 22nd September. One or two quite regularly at Tophill Low N.R. from early May to mid September with six or seven individuals considered to have been involved. Singles occasionally at Sunk Island and Pulfin Bog whilst two flew south at Spurn on 29th August.

In VC 63, the pair at Wombwell Ings were joined by a second male on 17th May; all three being present to the end of that month with only the pair during June; only single birds on four days in July excepting three on the 26th. One to five almost daily in August including three juveniles on 27th then, in September, up to five to the 18th with six on 2nd; 3rd and 8th; one to four from 25th with the last three on 9th October. One to three at Blacktoft Sands from 12th May to 2nd June then two or three from 27th June to 2nd August. Elsewhere, singles occasionally at Potteric Carr and Ingbirchworth Res..

A male at Staveley N.R., VC 64, on 7th May; one or two males at Leventhorpe Hall Pond from 14th to 27th May and on 2nd June. One to three at Swillington Ings from 28th July to 3rd September with four on 25th August. Single at Eccup Res. on 9th August.

In VC 65, a pair at Pallett hill on 2nd April whilst at Scorton, a male from 7th to 11th June with two juveniles from 22nd to 27th August.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

An estimated 40 pairs bred at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. with single pairs at both Pulfin Bog and Tophill Low N.R. In VC 63, seven pairs at Broomhill Ings had 33 young; seven pairs at Blacktoft Sands also having 33 young though only reared ten; four pairs at Denaby Ings; two at Potteric Carr and one at Armthorpe. Although pairs summered at three locations in VC 64, none bred.

Excellent counts at Tophill Low N.R., VC 61, where monthly maxima were; January 28; February 25; March 51; August 130; September 310; October 140; November 115 then 30 in December. Hornsea Mere also had good numbers with 168 on 12th January; 118 on 16th February; 59 on 15th March then 76 by 17th August; 122 on 17th September decreasing to 44 on 19th October with 55 on 14th November and finally 77 on 20th December. Monthly peaks on the Lower Derwent were 60 in March with 100 in April; 60 in July and 100 during both November and December. Regular at Pulfin Bog with peaks of 28 on 29th August and up to 19 in March; 18 in April and then 14 to 18 in July with occasionally double figures in September and October.

Peak counts in VC 63 were 104 at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd October with 56 on 10th April; Broomhill Ings recorded 59 on 29th February; 66 on 13th March; 72 on 22nd September then up to 59 during October and November with 73 on 19th/20th December. Up to 90 were at Potteric Carr during October and 42 at Sprotbrough Flash in October.

The only location to hold significant numbers in VC 64 was Swillington Ings where peak counts were 130 on 16th February and 183 on 5th October. 20 at Eccup Res. on 29th September whilst many locations held smaller numbers occasionally, particularly during the autumn. 23 at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th September and 15 on 1st November at Fawcett Park were the peak counts in VC 65.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A female at Hornsea Mere on 12th and 23rd January; male there from 10th May to 2nd August. Male on 17th September with a pair on 8th; 11th and 14th November. At Tophill Low N.R., females were present on 15th April; 28th/29th June with an eclipse male on 27th September.

A female was at Castle Howard on 30th June whilst in VC 63; two males at Thrybergh C.P. on 13th October; a male at Winterset Res. remained from 1991 to 25th January whilst at nearby Pugneys' C.P., a male (the same?) was present from 26th January to at least 21st February. A first year female at Swillington Ings, VC 64, on 29th February may have been the bird also there on 4th July and two other July days; four in August and three in September then once in both October and November. This same bird was at Allerton Bywater on 1st March. A female on the R. Aire at Baildon on 17th September.

In VC 65, a female present at Cleasby from 1991 remained to 8th March whilst an immature male was at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th May.

All are published with the escape proviso.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

13 pairs bred at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. (no further details). Bred in VC 63 at Blacktoft Sands where probably nine pairs were present but success very low with only two broods totalling 12 of which only four are thought to have fledged. A female with four small young at Newmillerdam on 25th June; one large juvenile still present on 23rd July. The only breeding in VC 64 was at Mickletown Ings where two pairs produced nine young.

Outside the breeding season, numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. were very low with 140 in December as the maximum. The monthly peaks at Hornsea Mere were 886 on 12th January; 265 on 16th February then below 50 from mid March to late June after which increased to 235 on 16th July; 550+ on 20th August then 990 on 22nd September; 660 on 19th October; 504 on 14th November and 775 on 20th December. At Tophill Low N.R. maxima were; January 108; February 155; March 80; September 50; October 140; November 100 and December 90 though 96 were present on 25th June. Good numbers at nearby Pulfin Bog with 44 on 9th February; 74 on 15th then a location record of 94 on 23rd. 56 present on 8th March then monthly maxima of up to 35.

51 at Castle Howard was the peak count in VC 62 whilst in VC 63, 158 at Winterset Res. on 26th January but only 88 on 18th September (lowest autumn maximum since 1980). 101 at Thrybergh C.P. in February with 81 in November; 144 at Southfield Res. in January; 223 on 15th February and 129 on 9th November whilst 112 were in the Rother Valley C.P. in January and 150 in November.

400+ at Swillington Ings, VC 64, during January/February with c 300 at Malham Tarn on 14th February. No other location holding more than 60 during the early months. 153 at Swillington Ings on 13th June contained only two females. These two locations held the largest numbers during the latter months with 350 at Malham Tarn on 18th October and up to 200 at Swillington Ings in December. Several locations had up to 30 birds but 90 were at Farnley Balance Res. (Leeds), on 26th December.

Peak counts in VC 65 came from Bolton-on-Swale with 149 on 12th January; 148 on 15th November and 182 on 26th December.

Very little coastal passage reported with 22 south at Spurn on 27th October and a similar number at Flamborough on 13th October. 75 flew west at Sunk Island on 3rd October whilst further up-stream, at Blacktoft Sands, 17 flew west on 21st October and 206 on 9th November.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A male at Winterset Res. on 9th May (PB:DG:PLM:PS). The returning male was at Swillington Ings on 10th; 18th March; 9th April; 13th and 31st May; 1st; 2nd; 7th to 9th; 14th; 16th and 18th June (AJR *et al.*). What was no doubt the same bird was at Mickletown Ings on 17th May (WJH).

Addition to the 1990 Report: A male at Malham Tarn on 13th January (KM).

Addition to the 1991 Report: A first year male at Thrybergh C.P. from 7th to 24th October (KJH:DRP:RJS:AR)

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A male at Swillington Ings until 5th January then again from 24th January to 2nd February (ELH:MB *et al.*). This bird was then relocated along the Aire valley at Mickletown Ings on 4th; 18th and 24th February (BT). A female at Allerton Bywater on 12th January (JM); 16th and 22nd February (DPB) with a male present at the same location on 18th February (JM).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A disappointing breeding season in VC 61 with only about 30 pairs along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R., owing to drought; one pair at Tophill Low N.R.; three pairs at Pulfin Bog; three in the vicinity of Winteringham and Thorpe Bassett. Bred in VC 62 at Brandsby, two pairs; Newburgh, three and Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, one. In VC 63 breeding was reported from some 23 locations where some 36 pairs reared about 136 young. Five further pairs bred but no details of young received whilst breeding was reported from a further four locations with no details at all received. In VC 64; 15 pairs bred at five locations in the Leeds area producing 90 young. Elsewhere only three pairs known to have bred but no details forthcoming with no data at all received from the Harrogate area. Breeding numbers continue to decline at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, where only three pairs reared 11 young; six broods totalling 21 were at Scorton Quarry with breeding also occurring at Forcett Park; Catterick and Nosterfield.

Peak counts at Hornsea Mere, VC 61, were, January 664; February, 215; March, 248; April 395 then decreasing to 35 by 14th June after which increased to 175 on 16th July; 310 in August; September, 385; October, 410; November 536 and December 660. Maxima at Tophill Low N.R. were January, 500; February 410; March 440; April 180; May 114; June 277; July 290; August 550; September 700; October 725; November 292 and December 360. At nearby Pulfin Bog, maximum was 63 in March; Hempholme, 70 in February with 180 at Nafferton Mere, also in February.

Winterset Res., VC 63, had 329 on 26th January; 325 on 12th September; 321 on 17th October and 263 on 13th December. 320 present at Pugneys' C.P. on 4th January with 470 on 26th then 384 on 30th December. 260 at Thrybergh C.P. in January.

Maxima at Swillington Ings were 500 in January; 621 on 2nd February; 398 on 5th September and 700+ in December. Only three other locations in VC 64 recorded more than 100 birds: Hay-a-Park with 150 in August; 109 in September and 137 in October; Eccup Res. having 105 on 28th January and, at Mickletown Ings, 103 on 6th January and 120 on 21st September. Bolton-on-Swale had the largest counts in VC 65 with 129 on 15th August; 170 on 25th August and 163 on 15th November.

Very small numbers along the coast with up to ten occasionally at Spurn in July as the maximum.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Small numbers along the coast with maxima of nine at Flamborough on 6th December and five there on 27th whilst seven were reported at Spurn on 23rd September and 13 off Barnston on 30th November. Four were off the front at Scarborough on 29th March.

Inland, in VC 61, singles occasionally at Tophill Low N.R. with two there from 18th to 25th May and three on 9th August. A pair at Hornsea Mere on 12th January with singles there occasionally. A female at Kelk on 12th January with a male on 23rd September. Three at Nafferton Mere on 2nd January with two remaining until the 14th and one to the 23rd.

One at Castle Howard on 30th June being the only inland record in VC 62 whilst VC 63 also had a quiet year with one or two at three locations during January to March. One at Cridling Stubbs on 5th July; one or two at Winterset Res. between 24th September and 16th October and finally, one on the R. Trent at Blacktoft Sands on 20th December.

In VC 64, birds were present at Swillington Ings until 3rd June with a maxima of 12 in January; nine in February; ten in March and April with four in May; during this period it is considered that at least 15 individuals were involved. Also during these months singles were reported from a further five locations including one at Hay-a-Park until 3rd June and another at Beaver Dyke Res. until the 10th. Fewer were reported during the autumn; two at Swillington Ings on 28th July; one on 9th August; 16 on 15th November and one on 22nd December. Singles at Chelker Res. from 10th to 13th October; Malham Tarn, 10th October and at Farnley Balance

Res.(Leeds), on 18th October.

Only one record from VC 65; a female at Nosterfield on 29th February.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

The largest numbers were reported from Flamborough with 341 during January of which 207 were recorded on the 11th; 58 on 12th and 57 on 13th. Smaller numbers during February/March with less than ten in April/May and only five summering. Increase during September and October but low counts in November excepting 291 on the 29th; erratic counts in December but 80 on 12th. At Barmston few until 7th June when 25 flew north; small numbers then until 41 north on 30th November but 81 north on 1st December and 110 on 9th. 21 at Filey in February being the highest count there until 40 in November and 46 during December. Few at Spurn where the maxima were 48 on 10th January and 21 on 15th November. The highest count reported from Whitby was 15 on 12th January. Occasionally recorded along the Humber at Sunk Island with singles on 16th February; 31st July and 15th November. Three west there on 22nd February; seven west on 8th November with four from the west on 29th.

The only record from fresh water was of a female at Worley Moor Res. on 14th November.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Small numbers along the coast; singles at Spurn on three occasions with two south on 4th September. At Barmston, singles on two days whilst at Flamborough birds were reported on 15 days with five on 16th October and eight on 15th November. One or two on 11 days at Filey. One at Cornelian Bay on 30th April was the only occurrence in VC 62.

Along the Humber; one at Sunk Island on 1st May with seven west there on 15th November.

Inland, one at Tophill Low N.R. from 19th to 31st October and at Hornsea Mere, the female present at the end of 1991 remained until 23rd January; one from 2nd to 9th February (same?) and a male from 15th to 21st April. In VC 63; single males at Southfield Res. from 24th April to 1st May and at Withens Clough from 13th June to 6th July with a female at Ringstone Edge Res. from 20th to 24th June and a female/immature at Catcliffe Flash on 15th October.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Large numbers at Filey during January/February with monthly maxima of 770 and 750 respectively after which 50 or less until 90 in July. 237 passed north on 8th August after which monthly maxima were: September 100; October, 40; November 121; December 30. Variable counts at Flamborough during the early months with peaks of 184 on 12th January; 120 on 8th March then 177 on 15th and 190 on 22nd. Less than 100 until 441 on 13th June; 152 on 14th; 361 on 20th and 194 on 27th; 228 on 5th July being the peak count for that month then 263 on 8th August; 227 on 18th September with 126 on 10th October thereafter less than 100 to year's end. Barmston reported low numbers to mid April when 156 flew south on 13th; 200 north on 23rd June; 150 north on 8th July and 209 south on 11th September after which no more than 60 to the end of the year. 51 at Spurn on 4th February then 155 on 10th March and 135 on 29th. Less than 40 until 13th June when 260 were recorded with 245 on 20th; 180 on 5th July and 215 on 18th; 326 on 8th August. 104 on 4th October with 123 on 23rd and 137 on 8th November. 102 north at Scarborough on 5th July.

Reported regularly along the Humber with 81 west at Sunk Island on 18th January and 46 east on 9th August as maxima.

In VC 61 recorded at fresh water locations with singles at Hornsea Mere on 19th April and 4th July. Five males at Tophill Low N.R. on 29th March and a pair on 1st November. Two males at Pulfyn Bog from 11th to 14th July and two males at Kelk on 29th March.

Reported frequently from VC 63 with one to six occasionally at six locations. Larger numbers reported were seven at Langsett Res. on 20th April and 4th May; 12 to the west at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd June; 11 at Winterset Res. on 20th April with 14 on 14th June and 29 southwest on 9th August. 11 at Southfield Res. from 9th to 11th June then eight on 12th. Ten at Dam Flask Res. on 29th May and 15 at Ulley C.P. on 28th June.

In VC 64, spring passage was noted from 19th April with seven at Eccup Res. and 11 at Malham Tarn then five at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th. 22 at Eccup Res. on 2nd June. During autumn, one at Eccup Res. on 9th August when one was at Swillington Ings and 14 at

Gouthwaite Res. 11 at Scar House Res. in late September.

Scarce in VC 65 with four at Scorton on 29th March; three at Bolton-on-Swale with one at Cleasby on 9th August and one at Stapleton on 2nd June.

Surf Sooter *Melanitta perspicillata*

An adult male flew north at Flamborough on 16th October (DBY:AG:PAL).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

More records this year with six at Flamborough on 11th January and 18 on the 12th. Six on 29th February; six on 1st March then birds on two days in April with two on 4th May. During the latter months, a total of 93 birds on 23 days in October with maxima of eight on 4th; nine on 10th; 19 on 11th; six on 19th and eight on 20th. Six on 14th November. Also a good year at Filey with monthly maxima of: January, five; February, ten; April, seven; September, five; October, 15 (4th) and November, five. Lesser numbers at Barmston where birds were reported on only six days with four on 22nd November as maximum. Quite frequent at Spurn; usually one to three but four on 15th June; four on 30th August then four occasionally in October and on 6th November.

In VC 62, five north at Long Nab on 4th October on which date six flew north at Scarborough. One west at Sunk Island on 16th August with two east there on 15th November.

Inland, a female on a lagoon at Gale Common on 1st and 2nd January with a female at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds, Leeds, from 14th to 19th December.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

In VC 61, maxima at Hornsea Mere were 111 on 12th January; 138 on 16th February; 148 on 8th March increasing then to 236 on 15th with 414 on 28th decreasing thereafter to 99 on 11th April and 22 on 19th; two on 23rd but six on 24th. Six were present on 2nd May with seven on 3rd. A female there on 2nd August then three on 17th September. One on 5th October thereafter increasing to 34 on 19th; 123 on 14th November and 166 on 20th December. The maxima at Tophill Low N.R. were 65 in January; 91, February; 127 on 15th March with 110 still present on 2nd April and 80 on 5th decreasing to three by early May. A male remained, in company of a female with a damaged wing, until 28th June. The first of the autumn were three on 10th October increasing to 26 during that month then up to 45 in November and 47 in December. Up to 16 were at Puffin Bog in January and 12 in February but only singles in March; two on 8th April being the last; first to return being on 31st October then up to ten in November and 17 in December. Elsewhere in this VC; six at Kelk on 8th November and 11 at Hempholme on 26th February.

Along the coast, small numbers at Flamborough with 11 on 30th October as maximum; a similar situation at Barmston but 32 north there on 9th December. Few at Filey during the early months but 29 on 23rd October and 56 on 8th November. Small numbers at Spurn with the main passage mid October to mid November when up to 17 were reported daily. c. 70 were off Scalby Mills on 7th November with 45 there the following day when 24 passed Long Nab. Very few along the Humber though during the latter months 13 flew west on 14th November with 48 west on 15th.

In VC 63; reported from many waters to 3rd May (though very few after 20th April) and again from 4th October. Most locations had up to eight; locations having more were Winterset Res. with 121 on 18th January down to 39 on 30th; 113 on 6th February increasing to 129 on 23rd then 108 on 1st March decreasing to 31 on 31st March then 38 on 4th April with the last on 26th. Four were present on 12th October increasing to 28 by 31st; 66 on 22nd November and 67 on 13th December. 23 at Blacktoft Sands on 15th November when 14 were at Broomhill Ings; 46 at Thrybergh C.P.; 17 in the Rother Valley C.P. and 16 at Broomhead Res. 17 at Pugneys' C.P. on 31st January and 11 at Southfield Res. on 9th November.

Peak counts in VC 64 were 54 at Swillington Ings on 1st February; 34 at Eccup Res. on 26th January and up to 34 at High Batts N.R. in February. Elsewhere widely distributed but in small numbers, up to late April with a few into May. Singles at Swillington Ings on one day in June, occasionally in July and more frequently in August/September. One at Malham Tarn on 12th September but most returned early/mid October. Over 50 at Swillington Ings in November/December with peak of 102 on 27th December.

The influx of 15th November saw 54 at Bolton-on-Swale and 20 at Leighton Res. maxima otherwise were, 36 at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th March and up to 35 at Nosterfield in March.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

The female at Pulfin Bog remained from 1991 until 19th January; female at Tophill Low N.R. on 12th and 19th January. A *redhead* at Swillington lngs almost daily until 23rd April and one at Eccup Res. on 7th April. During the latter months, a female at Hornsea Mere from 14th November to at least 20th December; female at Blacktoft Sands on 9th December.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Again bred at Redmires Res. where a pair had three young on 16th June though none were present on 20th.

Along the coast, one to four quite regularly at Spurn between March and September with up to seven occasionally during October. One to four also at Flamborough. April to September then in October, 50 on 16 days with 13 on 10th and then occasionally one to four in November/December. Similarly at Barmston but seven on 30th April with five on 27th September. Elsewhere only few though five at Filey on 10th and 30th October. Four west at Sunk Island on 12th January with four west there on 5th July.

Inland, a male at Castle Howard from 18th to 20th January with a female there on 11th November.

One or two occasionally at ten locations in VC 63 with three at Southfield Res. on 16th October; three at Worsbrough Res. on 3rd October with four at Dam Flask Res. on 5th September. A poor year in VC 64 with single birds occasionally at three locations in the early months and singles at only five during the latter ones. Only two singles in VC 65; at Leighton Res. on 26th January and at Scorton on 4th October.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Bred along the R. Rye at Butterwick and at Sleightholmedale. in VC 62; in VC 64, at several locations on the R. Ure between Roecliffe and Hackfall Wood; on the R. Skell at Ripon; the R. Nidd at Knarcsborough (the furthest downstream ever on this river) and up to Gouthwaite Res; the R. Wharfe at Strid Woods; Ox Close (Leeds)); near Otley G.P. plus four other locations. In VC 65, 'widespread reports of breeding along the main rivers'.

Still scarce in VC 61 with only one to two occasionally at four freshwater locations excepting the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. where monthly maxima were; January, 17; February, 23; March, 29; October, 12; November 33 and December 24.

In VC 62, the maxima at Castle Howard were 96 in January; 33 February; 34 October; November 39 and December 57. Widespread in VC 63 with up to 25 at many locations. Higher counts were reported from Southfield Res. with up to 51 in January; 54 in February; 34 in March; 37 in November and 57 in December. 29 at Blaxton G.P. on 20th December; 30 at Thornton Moor Res. on 9th February; 47 there on 15th December with 78 on the 31st.

Large numbers at several locations in VC 64. Up to 185 at Hay-a-Park in January; 170 in February and 147 in March. 203 at Eccup Res. on 19th January. Numbers fell rapidly in April with 84 at Eccup Res. on 5th and 71 on 11th as the largest. During the latter months, 150 at Hay-a-Park in November and 137 in December whilst 110 were at Eccup Res. on 31st December.

In VC 65; 182 at Leighton Res. on 26th January; 150 on 2nd February and 186 on 20th December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Bred in VC 61 with five pairs at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R.; three pairs possibly bred at Hornsea Mere though did not breed at Pulfin Bog this year. Up to 40 were present at Tophill Low N.R. in January; 31 in February; 14 in March and eight in April. Ten had returned by September increasing to 12 in October then 21 in November with 29 in December. Maximum at Hornsea Mere was ten in May whilst Pulfin Bog had 16 on 10th October.

Very scarce in VC 62 with a female at Castle Howard from 4th to 8th October as the only record.

In VC 63; bred at 16 locations where about 26 pairs reared at least 92 young. Maxima in this

VC being 46 at Worsbrough Res. on 10th March and up to 29 in November whilst 29 were at Broomhill Res. on 18th May. Two pairs bred at Swillington Ings. VC 64, rearing 12 young with three pairs at nearby Mickletown Ings having 19 young (the last appearing there on 28th September). Pairs were also present at Harewood; Red House Farm and Alleton Bywater. Swillington Ings held large numbers with 141 on 25th January; 155 on 9th February then 108 on 7th March after which a rapid decline. The build up in autumn reached 147 by late October with about 150 in December with a county record of 172 on 23rd December. Mickletown Ings had 31 on 5th March and 32 on 5th August with ten at Harewood on 13th September.

Still quite scarce in VC 65 but increasing with suspected breeding occurring at Bolton-on-Swale and a VC record count there on 19 on 18th October.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis aviporus*

Bred successfully with two young reared and, including these birds, up to nine individuals were present at this location.

Single passage birds were reported in spring at Blacktoft Sands on 13th May; Flamborough on 15th; Bridlington on 27th; Thornton Ellars on 28th/29th and 12th June at Welwick. In autumn, at Spurn on 3rd August; 21st September and on Hallam Moor on 9th October.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One over Tophill Low N.R. on 11th April was seen to depart to the northwest (RL:FXM).

Addition to the 1991 Report: Single bird at Hillam on 7th May (GJT). One near Welwick on 11th May (TI) was no doubt the bird seen earlier that day at Hornsea Mere (TDC *et al.*). This latter record still under consideration by BBRC.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

An excellent year. One at Barden Fell on 29th February (MC) may well have been the individual seen fairly regularly there in 1991. Another, or possibly the same bird, at High Greenfield, Langstronthdale, an 10th April (D & SC). One at Blacktoft Sands on 11th April (CF *et al.*) flew off to the east. An immature at Flamborough on 25th and 26th April (DBY:BR:PAL; GAS:PJW *et al.*) would be the bird seen flying north at Filey on the afternoon of the 25th (AN: IR *et al.*).

A wing-tagged adult was in the Kelk area from 9th August to at least 3rd September (BJA). One over Burton Agnes on 27th August; one at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th August and on several days until mid September (JEA:PV1 *et al.*). That bird, or possibly another, at Horsforth Allotment, Thruscross Res. on 10th October (TK) with an untagged bird at Castle Howard on 11th October (CR). One in the Agill/Roundhill area an 9th November (PSW). An untagged individual flew over the A1 near Pickhill on 20th November (NJM).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A pair bred in VC 61 rearing three young. Occurrences throughout the county would appear to be on the increase. In VC 61; one at Filey on 31st March, the next being at Wheldrake Ings and Ellerton on 9th April. One at Hornsea Mere on 22nd April where at least five individuals passed through between then and the 27th. On the 25th, singles were at Spurn; Filey and Flamborough with one at Kelk on the 26th. From 2nd to 26th May birds were reported almost daily in this VC with occurrences at Filey; Flamborough; Wheldrake Ings; Thorganby; Spurn; Sunk Island; Tophill Low N.R.; Barmston and Hornsea Mere, usually involving singles birds but two at Filey on 10th; at Spurn on 17th; Flamborough on 15th and 20th, Hornsea Mere on 9th and 19th with three at Filey on 15th and at Beacon Lagoons on 22nd. A pair displayed at Wheldrake Ings on 27th with the birds being seen during the following two weeks.

One north at Cornelian Bay, Scarborough, on 25th April was the only record from VC 62 whilst in VC 63, 31 individuals were recorded at Blacktoft Sands in spring from 24th March. Daily maxima during the period April to June were four; three males displaying at different times, one of which did some nest building. Females appeared to pair with one of the males but then moved on. Elsewhere in this VC, single birds were reported in spring at Potteric Carr, Winterset Res. (two occasions at both); Sprotbrough Flash; Thorne Moors and Southfield Res.. Few records from VC 64 with singles at Hay-a-Park on 22nd April; Swillington Ings on 4th

May; Staveley N.R. on 9th and 10th with another on the latter date at Lowther Lake. No records from VC 65.

In autumn, fewer records all round with, in VC 61 two at Spurn on 3rd September. All other records being of single birds; at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. on 14th and 30th July. In August; Wheldrake Ings on 14th and 30th; Filey on 1st; 23rd and 28th; Barmston, 25th; Pulfin Bog, 9th; 16th; 20th; 29th and 31st, Tophill Low N.R.; 21st; 24th; 29th. Spurn on 2nd; 19th/20th. In September at Wheldrake Ings on 1st; Spurn on 11th; Sunk Island, 19th; Pulfin Bog, 14th and Tophill Low N.R. on the 5th.

Blacktoft Sands had 12 birds during August/September with daily maximum of four with the last, a summering male, on 14th October. Singles elsewhere in this VC were at Thorne Moors on three occasions; Broomhill Ings; Widdop and the River Yorne. Three records in VC 64, all singles, in Wharfedale on 15th August; Grassington Moor on 31st and Swillington Ings on 10th September. The last of the year was a very late bird at Sunk Island on 7th November (CJHP:MS:JW).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Two sightings of females and one of an adult male, during the breeding season, in Swaledale.

Very scarce in VC 61 with singles occasionally in the Spurn and Humber areas during both winter periods. No roosts were reported in this VC. Even scarcer in VC 62 with only one record, a 'ringtail' at Bransdale on 22nd December.

The roost at Blacktoft Sands, VC 63, held five birds on 18th January then four throughout February and March. Two had returned by early November with three by the end of the year. Three on Thorne Moors on 9th January then one or two to late March; usually only one during the latter months though two on occasions. Three were on nearby Hatfield Moors in January with two into early February but only one occasionally during late October to early November. Two were present on Broomhead Moor from late October to year's end. Singles occasionally in the Idle valley during both winter periods.

Between six and ten birds were in upper Nidderdale during the periods January to May and September to December. One to two at several other upland locations during both winter periods with five individuals in Wharfedale between January and May. Singles in June on both Grinton Moor and Stags Fell. One of the birds seen in upper Nidderdale/Colsterdale had been wing-tagged in either Grantian or Tayside in summer 1992.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Singles at Flamborough on 26th and 28th April. In May, one south at Spurn on 15th on which date one was seen to come in off the sea at Filey with one also flying south at Tophill Low N.R. A first year male in the Little Don valley on 15th/16th with one at Cherry Cobb on the 24th; off the sea at Beacon Lagoons on 26th and one also there on 31st on which date one was also at Blacktoft Sands. In June, one at Blacktoft Sands on 11th and one, a female, at Langsett on 21st. *Correction* to the 1991 Report: The *ringtail* reported at Broomhill Ings on 19th May was in fact not specifically identified and should be considered as a *ringtail*, either Montagu's or Hen Harrier.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Although quite widespread during the breeding season, confirmed breeding records were very few and details thereof, scant.

Scarce in the lowland areas of eastern VC 61, being occasionally reported from Flamborough and near Atwick. Occasionally reported from the York area, particularly along the lower Derwent valley whilst recorded quite frequently from the forested areas of VC 62. In VCs 63 and 64, also quite widespread, invariably single birds being reported from at least 20 locations. Occurred regularly at two locations in VC 65.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Indications from VC 61 are of a slow spread and slight increase and, in some locations, reported as being more common than Kestrel. Also still increasing in some areas of VC 64 but fewer records this year from Malham Tarn. Up to eight occasionally at Gouthwaite whilst in VC

61, four or five were reported from several locations but eight at Flamborough on 5th and 25th April with 14 there on 17th October.

A pair reared five young from six eggs near Eccup Res.; a high success rate in what appears to have been a good breeding season generally. 188 juveniles were ringed in the Barnsley area also indicating a good year.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Two pairs confirmed breeding with probably a further two and possibly three more; a healthy status.

In the upper Nidderdale/Colsterdale area, up to five present during the early months with up to six from August to year's end. One or two at several other locations, particularly in VC 64, whilst single birds were reported from many locations both in VC 3 and VC 64, many being from lowland sites. Scarce in the east of the county with singles at Tophill Low N.R. on 1st January and 16th April; at Kelk on 23rd September and near Withernsea on 24th January and 24th February. One present occasionally, in January, at Stonegate, VC 62.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Singles at Bilsdale on 4th January; Thorne Moors on 10th February and near Gorple Res. on 29th. During the latter months again only single birds; at Beacon Lagoons from 8th to 10th October which had reputedly been present in that area for several days; at Scar House Res. on 18th October; Bewholme on 28th November and near Leighton Res. on 16th December.

Correction to the 1991 Report: The bird at Wilsic on 2nd November was at Winscar. (on 2nd November).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

An immature in upper Nidderdale from 23rd February to 5th April (JEA:PVI *et al*) was no doubt the bird seen at Barden Fell on 1st March (PC). An immature, being mobbed by three Buzzards, on 17th December at Leighton remained in the Colsterdale area to the year's end (JMC *et al*).

Addition to the 1991 Report: One over Agill Moor on 20th October (PS).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Two at Gouthwaite Res. on 4th April; two at both Swillington Ings and Wintersett Res. on 29th August (same?) with two at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. on 4th September; one of which remained in the vicinity until the 20th. All other records being of single birds, invariably present for one day only but one remained at Castle Howard from 9th July to 19th August, occasionally being reported from Pond Head, near Gilling.

The first was at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd April then at Midhope and the Rother Valley C.P. on the 4th; Spurn on 19th; Farnham G.P. on 29th and Southfield Res. on 30th. In May, on 1st at Bramham; Tophill Low N.R.; 2nd, River Torne; 3rd, Gilling; 4th, Langsett Res.; 5th, Wansford; 7th and 10th, Spurn; 13th, Spurn, Farnham G.P. and Southfield Res.; 14th, Broomhill Ings and Flamborough; 15th, Flamborough, Wheldrake Ings, Rivelin Res. and Spurn; 16th, Hornsea Mere and Spurn; 17th, Bolton-on-Swale, remaining until the 24th; 18th Blacktoft Sands; 27th, Langsett Res.; 29th, Swillington Ings; 31st Flamborough.

In June: 1st at Spurn; 10th and 13th, Beacon Lagoons; 24th, Gilling until 29th; 25th, Underbank Res., whilst in July reported from Knaresborough on 7th; Wilsic on 24th then in August on the 10th at Holmpton; 24th at Broomhill Ings; 29th at Farnham G.P.; 30th at Wintersett Res. (from 29th) and an 31st at Driffield also being recorded the following day. On 4th September reported from Forcett Park; 6th at Denaby Ings; 13th, Broomhill Ings; 14th Sprotbrough Flash and an 1st October at Thrybergh C.P.

An adult accidentally tangled in a covering net at Harome Fish Farm (near Helmsley) on 15th August was released unharmed. This bird had been ringed in Scotland in 1976.

Addition to the 1991 Report: One at Thorpe Marsh on 27th April.

Correction to the 1990 Report: The bird erroneously reported at Broomhill Ings from 12th to 14th June was in fact at Wintersett Res.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A good breeding season with broods of six at several locations. Widespread, with up to eight at Pulfin Bog; up to nine in autumn at Scar House Res.; nine at Monk Fryston on 6th January.

Light coastal passage with nine at Flamborough on 19th September; 14 at Spurn on 15th September and 29 there on 8th October.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vestpertinus*

A female at Spurn on 15th May (DPB *et al.*); first summer female at Filey on 26th remaining in the area until the 30th (PJD *et al.*). An adult male at Scargill Res. from 26th to 31st (JEA:RE:JMc *et al.*). A male at Tophill Low N.R. on 28th (WHL:GN), a first summer male at Spurn on 29th (JSB:AMP *et al.*) with a first summer male at Flamborough the following day (JMc). A first summer female at Filey on 30th and 31st (JH:JAP:AS *et al.*) and what was probably the same bird seen at Muston on both dates (RJ:AS:JW). A first summer male at Pugneys' C.P. on 11th June (SD:JMT *et al.*) was present also from the 19th to 25th (GC:JL *et al.*). A female at Fulford (York) on 25th (DD:VG:RH: *et al.*).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

No significant change in breeding status in VC 65; no change reported from VC 64 despite a poor year for its prey species whilst in VC 63; successfully bred at five out of seven sites with probable breeding at a further three. 11 pairs in the Sheffield area though unclear as to how many were actually in Yorkshire.

Recorded in VC 61 along the coast during all months except June with one or two at many locations but three at Spurn on 30th October and at Flamborough on 17th. Once again this species was responsible for the predation of the Little Tern colonies at Spurn and Easington.

Away from the coast, singles on 14 dates at Tophill Low N.R. and one at Pulfin Bog.

One or two at 25 locations in VC 63 during the early months and at 40 during the latter. In VC 64, recorded at 20 lowland sites, during both winter periods though the majority were during the latter. More records than usual of wintering birds in lowland areas of VC 65.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One in the Idle valley on 30th April with the next at Scarborough on 8th May and Sunk Island on 9th. Became quite widespread by late May and more so in June, generally involving single birds but three at Flamborough on the 29th May with four on the 30th. Two at Spurn on 14th and 27th June. In July, up to five were present on Thorne Moors with two at Blacktoft Sands on 4th; Barmston on 10th and Flamborough on 26th. In August, still well distributed but all singles excepting on Thorne Moors where at least four were present. Two at Blacktoft Sands on 19th September with singles at a further 13 locations and late birds at Darrington on 30th and finally, at York University on 15th October.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Continues to increase as a breeding species. Four pairs attempted to breed in VC 65; two of which were successful rearing four young; in VC 64, six attempted with four being successful with some 11 young being reared whilst in VC 63, three pairs bred successfully out of five present though no details received of the number of young reared. A corresponding increase in records from many lowland locations reflected the increase in breeding birds, being too frequent to list. An increase also noted along the coast usually involving single birds but two not infrequently at Flamborough and three at Filey on 10th October.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Reports from keepers in many areas indicate a good breeding season.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

In VC 64, the only records were of a male in the Ribble valley on 6th April and two males at Roundells Allotment, Thruscross, on 7th July. No records from the former stronghold in Langstrothdale.

Survey work carried out by personnel of the Yorkshire Dales N.P. produced more records than

usual from VC 65. Birds were regularly reported on the Feldon Ranges with a maximum of six but considered to be up to 20 in the area. A lek of 25 males reported by a keeper on Lunds Fell in March. Two males near Tan Hill on 28th May; five males at Thoraby on 23rd April; a female at Harkerside (probably with young) on 22nd June; a female with young at Addleborough on 16th June; female at Marsett Bardale on 29th April and a male at Yorbrough on 5th May.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Numbers slightly down in most areas of VC 63 otherwise no change in status reported though the true picture is clouded in some areas by the presence of hybrid birds (Atwick; Tophill Low N.R. and Kelk) The largest numbers reported were in VC 63 with 46 at Edderthorpe on 5th September; 40 near Wilsic on 2nd April; 30 at Auckley in October with 33 at North Anston on 18th October. Only Flamborough, away from VC 63, reported numbers in excess of 20 with 22 on 1st October and 37 on the 4th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Reports on status varied; in many areas of VC 61, scarcer than the previous species; said to be declining in Wharfedale (VC 63) but increased numbers reported from several areas of VC 63; more than usual recorded in the Halifax and Doncaster areas. The largest coveys/concentrations noted were 61 in the Idle valley in November; 58 at Thrybergh C.P. on 14th November; 57 in the Middlemoor area at the start of the shooting season with 45 at Broomhill Ings in August (mostly juveniles).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One found dead at Otley on 22nd April with one at Flamborough on 28th then none until one near Bewholme on 21st May and three or four near Seaton on 28th. A good year with birds being reported from many locations; invariably heard only. Along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. at least 27 calling birds were noted with 13 at North Duffield Carrs on 11th June though no evidence of breeding was reported. Elsewhere, in June, birds were reported from some 20 locations with up to four (both heard and seen) at Filey on 7th; two near Sutton Bank on 20th and at least six at Scorton on 23rd with three or more being present until mid July. Six in the Idle valley (Notts boundary) on 12th June, subsequently up to 12 estimated to be calling regularly with the last recorded on 9th August. Otherwise fewer in July and August though some long staying individuals may have bred (Bielby; Greta Bridge and Scorton). Two at Full Sutton from 10th to 12th August with one until the 18th.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

The status of this species also clouded by the release of many thousands by shooting interests.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Six pairs estimated breeding at Blacktoft Sands with many young present in July. Bred at Hornsea Mere and Wheldrake Ings; probably bred at Tophill Low N.R. Peak counts at Blacktoft Sands were 20 on 12th February and 21 on 27th September with slightly lower counts at both years ends. Up to five at Staveley N.R. in January with three there from September to December. Up to five at Carlton Marsh during the latter months whilst at least six were present Wheldrake Ings in June though no census was taken at other times. One to four at Winterset Res. during the early months and occasionally up to three at Hornsea Mere. One to two at some 23 locations during the early months and at 17 during the latter.

Spotted Chake *Porzana porzana*

Four records from Blacktoft Sands; one on 6th June, the first spring occurrence for the Reserve. An adult from 14th August to 6th September; an immature on 19th August and an unaged bird on 9th October (AG *et al*). One at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Calling birds were at Spurn on 16th May; Wheldrake Ings on 6th June; Seavy Carr on 15th June; Saltonstall (near Halifax) during the second week of June and in the Malton area 'in June'.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status apparently unchanged. Largest gatherings were 130 at Broomhill Ings in February; 78 at Esholt S.W. on 28th January; 70 at Edderthorpe on 15th March and 64 at York University on 22nd September. A leucistic bird (biscuit coloured) at Westwood G.P. on 23rd April.

Coot *Fulica atra*

No reports received to suggest any change in status. Probably 100 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. whilst possibly 40 bred at Horsea Mere where success rate was very low. Maxima at this latter location was 945 on 12th January; 1310 on 19th October and 1100 on 20th December. 716 were at Winterset Res. on 12th January with 745 on 13th December; 550 at Malham Tarn on 18th October; 590 at Tophill Low N.R. in December. Broomhill Ings; Rother Valley C.P.; Bolton-on-Swale; Hay-a-Park; Farnham G.P. and Chelker Res. all reported maxima of between 250 and 500 whilst Thrybergh C.P.; Potteric Carr; Methley Quarry; Newmillerdam and Puffin Bog all had between 100 and 250 occasionally.

Crane *Grus grus*

One flew south at Spurn on 11th February (BRS) with one at Bishop Monkton Ings on 21st April (DB:PB *et al.*).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

In VC 61, eight pairs bred along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R.; two pairs at Beacon Lagoons, (one predated); one at Spurn (unsuccessful). In VC 63, three pairs at Blacktoft Sands but only two young reared; single pairs reared one young at both Blaxton G.P. and Methley S.F. Breeding details from both VC 64 and VC 65 not received though considered to be increasing in both areas.

The Birds of the Estuaries Enquiry (BoEE) counts gave totals of; January, 3750; February, 2339; March, 2706; September, 2039; October, 2270; November 534 and December 2837. The monthly maxima at Spurn which did not always coincide with those counts were, January, 3000; February, 2600; March, 2000; April, 1500; May, 1000; June, 750; July, 750; August, 2600; September, 5000; October, 5000; November, 900 and December, 2000. Few recorded along the estuary away from Spurn with Sunk Island having up to 46 to the end of April then maxima of 73 on 16th May 144 on 27th June; 124 on 25th July; 79 on 9th August then below 41 to year's end.

Coastal passage in early autumn at Spurn had peaks of 366 on 23rd July; 678 on 1st and 1030 on 7th August whilst at Flamborough, 458 recorded on 1st August with 288 on 9th and 140 on 21st. 472 south at Filey on 1st and 359 on 9th, 300 in Cornelian Bay, VC 62, on 29th October.

Recorded during every month in VC 63 with most records in May when one to five were reported from 17 locations. 14 flew north at Winterset Res. on 4th September. Blacktoft Sands had up to six in March/April with 12 on 6th June. Westerly passage noted here with a total of 513 between 2nd July and 13th September; peak counts being 67 on 22nd July; 116 on 10th and 86 on 14th August.

Similarly scarce in VC 64 during January/February then, in March, up to 47 at Hay-a-Park G.P. and 50 between Hawkswick and Arncliffe on 8th March; 65 at Grimwith Res. on 1st April. Spring numbers along the R. Ure, VC 65, continue to increase. Maxima in this VC, in spring, being 146 at Thornton Steward Res. on 29th February; 130 at Nosterfield on 2nd March; 49 at Bolton-on-Swale on 29th February and 45 at Spennithorne on 5th April. Autumn passage far lighter with 40 at Masham on 17th July as maximum reported.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A pair were present at Blacktoft Sands from 10th to 19th April returning on 8th May. This pair bred successfully rearing two young; being present until 1st August; which constitutes the first breeding occurrence in Yorkshire since 1837. An additional adult was also present on 15th May and 3rd August with two on 11th/12th October (AG *et al.*). Eight flew west up the Humber from Spurn on 29th March (NAB:LJD:BRS). Two flew in high from the west at Sunk Island on 4th April (JW) with two at Tophill Low N.R. on 6th May (ML:RL) and one there on 15th (TR).

One at Masham G.P. on 31st May (TS); this being the first record for VC 65.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

In VC 61 two pairs bred at Tophill Low N.R.; one failing. Probably bred at Pulfin Bog. In VC 62, unsuccessful breeding occurred at Burton Riggs G.P. Attempted to breed at 15 locations in VC 63 with 12 pairs being successful whilst a further 11 pairs failed. In VC 64, bred at ten locations with pairs also present at several others and in VC 65, single pairs at Bolton-on-Swale; Pallett Hill; Scorton; Masham G.P.; West Tanfield whilst five pairs were located along the Swale between Little Langton and Ellerton.

The first of the year was at Winterset Res. on 10th March then at Hay-a-Park on 16th; Bolehill Flash on 17th with two at Broomhill Ings on 19th. Widespread in April with 14 at Broomhill Ings on 27th and, in May, 13 at Whiteholme Res. on 8th. Autumn maxima were 14 at Broomhill Ings on 2nd August; 13 at Blacktoft Sands, also on 2nd, whilst 11 were at North Anston Pit Top on 30th July. The last birds reported were singles at Thrybergh C.P. on 29th September and Scorton on 30th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Bred in VC 61 at Spurn with 'four pairs at the Point, one on the Humber shore and several along the peninsula'. At least seven pairs bred at Beacon Lagoons, (six under the protection of the Little Tern colony). To or three pairs near Driffield whilst attempted to breed at Tophill Low N.R., the first occurrence at this location. Few successful breeding occurrences in VC 63 with single pairs at Potteric Carr and Thorne Moors with a pair failing at Winterset Res.. In VC 64, bred at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds (Leeds); Micklefield Mine and Grimwith Res. but failed at Farnham G.P.. Two pairs at Pallett Hill, VC 65, and Nosterfield; probably bred at Masham G.P..

BoEE counts were low with monthly maxima generally under 100 but 443 in September; 199 in October and 111 in December. The maxima at Spurn was also low with up to 20 during the period January to April; 232 on 23rd August; 160 in September then 60 during October/November and usually less than ten in December.

Peaks in spring were 304 at Sunk Island on 16th May with 350 on 24th whilst 80 at Spurn on 20th was the peak there; these last being attributed to the race *C.h.tundrae*. Generally light coastal passage but 93 at Spurn on 30th August.

Widespread occurrences of one to four in VC 63 from January to October though mainly during the months of April/May and August but larger counts of ten at Winterset Res. on 27th April 13 at Whitehouse Res. on 14th May with 12 at Southfield Res. on 28th. Broomhill Ings had 20 on 28th August with 14 at Edderthorpe on the same day. Blacktoft Sands recorded 31 on 28th May; 21 on 31st July; 22 on both 7th and 13th September. 12 attributable to the race *C.h.tundrae* there on 24th and 28th June. Similarly recorded in VC 64 with generally one to two, but occasionally six, at 14 locations whilst 12 were at Grimwith Res. on 14th March.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

During the spring, in VC 61, nine near Langtoft on 4th May with one still present on 9th. One at Flamborough on the 24th. In VC 62, five at Danby Beacon on 17th May whilst in VC 63, two near Ingbirchworth on 26th/27th April; three on 30th with five on 9th May. Present at Swinefleet between 25th April and 9th May with maximum of 11. Five on Burbage Moor on 29th/30th April; three on 3rd May; three again on 8th increasing to 16 with 15 remaining on 10th, three on 11th; six on 12th when 13 flew low to the north; one on 15th. In VC 64, small passage reported at an undisclosed upland location in the Harrogate area whilst in VC 65, singles were recorded on 10th May at Pallett Hill and on the Howgills.

The only autumnal record was of two at Flamborough on 13th August.

Addition to the 1991 Report: Four on Burbage Moor on 6th May; one on 11th; eight from 16th to 18th with ten on 19th. Two, Tolley Moor on 2nd/3rd June.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

A survey covering 130 sq. miles of the Yorkshire Dales N.P. between Upper Wharfedale and Swaledale located 234 breeding pairs. No other comments/details were received on breeding status. The BoEE counts gave totals of January, 7417; February, 15,006; March, 3075; September, 17,948; October, 8213; November 2843 and December 16,255. Maxima at Sunk Island were 8000 on 4th/5th January; 2500, 23rd February; 8000 on 15th August; 4000 on 6th

September; 4000 on 22nd November and 3600 on 12th December. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge recorded 2250 in January and 3000 in February. Elsewhere in VC 61, up to 1500 at Great Hatfield in November; 1700 near Tophill Low N.R. in September with 1000 on 7th/8th November and 1550 on 22nd. in the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R., 1200 on 5th October; 2250 on 14th November with 2980 on 29th then 6800 on 11th December.

The largest flocks in VC 63 were 1200 at Wombwell Ings on 19th February; 1100 at Pontefract Park on 26th March; 1200 at both Denaby Common on 11th March and at Blacktoft Sands on 15th February whilst 2000 passed north at Adwick-le-Street on 3rd January. During the latter months 2500 were at Blacktoft Sands on 20th September increasing to 3850 on 7th December. 1100 at Wombwell Ings on 1st October with 1000 at Thorpe Marsh in mid December and a similar count at Pugneys' C.P. on 16th.

The only gathering in VC 64 of over 1000 during the early months was 1270 at Kingsley Drive, Harrogate, in February. 2200 were at this same location in December with 1000 at Hay-a-Park in October and 1000+ at Yeadon Airport in late November/early December. The largest wintering flock in VC 65 was at Bolton-on-Swale with 2500 on 6th December.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Up to 50 present at Spurn during January to March then increasing in spring with maximum of 144 on 14th May (56 on the Humber shore with 110 passing south offshore). Up to 30 during the summer then increasing to 79 on 21st August; 83 on 12th September and 101 on 15th October after which up to 50 during the last two months. Sunk Island had 60 on 25th January; 171 on 8th February; 114 on 8th March; 132 on 5th April then increasing to a spring maxima of 397 on 2nd May; 509 on 16th and 350 on 24th. 345 were present there on 29th August with 337 on 12th September; 194 on 28th September; 81 on 15th November and 130 on 13th December. Totals from the BoEE gave, January, 743; February, 90; March, 671; October, 330; November 218 with December 134. Small numbers along the coast with up to 15 south at Filey in August; 15 at Flamborough on 14th May and at Barmston, maxima of 41 on 18th January; 22 on 5th February then up to 12 in March and ten in April.

Up to four at Blacktoft Sands in late May otherwise one or two birds occasionally in VC 63, particularly in May with 12 records then five in September including three west at Broomhill Ings on 8th. A poor year in VC 64 with one or two on four occasions in May at Staveley N.R. and Swillington Ings whilst in autumn, two at High Batts N.R. on 27th September and singles occasionally at Farnham G.P.; Swillington Ings and Eccup Res. The only records from VC 65 were singles at Nosterfield on 16th May and 12th August.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

145 pairs in the area surveyed of the Yorkshire Dales N.P. (see Golden Plover) otherwise few breeding reports received; 'many' near Drifffield and up 20 pairs near Kelk. Totals recorded by the BoEE were, January 8621; February, 8589; March, 1132; September, 4507; October, 2926; November 4052 and December, 4996. maxima at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were 3065 in January and 3300 in February whilst at Sunk Island, 3000 on 8th November; 7660 on 12th but only 2250 on 13th. 2000 near Barmston on 18th and 26th October. Large numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. with 3500 at Wheldrake Ings on 29th January and 3000 on 25th February. A total count along the valley of 3565 on 28th November; 3500 on 9th December; 11,700 on 11th then 3300 on 12th and 7200 on 13th.

In VC 63, peaks of between 1000 and 2000 were reported from Broomhill Ings; Southfield Res.; Edderthorpe; Loxley Chase; Pugneys' C.P.; Darrington; Stuhbs Quarry; Frickley; Thorne Moors and Thorpe Marsh with larger counts at Blacktoft Sands of 2600 on 9th January 3000 on 31st August and 3560 on 26th November. Smaller gatherings in VC 64 with early peaks of only 1000 at Swillington Ings; Knostrop S.F. and Hay-a-Park, whilst during the later months, 1500+ at Yeadon Airport and 2000 at Collingham, both in December.

In VC 65, 3500 flew over Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd February; 3000 at Catterick Airfield on 26th July with up to 2000 in the Nosterfield area in February and September.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

BoEE counts gave totals of, January, 30,216; February, 1356; March 6002; September, 140; October, 456; November 617 and December, 14,544. Maxima at locations along the Humber

being; Sunk Island; 1800 on 18th January; 1550, 8th February; 150, 1st March then low counts in autumn with 700 on 28th October; 980, 28th November and 750 on 13th December. At Spurn; up to 5000 in January/February but only 200 during March/April. 1200 had returned by 18th July though only 500 from late August to late October when increased to 5000 by 29th. These numbers regularly to year's end with peaks of 15,000 on 8th November and 8000 on 20th December.

Coastal passage mainly of double figures though, at Spurn, 225 south on 1st August with 202 on 30th. 136 off Flamborough on 1st whilst 67 reported there on 9th when 95 passed south at Filey. 325 left to the east at Spurn on 19th July.

In VC 63, recorded quite regularly at Blacktoft Sands with two on 13th and 15th May; three on 14th and four on 16th and singles on seven days during autumn/early winter. Fresh water records came from Winterset Res. where five flew northeast on 28th May; two on 29th and 31st August with singles on 21st April and 1st September. Two at Treeton Dyke on 11th September; two at Southfield Res. on 6th April with singles there on 30th October and at Potteric Carr on 28th May. Four to the west at Swillington Ings, VC 64, on 17th April; singles there on 13th/14th May; 1st/2nd September and at Staveley N.R. on 6th and 9th August. One on Mossy Moor on 31st July. Two singles in VC 65, at Nosterfield on 29th May and Stapleton on 27th September.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Almost daily at Spurn with up to 60 regularly; peaks being 150 on 26th July; 178 on 19th October and 133 on 6th November. 123 were present at Barmston beach on 24th January then only single or low double figures during February/March after which increased to 50 on 1st April; 40 on 19th May decreasing to six by 30th. An isolated peak there of 26 on 16th July then less than ten until 27 on 9th December. 138 on 22nd January was the peak in Filey Bay with monthly maxima of 60 in February; 40 in March; 18 in April; 18 in October; 35 in November with 125 in December (8th). Few at other locations. Passage noted at Spurn with 107 south on 14th May then regularly between late July and mid September with peaks falling between 26th July and 2nd August when up to 74 daily. Few on the Humber away from Spurn but 21 at Sunk Island on 26th April whilst ten flew west on 28th November. Singles at fresh water locations on 15th May, at Hornsea Mere and on 17th at Tophill Low N.R.

In VC 63, singles at Winterset Res. on 21st/22nd April; 11th and 24th May with four flying over on 12th and four present on 13th; one to three at Blacktoft Sands on four days during the period 13th to 30th May whilst singles were at Whiteholme Res. on 8th and 10th with four on 13th May. One at Thornton Moor Res. on 21st July and two at Whiteholme Res. on 10th and 30th August.

Only reported during spring from VC 64 where Swillington Ings had two on 15th; one on 16th April then singles on 4th, 10th/11th, 16th and 24th May with five on 12th and three on 13th. Elsewhere, in May, three at Otley G.P. on 7th with two on 13th and one on 18th; two at Farnham, G.P. on 12th; two at Eccup Res. on 16th with one at Hay-a-Park on 13th.

In VC 65, singles in May at Nosterfield on 10th and one from 21st to 25th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A quiet year. One at Swillington Ings on 21st March was unusual. One there on 12th/13th May whilst on the latter date, a party of 15 was at Beacon Lagoons (TC). One at Blacktoft Sands on the 15th with up to two to the 18th then singles occasionally during the rest of the month though two on 28th. One at Spurn on 20th and at Nosterfield on 30th/31st. In June, singles at Tophill Low N.R. between 3rd and 6th with another on the 27th, singles at Spurn on 7th and 24th and at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd with another from the 24th to 28th.

In July, one at Blacktoft Sands on the 24th remaining into August when up to three were present with four on 30th then one to three throughout September increasing to a peak on nine on 11th October thereafter decreasing to singles late in that month then one on November 4th. Singles also in VC 63 at Redmires Res. on 3rd August; Newington on 12th September and Winterset Res. on 3rd October. Scarce in VC 61 during the autumn with one to three occasionally at Filey; Tophill Low N.R.; Hornsea Mere; Spurn and Sunk Island; the exceptions being six south at Spurn on 30th August and seven at Beacon Lagoons on 15th September.

Only singles reported from VC 64, at Staveley N.R. on 14th August; Gouthwaite Res. on the

15th; Swillington Ings on 6th September and Mickleton Ings on 16th. Likewise, in VC 65, singles at Nosterfield on 19th August and on 30th August/1st September.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Two at Tophill Low N.R. on 14th May (PD:ML:RL). One at Swillington Ings on 16th (PRE); two at Blacktoft Sands from 17th to 20th and one on 24th/25th (AG *et al.*). One at Denaby Ings from 20th to 22nd (TF *et al.*) and finally one at Beacon Lagoons on 26th June (TS *et al.*).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

All records concerned single birds; at Swillington Ings on 29th July (PRM), then in September, at Filey Dams on 1st/2nd (GC *et al.*); Wombwell Ings from 4th to 14th (ADH: *et al.*); Newington from 8th to 11th (LJD *et al.*); Blacktoft Sands from 10th to 15th (AG *et al.*) and at Pulfin Bog on 12th/13th (DGH).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

In spring, one at Sunk Island on 3rd May with 20 on the 15th then up to four from 16th to 23rd; seven on 29th/30th; three on 2nd June and one on 7th. Three at Beacon Lagoons on 14th May with two the following day and one on 16th/17th; four at Broomhill Ings on 20th May then two at Tophill Low N.R. on 21st June with singles at Spurn on 9th; 12th to 15th and Filey Dams on 5th with one at Hornsea Mere on 28th.

In autumn; two adults at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd July increasing to 25 on 31st and 32 on 1st August decreasing then to 28 on 4th; 15 on 6th; 12 on 7th with up to three adults staying into September. Immatures peaked at that location with 14 on 19th September then decreased to three by 5th October and singles on 25th and from 5th to 9th November.

Singles occasionally at Sunk Island; Spurn; Beacon Lagoons; Barmston; Flamborough; Filey Dams and Tophill Low N.R. with four at Beacon Lagoons on 31st July; Flamborough on 2nd August. Two at Hornsea Mere from 7th to 9th September whilst 16 flew south at Spurn on 30th August with three on the Humber there on 14th September.

Inland, in VC 63, singles at Darrington on 8th/9th August and at Broomhill Ings on the 26th/27th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

85 at Whitby, VC 62, on 2nd February with 69 present on the 23rd; 39 roosting there on 20th December whilst at Scarborough, two parties totalling 110 flew north towards Scalby Mills on 27th. In VC 61, Flamborough had up to 20 in January; 36 in February; 75 in March (21st) then small numbers to 4th May. One record in August with two in September then up to 22 in October; 45 in November with a peak of 55 on 13th December. Monthly maxima reported at Filey were; February, 30; March, 60; April, ten; August, ten; September, 15; October, 30; November, 40 and December, 24.

Few were reported from the coast south of Bridlington with single birds at Barmston on six occasions; at Spurn also on six; five being birds passing south offshore. One at Stone Creek on 12th January; one at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd October whilst one at Hornsea Mere on 10th August was the only record from a fresh water location.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

30 pairs located by the Yorkshire Dales N.P. survey whilst two pairs bred near Huddersfield with six holding territory in the Bradford area.

The BoEE counts totalled; January, 17,332; February, 5584; March, 19,398; April, 16,713; September, 14,176; October, 9973; November, 3989 and December, 10,901. Maxima at individual locations were; Sunk Island, 800 on 19th January; 1400 on 22nd/23rd February; 2820 on 8th March; 2400 on 4th April; 5100 on 1st May then 4000 on 24th July; 1500 on 8th/9th August; 1000 on 20th September; 2900 on 28th October with 2500 on 22nd November and 3080 on 13th December. Present all year at Spurn with 1200 to 1600 from January to May; single or low double figures through June then increasing to 2000 regularly between July and September with 1000 from October to December. Nearby Beacon Lagoons had roosts of 2100 on 15th July with 3000 on 18th and 5040 on 19th then about 3000 during early August. Up to 256 at Filey in

January then less than 40 daily to November when peak was 225 with up to 290 in December.

Southerly coastal passage with, at Spurn, 152 on 5th and 310 on 30th August; 184 on 11th September whilst 360 were recorded on 9th November with 410 on 11th; at Flamborough, 155 on 9th July; 295 on 1st August and 77 on 2nd. Filey had peaks of 246 on 31st July; 108 on 30th August and 231 on 9th November.

Present during all months at Tophill Low N.R. though only small numbers with maxima of 23 on 9th August and 11 on 20th. Small numbers also at Hornsea Mere excepting 34 on 17th February with 54 on 24th, up to 62 along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. between mid February and early April.

At Blacktoft Sands, VC 63, monthly peaks were, January, 230; February, 620; March, 440; April, 220 then less than 70 until July with 450 on 31st then, August, 510; September, 240; October, 860 (27th/28th); November, 360 and December, 180. Recorded during all months at Broomhill Ings albeit in small numbers with peaks of 35 in March and 23 in November. Peaks at other locations in this VC were; Southfield Res., 32 west on 4th February with 46 west on 9th November; Winterset Res.; 26 on 12th May and, at Whitehouse Res., 24 on 14th May.

Also reported in all months at Swillington Ings, VC 64, but most other locations in this VC had birds in spring though only in small numbers; 21 at Swillington Ings on 15th March being the highest. Small numbers at ten locations during autumn. Maxima in VC 65 were 15 at Bolton-on-9wale on 30th November with up to 12 at Nosterfield in March.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Maxima during the early months along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. were 38 in January; 47 in February and 34 in March with 32 in April. Lekking was reported from three locations with 18, 20 and eight birds respectively. Males had departed by late May but females were present until early July. Considered to have bred but no proof obtained.

One or two individuals reported during the period January to March at Tophill Low N.R.; Sunk Island; Staveley N.R. and Hay-a-Park though 14 were at Blacktoft Sands on 6th January. Up to 15 at some 12 locations in April/May with larger gatherings of 29 at Beacon Lagoons on 17th May; 17 west at Southfield Res. on 15th May whilst at Blacktoft Sands peaks were 43 on 21st April and 32 on 18th May.

Autumn passage at Blacktoft Sands recorded peaks of 62 on 29th July (all adults) then 83 on 27th August with 120 on 31st. 170 present on 1st and 5th September thereafter decreasing to 148 on 10th September then 68 on 12th October with 35 on 25th then 28 on 12th November; two present in early December. Small numbers elsewhere in VC 63 with 14 at Broomhill Ings on 13th September as the highest count. Small parties also in VC 61 excepting at Tophill Low N.R. where 35 were present on 21st August otherwise less than 15 apart from 16 south at Spurn on 11th September.

Very few in VC 64 with one or two occasionally at four locations whilst in VC 65, one to five also occasionally at five locations.

The wintering flock at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. held 17 by 7th November increasing to peak at 70 on 11th December.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce in VC 61 being recorded from only seven locations, usually one or two birds but three at Spurn on 14th March; three also there on several days in October/November with four on 12th October. Three to the west at Sunk Island on 8th November. Very scarce in VC 62 whilst in VC 63, one to three at ten locations during the period January to March and at eight from October to December though nine were at Trecroft Dyke on 1st January.

A similar situation in VC 64 but up to five at Gallows Hill Pond, Knaresborough from January to March with up to six between mid October and the year's end. The only record in VC 65 was of a single bird occasionally at Masham in December. The last record was at Barnston on 29th April with the first on 18th August at Melbourne.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Improved conditions in the Wheldrake Ings area resulted in 30 drumming birds being present; also along the R. Derwent; 15 drumming birds at North Duffield/Bubwith; four at Thorganby;

three at Aughton and one at Thornton Ellers. Probably bred at Tophill Low N.R. and may have done so at Puffin Bog. Generally small numbers in VC 61 where maxima reported were 75 at Filey Dams on 29th September with 82 on 3rd October; 50+ over Gransmoor on 28th November whilst up to 80 were at Wheldrake Ings in February.

Most of the breeding records in VC 63 were from moorland locations but at least 30 drumming birds were reported from lowland ones. Peak counts in this VC were 60 at Worsbrough Res. on 17th February with 80 there on 20th March. During the latter months, 75 at Blacktoft Sands on 25th September and 55 at Broomhill Ings on 3rd October whilst 66 were recorded at Worsbrough Res. on 13th December. In the Idle Stop/Newington areas (Yorks/Notts borders) up to 200 were present in mid August with 150 in mid September and a peak of 240 on 25th October.

105 breeding pairs found in the Yorkshire Dales N.P. whilst only a further six were located in the lowland areas of VC 64. Generally a poor year in this VC with a maxima of 33 at Farnham G.P. on 8th March and 22 at Ripley Lake on 13th October.

Dowitcher sp *Limnodromus griseus/scolopaceus*

A single bird flying to the south at Flamborough on 9th August was thought to be Short-billed (*Limnodromus griseus*) (DB:BR:BH:MN:PJW). Still under consideration by BBRC.

One, in summer plumage, flying south at Spurn on 26th August (NAB) was found unacceptable by the BBRC.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

No confirmed breeding in VC 61 though roding birds were noted at Kelk; Thornton Ellers and Skipwith. Small numbers recorded during the early months whilst autumn was generally poor, particularly at Flamborough, with four on 8th November; Filey had ten on 30th October whilst, at Spurn, up to five were present from 5th October to the end of November with peaks of ten on 25th October and 19 on 30th. Elsewhere, seven at Thornton Ellers on 17th December.

In VC 63, roding was reported from 25 locations totalling over 65 individuals including ten at Wharnciffe on 7th July and seven at Wilsic (no date). Three roding over Hatfield Moors represented a long term low related to habitat loss.

No apparent change in status in VC 64 where six were roding over Bolton Abhey on 18th May whilst 'high numbers' were recorded from the Leighton/Colsterdale area of VC 65 in December.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Birds seen displaying at the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. on several dates. It is considered that three pairs bred but failed during incubation. Spring passage here was exceptional with maxima of 12 on 20th April; 13 on 4th, 6th and 18th May peaking at 16 on 7th. An increase in this species was also noted at Spurn and Sunk Island, individuals being recorded on 23 days at the former, usually one to four birds; occasionally up to six in August and with 26 to the west up the Humber on 26th September. Sunk Island had 14 on 2nd February; up to six during early/mid May then regularly from 3rd July to the year's end with 22 on 12th July; 48 on 2nd August; 33 on the shore and 29 to the west on the 15th with 128 on the 29th (the highest count ever for Yorkshire). Numbers then decreased to 87 by 12th September; 60 on 20th then 68 on 10th October with 41 on 28th November. 15 at Filey Dams on 30th May whilst small numbers were occasionally recorded at Tophill Low N.R.; Hornsea Mere; Barmston; Flamborough and Beacon Lagoons.

In VC 63, regularly at Blacktoft Sands where two were present on 9th March then increasing to 16 on 20th April with spring peaks of 28 on 1st May and 13 on 2nd June. 32 were present on 27th July then up to 11 in August; 30 on 16th September; 17 on 17th October then one to three to 20th November though five were reported during late October and on the 7th November. Eight were at Southfield Res. on 4th May with ten on 5th whilst 11 were at Winterset Res. on 9th. Five at both Potteric Carr, on the 26th to 31st, and at the Rother Valley C.P. from the 18th to 21st. Six at Thornton Moor Res. on 13th July and four at Thrybergh C.P. on 5th August.

Swillington Ings had 11 on 9th May; five on 16th and eight on 26th with ten at Staveley N.R. on 10th. One to three occasionally in spring at Hay-a-Park and Farnham G.P. In autumn, six at Swillington Ings on 27th July with one to three occasionally there; at Mickletown Ings; Staveley N.R. and Farnham G.P.

Scarce in VC 65 with three at Scorton on 21st April; five at Stapleton on 13th May and one at Nosterfield on 6th June.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Present at Sunk Island throughout the year with monthly maxima of: January, 78; February, 159; March, 142; April, 33; May, 64; June, 175; July, 85; August, 160; September, 170; October, 330; November, 228 and December, 482 (12th). Small numbers at Spurn with 28 on 12th January as peak during the early months; up to 35 in May then below ten until October when up to 30. Up to 50 in November but less than ten in December. 48 recorded at nearby Beacon Lagoons on 30th August whilst small numbers were reported from other coastal locations.

Southerly passage was noted at Spurn with 38 on 14th May then regularly during August with 36 on 9th but the main movement was during October with 114 on 1st and 150 on 4th. Small numbers were occasionally seen to leave to the east there during spring. Scarce at fresh water locations with five at Hornsea Mere on 14th May; seven at North Dulfeld Carrs on 1st October; singles at Wheldrake Ings on 7th May and Tophill Low N.R. on 23rd.

In VC 63, regularly at Blacktoft Sands, usually one to three but ten on 20th May and six west on 25th June; autumnal passage being low. 31 flew west over Redmires Res. on 30th August; six west over Crossland Moor on 3rd; five over Thornton Moor Res. on 1st with four there on 12th July. Singles occasionally at Winterset Res.; Womhwell/Broomhill Ings; Southfield Res. and Old Denaby. A very poor year in VC 64 with only four records; singles at Otley G.P. on 14th May; Swillington Ings from 16th to 23rd and again on 25th and at Eccup Res. on 18th July.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Several very early records; the first over Eldwicke on 8th March (third earliest ever; Flamborough, 17th January 1987; Spurn, 2nd February 1947) at Hornsea Mere on 16th and Swillington Ings on 18th. The next were at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd April then at Wheldrake Ings on the 4th. Generally small numbers during spring excepting at Wheldrake Ings and Spurn; the latter having 41 passing east on 10th May with 37 on 19th. The roost at Wheldrake Ings held 33 on 26th April and then, in May, 86 on 6th; 81+ on 7th; 102 on 9th and 67 on 14th.

In autumn, 25 to 50 almost daily at Spurn during July and August with exceptionally heavy passage in early August when 384 were recorded on the 1st and 200 over the next four days. (The total on the 1st is the highest count ever for Yorkshire. This surpasses the 267 which flew south at Spurn on 3rd August 1967; the 190 at Filey on 30th July 1987 being erroneously reported in that year's Report as the highest). This passage was also reflected at Filey where 224 were recorded on 1st August and at Flamborough with 102 on the 2nd; 79 at Flamborough with 39 at Filey on the 3rd. 56 at Flamborough on 18th.

Along the Humber; 39 at Sunk Island on 8th August with 31 on 14th whilst upstream at Blacktoft Sands; 11 on 30th July and 12 on 2nd August. Inland, eight west over Broomhill Ings on 4th July and occasionally up to ten at Swillington Ings. One to five were also occasionally reported from a further 16 inland locations in autumn.

One reported at Spurn on the 19th and 20th December constitutes the latest ever record for Yorkshire.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The survey of the Yorkshire Dales N.P. revealed 317 breeding pairs. Elsewhere, good breeding numbers on the high ground of VC 63 with small numbers along the low ground and increasing numbers on the lower ground areas of VC 64. Some 24 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R.

BoEE counts gave; January, 917; February, 2001; March, 2414; September, 769; October, 1178; November 554 and December, 1952. Almost daily at Spurn though never more than the 81 on 20th December excepting 87 to the east on 18th April with 80 on 21st. Up to 350 at Sunk Island to early July when 1000 were present on the 3rd with 750 on 9th August then 350 or less during the period September to December. Small numbers were reported from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge where the peak was 362 on 6th January. Good numbers at Wheldrake Ings with 100 on 25th February; 152 on 28th and 376 on 4th March (location record); 115 were present on 28th/29th November.

Small numbers were widespread in VC 63, usually between 20 and 60 but 70+ at Leeshaw Res. on 13th March; 80+ at Walshaw Dean on 27th whilst, at Blacktoft Sands, a total of 591 passed west between 9th June and 5th September with peaks of 114 on 25th June and 50 on 15th July.

The peak winter flock in VC 64 was 205 at Otley G.P. on 21st February; spring passage peaking there with 375 on 7th March; 100 present at Malham Tarn on the 20th and 175 at Eccup Res. on 5th. Post breeding concentrations were; 100 at Malham Tarn on 24th June; 150 on Ilkley Moor on 2nd August with 200+ at Riva Res. on 16th, 182 were near Otley on 5th December.

In VC 65, large feeding flocks were regular in the Bolton-on-Swale area with maxima of 485 on 23rd February and 535 on 23rd November (location record).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The two birds at Blacktoft Sands remained from 1991 into this year with three being present from the 15th to 28th April. One at Faxfleet on 12th January may well have been one of the Blacktoft birds. Numbers at Blacktoft Sands had increased to five by 14th May thereafter decreasing to two by the 10th. One at Spurn on 23rd April then, in May, singles occasionally at some four other locations and, in June, at five.

In autumn, small numbers during August/September with one or two at 14 locations; three at Spurn on 28th August; up to three at Blacktoft Sands but four on 10th and five on 19th September and 3rd October. At Broomhill Ings; three from 27th to 30th August with five on the 31st remaining to 9th September then six from 10th to 13th with two on the 14th. Nine at Haverfield Ponds on 1st September.

One at Spurn from 11th to 20th December with two at Blacktoft Sands to the years end.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

The only breeding records in VC 61 came from the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. where 52+ pairs were reported. Breeding was recorded at over 20 lowland locations in VC 63 and from many upland ones. Few records (six) from VC 64 where this species is stated as being greatly under reported. No records from VC 65.

BoEE counts gave; January, 1682; February, 1263; March, 2491; April, 3752; September, 5556; October, 2602; November 1889 and December 1455. Only small numbers were reported from Sunk Island where 220 on 25th July was the highest count whilst Spurn had up to 520 in April otherwise less than 200 during the early months. Up to 400 in July then 1370 in August; 1300 in September falling to 610 in October thereafter small numbers to year's end. High tide roosts at Beacon Lagoons gave 689 on 15th July with 888 on 16th; 850 on 18th August and 750 on 30th. Southerly passage at Spurn was light with 77 on 13th August as maximum.

Regular at Tophill Low N.R. during the early months with monthly maxima of 52 on 1st January and 42 on 16th February whilst the newly created South Marsh attracted 62 on 20th March.

Several locations in VC 63 had maxima of 12 to 25 with Blacktoft Sands reporting maxima of 65 on 3rd March; 80 on 14th July and 85 on 25th September. The maxima in VC 64 during the winter months were; 29 at Swillington Ings; 22 at Mickletown Ings and 20 at Otley G.P. (all in February). Light spring passage recorded with peaks of 14 at Gouthwaite Res. and 13 at Otley G.P. in late March.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One was present at Willowgate, VC 63, on seven days between 8th February and 11th March. Small numbers in spring in VC 61; one or two, at Filey; Flamborough; Hornsea Mere; Sunk Island; Kelk; the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R. and Puffin Bog whilst up to five were at Spurn between 10th and 31st May and seven at Beacon Lagoons on 17th. One to four at Blacktoft Sands between 22nd April and 2nd June with one to three at a further 14 locations during April/May. In VC 64, singles were at six locations between 6th April and 4th June. One or two at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, during May being the only records from this VC.

In autumn, up to five at Spurn in July then up to eight regularly during August/September. Up to six at Tophill Low N.R. between 7th and 26th August with up to seven on many days at Sunk Island between 13th July and 3rd October. Remarkable numbers were at Haverfield Ponds, VC 61, which culminated in 59 being present on 1st September (AM:DC:SM); a record count for Yorkshire.

In VC 63, one to four at 22 locations in addition to Broomhill Ings where nine were present on 10th August and at Blacktoft Sands with 11 on 24th and 29th July; 15 on 17th August then ten on 7th September with small numbers until 12th November. One to three in VC 64 at many locations with maxima of five at Swillington Ings on 1st September and six at Farnham G.P. in August; a late bird at Mickleton Ings on 4th November. Much scarcer than usual at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, with maximum of four on 21st August. One to three also at Leyburn; Forcett Park; Stapleton; Cleasby and Nosterfield.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One to three at nine locations in VC 63 during the period January to March; in VC 64, up to three at Knostrop S.F. until 14th March; one at Stapleton, VC 65, in January whilst in VC 61, up to two near Bielby; one at Filey occasionally in January; two at Kelk from 1991 were joined by a third bird from 18th February to 30th March with a fourth from 28th February to 17th March. Two at Melbourne Scamlands throughout January/February with three on 9th January.

Quite widespread by late March then small numbers during spring with no location reporting more than three individuals.

In Autumn, up to 16 were at Tophill Low N.R. by late June; 15 in July; 20 to 22 in August then 13 on 1st September. Elsewhere in VC 61, 12 at Filey Dams on 31st August whilst at Melbourne, 12 were present on 7th August with 22 on 3rd September; 22 at Burstwick G.P. on 16th August with 16 on 19th.

One to five at some 30 locations in VC 63 where higher counts were; seven at Denaby Ings on 11th August; 16 at Broomhill Ings on 13th September; eight at Edderthorpe on 9th August and at Blacktoft Sands; 15 on 27th June, 20 on 30th July; 28 on 15th August and 11 on 13th September.

A single bird summered in the Leventhorpe area of Leeds whilst in autumn, one to two at several locations but four at Farnham G.P. in August and seven at Swillington Ings on 8th August. Light passage in VC 65 where four were occasionally reported from Bolton-on-Swale; this being the peak for the VC.

Quite widespread during November and December with up to three at Knostrop S.F.; four at Broomhill Ings in November and three at Melbourne throughout December.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Two at Blacktoft Sands on 17th May with two in the Wheldrake Ings area from 15th to 17th. All other spring records concerned single birds at some 19 locations; almost all in May.

A good autumn, with at Tophill Low N.R., birds being present on 26 consecutive days; two present on 11th August then three or four to 21st and five from 22nd to 25th after which two remained until 3rd September. Daily at Filey Dams from 7th August to 24th September excepting one day with numbers rising to five on 25th August and 1st September; the last being on 1st October. One or two occasionally at Pulfin Bog; Burstwick G.P.; Spurn; Flamborough and Wheldrake Ings.

Singles at Johnson's Marsh on 10th May and Burton Riggs G.P. on 14th were the only records from VC 62.

In VC 63, one or two occasionally at Edderthorpe; Broomhill Ings; Catcliffe; Darrington and Cattleford with three at Winterset Res. on 7th August and at Blacktoft Sands on 13th August.

A very poor year in VC 64 with one at Staveley N.R. on 23rd August being the only record whilst none were recorded in VC 65.

The last of the year was at Blacktoft Sands on 15th October.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

The first was at Melbourne Scamland on 10th March with the next at Westness (R. Rye; VC 62) on the 15th. No more records during that month then singles on 11th April at Worsbrough and Winscar; on the 12th at Salterhebble and Lindley Wood Res.. Numbers during spring generally low but nine at Gouthwaite Res. in May; 12 at Beacon Lagoons on 24th and 22 at Hornsea Mere on 14th.

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged; over 30 pairs bred on the upland areas of VC 63 and stated to be common along the R. Swale in VC 65 where ten pairs were found between Great Langton and Catterick. The largest post breeding gatherings were 26 at Bolton-on-Swale

on 14th July and 21 at Gouthwaite Res. in July. The last of the year was at Tophill Low N.R. on 19th October.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

One, in full summer plumage, flew along the R. Aire at Swillington Ings, in company with a Common Sandpiper, on 27th May (PRM). Still under consideration by BBRC.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Daily at Spurn with below 50 until April when maximum was 110 then up to 60 in May; 30 in June; 60 in July; 190 in August; 130 in September then 80 in October; 70 in November and 20 in December. Small numbers at Sunk Island with maxima of 11 on 11th January; 16 on 23rd May and 12 on 13th December. 120 at Flamborough on 2nd February with 81 on 21st March and 125 on 9th August otherwise rather scarce there whilst less than 100 were reported from Filey excepting up to 150 in March; 52 were at Barmston on 1st April.

97 roosted at Whitby on 23rd February with 115 there on 14th November.

Southerly passage reported from Spurn in August with 42 on 2nd and 54 on 5th.

Away from the coast; five at Homsea Mere on 16th August; three at Tophill Low N.R. on 23rd May and three at Pulfin Bog on 14th.

In VC 63, one east at Southfield Res. on 9th January then more widespread in spring with singles at six locations; two at Blacktoft Sands on 20th and 22nd May and four on 24th. One to three there in July whilst one or two were recorded at four locations in early August with three west at Stubbs Quarry on the 9th. Singles at Wintersett Res. on 2nd September and Blacktoft Sands on 26th November.

Singles, in May, in VC 64, at Swillington Ings on four occasions and at Mickletown Ings on the 24th. In autumn, only reported from Swillington Ings, mainly single birds, but two on 3rd and 16th August with three on 26th July. Two at Masham G.P., VC 65, on 13th/14th May with one at Nosterfield between 31st May and 2nd June.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One, in summer plumage, at Flamborough on 24th May (DIMW). One at Staveley N.R. on 3rd and 4th June (JEA:AM:MGM).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

A juvenile at Wintersett Res. from 15th to 18th September and one, in winter plumage, there on 25th October. Singles at Flamborough on 18th October (JCL:PAL) and 24th (DB:BR).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One at Flamborough on 13th January; two on 8th and 15th March; one on 20th April then singles on three days in May; three on 20th June with 12 on 18 days in July whilst one was at Barmston on 18th June. At Flamborough, in August, a total of 56 on 18 days with seven on 9th; eight on 16th and five on 28th. Elsewhere during that month; two on 10th and one on 14th, at Barmston; one at Filey on 7th with eight south there on 9th; two at Spurn on 4th; 25 on 8th; nine on 14th and five on a further four days. Few in September with 39 on 12 days at Flamborough when nine on the 6th was the best day; two singles at Filey and five singles at Spurn. Main passage was during October with 201 at Flamborough on 9th; 95 on 10th when 83 flew north at Hornsea, seven at Filey and six at Spurn. 21 at Flamborough on 11th with nine at Filey and two at Spurn. 41 on 12th at Flamborough with three at Spurn then four there on 16th with five on 20th when 19 passed Flamborough with ten there on 25th. One at Spurn on 15th November whilst 31 were reported from Flamborough on three days, 28 of which were on the 13th.

Away from the North Sea; one west at Sunk Island on 10th July and one east there on 8th August.

Inland, in VC 63, one found dead on farmland at Swinefleet on 18th January (AG) and one to the east along the R. Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 6th June.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Scarce in spring with singles at Spurn on 4th, 9th and 25th April; 5th and 27th May; at Flamborough on 9th May and Filey on 27th May. In June, two at Spurn on 20th when ten were at

Flamborough. One to six occasionally at Spurn in July whilst 43 were reported at Flamborough on 16 days with 12 on 26th though few were reported from Filey. 1012 recorded at Flamborough during August, being recorded on 27 days with peaks of 60 on 8th; 74 on 9th; 98 on 14th; 70 on 17th; 59 on 28th and 242 on 30th. 77 at Filey on 9th being the peak there whilst, at Spurn, reported almost daily with peaks of 72 on 8th and 59 on 14th. September saw 696 at Flamborough on 21 days with 166 on 3rd; 223 on 4th; 68 on 5th; 118 on 6th and 43 on 13th. At Spurn, 247 on 4th when 105 passed Filey. Fewer in October when Flamborough had a maximum of 21 on 11th and Spurn 33 on 4th and 24 on 20th with nine on 25th as the last at that location. The last bird at Filey was reported on 13th November with 11 at Flamborough on four days in that month – considered to have been a very poor year at the latter location.

Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, a poor year with two west on 8th August; two west on 22nd then four west on 4th October with singles on three other days. One at Tophill Low N.R. on 14th September.

Small numbers in VC 62 with a peak count of 17 south at Scarborough on 23rd September.

The only inland records came from Blacktoft Sands where singles were present on 4th and 25th October.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Not a good year by recent standards. An adult at Flamborough on 28th June (DB:MN:BR) then an adult on 9th August with a juvenile on 28th (DB:JCL:PAL:BR). An adult at Barmston on 18th with an immature there on 25th (PP). In September, on the 3rd; four adults and one juvenile at Flamborough (PAL) then a single unaged bird at Spurn on 4th (MAB) and a juvenile at Flamborough; two juveniles at Flamborough on 6th (PAL) with another unaged bird at Spurn on 12th; an adult and three juveniles at Flamborough on 18th (PAL). Single adults at Flamborough and Spurn on 4th October when three adults and two juveniles were at Atwick (PAL:WFC:MAB); on the 9th, four adults at Filey (PJD), six adults and a juvenile at Flamborough (PAL) with 13 birds at Spurn (DPB) whilst two were at Spurn (MC:MGN) and an adult at Flamborough on the 10th (JMc) on which day two adults flew west at Sunk Island later returning east (CJHP:JW)

The only record from VC 62 was of three adults south at Scarborough on 23rd September (RHA).

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Singles on three days at Flamborough in January with three at Barmston on 9th; eight at Flamborough on three days during March with four on the 15th and three on 28th. Three at Flamborough on 19th April with two at Spurn on 20th. Two singles at Flamborough in May with one at Beacon Lagoons on the 28th then seven at the former on 19th June with singles on three further days. Small numbers at Flamborough in July on 11 days with one on the 1st at Barmston; at Spurn on 2nd and Filey on 7th. Only 47 during August at Flamborough with 12 on 14th and seven on 15th; only seven birds at Spurn during this month. September saw 95 at Flamborough with maxima being 20 on 4th and 21 on 6th; 21 at Barmston on 11th whilst one to 13 were occasionally present at Spurn with 18 flying south at Filey on the 23rd. October saw the most birds with 123 at Flamborough where the maxima were 15 on 4th; 42 on 9th and 17 on 10th whilst 28 at Spurn on 4th and 25 on 5th otherwise one to eight regularly there. Only 30 at Flamborough during November when ten were reported on 14th with nine on 15th; three being reported at Spurn on 15th. Only Flamborough and Barmston recorded birds during December with the latest being on the 25th. A poor year.

Three flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 6th September with two on the river on 15th November.

Small numbers occasionally reported in VC 62 from Long Nab and Scarborough; the maximum being three at the latter on 9th October.

One inland record; a single on the 11th October along the Calder valley between Sowerby Bridge and Elland.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Continues to increase in VC 61 being reported quite frequently at Spurn, all single occurrences excepting two adults on 16th August and considered to involve at least five

individuals. An adult was also occasionally reported from nearby Beacon Lagoons in June whilst the adult was present at Hornsea seafront during both winter periods. Barmston had birds on five days, possibly involving four birds whilst Flamborough had three individuals on four days. A little more frequent at Filey where four birds were reported on 12 days. Further north, singles on three occasions at Saltwick Bay with one at Whitby. Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, birds were reported on seven days with probably five individuals being involved.

Away from the coast, three singles at Kelk whilst the wintering bird at Hornsea was occasionally recorded at Hornsea Mere.

In the York area; three records from Wheldrake Ings/Pocklington Canal, comprising two individuals, with one at the University.

One in VC 62, at Burton Riggs G.P. whilst in VC 63, an increase in records was also noted. Up to four first winter birds at Winterset Res. during the early months with two individuals on one day each in December. Two at Broomhill Ings in early February with first winter birds not infrequently during the period January to late March. Two first winter birds in the Rother Valley C.P. between 15th and 28th March whilst similarly aged birds were occasionally reported during the early months at Upper Wyke; Golcar; Old Denaby; Tinsley S.F.; Worsbrough Res. and Catcliffe Flash. Blacktoft Sands had the only records during spring/summer with a second summer bird on 18th May; an adult on 1st July and an immature on 22nd May. Scarce during the latter months with an adult at Langsett on 30th December and a first winter bird at Broomhill Ings on 12th in addition to the Winterset Res. birds.

Only recorded in VC 64 from Eccup Res. where an adult was present during 11 January days; ten in February and 11 in March until the 21st with a second adult on 9th February and a first winter bird on 18th January. An adult was present there on eight days from 3rd December with a second winter bird on 27th and 31st. Only one record from VC 65; a first summer bird at Scorton on 5th July.

Correction to the 1990 Report: the second winter bird regularly to 11th February was at Winterset Res. and not at Blackmoorfoot Res..

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Occasionally recorded at Hornsea Mere during spring increasing from six first summer birds on 13th May to 11 on 15th then seven on 16th. One to four birds occasionally then to 1st July when seven were present increasing to 23 by 9th then 84 by 9th August; 100 on 14th; 140 on 17th and 158 on 6th September thereafter decreasing to 80 on 9th; 65 on 11th but 124 on 12th then only 15 on 15th. 43 present on 17th and 110 on 18th; only two on 2nd October; 22 on 5th with 15 on 6th and the last bird on the 18th.

Spurn had four on 8th April then one to eight occasionally during the period May to November with higher counts of ten on 21st and 11 on 22nd September. 28 on 4th October with 30 on 5th and 77 on 25th then finally 19 on 15th November. A similar situation at Flamborough but 18 on 30th July; 14 on 11th August; 106 on the 18th then heavy passage in October with 621 on 13th and 224 on 25th. 114 passed on 8th November with 61 on 14th. 16 at Barmston on 9th/10th September otherwise few reported from other coastal locations. Occasionally recorded from the Humber at Sunk Island with 13 west there and nine to the east on 15th November. Three at Tophill Low N.R. on 13th June with four on the 14th. Single at Wheldrake Ings from 1st to 24th April with an adult on the 22nd.

In VC 63, singles recorded in April at Winterset Res. on 24th and 26th; Broomhill Ings, 12th and 21st; Old Denaby, 7th; Southfield Res., 11th, 22nd/23rd with 19 north on 24th. Two at Thrybergh C.P. on 20th. In May, singles at Southfield Res. on 5th and 23rd with two from 6th to 12th; three from 13th to 18th then two on 22nd. Singles at the Rother Valley C.P. on 16th; Worsbrough Res. on 14th and at Blacktoft Sands from the 11th with four on 3rd June and five on the 7th. Singles in July at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd and at Blacktoft Sands on 30th. One at Withens Clough on 20th September; at Blacktoft Sands on 25th and Southfield Res. on 30th whilst two were at Broomhill Ings on 3rd.

A poor year in VC 64 with singles at Swillington Ings on 26th April; 3rd May; at Eccup Res. on 9th July; Farnham G.P. on 10th (same bird?); Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd August and Eccup Res. on the 9th. One record from VC 65; an adult at Scorton on 7th July.

Addition to the 1991 Report: A juvenile/first year bird at Nosterfield, VC 65, on 30th August.



Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, Hornsea Mere,
6th–14th May. (J. Harriman)



Spectacled Warbler, *Sylvia conspicillata*, Filey,
24th–29th May. (I. Robinson)



Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica*, Flamborough,
28th–31st May. (J. Harriman)



Marmora's Warbler, *Sylvia sarda*, Spurn,
8th–9th June. (T. Collins)



Booted Warbler, *Hippolais caligata*, Spurn,
11th–22nd June. (P. A. Doherty)



Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Winterset,
15th–18th September. (R. C. Hart)

Penduline Tit, *Remiz pendulinus*,
Hay-a-Park G.P., 19th–20th September.
(*J. Harriman*)



Paddyfield Warbler, *Acrocephalus agricola*,
Flamborough, 27th September.
(*P. A. Lassey*)

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A juvenile south at Spurn on 28th July (DPB:DY). An adult on 14th August seen at both Filey (SC:JMT) and at Flamborough (DB:BH:JCL:PAL). Adult at Flamborough on 20th (PAL) with an adult south at Atwick on 17th September (WFC). A juvenile south at Spurn on 5th October (DPB); juvenile at Flamborough on 9th (PAL); adult north at Filey on the 10th (REH:MK:DJS) with a juvenile at Flamborough on 11th (DB:BH:PAL:PJW) and one south at Spurn on the 25th (PV1).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

One pair bred at Tophill Low N.R.; the first occurrence here, hatching two young but none fledged. c 650 pairs at Wheldrake Ings. In VC 63; c 100 pairs at Denaby Ings; 30 pairs at Potteric Carr; four pairs at Thorne Moors with 100+ pairs at Old Denaby but owing to low water, all deserted by mid May, some moving at Aldwarke S.F. where a few were successful though many were robbed. In VC 64; 6000 pairs at the Barden Res.; 35 at Knostrop S.F. and 11 at Mickletown Ings whilst, in VC 65, an estimated 600 pairs were present at Summer Lodge Tarn with 48 fledged young at Nosterfield (no count of nests).

Widespread and common with many gatherings of 1000 to 10,000. Larger counts reported were; Tophill Low N.R., with monthly maxima of; September, 16,000; October, 16,000 and November 16,500. 12,000 at Sunk Island on 26th September and 16,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 18th December. Up to 10,500 were at Southfield Res. in February and 15,000 passing Blacktoft Sands (to roost on the Humber) on 15th September. In VC 64, 17,500 at Eccup Res. in January; 16,000 in February then 13,000 by 17th October and 18,000 on 30th December. 12,000 at Swillington Ings on 23rd January. 17,000 at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, on 14th October.

One, found dead, at Tophill Low N.R., on 15th March had been ringed as a chick at Griend (Holland) on 11th July 1970.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Particularly common in VC 61 where maxima at the Tophill Low N.R. roost were; January, 6000; February (17th), 17,000; March, 4500; September, 8000; October (16th), 13,500; November (15th), 21,000 with 17,500 on 20th and 6500 in December. Very large numbers were reported passing over Kelk in autumn with 10,000 to 12,000 on 29th August and 7-8000 frequently during September. 3500 at Flamborough on 1st January with large counts in April peaking at 3300 on 4th. 3000 at Sunk Island on 15th August.

Maxima in VC 63 were up to 1000 at Southfield Res. in January with up to 1200 in March; c 1000 at Winterset Res. during both winter periods with 1000 at Thornton Moor Res. on 6th January. Counts of between 500 and 1000 were occasionally recorded at Blackmoorfoot Res.; Broomhill Ings and Blacktoft Sands. Eccup Res., VC 64, had 6000 in January falling to 4000 by 22nd February with 3250 on 3rd April. 2000 were present on 19th September rising to 7000 by 22nd December. Nowhere else in this VC had more than the 680 at Swinsty Res. on 15th February.

Peak count in VC 65 was 1630 at Caldwell on 4th September with 680 at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th March.

A dark-backed bird at Flamborough on 29th November may have been of one of the eastern races.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

The colony at Barden Res. had some 300 to 400 pairs despite being 'controlled'.

The large numbers at Tophill Low N.R. of autumn 1991 were repeated this year with 70 to 100 from 13th September; 610 on 25th; 700 on 27th then 460 on 2nd and 600 on 5th October declining quickly to ten by mid month. Elsewhere, maxima were, 84 at Puffin Bog; 90 at Flamborough on 31st August and up to 60 at Spurn in March with 300 in September whilst 42 were at Sunk Island on 28th October. 196 at Brighton Tip on 12th September.

Good numbers in VC 63 with maxima at Langsett Res. of 1200 on 10th August; 3000 on 1st September then 1600 on 25th October and up to 1148 in November. 1000 at Royd Moor Res. on 6th August and 1100 at Southfield Res. during October. 400 to 800 occasionally at Thornton Moor Res.; Blackmoorfoot Res. and Winterset Res. whilst in VC 64, roost numbers in January

were below ten increasing in February into spring when 300 were present by early May at Swillington Ings. 500+ had returned to that location by late July with c 700 on 19th October. 600 regularly at Hay-a-Park whilst Eccup Res. and Malham Tarn occasionally held between 100 and 150.

Late summer passage through Bolton-on-Swale peaked at 720 on 17th July then a second peak in early autumn with 830 on 9th September, 350 at Nosterfield on 20th July.

Birds attributed to the race *L.f.intermedius* were quite well distributed though in small numbers of generally one to five, but higher counts from Flamborough where 13 were present on 4th April; 30 on 30th August with 38 on 31st. In VC 63; up to 12 were reported from Broomhill Ings during September/October.

Small numbers of the race *L.f.fuscus*, one to two, occasionally at Pulfin Bog; Flamborough; Eccup Res.; Gouthwaite Res. and Broomhill Ings.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

No comments received concerning breeding status at Flamborough. Bred within the Lesser Black-backed Gull colony at Barden Res. but no numbers reported.

Widespread in VC 61 with peak counts of 2289 at Flamborough on 28th March and 2605 there on 29th November. 791 flew south at Spurn on 3rd February with 615 south at Barmston on 25th November. Maximum of 224 at Tophill Low N.R. in January but 17 reported there in December was very low. Maximum along the Humber was 500 at Sunk Island in August and December.

In VC 63; 6000 at Langsett Res. on 4th January was a record count for the Sheffield and Huddersfield areas; 2500 there on 30th December. 2500 at Winterset Res. on 2nd January whilst 1300 were present on 19th December. Counts of 500+ were occasionally recorded at Broomhill Ings; Southfield Res.; Blacktoft Sands; Broomhead Res. and Shirecliffe Tip.

In VC 64; the largest counts came from Newsam Green Tip (during day) and Swillington Ings (evening roosts) with generally up to 3000 in January and December but peaking at 5500 on 11th January. Only Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, had large counts with 1800 on 5th January and 2500 on 22nd December.

Dark backed 'northern type' birds were reported frequently from Flamborough with counts of 52 on 2nd January; 61 on eight February days; 40 on four days of November and 187 on seven days in December with 117 on 13th. One classified such was at Tophill Low N.R. on 31st October.

Four very small adult birds with complete bill bands were present at Scorton on 22nd March.

Birds of one of the 'yellow-legged' races *L.a.cachinnans/michahelis* are becoming quite widespread and cannot be due entirely to observer awareness. Three were at Spurn on 18th April with singles there and at Flamborough on a further nine days, two at Beacon Lagoons on 1st July.

Many in VC 63, particularly at Broomhill Ings, being recorded on 17 days in August; 12 in September; eight in October and one in November. Two birds being present on four occasions and with at least five individuals being involved. Three at Southfield Res. on 18th September; up to three in the Redmires Res. area during July to October whilst singles were occasionally recorded at Low Tip Moor (December); Blackmoorfoot Res.; February, July and August and at Ingbirchworth Res. on 17th August.

In VC 64, singles at Swillington Ings on 26th May and at Chelker Res. on 10th October. Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, had three on 7th September with two on 17th July and 2nd August; singles there on a further seven days. One at Leighton Res. from 5th to 14th and 31st October.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Two at Filey on 20th February otherwise singles at Spurn on 18th and 20th April; Flamborough on seven days; Filey on eight and Barmston, two; many of these records probably involving the same individuals. One at Hornsea Mere on 15th March. In VC 62; a 2nd year bird at Burton Riggs on 23rd; 26th April and at nearby Cayton on 8th May.

Many records from VC 63; two 1st winter birds at Ardsley Res. on 4th January with two birds at Scout Dyke Res. on 16th March otherwise all records concerned singles. In January; at Broomhill Ings, 1st winters on 2nd, 25th to 31st; adult on 7th/8th; Winterset Res.; 1st winters 6th to 8th and 20th to 27th; Langsett Res.; 2nd winter, 11th; Treton Dyke; 3rd winter, 12th. In February; Broomhill Ings; 1st winters, 1st, 7th, 10th to 17th, 20th to 22nd, 25th and 27th;

Winterset Res.; 1st winter, 8th; Blackmoorfoot Res.; 1st winter, 10th; Thrybergh C.P.; adult, 9th. In March; Broomhill Ings: 1st winter, 17th to 21st and 31st; Winterset Res.; 1st winter, 16th to 26th, 2nd winter, 19th/20th; Scout Dyke Res.; 2nd winter 17th to 28th. In April; Worsbrough Res.; unaged, 5th; Broomhill Ings: 1st summer, 2nd to 5th; Scout Dyke Res.; 2nd summer, 16th.

In November; Broadstones Res.: adult, 23rd; Broomhill Ings: 3rd winter, 30th. In December; Shirecliffe Tip; 22nd; Langsett Res.: 24th; Broomhead Res.: 30th – all 1st winter and considered to have been the same bird. 3rd winter at Southfield Res. on 27th. Pugneys' C.P. reported singles on four days in February; five in March (to the 27th) whilst at Ardsley Res.: 1st winter birds were reported on 8th; 10th January with 2nd winter birds on 6th and 10th whilst in February; 1st winters on 9th; 14th; 17th and 24th with 2nd winters on 8th and 19th.

Most of the records from VC 64 were from the Newsam Green Tip/Swillington Ings area with 1st winter birds on 5th; 9th January; frequently during February; 23rd March and 2nd April. Another 1st winter individual recorded on 15th and 29th February. Two 1st summer birds on 14th March whilst 2nd winter birds were present on 8th January; 18th March and 29th November with a 3rd winter individual on 4th January. Elsewhere, 1st winters at Eccup Res. on 12th March and an immature flying with Herring Gulls near Gouthwaite Res. on 20th April.

An adult at Newsam Green Tip on 5th January showing characteristics of the North Canadian race *L.g.kumlieni* (Kumlien's Gull) was found to be unacceptable by the BBRC. (AJM:MPL *et al*). A bird at Ardsley Res. on the 6th showed some grey in the primaries and may have been the same bird (MLD).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Quite scarce along the coast of VC 61 with two at Flamborough on 15th March and at Filey on 28th December. Singles at Spurn on 25th January; 14th March; 19th April and 31st August; at Barmston on 3rd February; 2nd October; 18th November and 8th December. At Flamborough on 13th January; 2nd, 12th and 16th February; 21st and 28th March; 30th October; at Filey on 22nd January; 2nd and 22nd March then 27th and 31st December.

Away from the coast; at Hornsea Mere on 12th January; 2nd and 23rd February then at Tophill Low N.R. on 1st January.

In VC 62; two 1st winter birds at Mickleby Tip on 5th January with two at Scarborough Harbour on 23rd January with singles occasionally at Whitby; Cayton; Scalhy Mills and Seamer.

Two at Broomhill Ings on 27th January with single 1st winters there on many days that month; adult on five days between 1st and 7th with 2nd winter on 11th. An adult, 3rd winter and 1st winter occasionally in February with a 1st winter on 12th March and 2nd winter on 27th December. Winterset Res. had adults from 1st to 29th January; 10th, 20th and 28th February and 15th December. Single 1st winters at Broomhead Res.; 5th January; Southfield Res.; 12th January and 10th February; Treeton Dyke on 15th February with 1st/2nd winter birds at Ardsley Res. on 4th February and 6th April. 2nd winter birds at Langsett Res. on 9th February; at Ingbirchworth Res. on 23rd and 25th March with adults on 8th February at Cridling Stubbs; Ingbirchworth Res. on 15th January and Ardsley Res. on 6th; 8th and 14th February. At Pugneys' C.P. single unaged birds were present on two days in January; six in February and two in March with an adult on 1st and 3rd April. Unseasonal birds in this VC were an adult at Broadstones Res. on 16th May with a 1st year bird at Blacktoft Sands on 4th July.

In VC 64, most records came from the Newsam Green Tip/Swillington Ings area with 1st winter birds on 8th, 22nd February; 20th to 29th March and 6th April. A 1st summer individual from 17th to 20th March with 2nd winter birds on 9th; 11th/12th and 19th January then on 12th February; a 3rd winter bird on 17th April with an adult on 5th January. Elsewhere, an adult at Mickletown Ings on 10th February; 2nd winter bird there on 16th February; Eccup Res. having a 1st winter bird on 16th February.

The only record from VC 65 was of a 1st winter individual at Nosterfield on 20th January.

Addition to the 1991 Report: 1st summer bird at Naburn S.W. on 20th April.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Monthly peaks at Tophill Low N.R. were; January, 460; February, 80; March, 15; September, 210; October, 3300; November, 800 and December, 275. The October count, on 5th, is a Yorkshire record (previously being 3000 at Spurn on 24th September 1954 with no other counts

over 2000 – Fairburn Ings, February 1979). 2100 were also present at Tophill Low N.R. on the 9th with 1100 on 11th October. High counts elsewhere were 1000 at Filey on 17th December whilst Flamborough had up to 500 in August increasing to 2135 on 12th September then 1880 on 20th and up to 1450 in November.

In VC 63, 1000 roosted at Winterset Res. on 2nd January whilst no other roost recorded more than the 152 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th January. Peak daytime counts were 450 at Ardsley Res. on 1st January with up to 300 in late December whilst 335 were at Broomhill Ings on 4th January; 200 at Methley Quarry on 11th January and 112 at Low Moor Tip on 29th December.

In VC 64, maxima at roosts were 400 at Eccup Res. and 600 at Swillington Ings both in January decreasing rapidly in February although up to 400 occasionally at Swillington Ings until mid March. Maxima during late months were 120 at Eccup Res. on 27th December and 600 in the Swillington/Newsam Green Tip areas during December. 310 were at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, on 5th January.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

No details of the Bempton/Flamborough breeding colonies were received. 1384 nests counted on the Castle Hill headland at Scarborough.

Common along the coast, particularly in the vicinity of Flamborough Head. At this location the maximum count in February was 2120 then 47,850 on 7th March; 44,500 on 4th April with 30,000 on 12th and 68,500 on 14th June. The autumn peak being 7560 on 12th October. Elsewhere, daily counts were much smaller with 2039 at Spurn on 25th October as the highest reported. Quite frequent along the Humber at Sunk Island with peaks of 20 west on 16th May and 20 east on the 23rd; 44 on 4th October and, on 15th November, 39 east and 16 west. The only inland record in VC 61 was of 15 at Wheldrake Ings on 17th April.

One or two at several locations in VC 63, most often in March. Four at Winterset Res. on 16th with three at Pugneys' C.P. on 26th. In May, three at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd whilst unusually high numbers were reported from the Rother Valley C.P. with 35 adults flying south at 2004 on 19th followed at 2016 by a further 54.

One to three in VC 64 during spring at four locations but only three singles in autumn. Singles at Eccup Res. on 18th November and 2nd December and at Swillington Ings on 29th November were no doubt the result of severe coastal gales.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Two adults at Filey Brigg in the evening of 18th August (PRB:SC:PJD).

Two at Spurn on 10th June (JED) were not accepted by BBRC.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One at Mickletown Ings on the afternoon of 27th May (JCKR:WJH *et al*) was undoubtedly the bird which called briefly at Bolton-on-Swale that same evening (NJM).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first of the year was at Filey on 1st April then four at Flamborough on the 12th. Coastal passage that month gave 145 at Flamborough on 19th with 108 on 25th then smaller numbers in May with peaks of 58 on 4th and 70 on 9th. Numbers at Spurn increased during June to 100+ by mid month then three figure counts to mid September. Flamborough showed a similar increase with 170 on 13th June but not until 26th July did Filey report their first big movement; 200 south. Flamborough, meanwhile had 315 on 19th July with 675 on 26th whilst Spurn had 450 that same day with 500+ roosting at Beacon Lagoons on 19th. Between 350 and 650 daily at Spurn in August with maximum of 900 on 3rd. Up to 530 daily at Flamborough but 1007 on 30th with 150 on 5th at Filey being the peak there and up to 280 at Barmston (20th). September saw up to 100 at Spurn excepting 219 on 2nd; 723 south at Barmston on 10th; 474 at Flamborough on 4th with 265 south at Filey on 11th and 161 on 13th. Small numbers during October with the last at Flamborough on the 24th. Small numbers were also reported along the Humber with 11 west and two east at Sunk Island on 16th May with 11 east on 9th August. 28 were at Hornsea Mere on 9th July.

Inland, in VC 63, one to three occasionally in April/May but six at Winterset Res. on 21st April. More frequent in autumn with seven southwest at Glasshoughton on 2nd; six east at

Blacktoft Sands on 19th. Eight north at Thrybergh C.P. on 21st September with two at Southfield Res. on 21st and 30th. Scarce in VC 64 with singles at Swillington Ings on 18th and 21st; 4th and 11th May. One west over Malham Tarn on 20th April being only the second record for that location. Two southwest over Eccup Res. on 1st September was the only autumnal record for VC 64.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Singles were at Flamborough on 3rd; 5th May and 29th June with one at Spurn on the 30th. One roosted with other terns at Beacon Lagoons on 3rd/4th July. In August, singles at Flamborough on 1st; Spurn on 13th and 21st; Flamborough on 23rd and 28th with two there on 29th when two (the same?) were at Filey. One at Filey on 16th September.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

A very early bird at Staveley N.R. on 5th April with the next; four; at Hornsea Mere on 16th then at Thrybergh C.P. on the 19th; Hornsea Mere; Broomhill Ings; Winterset Res. and Swillington Ings on the 20th. The first along the coast were six at Flamborough on the 24th but not until 14th May were birds seen at Spurn and on 18th at Filey. Coastal passage was light with 21 at Flamborough on 9th May as maximum.

Peak numbers reported inland were 22 at Worsbrough Res. on 14th May; 19 at Southfield Res.; 15 at Gouthwaite Res. and 16 at Broomhill Ings on 23rd; 19 at Swillington Ings and 18 at Thorpe Marsh on 24th with 11 at Thrybergh C.P. on 28th.

Few along the coast in June then increasing in July with 56 at Flamborough on 26th when 220 were at Spurn. Good numbers at Spurn in August with peaks of 1100 on 13th; 2550 on 15th; 1500 on 21st; 2600 on 26th and 1100 on 27th. Numbers smaller at Flamborough with 379 on 11th; 510 on 15th; 331 on 16th and 308 on 30th. 780 flew north in 90 minutes at Barnston on 16th.

September saw peaks at Spurn of 1100 on 3rd; 1000 on 6th, 10th and 12th whilst 770 flew south at Flamborough on 9th and 723 south at Barnston on 10th. Small numbers away from the coast in VC 61 with 24 at Hornsea Mere on 9th July as maximum.

In VC 63, 16 at Southfield Res. on 9th June; 15 at Bretton Park on 21st and 23rd July. In August, at Blacktoft Sands, 17 on 19th and 11 on 31st with 33 at Winterset Res. on 9th whilst in September, 14 were at Winterset Res. on 17th. One to four occasionally at a few locations in VC 64 but 11 at Hay-a-Park on 9th August. The last to be reported were; VC 63; Silsden on 11th October; VC 61 at Filey on 11th November and in VC 62 at Long Nab on 25th November.

Bred in VC 63 at Worsbrough Res.; one pair, two young Pugneys' C.P.; five pairs of which four were successful and at Broomhill Ings where one pair failed. In VC 64, at Farnham G.P.; four pairs with ten young, and Swillington Ings; four pairs, seven young. Probably bred along the R. Ouse near York.

Birds not specifically identified as either Common or Arctic Terns were frequently recorded at Spurn where 136 were present on 14th May then in autumn, large numbers with 4540 on 26th; 4650 on 27th and 2230 on 31st August with 2300 on 7th and 1000 on 11th September. A very late bird flew along the R. Aire at Farnhill Ings on 21st November.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

The first was at Wombwell Ings on 7th April then at Hornsea Mere, four on 16th April. Spring passage was light with 87 at Spurn on 18th May as the peak along the coast. Autumnal passage was also light with peaks at Spurn of 120 on 8th; 113 on 15th and 140 on 25th August and at Flamborough, 25 on 26th July and 28 on 15th August. Very few along the Humber with the exception of 71 to the east at Sunk Island on 29th May.

Small numbers, one to three, occasionally at fresh water locations in VC 61 but 18 at Hornsea Mere on 14th May. Inland, in VC 63, spring passage was light with records in April from four locations, and, in May, from three; peaks being seven at Southfield Res. on 8th May and 14 north over Wombwell Ings on 23rd. Similarly, in autumn, very few excepting seven at Winterset Res. on 13th August. Small numbers during spring in VC 64 with four at Swillington Ings on 20th April; five at 24th and three on 26th; four at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 6th May. Even fewer in autumn with four records of single birds at three locations. Scarce also in VC 65 where one or two were occasionally reported from Bolton-on-Swale and Nosterfield during both spring and autumn.

The last bird of the year was at Filey on 15th November.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*

One at Flamborough on 18th August (AMA:JCL) was the second record for Yorkshire.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Bred at Spurn and Beacon Lagoons. At the former; seven pairs laid eggs inside the protective (electric) fence; one clutch fell to Fox predation with the remaining six clutches all hatching excepting one egg though regrettably none fledged due to (a) one or two chicks succumbed to bad weather, (b) two or three chicks were led outside the electric fence by parents and were then predated, possibly by Fox, (c) remainder taken by a Merlin. 16 pairs at Beacon Lagoons had increased to 28 by the 16th with a final count of 34. By the end of June good numbers of chicks were around the colony; seven were flying by the 4th July and, despite atrocious weather; Fox and Carrion Crow predation, a very successful season was expected. On 8th July, a female Merlin arrived (from the Spurn colony) resulting in the demise of most chicks with a final total of 11 fledged.

First arrivals were eight at Easington on 24th April with five at Spurn the following day. Numbers at Beacon Lagoons peaked at 118 on 7th July thereafter a quick decrease with the last two on 2nd August. Up to 30 regularly at Spurn from May to July with 49 at the Point on 2nd June; the last being ten on 2nd September with two on the 11th.

Elsewhere; three west at Sunk Island on 6th June; four at Filey on 8th May and six on 31st July; nine on 1st August and three on 14th. Nine at Flamborough on 18th July and six on 25th. Four at Barmston on 22nd May with five there on 29th July.

The only records from inland came from VC 63, all of single birds, at Worsbrough Res. on 14th and 25th May; Southfield Res. on 21st April and 25th May; Thrybergh C.P. on 24th April; Treeton Dyke from 25th to 29th April and at Blacktoft Sands on 9th May and 3rd June.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Two at Broomhill Ings and Otley G.P. on 20th April; singles at Hay-a-Park on 21st; Pugneys' C.P. on 22nd; Southfield Res. on 23rd; at Hay-a-Park and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th when seven passed through Swillington Ings. A marked influx in mid May when eight were at Castle Howard on 13th with, on the 14th, birds being reported from some 21 locations. In VC 61; 29 at Spurn; 12 at Hornsea Mere; eight at Flamborough; in VC 63, 15 at Southfield Res. and in VC 64; eight at both Swillington Ings and Mickletown Ings. Ten at Spurn on the 17th, then on the 18th, 24 at Spurn; 13 at Southfield Res.; ten at Farnham G.P.; 17 at Bolton-on-Swale; 19 at Scorton and 12 at Nosterfield; nine at Spurn on 24th when seven were at Chelker Res.. One or two in June at Kilnsea; Flamborough; Winterset Res. and Swillington Ings whilst in July, two at Broomhill Ings on 4th/5th; one at Swillington Ings on 5th and Kilnsea on 17th.

In August, one to six almost daily at Spurn; nine south at Filey on 9th when 30 flew east at Sunk Island; 13 at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd but few elsewhere. A large influx on 11th September with 143 at Filey; 61 at Flamborough; 51 at Swillington Ings; 34 at Hornsea Mere; 30 at Ingbirchworth Res.; 24 at Tophill Low N.R.; 23 at Thrybergh C.P.; Spurn 19 and Worsbrough Res., 15. Most had departed by the 12th with 13 each at Filey and Hornsea Mere; five being at the latter location on the 14th. The last reported were singles at Filey on 3rd October and at Southfield Res. on the 5th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Status at Bempton assumed to be unchanged as no details were received. Bred on the cliffs to the north of Filey Brigg. Regular along the coast with peaks at Flamborough of 14,500 on 12th and 9440 on 26th January; 6000 on 14th February; 12,810 on 8th March with 37,830 on 15th, 22,700 on 27th and 13,500 on 28th. In April, 11,000 on 4th and 20th; 38,700 on 6th June then 19,800 on 5th July but very few in August with only 307 on six dates. 2300 on 11th October; similar in November but increase in late December with 18,000 on 27th and 11,000 on 28th. Similar situation at other locations with 1110 north at Filey in one hour on 19th December.

One east at Sunk Island on 6th June with one on the R. Trent at Blacktoft Sands on 29th October. The only record from a fresh water location was of a single bird at Tophill Low N.R. on 27th June.

Away from the proximity of the breeding colonies many Guillemots and Razorbills were not specifically identified, being reported as *auks sp.* At Scarborough, 'many thousands' passed

north on each day of the period 9th to 12th October. Up to 512 at Spurn in autumn whilst at Sunk Island of 15th November, heavy passage was reported with 856 to the west but only 553 returning east; large parties involved were 66, 97 and 113, most of which were considered to be Guillemots.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

No comments from the Bempton area; bred north of Filey Brigg. Peak counts at Flamborough were; 1700 on 29th February; 2820 on 1st March increasing through the month with 9450 on 8th and 24,650 on 15th then 15,700 on 22nd and 13,500 on 28th. 17,150 on 12th April and 8000 on 20th. 16,600 on 6th and 9300 on 15th July. Scarce in August with only 65 birds on six days. 3500 on 11th October then very scarce in December. Similar situation elsewhere but with smaller numbers.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

One on the sea at Filey, on 7th November, was later seen to fly off south. (PRB:JAP:CCT: JMET *et al.*).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Possibly the worst year ever. One at Filey on 25th March. In October and November; one to five occasionally at Scarborough; Filey; Flamborough and Spurn though six at Flamborough on 15th November.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Small numbers bred to the north of Filey but again, no details from Bempton. Largest numbers at Flamborough; where less than 500 until March then 4712 on 15th; smaller counts in April and May; 7380 on 6th June with 4710 on 7th and 4200 on 14th; 5600 on 21st and 10,600 on 30th. A total of 56,685 were counted on 12 days in July with maxima of 9080 on 1st; 7630 on 28th and 11,480 on 30th. 12,600 on 1st and 12,000 on 2nd July with 385 on 14th thereafter few.

Only small numbers at other coastal locations but nine west at Sunk Island on 6th June which were seen to return east the same day. One east there on 4th October with three east on 15th November.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Large numbers resident at Flamborough with 1300 on 1st January; 1000 on 2nd February; 500 being present during the summer months then 1000 on 27th September with 850 on 14th November. Birds from this area were no doubt concerned in the large parties of 1000 frequently recorded in the Barmston area and also the very large numbers in December near Kelk where 1500 were present on the 16th. Under recorded in many areas.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

In VC 61, generally small parties; up to 40, but large counts were reported from near Kelk in December with 350 on the 18th and 300+ the following day. 75 were at Thornton Ellers on 2nd April. Large gatherings reported from VC 63 were 100 at Broomhill Ings during the early months then 120 on 7th October with 150 to the southwest on 31st August. Thrybergh C.P. had 110 on 20th February and 10th April with 130 on 3rd October. *c* 80 at Edderthorpe on 20th February with a similar number at Carlton Marsh on 4th April.

In VC 64; 70 at Gouthwaite Res. on 28th November was a very good count for the upper Dales. In the lowland areas; 140 at Eccup Res. on 17th December; 120 at Bishop Monkton Ings during December and *c* 150 at Swillington Ings in October. Status apparently unchanged.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Widespread, with no change in status apparent. Flocks of up to 1000 reported from many locations during both winter periods. Larger gatherings were, 3040 at Pulfin Bog on 22nd November with 4500 on 29th then up to 3000 during December. Up to 1800 occasionally seen near Tophill Low N.R. in November whilst over 5000 roosted at Hornsea Mere during both winters.

In VC 63; over 2000 feeding near Selby on 19th January whilst c 2000 were near Southfield Res. on 9th. Passage over the Redmires/Strines/Ox Stones watchpoints (Pennines southwest of Sheffield) between 9th October and 14th November totalled at least 28,000 birds. 3000 at Midhope on 20th December and 2000+ at Cragg Vale on 28th November. Few large gatherings in VC 64 with 1000 at High Batts N.R. on 27th December as the highest count. 824 at Nosterfield on 9th February being the largest gathering in VC 65.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

A slight increase in the Knaresborough area otherwise no comments made on status. Maximum counts in VC 61 were 97 at Barmston on 22nd November; 86 at Low Catton on 24th October and 64 at Kelk on 7th January. In VC 63; eight locations reported flocks of 60 to 100 during the autumn whilst Broomhill Ings had up to 221 during September and 487 on 7th October; 200 at Doncaster Race Course on 21st September with 175 at Rostholme on 6th October. Many flocks of 20 to 50 in VC 64 with up to 100 regularly at Little Preston in December peaking at 176 on 7th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

A slightly better year in the Derwent Valley/Pocklington Canal area though few breeding records elsewhere in VC 61. The breeding population of VC 63 appears to be declining slowly whilst in VC 64, breeding status unchanged.

In VC 61, known to have bred at Kelk and Lowthorpe; at Brayton Barff; Poppleton and Sturge's pond, in the York area whilst in VC 63; 11 pairs in the Doncaster area; 14 in the Idle valley (Yorks/Notts borders); 11 pairs near Winterset Res. (said to be still flourishing) though only a further six pairs reported from the remainder of this VC. Three pairs near Scorton, VC 65, with eight singing birds near Nosterfield and much more frequently recorded near Cleasby but no proof of breeding.

The first of the year was at Wheldrake Ings on 17th April then at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd. Peak spring passage at Spurn occurred in May with 11 on 8th; 19 on 12th; 25 on 13th; 31 on 15th then ten on 26th and 14 on 31st. Flamborough had 11 on 24th with 14 on the 16th at Sunk Island. Passage at Blacktoft Sands was much reduced compared to recent years.

The autumn passage was light with 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 25th August as maximum. Late birds reported were at Blacktoft Sands on 25th September and at Spurn on 2nd October.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

One at Fishlake on 8th April was well in advance of the next at Carlton Marsh and Thorne Moors on 20th then on the 21st at Worsbrough; Melbourne; Ilkley and Grimwith. Status unchanged being widespread in many areas. Six at Staveley N.R. in May and eight together at Walshaw Dean on 20th June. The last reported were on 24th September at North Anston Pit Top and Spurn with one at Nostell on 25th and another at Spurn on 26th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

In VC 61, bred in the east at Kelk; Skipsea; Wassand and Bewholme; appears to be declining in this area but also probably under recorded. In the Lower Derwent bred at Ellerton; Melbourne and Thornton Ellers but no census was carried out in the Wheldrake area. Also bred in this VC at Escrick and Laytham.

The only breeding report from VC 62 came from Heslington whilst in VC 63; nine pairs were reported from the Barnsley area; two in the Doncaster area with one each at Thorne Moors and as Blacktoft Sands. Not reported as breeding from VC 64 with no records at all from VC 65. In VC 63, birds were reported from 18 location, in addition to the breeding areas, being an increase in some areas. Singles were reported from 15 locations in VC 64.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Scarce in VC 61 away from the York area with definite breeding only from Lowthorpe. In the York area the trend is for an increase with breeding at Marton; Huby; Crayke Hall; Whemby Park and North Duffield. In VC 63, bred at 30 locations with probable breeding at a further 22 whilst in VC 64, widely reported from both lowland and upland locations being as numerous in

Nidderdale near Gouthwaite Res. as it is on the lower ground. Widespread reports from VC 65 where numbers appear to have recovered.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Fewer records from Malham Tarn otherwise no apparent change in status. Up to five reported from several locations with seven at Temple Newsam on one occasion.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Bred at Wheldrake and one other location in VC 61 whilst possible breeding occurred at a further two. In VC 62; bred at Strensall; Naburn (two pairs) and Moreby Wood whilst in VC 63, at least 13 pairs bred with one pair in VC 64 'near Settle'.

Few records from VC 61 with five at Sunk Island on 23rd October; no roosts reported. Seven roosts were reported in VC 63 though thought to be more; these included one of nine birds during January/February with seven in December; nine at another in January with eight in November and seven at a third roost in February. In VC 64, roost of up to five (January) with a second of eight or nine birds during the early months including an almost white individual.

The only record from VC 65 was of a single bird on Feldom Ranges during January.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Scant coverage of the southern Pennine areas produced few breeding records but stated as not a true reflection of status in either VC 63 or VC 64 though an increase of records in VC 65 where coverage was above normal. One pair probably bred at Blacktoft Sands.

Well distributed along the coast/estuary of VC 61 with one to three at many locations with four at Sunk Island on 22nd March; four at Filey on 21st/22nd November with six there on 10th October. Up to four were in Pontefract Park, VC 63, in February with six at Blacktoft Sands on 16th January and 29th February. Up to seven on Feldom Ranges, VC 65, during January/February but only one during the late months.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Widespread in the forest areas of the eastern North York Moors but no precise details received. In VC 63; c 36 churring males on Hatfield Moor; 42 on Thorne Moors with birds being present between 14th May and 4th September. 15 males present in the 'Sheffield area' with a single pair in the 'south Pennines'. Bred at Gilling East, VC 62, whilst up to nine birds were present at Skipwith Common.

Swift *Apus apus*

The first of the year were at Otley G.P. and Filey on 20th April; Spurn on the 21st then at Ripley; Swillington Ings; Pugneys' C.P. and Sharow on the 24th. Many locations had birds by early May with a large influx between the 12th and 14th with 1200 at Hornsea Mere on 12th. This location had the only large counts in June with 1000+ on 4th/5th and 1200 on 7th. Heavy passage noted in July at Spurn with 2200 on 11th; 6500 on 12th; 1160 on 13th; 2000 on 17th/18th with 2700 on 26th and 1200 on 27th. During this month, up to 2000 at Hornsea Mere with 2000 at Barmston on the 16th and 2000+ at Beacon Lagoons on 17th. Elsewhere, many locations recorded 250 to 750 but 1000+ on 22nd at Branton. Generally smaller numbers in August when up to 1500 were at Hornsea Mere during the early part of that month whilst 1000 were at Spurn on 3rd and 1500 on the 12th.

Few in September with late birds at Filey and Flamborough on 27th; two at Woodlands (VC 63) on 29th and finally one at Brighouse on 2nd October.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

One at Flamborough on the 19th and 21st July. (DB:BR:JCL:PAL *et al*). The first record for Yorkshire.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Two south at Flamborough on 15th May (PAL). Under consideration by BBRC.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Bred in VC 61 near Tophill Low N.R. and the Lower Derwent Valley N.N.R.; probably bred near Kelk and Lowthorpe. 'Semed scarce this year' along the Lower Derwent, though no other comments received from this VC. The only breeding records from VC 62 came from the vicinity of York whilst in VC 63, nine pairs were confirmed as breeding and, in VC 64, the population was stated as 'healthy' whilst the breeding population fared well. Another good breeding season in VC 65.

Two or three birds reported from many locations with up to six at Pool Paper Mills regularly during August.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Three at Flamborough on 14th May (JCL:GAS); one on the 15th (PAL). Three on 26th May with one remaining until the 30th (PAL). One heard by several observers at Spurn on 25th (JC:BRS *et al*) and one at Filey on 26th (MJC:LP). One south over Beacon Lagoons (TC *et al*) on 27th June was seen later that same day at Spurn (BRS *et al*).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One at Broomhill Ings on 17th May. One at Tophill Low N.R. on 15th October. Although not seen by any local ornithologist, was well described by two NRA employees.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce; singles at Spurn on 20th August; Barden Moor on 15th September; Broomhill Ings on 18th and Flamborough on 26th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Although generally under recorded, breeding status would appear to be unchanged. In VC 61, the only definite breeding occurrences were from the western areas with no definite breeding records from VC 62. Some 21 pairs were located in VC 63 with probable breeding occurring at a further 21 whilst in VC 64, the only confirmed breeding took place at Bolton Abbey though many other locations reported calling birds, particularly in spring. Widespread reports of birds in VC 65 particularly along the fringes of the higher ground.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Widespread and common in all suitable areas. The 55 pairs reported breeding in VC 63 being considerably more than last year but is thought to be a result of better coverage rather than a change in status. Light passage along the coast with singles at Spurn on 20th July; 21st and 31st October whilst small numbers were in evidence at Flamborough in April and October.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

A pair at Hornsea Mere on 26th January; again on 9th April with a single bird on 23rd. Probably bred at Thornton Ellers but still very scarce in VC 61. Bred at Newburgh, VC 62, being the only record from that VC whilst an overall increase in records from VC 63 (probably better coverage as with previous species) with proven breeding at three locations; probable breeding at a further ten with one or two birds at another 35 during various times of the year. Confirmed breeding at only one location in VC 64 but possibly bred at five. Singles at a further 20 locations during the winter months. No definite breeding records from VC 65 but probably did so at one. Single birds were occasionally reported from Bolton-on-Swale; Healaugh and Kiplin.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

One, trapped, at Spurn on 12th January, belonged to one of the eastern races (JC:GED:BRS). One, at Filey, from 16th to 18th May (JWC:WH:JW *et al*).

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One south at Spurn on 12th April (JC:BRS). Singles at Flamborough on 29th September (PAL: JMP) and 4th October (DIMW); at Filey on 23rd October (LC:TDC:PJD) and near Masham on 31st October (NJM: RTa).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

No change in breeding status reported though 838 pairs were located in the Yorkshire Dales N.P. during survey work.

The only flocks of note during the early months were of up to 200 at Newington in January; 100 at Pontefract G.C. on 15th January; 100+ to the east at Elland G.P. on 18th February. Up to 90 at Flamborough in April indicated spring passage.

Passage noted from many locations during the latter months, particularly October, with 300 at Spurn on 13th and between 130 and 190 on a further five days. 110 at Filey on 26th whilst, at Flamborough, up to 270 in September with up to 150 in October. Westerly passage along the Humber with 260 on 14th October when 141 also passed east; 318 on 21st; 846 on 24th and 504 on the 29th.

Away from the coast; 100 at Tophill Low N.R. on 7th October. Westerly movement reported in VC 63, from Strines Top, with 110 on 9th October and 100 on the 30th. Similarly, in VC 64, 100 at Swillington Ings on 13th October; 100 at Linton on 18th and 120 at Wike on the 22nd with, in VC 65, 128 at Nosterfield and 105 near Masham, both on 31st.

Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris*

A good year at Filey; two on 11th/12th March with five on the 30th and seven on 31st. Six on 14th April then on two further days with the last on 10th May. Four had returned by 23rd October with two on 24th then singles on 26th and 30th. One on 21st November. Scarce at Flamborough where two were present on 3rd/4th October and one on 16th November. One south at Beacon Lagoons on 31st October with, at Spurn, one south on 26th May; one on 7th October then singles from 10th to 12th and on the 26th. Two flew east at Sunk Island on 14th November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A very early bird at Staveley N.R. on 2nd March then two at Potteric Carr on the 7th followed by at least ten on 10th March at Knotford Nook. Singles at Pugneys' C.P. and Barmston on 17th then at Tophill Low N.R. and Knotford Nook on 18th; two each at the Rother Valley C.P.; Southfield Res.; Worsbrough Res. and Thrybergh C.P. and singles at Carlton Marsh; Hornsea Mere and Broomhill Ings on the 19th when 16 were at Tophill Low N.R. Most arrived in mid April increasing toward the end of the month with 580 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd; 400 at Tophill Low N.R. on 21st when 300 were at Broomhill Ings. During the latter days of this month, up to 550 at Hay-a-Park G.P.; 300 at High Batts N.R.; 250 at Staveley N.R. with 750 at Nosterfield on the 28th. In May; 600 at Wheldrake Ings on the 1st; 300 at Knotford Nook on the 6th; 400 at Staveley N.R. and 600 at Tophill Low N.R. on the 8th with 1500 at Hornsea Mere on 9th.

Breeding numbers showed a slight increase if any change. 200 pairs at Blaxton G.P.; 140 at Kelk Sand Quarry; 150 at Otley G.P.. Colonies along the Holderness coast unchanged.

Late summer gatherings were reported from many locations with 1000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 30th June. The roost at Blacktoft Sands had 4000 on 31st July increasing to 12,000 on 8th August. 1000+ were at Hornsea Mere during August whilst Tophill Low N.R. had 1000 on the 11th with a similar count on the 31st. 600 to 900 there between 4th and 11th September.

Coastal passage was light at Spurn peaking with 423 on 19th July and 265 on 3rd September.

Late birds at Broomhill Ings on 4th October; Spurn on 13th with two on 19th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first arrivals were at Pugneys' C.P. on 24th to 26th March and nearby Winterset Res. from the 25th to 27th. Two at Bretton Park on 1st April with records from Blacktoft Sands on 2nd; Thrybergh C.P. and the Rother Valley C.P. on the 3rd. Most locations did not record birds until 10th to 16th with small numbers only during April. Maximum spring passage reported in mid May with 9000 passing through Spurn between 11th and 20th peaking with 4300 on the 14th when 950 were at Flamborough with 1850 at the latter on 15th. No large counts elsewhere.

No comments on breeding status received thus assumed to be unchanged.

Autumn passage not outstanding at Spurn with low treble figure counts until 4500 on 16th August; 1000 on 17th and 1300 on 21st. Up to 300 regularly in September with peaks of 700 on 3rd and 1350 on 23rd whilst up to 100 during the early days of October when 250 passed on the 8th. Small numbers elsewhere along the coast and the estuary where peaks were 672 east at Sunk

Island on 29th August and 256 west on 19th September. Elsewhere in VC 61, up to 1200 were at Hornsea Mere in August.

In VC 63, 3000 roosted at High Royd S.F. on 24th August; 3000 at Edderthorpe on 26th; 2000 at Worsbrough Res. on 16th though 10,000 were at Wombwell/Little Broomhill on 17th but only 120 at Blacktoft Sands on the 19th (very low count). No large counts from either VC 64 or VC 65.

Late records were; 31st October, two at Leighton Res. with one at Luddenden Foot then, in November, three at Spurn on 5th; two on 6th with three at Flamborough on the 7th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Singles at Spurn on 4th May, (MGO); Flamborough from 28th to 31st (JCL:PAL:JMc:MN *et al*) and Filey on 31st (LG). The Spurn and Flamborough birds are still under consideration by BBRC.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

First of the year were two at Thrybergh C.P. on 30th March then singles at Blacktoft Sands on 9th April; Swillington Ings on 10th and at York Water Works on the 11th. Peak spring passage along the coast occurred in mid May with 805 on 14th at Spurn when 200 were at Flamborough with 650 at this latter location on 15th. Another peak at the end of the month with 2300 at Spurn between 28th and 2nd June peaking with 650 on the 2nd whilst at Flamborough, 700 passed on 29th and 1200 on 30th. 500 at Ingbirchworth on 9th May being the only count of note away from the coast.

All comments received indicated a poor breeding season.

Autumn passage was low with peaks at Spurn of 220 on 2nd September; 500 on 14th; 556 on 15th and 400 on 20th; 650 at Flamborough on 22nd August with up to 400 in mid September. Inland counts were 500 at Branton on 30th July with 300 at Wilsic on 31st whilst in August, 600 were at Worsbrough on 30th; 400 at Winterset Res. on 29th and 300 at Elland G.P. on 17th; at Broomhill Ings on 21st and Ingbirchworth on 25th. In September; 500 passed southwest on 9th and 300 west at Branton on 22nd. Quite widespread, in small numbers, to mid October, with late records on 24th at Spurn; Yearsley and Thrybergh C.P., on 27th then on 1st November at both Tophill Low N.R. and Scincoat Green.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Singles at Spurn on 27th to 29th September; at Flamborough on 28th (PAL) then, in October, singles at Spurn on 1st; 3rd to 5th; 7th and 28th with two on 23rd (JC:BRS *et al*). One at Holmpton on 31st (GJS). At Flamborough, two on 6th then singles on 7th; 20th; 23rd to 26th (PLA:JMc:AG:JCL:BR:DB:SR) and from 8th to 21st November (PJW:MN:JCL:PAL).

One inland record, a single at Pulfin Bog on 3rd October (DGH).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

A rather early arrival at Midhope on 11th April with the next at Beecroft Moor Plantation on 19th then at Booth Dean Clough on 20th. Spring passage light with up to four occasionally during May at Spurn and five at Flamborough on 4th.

No breeding records from VC 61; few from VC 62 although seven pairs were reported from Ampleforth whilst no comments were received from either VC 63 or VC 65. Fewer records than usual from VC 64.

Autumn passage a little more pronounced than spring; coastal peaks being 11 at Spurn on 3rd September with 12 at Flamborough on 27th. Inland, usually only one to three at most locations but 11 at Redmires Res. on 15th August with seven on the 17th and 13 on 5th September. Four flew southwest at Strines Top on 20th September. Late birds were two at Spurn on 30th September; one at Flamborough on 5th October with the last of the year, at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, on 13th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged. 3012 pairs located during the survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Only small flocks reported during the early months increasing in late March with 100 in Pontefract Park on 22nd and 170 at Broadsworth Quarry on 28th. In April, 150+ at Darnbrook on 4th; 170 at Bolton-on-Swale with 120 at Pallet Hill on 2nd and 100 at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds during the early part of this month. 270 northwest at Spurn on 12th was the peak of the spring passage along the coast.

Larger numbers were reported during the autumn with 500+ almost daily at Spurn between 3rd September and 2nd October with peaks of 1300 on 8th; 2400 on 10th; 5000 on 12th; 20,000 on 13th; 5000 on 14th; 2500 on 20th and 4500 on 25th. Peaks at Flamborough during this period were 750 on 18th September with 600 on 24th; 800 on 28th/29th whilst 420 were recorded on 1st October. This coastal passage was not reflected along the Humber where the maximum at Sunk Island was 205 west and 109 east on 13th September.

Inland, in VC 63, 250 were at Strines Top on 16th August whilst many locations reported passage between 13th and 27th September though numbers to the west of Sheffield were relatively low with 528 west at Redmires on 13th and 1430 southwest at Strines Top on 20th. 299 over Warley Moor Res. on 27th with 50 to 162 being reported from some 14 other locations during this period. Similarly, in VC 64, 487 south over Hay-a-Park G.P. on 12th September.

Small parties only during the later months; 100 at Knostrop S.F. on 6th December being the largest gathering reported.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One at Spurn from 22nd to 30th May with a second individual present on the 23rd (DPB:BRS *et al.*).

Singles at Flamborough on 25th May (JCL:PAL:MN); 19th September (JMc:JCL:PAL:PJW); 27th September (JMc *et al.*) with probably the same bird on the 28th (AG:RAE); 4th October, (DIMW); 8th October, (AG:PAL). The Flamborough records are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Addition to the 1990 Report: One at Southfield Res. on 14th April was found not acceptable by BBRC.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Bred along the coast to the north of Bridlington; no comments being received on status with no counts of note from Flamborough and only up to four at Filey. Small numbers at Spurn during the early months though more noticeable passage during autumn with 75 between 21st and 23rd October and then 53 on 28th October and 18 on 3rd November. Up to nine occasionally at Sunk Island during the latter months of the year.

Inland, in VC 63, singles occasionally at three locations in March but also during January/February at Blacktoft Sands. Slightly more widespread during October/November, being recorded (singles) at Worsbrough; Broomhill Ings; Wintersett Res.; Newington; Ardsley Res. and Blacktoft Sands, where two were present during most of December. Scarcer in VC 64 where singles were at Swillington Ings on 22nd February; 15th March; 10th and 23rd October; Eccup Res. on 2nd November and Esholt S.W. on 14th.

Individuals attributed to the Scandinavian race *A.p.littoralis* were reported regularly from Flamborough where peak counts were 28 on 14th March; 25 on 15th; 14 on 30th with ten on the 31st and then ten on five days of early April. This passage constituted the best year ever for this race at that location whilst at Filey, six were present on 4th April with three on 5th. One at Tophill Low N.R. on 22nd March. Birds probably of this race were inland in VC 63; all singles, at Broomhill on 9th March; Harthill Res. on 23rd/24th March and Redmires Res. on 3rd/4th October. One in VC 64, at Knostrop S.F. on 10th January.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

No records from the east of the county. In VC 63, singles at Harthill Res. from 5th February to 29th March; Methley Quarry, 'in March'; at Clayton Heights on 24th and Leeshaw Res. on 29th. Blacktoft Sands on 1st January and between 7th and 21st November.

In VC 64, singles wintered in the Swillington Ings to Knostrop S.F. area between 1st January and 15th February with probably three individuals being involved. Spring saw birds almost daily at Swillington Ings from 8th March to 8th April with three on 28th. One at Fairburn Ings on

16th. One to three at Knostrop S.F. from 2nd November to the year's end. Two at Swillington Ings on 8th December with one there during the latter days of the month.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first, at Tophill Low N.R. on 3rd April, was well in advance of the next, at Knotford Nook, on the 10th, then singles on 11th at Kildale and on the 12th at Winterset Res. and Thrybergh C.P. The main arrival occurred between 19th April and early May with peak counts at Spurn of 44 on 25th; 21 at Pulfin Bog on 27th; 38 at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th when 20 were at Southfield Res. 30 at Blacktoft Sands on 1st May with 20 at Beacon Lagoons on 4th and 26 at Tophill Low N.R. on 10th.

Breeding status apparently unchanged excepting a slight decrease reported from some of the upper dales of VC 64.

Autumn passage in VC 61 light with maxima of 36 at Spurn on 18th August and 33 at Tophill Low N.R. on 14th whilst 51 flew west at Sunk Island on 16th with 54 on 29th. The exception in this VC being 50 along the Lower Derwent valley on 10th September with a total of 500 throughout this area the following day.

In VC 63, 44 at Southfield Res. on 2nd August; 48 at North Anston Pit Top on 10th with 46 at Winterset Res. on 20th and 60 at Broomhill Ings on 22nd. The roost at Blacktoft Sands increased from 32 on 18th to 140 on 27th August decreasing to 60 by 1st September. Only small gatherings in VC 64 and VC 65 with 15 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 1st September. The last birds to be reported were at Spurn on 7th October; Flamborough on 8th; Ingbirchworth on 9th and Barston Ash on 13th.

Individuals attributed to the nominate race *M.f.flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) were recorded in small numbers (one to three) at many locations during spring in VC 61 and from Flamborough in autumn. Singles in VC 63 at Oxspring on 4th May; Blacktoft Sands on 5th and 8th with one at Stapleton from 2nd to 9th May.

Birds attributable to the race *M.f.thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail) were reported from Filey on 3rd May (HJW *et al.*) with another from 31st May to 7th June (RF *et al.*). One at Flamborough on 28th/29th and 31st with three on 30th May (JCL:PAL:MN:GAS:PJW).

One attributed to the race *M.f.cinereocapilla* (Ashy-headed Wagtail) was at Flamborough on 7th May (PAL).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

The only breeding record in VC 61 came from Escrick whilst in VC 62 reported breeding at Newburgh Priory and Castle Howard though doubtless did so elsewhere. Status in VC 63 appears to be unchanged whilst in VC 64, the population in the Harrogate areas was reported as 'probably higher than for many years'. 'An excellent breeding season' in VC 65.

One to four occasionally along the coast outwith the breeding season but seven at Spurn on 24th September and seven at Flamborough on the 28th. Five at Tophill Low N.R. on 3rd November.

Six to eight at several locations in VC 63 during the early autumn with 11 at Worsbrough Res. on 12th September and a similar number at Chellow Dene on 29th October. A similar situation in VC 64 with a maximum of 12 at Pool Paper Mills on 23rd July.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

No apparent change in status, being widespread and common. Many roosts reported during both winter periods with 400 at Harrogate S.F. on 26th January; 300 at Esholt S.F. on 12th January; 400+ at Bessacarr (Doncaster) on 2nd February with c 500 there on 19th. 150 in Huddersfield town centre during late March. In the latter part of the year; 400+ at Bessacarr on 10th December; 200 at Cridling Stubbs in 'autumn'; 250 at Underbank Res. on 4th August; 200 in Huddersfield town centre on 25th December and 110 at Lemonroyd S.F. on 24th.

Small numbers of the nominate race *M.a.alba* (White Wagtail) were reported from many locations with maxima of 21 at Spurn on 27th September; 13 on 30th and 12 on 1st October; five at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th April and four at Lindley Wood Res. on 12th April.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Flocks in VC 63, recorded in late 1991 remained into 1992 with probably 150+ in Sheffield during January/February. Individual flocks reported were; 108 in Cemetary Avenue on 1st January; 83 in Queen's Road on 10th; 68 at Carterknowle on 19th and 89 in Abbeyville Road on 26th. In February; 37 on 15th at Crosspool; 105 at Broomhall on 4th; 80 in Penistone Road on 8th; 52 at Page Hall on 29th whilst in March; 41 on 3rd at Wincobank; 50 at Hillsbrough on 20th; 44 at Shalesmoor on 27th then up to 46 in April in Hanover Way with a few remaining into May. Smaller numbers at other locations in VC 63 with 50 in Halifax on 7th February and 20 nearby on 9th; 20 in Elland on 12th February; up to 38 in Huddersfield town centre during early January. 15 at Clayton Heights (Bradford) on 12th February with 26 at Charlestown cemetery during early March.

Smaller numbers in VC 64; nine north over Staveley N.R. on 27th January; five in Harrogate on 10th February with five in Knaresborough on 4th March otherwise one to three at a further six locations. Very few in either VC 61 or VC 62 excepting 35 at Snargate on 2nd February with 13 in York on 2nd April.

The only records during the latter months were of ten on Grinton Moor (VC 65) on 19th December and one northwest over Sunk Island on 21st October.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

No change in status indicated; common and widespread on the higher ground of VCs 63; 64 and 65. In VC 62, bred on the R. Rye near Helmsley though no other records from this VC. Probably under recorded.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

An increase at Tophill Low N.R. towards former levels; 'flourishing' in VC 63, otherwise status apparently unchanged. Influx noted along the coast in autumn with up to 30 at Spurn in October whilst 50 were at Flamborough on 18th September with 30 on 20th and up to 35 there in October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

No comments on status received. A noticeable influx at Scarborough on 31st March but numbers were down at Spurn in autumn though up to 40 'presumed migrants' at Flamborough during late September.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Apparently no change in breeding status. Spring passage noted along the coast with 20 on Scarborough Castle Hill on 31st March; 30 at Filey on 2nd April with 20 there on 4th (several trapped being attributable to the nominate (Continental) race). 40 at Flamborough on 4th April.

Autumn passage occurred from mid September with peaks of 50 at Flamborough on 19th and 27th September then 100 on 4th October; 150 on 5th then 80 on 6th and 55 on 8th. Spurn had 150 to 300 between 4th and 7th October. An (interesting) influx into VC 63 between 13th and 27th September with 96 in the Broomhill area and 20 to 40 recently arrived birds at several widely separated locations. 12+ at Malham Tarn on 27th was an unusually high count for that location.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

On Thorne Moors, where the first was heard in song on 23rd April, an estimated 13 males held territories. Singles singing at Whinmoor, Leeds, on 27th April; Flamborough on 5th May and East Newton on the 24th. One trapped at Filey on 14th. Singles reported from Yearsley Common on 21st June and at Pond Head on 23rd.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

A male at Filey on 23rd May; three females at Spurn on the 24th with one remaining on the 25th; female at Beacon Lagoons on 30th with one at Flamborough on the same date.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Three pairs bred in Sheffield with two additional singing males being present. Singles elsewhere in VC 63 were at Wilsden on 19th April; Caldene Fields (Bradford) on 27th April and Blacktoft Sands on 20th May. In VC 64; at Newton on 22nd and 27th July and at Duck Street Quarry on 31st August.

Good spring passage along the coast with four at Spurn on 31st March when singles were at Flamborough and Scarborough. Almost daily at Spurn from 1st to 10th April with six on 3rd. Flamborough had larger numbers with seven on 2nd; six on 3rd then 16 on 4th; eight on 5th and seven on 9th. Four were at Scarborough on the 1st with four also at Filey on 1st and 4th. Adult female at Scarborough on 30th/31st May with singles at Filey occasionally in late May and on 4th June.

Two were at Flamborough on 8th August; two at Spurn on 10th November with singles occasionally there during late November. One at Sunk Island on 10th October and one at First Nab on 11th December.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

An early arrival at Scawthorpe on 11th April with the next on 21st at Spurn and Broomhill Ings after which birds were reported from Malham Tarn on 24th and Spurn again on 26th. Arrivals in the lowland areas of VC 64 were stated to have been some ten days later than normal. Spring passage light.

The breeding strongholds of the wooded cloughs along the southern Pennines of VC 63 held good numbers whilst in VC 64 there were no breeding records from the Leeds area nor the lowlands around Harrogate though numbers appeared normal elsewhere and may even have increased. Reports from VC 65 also indicated a good year.

In autumn, one to seven daily at Spurn to mid September when a fall produced 93 on 18th on which date 46 were reported from Flamborough with 19 at Filey and at least 15 in the Atwick area. Numbers decreased thereafter to three at Spurn by the end of the month. Up to seven there during early October with eight at Flamborough on the 4th. Latest bird recorded away from the coast was at Midhope Stones on 4th October and, along the coast, at Filey on 18th October; Flamborough on 26th and Spurn on 27th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

One at Pontefract Park on 23rd April then three at Stubbs Quarry and one at Walshaw Dean on 25th; three at Flamborough and one at Spurn on 26th. An influx along the coast on 4th May with 21 at Spurn and 27 at Flamborough; 14 at Flamborough on 14th when five were at Filey.

The only breeding records in VC 61 came from the Derwent valley with few records received from VC 62. In VC 63, bred at many typical upland locations and a few lowland ones (Thorne Moors with 17 pairs) though the general impression in this VC is that numbers were down compared with long term records. No lowland breeding records from VC 64 but status unchanged elsewhere. The survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park only located birds in the Grinton area with a total of 17 pairs.

Autumnal passage on the coast from mid August with 12 at Flamborough on 18th; 31 at Spurn on the 20th but only three there the following day though 27 on 23rd when 20 were at Flamborough. A large influx on 11th September with 52 at Spurn then 35 at Flamborough on 12th. On the 18th 108 were at Spurn; 52 at Flamborough; 28 at Filey and 20 at Skipsea/Atwick. 22 at Flamborough on the 19th thereafter small numbers. The last bird inland was near Castleford on 29th September. Along the coast, one at Spurn on 5th October; Flamborough on the 8th and at Filey from 29th October to 30th November.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Scarce along the coast with singles occasionally at Spurn; Filey; Flamborough; Barmston; Scarborough and Burniston. Two at Spurn on 26th March with up to three there during October. The only inland records in VC 61 came from Tophill Low N.R. with two singles, one of which remained from 28th October to the year's end, and one at Wheldrake Ings on 5th October. One, in VC 62, at North Moor, Wykeham on 28th May.

In VC 63, in the early months singles were reported occasionally from six lowland and four

upland locations and, during the latter months, at six lowland and one or two from 14 upland locations. Six were at Blacktoft Sands from 17th to 26th October with four during November and two in December until the 19th. Six at Wittens Clough on 10th October then up to three there to the year's end.

No records during the early months in VC 64 until March when singles were reported at five locations. Two males on Rombalds Moor on 8th July. Singles at six locations during the latter months.

Birds of one of the eastern races *S.t.auralstejnegeri* ('Siberian Stonechat') were present at Spurn, with two on 8th October one of which remained until the 22nd (JC:TC:BRS *et al.*). At Flamborough, a 1st year male from 21st to 23rd April (JCL:PAL:JMP); female on 7th May (PAL) and an immature on 18th/19th October (DBY:DIMW). A male at Filey from 12th to 19th October (PJD:LG:AN *et al.*).

(The records of the birds at Flamborough in April and May have not yet been submitted to BBRC).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

One near Leighton Res. on 14th March then on 17th at Beckwithshaw and Filey; at Pugneys' C.P. on the 18th and Spurn; Flamborough and Cullingworth on 19th. In April; 29 at Flamborough on the 4th with 33 on 19th when 17 were at Spurn. On the 21st; 35 at Spurn, 70 at Flamborough and 75 at Filey whilst 39 were reported from Scarborough on the 28th. 30 were in the Swillington/Leventhorpe area, VC 64, on the 25th whilst an exceptional influx occurred on the 27th in the Ingbirchworth areas with 90 being present increasing to 102 on the 28th falling to 48 on 30th then 52 on 3rd May with 50 on the 9th/10th, many of which were considered to be of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoea*. A very large influx along the coast on the 4th May with 220 at Spurn (the highest ever spring total for Yorkshire) and 103 at Flamborough. All those trapped at Spurn were, on biometrics attributed to the race *O.o.leucorrhoea* with most of the birds present at Flamborough considered so. 113 at Flamborough on 5th when 20 were at Barmston. 72 at Flamborough on 9th whilst 56 at Spurn on 11th were thought to be new arrivals.

Breeding status considered to be unchanged. 102 pairs located during the Yorkshire Dales National Park survey.

Light autumn passage along the coast with 16 at Filey on 2nd September; 14 at Spurn on 18th when 18 were at Flamborough. Late birds were at Filey on 21st October and at Spurn on 27th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

One at Spurn on 10th March then on 17th at Ilkley Moor. Spring passage light with maximum of six at Spurn on 17th April otherwise one or two at several locations though seven were near Grimwith Res. on 26th May.

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged; at least 15 pairs in the Halifax and Huddersfield areas; small numbers in the Sheffield area within the Peak District whilst 22 pairs were located during the survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Autumn passage was light but an influx in early October with six at Flamborough on 3rd; seven were at Spurn on 4th when four were at Atwick and three at Sunk Island; five present at this last location on the 5th. Inland, 14+ on Barden Moor on 27th September; five at Walshaw Dean on 6th October with four at Paul Clough on the 4th. Late birds were at both Spurn and Flamborough on 16th November with a male at Thorpe Marsh on 6th December (first winter record for the Doncaster area).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

No apparent change in status. A pair attended a nest with eggs in a Harrogate garden on 24th December.

Only small parties reported the early months. In autumn, slightly larger parties with a small influx in October when 200 were present at Spurn on 13th and on the 21st/22nd. In November, up to 300 at Flamborough with a peak of 980 on the 8th when 1500 were at Spurn decreasing to 600 on the 9th when 481 were counted coming in off the sea at Filey. Up to 250 at Atwick on these two days. A further peak at Spurn of 1000 on 15th with 230 the following day. 100 at Tophill Low N.R. on 27th September being the largest inland gathering in VC 61.

In VC 63, c 90 were at Edderthorpe on 13th October whilst c 100 at Sprotbrough Flash and Thorpe Marsh in November were indicative of an influx. On 22nd November, 250 flew south over Chellow Dene (Bradford). 90 present at Broomhill Ings on 5th December.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

1000 at North Duffield Carrs on 7th January with 2000 at Thorganby on the 9th were the only large gatherings during that month. 800 were at Melbourne on 9th February but 2400 east over Elland G.P. on 18th were associated with adverse weather. In March, up to 700 near Tophill Low N.R. with 800 at Bishop Monkton and 500 at Malham Tarn on 28th. 400 at Winterset Res. on 4th April with 510 northeast over High Batts N.R. on 5th; 400 at Castle Howard on 18th and 2000 northeast at Staveley N.R. on the 21st otherwise parties during this month were in the region of 100 to 250. 21 were at Wass on 2nd May then singles occasionally at Flamborough during this month (no dates) with one at Thorpe Marsh on 6th and Meltham on 13th though one was reported from Brighton on 15th June.

The first returning birds were two at Spurn on 9th August with ten at Greta Bridge on the 25th. No more were reported until one near Wheldrake Ings on 22nd September; Spurn on 23rd and Flamborough on 27th. Generally a poor autumn with peaks along the coast of 670 at Spurn on 25th October and 600 on 15th November. Even smaller counts at Filey and Flamborough. 1000 over Tophill Low N.R. on 15th November being the only count of note inland in VC 61.

In VC 63; 905 west at North Auston Pit Top on 21st October; 900 northwest at Strines Top on 19th with 1440 on 26th; 1000 at Midhope on 31st. During this month, 600 at High Batts N.R. (VC 64) on 16th and a similar number at Timble on 26th. 1000 over Middlesmoor on 12th November and 1500 roosting on Broomhead Moor on the 28th; these being the only records of note during that month whilst in December, counts were lower excepting c 1000 west over Ewden on 19th with 750 on Langsett Moor on 24th and 950 there on 30th; numbers otherwise were between 100 and 500.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Indications from the Sheffield and Doncaster areas would suggest a slight decline whilst a similar trend was considered to be occurring near Huddersfield. Elsewhere, status would appear to be unchanged.

Light spring passage noted along the coast with 25 at Scarborough Castle Hill on 31st March when 42 were at Flamborough with a similar number at the latter location on 5th April. In autumn, 103 at Spurn on 28th September whilst Flamborough had 180 on 29th and 225 on 30th. 70 at Spurn on 4th October but heavier passage at Flamborough with 600 on 3rd; 150 on 4th and 100 on 6th; 80 were observed to come in off the sea at Filey on the 4th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

No particularly large gatherings during the early months with up to 500 in January at Cridding Stubbs and 250 at Sherrif Hutton on 6th. In February, 550 east at Elland G.P. on 18th; 250 at Tophill Low N.R. on 3rd and 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 6th. All other flocks during these months were of less than 100. The last birds to leave were singles at Tophill Low N.R. on 1st and 3rd June and at Flamborough on 6th and 13th.

The first to return was at Penistone on 16th September then at Spurn on 17th with 14 at Tophill Low N.R. on 20th. An influx in early October with 1200 at Flamborough on 3rd then, on the 4th, 2000 at Flamborough; 1500 at Spurn with 1670 west at Sunk Island. 1000 at Flamborough on 5th decreasing to 420 on the 8th. 400 west at Sunk Island on 10th whilst a second peak occurred at at Spurn with 860 on the 25th. Inland; 2500 northwest over Sheffield on the 8th; 1500 over Hoodsforth on the 10th when 1500 flew northwest over Thruscross Res. whilst 6500 were recorded passing north over Strines Top. 1000 west at High Batts N.R. on 16th with 1153 at Strines Top on 22nd whilst up to 1750 were at Hutton Magna during this period.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

No change in status indicated. As usual, most records are of post breeding flocks. Scarcer in the east of the county than further inland; peaks in VC 61 being eight at Flamborough on 4th April and 27th June; 22 at Lowthorpe on 3rd September with 36 at Tophill Low N.R.. 49 at

Scoreby, VC 62, on 22nd September with several records in VC 63 of 35 to 39 during August/September and larger gatherings of 58 at Toad Holes Beck (Low Moor) on 21st August; 44 southwest over Strines Top on 20th September and 45 at Mickletown on 22nd October. The largest parties in VC 64 being 60 in the Newby/Westwick area on 8th September; 45+ at Knotford Nook on 23rd August and 45+ at Oulton on 25th September.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One at Spurn on 12th April followed by birds at Puffin Bog and Thorne Moors on the 19th.

In VC 61; bred at Puffin Bog; three pairs probably bred at Wheldrake Ings with two or three at Tophill Low N.R. and one at Flamborough. Eight males were reeling at Cowden during late April. In VC 63, two or three pairs bred at Carlton Marsh; 14 pairs probably bred in the Doncaster area; eight probably at Winterset (three certainly doing so); eight at Blacktoft Sands and at least one each at Thorne Moors and North Anston Pit Top. No proof of breeding in VC 64 but three reeling at Mickletown Ings in late May with three at Timble on 20th June. One present near Caterick, VC 65, but no evidence of breeding this year.

Late birds were at Wheldrake Ings on 16th August; Carlton Marsh on 29th and, along the coast, at Flamborough on 4th October.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

One present at Burton Riggs G.P. (Seamer) from 29th May to 2nd June (RHA).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 10th April then at Puffin Bog on 16th with many locations reporting birds between the 20th and the end of the month.

Widespread breeder with, in VC 61, 'best year ever, at least 36 pairs', Flamborough; minimum of 15 singing birds at Puffin Bog (but survey incomplete); 33 to 36 pairs at Tophill Low N.R. where stated to be normal number; 'good numbers' at Hornsea Mere; 20 pairs in the Kelk area whilst numbers were considered to be generally increasing in the York area. No comments from VC 62. In VC 63; 70 pairs estimated at Blacktoft Sands. Elsewhere, a slight decrease reported from some locations with 23 pairs at Winterset; 12 at Thrybergh C.P.; 12 at Potteric Carr; ten at Broomhill Ings; Old Denaby and Denaby Ings.

In VC 64; 25 pairs between Swillington and Knostrop S.F.; 20 at Mickletown Ings and 12 at both Hay-a-Park G.P. and Staveley N.R.

Autumn passage light. Last records were of singles at Blacktoft Sands on 28th September; Flamborough on 29th, then in October, at Chelker Res. on 4th and Staveley N.R. on 11th.

Several locations commented on the continued increase in the use of oil seed rape as a breeding habitat.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

A 1st winter bird trapped at Flamborough on 27th September constitutes the first record for Yorkshire (PAL:BR:DIMW:PJW *et al*) Still under consideration by BBRC.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Singles at Flamborough on 24th May (PAL) and from 29th to 31st with four present on the 30th. (PAL:JCL:MN:JMc). One at Spurn on 30th (BRS *et al*). In June, one at Spurn on 7th; three on 9th with one on the 19th (BRS *et al*). At Flamborough, two on 11th with one on 12th (PAL *et al*). One at Blacktoft Sands on the 18th (AG *et al*).

One at Flamborough on 21st August (PAL:JMP).

Addition to the 1991 Report: One observed closely for long periods at Tophill Low N.R. on 3rd November (RL).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The first of the year was at Tophill Low N.R. on 25th April followed by birds on 26th at Pugneys' C.P.; Blacktoft Sands and Mickletown Ings then on the 27th at Wheldrake Ings; Hay-a-Park and Winterset Res.. Spring passage along the coast was very light.

In VC 61, a decline in breeding numbers at Tophill Low N.R. to ten pairs; an apparent

increase in the York area whilst no census was undertaken at Hornsea Mere though it was considered that there were in excess of 100 pairs. Single pairs bred at both Flamborough and Kelk. In VC 62, two, possibly three, pairs bred at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, the most northerly breeding location in the county. An estimated 330 pairs were present at Blacktoft Sands, VC 63, with other populations in this VC (based on singing birds) being: Potteric Carr, c 30; Pugneys' C.P., 24; Winterset Res., 17; Old Denaby, ten; Broomhill Ings, eight and Thorpe Marsh, six. In VC 64, bred at Mickletown Ings with 18 pairs whilst six singing males were reported from Staveley N.R. with four at Hay-a-Park and one at Lemonroyd S.F.

Autumn passage also light with five at Flamborough on 28th September as the peak reported. Late birds were at Carlton Marsh on 2nd October; Spurn from 6th to 8th; Farnham G.P. on the 7th; Harthill Res. on 8th and finally, Blacktoft Sands on 13th.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

A singing bird at Spurn remained from 11th June to the 22nd being trapped on the first date. (DPB:JTH:BRS *et al*). The first spring record for Yorkshire and the seventh in all.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

An excellent year. One at Flamborough on 14th/15th May (PAL:JMP) then one at Filey on the 23rd/24th (JMT); two at Flamborough on 27th with one on 28th when one was also at Spurn where a different individual was present on the 29th. On this last date two were at Flamborough and one at Filey, this last remaining until the 31st. A third bird was at Spurn on the 30th with a second at Filey whilst five were at Flamborough then two at Flamborough on the 31st with two also at Spurn. In June, two at Flamborough on the 1st with one on the 8th; one at Spurn on 1st with another on 9th/10th and one at Filey on the 9th.

Quiet autumn with two at Spurn on 20th August, one remaining to the 22nd; singles at Flamborough on the 13th and 20th.

Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda*

A male, trapped at Spurn on the 8th June remained to the following day (DPB:GG:BRS *et al*). The second record for Yorkshire and Britain.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

A male trapped at Filey on 24th May remained in the area until the 29th. (REH:CCT *et al*). The first record for Yorkshire and Britain.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

A male at Flamborough on the 6th June (PAL). Not yet submitted to BBRC.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

An adult female, trapped, at Flamborough being present from 13th September to 6th October. (PAL:PJW:MN *et al*). Still under consideration by BBRC.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Singles were recorded at Spurn on 9th; 10th and 21st August with one at Flamborough on the last date. In September, one at Spurn on 19th; at Flamborough from the 20th to 27th with another present there on the 25th/26th; one at Filey on the 23rd was reported again on the 26th/27th. One at Filey on 6th October with singles at Spurn on the 10th; 12th/13th; 17th and 19th with two on the 11th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first was at Southfield Res. on 22nd April then Thorne Moors and Hay-a-Park G.P. on 23rd; Potteric Carrs, Winterset Res. and Denaby Ings on the 24th. Most locations had reported birds by early May with, along the coast, 15 at Flamborough on 4th when 12 were at Spurn; eight at the latter on 10th and then up to eight there into early June.

No comments received on status from VCs 61 or 62 but in VC 63 the good breeding populations of recent years were maintained with no change in status reported from VC 64.

Always an uncommon bird in VC 65 but this year exceptionally scarce with very few records excepting a light passage in mid September. Ten were at Swillington Ings on 28th August whilst on the coast, 16 at Spurn on 18th with nine on 19th and 15 on 20th. Smaller numbers there in September with eight on 28th; both Filey and Flamborough had only up to five occasionally. The last birds reported were at Toad Holes Beck (Low Moor) on 16th October; Flamborough on 19th and Filey on 22nd.

One at Spurn on 26th October was considered to belong to the race *S.c.blythi* whilst individuals thought to be of one of the eastern races were at Flamborough on 28th September; 9th and 18th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

One at Woodlesford, Leeds, on 19th/20th April then reported from Thorne Moors on 22nd; Broomhill Ings and Thrybergh C.P. on 23rd then Winterset Res. and Riccall on 25th with birds at many locations by the 30th.

Although 34 were at Flamborough on 5th, peak numbers along the coast were in mid May with 41 at Spurn on 13th; 38 at Flamborough on 15th; 28 on 16th when 18 were at Filey whilst 24 singing males were at Robin Hood's Bay on the 19th.

Comments on breeding in VC 61 would suggest a very good year; a record one at Tophill Low N.R.; up to 20 pairs in the Kelk area and good numbers at several other locations. Breeding numbers maintained in most areas of VC 63, particularly around Rotherham; Doncaster and Pontefract though the position further west is less clear but up to 20 pairs in the Huddersfield area with 34 singing males at Winterset Res. are both healthy indications. Normal breeding season in VC 64 whilst in VC 65, most observers reported smaller numbers than in 1991 but between Catterick and Great Langton 17 singing males were reported along the Swale compared with nine in 1991.

Autumn passage at Spurn from mid August where peaks were 31 on 18th; 35 on 19th and 46 on 21st. The peak at Flamborough was earlier with 22 on 9th whilst passage at Filey was disappointing with no more than four reported on any day. Last birds inland were two at Nosterfield on 27th September and at Blacktoft Sands and Carlton Marsh on the 28th. On the coast, singles at Spurn on 4th October and at Flamborough on 10th.

One trapped at Spurn on 19th September, being present the following day, was attributed to one of the eastern races, *S.c.volgensis* or *S.c.icterops*.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One at Tophill Low N.R. on 20th/21st April was the first of the year followed by singles at Syke's Wood (near Leeds) on 21st then at Potteric Carr on 24th and both Sprotbrough Flash and Carlton Marsh on the 25th. The main influx occurring during the first two weeks of May with up to eight at Spurn; 11 at Flamborough on 16th and 12 on the 30th.

Good breeding season at Flamborough; up to seven pairs at Tophill Low N.R. but stated to have been a poor year at Hornsea Mere where only four pairs bred. In general, breeding numbers normal in VC 63 if not slightly increased. As in recent years numbers in the wooded cloughs of the south Pennines showed a steady increase. A slightly better than average season in VC 64.

Autumn passage light with maxima on the coast of ten at Spurn on 18th September and six at Flamborough on both the 18th and 20th. Inland, late birds were at Aldwarke S.F. on 4th October; Carlton Marsh on 8th and at Southfield Res. on 21st whilst along the coast singles were at Flamborough on the 20th and at Spurn on 31st.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Widespread records of wintering birds with one or two at some 24 locations during January/February; all but one being in VCs 63, 64 and 65. Many locations recorded birds during the first ten days of April albeit in small numbers. Spring maxima on the coast being seven at Spurn on 21st April; up to nine at Flamborough in May with eight at Filey on 16th and nine at Robin Hood's Bay on the 19th.

Good breeding season at Hornsea Mere; 14 to 18 singing males at Tophill Low N.R. with no other comments received from VC 61. Good numbers in virtually all areas of VC 63 appearing to be flourishing in that VC whilst no change in status was reported from VC 64.

Coastal peaks in September were; 38 at Spurn; 55 at Flamborough and 14 at Filey, all on the

26th, then, in October, 15 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 1st; 60 at Spurn on 4th when 31 were at Flamborough with 25 there on 5th and 47 at Spurn on 7th. Genuine late migrants difficult to detect with a record number of overwintering birds being recorded from 27 locations in VC 64 in December including five in Ilkley Cemetery. In VC 63, at least 60 individuals were reported from about 35 locations in November/December including four at Bessacarr on 11th November. Recorded from only six locations in the east of the county during the last two months of the year.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One, in song, at Spurn on 1st June (DPB:BRS *et al*). One at Flamborough on 13th September (PAL) has not yet been submitted to BBRC.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

One at Atwick on 3rd October (WFC) with two at Flamborough on 16th (DB); five on 17th (DB:JMc:JCL:PAL:BR:DIMW:PJW *et al*) with two on 18th (DB:JCL:PAL:PJW) one of which was still present on the 19th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

One at Spurn on 3rd May, the first spring record for Yorkshire.

In September, singles on 22nd at Filey and Flamborough; 23rd at Flamborough with two there on the 24th; one on 25th with one at Spurn on 26th and at Filey on the same day. One at Filey on 27th when two at both Flamborough and Spurn with one at Spurn and five at Flamborough on the 28th. October saw singles on the 3rd at Spurn; Filey and Flamborough then on the 4th, singles at Spurn and Filey with three at Flamborough; four at Spurn on the 5th with singles at both Spurn and Flamborough on the 7th. One at Flamborough on 8th; 10th and 11th with one at Filey on the 11th remaining until the 17th. One at Flamborough on 12th with two on 13th; one at Spurn on 15th; four at Flamborough on 16th then on the 17th three there with four on 18th and 19th and two on 20th. Two on Scarborough Castle Hill on 17th with one the following day.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Addition to the 1991 Report: One at Easington on 12th /13th October (CF & GF) is still under consideration by BBRC.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Singles at Cowden on 7th October (WFC) and trapped at Spurn on 21st (DPB:BRS *et al*).

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

One at Filey on 19th September (JMT:JH *et al*) was no doubt the same bird present on 27th/28th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Small numbers recorded breeding along the wooded periphery of the North York Moors in VC 62. No change in breeding status in VC 65. Good numbers breeding throughout the wooded valleys of the Peak Park and southern Pennines. With better coverage west of Halifax, 19 males were located along valleys feeding the R. Calder; six or seven males in the Huddersfield area; nine males singing in the Ewden valley. Other valleys south to the county boundary also occupied. A near normal breeding season in VC 64 though numbers in the Leeds area still down on previous years.

First of the year was at Holme House Wood (Bradford) on 19th April but few reported until early May; 12 singing at Bolton Abbey on 5th May. As usual, very few passing through VC 61 with only singles at Filey and Flamborough with two at Hornsea Mere on 4th May; similarly during autumn. The last reported were on 15th August at Norton (Sheffield); on 16th at Lower Barden Res. and a late bird at Spurn on 12th September.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Single birds recorded in January at Hornsea Mere; Filey; Adel Dam; Selby and Fleet Plantation whilst in VC 63, singles were reported from three unnamed locations during

January/February. Individuals considered to have been migrants were present at several locations from 18th March thereafter light coastal passage with peaks at Spurn of 12 on 23rd April and 17 at Flamborough on 14th May.

Breeding status apparently unchanged excepting in VC 63 where numbers were considered to have increased in parts of the Huddersfield and Sheffield areas. 15 singing males at Winterset Res. continues the increase of breeding numbers from 1988.

Autumn passage along the coast from mid September when up to 28 were reported daily at Flamborough then up to 25 on 23 days of October peaking with 45 on 8th and 30 on 10th. Peaks at Spurn being 19 on 4th October with 31 on 7th and 19 on 13th. Last dates of migrants were clouded by the incidence of wintering birds with individuals at Flamborough reported to the 21st November and at Spurn to the 28th. Individuals recorded in December at Hornsea Mere; Ellerton-on-Swale (two birds) and at five locations in VC 64 and seven in VC 63.

Birds attributed to the race *P.c.abietinus* were recorded at Filey on 8th and 18th October; at Flamborough on 31st March; one or two on four days in April; ten on 26th September; three on 5th October with one on 7th November. One inland, at Old Denaby, on 9th, April.

Individuals attributed to the race *P.c.tristis* were at Filey on 12th October; Atwick on 29th October; Cowden on 19th; Flamborough on 4th/5th with two on the 16th; three on 17th then singles on 20th; 7th; 8th and 16th November. Away from the coast, singles at Fleet Plantation on 12th February; Allerton Bywater on 15th November and at Woodside on 29th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

First were recorded on 4th April at Knaresborough S.F. and Frickley Colliery then on the 5th at Copley and Ampleforth. Peaks during spring were 35 at Flamborough on 23rd April with 47 there on 5th May.

Breeding status in VC 61 considered to be unchanged with 45 to 52 pairs at Tophill Low N.R. In VC 62, no comments other than 14 singing at Brayton Barff on 8th June was a poor total for the area. In VC 63, a decline at Winterset Res. (62 singing birds) and in parts of the Huddersfield area. Status unchanged in VC 64 although somewhat affected by wet weather. Stated as unusually scarce by a number of observers in VC 65.

Main passage at Spurn in mid August with between 30 and 62 daily from 17th to 21st whilst the peak was later at Flamborough with 30 on 13th and 23 on 18th September. This last peak was also reflected at Spurn where 35 were present on the 18th. One to three occasionally at Spurn; Filey and Flamborough during October until the 18th. The last inland were singles at Thrybergh C.P. on 3rd October and Copley on 11th.

Birds attributed to the race *P.t.acredula* were reported from Flamborough with one on 21st and 27th April; 11 on 26th then one on 4th May with six on 5th. One there on 13th September whilst, at Filey, two were trapped on the 15th May.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Small numbers during the early months excepting 100 in Wheldrake Woods on 14th January. Indications of spring passage in late March/early April with c 80 at Scarborough on 31st March; 21 at Spurn on 3rd April; 30 at Filey and 18 at Flamborough on 4th/5th.

Breeding status apparently unchanged with no comments received.

Autumn passage noted from mid September with 150 at Spurn on 24th when 45 were at Flamborough increasing to 60 on 26th on which date 22 were at Sunk Island. In October; 300 at Flamborough; 100 at Atwick and 120 at Spurn on 3rd whilst on the 4th; 1000 at Flamborough; 800 at Spurn; 300 at Filey and 200 at Atwick. Numbers then decreased to 270 at Flamborough on 8th; 250 at Filey on 6th; 100 at Atwick on 8th and 100-300 at Spurn by 13th although 110 were still at Flamborough on the 17th. This influx also noted inland at Tophill Low N.R. and to a lesser extent in both VCs 63 and 64. 80 were at Yearsley on 24th October whilst 80+ were at Hardcastle Crags on 13th November. Few reported from the coast during November and December with ten at Spurn on 28th November as the highest count reported.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

In VC 61; one at Holmpton on 31st March with one at Filey on the 1st/2nd April being present also on the 4th when trapped; a second bird nearby on the 3rd with a third on the 6th.

Flamborough had singles on 3rd; 19th to 21st April; 24th and 26th May whilst Spurn had one from 17th to 21st April; one on 14th May with another on the 16th.

In autumn, singles at Atwick on 3rd October; Flamborough from the 13th to 17th and at Spurn on the 3rd/4th with another on the 13th and then in November from 15th to 23rd.

Away from the coast, singles at Wheldrake Woods on 14th January; Harlow Carr on 30th/31st January with birds ringed at Rivelin Filters and Finningley Park, both on 21st November.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

A drop in numbers in the York area otherwise status in VC 61 would appear to be unchanged. In VC 63, breeding numbers again noted to be reduced around Huddersfield and Sheffield but possibly holding its own in the lowlands around Doncaster. No changes reported from other areas.

The first of the year was near Silsden on 2nd May then on the 4th near Meltham and Wortley Top Forge. Most locations recorded their first birds between 14th and 18th. On 14th; eight at Spurn with 13 at Flamborough whilst on the 15th; 16 at Spurn and 52 at Flamborough with 15 at Filey on 23rd. A second influx occurred at Spurn with ten on the 27th and 17 on 28th.

Autumn passage noted from mid August peaking in September with ten at Flamborough on 13th and 14 on 18th when eight were at Spurn. Late birds were at Fleet Plantation on 26th September; at Thorne Ashfields with three on 27th; Flamborough on 28th then at Spurn on 3rd October and Woolley Woods on the 12th (the latest record ever for the Sheffield area).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One inland at High Batts N.R. on 31st May (PVI *et al.*). All other records being coastal; two at Flamborough on 28th May with three on 29th and 30th. One at Spurn on 7th June remained to the 8th being joined by a second individual on that latter date.

In autumn, one at Flamborough on 18th September with two on 19th when one was at Filey. One at Spurn on 23rd/24th possibly being the same bird that was recorded on the 26th whilst at Flamborough, one was present on the 25th. In October; two at both Spurn and Flamborough on the 4th, one remaining at Spurn to the 7th but a third individual on the 5th. Singles then at Flamborough on 5th/6th; at Spurn on 10th; Filey on 16th and again at Flamborough from 17th to 19th.

Addition to the 1991 Report: One at Grimston on 30th September.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The first of the year were at Bretton Park on 19th April; at Flamborough on 21st then Spurn and Tophill Low N.R. on 23rd. Spring passage along the coast light with one to three occasionally in May but four at Flamborough on 30th and 31st.

Bred unsuccessfully, in a nest box, at Flamborough; five eggs being laid (first occurrence at this location). Good breeding season along the southern edge of the North York Moors. Bred in VC 63 in the Halifax; Huddersfield; Barnsley and Sheffield areas with some increase at the last. Success states to be mixed however. Breeding status in VCs 64 and 65 assumed to be unchanged.

Few at Flamborough in August but 20 at Spurn on the 8th though only five the following day. In September Spurn had 14 on 11th then 12 on 17th with 77 on 18th when 46 were at Flamborough with 65 on 19th on which date numbers had decreased at Spurn to 23. 30 at Flamborough on 20th with Filey having smaller numbers during this period; eight on 18th and 20th as the maxima there whilst six were on Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 11th.

Late birds were at Filey on 1st October; Flamborough on 3rd/4th and Spurn on 4th and 7th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

At the main breeding location, Blacktoft Sands, up to 35 wintered with 50 present on 12th April. A survey revealed 30 pairs nesting though not a good year with only small numbers being reared. An estimated 200 were present in July with eruptions noted between 16th September and 11th November. 25 noted in December but more considered to be wintering. One pair was considered to have bred at Hornsea Mere where six were present on 10th April and singles seen and heard during May/June but five on 28th June. Four were reported there on 19th October.

Singles were reported from Tophill Low N.R. on 26th September; Filey on 18th October and Pulfin Bog on 8th November. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 7th October and 6th November then six on 22nd; eight on the 23rd and five on the 28th. One caught there during this period had been ringed at Walberswick (Suffolk) in July.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caedatus*

Possibly a slight reduction in breeding numbers at Tophill Low N.R. but had a good year at Hornsea Mere. Comments from other locations indicate no change in status.

Flocks during the early months were generally small; up to 20 though 80 were reported from Temple Newsam on 1st February with 50 at Eccup Res. in January. Three flocks at Thorpe Marsh on 7th June totalled 60 with 55 at Worsbrough on 9th July whilst many locations had parties of up to 35. Larger gatherings reported were; 41 at Kelk on 21st August; c40 at Wentworth; Sprotbrough Flash and Worsbrough C.P. in November; 46 at Broomhill Ings on 12th December; 50 at Old Denaby on 14th November and 50 at both Upton (Pot Hills Marsh) and Cridding Stubbs during these late months. In VC 64; the only large flock was 50 at High Batts N.R. on 23rd December. 42 near Harome Fish Farm (VC 62) on 29th September with 36 still present there on 26th December.

51 at Flamborough on 19th October with 40 on 21st were probably passage birds.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Scarce in VC 61 excepting near York where breeding was reported at Skipwith Common and near Warter Priory whilst a large mixed flock of tits at Thornton Ellers on 16th and 19th December were mainly of this species. Elsewhere in this VC, singles were recorded at Kelk on 7th January; Tophill Low N.R. on 8th March and 3rd May; Filey Dams on 15th April and Newbiggin on 20th September.

In VC 62, bred at Ampleforth and Brandsby with flocks of 28 and 12 near Helmsley on 20th December and 20 near Yearsley Common on 24th October. Breeding reported in VC 63 from Roche Abbey, (eight pairs); Wilsic (three to four); Anston Stones Wood (four); Sandbeck Park (one) and Firbeck. Small numbers occasionally reported from a further five locations whilst in VC 64, status unchanged; not numerous anywhere but widespread in the east. One at Malham Tarn on 29th October was the first record from that location since 1975. 'Much commoner than Willow Tit' in VC 65 though no specific numbers reported.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

In VC 61 at least two pairs bred at Bielby/Laytham whilst single pairs bred at Tophill Low N.R. and Flamborough. Single birds were reported from Spurn on 21st June and 17th October.

In VC 62, up to three pairs at Sturge's Pond and Brayton Barff otherwise only small numbers excepting 15+ at Kirkham Abbey on 30th July. Well distributed south of Pontefract and near Rotherham, in VC 63. If a decline has occurred in recent years reports from the Huddersfield; Barnsley; Doncaster (nearly 30 pairs) and Sheffield areas would suggest either a revival or better coverage. More widespread in VC 64 than Marsh Tit but still declining being reported from only ten locations in the Harrogate area and less regularly than usual at Adel Dam and Mickletown Ings. Four at High Batts N.R. in June/July otherwise one or two at all other locations.

Significantly scarcer and more localised than Marsh Tit in VC 65 with records from only Caterick; Little Langton and Whitcliffe Woods.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Bred in the east of VC 61 at Flamborough; two to four pairs at Tophill Low N.R.; at least four at Hornsea Mere and at least two at Kelk. Flocks in this VC were generally small though 45+ were at Allerthorpe Common on 9th February with 25 at Skipwith Common on 3rd March. An indication of an influx in autumn when 19 were at Filey on 18th October. Two at Flamborough on 14th September were considered to be of the Continental (nominate) race.

No change in status in VC 62 whilst in VC 63, 'flourishing' with 50 near Langsett and 40 in Howell Wood on 19th January; 40 to 50 juveniles in Ogden Wood on 12th July with 40+ in Wade Wood (near Halifax) on 30th December. No change in status in VC 64 and, although the breeding season was successful, there were no records of parties in excess of 20.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

No apparent change in status but a poor breeding season reported from parts of VC 62. The only large gatherings were 100 at Temple Newsam on 1st February; 60 to 70 at Tophill Low N.R. during mid November and 60 at Flamborough on 11th January.

Great Tit *Parus major*

No apparent change in status with 60 at Edderthorpe on 8th November being the only gathering in excess of 50 reported.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

No breeding records from VC 61 with only occasional records from Scampston, with two birds on 2nd May, Settrington and Fulford. Bred at several locations along the southwestern edge of the North York Moors whilst in VC 63 appears to be slowly increasing. 22 pairs were reported from the Doncaster area (16 in 1990; 21 in 1991) with smaller breeding numbers elsewhere. No change in status in VC 64 where at least ten were present at Conyngham Hall on 8th November. Remains common, if localised, in VC 65 with the highest density in the Richmond area.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status would appear to be unchanged in all areas excepting VC 65 where most observers reported a notable scarcity this year. Suggestion of passage along the coast during both spring and autumn with up to 11 in September and seven in October, at Flamborough, whilst six were at Filey on 17th October. Eight (family party?) in a group at Bolton Abbey on 19th June.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

One, considered to be an adult male, was at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 19th and 20th September (RE:JRM *et al.*).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A pair bred in the east of the county, rearing three young; the first breeding record for Yorkshire (there were unsubstantiated rumours of a second pair, also in the east).

In May; recorded from Wentworth Park on the 4th; Spurn on the 14th when one flew south with a pair there from the 15th to 20th. A male at that location on 21st with a female on 22nd and then two females on 23rd. Single males were at Flamborough on 20th, 22nd and 26th and also at Hornsea Mere on the 21st and 25th. A single at Throapham, near Dinnington, on 31st.

In June, single males at Beaver Dyke Res. on 3rd June; Puffin Bog on the 6th; Daw Cross, Harrogate, on the 20th when an immature male was at Winterset. A female at Spurn on the 8th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A female at Spurn on the 19th/20th May with a second bird on the 20th; female on 28th with one at Flamborough and two at Filey on the 31st.

In June, singles at Flamborough on 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 7th; 10th; 14th; 22nd and 23rd with two present on both 8th and 9th. At Filey, one on 1st, three (two females) on 6th; a pair on both 7th and 8th with a female there on the 9th whilst, at Spurn, a male was reported on the 6th, a female on the 8th which remained to the 11th. A total of four there on the 9th whilst a male was recorded at nearby Beacon Lagoons on the 7th. Single males at Scarborough on the 8th and 9th with another at Cornelian on the 9th. Single female at Spurn on 6th July.

In autumn, singles were at Flamborough on 13th; 17th; 18th and 19th September with two on the 20th then one on 21st; two on 22nd; one on 23rd/24th; two on 25th; one on 27th with three on the 28th and one on 29th. One at Speeton on the 18th whilst one was present at Spurn from the 18th to 21st and finally one at Filey on 3rd October.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

One in Pontefract Park from 4th January to 2nd February and one at Elsecarr Res. from the 8th to 12th April being the only records during the early months.

Also scarce during the latter months; one at Spurn from 5th to 7th October with a further two on the last date; two on the 8th and one on 10th/11th. One at Kilnsea on the 12th was possibly a

different bird from those reported at Spurn. Singles at Flamborough from 4th to 6th; 13th and 21st October. Inland, one at Tophill Low N.R. on 3rd October with one near Strines from 13th November to 5th December.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

No apparent change in status apart from a probable increase in the Leeds area where it is also moving into suburban areas. Still scarce in VC 61 with two or three pairs at Hornsea Mere being the only breeding occurrence in the east. Ten at Lindley Wood Res. on 8th October the largest gathering reported.

Magpie *Pica pica*

The overall trend is still one of an increase but in some areas, particularly the east, much controlled by shooting interests thus being quite scarce. 36 near Kelk on 18th December being the largest party reported from VC 61. Far larger gatherings were reported from VCs 63 and 64 with up to 200 roosting at Potteric Carr at both ends of the year; 180 in February and 170 in December at Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds, being maxima recorded.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Considered to be increasing particularly in the Knaresborough area where some 250 pairs bred on ruins, cliffs and quarries at various sites along a 3½ km stretch of the R. Nidd. Maxima reported were 2500 at High Batts N.R. on 1st November; up to 1000 at Tophill Low N.R. during January peaking at 2400 on 21st with 1600 to 1700 in February and up to 1700 in November. 1100 at Chelker Res. on 10th October; 1140 flying west at Winterset Res. on 19th February to roost and 1000 at Staveley N.R. in August.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very few rookeries were counted but status seems to be unchanged. Maxima at winter roosts were 2000 at Scorton on 2nd February; 2000+ at Hornsea Mere on many occasions; up to 1600 at Tophill Low N.R. but with an isolated peak of 4000 on 20th November. 4000 *corvids* at Skip Bridge on 7th January were mainly of this species.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

'Widespread and now a relatively common breeding bird' in VC 63 whilst status elsewhere would seem to be unchanged.

At least 1500 roosted at Hornsea Mere during both ends of the year though no other location reported parties of more than 200. Evidence of passage noted at Flamborough with 290 on 29th March; 109 on 4th April with 292 on the 5th, 100 at Sunk Island on 7th March whilst, in autumn, 110 were there on 21st October with 200 on 29th and 120 on 7th November. 100 at Cromer Point on 18th October.

Individuals of the race *C.c.cornix* (Hooded Crow) remain scarce with one or two at Flamborough on five days in March otherwise singles at Hornsea Mere on 28th January; Flamborough on 4th and 7th April; Spurn on 5th April and 3rd June and Filey from 3rd to 10th May. Only three records during the latter months, all singles, at Spurn on 26th October; Cromer Point on 4th December and at Burniston on the 26th. The only inland record came from Swillington Ings on 29th May.

Raven *Corvus corax*

A pair raised four young in the Wharfedale area whilst breeding probably occurred at a second location.

An increase in records with four regularly in Arkengarthdale from 8th to 23rd February. Two birds reported at Calver Hill on 4th January; Witherings Edge on 11th January; Castle Farm on 28th; Gouthwaite Res. on 24th February; Fountains Fell on 31st May; Yockenthwaite Moor on 11th June whilst up to three were at Malham Tam between 23rd and 31st August. Two at Gouthwaite Res. on 5th September; at both Victoria Grove and Hawkswick Clowder on 20th September; at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 11th October and at Crummock Dale on 27th December. Singles were reported from a further nine upland locations on occasions.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The only change in status noted was a lack of numbers reported at winter roosts in VC 64. The largest roosts recorded were 100,000 at Wilsey Park, Bradford throughout October; 12,000 at Scorton in October; 11,000 south and 9000 west over Tophill Low N.R. on 16th October and 10,000 at Hornsea Mere in September/October with a similar sized roost at Blacktoft Sands in late July/August. Only light coastal passage noted in autumn.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

An adult male at Cloughton on 31st May (RNH:IG:JMT *et al*) with another male at Laytham on 27th June (RD & PD). Both records are still under consideration by BBRC.

Addition to the 1989 Report: An adult at Hornsea on 11th July (JCL:PCL:NJ). Under consideration by BBRC.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

c 700 at Thrybergh C.P. on 4th August otherwise no gatherings of more than 300. The general consensus is that this species is declining in all areas, particularly away from human habitation.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Reports on status in VC 61 vary; scarcer at Hornsea Mere than in previous years and not believed to have bred. Good year at Kelk whilst the breeding population at Flamborough continues to increase. In VC 63, all comments were either 'scarce' or 'in decline' with the breeding status in VC 64 considered to be unchanged from recent years. No comments received from either VC 62 or VC 65.

130 at Muston on 1st January; 60 at Tophill Low N.R. on 2nd may then none until mid September after which was reported irregularly to the year's end. In the York area, 110 at Melbourne on 12th January with 100 there on 9th February; 100+ at Poppleton on 12th November had increased to 200+ by 25th. Feeding numbers at Broomhill Ings had increased to 115 by 31st December whilst 80 were roosting near Hatfield on 24th January. Elsewhere in VC 63, parties numbered less than 40 in VC 64, up to 55 were at High Batts N.R. during January to March and October to December with 60 near Spofforth in December and 50+ at Birkin on 26th July.

Coastal passage at Spurn gave up to 80 daily from September to mid October but 115 on 28th September whilst peaks at Flamborough were 200 on 20th September and 120 on 24th October.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Status and distribution apparently unchanged. The largest gatherings reported were in VC 63 where c 300 were at Womersley on 4th February with up to 150 there in October; 200 at Ughill on 6th December; 200 roosting at Langsett during late December with 150 roosting at Esholt in early November. Passage noted at Strines Top with peaks of 270 to the southwest on 25th September; 860 northwest in two hours on 12th October with 260 southwest in one hour on the 19th. 150 at Tophill Low N.R., VC 61, on 29th March with 120 on 5th July and 135 or 8th November. 120 at Thornton Ellers on 4th February with 100 at Flamborough on 4th January. Some evidence of southerly passage at Spurn though numbers involved were small but 163 flew south at Pulfin Bog on 6th September with 116 on 12th and 61 on 13th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Quite scarce during the early months with only small parties of up to ten recorded. The exceptions to this were, 50 at Potteric Carr on 15th and 24th March with 150 on 22nd and 100 at Roundhill on 6th January. The last of the early period was at Flamborough on 18th May.

Large numbers recorded during autumn with the first at Flamborough on 17th September. 280 were at Spurn on the 27th with 200 remaining until the 30th. 163 at Flamborough on 27th decreasing to 30 on 29th. During October Spurn recorded 120 on 4th; 100 on 7th and 120 on 12th whilst Flamborough had 30 on 3rd and 80 on 5th.

A small but widespread influx into VC 63 occurred from 1st October with westerly passage noted at Strines Top where 270 were reported in one hour on 8th October; 530 on 12th; 300 on 13th and 335 on 19th. Exceptional numbers were recorded from the vicinity of the Pennines. At Walshaw Dean 70 were present on 31st October; 400 roosting there on 7th November increased

to 1320 on 17th then 1479 on 5th December decreasing thereafter with none by the end of the month. 500 at Luddenden Dean on 5th December increased to 1000 by the 13th then fell to 100 by 19th. At Langsett 120 on 3rd December with 225 on 6th; 300 on 29th; 500 on 30th and 1200 on 31st. 150 at Bretton Park on 27th December whilst 140 were at Ingbirchworth on 17th November.

A similar situation reported from VC 64 though generally smaller parties involved. 800+ were at Streeton Moor on 20th November with 150 the following day. 50 at Barden on 10th October; 50 at Malham Tarn on 8th November; 100 at Ripon in December during which month 70 were at Hunger Hills, Leeds and 70 at Otley Chevin.

In VC 65, a flock of 50 on Feldon Ranges on 30th October had increased to 150 by late November whilst 70 at Ricvaux Terrace from 8th November to 4th December was the largest gathering in VC 62.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

No apparent change in status or distribution. Flocks during the early months generally not large with 140 at Tophill Low N.R. on 29th March and 200 at Barnsdale Bar in early February. Larger flocks were reported during the latter months. Numbers at Tophill Low N.R. were described at exceptional with 480 on 23rd September then between 180 and 300 from 25th to 27th; 300 on 4th October; 340 on 16th thereafter 40 to 50. 200 at Flamborough on 30th December was a record winter count there whilst in the York area c400 were at Poppleton on 10th October; 210 at Aughton on 29th whilst 300 were at Terrington on 6th December.

In VC 63, 800+ at Thrybergh C.P. on 13th September; 400 on 29th then 100 on 9th November. 500 at Harthill Res. on 8th October; 250 on Doncaster Racecourse on 29th and 150 at North Anston on 26th. In December; 430 at Thorpe Ashfields on 20th; 360 at Thorpe Marsh on 27th and 150+ at Esholt on 9th. 400 at Azerley, VC 64, in October with 300 at Rocliffe on 3rd December and 150 at Bramhope during this month. 300 at Nosterfield, VC 65, in October.

Coastal passage was light with 140 grounded at Spurn on 1st October then 180 on 7th November. 230 south there on 13th October and 213 on 23rd.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Breeding numbers maintained and with no other comments received, status apparently unchanged. Flocks during the early months were small though 50 were at East Cottingwith on 3rd February increasing to 80 by 4th March and 100 at Womersley on 3rd February. Several flocks in VC 63 of up to 50.

During the latter months, 80 at North Duffield Carrs on 1st August was the only flock of note reported from VC 61. In VC 63; 320 were at Broomhill Ings on 22nd August with 300 there during September; 150 at Balby during September and 130 at Manor, Sheffield, on 10th October. 100 were at Henside, VC 64, being noteworthy, whilst other parties on note in this VC were 70 at Gouthwaite Res. on 30th August and 80 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 19th September.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Bred at six locations, all in coniferous woodlands, along the deep valleys of the eastern Peak District near Sheffield. No other definite breeding records though a series of records to the east of Doncaster between March and June involving singing males/pairs and eventually juveniles gives rise to conjecture. A pair probably bred near Newhouses, VC 64.

Flocks of 30 to 60 were quite widespread during the early months with larger parties in VC 63 where 600 were present in the Rother Valley C.P. in early January decreasing to 100 by the end of the month. 150 were at Roche Abbey on 1st February with 120 at Neupsend (Sheffield) on the 2nd and up to 100 at Potteric Carr this month. In spring, 80 at Winterset Res. on 28th March and 120 at Midhope on 11th April.

Only light passage along the coast during autumn whilst inland, 100 passed southwesterly over Strines Top on 29th September. Quite widespread during the latter months with parties of up to 60 though larger gatherings were 250 at High Batts N.R. on 4th October and 300 there during November/December. In VC 62, flocks of 150 were at Yearsley Common on 24th October; Burniston on 22nd November and Kirkham Gorge on 29th. 200 at Forge Dam (Sheffield), VC 63, on 12th December with up to 100 at Cridling Stubbs in that month.

Many locations commented on the continued increase in the use of garden feeders, particularly during spring.

Linnets *Carduelis cannabina*

No comments received concerning any change in breeding status.

Few large gatherings during the early months with most flocks recorded being less than 100 however c 230 were near Tophill Low N.R. during April; 280 at Thrybergh C.P. on 22nd April; 160 at Nosterfield on 13th April whilst up to 200 were at High Batts N.R.. Spring passage occurred at Spurn from 12th April to early May with up to 300 reported almost daily and with maxima of 650 on 18th April; 750 on 21st and 600 on 25th. Autumn passage light with up to 200 daily at Spurn but a peak of 750 on 25th September whilst 351 flew west at Sunk Island on 20th September.

Flocks during the latter months slightly larger than in the early ones with record counts at Tophill Low N.R. of 400 on 23rd August increasing to between 600 and 750 by mid September then c 1000 on 21st decreasing to 600 on 4th October. Nearby Pulfyn Bog also reported record numbers with 450+ on 16th August decreasing thereafter to 150 by 31st. 600 at Flamhorough on 16th August decreasing to 250 by mid September whilst 300 were at Filey on 29th.

Peak counts in VC 63 were 250 at Harthill Res. on 5th September and 415 on 11th October; 500 at Thorne Ashfields on 28th November with 720 at Thrybergh C.P. during the first week of August and 400 there on 15th September. Few large gatherings in VC 64 with 250 at High Batts N.R. on 11th October and 150 at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds (Leeds) during September as maxima.

Twites *Carduelis flavirostris*

The survey of breeding birds in the Yorkshire Dales National Park revealed three pairs with a further eight individuals present. Reported however as a good year in Arkengarthdale yet in VC 64 numbers stated as decreasing rapidly whilst a slow decline in breeding numbers was reported from VC 63 although precise details for that VC were not forthcoming.

Large flocks were recorded with other finches in Arkengarthdale on 9th September; c 60 recorded at Great Close Scar, VC 64, on 18th September whilst in VC 63, 90 were at Derby Delph (near Ripponden) on 22nd April and 80 at Scammonden on 9th August.

Very few along the coast during the early months with one to six occasionally at Filey; Barnston; Flamborough and Spurn during the latter and peaks of 15 at Spurn on 27th September and 11 on 16th/17th October.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Becoming scarce in VC 61 where only Hornsea Mere and Wheldrake Ings recorded definite breeding. Brandsby, in VC 62, recorded the only breeding in that VC (under recorded?) whilst in VC 63, breeding was widespread with no indications of change of status. Few reports of breeding from VC 64 with no comments received from VC 65.

In VC 61; 60 at Thornton Ellers on 30th December otherwise only Tophill Low N.R. had more than ten birds with 22 on 15th January and up to 18 during late October. Spurn recorded 185 between 26th September and 2nd October peaking with 48 on 29th.

Widespread flocks in VC 63 with maxima of 100 at Broomhill Ings from 25th January to 3rd February; 127 at Harthill Res. on 24th February; 150 at Rivelin on 19th April then, in May, 150 at Ringinglow and 200 at Thorpe Hesley on 3rd.

During the latter months; 170 at Winterset Res. on 15th October was the only count in excess of 40. Smaller gatherings than usual from VC 64 with maxima of 45 at Thruscross Res. on 4th May whilst during the latter months up to 40 were at that same location. Up to 60 were present in Colsterdale peaking with 70 on 28th December.

Individuals attributable to the race *C.f. flammea* (Mealy Redpoll) were at Broomhill Ings from 25th to 27th January and 3rd February; at Thorpe Marsh on 26th January and 5th April whilst two were at Flamborough on 8th October.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

No definite records of breeding though a few were reported occasionally in the Midhope; Underbrook and Wymingbrook areas during early spring.

40 at Winksley and 12 at Otley Chevin on 4th January were the only counts of any note during the early months though perhaps an indication of an influx in late May with 14 at Yateholme on 28th and 26 at Flamborough on the same day though no other locations reported birds. A little more widespread during the latter months (summer/autumn) although parties recorded were small excepting two flocks of ten and 15 in the Barden area on 17th October whilst up to 30 were reported from several locations in the Howardian Hills with a maximum of 100+ at Hovingham High Wood on 27th July.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

An excellent spring which culminated in successful breeding at Flamborough; the first occasion for England. The first bird appeared on 30th May after which up to seven were reported daily until the last on 22nd July. Four or five pairs attempted to breed with two being successful; the number of young produced uncertain though one was ringed.

Spring records at Spurn were; adult male on 25th May, then in June, an immature male/female brown bird on 4th; adult male on 5th; brown bird on 6th; adult male from 7th to 15th; brown bird from 7th to 9th with a second one on the 7th/8th, another on the 9th which may have been the bird reported on the 12th/13th. A first year male singing at Burton Riggs G.P. on the 3rd.

In autumn, singles at Spurn on 21st August; 19th to 22nd September and on the 28th. Migrants at Flamborough were, singles on 9th and 23rd August with two on 28th September.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

No comments received thus status assumed to be unchanged.

Only small parties reported in VC 61 with 13 at Wheldrake lngs on 23rd November as the largest. Similarly, in VC 62, only small numbers. Far larger gatherings in the west of the county with an incredible flock of 75 at Pot Hills Marsh on 30th September (this has only been surpassed by the flock, estimated by H. B. Booth, at about 130 birds, at Harlow Hill, Harrogate, during the winter of 1926). 30 were at Brayton Barff on 8th February; 30 at High Batts N.R. on 9th August with 18 at Winterset Res. on 26th September and 17 at Sprotbrough on 6th January.

Some indication of coastal passage at both Spurn and Flamborough whilst birds attributable to the nominate race *P.p.pyrrhula* were at Flamborough on 30th October and 4th November with three on 8th October. One at Spurn from 30th October to 3rd November.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Fewer reports from VC 64 than in 1991. 20 being the maximum near Fountains Abbey during January whilst elsewhere in this VC, all other records concerned single birds at Calverley Woods on 2nd February; Swinton Park on 9th March; Knaresborough on 27th June and 13th October; Shipley on 30th November and Becketts' Park, Leeds, on 12th December.

Local in VC 63 but well distributed. 11 at Roche Abbey on 3rd March then singles there into summer; 15 at Firbeck on 19th January with three pairs on 29th March and two birds on 29th November. At Bretton Park, one on 12th January with 12 on 13th then four on 25th; two from 12th to 13th February, singles occasionally from October to December with three on both the 9th and 27th December. 11 were in the Rockley/Stainbrough area on 31st January with five there on 23rd February; singles occasionally in Howell Wood during the period February to May and up to three during August/September. Six at Wilsic on 23rd February then two in March and again during the summer. Six in Woolley Woods on 19th February whilst four were at Langsett on 8th March and three each at Womersley on 3rd February and at Sandall Beat Wood on 23rd April. Two in early May at Sprotbrough Flash whilst single birds were recorded at six locations, on one day only, during the year.

Scarce in VC 65 where the only records concerned single birds near Whitcliffe Woods on 22nd January and 31st December. Also scarce in the east of the county; singles being reported from Scarborough Castle Hill on 1st April and on that same date, at Spurn with another flying south there on the 21st.

Lapland Bunting *Calciarius lapponicus*

Few during the early months of the year with singles occasionally at Spurn; Barmston; Filey and Flamborough. More frequent during the latter months with birds present at Filey from 18th September to years' end; the numbers fluctuating but peaking at 34 on 28th December. Quite

frequent at Flamborough where maxima were seven on 10th October, 15 on 8th November and 12 on 24th December. Very scarce at Barmston whilst only one or two very occasionally at Spurn and Kilnsea.

In VC 62, four off the sea at Burniston on 30th October; three at Long Nab on 7th November and seven at Burniston on 15th November.

Away from the coast; one east at Sunk Island on 26th September with one west there on 4th October. Inland, in VC 63, one near Wath Ings from 25th to 29th January; two south over Hillsborough on 6th January; two at North Anston Pit Top on 18th October and one west at Blacktoft Sands on 24th November.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Small numbers at Spurn and Beacon Lagoons during both winters with up to 40 at the latter in January and a peak of 26 on 7th November at the former. Infrequent at Flamborough though 45 on 22nd November with 31 on 19th and 11 on 24th December. The large flock at Filey remained from 1991 peaking at 120 on 11th January thereafter decreasing to 19 on 25th March. Only small numbers were there during the late months though 50 flew south on 21st November whilst a further 16 came in off the sea that day.

In VC 62, no records during the early months but ten in Jackson's Bay on 1st November; 50 at Cromer Point on 29th November with 15 at Jackson's Bay on 4th November.

Along the Humber, 22 flew east at Sunk Island on 14th November with singles there on 15th and 22nd whilst one was at Stone Creek on 12th December. Inland; two at Tophill Low N.R. on 29th March; one at Cridling Stubbs on 27th March. In November, singles at Blacktoft Sands on 4th/5th; to the east over Broomhill Ings on 12th; Burbage Moor on the 8th whilst two flew over the last location on both 14th and 21st. 30+ flew northeast over Moorends on 15th November. One at Cross Stones, Todmorden, on 8th December. In VC 64, one on Ingleborough on 19th January; two on Lofthouse Moor in late November with one over Staveley N.R. on 4th December.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Few breeding records received from VC 61; breeding numbers being maintained at lowland locations in VC 63 but relatively scarce on the upland areas fringing moorlands. No apparent change in status in VCs 62, 64 or 65.

The largest flocks reported during the early months were 140+ at Catcliffe on 31st January; 120 at Knotrop S.F. on 11th January with 100 at Harthill during January/February and at Broomhill Ings in April. During the latter months; up to 150 were in Hay-a-Park in December with 120 at Sprotbrough during that same month. The largest counts in the east of the county were 80 on the disused railway line at Burniston on 30th December with 70 each at East Cottingwith on 7th December and at Flamborough in November.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Two were present at Flamborough on 13th September (DBY:PJW) with another there on 30th October (PAL).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

One at Spurn from 27th to 29th September (PB:DPB:BRS *et al.*).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

In VC 61, a census at Tophill Low N.R. gave between 26 and 31 pairs, an increase though at Flamborough was stated as a much reduced breeder whilst considered to be stable (with c 16 pairs) at Puffin Bog. An estimated 35 singing males were reported at Hornsea Mere. In VC 63, numbers continue to decline in the Sheffield area; at Blacktoft Sands and probably doing so in the Huddersfield and Doncaster areas. No apparent change in status from other areas.

In the eastern part of VC 61 numbers were low during both winter periods with a similar situation along the Derwent valley during the early months though roosts at Wheldrake Ings reached 70 on 8th October and 200 on 22nd November. Early maximum in VC 63 were 105 at Blacktoft Sands on 17th February whilst during the latter months, peaks were 95 at Blacktoft Sands on 8th November; 80 at Gorple on 6th December whilst flocks of 50 were occasionally

reported from Luddenden Dean and Pot Hills Marsh. Smaller numbers in VC 64 where maxima were 20+ occasionally at Mickletown Ings and 25 at Otley Chevin in December.

Light coastal passage noted at Spurn and Flamborough with peaks of 41 on 26th September and 40 on 8th October at the former whilst 25 were at the latter on 27th September. 15 flew west at Sunk Island on 21st October.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

A male trapped at Spurn on 19th May was still present the following day (BRS *et al.*). Under consideration by BBRC.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Good numbers still present around Pontefract and Doncaster. Status near Barnsley a little uncertain but considered to be little changed (information incomplete). Scarce elsewhere in VC 63. Breeding status and distribution in VC 64 possibly slightly decreased on 1991 whilst in VC 65, a rather localised breeder with strongholds along the Wiske and near Scorton. In VC 61, decreased in recent years in the Flamborough area; stable near Tophill Low N.R. and apparently the Derwent valley. Six to eight pairs were reported from the Kelk area.

Flocks reported from VC 61 were 43 at Filey on 9th February with 50 on 6th March; 60 at Tophill Low N.R. on 23rd January; up to 80 at Flamborough in March whilst 60 at East Cottingwith in January had increased to 80 by 15th February. Peaks in VC 61 during the late months were 73 near Hempholme on 18th November; 107 at Flamborough on 8th December with 191 there on 29th.

In VC 63, 102 at Broomhill Ings on 27th January; c 70 during February near Harthill; 150 at Loversall Carr on 1st April decreasing to 70 on 4th whilst 74 were recorded at Winterset Res. on 31st March. Maxima during the late months lower with 40 at Stapleton on 10th December; 60 near Ackworth from 2nd or 23rd December and 50 at Sprotbrough Flash on 30th.

Only small gatherings in VC 64 with 27 near Collingham on 29th February; up to 20 at Sherburn-in-Elmet during January/February and November/December with 16 at Mickletown Ings on 6th January and 14 at Barkston Ash in December.

The following is an update of species for which BBRC require details and which, at the time of publication of the relevant reports, the results of their deliberations were not known. All concern single birds except where indicated.

The following have been accepted.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Worsbrough Res. 4th October 1991

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Swillington 2nd May 1989

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

Filey 25th July 1985

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Flamborough 14th to 20th September 1991

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Flamborough 10th to 13th October 1982

Flamborough 22nd to 26th October 1985

Flamborough 23rd to 24th October 1985

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Flamborough 20th October 1990

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Flamborough 13th to 15th October 1991

Flamborough 26th October to 2nd November 1991

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Grimston 8th to 9th December 1990 (previously rejected)

The following have been rejected.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Stone Creek 22nd October 1990

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Lane Top, Sheffield 8th July 1984

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon uilolica*

Flamborough 27th May 1989

Flamborough 3rd July 1989

Flamborough 7th August 1989

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*

Wheldrake Ings 3rd November 1987

(This record was previously published by the YNU with the 'escape' proviso)

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate, forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books; the locality, date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver	Long-tailed Skua
Black-throated Diver	Mediterranean Gull
Slavonian Grebe	Ring-billed Gull
Black-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Storm Petrel	Black Guillemot
Leach's Storm Petrel	Bee-eater
Little Egret	Short-toed Lark
Purple Heron	Woodlark
White Stork	Richard's Pipit
Bean Goose	Tawny Pipit
Red-crested Pochard	Bluethroat
Ring-necked Duck	Cetti's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Savi's Warbler
Surf Scoter	Aquatic Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Marsh Warbler
Red Kite	Icterine Warbler

Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Goshawk	Barred Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Pallas's Warbler
Golden Eagle	Yellow-browed Warbler
Hobby	Firecrest
Spotted Crake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Crane	Golden Oriole
Stone Curlew	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Chough
Temminck's Stint	Raven
Pectoral Sandpiper	Serín
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Scarlet Rosefinch
Red-necked Phalarope	Cirl Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Pomarine Skua	Little Bunting

British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports.

The following local society and club reports for 1992 have been received and those readers requiring more information on the areas concerned should consult the relevant report.

Birds in Huddersfield (Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club)
 Birds in Sheffield (Sheffield Bird Study Group)
 Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve
 Bradford Naturalists' Society
 Bradford Ornithological Group
 Castleford and District Naturalists' Society
 Doncaster Bird Report (Doncaster and District Ornithological Society)
 Filey Brigg Bird Report (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)
 Halifax Birdwatchers' Club
 Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society
 Leeds Birdwatchers' Club
 Pontefract and Castleford Bird Study Group
 Rotherham and District Ornithological Society
 South Holderness Countryside Society (Newletters)
 Sorby Natural History Society (Newsletters)
 Tophill Low Nature Reserve
 Upper Wharfedale Field Society
 Wharfedale Naturalists' Society
 York Bird Report (York Ornithological Club)

Reports/lists were also received from individuals or groups for their particular area, being as follows; Barmston; Broomhill Ings; Birds of the Estuary Enquiry; Beacon Lagoons (Kilnsea); Bolton-on-Swale; Humber Wildfowl Refuge; Flamborough Ornithological Group; Hornsea Mere R.S.P.B. Reserve; Kelk G.P.; Malham Tarn; Mickletown Ings; Pugneys' C.P.; Pulfin Bog; Staveley N.R.; Sunk Island; Swillinton Ings; Winterset Res.

The following is a list of observers who contributed to the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted

records to their local societies is very much appreciated. N. W. Addey; D. P. Adkin; G. E. Alderson; K. J. Allison; S. Allison; K. Alred; K. Anderson; M. Anderson; R. H. Appleby; E. Appleton; K. Appleton; A. Archer; B. Armitage; D. & P. Ashton; R. Ashworth; B. J. Askwith; I. Atha; D. Atkinson; Miss J. E. Atkinson; I. Austin; D. J. Bamforth; S. J. Bank; J. S. Barclay; L. M. Bardwell; M. Bardwell; D. Barker; D. C. Barker; J. Barker; S. Barwick; Y. Barwick; J. M. Baxter; J. M. Bayldon; R. Bayldon; J. Beaumont; P. R. Beaumont; D. Beeker; M. Beevers; B. Beilby; C. Bell; N. A. Bell; B. Bentley A. Benton; I. Beverage; C. Beilby; D. P. Binns; P. Bishop; R. P. Blagden; R. Boddy; P. Bonavia; A. Botterill; D. J. Bowes; D. M. Bowes; P. Bowman; D. Boyle; P. Bradley; C. Braham; A. Brant; K. Brewer; D. Brighton; J. D. H. Brown; H. O. Bunce; J. Burnham; H. P. R. Bury; A. S. Butler; D. Bywater; K. A. Capps; P. J. Carlton; A. L. Carr; G. Carr; D. Carroll; M. J. Carroll; N. Carter; A. Cawthrow; M. 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