

SUMMARY OF BIRD RECORDS IN THE CONONLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL GROUP RECORDING AREA 2008

Due to a delay in producing a full report for 2008, this summary report has been produced.

The Cononley Ornithological Group recording area covers the Aire Valley from Skipton south to Cononley and surrounding areas of Farnhill, Kildwick, Carleton and Eslack.

MUTE SWAN

There were a minimum of five pairs in the area during the breeding season with two confirmed breeding pairs: one with seven cygnets at Kildwick on 4th June and a second pair with three cygnets seen on the canal at Snaygill on 16th June. The year's highest count was 13 birds were present on 26th January on a flooded Cononley Ings.

PINK FOOTED GOOSE

Records were as follows:

Jan - 73 birds north west over Snaygill Ings on 23rd, 40 over Cononley on 27th and on 28th 38 over Carleton, 500 over Cononley Ings, 200 and 60 over Eslack Moor all between 12.25pm and 1.05pm. On 29th 220 flew north west over Carleton Ings and 400 flew south west over Farnhill Moor on 30th.

Feb - 15 birds flew over Snaygill Ings on 4th and 61 over the same site on 9th with two birds feeding on Cononley Ings on 10th. 100 birds north west over Cowling Hill on 11th, 120 over Skipton on 12th.

Sept - 78 birds flew over Cononley on 28th with 385 and 75 west over Cononley Ings on 29th.

Oct - 20 over Cononley on 11th, 100 over Cononley Ings on 12th with seven birds on the Ings later the same day and two birds at Snaygill Ings on 16th.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Records of one to seven birds between Jan and June with a maximum of 70 birds over Snaygill Ings on 28th January.

CANADA GOOSE

Canada Geese were recorded in every month with birds seen on the canal between Farnhill and Skipton with up to 14 birds were present in the Snaygill Ings area from Sept until the year end. One pair bred in the area with five eggs hatching of which four young fledged.

SHELDUCK

Jan - five at Cononley Ings on 24th and at Farnhill Ings the following day with two birds at Cononley Ings on 26th.

Feb - a single bird was at Snaygill Ings on 27th

March – May – a single at Cononley Ings on 13th March with two on 31st March remaining in the area until at least 4th May.

Sept - two adults and a juvenile were on floods at Cononley Ings on 10th September with four on 11th.

WIGEON

Present at Cononley Ings from 1st January until 29th March with high counts of 63 on 19th, 83 on 25th and 233 on 27th Jan. In the second winter period birds were at Cononley Ings from 11th August to the year end with a maximum of 38 birds on 11th September.

GADWALL

Two records: eclipse males at Cononley Ings on 27th August and 19th September.

TEAL

Daily maxima each month at Cononley and Snaygill Ings for each month were as follows:

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
189	73	163	37	1	No records	12	12	130	150+	150+	150+

MALLARD

Regular on Cononley Ings in the early months of the year peaking at 370 present in Jan. Breeding was confirmed at eight sites in the Cononley area with a minimum of 150 unfledged young noted. Peak counts in second winter period on Cononley Ings were 320 on 10th Sept and 368 on 29th Nov.

PINTAIL

All records from Cononley Ings unless stated:

Jan - three males and a female at Cononley Ings on 19th and a single male on 30th

Feb - single on 9th February.

Sept - five on 12th, three on 14th and two females or immatures were at Snaygill Ings on 20th.

Oct - two females on 8th, three females and one male on 10th with a male and female present on 28th and 29th.

SHOVELER

All records from Cononley Ings unless stated.

Jan – an immature male seen at Cononley Ings on 1st Jan, two adult males and one immature male on 19th, two on 25th January, three males and a female on 26th with four on 27th.

March - a single at Snaygill Ings on 23rd March

May - pair at Snaygill Ings 30th May.

Sep - five on 11th with subsequent records of single birds on 12th, 13th and 15th.

Oct - single birds seen on five dates between 2nd and 10th.

POCHARD

All records from Cononley Ings:

Jan - two males on 23rd Jan.

July - single male was seen on 14th and 15th, with two males and a female on 16th and a male on 23rd

Sept - female on 7th

Oct - singles on 8th and 18th

Dec - a pair on 21st.

TUFTED DUCK

Single records from Cononley Lead Mine Pond from 20th Jan until 20th May, with the exception of a pair on 24th Jan and two males on 9th Feb. Between one and six birds were recorded at Cononley Ings during periods of flooding and there were also records at Snaygill Ings on a number of dates from September to the year end.

GOLDENEYE

There were 55 records of this species in 2008m mainly on the River Aire, with the majority seen during the first winter period with between four and 20 birds noted between Jan and 27th March. There were just two records in the second winter period of two birds at Cononley Ings on 16th and a female river at Cononley Ings on 29th October.

GOOSANDER

There were a minimum four confirmed breeding pairs and at least an additional three probable breeding pairs in the area.

RED GROUSE

No notable records.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

No notable counts.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Records from four sites was a welcome increase and included at least one confirmed breeding record.

PHEASANT

No notable counts.

LITTLE GREBE

One to two birds seen on the Aire during the first and second winter period. Bred at one site in the area with a single pair fledging three young.

CORMORANT

There was a large increase in records from 28 in 2007 to 80 in 2008. The majority relate to single birds but notable local counts in the Aire valley included five on 10th, four on 11th Sept, three on 12th, five on 13th and five immature birds fishing on the river at Cononley Ings.

LITTLE EGRET

A single bird was seen roosting every evening and still present early in the morning at Snaygill Ings from at least 12th to 25th December. (DN & SN).

GREY HERON

A maximum count of 31 birds was recorded in the local heronry with at least 11 occupied nests visible on 14th March. Nearby, a single pair fledged at least three young. Outside the breeding the highest count was 11 birds at Cononley Ings on 12th Sept. Due to the irresponsible actions of a fisherman, one bird was found dead entangled in fishing wire along the river at Cononley Ings.

RED KITE

There were three sightings: singles on Cononley Moor on 15th Feb, over Farnhill Moor and Cononley on 16th March and two birds over Snaygill on 6th October.

MARSH HARRIER

A 'cream crown' at Tow Top Moor on 6th September was the first record for the Group (MM & BS).

SPARROWHAWK

Regular sightings throughout the year with at least three territorial pairs within the area

BUZZARD

This species was recorded throughout the year with a minimum of five territorial pairs in the area, three of which were confirmed to have bred. Outside the breeding season the highest counts were all in Oct with eight birds 5th, seven on 8th and six on 17th.

KESTREL

A very good year for this species with at least ten territorial pairs in the area including at least six confirmed breeding attempts.

MERLIN

Five records were received of single birds: at Cononley Ings on 12th February, 18th February and 15th March. There were single records from a potentially suitable nesting area on 18th and 31st May.

HOBBY

The best year on record for this species with nine records: singles in May over Cononley Ings on 3rd and 5th and over Ramshaw and Cononley Woodside on 24th. In Aug singles over Mill Bridge Cononley 12th, over Cononley Ings on 15th and Farnhill Ings on 20th. Singles juveniles were noted at Cononley Ings on 6th and 11th Sept.

PEREGRINE FALCON

Singles over Farnhill Ings on 2nd, with records from Cononley Ings including a juvenile 12th and un-aged birds 10th and on 26th Oct.

WATER RAIL

All records came from Snaygill Ings with one to three birds recorded between 1st Jan and 14th March with one heard on 19th June. Between one and three birds were recorded between 20th Sept and the year end.

MOORHEN

There were records from a number of sites within the area with at least six breeding pairs along the river Aire between Farnhill Ings and Carleton Bridge, a minimum of ten pairs at Snaygill Ings and one pair at Cononley Lead Mine Pond. The highest count of the years 64 birds at Snaygill Ings on 25th Oct.

COOT

An increase in records in 2008 compared to previous years. There were at least four breeding pairs at Cononley Lead Mine Pond, one pair on Cononley Ings and four pairs at Snaygill Ings.

OYSTERCATCHER

Present at Cononley Ings from at least 17th Jan with notable counts of ten on 2nd and 4th, 11 on 16th with 13 birds present on 31st March. There were at least 11 breeding pairs in the area. Notable autumn counts included ten on 12th, 14th and 17th July with the final record of the year on 19th Aug.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

A total of 41 records were received, all from Cononley and Snaygill Ings with the first on 21st March. One to three birds were then noted in late March and in April with six birds on 28th and five on 29th April. One to three birds were noted in May with up to two birds regularly in June apart from five on 28th and four on 29th June but there were no breeding attempts recorded..

RINGED PLOVER

Singles at Snaygill Ings on 28th April, 4th and 28th May with a notable record of six birds at Cononley Ings on 13th September.

GOLDEN PLOVER

There were 23 records of this species in 2008 with four records in the first winter period. There were some notable local counts at Cononley Ings with 120 on 25th, 100+ on 26th, and 62 on 28th Oct with 360 on 14th and 200 birds on 16th Nov.

LAPWING

Up to 2000 birds were present at Cononley Ings in Jan and 1000 in Feb. Displaying birds were recorded at eight sites in the area with breeding attempts confirmed at six of those sites. Post breeding numbers at Cononley Ings included 500 from mid-July, 1000 to 1500 in Sept, 500 to 1500 in Oct and Nov with up to 200 in Dec.

DUNLIN

All records were at Cononley Ings: five on 5th Jan, five on 27th April, a single on 14th, nine on 16th, a single on 19th July and two on 13th Sept.

RUFF

At Con Ings and an adult male was present on 16th and 17th July, a single on 7th Sept, with a juvenile on 11th September joined by two other juveniles on 14th and on 15th.

JACK SNIPE

Single birds at Snaygill Ings on 1st and 22nd March.

COMMON SNIPE

The highest counts in the first winter period included 25+ birds at Snaygill Ings on 1st Jan, 13 at Cononley Ings and 22 birds at Snaygill Ings on 22nd March. No drumming birds were recorded in the area in 2008. Notable counts in Sept at Con Ings included 36 on 14th, 50 on 15th and 25 on 18th with counts of between one and 46 birds at Snaygill Ings in the last three months on the year.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

A male and female present at Cononley Ings on 2nd and 3rd April was the first record for the Group (JFJ).

CURLEW

Following a single at Cononley Ings on 11th Jan, numbers increased during Feb and March with 250 birds at Cononley Ings on 4th March and 277 birds at Farnhill Ings on 7th March. A minimum of 19 breeding pairs were noted in the area in 2008. There were few notable counts in autumn with the last sighting for the year of a single bird at Cononley Ings on 14th Nov.

COMMON SANDPIPER

All records from Cononley & Snaygill Ings unless stated: two on 20th, singles at Farnhill Ings on 21st, Cononley Ings on 28th April, 23rd and 24th May. An adult and a juvenile on 29th and 30th June, a single throughout July and Aug with two on 20th Aug and singles on 2nd, four on 7th and two on 15th Sept.

GREEN SANDPIPER

One bird at Cononley and Snaygill Ings on 14 dates between 1st Jan and 19th April. Singles were noted in this area on six dates in July with two regularly from 28th July to 15th Aug and three on 17th and 22nd Aug. Further singles were present from 10th Sept until 25th Oct.

REDSHANK

One to four birds were noted in the first four months of the year at Cononley and Snaygill Ings with five on 11th and six on 31st March. There were three territorial pairs recorded in the area with confirmed breeding at one site. At Cononley Ings there were 11 on 11th and 18th June, seven on 17th and nine there on 19th July with two or three birds were recorded to the end of the year.

KITTIWAKE

An adult flew south over Cononley Ings on 2nd May (RC) was the first record for the Group.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

The monthly maxima at Cononley Ings were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1400	500+	530	120	70	30	2000	400	1000	480	90	20

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

At least four different Mediterranean Gulls: two adults and two second summer birds were present at Carleton and Cononley Ings from at least 12th until 19th July (IRC;JFJ).

COMMON GULL

The highest count in the first winter period was 140 birds were at Lothersdale on 30th Jan, there was an adult and a first summer bird at Cononley Ings on 10th July with 80 birds at Cononley Ings on 16th Dec the highest count in the second winter period.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

This species was recorded from January to October with mainly single figure counts. Notable counts from Cononley Ings included 50+ on 10th, 59 on 12th and 249 on 13th July including at least two birds showing characteristics of *intermedius* on the latter date.

HERRING GULL

There were five records in Jan, 12 in Feb including 25 over Sutton on 14th and six on 14th March. There were two records in July and Dec.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

A single record in Jan, four records in both Feb and March with single records in Sept and Oct.

LITTLE TERN

One at Snaygill Ings on 28th April (*per.* RC: JFJ) was the first record for the area.

COMMON TERN

An adult flew south east over floodwaters at Cononley Ings on 13th Sept (IRC) was another new species for the group.

ROCK DOVE

No notable counts.

STOCK DOVE

Lower numbers in 2008 than in previous years with peak counts of only 22 at Cononley Ings on 16th March and 10th July.

WOOD PIGEON

This species was recorded throughout the year with a peak of 500+ over Cononley Ings on 29th Oct.

COLLARED DOVE

Widespread with the area with a minimum of 17 territorial males recorded. The highest count of the year was 32 birds at Snaygill industrial estate on 5th Jan.

CUCKOO

Only two records were received in 2008 with a calling male on Tow Top Moor on 31st May and what was likely to be the same bird seen later the same day at nearby Standrise Plantation, Elslack.

LITTLE OWL

There were at least five territorial pairs in the area.

TAWNY OWL

Notably fewer records in 2008 than in previous years with records from only three sites in the area.

LONG EARED OWL

An adult and at two recently fledged juveniles were seen at an undisclosed site on 20th June (RC) were the first records for the area. An adult bird was present at the same site on 2nd with two adults seen on 26th December. It is very disappointing to report that despite excellent views being possible from a sensible distance without causing any disturbance, the birds were flushed on two occasions by a visiting birdwatcher and one photographer.

SHORT-EARED OWL

Four birds were seen regularly in the first winter period on Eslack Moor with display noted on a number of dates during February, March and April. At least one pair was confirmed to have nested but no fledged young were seen. Two birds on 19th September were the only records in the latter part of the year.

SWIFT

There were 30 birds at Snaygill Ings on 24th April, with notable counts of 100 over Snaygill Ings on 28th May, 100 were feeding over Farnhill Moor on 9th July and 130 birds were over floods at Cononley Ings on 14th July. The final sighting was of two birds over Carleton Road Skipton on 21st Aug.

KINGFISHER

This species was seen throughout the year and with at least two pairs on the Aire between Carleton Bridge and Kildwick, with confirmed breeding at one site with two broods fledged

GREEN WOODPECKER

There were the highest number of records for this species ever recorded by the Group with what was probably the same bird at Cononley Ings and Bradley Lane End, and sightings from Kildwick Moor and Lothersdale.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

No notable counts.

SKYLARK

Two over Snaygill Ings on 27th Jan, two over Eslack Moor on 9th Feb and three at Snaygill Ings on 17th March. There were a minimum of eight singing males in the area during the breeding season with only one late winter record of two at Snaygill Ings on 13th November.

SAND MARTIN

The first record of the year was of two birds which flew north over Cononley Lead Mines on 30th March. One pair were excavating a nest hole at Cononley Lead Mine Pond on 20th May and one pair nested at Cononley Ings with up to 30 birds over Snaygill Ings during the summer were presumably birds nesting just outside the recording area. Single figure numbers were seen in Aug with the final record of the year at Cononley Ings on 7th September.

SWALLOW

The first record for the year was of three birds at Cononley on 4th April. Breeding was recorded at a number of sites with post breeding flocks including 250 birds at Cononley Ings on 7th, 300 birds over Farnhill Ings on the 12th September and 300 birds were over Snaygill Ings on 18th. The number of records decreased in Oct with the last sighting at Snaygill Ings on 28th October.

HOUSE MARTIN

The first sighting of the year was a single bird over Shady Lane Cononley on 10th April with ten birds then seen at Cononley Ings on 12th April. Breeding was reported from three sites within the area. Notable counts included 60 at Shady Lane, Cononley on 24th and 40 at every evening during August at Aireside Cononley. Up to 20 birds were noted at several sites in Sept and early Oct with six at Cononley Ings on 12th October the final record of the year.

MEADOW PIPIT

Widespread in the area in the first winter period but there were no notable counts. At least 30 singing males were recorded from a total of five sites in the area. There were regular double figure counts from Tow Top Moor and Cononley Ings between Sept and the year end.

WATER PIPIT

A single bird was recorded regularly at Cononley and Snaygill Ings from 10th February until 12th April by which time the bird had moulted into summer plumage (RC *et al.*). A single bird was present in the same area from 21st November until the year end (RC *et. al.*) with two birds seen on 10th December (RC).

YELLOW WAGTAIL

All records were from Snaygill Ings with a male on 10th May and a juvenile on 6th and 7th Sept.

GREY WAGTAIL

Numerous records during the year from Bannister Wood, Catlow Gill, Elslack, two pairs along Pismire Beck and at least three pairs along the river between Farnhill and Cononley Ings.

PIED WAGTAIL

Notable counts on Cononley Ings were 100 on 3rd Jan and 23rd Feb with 80 at Snaygill Ings on 23rd March. A minimum of eight pairs bred in the area. Post breeding numbers at Snaygill and Cononley Ings peaked at 80 birds on 2nd October. **White Wagtail** - A male was photographed at Snaygill Ings on 13th April (IRC).

WAXWING

Although there were numerous sightings of this species just outside the recording boundary, there were only three records in the area: a single in Skipton on 7th, at least 40 on Snaygill Industrial Estate on 14th December and another single in Skipton on 15th Dec.

DIPPER

There were only nine records of Dipper in 2008 with birds seen at two sites in the area.

WREN

Widespread in the area with a minimum of 52 singing males recorded with confirmed breeding at eight sites.

DUNNOCK

Widespread in the area with a minimum a minimum of 20 singing males reported.

ROBIN

Widespread in the area with a minimum of 50 singing birds were recorded in the area.

BLUETHROAT

A very elusive first winter female was at Snaygill Ings from 27th September to 5th October. It was first seen very briefly on 29th September (RC) but was not seen again that day despite extensive searching. It was still present the following day when it was seen for less than two minutes by two observers before flying into deep cover. There was a similar brief sighting on 29th but no further sightings until 5th October when the bird was seen by three separate observers for a total of ten minutes in full view in willow scrub. A full description was submitted. Although a first for the Group it is remarkably the second record for the area following a male of the white spotted form that was present on April 1st 1992 along the river at Flosh, Cononley.

REDSTART

Two birds were at Cononley Ings on 13th July, a juvenile at Farnhill Moor on 20th July, a male at Moorfoot Lane, Cononley on 24th August and a single at Butler Hill on 20th September were the only records of the year.

WHINCHAT

Six records were received with one at Snaygill Ings on 11th May, a male at Dead Eye on 4th July and single juveniles at Cononley Lead Mines on 18th and 25th August with a male there on 3rd Sept and a female at Snaygill Ings on 18th Sept.

STONECHAT

There was a single at Elslack Moor on 19th Jan, three birds at Tow Top Moor on 9th Feb, singles on Elslack Moor on 12th Feb and 17th March, at Snaygill Ings on 23rd March and Cowling Hill on 26th April. At least two pairs bred at two sites with another pair possibly breeding at a third site in the area.

WHEATEAR

Two birds were at Cononley Lead Mines on 6th April and seven near Cowling Hill on 26th April. There were a series of records from Elslack Moor with one on 3rd, two pairs on 4th and a female on 9th May. The only autumn records were two juveniles seen at Cononley Lead Mines on 11th August.

BLACKBIRD

A minimum of 27 singing males recorded in the area.

FIELDFARE

There were large numbers in the first winter period including 230 at Cononley Ings on 5th Jan, 300 at Butler Hill on 2nd, 500 at Cononley Ings on 3rd Feb, 400 at Cononley Ings on 22nd and 370 birds at t Surgill Cowling on 31st March. The final record for the first winter period was 36 at Dead Eye on 21st April. In the latter part of the year records from Cononley Ings included notable counts of 1,340 birds moving south east over Cononley on 2nd with 600 birds at Cononley Ings on 14th Nov. The largest flock in December was 500 at Cononley Ings on 14th.

SONG THRUSH

A minimum of 19 singing males were recorded in the area. The highest count was six birds at Snaygill Ings on 30th November.

REDWING

There were only low double figure counts in the first winter period with 60 birds at Cononley Ings on 30th Jan the highest count during this period. The final sighting in the first winter period was of nine birds at Carleton on 1st April. The first record of the autumn was a single bird at Snaygill Ings on 5th Oct with small numbers noted until the year end.

MISTLE THRUSH

There were a minimum of 20 pairs recorded in the area.

SEDGE WARBLER

Three birds at Snaygill Ings on 26th April were the first of the year. A minimum of 20 singing males were recorded in the Cononley and Snaygill Ings area with nine birds at the latter site on 15th September the final records of the year.

REED WARBLER

At Snaygill Ings a single was present on 21st May followed by two birds, one of which appeared to be food carrying on 29th May. A single bird was then seen on 17th and 18th June with a male singing on the latter date. The final sighting was of a single bird on 31st July.

BLACKCAP

The first record of the year was a singing male at Cononley on 16th April, with a total of 20 singing males reported in the group area during the breeding season with breeding confirmed at three sites.

GARDEN WARBLER

The first sighting was of a single bird at Snaygill Ings on 3rd May. Two pairs nested at this site with additional singing at Carleton and Farnhill. The final sighting was of a single bird at Cononley Ings on 7th August.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Singles at Farnhill Ings on 23rd April, with others noted at Cononley Ings on 24th, 26th and 31st May, and 23rd July.

COMMON WHITETHROAT

The first bird of the year was a single bird at Snaygill Ings on 28th April. Two pairs nested at this site with singing males also noted at Carr Head, Cowling and Dead Eye, Cononley Ings. A single at Mill Bridge Cononley on 14th September was the last record of the year.

CHIFFCHAFF

A total of 52 records was the highest number reported for many years. The majority of passage birds were reported from Cononley and Snaygill Ings with three birds at the former site on 29th March the first records of the year. Up to three singing males were present in suitable breeding habitat near Cowling during the summer. The majority of autumn migrants were single birds with the exception of three to four birds at Snaygill Ings during the last two week of Sept with up to two birds seen intermittently until 26th Nov.

WILLOW WARBLER

The first sightings were at Mill Bridge Cononley and Snaygill Ings on 10th April. There were at least 76 singing males in the recording area including 42 at Farnhill Moor and Woods.

GOLDCREST

No notable counts.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

There were at least three pairs in the area, with four birds at Cononley Woodside on 8th September the only migrants recorded.

LONG-TAILED TIT

There were several double figure counts in Jan with a maximum of 20+ birds by Carleton Bridge on 1st. Probable breeding pairs were noted at 14 sites in the area. Relatively high numbers seen in post breeding flocks suggest that it was a successful breeding season for this species with 22+ at Cononley Brow on 6th, 24 at Cononley Ings on 12th and 30 at Milkin Hill on 20th Sept.

BLUE TIT

No notable counts.

GREAT TIT

No notable counts but very few juveniles seen in July and Aug suggest that this species may have had a poor breeding season.

COAL TIT

No notable counts.

NUTHATCH

Present at six sites in the area

TREECREEPER

No notable counts.

JAY

Recorded from seven sites in the area during the year.

MAGPIE

The largest counts were 20 birds at Cononley Ings on 17th Oct and 18 at Snaygill Ings on 12th December.

JACKDAW

The only notable count was 200 at Cononley Ings on 10th Oct.

ROOK

The number of occupied nests at monitored sites was: 19 at Netherghyll Lane, Cononley; 32 at Carleton Road, Skipton; a minimum of eight at Lothersdale Crossroads; a minimum of 30 at Whitegate Farnhill and 54 at Ravenshaw, Carleton.

CARRION CROW

The highest counts of the year were from Cononley Ings with 25 on 17th Aug, 50 on 28th Sept and 37 on 16th Oct.

RAVEN

One or two birds were reported on two dates in Jan, four in March and three in April with singles on 30th May, 22nd Sept and 8th, 17th and 29th Oct.

STARLING

The largest flocks in the first winter months included 200 birds at Cononley Ings on 11th, 200 at Carleton Ings on 13th and 700 at Farnhill Ings on 26th Jan. Up to 200 were noted at Cononley and Farnhill Ings in Aug and Sept with numbers increasing in Oct to a maximum of 400.

HOUSE SPARROW

No notable counts.

CHAFFINCH

A total of 53 singing males were reported in the area.

BRAMBLING

Two were at Standrise Plantation, Eslack on 31st March and four were at Snaygill Ings on 19th Oct.

GREENFINCH

The highest count in the first winter period was 25 in Skipton on 3rd March. A total of 13 singing males were recorded in the area with up to 40 birds at Snaygill Ings in Sept and Oct.

GOLDFINCH

19 singing males were reported in the area during the breeding season. Post breeding flocks included up to 80 birds at Cononley Ings and 110 at Carleton in Aug.

SISKIN

There were records from several areas in the recording area predominantly from Eslack plantation where up to 30 were noted in Jan and Feb and at least two singing males were noted in March. There were single figure counts at Snaygill Ings on one date in Sept and two in Oct.

LINNET

Six singing males were present at three sites with three, two and one singing males respectively. The number of birds in post breeding flocks was much lower than in previous years with 60 at Cononley Lead Mines, 20 at Cononley Ings and up to 40 birds at Farnhill Ings in late Aug and early Sept. Numbers at Cononley Ings increased to 50 by late Sept but there were only three records in Oct.

LESSER REDPOLL

The highest number at Cononley Ings in the first winter period was 16 on 27th Jan. Territorial males were noted at four sites with a singles at two sites, two at another and three singing males at a fourth site. Very few birds were seen in the second winter period with the highest counts only five birds at Cononley Ings on 27th Oct and 28th Nov.

CROSSBILL

Regular records from one site in the area with up to 20 in Jan including two displaying males on 5th; up to 12 birds in Feb including two singing males, one immature male and three females in early March with 15 noted on 4th May. Two pairs with two very recently fledged, food begging young were seen on 30th May in the same vicinity as the singing males earlier in the year. Elsewhere there were 20 birds seen over Butler Hill on 10th June and two over Cononley Ings on 16th July. Following a virtually complete cone failure in local plantation it is not surprising that there were no records in the latter part of the year.

BULLFINCH

There were records from 13 sites including possible breeding at four sites in the area.

REED BUNTING

Notable early winter counts included nine at Cononley Ings on 19th Jan and seven in a Cononley garden in Jan and Feb. There were a total of 12 singing males at four sites in the area during the breeding season. Up to 12 birds were recorded at Snaygill Ings in Sept and Oct with a minimum of two birds remaining until the year end.

ESCAPES

MUSCOVY DUCK

A single bird at Snaygill on 8th June.

RUDDY SHELDUCK

A single bird was briefly present at Snaygill Ings on 25th July before flying north.

BLACK SWAN

A single was present at Snaygill Ings on 9th and 10th August, on the Aire north of Cononley 11th and 12th August and what was presumably the same bird at Cononley on 16th, Snaygill on 17th and 18th Nov.

List of Contributors

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