

Malham Tarn

Wildlife & Weather Report

2005



Brian Shorrocks

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2005 Bird Report – A Summary

126 Species were recorded in the year with only one new species – a **Black Redstart** at Gordale Scar on the 10th March seen by Ian Court. The overall total for the area now stands at 198 very near a creditable 200.

Bad weather in late spring and early summer seriously undermined the breeding success of some species such as **Sand Martin**, **Kestrel** and the **Warblers**. Whether this poor start was responsible for the continuing decline of **Redpoll**, **Twite** and **Redstart** is impossible to say. There are probably some other, unknown, factors but the continued increase of **Grey Squirrel** numbers will not be helping.

On a more positive note **Song Thrush** showed a small increase but numbers are still a very long way from the thirty-two pairs recorded by the BTO census of Malham Tarn Estate in 1966/67. **Goldfinch**, **Linnet** and **Greenfinch** are also increasing as breeding birds so all is not doom and gloom.

Elusive species like **Long-eared Owl** and **Water Rail** are difficult to monitor. Determining whether either or both breed in the area will require a lot of time and much patience – volunteers please.


I would like to thank the following for supplying records for this report; medals are to be issued at a much later date:

Robin Sutton, Richard Mann, Stuart Ralph, Keith Mudd, Ian Court, Colin Straker, Denis Lord, Gerald Light, Tony Bullough, Martin Davies, Adrian Pickles, Jacqueline Stevens and David Hodgson – apologies for any omissions.

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January 2006

Birds Records 2005

- 1 **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* One on the Tarn 1st October, seen by Keith Mudd, was only the second record ever for area. The only other sighting was of a single bird on 10th September 1948.
 - 2 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Recorded all months, maximum count was 17 on October 3rd. Two pairs bred in Tarn Inflow Bay but no young were seen until 26th August.
 - 3 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Only one or two birds during winter months aided by the Tarn not freezing over at any time. Ten nests were located, mainly in the Inflow Bay area. First young seen on 23rd June with four broods 16th July. Peak count in year – 25 on 30th August.
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- 4 **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Single birds on the Tarn 24th January, 20th & 21st March, 2nd & 24th April and 16th July.
 - 5 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* No sightings in January then recorded from 4th February to year end, usually single birds but with four on 23rd August.
 - 6 **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* None actually alighted on Tarn, two 14th October, three 7th November and four 14th November flying West.
 - 7 **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* Only one skein of 35 flying South East over Tarn on 17th September.
 - 8 **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* Still slowly increasing, one on 10th March, one 12th April, seven 13th April, two 19th April, one 24th April, one 1st May, two 2nd May, two on 10th & 11th May, sixteen 3rd June, one 4th October, two 7th November and the largest count so far of twenty eight flying over Tarn 15th November.
 - 9 **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* Present throughout the year, peak count 110 July 16th. One pair laid eggs, control measures were taken so none hatched. Two other pairs nest prospected but did not lay.
 - 10 **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* Two on Tarn 19th April the only record.
 - 11 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Three broods totalling twenty young appeared on Tarn, most were quickly predated. One pair attempted to breed on a ledge on Great Close Scar, outcome not known. Peak count in year was 95 on October 22nd.
 - 12 **Pintail** *Anas acuta* Four 22nd April and one 21st September.
 - 13 **Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* A solitary sighting, one male on 19th April.

- 14 **Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Recorded January to 2nd May, maximum 150 February 7th and 29th August to year end with 160 on 21st November.
- 15 **Teal** *Anas crecca* Apart from June, recorded all months. Peak count in year 23 on October 15th, one pair bred on either Fen or Tarn Moss. Two juveniles on Tarn 30th July.
- 16 **Pochard** *Aythya ferina* Recorded January to 10th April, maximum 140 February 14th. No records in May, one male 16th June, three males 23rd to 26th June, present from 16th July to year end with 250 October 26th and 350 November 7th.
- 17 **Scaup** *Aythya marila* One male on the Tarn for a few hours 20th March the first record since 1987.
- 18 **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Four broods totalling thirty young duly emerged in July. By end of month only one or two had survived, predation by heron was a factor in some cases. Peak count was 80 on August 26th.
- 19 **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* One male for a few hours on the Tarn much harassed by coot on 3rd October was the only record.
- 20 **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* Present on Tarn January to 16th May, maximum 20 on April 2nd and then from 22nd October to year end with no more than nine at any time.
- 21 **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* Very few records, just a pair on Tarn 8th March to 2nd April then a male 16th April to 13th May which would suggest breeding nearby, probably the Janet Foss pair. Unusually only one record in later months, a single bird 21st September.
- 22 **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* Present on Tarn January to 19th November, up to six birds at times. A pair was seen most of June but no obvious breeding attempt.
- 23 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Five records of single birds on: 8th April, 18th and 26th May, 11th and 13th June. One or two birds summered in the adjacent Wharfedale, no doubt the Tarn sightings relate to these birds.
- 24 **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* One seen by Ian Court over Malham Cove on 9th June is only the second record for the area.
- 25 **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* One flying South-East over the Tarn on 10th August.
- 26 **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* Seven sightings of single birds on 10th, 24th & 29th January, 31st March, 8th May, 10th October and 6th December – a typical year.
- 27 **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* One pair attempted to breed, outcome not known. Monthly sightings as follows, February one, March three, April two, May one, June two, August four, September four, October two, November two and December one, usually single birds but three together 21st September.
- 28 **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* One pair raised two, possibly three young in Tarn Woods. Monthly sightings as follows, February one, April two, May one, July four, August four, September one, October four and November two.
- 29 **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Three pairs known at Darnbrook, Great Close Scar, and Horseshoe Wood but little sign of any success. Recorded in area 27th February to end of year, no more than three together at any time.
- 30 **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* One over Malham Cove 17th July, Ian Court et al, is the fifth record for the Tarn Area.

- 31 **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* The Malham Cove breeding pair failed due to natural causes as did another pair in the area. Single birds, occasionally two, were seen regularly on Great Close Scar outwith the breeding season.
- 32 **Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Few records, but at least one pair attempted to breed, probably successfully as juveniles were seen on 4th and 21st August.
- 33 **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus* All records as follows, 25+ near Dalehead 7th February, c.30 above Darnbrook 15th February, three Fountains Fell 9th May, and four Dalehead 29th September.
- 34 **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* Two Henside 22nd April, one here 8th July and a female with five chicks 8th August also at the same locality. A pair Waterhouses 10th May, one at Thoragill 11th May, two Pot Hole Lane 17th May and finally six near Capon Hall 27th December. It would appear that after large-scale introductions over the last few years from outside the Tarn area that this species is becoming an established breeding bird though a severe winter would probably wipe them out.
- 35 **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix* All records, pair Stangill 10th March, pair Middle House 13th March, pair Darnbrook 11th May, one Henside 9th July, and the only proof of breeding in the year – a female with a few chicks near Tennant Ghyll early August.
- 36 **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* One pair bred successfully Tarn House Meadow area, female with four young here. Female also with young in Ha Mire Wood also near Sandhill Cottage. Notable counts in year were: 14 on March 2nd, and 18 on November 7th.
- 37 **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* One heard calling on the Fen late December, probably present more often than the few records suggest.
- 38 **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Four pairs were located, near East Gate Boathouse, Paul Holmes Pond on Fen, East Bay and Ha Mire. Peak counts through the year were in field in front of Shepherds Cottage along the inflow stream, eight here on 28th November.
- 39 **Coot** *Fulica atra* Peak counts in the year were c.600 in January and November. At least eight pairs attempted to breed but no more than a dozen young raised.
- 40 **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* Recorded 7th February to 19th July apart from a single bird on 19th November. At least five pairs attempted to breed. One of these pairs bred on a roadside wall top near Kiln House but failed after two attempts. Peak count of eight on 2nd April at the Tarn.
- 41 **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* More records than usual, up to five birds near Tarn Outflow in period 3rd to 26th May.
- 42 **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* First records of year were two near Middle House on 13th March and one near Dalehead 23rd March, 21 Malham Lings 16th April were probably Northern Race birds. Four breeding birds on summit plateau of Fountains Fell 9th May. Single birds near Tarn Outflow in October and a flock of 50+ near Dalehead on the late date of 31st November.



- 43 **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Recorded all months, peak flock in year c.80 near Tarn 9th October, three pairs near Dalehead, one pair near Stangill with one or two near Tarn Outflow.



- 44 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* All records came from near Tarn Outflow with two 31st April, one 19th May, three 22nd May and one 31st May. A suggestion of breeding near-by with one 9th June and two 18th June. In late summer and autumn one 26th August and four 12th October.

- 45 **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* One seen near New House Farm by Gerald Light on 7th August the only record.

- 46 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* One 10th April is the earliest ever record for Tarn area. Two pairs probably attempted to breed, but no sign of any success, one pair near West Boathouse and one near Outflow. Last record on 20th September.

- 47 **Redshank** *Tringa totanus* One returned to Great Close Pools 10th March, where two pairs later on, and one pair near Outflow. A pair early on near Rough Close disappeared by end of May. Last record 5th October.



- 48 **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* One 11th July near Tarn.

- 49 **Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Recorded 5th March to 24th September, c.150 on Tarn Moss 22nd April and c.200 here 23rd June. Three to four pairs bred between Waterhouses and Thoragill.

- 50 **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Single birds flying over or on Tarn Moss 22nd April, 18th & 22nd May and 23rd June.

- 51 **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* A typical year, one Tarn Fen 28th January, two here 28th November, one Fountains Fell 4th December and one Tarn Moss 24th December.

- 52 **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Two winter records on Tarn Moss of single birds on 24th January and 29th December. Two displaying birds Great Close Mire 2nd April and 9th May, four here 6th June and four+ Malham Lings in May.

- 53 **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* One 14th June near Tarn Outflow is only the fourth ever record for area. Previous records have been 6th September 1978, 11th September 1994 and 11th August 2000.



- 54 **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* Commonly recorded throughout the year, 650 coming to roost on the Tarn on 1st November is typical.
- 55 **Common Gull** *Larus canus* Common January to 2nd May and 16th July to year-end. 1,850 coming to roost on Tarn 1st November.
- 56 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Present throughout year with large numbers in passage periods. Typically c.70 near Middle House 28th May, c.60 Thoragill 15th June and c.50 near Tarn 7th October.
- 57 **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* Single birds 16th February, 27th April and 30th July.
- 58 **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* Present near Tarn January to 13th May, maximum five on 8th March and 9th August to year-end, up to seven at times.
- 59 **Little Gull** *Larus minutus* A single immature on Tarn seen by Keith Mudd on 7th September is only the second record for area, a single bird 16th May 2000 the other record.
- 60 **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* Two feeding over Tarn on 10th June.
- 61 **Stock Pigeon** *Columba oenas* One singing at Waterhouses 19th April, three near Capon Hall 23rd July and one Henside 21st August all records, probably only the odd breeding pair left in area.
- 62 **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* Present January to 1st November, no wintering birds 2005/6 due to total Beech mast failure, bred Darnbrook and Tarn Woods. Largest flock 50+ on 7th February near Waterhouses.
- 63 **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* At least four pairs bred, two broods seen, one juvenile near High Stables 6th June and three juveniles Waterhouses on 14th June.
- 64 **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* Probably bred Darnbrook Plantations where an adult seen on 19th April.
- 65 **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* Probably bred Chapel Fell where single birds seen on 9th, 12th June, 24th September, 22nd October, 6th November and 6th December.
- 66 **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* Bred successfully near Kiln House, two juveniles here 31st July. Pair also at Thoragill. The roadside barn near Capon Hall is no longer a suitable breeding site as it was renovated during the year.
- 67 **Swift** *Apus apus* An early arrival of three 26th April, up to seventy in bad weather feeding over Tarn in May and June, last record 7th August.
- 68 **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* A good year, ten sightings of a bird or birds at the Tarn in period 24th September to 26th December.
- 69 **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* This species has never bred in Malham Tarn Woods but appears annually, probably birds from Malham Cove area. One Waterhouses 2nd June and one 30th July to 27th August Highfolds.



70 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Present all year, one pair bred successfully, two juveniles seen 16th June, possible another pair also bred.

71 **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* Present in area 14th February to 17th September. Bred Malham Lings, near Dalehead and other sites.

72 **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Three on 12th April the first to return. Initially it was thought that breeding in Tarn Moss peat bank was not going to take place as May and June passed by with no signs of any breeding activity. But on 16th July four birds were observed entering nest holes, whether any young were raised was impossible to say. Last recorded on 30th August.



73 **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* 12th April to 1st October were first and last dates. Bred Waterhouses, Darnbrook and Tarn House where one pair raised two broods. Maximum count in year, 80 August 21st at Waterhouses.

74 **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* Recorded 3rd May to 21st September. Bred Waterhouses and possibly Darnbrook and Tennant Gill. Fifty nests at Malham Cove and a few pairs also at Gordale Scar.



75 **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Single winter birds on Tarn Moss 10th and 21st January, three Dalehead 20th March and twenty here 23rd March marking return of breeding birds. A widespread and common breeding bird. Late summer, notable flocks were 80 on August 21st and 50 on September 17th. Last record 7th November.

76 **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* Only three records, one Ha Mire 29th May, one on Fen 26th May and two High Trenhouse 27th August.

77 **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Four on 13th March first of return, three pairs between Waterhouses and Thoragill 15th June, last record 9th October.

78 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Recorded 21st April to 23rd August. Two pairs between Waterhouses and Stangill 15th June. One or two pairs near Tennant Gill and one or two near Low Trenhouse. A flock of nine juveniles near Tarn Outflow 19th July.

79 **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* One 18th March, two July 10th, singles 23rd August and 20th September all in vicinity of Tarn.

80 **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* One or two birds in winter months, bulk of breeding population arriving back in March. Eleven in song Tarn Woods 2nd April. One pair bred successfully in stone cutting leading to Tarn House. By end of October only one or two left.

81 **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* Four pairs located, at rear of Tarn House, Horseshoe Wood, Pothole Lane and near Sandhill Cottage. No more than four birds together at any time of year.

- 82 **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* Like Wren the majority of population leave for winter months. At least ten pairs in Tarn Woods, one pair also like wren, bred in stone cutting successfully.
- 83 **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* First of year was a male West Fen, 22nd April. The decline continues only three singing birds compared to last years four in Tarn Woods. Prior to last two years eight to ten singing birds was the norm. Possibly the increasing Grey Squirrel population is having some adverse effect. No juveniles were seen and the last record was a male on 24th August.
- 84 **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* A male seen by Ian Court at Gordale Scar on 10th March was the first record for area and the 198th species in all.
- 85 **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* One male arrived back at Great Close Scar 21st March with a pair here 28th March. First juveniles noted 23rd June and last sighting on 31st October the latest ever recorded.
- 86 **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* Just two records of single passage birds at Low Trenhouse 21st August and on the Fen 12th September.
- 87 **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* Sightings well down on last three years, only a single bird at last years Dale head breeding site on 13th April and 10th May. In autumn one Henside 14th October, two here 20th October and a pair probably attempting to winter near Rough Close Farm on 13th November and 5th December.
- 88 **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* Normally two or three singing birds, so a welcome increase in 2005 with first of year a singing bird near Sandhill Cottage on 12th February, five other singing birds were present at West Fen, High Trenhouse, Waterhouses and East Gate. Passage was also more prominent with notable flocks of eight on 3rd October and nine 5th October. Last recorded 22nd October.
- 89 **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Present January to 16th April, maximum thirty on 29th January. Return of twenty-five on 14th October with c.500 passing through Tarn Woods 16th October, up to sixty present till year-end.
- 90 **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* First of year were two near Thoragill 4th March and two Tarn Woods 8th March. One pair bred successfully Waterhouses, three juveniles seen on 31st May. Some notable late summer flocks were twelve July 30th, seventeen July 31st and sixteen August 30th. Last seen on 27th October.
- 91 **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Recorded January to 16th April, 200 on April 2nd. In autumn 14th October to year end with c.400 October 26th.
- 92 **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Present throughout year, at least three pairs bred in Tarn Woods. In passage months fifteen on March 20th and fifteen on November 5th.
- 93 **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* A pair near Dalehead 23rd March which subsequently bred successfully, no contact with any birds on a walk around Darnbrook 11th May. In October one Ha Mire 17th and on Tarn House Lawn 20th and 26th.
- 94 **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* No proof of breeding but one possibly two singing birds in Fen area 9th May to 16th June.
- 95 **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* Recorded 11th May to 23rd August, numbers down on last year. Only three singing birds at Sandhill, West Boathouse and near Tarn House.
- 96 **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* First of year 3rd May on Fen where two pairs later bred. Adults and juveniles here on 26th June. Last record 16th August.

- 97 **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* One on 2nd April was the earliest ever record for area. Average date of arrival 10th April. Numbers of singing birds were noticeably down on former years, only twenty to twenty five compared with thirty or forty. Last recorded on 12th September.
- 98 **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* Singing bird or birds 23rd March to 10th April near West Boathouse and one 29th May. Possibly bred. One or two passage birds in late summer usually in Fen area 2nd September to 9th October.
- 99 **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* One on 2nd April was first of year. Probably bred as usual in Tarn Wood yew trees but no juveniles seen. A few passage birds in October with eight on 3rd, one on 5th to 29th December would relate to a late or wintering individual.
- 100 **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Present in area 15th May to 26th August. Three nests located at Waterhouses, to rear of Tarn House and to east of Tarn House. Two juveniles suggestive of successful breeding somewhere in Tarn Woods on 7th August.
- 101 **Great Tit** *Parus major* Four to six pairs bred in Tarn Woods. No more than six birds together at any time.
- 102 **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* By far the commonest breeding member of the tit family in Tarn Woods. Largest flocks in year were fifteen on February 1st and sixteen December 14th.
- 103 **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* Two to four pairs bred in Tarn woods.
- 104 **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* A pair located in Tarn Woods on 13th April later bred on the Fen raising three young at the second attempt. These were last seen on 28th August. The usual arrival of an October flock happened on the 3rd staying till 21st November.
- 105 **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* Four or five pairs bred in Tarn Woods, one pair near Sandhill Cottage was feeding young 31st May with a juvenile here 16th June.
- 106 **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* Three pairs located, one Pothole Lane, one near West Boat House and one to rear of Tarn House. Adults and juveniles were seen near West Boathouse on 19th June.
- 107 **Magpie** *Pica pica* Only one pair, near Sandhill Cottage with no signs of any success. Single birds at Darnbrook 25th August and near Capon Hall 26th August with two here in December.
- 108 **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* A single bird Highfolds 5th to 15th October.
- 109 **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* Bred Waterhouses, two pairs, and probably also bred in a barn near Kiln House. An attempt by at least two pairs to breed in a roadside barn near Capon Hall was foiled when the barn was renovated during the year. Typical of numbers in area was a flock ofc.100 near Darnbrook 7th August.
- 110 **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* Bred as usual at Spiggot and Low Trenhouse.



- 111 Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* The only record of note of this common breeding resident bird was a flock of fourteen near Middle House 7th November.
- 112 Raven** *Corvus corax* One, probably two pairs attempted to breed but no indication of any success. Four records near Tarn in early part of year of one or two birds, similarly five in late summer/autumn also of one or two birds.
- 113 Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Two or three pairs bred in Tarn Woods, notable autumn flocks were c.200 near Westside House 17th October and 13th November, c.150 near Low Trenhouse 16th July.
- 114 House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Apparently still resident at one farm in area, ten seen at Lee Gate Farm by Gerald Light on 7th August. No other records, formerly resident at practically all farms in the area.
- 115 Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Present throughout year with a much-reduced population in winter months of between ten to fifteen birds. Over fifty in Tarn Woods on 8th April and forty 22nd October. No sign of any change in breeding numbers.
- 116 Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* With a good Beech mast crop 2004/2005 winter, up to 100 birds in Tarn Woods in early months. Last seen 24th April. With a total failure of Beech mast crop Autumn 2005 sightings were limited to passage birds with up to fifteen between 17th and 27th October.
- 117 Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* Three near High Trenhouse 12th April was an early return. Bred here and at Low Trenhouse, near Capon Hall and probably near Darnbrook. Peak flock in year was 45 near Great Close Scar 11th September. Last record of ten 21st September.
- 118 Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris* All records of this rapidly declining species as follows: up to four near Dalehead 23rd March, 13th April and 30th May and ten near Rough Close on 19th September.
- 119 Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Another species declining quickly, no breeding records and just one or two birds on Tarn Fen 24th September to 13th October.
- 120 Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* A real success story for a change, a well established breeding bird in area albeit in small numbers. Bred Tarn Woods – three to four pairs, Low and High Trenhouse, Darnbrook and almost anywhere where a few trees grow. An abundance of thistles has helped particularly in wintertime. Usual flock of 70+ birds Tarn House Meadow in September with 25 Globe Flower Wood in early October, small numbers winter, up to six on Tarn Estate bird feeders, presumably these are local breeding birds.
- 121 Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* More records than usual, sightings in all months, bred Tarn House Yews, Pothole Lane and High Trenhouse. A marked passage of birds flying over Tarn Fen noted in October with ten on 5th, twelve on 9th and six on 22nd. Bird feeders around Waterhouses area have probably helped this species to increase.
- 122 Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* Just a few records in late summer, five on 19th September, in October two on 3rd, four on 5th, ten on 14th with two on 14th December.
- 123 Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Single birds on Tarn Fen 24th September, 3rd to 5th October, High Trenhouse 11th October and on Fen 13th November.
- 124 Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* Seven 4th



July over Malham Cove flying towards Tarn and flock of thirty near Tarn House 18th July.

125 Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Two on Tarn Fen 10th March were first of year, two pairs subsequently breeding here. In April one or two male passage birds along Tarn shoreline in poor weather. Late passage birds or wintering birds were noted at Rough Close 16th November and on Tarn Fen 14th December.

126 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Two on Fountains Fell 4th December per Adrian Pickles. Probably present in winter on an annual basis, so much suitable habitat and very few observers.