

Bewick's Swan

1987 – Six birds (two adults and four juveniles) flew towards Knotford Nook from Farnley on 8th November.

1989 – A party of 12 rested on Chelker Reservoir on 28th October.

1991 – A party of five adults was seen near Kildwick Bridge on 13th November when they strayed into the recording area from nearby Cononley Ings during a period of much flooding of the fields adjoining the River Aire. Similarly, further floods in the same part of the Aire Valley in December brought two adults to Silsden Ings on 22nd and 23rd.

1992 – A single at Kildwick Ings on 2nd and 3rd January and six at Thruscross Reservoir on 18th January were early year sightings. In the second winter period two were present at Knotford Nook on 8th December and again ten days later. In both cases harassment by Mute Swan drove off the visitors. A single at Elland Gravel Pits on 26th December concluded a good year for the infrequent visitor.

1993 – Just one recorded in the first winter period – a pair displaying at Mixenden Reservoir on 17th March. No further sightings until 10th December when a single spent nearly all day sheltering under a wall near Silsden before emerging to feed over flooded fields for the next two days. It eventually flew up the valley to the more extensive floods at Cononley Ings. A further bird, of unknown origin, was resident at the tiny Woodhall Lake from 12th December to the year-end.

1994 – Last year's bird on Woodhall Lake was reported right through from January until 11th September. A single at Knotford Nook on 13th January was the only other record for the first winter period.

In the second winter-period a bird was on Chelker Reservoir on 22nd October and four were seen at Elland Gravel Pits on 3rd November. Singles at Knotford Nook on 14th November and 2nd December were possibly the same bird.

1995 – There were two records both in the second-winter period. Two adults and two juveniles were recorded on Fly Flatts Reservoir on 28th October, and three adults were seen at High Royd Sewage Works on 29th December.

2000 – There was a welcome return to the Group's annual list after four blank years, with three birds dropping into Otley Gravel Pits on 19th December, but staying only briefly.

2003 - On 3rd December the long awaited return of the Bewick's Swan into the groups recording area happened when 2 were observed flying east over Cold Edge Dams.

2004 - Recorded for the second successive year. Two were found on Warley Moor Reservoir 27th March.

2005 - Increasingly scarce in the area, this species was seen for the third successive year, when two birds were found at Leeshaw Reservoir on 10th November.