

Green Sandpiper

1987 - There were records in both winter periods. Two birds were on the River Aire at Apperley Bridge on 13th January and two also at Newsholme Deean, Kieghley on 28th. Autumn passage was relatively light with singles at: Otley Gravel Pits on 15th August; a disused reservoir near St. Ives, Bingley, in the first week of September; Esholt Sewage Works on 2nd and Lindley Wood Reservoir on 8th. Finally, a bird was again at Esholt from 26th to 31st December.

1988 - This species was recorded in both winter periods. Singles were reported at Esholt Sewage Works between 3rd January and 16th April could refer to one individual which might also account for sightings at Apperley Bridge on 25th and 27th February. Other records in this period were one over Belle Vue School on 16th March and at Fly Flatts Reservoir on 16th April. In August, one at Otley Gravel Pits from 7th to at least 28th with another at Esholt Sewage Works on 18th and 21st. September saw three at Dowley Gap, Bingley, the first of a series of autumn records from this site. Away from there, a single at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 11th. Birds at Dowley Gap appeared to reduce to two and then one by 21st October but three were again present on 26th November. The last was at Otley Gravel Pits on 28th December.

1989 - As is often the case, recorded in both winter periods and is surprisingly regular passage migrant. In January, one was at Otley Gravel Pits on 1st with at least one at various sites between Marley and St. Ives from 29th January to 28th March. Lone birds were at Dowley Gap and Otley Gravel Pits on 4th and 23rd April respectively.

Autumn migration began in July when on 12th one was at Esholt Sewage Works and two were at Dowley Gap. These two sites, along with Otley Gravel Pits, Marley, Knotford Nook and Beaver Dyke Reservoirs, held from two to four birds between them to the end of the year. It is impossible to say how many individuals were involved in the 50+ records submitted. July to September appears to be the main passage period.

1990 - A bird was present at Marley Sewage Works from January to early April. Other April records came from Otley Gravel Pits and Esholt Sewage Works where the last of the spring was seen on 23rd. The latter named site also saw the first returning birds with two on 2nd July, although passage proper did not begin until the last week of July when others were recorded at Dowley Gap Sewage Works, Marley Sewage Works, Stockbridge and Lindley Wood Reservoir. All these sites held birds into September, though never more than three at a time. Reported from Esholt Sewage Works in October and from Knotford Nook, Otley Gravel Pits, Beaver Dyke Reservoirs and Chelker Reservoir in November. The last of the year was a single at Swinsty Reservoir on 27th December.

1991 - In the first winter period, singles were reported from Swinsty Reservoir on 6th and 19th January and from Dowley Gap Sewage Works on 25th February. A spring passage bird was at Elland Gravel Pits on 3rd May. Return passage began on 6th July when one was at Chelker Reservoir. In August, singles were encountered at Stockbridge on 2nd, at Dowley Gap on 20th, overflying Wilsden cricket ground and at Leeshaw Reservoir on 25th, and at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 28th. This last site held three on 1st and one on 9th September while Marley Sewage Works produced singles on 1st and 10th of that month with two there from 15th to 29th. Singles were also recorded in September at Otley Gravel Pits on 5th, Beaver Dyke Reservoirs on 7th and 10th and Esholt Sewage Works on 13th. October saw more singles with birds at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 6th and Esholt on 9th. In November, one was at Beaver Dyke Reservoir on 9th and three at Esholt Sewage Works on 13th and had reduced to two by 22nd.

1992 - Only one record of a wintering bird this year, from Marley on 19th January. Autumn passage started early with one on 28th June at Otley Gravel Pits from where singles were reported throughout July and intermittently in August. A single was seen for only one day at Chelker Reservoir on 16th July. One was present at Marley 25th July with two on the following day. From then on ones and twos were present at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 13 dates between 31st July and 10th September with two there on 26th August. At Beaver Dyke Reservoir up to two birds were noted between 12th September and 24th October which was the last date for the area. Elsewhere singles were at Esholt on 3rd August, Gallows Hill, Otley on 7th August and a bird was heard over Idle on 20th September.

1993 - Only two records of birds in the first winter period. Three flew north-west through Thornton Moor Reservoir on 3rd January no doubt trying to escape from the freezing conditions and one was present at Swinsty Reservoir on 23rd January. Singles at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 28th March and Otley Gravel Pits on 12th April could have been spring passage birds. Autumn passage started early with one in moult at Otley Gravel Pits on 28th June. Singles were reported intermittently from this site up to 18th July when two were present. This year Otley Gravel Pits produced only one other record, as single on 13th August. The first reported from Marley was on 7th July. By 20th July numbers here had increased to four with six on 1st and 12th August, reducing to two at the month-end. The first reported from Thornton Moor Reservoir was as single on 30th August with a further single on 10th September. One was at Leeshaw Reservoir on 1st September. Sightings at Marley continued with singles on occasions throughout September and one on 16th Octo-

Green Sandpiper

ber. In November one was at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 7th and a single reported from Marley between 7th and 13th was the final record for the year.

1994 - Late spring/mid-summer produced two interesting records of either very late or more likely very early passage birds. A single was at Marley Sewage Works on 29th May and two were at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 5th June. Definite autumn passage commenced on 2nd July with a single at Marley Sewage Works followed by records of singles at Otley Gravel Pits on various dates between 11th July and 3rd August. One was at Beaver Dyke Reservoir on 22nd July and a single left Thornton Moor Reservoir high to the east on 6th August. On the latter date two were reported from Marley Sewage Works and these stayed for a week. Numbers at Otley Gravel Pits increased to three on August 7th and on the same day a bird was present at Tong Cockerdale - a site first. Other sites attracted singles in August were Kex Gill and Stockbridge Nature Reserve. During September two were at Marley Sewage Works on 3rd, and singles were recorded at Stockbridge Nature Reserve on 4th, Thornton Moor Reservoir on 5th and Esholt on 11th. A single at Lindley Wood Reservoir between 15th and 21st was joined by a second on 22nd. The only site producing October records was Marley Sewage Works where a single was recorded between 8th and 16th. The final record for the year was of a single flushed from Ramsden Wood Reservoir on 29th October.

1995 - Two spring records: one arrived at Otley Gravel Pits on 24th April and stayed for two days, and another arrived at Marley Sewage Farm on 28th April and stayed for two minutes. Mid-summer produced an interesting record of a single at Marley on 10th June. Definite autumn passage commenced on 8th July with one again at Marley and reports from here continued until 11th November, usually just a single although two were seen on several dates. At Thornton Moor Reservoir on 27th July was followed by singles on 19th and 20th August; the second of these birds flying in very high from the north-east to land on the lagoons for a short period before moving off west. Lindley Wood Reservoir held one or two birds on many dates between late August and 9th December. Elsewhere there were singles at Otley Gravel Pits between 6th and 13th August and on 23rd September, Fewston in late August, Horton Bank Top on 15th September and Beaver Dyke Reservoir on 30th September and 23rd October.

1996 - An excellent run of winter records this year began with a bird at Marley Sewage Works on 6th January, followed by another (probably the same bird) which paid a brief visit to Stockbridge Nature Reserve on the following day. One was at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 9th January, and another was located at Beaver Dyke Reservoir on 14th probably stayed until at least 25th January. One was at Swinsty Reservoir on 8th February, and Lindley Wood Reservoir produced another record on 5th March.

One was seen at Otley Gravel Pits on 10th March, and Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits attracted a single bird on 22nd March. The last record of the spring period was of a single passage bird at Elland Gravel Pits on 24th May.

The first record of the autumn period was of a single bird at Otley Gravel Pits on 23rd July. The next record was of another single bird, at Marley Sewage Works on 25th July, and probably the same bird was flushed from the river nearby two days later. Single birds were at Otley Gravel Pits on 28th July and 5th August, and one was also feeding around the back pools at Thornton Moor Reservoir on the latter date. Kex Gill produced up to two birds on four dates in August.

On 18th August, two were at Marley Sewage Works, where single birds were also seen on 25th and 30th August, also on 1st, 6th and 15th September. One bird paid a five-minute visit to Stockbridge Nature Reserve on 25th August. Another was at John O'Gaunt's Reservoir on 29th August, and single birds were at Beaverdyke Reservoir on six dates during August and September, records from this site continued through October and into November, with the final record there occurring on 16th November.

1997 - There were no winter records in 1997. Records of two birds seen together came from two different locations - Kex Gill Quarry and Marley Sewage Works. The latter was particularly favoured, with an adult and a possible juvenile seen on two occasions - 14th July and 10th August; two birds were also seen there on 18th August and 27th. The 'couple' at Kex Gill Quarry was seen on 18th July. Otherwise, all records were of single birds, and came from seven different sites. Kex Gill Quarry provided 1997's first record of this species, on 2nd July, and several other records came from locations for a period of exactly one month before 'drying up' on 2nd August. Other August records came from Lindley wood Reservoir, Marley Sewage Works and Thornton Moor Reservoir.

Hewenden and Fewston Reservoirs both recorded single birds in September - Hewenden on 9th, and Fewston on 19th and 22nd, a single bird dropped in at Stockbridge Nature Reserve for a few minutes only on 25th September. Beaverdyke Reservoir had one bird on 3rd November, then the final record of the year came from Lindley Wood Reservoir, where a single bird was present on 7th November.

Green Sandpiper

1998 - Records came from ten different sites, ranging from well-established and well-watched ones like Marley Sewage Works, Otley Gravel Pits, Kex Gill and Lindley Wood Reservoir, to the somewhat unusual and perhaps rather unexpected locations of Spa Dyke on Bingley Moor, Harecroft Station Road and the lagoon at Dowley Gap Sewage Works.

The first record of the year was of a single bird at Marley sewage Works on 18th January. Another three months elapsed before the next sighting, of a single bird at Spa Dyke on 2nd July. July and August then brought a spate of records, mostly of single birds, with the exception of two birds seen at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 11th August, two birds at Leeshaw Reservoir on 17th August, and three birds at Dowley Gap Sewage Works on 29th August.

September records came from Fewston, Lindley Wood and Leeshaw Reservoirs, with several observers reporting sightings from Leeshaw Reservoir of a single bird on 12th and two birds on 13th. The year's final record of this species came from Lindley Wood Reservoir, with a single bird on 14th October.

1999 - On the 19th April a single bird was at Elland Gravel Pits and three at Kex Gill Quarry. In July, two birds were seen at Otley Gravel Pits on 11th, a single bird at Doe Park Reservoir on 17th and another single bird at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 30th and 31st. The August records occurred throughout the month, and all came from reservoirs - Thornton Moor, Doe Park and Silsden; most were of single birds, except for two birds which were seen at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 4th and two at the same site on 6th. The year's final record was of a single bird at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 22nd October.

2000 - There were 12 records of this species, from two reservoirs and two gravel pits, a rather poor showing compared to most years. All records were of single birds, and, apart from the first and last records, all came from the month of August, the first being a bird at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 7th July and the last at Otley Gravel Pits on 4th September.

2001 - It is considered that 11 birds were involved in the submitted records, a below-average showing. Most records were of single birds, with the exception of two at Stockbridge Nature Reserve and up to five at John O'Gaunt's Reservoir. As usual most sightings came in August, but there were records from September and October at Lindley Wood Reservoir, where the year's final bird remained until 11th.

Most notably, the first winter record since 1998, was a bird at Silsden on 18th January.

2002 - August was again the time to search out this species, with seven of the 11 records falling within that month. Only ten birds were involved this year, a rather low total, and all were singles, with the exception of two birds at Kex Gill Quarry on 11th September. This last site, together with Stockbridge Nature Reserve and Marley, covered all the year's records, except for two late birds, which were noted at Swinsty Reservoir on 11th October, and at Esholt Sewage Works on 24th December, the latter clearly a wintering bird.

2003 - A very poor year with three singles each for Lindley Wood and Thornton Moor Reservoirs with two singles noted at Beaverdyke Reservoir.

Dates for this species in the spring were 12th and 20th April, while autumn records consisted of singles on 2nd, 9th (2 records) and 24th August and 15th and 20th September.

2004 - Another poor year, with only one spring sighting, on 23rd March at Thornton Moor Reservoir. The first returning migrant was found at John O' Gaunt's Reservoir on 19th July, and a single passed through at Thornton Moor on 8th August. This site held another the following day and the final sighting of this unremarkable passage period for the species was another lone bird at Silsden floods on 28th August.

2005 - The run of poor years continues, and it is clear this species is becoming considerably scarcer in the recording area. With seven reports, the total is just two more than in 2004.

A bird found at Sandbeds Flash on 22nd March could have been an early spring migrant, or a relocating wintering bird. In any event, it remained at the site until 4th April. The previous day one was at Thornton Moor Reservoir.

After a gap of nearly three months, a bird was seen at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 29th June, and autumn sightings were completed by singles at Cold Edge Dams on 7th August, Thornton Moor on 11th and Elland Gravel Pits on 17th and 18th. Winter records are now increasingly rare, so a bird flying past Stockbridge Nature Reserve on 9th December was particularly welcome.

2006 - Nine records is now slightly better than average for an increasingly uncommon bird.

Green Sandpiper

As might be expected, most of the reports were of birds on post-breeding passage, and the first of these was on 26th July, when a bird visited Stockbridge, closely followed by two birds at Lindley Wood Reservoir on the 29th and until 1st August, and another at Warley Moor Reservoir on the 30th. John o' Gaunt's Reservoir held at least one bird on 12th August, and a week later a single was at Thornton Moor Reservoir on the 19th, with another at Stockbridge the following day, and a good total of three birds which spent two days at Silsden Reservoir from the 21st.

Outside this period, a bird at Caldene Fields on 8th and 9th April was a good local find (MVP), and there was a welcome, and now rather scarce, winter record from Cononley Ings on 3rd December.

2007 - This species is not as dependent as many other waders on reservoir shorelines, being able to use quite small wet areas, and is probably why the eight records buck the general trend, and are about average.

Wintering birds are always a good find, and one such was seen at Stockbridge Reserve on 3rd January. The one spring record was a bird at Lindley Wood Reservoir on 24th April, and Airedale then provided all but one of the year's remaining records, all of single birds. In August, sightings came from Silsden Ings on the 2nd, and Stockbridge on the 26th, which site weighed in with another on 20th October. This bird was probably also the one seen nearby at Marley the following day, but one there on 25th November was likely to have been different. The only report away from this general area came from Scargill Reservoir, where a bird was found on 3rd September.

2008 - A good number of records included a wintering bird at Cononley Ings at both ends of the year, and up to three there and Snaygill on passage in both spring and autumn. Singles were seen in April at Otley Wetland, in July at Redcar Tarn, and in August at Scargill and Leeshaw Reservoirs.