

Visible Migration Report 2003

This year's excuse for a below average vismig season is the Indian summer the British Isles enjoyed. The prolonged dry fine weather didn't help with the number of birds passing over head at the vismig sites. We had a steady trickle rather than a slow build up in bad weather and then a surge through in good weather. Clear skies mean the birds pass through at higher altitudes and therefore are missed.

Coverage of the regular sites wasn't at its peak either, with only two sites being watched throughout the season from August to November. Both Denholme Clough (DC) and Thornton Moor Reservoir (TM) were well watched, with less coverage at Paul Clough. Kex Gill had plenty of coverage, even more so than TM but the watching there was concentrated on ringing work, which appears separately in this report. There is some hope for 2004 with the discovery of Soil Hill as a potentially great vismig site and a willing participant.

Thankfully we did get one "big day" on 20th September as the annual Meadow Pipit push commenced. Almost 8000 passed over DC and TM. DC recorded its highest total that day with 1336, although, this is due to better experience of the vismiggers rather than the amount of Pipits. The same day the Swallow movement provided us with another example of the differences of the two sites with DC recording 222 compared with TM's 64. The reverse happened with Chaffinch as TM had 203 to DC's 27. However the following day TM got its Swallows, 296, and even more Chaffinches, 252, where as DC was poor for both species. Unfortunately the big thrush day didn't really happen. Further to the down side was the migration, or lack of it, for Yellow Wagtails, Tree Pipits and Sand Martins.

Raptor movements peaked at TM on 27th/28th September with 4 and 1 Buzzard passing by. Other notable dates elsewhere include the following:

- 18th September – Yellow Wagtail at Kex Gill
- 26th September – Ring Ouzel south at Paul Clough
- 11th October – Trecreeper at Kex Gill
- 14th October – 46x Coal Tit moving through at Paul Clough
- 17th October – Ring Ouzel at Kex Gill

The tables on the next two pages show the species recorded in greater quantities at both DC and TM from late August until early November

Vismig glossary

Big Day: a day when lots of birds are passing through on migration

Bloggers: Birds lingering at the same site for a while

Blogg: To linger at one place

DC: Denholme Clough, a lowland site on the south side of Doe Park Reservoir

Kex: Kex Gill, prominent moorland edge vismig site

PC: Paul Clough, a great under watched vismig site

TM: Thornton Moor Reservoir, an unforgiving desolate place at the best of times and home to "Windy Corner"

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Goldfinch | | | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| Greenfinch | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Siskin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Linnet | | | | | | | 1 | 8 | | 3 | |
| Redpoll | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bullfinch | 2 | | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| Reed Bunting | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |

Sep-03

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dates -> | 6th | 7th | 13th | 14th | 20th | 20th | 21st | 21st | 27th | 27th | 28th |
| | TM | TM | TM | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | TM |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|--|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Pink-footed Goose | | | | | | | | 49 | | | 24 |
| Buzzard | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1 |
| Golden Plover | | | | | 1 | 28 | | 28 | | | 1 |
| Lapwing | | | | | | | 41 | | 24 | | |
| Snipe | | 2 | | 13 | 1 | 23 | | | | | 7 |
| Greenshank | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Green Sandpiper | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Wood Pigeon | | | | | | | | | 23 | | |
| Collared Dove | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | |

Sep-03

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dates -> | 6th | 7th | 13th | 14th | 20th | 20th | 21st | 21st | 27th | 27th | 28th |
| | TM | TM | TM | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | TM |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Skylark | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Barn Swallow | 53 | 187 | 72 | 75 | 222 | 64 | 5 | 296 | 41 | 2 | 3 |
| House Martin | 11 | 9 | 8 | | 58 | | 10 | | | | |
| Tree Pipit | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Meadow Pipit | 96 | 348 | 321 | 363 | 1336 | 3546 | 234 | 787 | 49 | 267 | 219 |
| Yellow Wagtail | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Alba Wagtail | | | | 2 | 3 | 10 | | 7 | 9 | 71 | 24 |
| Grey Wagtail | | 2 | | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Redstart | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wheatear | | | | 1 | | 5 | | 1 | | | |
| Stonechat | | | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| Song Thrush | | | | | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| Mistle Thrush | 1 | 23 | | 18 | | 75 | | 7 | | 68 | 108 |
| Blackcap | | | | | 2 | | | | 4 | | |
| Chiffchaff | | | | | 4 | | 2 | | | | |
| Willow Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Goldcrest | | | | | 4 | | | | 3 | | |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal Tit | | | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| Jay | | 2 | | 1 | | | 6 | | 7 | 14 | 6 |
| Starling | | | | | | | | | 10 | | |
| Chaffinch | | | 4 | 3 | 27 | 203 | | 252 | 7 | 60 | |
| Goldfinch | | | | | 29 | | 8 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|----|----|---|--|----|----|
| Greenfinch | | | 6 | | | 4 | | 11 | 16 |
| Siskin | | | | 18 | | 1 | | | |
| Linnet | | | | 6 | 11 | | | | |
| Redpoll | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Bullfinch | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Reed Bunting | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | |

| Oct-03 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dates -> | 4th | 4th | 5th | 11th | 11th | 12th | 12th | 18th | 18th | 19th |
| | DC | TM | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | TM |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Pink-footed Goose | 95 | 74 | 102 | 300 | 300 | | | | | |
| Sparrowhawk | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Kestrel | 2 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| Golden Plover | | | 29 | 50 | | 4 | 62 | 1 | 263 | 290 |
| Lapwing | 100 | | | 130 | | 214 | 322 | 27 | | 31 |
| Snipe | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 3 | |
| Wood Pigeon | 45 | | 6 | 86 | | 128 | 22 | 93 | 68 | 15 |
| Collared Dove | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | |
| Skylark | | 4 | 1 | | | 3 | 6 | | | |
| Barn Swallow | | | 4 | 2 | | 19 | 7 | 1 | 2 | |
| House Martin | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Meadow Pipit | | 114 | 89 | 100 | 200 | 106 | 236 | 3 | 54 | 53 |
| Alba Wagtail | 10 | 8 | | 17 | | 18 | 20 | 2 | 10 | 24 |
| Grey Wagtail | | 3 | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Stonechat | | | | | | 4 | | | 1 | 3 |
| Fieldfare | | | | 1 | | 40 | 21 | 745 | 609 | 964 |
| Song Thrush | 5 | | | 6 | | | | 4 | | |
| Redwing | | | | 53 | | 237 | 312 | 179 | 53 | 5 |
| Mistle Thrush | | 32 | | 7 | | 20 | 40 | 4 | 25 | 1 |
| Chiffchaff | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Goldcrest | 5 | | | 10 | | 12 | | | | |
| Coal Tit | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Jay | 1 | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Starling | 39 | | | 14 | | 36 | 60 | 86 | | |
| Chaffinch | 8 | 18 | | 27 | | 31 | 88 | 17 | 13 | 6 |
| Brambling | | | | | | 11 | | 2 | | |
| Goldfinch | | | | 16 | | 27 | | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Greenfinch | 32 | 5 | 52 | 68 | | 53 | 83 | 35 | 7 | 5 |
| Siskin | 12 | | 10 | 33 | | 18 | | 8 | | 15 |
| Linnet | 2 | | | 16 | | 1 | | | | |
| Redpoll | 11 | | | 19 | | 8 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 2 |

| Oct-03 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dates -> | 4th | 4th | 5th | 11th | 11th | 12th | 12th | 18th | 18th | 19th |
| | DC | TM | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | DC | TM | TM |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|--|--|---|--|---|--|----|--|----|
| Twite | | | | | | | | | | 21 |
| Bullfinch | 10 | | | | | | | 16 | | |
| Reed Bunting | | | | 2 | | 6 | | 3 | | 2 |

| Dates -> | Oct-03 | | | Nov-03 | | |
|-------------------|--------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| | 24th | 26th | 26th | 1st | 1st | 2nd |
| | DC | DC | TM | DC | TM | TM |
| Pink-footed Goose | | | | | | |
| Sparrowhawk | 2 | | | | | |
| Kestrel | 1 | | | | | |
| Golden Plover | 18 | 25 | | | | |
| Lapwing | | 70 | | | | |
| Snipe | 1 | | | | | |
| Wood Pigeon | 35 | 15 | 36 | 72 | 56 | |
| Collared Dove | 2 | | | | | |
| Skylark | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Barn Swallow | | | | | | |
| House Martin | | | | | | |
| Meadow Pipit | 26 | 11 | 32 | 10 | 7 | 34 |
| Alba Wagtail | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | |
| Grey Wagtail | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Stonechat | | | | | 1 | |
| Fieldfare | 497 | 144 | 7 | 352 | 31 | 42 |
| Song Thrush | 1 | | | | | |
| Redwing | 68 | 9 | 1 | 52 | | 14 |
| Mistle Thrush | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Chiffchaff | | | | | | |
| Goldcrest | | | | | | |
| Coal Tit | | | | | | |
| Jay | | | | 1 | | |
| Starling | 30 | 55 | 88 | 59 | 65 | 42 |
| Chaffinch | 18 | 14 | 6 | 12 | | |

| Dates -> | Oct-03 | | | Nov-03 | | |
|--------------|--------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| | 24th | 26th | 26th | 1st | 1st | 2nd |
| | DC | DC | TM | DC | TM | TM |
| Brambling | | | | 2 | 9 | |
| Goldfinch | 6 | | | 5 | | |
| Greenfinch | 39 | 32 | | 43 | | |
| Siskin | 6 | 2 | | 3 | | |
| Linnet | 3 | 1 | | 3 | | |
| Redpoll | 7 | | | 6 | | |
| Twite | | | | | | |
| Bullfinch | 3 | 3 | | 11 | | |
| Reed Bunting | | 1 | 1 | | | |

