

# Malham Tarn

## Wildlife & Weather Report

### 2013



Brian Shorrock  
Robin Sutton

## 2013 Wildlife Report – A Summary

An average winter followed by a very cold spring and early summer period delayed the arrival of many bird species, most notably Wheatear, Pied Wagtail, Swallow and Willow Warbler plus many others. Those that did finally arrive were in much smaller numbers than normal, Linnet was a typical example. Birds of the year were Slavonian Grebe, Yellowhammer and a rare inland record of a Shag presumably blown in by gales over the Christmas period.

Paul Holmes (1960) stated that both Dipper and Grey Wagtail bred on Cowside Beck. Visits there over the last two years have failed to make contact with either species. It would appear that both species are now only rare visitors.

A very good summer helped some butterflies to appear in above average numbers, particularly Small White and Peacock. The discovery of a colony of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries was possibly the event of the year, this is the twenty fifth species of butterfly for the Tarn recording area.

I would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this annual report: Tony Bullough, Roger Clark, Ian Court, Martin Davies, David Hodgson, Jo and Gerald Light, D and E Lord, Stuart Ralph, K and C Mudd, Richard Mann, Colin Straker, Dr M Holmes, Peter Welsh, Edward Jackson and Mike Cawthorn with apologies for any omissions.

### Brian Shorrock

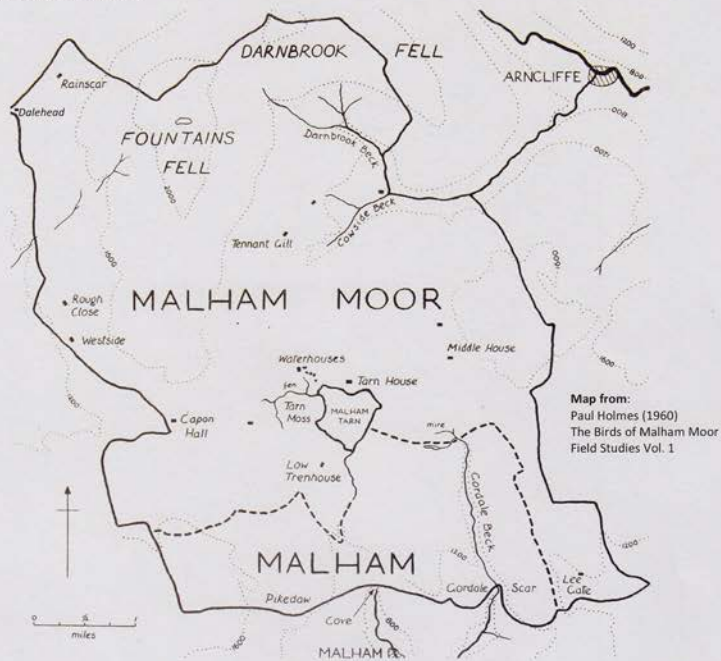
January 2014



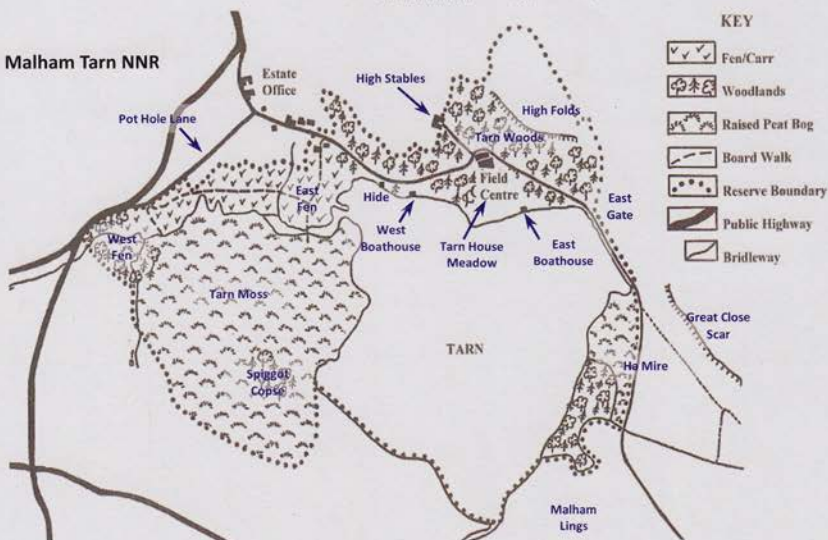
Malham Tarn – Sunset Cloudscape – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Cover Photograph – East Boathouse and Highfolds – late evening 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
Photographs by Robin Sutton - <http://robsuttonphotography.zenfolio.com/>

## Area covered by Report



## Malham Tarn NNR



## Birds Records 2013

- 1 **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* One in the Tarn Inflow bay from at least 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October is only the third record for the area; previously single birds on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1948 and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005.
- 2 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A single bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> January was the only early record, no more until one appeared on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Birds were present then until year end with a peak count of six on 28<sup>th</sup> August. No indication of a breeding attempt.
- 3 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Appears to be lost as a breeding species and is now almost a rarity with only five sightings in the year – single birds on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May and on 4<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August, probably only two birds involved.
- 4 **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Still increasing, absent only April to June. Most sightings were in September and October when birds were present on a daily basis and up to six roosted near the Tarn on several dates in October.
- 5 **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* One on 28<sup>th</sup> December the first for the area, presumably blown in on gales over the Christmas period.
- 6 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* A poor year, no records January/March and at other times single birds were the norm with four on 24<sup>th</sup> July.
- 7 **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* Three immature birds on the Tarn from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October were the first records since December 1999.
- 8 **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* Just three records, sixty flying NNW over the Tarn on 14<sup>th</sup> March, two 10<sup>th</sup> October and one 15<sup>th</sup> October on the Tarn for a short period.
- 9 **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* The only record was of fifty flying North to South over the Tarn on 7<sup>th</sup> January.
- 10 **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* After gradually increasing over the last decade a marked drop in sightings during 2013 with only three records of single birds on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> July.
- 11 **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* One pair probably attempted to breed but were unsuccessful. Numbers in summer seem to have stabilised, peak monthly counts below:



Whooper Swan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	0	5	2	5	5	110	150	30	6	10	2	1
2012	0	2	4	3	17	150	150	1	10	18	2	13
2011	0	1	2	2	7	110	200	5	17	11	11	1
2010	0	0	4	8	18	120	200	8	15	19	15	0
2009	0	3	8	14	52	200	210	0	28	28	30	2



- 12 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Two or three females seen with young June/July whether any reached flying stage is doubtful. Peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	24	8	6	3	6	24	110	45	30	25	56	15
2012	40	6	6	4	6	31	50	50	18	8	26	6
2011	50	18	14	10	8	40	50	30	10	8	12	12
2010	6	10	12	2	3	50	50	60	115	50	52	10
2009	16	8	8	6	8	16	75	50	50	60	20	20

- 13 **Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Recorded January to 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> October to year end. Whilst present most days occasionally the flock is absent so probably at another site as yet unknown, possibly in the Ribble Valley near Long Preston or at Hellifield Flash. Peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	26	35	30	30	0	0	0	0	0	30	45	45
2012	60	40	50	12	0	0	0	0	26	20	45	45
2011	70	45	50	40	0	0	0	0	6	55	80	70
2010	6	40	75	25	0	0	0	0	10	70	60	1
2009	90	70	70	45	0	0	0	1	2	12	40	45

- 14 **Teal** *Anas crecca* Status much the same as last few years with no breeding season records and only small numbers in winter months. Present January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> July to year end, peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	12	18	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	1	6	2
2012	21	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
2011	2	4	7	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	8	6
2010	6	8	3	4	0	0	0	1	30	15	6	2
2009	8	18	8	10	0	0	1	8	20	12	4	10

- 15 **Pochard** *Aythya farina* Still decreasing, numbers were so small that they can all be quoted individually, two 3<sup>rd</sup> January, two 19<sup>th</sup> April, one 24<sup>th</sup> June, five 30<sup>th</sup> October, three 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November and seven 7<sup>th</sup> November, peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	5	7	0
2012	40	12	35	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	20	12
2011	4	5	5	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	16	56
2010	0	4	4	0	0	0	1	1	10	40	70	0
2009	50	60	45	1	1	1	4	12	6	10	10	4

- 16 **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* A rather good year with one pair raising four young which were first seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Higher numbers than usual seen in autumn and early winter, peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	0	14	18	50	30	12	32	40	60	120	120	70
2012	60	40	85	60	18	10	30	40	66	55	70	7
2011	9	60	55	40	8	11	40	35	150	100	75	70
2010	0	4	40	35	28	32	45	60	100	140	160	0
2009	40	60	70	70	22	27	80	50	35	30	20	15

- 17 **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* Present January to 28th April and 15<sup>th</sup> October to year end with a peak count of 16 on 16<sup>th</sup> February, peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	6	16	10	14	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	8
2012	9	8	16	11	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	2
2011	5	9	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5
2010	2	4	12	18	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0
2009	21	16	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4

- 18 **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* From 13<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May up to four birds irregularly present in Tarn inflow bay, usually a pair but two males on 4<sup>th</sup> May. A female on Tarn 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December a late record.
- 19 **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Attempted to breed at the usual site, outcome not known. Sightings well down on last year, peak monthly counts below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
2012	0	0	4	2	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	0
2011	2	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	0
2010	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
2009	1	1	2	3	3	1	0	1	4	1	1	0

- 20 **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Sightings were very few in 2013 with no breeding and only single birds seen on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- 21 **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Sightings of this species were few throughout the year perhaps because of low small mammal populations. Apart from a bird in Darnbrook Ghyll on 6<sup>th</sup> May there were no other indications of any breeding attempt. Absent from Great Close Scar where usually attempts to breed.
- 22 **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* Only three records, one Chapel Fell 19<sup>th</sup> March, one Highfolds 27<sup>th</sup> May with two here 2<sup>nd</sup> September.
- 23 **Merlin** *Falco columbarius* A single bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> March near Waterhouses was the only record.
- 24 **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus* Apart from a single bird on Fountains Fell 10<sup>th</sup> May all records came from the Dalehead area with a peak count of thirty on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.
- 25 **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* Just three sightings, one Henside 17<sup>th</sup> July, three High Trenhouse 18<sup>th</sup> October and three near Capon Hall 30<sup>th</sup> October.

- 26 **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* Population is still low, peak count only seven near Dalehead on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The only breeding record was of a female with seven small young on lower slopes of Chapel Fell on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

- 27 **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Four records only, one near Sandhill Cottage on the Fen 1<sup>st</sup> May, two West Boathouse 2<sup>nd</sup> May, one Inflow Bay 4<sup>th</sup> September and one heard on the High Trenhouse ponds 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Pheasant



- 28 **Coot** *Fulica atra* Numbers of this species remain low. If anything 2013 was worse than 2012. Up to November a single bird was the norm, on 7<sup>th</sup> November three birds arrived, by 15<sup>th</sup> November five were present but just one by 11<sup>th</sup> December.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	1
2012	4	4	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2011	9	8	6	3	3	1	2	4	0	2	2	1
2010	10	32	35	25	26	26	45	200	300	150	70	10
2009	150	60	50	40	15	16	18	100	250	300	300	300

- 29 **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* First back was on 16<sup>th</sup> February, rather early in view of the very cold weather at the time. Pairs were present at South Shore Field, High Trenhouse, Great Close Scar, Tennant Ghyll, near Capon Hall and Tarn Outflow where a pair with young 4<sup>th</sup> July. Last seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August.
- 30 **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* The first record was of a bird heard near Dalehead on 6<sup>th</sup> April, where small numbers were seen until 16<sup>th</sup> May with a maximum of just ten Northern Race birds on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Two alarming birds on summit plateau of Fountains Fell on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Thirty Five near Dalehead on 6<sup>th</sup> August and one 20<sup>th</sup> September. Away from Dalehead twenty two near Low Trenhouse 24<sup>th</sup> October with one hundred there on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- 31 **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* First of the year was on 16<sup>th</sup> February when fourteen present on South Shore Field. Bred at Dalehead, Capon Hall, Tarn Outflow and Great Close Mire, no more than ten pairs in total. Only one bird seen in July. More notable flocks were one hundred near Tarn 14<sup>th</sup> August, two hundred 25<sup>th</sup> September also near Tarn, and two hundred and fifty near Low Trenhouse 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November.
- 32 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* One bird in breeding plumage on the Tarn East Shoreline 14<sup>th</sup> May the only record.
- 33 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* No sign of any breeding attempt and only three records on Tarn shoreline, one 14<sup>th</sup> May, two 19<sup>th</sup> May and one 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- 34 **Redshank** *Tringa totanus* Possibly did not breed, up to three birds were seen irregularly between Malham Lings and Great Close Pools in the period 19<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> June, with a late passage bird near Tarn on 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- 35 **Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Arrival was on a late 13<sup>th</sup> March a good week later than normal. Bred near Dalehead where at least four pairs, and near Globe Flower Wood, Great Close Mire and Tennant Ghyll. The only notable flock was one hundred and twenty on Tarn Moss 26<sup>th</sup> June. Last record on 8<sup>th</sup> September.
- 36 **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* One on Tarn Fen 5<sup>th</sup> April with one here on 28<sup>th</sup> November, three at the same site 30<sup>th</sup> November and a further single bird on 11<sup>th</sup> December the only records.
- 37 **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Probably bred near Dalehead, two in display here on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Also heard drumming Great Close Mire, Malham Lings, Tarn Fen/Moss and near Globeflower Wood. Recorded in area from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- 38 **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* Remains common throughout year, only absent in severe wintery conditions. Formerly bred on Fountains Fell, fifty six pairs here in 1950, also on Great Close Mire and around the Tarn itself. Last breeding record was in 1967.



Black-headed Gull



- 39 **Common Gull** *Larus canus* Like Black-headed Gull has bred in the past. One pair did so near the Tarn in 1955 which was then the first Yorkshire breeding record. Since this date single pairs bred near the Tarn and on Fountains Fell summit from 1969 to 1984 with no breeding records since. In 2013 present in the area January to 19<sup>th</sup> April and from 18<sup>th</sup> July to year end.
- 40 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Recorded in area 27<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> October. One hundred mainly immatures near Middle House on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Formerly bred on Tarn Moss in 1920-21 when six to seven pairs were present.
- 41 **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* In the early months single birds on 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January all on South Shore of the Tarn. One returned here 30<sup>th</sup> October with two on 10<sup>th</sup> November and four on 11<sup>th</sup> December and a further one on 28<sup>th</sup> December.
- 42 **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Records were as usual confined to the Thoragill/Darnbrook area where the peak count was of twelve on 26<sup>th</sup> June.
- 43 **Stock Pigeon** *Columba oenas* What few records there were all came from the Dalehead/Silverdale area, with one 12<sup>th</sup> May, two 24<sup>th</sup> June and one 27<sup>th</sup> August.
- 44 **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* One in song near Tarn House on 9<sup>th</sup> January had probably overwintered. No more records then till return of breeding birds with six on 21<sup>st</sup> February, seven in song in Tarn Woods on 19<sup>th</sup> April, bred here and also Darnbrook. Peak count fifteen near Tennant Ghyll on 28<sup>th</sup> August. With no beech mast crop no birds were seen after 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- 45 **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* Though recorded throughout the year probably did not breed as the rodent population was virtually nonexistent in Tarn Woods. One bird was seen perched on a fence post in an open field during daylight hours in very cold weather on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April, presumably a very hungry bird.
- 46 **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* Probably bred near Dalehead with four here on 15<sup>th</sup> January and one 10<sup>th</sup> April and near Globeflower Wood where singles on 1<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- 47 **Swift** *Apus apus* Like 2012 sightings were few, up to six birds feeding over the Tarn 12<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- 48 **Kingfisher** *Alceda atthis* One at the Tarn from 10<sup>th</sup> September through to year end.
- 49 **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* After many years of anticipated breeding one pair bred successfully at Highfolds, alarming bird heard here on 25<sup>th</sup> June and later a juvenile on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Two birds had been heard calling in early spring but, sadly, one was found dead on the road near Waterhouses on 28<sup>th</sup> February. At least one bird present to year end.
- 50 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Two birds heard drumming in spring, at least one pair attempted to breed but no young were ever seen. One drumming on Highfolds from 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May was probably an unmated bird. One rather strange sighting on 10<sup>th</sup> October was of a bird flying and perching on a roadside wall at Henside in a totally treeless area.



Great-spotted Woodpecker



- 51 **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* First of year was on Malham Lings 28<sup>th</sup> February where later a few pairs bred. A flock of thirty near Low Trenhouse on 5<sup>th</sup> April was a reflection on the very cold spring. Bred at Street Gate and Fountains Fell. Finally seen on 6<sup>th</sup> August – a rather early departure date.
- 52 **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* One near Gordale Beck flying towards Street Gate on 6<sup>th</sup> April was, in view of the wintry conditions at the time, very early. No more were seen till 15<sup>th</sup> April when three were at the Tarn Moss peat bank breeding site, here eight to ten pairs later bred. Forty-five birds here on 30<sup>th</sup> June suggested a successful breeding season, last recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> August.
- 53 **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* The first of the year was late, a single bird at Waterhouses on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Bred Dalehead, near Capon Hall, Waterhouses and Low Trenhouse. The overall population was lower than normal and no late summer flocks of any note were seen. Last recorded on 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- 54 **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* Recorded 6<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> September, the only sites known where breeding took place were at Waterhouses with four pairs and Low Trenhouse, one pair.
- 55 **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* The first arrivals were late, three near Pot Hole Lane on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Bred near Dalehead, on Tarn Fen (three pairs), Malham Lings, Tarn Moss, Street Gate etc. The only notable flocks were fifty near Dalehead 8<sup>th</sup> September and fifty near Capon Hall 20<sup>th</sup> September. Last recorded 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- 56 **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Like many species arrival back was late, 19<sup>th</sup> March. The breeding population was also lower than normal. Bred Dalehead, Stangill, Capon Hall and Waterhouses where first juveniles seen on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Last record on 27<sup>th</sup> September.
- 57 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Recorded in the area 29<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> August. The breeding population was similar to the last few years with three pairs Low Trenhouse area, four pairs Tennant Ghyll and one pair at Stangill.
- 58 **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* One Tarn shoreline 19<sup>th</sup> April was the first record since 2010.
- 59 **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* One probably wintered under the Tarn Fen boardwalk in early part of the year. Arrival back of breeding birds was not until early April. Six in song Tarn Woods 21<sup>st</sup> May. Practically all birds had departed by the end of September with just the odd bird seen October – December.
- 60 **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus* One on Gordale Beck 19<sup>th</sup> April was the first record near the Tarn area since 14<sup>th</sup> June 1993 when a juvenile was seen on the Tarn Outflow stream. Birds continued to be seen on Gordale Beck on odd occasions until late October.
- 61 **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* Probably bred at Dalehead, and near Tarn House, Keeper's Cottage, Waterhouses and High Trenhouse. Population seemed much the same as in last few years.
- 62 **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* One or two birds wintered at both ends of the year. Six in song Tarn Woods on 12<sup>th</sup> April, good numbers of juveniles appeared later in the year.
- 63 **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* First recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> April, a few pairs bred in Tarn Woods, one pair breeding successfully in a nest box in High Stables garden. A juvenile down Pot Hole Lane 13<sup>th</sup> August was the last sighting.



Robin

- 64 **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Arrival back was later than normal, two males near Tarn Outflow 7<sup>th</sup> April was the first record. Three pairs attempted to breed along slopes of Great Close Scar, also three pairs near Dalehead, one pair raised four young near Tarn Outflow. Last recorded on 28<sup>th</sup> August.
- 65 **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* Threear Dalehead on 28<sup>th</sup> August was the only record of this now rare species.
- 66 **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* An average year, arrived back 19<sup>th</sup> February, seven singing birds in Tarn Woods on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Last seen on 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- 67 **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Few sightings this year. In early months the only record was of a flock of thirty near Pot Hole Lane 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April. A few returned on 9<sup>th</sup> October with one hundred and fifty 11<sup>th</sup> October and eight 17<sup>th</sup> October with no more records till year end.
- 68 **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* Probably only one pair attempted to breed, a single bird sang from 5<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> April usually in the Sandhill Cottage to Tarn House area. Up to four were seen irregularly in Tarn Woods 26<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> October.
- 69 **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Far fewer records than usual. In the early months was absent from sites where normally recorded, typically a hundred plus usually winter around Low Trenhouse. In 2013 thirty 1<sup>st</sup> January, one 19<sup>th</sup> February, sixty 10<sup>th</sup> April, thirty 18<sup>th</sup> April and finally seven on 1<sup>st</sup> May near Pot Hole Lane. Ten returned on 15<sup>th</sup> October with fifty 18<sup>th</sup> October and further flocks of up to one hundred on odd occasions near Capon Hall in mid December.
- 70 **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Recorded in all months with no obvious influxes either in March/April or October/November. A few pairs bred in Tarn Woods and also one pair at Dalehead and one Darnbrook.
- 71 **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* A pair was located near Dalehead on 12<sup>th</sup> June and on 24<sup>th</sup> June was seen feeding young all of which successfully fledged, a notable record of this now rare species.
- 72 **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* First back were singing birds east of Tarn House and near Sandhill Cottage on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Breeding birds were well down on the last few years with probably only two pairs at most. No young were ever seen and the last sighting was on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- 73 **Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* One in a buddleia bush near Tarn House on 21<sup>st</sup> May was the only record.
- 74 **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia* One singing below Shepherds Cottage for a few hours 27<sup>th</sup> June was the only record.
- 75 **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* First to return was on 19<sup>th</sup> April, a good week later than normal. The breeding population was much lower than usual with only ten birds in song Tarn Woods on 12<sup>th</sup> May. A few juveniles were seen in late July with the final sighting on 24<sup>th</sup> August.
- 76 **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* Six sightings in the year of single birds on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> September. This species has increased considerably in the last decade and may have bred in some years but final proof is still lacking.



Blackbird

- 77 **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* Darnbrook plantations were not visited where surely still breeds. The only record was one on Tarn Fen 17<sup>th</sup> April.
- 78 **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Two singing birds arrived back on 30<sup>th</sup> April. One near Tarn House which probably didn't find a mate, and one near West Boathouse where a pair successfully raised young in a nest box a short distance from where they bred last year. A juvenile down Pot Hole Lane on 14<sup>th</sup> July was the last sighting.
- 79 **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* First of the year was one near Tarn House on 16<sup>th</sup> May. An estimated six pairs attempted to breed with successful nests at the West end of Pot Hole Lane, Waterhouses and near Sandhill Cottage. Two on Tarn Fen 25<sup>th</sup> August the final sighting.
- 80 **Great Tit** *Parus major* Present throughout the year in small numbers, bred mainly in nest boxes. Due to a very cold spring and early summer breeding success was lower than in the last few years. Peak count was only eight on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
- 81 **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* Bred at a variety of sites with the bulk of the population being in nestboxes. Few young were seen so probably had a poor season, peak count only ten on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- 82 **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* Two or three pairs attempted to breed in Tarn Woods, all were very elusive and no nests were located. Most sightings came from the birds feeders at Keeper's Cottage.
- 83 **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* One possibly two pairs bred, one near Tarn House and one near Sandhill Cottage. The latter raised five young and a family party of six was seen here on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Later sightings included a flock of twelve on Tarn Fen 10<sup>th</sup> September and two small flocks here on 29<sup>th</sup> September, five were seen on 17<sup>th</sup> November and these were probably present to the year end.
- 84 **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* Five or six pairs bred in Tarn Woods which is probably as many as this site will hold. At least two pairs bred in nestboxes after going through the ritual of plastering round the hole. Often seen at the bird feeders at Waterhouses, Keeper's Cottage and Shepherd's Cottage. Present throughout the year.
- 85 **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* Probably did not breed, only records single birds near Sandhill Cottage 18<sup>th</sup> July and near Tarn House 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- 86 **Magpie** *Pica pica* Practically all records came from West fen and in the Globe Flower Wood/Capon Hall areas, possibly attempted to breed at the latter. Records were usually of single birds apart from two 29<sup>th</sup> September and three 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- 87 **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* Present throughout the year in high numbers typically a flock of one hundred on 5<sup>th</sup> January near Tarn. Bred commonly at many sites eg Great Close Scar, Tarn House, Waterhouses and many barns in the area.
- 88 **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* Bred as usual Spiggot Hill copse but no nest count was undertaken. One pair also possibly bred at Low Trenhouse.
- 89 **Carriion Crow** *Corvus corone* Remains common throughout the year with no obvious change in status.



Blue Tit



- 90 **Raven** *Corvus corax* Away from the usual breeding site, where a pair raised four young, birds were seen near Tarn, Tennant Ghyll and around Dalehead where three on 8<sup>th</sup> And 20<sup>th</sup> September.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	3	4	0	0	1
2012	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	6	1	0

- 91 **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Bred at Waterhouses and in Tarn Woods. Some more notable flocks during the year were one hundred near Capon Hall 30<sup>th</sup> June, eight hundred near Kiln House 4<sup>th</sup> July, five hundred Tennant Ghyll 10<sup>th</sup> October and seven hundred near Low Trenhouse in November. In late November and early December numerous flocks of between a few hundred and one thousand birds passed though the Tarn area each evening for a period of about twenty minutes just before dark. They were obviously heading for a major roost site somewhere to the east and could be seen flying low over the ground eastwards roughly along the line of Mastiles Lane.



Chaffinch

- 92 **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* As usual a few birds wintered at both ends of the year. The breeding population began to return late February and by 5<sup>th</sup> April twenty five plus were in song in Tarn Woods. One pair probably bred near Dalehead a site almost devoid of trees, Maximum flock was only fifteen on 4<sup>th</sup> August.
- 93 **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* Arrival back was on schedule 26<sup>th</sup> April at Low Trenhouse where probably two pairs bred. Overall numbers were lower than usual and none were seen in the Capon Hall/Globeflower Wood area. One pair also seen at High Trenhouse and a further one near Dalehead. The only after season flock was of seven near Ha Mire on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Last record on 29<sup>th</sup> September.
- 94 **Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* First of the year were six at the Keeper's Cottage feeders on 10<sup>th</sup> April, at least four pairs bred on Tarn Fen where juveniles were seen 4<sup>th</sup> August, last sighting on 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- 95 **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* A few birds were seen in the winter months, mainly at the various bird feeders when up to six at times. Bred on Tarn Estate, one pair at least at Waterhouses. A flock of thirty Tarn House Meadow 25<sup>th</sup> August had climbed to seventy by 20<sup>th</sup> September, practically all of these were juveniles. Sixty at Dalehead 21<sup>st</sup> September, fifty Chapel Fell 5<sup>th</sup> October, forty Tarn Fen 8<sup>th</sup> October and finally twenty-five near Globeflower Wood 15<sup>th</sup> October. All these then dispersed and by November/December only one or two birds were left.
- 96 **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* This species is very low in numbers at the present time. No evidence to suggest any breeding attempt in the area. All records came from the bird feeders where singles 6<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October with three 17<sup>th</sup> October.
- 97 **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* All records came from Keeper's Cottage bird feeders with one 27<sup>th</sup> March, three 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, two 3<sup>rd</sup> April and one 24<sup>th</sup> April.
- 98 **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Two sightings of this Tarn rarity, both on 15<sup>th</sup> October when single birds along Pot Hole Lane and near Tarn House.
- 99 **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Two or three pairs bred on Tarn Fen and possibly one pair at Tarn Outflow. A male at Dalehead 20<sup>th</sup> April could relate to a breeding bird. Recorded in the area 25<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**100 Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* A male at Waterhouses bird feeders for a short time on 26<sup>th</sup> February is only the fourth record for the Tarn area. The other three are two flying over Great Close Mire 21<sup>st</sup> March 1954, one 13<sup>th</sup> March 1974 at Low Trenhouse and one near High Trenhouse on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1994.

## First and last dates of main summer and winter visitors

Compared to the mean dates recorded in the annual Malham Tarn Wildlife and Weather reports (2005 – 2012) most of the summer visitors arrived quite a lot later than average. The exceptions were Sand Martin, which arrived back just one day later and Blackcap which arrived much earlier than usual. The dates for Common Sandpiper are not very reliable as so few are recorded nowadays.

Departure dates are much more variable year on year and will often depend on breeding success. Birds which fail to breed will leave earlier and furthermore as most species will no longer be singing at the end of the summer it is also much harder to accurately record the final date when a species is on-site unless they are feeding young and are therefore more visible.

Species	First Seen	Last Seen
Wheatear	7 <sup>th</sup> April	23 <sup>rd</sup> September
Sand Martin	6 <sup>th</sup> April	21 <sup>st</sup> August
Chiffchaff	27 <sup>th</sup> April	21 <sup>st</sup> September
Willow Warbler	19 <sup>th</sup> April	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Swallow	19 <sup>th</sup> April	20 <sup>th</sup> September
Common Sandpiper	14 <sup>th</sup> May	13 <sup>th</sup> August
Pied Flycatcher	30 <sup>th</sup> April	14 <sup>th</sup> July
Yellow Wagtail	29 <sup>th</sup> April	13 <sup>th</sup> August
House Martin	6 <sup>th</sup> May	12 <sup>th</sup> September
Swift	12 <sup>th</sup> May	24 <sup>th</sup> June
Redstart	27 <sup>th</sup> April	13 <sup>th</sup> August
Blackcap	12 <sup>th</sup> April	30 <sup>th</sup> June
Garden Warbler	-	No records -
Spotted Flycatcher	16 <sup>th</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> August
Sedge Warbler	-	No records -
Fieldfare	15 <sup>th</sup> October	1 <sup>st</sup> May
Redwing	9 <sup>th</sup> October	13 <sup>th</sup> April

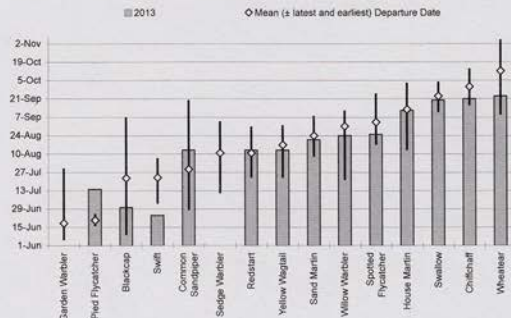
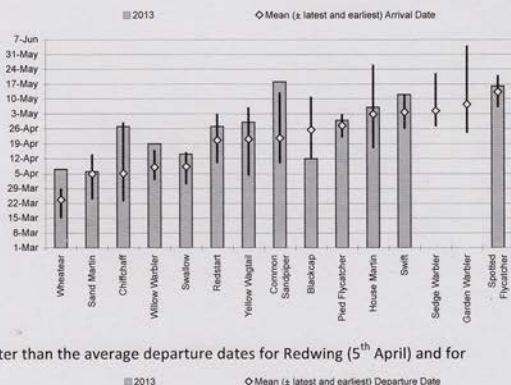
In 2013 most of the species which have departure dates likely to be reasonably reliable (Redstart to Wheatear) seemed to leave slightly earlier than the average 2005 – 2012 date.

For the winter visitors, Fieldfare and Redwing, most will depart in April and will arrive back in October.

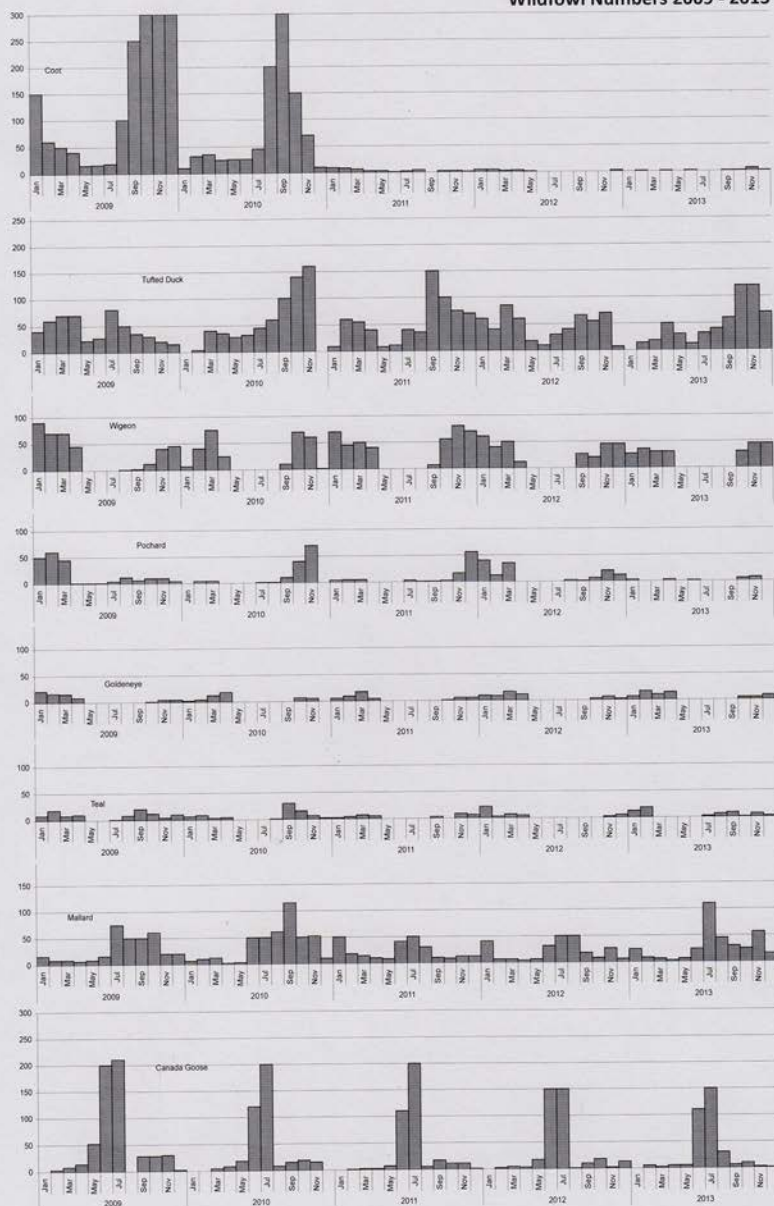
A late and cold spring perhaps held back the departure of over-wintering birds slightly.

Both species were about a week later than the average departure dates for Redwing (5<sup>th</sup> April) and for Fieldfare (26<sup>th</sup> April).

For returning birds the arrival dates in 2013 were within a couple of days of the average 2005 – 2012 arrival dates of 13<sup>th</sup> October for Fieldfare and 9<sup>th</sup> October for Redwing.



# Wildfowl Numbers 2009 - 2013





## Butterflies

- 1 **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris* Just one record of a solitary individual near Dalehead on 24<sup>th</sup> July.
- 2 **Large Skipper** *Ochlodes venata* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 3 **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 4 **Large White** *Pieris brassicae* Only two records, both from Tarn House Meadow with two 14<sup>th</sup> August and one 21<sup>st</sup> August.
- 5 **Small White** *Pieris rapae* Normally a rather rare butterfly in the area but 2013 was a bumper year. Recorded from many sites in period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 20<sup>th</sup> September, peak count 21 near Dalehead on 7<sup>th</sup> August.
- 6 **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* A good year, recorded 16<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> September. Maximum early count was 31 on Tarn Estate 4<sup>th</sup> June with 55 on Tarn Fen the peak second brood count on 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- 7 **Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 8 **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi* A very poor year, only the Tarn Fen site was visited where one 1<sup>st</sup> June, four 4<sup>th</sup> June and one 6<sup>th</sup> June were the only records.
- 9 **Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 10 **Northern Brown Argus** *Aricia artaxerxes* Only two records of this elusive butterfly, single insects 18<sup>th</sup> July on Tarn House Meadow and roadside above old quarry Chapel Fell.
- 11 **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* Recorded from a late 9<sup>th</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> August from the following sites, Tarn House Meadow, Great Close Scar, Highfolds and roadside near old quarry below Chapel Fell. Maximum count 27 on 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- 12 **Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 13 **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* Few records this year, recorded 6<sup>th</sup> August to 24<sup>th</sup> October with a peak count of seven on 4<sup>th</sup> September.
- 14 **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* One near Waterhouses on 26<sup>th</sup> August was the only record.
- 15 **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae* A good year, one 2<sup>nd</sup> May and two 26<sup>th</sup> June the only early records. Commonly reported in the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> September with 40 at Dalehead on 7<sup>th</sup> August the maximum count.
- 16 **Peacock** *Inachis io* After last years dismal summer with very few records of this species it was anticipated that 2013 would be even worse. Amazingly numbers were exceptional with one 6<sup>th</sup> June then continuously present from 7<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September with a peak count of 99 on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Only once, in 2006, has this count ever been surpassed when 114 on 7<sup>th</sup> August.



Small Skipper



Peacock

- 17 **Comma** *Polygona c-album* One near Waterhouses on 26<sup>th</sup> August was the only record.

- 18 **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria selene* The discovery by Robin Sutton and Peter Welsh of a colony of this species at Ha Mire was one of the most notable events of the year. Presumably it has existed here for generations and has in the past been inexplicably overlooked, the nearest other colony is on Swarth Moor six miles or so to the North West. Up to eight individuals were recorded at the site during June, first seen on 11<sup>th</sup>.



Photo by David Askew

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

- 19 **Dark Green Fritillary** *Argynnis aglaja* Recorded 10<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> September with a maximum count of only six on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Seen on Tarn Fen, Tarn House Meadow, Highfolds and roadside Chapel Fell with one at Dalehead 7<sup>th</sup> August a new site.
- 20 **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*. **Not recorded in 2013**
- 21 **Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 22 **Wall** *Lasiommata megera* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 23 **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* A moderate year, recorded 18<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> September from Tarn House Meadow, Highfolds, roadside Chapel Fell and Great Close Scar. Peak count 19 on 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- 24 **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus* Seen at usual sites, Highfolds, Tarn House Meadow, roadside Chapel Fell, Thoragill, Great Close Scar and Ha Mire Wood. Maximum count 27 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, flight period 10<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August.
- 25 **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus* Recorded from Highfolds, roadside Chapel Fell, Ha Mire, Malham Lings and Thoragill in period 18<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> September, highest count 32 on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## Dragonflies & Damselflies

- 1 **Banded Demoiselle** *Calopteryx splendens* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 2 **Emerald Damselfly** *Lestes sponsa* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 3 **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* Up to two on Tarn Fen in period 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June.
- 4 **Azure Damselfly** *Coenagrion puella* Seen on Tarn Fen 18<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> July, maximum count 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- 5 **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 6 **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 7 **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* Recorded 5<sup>th</sup> July to 20<sup>th</sup> September, four on Tarn Fen on 17<sup>th</sup> July the peak count.



Azure Damselfly

- 8 **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* **Not recorded in 2013**
- 9 **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* **Not recorded in 2013**

- 10 **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* A good year with up to four individuals on Tarn Fen 10<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July.

- 11 **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa*  
**Not recorded in 2013**

- 12 **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* Up to six on Tarn Fen 24<sup>th</sup> August to 27<sup>th</sup> September.

- 13 **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* Recorded on Tarn Fen 14<sup>th</sup> August to 27<sup>th</sup> September, maximum count 11 on 4<sup>th</sup> September.



Four-spotted Chaser

### Miscellaneous Sightings

Two interesting sightings of other invertebrates caught in the Moth Trap at Keeper's Cottage were a **Forest Bug** (also known as a **Red-legged Shieldbug**) – *Pentatoma rufipes* caught on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> August and a **Shore Sexton Beetle** – *Necrodes littoralis* on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Neither species appears in the records held in NBN Gateway site for this area but both are reasonably common; their absence from the data set is likely to be due to under-recording.



Shore Sexton Beetle – *Necrodes littoralis*  
Keeper's Cottage 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013



Forest Bug (Red-legged Shieldbug) – *Pentatoma rufipes*  
Keeper's Cottage 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013



## Moths I

I managed to run the trap on 56 occasions in 2013 between 12<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> October. Poor weather limited the number of nights when it was possible to use the trap at the beginning and end of the year and also affected the number of species caught on some occasions but 141 species were recorded, eight more than in 2012. Of those 23 were species I had not recorded before at Malham Tarn though older historical records for the area exist for most of them. As last year some (about half) of the "new" species were micro-moths and once again my identification of these was much aided by the new field guide (Field Guide to the Micro-Moths of Great Britain and Ireland by Phil Sterling, Mark Parsons & Richard Lewington (British Wildlife Publishing Ltd 2012)) and also through help from the members of the Yorkshire Moths group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Yorkshiremoths>).

	No. of Nights Trapped	No. of Species Recorded
April	6	6
May	5	6
June	10	50
July	10	76
August	14	58
September	9	30
October	2	13

Records for this year also include one or two from a second trap run at Tarn House. This (an ALS Twin 30w Actinic Skinner Trap) was bought for use with students staying at the Field Centre and it is hoped that this will be operated on a more regular basis in 2014.

The first moth found on the first occasion that trap was used was a **Bedstraw Hawkmoth** – one of the undoubted highlights of 2013 and a spectacular first find for one set of students. Another highlight was the second Yorkshire record of *Acleris effractana*, an undistinguished small brown micro moth.



Bedstraw Hawkmoth

Rather nicer to look at were the **Feathered Gothic** and **Chevron**, also new for 2013. From a purely entomological point of view though the **Autumn Green Carpet** found at a ridiculously late mid season date of 11<sup>th</sup> July and a rare upland record for an **Olive** (26<sup>th</sup> August) were probably amongst the more interesting moths to be found in 2013.



*Acleris effractana*

### Top 20 Most Caught Species

Antler	416
Large Yellow Underwing	326
Beautiful Golden Y	260
Ear Moth agg.	230
Flame Shoulder	189
Small Wainscot	179
True Lover's Knot	163
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	148
Burnished Brass	131
<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	126
Dusky Brocade	104
Shears	103
Silver-ground Carpet	101
Clouded-bordered Brindle	97
Dark Brocade	92
Ingrailed Clay	91
Dark Marbled Carpet	61
<i>Udea lutealis</i>	57
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	56
July Highflyer	55



Feathered Gothic



Chevron







## 2013 Weather Report - January - April

January Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	29 Jan	9.9 °C	
Average Maximum		3.2 °C	3.6 °C
Coldest Day	25 Jan	-7.2 °C	
Average Minimum		-0.3 °C	-0.9 °C
Days with Air Frost		17 days	18 days
Wettest Day	25 Jan	23.0 mm	
Total Rain for Month		113.5 mm	154 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		16 days	18 days
Sunniest Day	15 Jan	3.8 hours	
Total Sunshine		11.8 hours	35.3 hours

**January** – the first week was mild and wet (maximum daily temperatures around 8°C, and 33mm of rain between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>). It then turned much colder. For the next 18 days the average maximum was a chilly 0.2° and the minimum daily temperatures reached a low of -7.2°C on the 25<sup>th</sup> – the coldest day of the whole year. The rain turned to snow with up to 15cm of lying snow around the met pen. There was a rapid thaw at the end of the month as we returned to mild (maximum of 9.9°C on the 29<sup>th</sup>) and wet conditions with 71mm of rain in the last week. Total rainfall was well below average.

February Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	19 Feb	9.4 °C	
Average Maximum		3.5 °C	3.4 °C
Coldest Day	3 Feb	-3.6 °C	
Average Minimum		-1.5 °C	-1.1 °C
Days with Air Frost		23 days	17.3 days
Wettest Day	13 Feb	26.6 mm	
Total Rain for Month		71.6 mm	103.6 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		7 days	13 days
Sunniest Day	27 Feb	9.1 hours	
Total Sunshine		77.8 hours	58.5 hours

**February** – the month started with near average temperatures and rainfall but by the 5<sup>th</sup> the temperature had dropped and the rain turned to snow. There was a brief thaw in the middle of the month before the cold weather and snow returned for a week or so and it then turned milder again for the last week, in other words fairly typical mixed February weather. Overall the month was about average in terms of rainfall but with less rain and more sunshine than average and with clearer nights a higher than average number of days with frost.

March Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	5 Mar	10 °C	
Average Maximum		2.9 °C	5.7 °C
Coldest Day	11 Mar	-5.7 °C	
Average Minimum		-2.1 °C	0 °C
Days with Air Frost		24 days	15.2 days
Wettest Day	14 Mar	13.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month		43.6 mm	125.6 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		8 days	15.8 days
Sunniest Day	12 Mar	8.3 hours	
Total Sunshine		74.5 hours	85.3 hours

**March** – 2012 had given us the warmest March on record, March 2013 was one of the coldest. The mean maximum temperature of just 2.9°C was almost three degrees below the long term average March figure and the second lowest value recorded for the month. Rainfall was about a third of the average March level and the total of 43.6mm gave us the sixth driest March recorded at Malham Tarn. The key features of the month though were two snowy periods the first, around the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, blocked the roads for a day or two but a second spell around the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> was accompanied by gales and the loose powdery snow led to severe drifting and complete travel chaos.

April Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	17 Apr	13 °C	
Average Maximum		8.2 °C	8.7 °C
Coldest Day	10 Apr	-3 °C	
Average Minimum		1.3 °C	1.8 °C
Days with Air Frost		12 days	7.3 days
Wettest Day	14 Apr	14.3 mm	
Total Rain for Month		56.4 mm	90.5 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		11 days	13.3 days
Sunniest Day	15 Apr	9.2 hours	
Total Sunshine		119.9 hours	120.3 hours

**April** – the month started off cold and dry with just 2.7mm of rain from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> and a mean maximum temperature of 5.3°C. In contrast the mean maximum temperature for the rest of the month was 9.9°C but even this was relatively dry with most of the rain (43mm) falling in the six days from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. As in February and

March, cold, clear overnight conditions led to an above average number of days with a frost.

## May – August

May Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	3 May	18.6 °C	
Average Maximum		12.1 °C	12.3 °C
Coldest Day	2 May	0.2 °C	
Average Minimum		4.6 °C	4.6 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day	9 May	21.0 mm	
Total Rain for Month		91.7 mm	92.3 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		14 days	13.5 days
Sunniest Day	25 May	13.4 hours	
Total Sunshine		145.9 hours	163.4 hours

**May** – after a cold late winter and early spring period the first week of May was pleasantly warm (average max. 13.1°C), dry (just 4.4mm of rain) and sunny. Most of the rain (75mm) fell in the next 10 days (9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>) which were also cooler with an average maximum of 9.6°C. Warmer (average max 13.5°C) and drier conditions returned to end the month and overall the month ended up in many respects a very average month with temperatures, rainfall and sunshine all pretty close to the long term averages.

June Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	7 Jun	18.5 °C	
Average Maximum		15.3 °C	15.1 °C
Coldest Day	2 Jun	2.7 °C	
Average Minimum		7.6 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0.10 days
Wettest Day	22 Jun	12.8 mm	
Total Rain for Month		61.8 mm	93.7 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		11 days	13.1
Sunniest Day	4 Jun	11.8 hours	
Total Sunshine		131.8 hours	151.5 hours

**June** – was a very average month in terms of temperature and sunshine with less rainfall and slightly less sunshine than average. The fact that there was nothing exceptional was a real contrast to June 2012 which in many respects had been the worst June we had ever seen at Malham Tarn. In the first six months of 2013 we had just 439mm of rain about half of the 874mm we had in 2012 and well below the average of about 700mm we get up here for the January to June period.

July Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	19 Jul	25.8 °C	
Average Maximum		20.1 °C	16.5 °C
Coldest Day	2 Jul	6.4 °C	
Average Minimum		11.6 °C	9.2 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0 days
Wettest Day	27 Jul	44.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month		117.2 mm	100.3 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		10 days	13 days
Sunniest Day	20 Jul	13.6 hours	
Total Sunshine		209.6 hours	136.4 hours

**July** – another contrast to 2012, in that year the maximum temperature only reached 20°C on one day in July and in total on only eight days in the whole year. In July 2013 we had sixteen days with temperatures above 20°C, on the 19<sup>th</sup> we reached 25.8°C (the tenth hottest July day here) and the average for the whole month (20.1°C) made it the third warmest July we've recorded. It was also the third sunniest July after 2006 and 1989. Rainfall was just above average yet we had slightly fewer rain days than average. There seems to be an increasing trend for summer rainfall to occur in fewer but more intense episodes. The 44mm that fell on the 27<sup>th</sup> made that the wettest day in 2013.

August Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	2 Aug	23.7 °C	
Average Maximum		17.5 °C	16.1 °C
Coldest Day	14 Aug	6.8 °C	
Average Minimum		10.9 °C	9.3 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0 days
Wettest Day	4 Aug	32.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month		130.2 mm	130.8 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		11 days	14.7 days
Sunniest Day	26 Aug	12.4 hours	
Total Sunshine		134.2 hours	142.6 hours

**August** – the first few days continued the warm and sunny weather of July, indeed the maximum for the month of 23.7°C was our highest August temperature since 2004. After that temperature dropped to more normal levels and overall the month ended up slightly warmer with near average sunshine and rainfall. As in July though the rain fell on fewer days per month than it would do on average, just 4 dates, 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> accounting for approximately three-quarters off the months rain.

## September – December

September Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	5 Sep	19.4 °C	
Average Maximum		14.0 °C	13.8 °C
Coldest Day	8 Sep	3.2 °C	
Average Minimum		7.7 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0 days
Wettest Day	15 Sep	19.4 mm	
Total Rain for Month		85.6 mm	138.8 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		12 days	14.5 days
Sunniest Day	30 Sep	8.1 hours	
Total Sunshine		78.65 hours	100.8 hours

**September** – was dry with only about two thirds of the average rainfall. Most of the rain came in two spells. Over the two days of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 26mm fell, and from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> we had 45mm. For the rest of the month it was largely dry. In terms of temperature it was very close to the average September figure but there was much less sunshine than usual. A rather settled and unexciting month really.

October Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	5 Oct	16 °C	
Average Maximum		12.2 °C	10.6 °C
Coldest Day	10 Oct	2.9 °C	
Average Minimum		7.8 °C	5.2 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day	22 Oct	37.7 mm	
Total Rain for Month		236.2 mm	150.8 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		22 days	16.4 days
Sunniest Day	25 Oct	6.1 hours	
Total Sunshine		39.7 hours	80.0 hours

**October** – in contrast to September this was a very unsettled month with periods of strong winds and heavy blustery showers with just a few odd calmer days in-between. The high total rainfall for the month (236mm) made this the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest October at Malham Tarn. The 37.7mm of rain that was recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was the eighth highest daily total for October, there were also three other days with over 20mm of rain. Temperatures were above average and not surprisingly given the high rainfall there was less than half the typical hours of October sunshine, in fact this was the least sunny October ever recorded at the Tarn.

November Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	28 Nov	11.5 °C	
Average Maximum		7.4 °C	6.5 °C
Coldest Day	20 Nov	-3.1 °C	
Average Minimum		1.7 °C	1.2 °C
Days with Air Frost		7 days	8.8 days
Wettest Day	2 Nov	22.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month		99.2 mm	149.9 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		14 days	17.1 days
Sunniest Day	5 Nov	7 hours	
Total Sunshine		68.1 hours	54.9 hours

**November** – started in a similar vein to October with a period of wet and windy weather but then settled down as a high pressure area built over the UK. Temperatures were just above average for the month but clear nights led to a series of air frosts later in the month and we had ground frosts on roughly half of the nights. Sunshine hours were slightly above average and despite the wet start to the month the total rainfall ended up well below the November average.

December Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	16 Dec	10.5 °C	
Average Maximum		7.0 °C	4.6 °C
Coldest Day	6 Dec	-1.6 °C	
Average Minimum		1.8 °C	-0.1 °C
Days with Air Frost		5 days	15 days
Wettest Day	8 Dec	30.4 mm	
Total Rain for Month		200.9 mm	162.0 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		23 days	17.5 days
Sunniest Day	1 Dec	5.1 hours	
Total Sunshine		24.8 hours	37.5 hours

**December** – the relatively high temperatures recorded in late November carried through into December and this ended up as the warmest December ever recorded at Malham Tarn. The high temperatures were associated with a series of intense low pressure Atlantic systems bringing in mild but wet and windy conditions. Rainfall was well above average and there was very little sunshine. The total 24.8 hours of sunshine was the eighth lowest December total. Gales were a frequent occurrence and an estimated 50mph wind speed was recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup>

December. Despite the wind and rain the nights were often clear and ground frosts were recorded on about half the nights. A sprinkling of wet snow lay in the met pen on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> December - by the merest margin a white Christmas but it didn't last long as the next depression moved in to wash it all away.