

Dotterel

1992 – The fresh remains of a bird were found on Oxenhope Moor on 2nd May. The bird had been killed where found, presumably by an avian predator. All that remained were the front part of the head, bill, many plucked breast feathers and one wing covert feather. The Group's first record.

1994 – A very welcome second record for the Group, and the first of a live bird, was a single male at Round Hill for one day on 3rd May.

1995 – Our best year to date. The first record was a single on Round Hill on 15th May, but this bird could not be relocated. However, the same observer found nine (including at least five females and two males) on Rombalds Moor on 19th May and these stayed for several days allowing many to enjoy this attractive and confiding species. The last record was three on 24th May.

1996 – 1996 was again a good year, with six birds on Ilkley Moor on 4th and 5th May; a single bird was still present in the same locality on 12th May. Next, a pair was seen in the Beamsley Moor/ Round Hill area on 13th May, and was still present the following day; the final record for the year was of a single bird, again in the same locality, on 18th May.

1997 – An exciting spring passage this year, with trips seen by many observers near the Twelve Apostle Stones on Ilkley Moor between 2nd and 12th May. The first bird arrived on 2nd May, on which date a single bird was also seen on Round Hill on the opposite side of the Wharfe valley. At the Apostle Stones, numbers built up steadily, with six birds on 3rd May, ten on 4th, 12 on 6th, and 24 on 7th, then nine on 9th, 19 on 10th, and finally four on 12th May, so bringing a very exciting passage to an end.

1998 – 1998's passage in the Group's recording area was disappointing, with only two records from the Twelve Apostle Stones site on Ilkley Moor and none at all from Round Hill. Three birds, which were sexed as two females and one male, were seen on 4th May, and three birds were seen there on 9th.

1999 – After the disappointing spring passage of 1998, when only three birds were seen at just one site, hopes were high for a better 1999; but this was not to be, and in the event no birds were seen on Rombalds Moor at all, and just one on Round Hill, on 9th May.

2004 - After a gap of five years, it was a good find for the observer when four were on Rombald's Moor on 3rd May. Another was found on 15th on the same moorland.

2005 - Recorded for the second successive year, though not at the traditional stopover point of Rombald's Moor. Two males were found on 9th May at High Brown Knoll on Midgley Moor, just inside the Group recording area.

2007 - Dotterel has now become much less than annual. The sole record concerns a bird seen in appalling conditions on Round Hill on 4th May.

2008 - Another year with just one bird: on Soil Hill on 27th April.

2011 - A welcome, if brief, return: five birds spent a short time on Rombald's Moor on 4th May.

2014 - There were just two records. Two birds spent a couple of days on Blubberhouses Moor on 23rd and 24th April and a single bird was seen with Golden Plovers and Lapwings at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 20th October.

2016 - After a good run of records in the 1990's, this species has become distinctly irregular, so a report of three birds at Draughton Heights on 22nd April was most welcome