

TRANSACTIONS

of the

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

VOL. IX

JANUARY - DECEMBER 1954

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

For the first time the Annual General Meeting was held in March at the close of the 1953-1954 Winter Session. Thus in Volume IX of the Transactions the notes on the organization of the Society cover the Winter session of 1953-54 and the greater part of the Session 1954-55. The records are given as usual for the whole of the year 1954.

Officers for the Session Oct. 1953 - March 1954

President	A.C.M. Duncan
Vice President	E. Skinner
Hon. Secretary	Miss M.M. Bartle
Hon. Treasurer	H.J. Williamson
Hon. Assit. Sec/Librarian	Miss J.E. Bartle.
Committee	Mrs.O. Pennock, W.F.Fearnley, H.Marjoram, C.G.Booth

Officers for the Session 1954-55

President	E. Skinner
Vice President	C.G. Booth
Hon. Secretary	Miss M.M. Bartle.
Hon. Treasurer	H.J. Williamson
Hon. Asst, Sec./Librarian	Miss J. E. Bartle.
Committee	Mrs.O. Pennock, Dr.K.C.Crosbie, W.F.Fearnley, H.Marjoram, A.C.M.Duncan (ex officio)

Recorders

Botany	Miss J.E.Bartle.
Vertebrates	H. Marjoram
Ornithology	W.F.Fearnley
Entomology	G.R. Frost
Geology	Miss A. Stansfield.

MEMBERSHIP

In March 1954 there were 85 members and 3 junior members. Honorary membership was accepted by Messrs. F.Ball of Denton, W.Flesher of Burley, J.A.Forder of Lindley, O.Cornish of Langbar, and G.Harrison of Ilkley.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Balance Sheet presented in March 1954 showed the income for the previous six months to be £2.15.1d. in excess of expenditure. The yearly subscription was again fixed at 7/6, and 2/6 for junior members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In March 1954 a resolution was passed inserting the following clause to Rule 2 of the Society's rules: "The retiring President shall be an ex officio member of the Committee for the ensuing year".

AFFILIATION

Members of the Society have again shared in the activities of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, and the President, Mr.E.Skinner, attended the International Ornithological Congress at Basle as delegate of the Union.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1953-54

Oct.	13	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
Oct.	20	"EARTHQUAKES"	E. Tillotson, M. Sc.
Nov.	3	KODACHROME films on Natural History and Display of Entomological Specimens, Joint meeting with Ilkley Camera Club.	
Nov.	17	"TWO SUMMERS ON ICELAND" Lantern	Capt. G. K. Yeates, B.A., F.R.P.S., M.B.O.U.,
Dec.	1	"SEVERN WILD FOWL TRUST" Colour Film	C. G. Booth
Jan.	5	"COLOUR AND BEHAVIOUR IN ANIMALS" - Lantern (Provisional Date).	Prof. E. A. Spaul, D.S.C., Ph.D.
Jan.	19	"BIRDS OF MARSH AND MOOR" Lantern.	A. Gilpin, F.R.P.S.
Feb.	2	R.S.P.B. Colour Films	
Feb.	16	"AFFORESTATION: ITS EFFECTS UPON WILD LIFE"	P. J. Langley, M.A., (Forestry) Oxon.
Mar.	2	"BIRD LIFE" Colour Films	W. Bennett
Mar.	16	"FILMING FOR FUN" Colour Films.	D. C. Ramsden, L.D.S.,
Mar.	30	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1954

April	27	Nessfield, Botanical Section	Leader A. C. M. Duncan
May	4	Farnley Lake Ornithological Section.	Leader H. E. Adamson
May	11	Backstone Beck. Geological Section.	Leader P. D. Lamming
May	16	Malham, General	Leader W. F. Fearnley
May	18	Grass Woods, Botanical Section.	Leader Dr. Crosbie.
May	25	Riffa, General	Leader H. Marjoram
June	1	Denton, Ornithological Section.	Leader F. Ball
June	5 - 7	Austwick Y.N.U.	
June	15	Moorland. Botanical Section.	Leader Miss. J. E. Bartle.
June	19-20	Upper Wharfedale Botanical Section.	

June	22	Langbar Geological Section	Leader Miss. A. Stansfield
June	29	Langbar Moor. Ornithological Section.	Leader O. Cornish.
July	3	Tanfield Y.N.U.	
July	6	Meeting for Records.	
July	10	Goathland Y.N.U.	

WINTER PROGRAMME 1954-55

Oct.	5	"IMPRESSIONS OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS" Lantern	E. Skinner
Oct.	19	"TREASURES OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE" Lantern	J. Armitage, F.R.P.S. F.R.E.S., M.B.O.U.
Nov.	2	"THE LURE OF THE SOLWAY"	Alan Walker
Nov.	16	"MY JOB IS MY PLEASURE"	A Countryman
Nov.	30	"SEAWEEDES"	Miss. L.I. Scott, M.Sc.
Dec.	14	"THE SHAPE OF MOUNTAIN VALLEYS" Lantern	R. Muller
Jan.	11	"THE COLOURFUL SEASONS" Lantern	H. Marjoram
Jan.	25	RECORDERS' REPORTS & EXHIBITS	
Feb.	8	"SEA-BIRD SANCTUARIES" R.S.P.B. Colour Film.	G. Edwards
Feb.	22	"THE GREEN MINSTREL TRIBE"- A talk on the Grasshoppers and Crickets of Great Britain.	B.C. Pickard
Mar.	8	"PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS" Lantern	Peter Hirst
Mar.	22	"ICELAND - A JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR" Lantern	Capt. G.K. Yeats B.A., F.R.P.S., M.B.O.U.
Mar.	29	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.	

We are very grateful to all lecturers who have given their services, and are pleased to note that there have been good attendances both at the lectures and at outdoor meetings during the past year. Thanks are due to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette for publishing reports of our meetings and the monthly extracts from the Records.

BOTANICAL SECTION

SPRING.

Many plants were late in flowering owing to the period of drought in April.

Earliest flowering dates recorded:

Feb.	3	Barren strawberry	A.C.M.D.
Feb.	22	Coltsfoot	A.C.M.D.
Mar.	13	Hazel (male)	A.C.M.D.
Mar.	29	Celandine, Wood anemone	A.C.M.D.
Apr.	4	Primrose	E.S.S.
Apr.	5	Butterbur, Moschatel	J.C.

SUMMER

The following plants had very good flowering seasons.

Taraxacum officinale (Dandelion)
Lathraea squamaria (Toothwort)
Crataegus oxyacanthoides (Hawthorn)
Anthriscus sylvestris (Cow parsley)

AUTUMN

Haws were very plentiful, but hips scarce.

The flowering season was not so prolonged as last year, the latest records being:

Nov. 21 Creeping buttercup, Betony, Ragwort.

NEW RECORDS FOR THE SOCIETY.

The following species were recorded for the society for the first time in 1954:

<i>Sorbus rupicola</i> (Whitebeam)	Arncliffe	
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> (Fool's Parsley)		J.C.S.
	Ben Rhydding	J.E.B.
<i>Primula variabilis</i> (Cowslip-primrose hybrid)	Grassington	
<i>Carex flacca</i> (Carnation grass)	Grassington	
<i>Bromus ramosus</i> (Hairy brome)	Otley	J.E.B.
<i>Bromus sterilis</i> (Sterile brome)	Otley	J.E.B.
<i>Melica nutans</i> (Mountain melick)	Grassington	
<i>Glyceria maxima</i> (Reed meadow grass)	Ilkley	H.J.W.
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> (Field horse-tail)	Ilkley	J.C.
<i>Equisetum palustre</i> (Marsh horse-tail)	Grassington	

NEW STATIONS

Vaccinium oxycoccos (Cranberry) Langbar
Epipactis helleborine (Broad helleborine) Middleton (road side)
Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's tongue) several plants found at an early stage on another part of Ilkley Moor.

B.S.B.I. MAPPING SCHEME.

The Botanical section has undertaken to help in the five year mapping scheme organised by the Botanical Society of the British Isles, by making records of all the flowering plants found in each of three 10 kilometre grid squares in the Ilkley district. Any members who would be willing to take part should consult the Botanical recorder.

KEY TO INITIALS.

Miss. J.E. Bartle	A.C.M. Duncan
Miss. J. Clarkson	E.S. Skinner
Miss. J.C. Salter	H.J. Williamson

J.E. Bartle,
Recorder.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

Feb.	26	Male Dotted Border Umber Moth	Myddleton	G.C. Booth
Mar.	9	Dotted Border Umber Moth	Ben Rhydding	Miss. M. Bartle
	9	Spring Usher Moth	"	"
Apr.	28	Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly	Ilkley	G.R. Frost
May	12	Small Whites	"	"
	18	Green Silver Lines Moth	"	Miss M. Bartle
	"	Scalloped Hazel Moth	Ben Rhydding	"
	31	Cabbage Moth	"	"
	"	Common Swift Moth(<i>Hepialus lupulina</i>)	Ilkley	G.C. Booth
June	14	Small Heaths	"	G.R. Frost
		Clouded Bordered Brindle(<i>Xylophasia rurea</i>)	"	G.C. Booth
		Large Skipper	"	"
July	10	Common Blue	"	G.R. Frost
	18	Yellow Underwing	"	"
	"	Magpie Moth	"	"
	25	Common White Wave Moth(<i>Cabera pusaria</i>)	Ben Rhydding	G.C. Booth
	"	Chimney Sweeper(<i>Odegia atrata</i>)	"	"
Aug.	20	Old Lady Moth	Ben Rhydding	Miss. M. Bartle
Sep.	28	Red Admiral	Ilkley	G.R. Frost
	"	Dusky lemon Sallow Moth(<i>Mellinia gilvago</i>)	Bolton Abbey	G.C. Booth
Oct.	3	Common Plume Moth	Ilkley	"
	18	Small White Butterfly	"	G.R. Frost
Nov.	3	Common Quaker Moth	"	G.C. Booth

Species Recorded.

Butterflies

Small Tortoiseshell
 Small White
 Small Heath
 Large Skipper
 Common Blue
 6. Red Admiral

Moths.

Dotted border Umber
 Spring Usher
 Green Silver Lines
 Scalloped Hazel
 Cabbage
 Common Swift
 Clouded Bordered Brindle
 Yellow Underwing
 Magpie
 Common White Wave
 Chimney Sweeper
 Old Lady
 Dusky Lemon Sallow
 Common Plume
 Common Quaker
 15.

The Year was a particularly wet one with some cold east winds in May and June which would account for the small number of butterflies seen, but it must be noted that records were supplied by only three members.

G.R. FROST
 Recorder.

GEOLOGICAL SECTION

Activities have been limited to two evening excursions, the first, up Backstone Beck, being a re-examination of the strike in the hope of finding exposures of marine horizons in addition to the marine band which outcrops at a lower level in Ben Rhydding. The beck has cut deeply into the sandstones and shales but along most of its course there is much slip covering the rock face. The shales exposed were found to be unfossiliferous.

The second excursion on the opposite side of the valley up the dip slope towards Langbar, was concerned generally with the topography of grit scenery, the skyline looking towards Cow and Calf rocks being a typical example. Evidence of dip direction and faulting occurring in the region of Ling Park was noted but the disappearance of old quarries in this area means less information of this kind is available.

Erratics found during the year in the gills which are cut into these slopes were of limestone.

A. Stansfield.
Recorder.

VERTEBRATE SECTION

24. 1. 54. White stoat at Denton. K. C. Crosbie.
24. 1. 54. Frog Spawn H. Marjoram

Bats, mainly pipistrelle, have been reported from all areas.
Daubenton's water bat from Denton Lake O.M. Pennock
23. 3. 54 Weasel seen at Riffa. H. Marjoram
Grey squirrel very common in all areas.

H. Marjoram.
Recorder.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

Carrion Crow. 2 seen buffeting a Kestrel on Dec. 11th. H.J.W.

Rook. Rook census taken again this year, report given at the end of these records.

Jackdaw. 3 ringed this year

Hawfinch. 5 in Bolton Woods early in January. A.C.M.D.
1 at Weston April 19th. J.B.
A party of 4 visited a garden in Ilkley nearly every day in November, and were seen feeding on Hawthorn berries. O.M.P.

continued.....

Ornithological Section- continued

- Goldfinch. September 26th a flock of 30 feeding on thistles near Askwith. W.F.F. & H.J.W.
Also seen at Menston and Ben Rhydding. J.B. & K.C.C.
- Bullfinch. Appear to be more prevalent this year, many reported from various places.
A family of 5 in a garden at Ilkley. O.M.P.
- Tree Sparrow. The colony at Denton is still to be found but few reported elsewhere.
April 25th heard at Weston. J.B.
- Yellow Wagtail. 1 at Ben Rhydding filter beds April 28th. E.A.W.G.
- Cole Tit. One in H.J. W.'s garden late December.
- Longtailed Tit. Nesting 4th April at Riffa only 4 ft. above a Song Thrushes nest. H.M.
- Chiff Chaff. One singing at Middleton early June. A.C.M.D.
One at Burley September 11th. E.S.S.
- Pied Flycatcher. Pair at usual nesting site at Leathley on May 10th but not seen later. H.E.A.
Seen on several occasions in Bolton Abbey woods. A.C.M.D.
Nested in a hole in a barn wall on roadside at Denton. A.E.P.
Nested in a hole about 3 ft from the ground in Hebers Ghyll wood, all young got safely away, this is the first nest to have been found in Ilkley. W.F.F. & O.M.P.
- Common Whitethroat. Seen May 2nd Ben Rhydding. E.S.S.
Heard May 8th. Burley. E.S.S.
- Lesser Whitethroat. May 8th. Burley E.S.S.
- Song Thrush. 4th April nesting 4 ft below Longtailed tit at Riffa. H.M.
- Mistle Thrush. Sitting on nest 24th March Riffa. H.M.
- Redwing. First date reported October 18th. H.J.W.
- Ring Ousel. Seen April 4th Burley Moor. H.A.R.
- Wheatear. First seen 23rd March Kex Ghyll. W.F.F.
- Whinchat. 2 on Ilkley moor September also 2 juveniles seen at Denton September 2nd. H.J.W.

- Redstart Abnormally early at Threshfield March 21st. K.C.C.
Farnley April 4th. E.S.S.
- Swallow. 8th April Valley of Desolation Bolton Abbey. A.E.P.
last reported Ilkley October 5th. H.J.W.
- House Martin. At Ben Rhydding filter beds 24th April. E.S.S.
- Sand Martin. At Denton April 19th. W.F.F.
- Swift. First date April 24th Ben Rhydding. K.C.C.
last date August 27th. H.J.W.
- Green Woodpecker. Seen at Menston April 15th. J.B.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker. On April 25th three were seen together at Lindley.
W.F.F. & H.J.W.
- Cuckoo. April 24th. Ilkley Golf Course. O.M.P.
- Little Owl. Has been reported from several different parts of the
district during the year.
- Barn Owl. 1 at at Grassington during September. J.B.
1 at Burley November 12th V.H.
- Shorteared Owl. 2 at Grimwith reservoir August 1st. K.C.C.
- Merlin. One at Langbar, August 24th. A.C.M.D.
- Kestrel. 5 nestlings ringed 27th June, E.S.S.
Kestrel seen being mobbed by 2 Carrion Crows December 11th.
It appeared to be injured. H.J.W.
Dec. 12th an injured female was found and kept for 16 days
it became quite tame, it would come to hand and was fed on
liver etc., it was released on December 27th when it flew
away in good order. O.M.P.
- Buzzard. 1 September 20th Riffa. H.M.
1 June 5th Burley. V.H.
- Common Heron. 15 nests at Gargrave during April, and 14
at Harewood. W.F.F. H.J.W. O.M.P.
- Canada Goose With three young about one week old at Fewston reservoir
3rd May. C.G.B.
- For full details of Ducks - see Wild Fowl Census.
- Shoveller. Party of 5 Denton lake July and August. K.C.C.
11 on Lindley reservoir September 26th C.G.B.

- Tufted Duck. 8 on Denton Lake April 5th. W.F.F.
- Longtailed Duck. 2 immature on Fewston during Nov. & Dec. C.G.B.
- Redbreasted Merganser. 1 on Lindley reservoir 21st March W.F.F.
- Blacknecked Grebe. 1 on Grimwith August 15th. K.C.C.
- Slavonian Grebe. 1 on Swinsty April 4th. W.F.F. & O.M.P.
- Wood Pigeon. Late nest at Esscroft November 7th, parents feeding young.
E.A.W.G.
- Woodcock. 1 on Riffa at Riffa 8th March. H.M.
- Dunlin. 1 at Ben Rhydding filter beds April 24th E.S.S.
- Common Sandpiper. First seen April 19th at Denton. O.M.P.
- Green Sandpiper. 1 at Riffa on April 6th also 2 on Sept. 5th. H.M.
- Redshank. 17 on the 24th April at Ben Rhydding filter beds. E.S.S.
- Greenshank. 1 at Burley August 24th. E.S.S.
- Ring Plover. 3 at Grimwith April 24th. K.C.C.
- Oyster Catcher. 1 at Ben Rhydding gravel pits 23rd, May. K.C.C.
- Blackheaded Gull. 70 or 80 pairs bred on a local reservoir this being 4 times as many as 5 yrs ago. E.S.S.
- Lesser Blackbacked Gull. About 1,000 on Swinsty December 5th. W.F.F. & O.M.P.
- Greater Blackbacked Gull. 12 on Swinsty Dec 5th. W.F.F. & O.M.P.
- Black Tern. 2 at Shelker 2nd May H.J.W. & W.F.F.
- Common Tern. 3 Flying up valley Sept. 26th E.S.S.
- Corncrake. 1 heard & seen in field on the West side of Ilkley in June
1 heard calling at Menston July 9th J.B. (O.M.P.)
- Turtle Dove. 1 nesting at Riffa in early May. H.M.
- Rock Census. This census was organised in our district by Mr. J. Busby one of our members, he has been assisted by other members and the results are as follows:-

continued.....

Rook Census - continued.

In 1953 there were 19 rookeries with 723 nests.

In 1954 there were 25 rookeries with 734 nests.

Nearly all the rookeries are over or near roads with the exception of one at Weston and this is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the road. There have been no rooks in the Woodhead or Menston district during the years counted but there used to be rookeries there and the old sites are still in existence. Rooks in this area seem to keep as low as possible in altitude, yet just outside the area there is a large rookery at Hawksworth which must be nearly 800ft high. J.B. The area counted extends between Cocken End, Ilkley and Farnley Park, Otley.

List of Initials.

H.J.W.	MR. H.J. WILLIAMSON
A.C.M.D.	MR. A.C.M. DUNCAN
J.B.	MR. JOHN BUSBY
O.M.P.	MRS. O.M. PENNOCK
W.F.F.	MR. W.F. FEARNLEY
K.C.C.	DR. K.C. CROSBIE
E.A.W.G.	MISS. E. GILL
H.M.	MR. H. MARJORAM
E.S.S.	MR. E.S. SKINNER
H.E.A.	MR. ADAMSON
A.E.P.	MR. A.E. PULLAN
H.A.R.	MR. H.A. ROBINSON
V.H.	MR. V. HUDDLESTONE
C.G.B.	MR. C.G. BOOTH

TRAP REPORT

Since we made our last bird-ringing report there has been a change made in the ringing year. At the request of the British Trust for Ornithology this has been altered from Oct. 1st - Sept. 30th to January 1st - December 30th. Our present report is therefore for 15 months, that is, from October 1st 1953 to December 31st 1954. During this period 654 birds have been ringed of 44 different species. Since we built our first trap in 1948, 2647 birds have been ringed of 67 species namely:- Blackbird, Bullfinch, Yellow Bunting, Reed Bunting, Chaffinch, Cuckoo, Curlew, Dipper, Mallard, Dunnock, Spotted Flycatchers, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Blackheaded Gull, Hawfinch, Kestrel, Jackdaw, Lapwing, Skylark, Linnet, House Martin, Sand Martin, Moorhen, Tawny Owl, Little owl, Oyster Catcher, Wood Pigeon, Meadow Pipit, Tree Pipit, Golden Plover, Robin, Redpoll, Redshank, Redstart, Black Redstart, Redwing, Rook, Common Sandpiper, Snipe, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Starling, Swallow, Swift, Teal, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Longtailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Yellow wagtail, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler, Wren, Wheatear, Whinchat, Whitethroat, Woodcock, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Brambling.

We have not had any long distance recoveries during the period 1953 to 1954 but there have been several of great interest.

<u>Species.</u>	<u>Ringed.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>
Chaffinch	2.1.50.	2.2.52.....1.1.54.
Blackbird	26.2.50.	31.1.54.
Blackbird	15.7.50.	26.1.52.....30.1.54.
Blackbird	23.4.51.	27.1.52..... 6.1.53..28.2.54
Great Tit	12.3.52.	2.2.54.
Starling.	10.3.52.	22.4.54.

Quite a number of birds ringed in 1953 were caught again in 1954.

W.F. Fearnley.
Recorder.

DUCK COUNTS 1954

The following reservoirs were counted regularly - Lindley, Swinsty & Fewston in the Washburne Valley, and Grimwith near Grassington.

Mallard, Widgeon & Teal were most numerous in January on all the waters. Whooper Swans occurred on Swinsty in January, February and March, with a maximum of 6 on January 3rd. A flock of about 50 Pochard with 1 drake Scamp were seen on Swinsty at the same date, as well as 2 drake Pintail. Golden eye and Tufted Ducks were usually seen in small numbers early in the year. 2 Female Swans and 1 Goosander were seen on Lindley on February 14th, and there were 17 Goosanders on Swinsty on March 17th.

From August to the end of the year, numbers of ducks seemed smaller than usual. The most noteworthy of the rarer ducks were 11 Shoveller seen on Lindley on Sept. 26th and 2 immature Long-Tailed Ducks which spent about a month on Fewston during November. The earliest Whooper Swans of this winter were seen on Fewston on Oct 24th. Canada Geese were very variable, as usual and were seen on one or other of the reservoirs on most count dates, with a maximum of 16 seen on Fewston on August 1st.

Apart from the ducks seen, it was noted that a mixed flock of Gulls were using Swinsty Reservoir as a roost at night. In October there were about 300 Lesser Black backed Gulls and a few Herring and Greater Black backed using it, and it was estimated that about 1000 Gulls were roosting there in December, about 400 of them being Black Headed Gulls.

E.S. Skinner.