

TRANSACTIONS
of the
WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
VOL. XVI
JANUARY - DECEMBER, 1961

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

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	<u>CONTENTS</u>		
	page		page
1961 in Retrospect	2	Mammals and Amphibians	11
Obituaries	4	Wing Measurements	12
Programmes	5	Bird Records	13
Weather Report	6	Bird Ringing Report	18
Botanical Section	7	Wildfowl Counts	18
Entomological Section	9		

2.
1961 IN RETROSPECT.

1961 was perhaps not so spectacular for the Society as 1960, nevertheless members continued their activities with enjoyment and enthusiasm. The number of members has remained above the 180 level, at the end of 1961 being 184: 4 honorary members, 153 ordinary members and 27 juniors. The honorary members are all gamekeepers in the district, namely Mr. F. Ball at Denton, Mr. O. Cornish at Langbar, Mr. Forder at Farnley and Mr. G. Harrison in Ilkley. Having retired from keeping on Burley Moor, Mr. W. Flesher expressed his wish to become an ordinary member. The Society is always grateful for the help given by the gamekeepers, and for their records of any interesting animals and plants.

The financial position at the end of March 1961 was satisfactory, with a small surplus on the year's working and a balance of over £14 in the Research Fund. Subscriptions remain at 10/- and 2/6.

At the Dinner the special guests were Mr. I.J. Ferguson-Lees and Mr. R. Spencer who gave a very entertaining joint talk with colour slides about their recent bird-watching trip to Bulgaria.

On April 29th the Society put up an exhibit on The River Wharfe in Spring at the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union exhibition in Sheffield. It was a combined effort by several members and earned praise from Y.N.U. officials.

During the summer the outings were well attended, only one being cancelled for heavy rain.

The day excursion to Leighton Moss and Silverdale under the leadership of the President proved very enjoyable, with a choice of three walks, and plenty of birds and flowers to see.

In July the Craven Naturalists came to Ilkley and were shown some of the features of Ilkley Moor by members of the Society.

The Saturday afternoon excursion was by kind permission of Mr. R. Tottie of Coniston Hall. After a walk through the woods and round the lake, members had a picnic on the terrace and watched the birds on the lake.

In September the Society returned to the Grove Schoolroom for meetings, as the new arrangements gave more accommodation than before.

Once more an open meeting was held in the Lecture Hall, filled to capacity for a showing of the latest R.S.P.B. film.

Two members' evenings were held. At the November one there was a showing of South African colour slides of flowers and birds by the President, other members' slides, and recordings of bird songs. The following junior members brought and set out exhibits, making a very attractive display: Jenifer Baker, Frazer Benson, Beverley Dennison, Mark Fearn, Stephen Flood and David Peace.

The February meeting was for Sectional Reports, a recording presented by Mr. C.G. Booth about catching moths with Mr. James Cadbury, Moorland slides by Mrs. F.C. Draper, and a Brains Trust answering questions about the Ilkley Moor Survey.

The Ilkley Camera Club challenged the Society to a Natural History colour slide battle in January, 1962. The slides were judged by Mrs. Roy of Pool, and the Naturalists were the victors.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

1961 was the centenary year of the Y.N.U. and twelve members of the Society attended the Centenary Dinner on December 1st held at Leeds University in the presence of H.R.H. the Princess Royal, Patron of the Union.

In addition members of the Society have supported both outdoor and indoor meetings of the Union.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' TRUST

In December it was announced that part of Grass Wood including Dewbottom Scar is to be managed by the Y.N.T. The Society is represented on the management committee by the Hon. Secretary, and another member, Mr. A. Hartley of the Forestry Commission is also on this committee.

ILKLEY MOOR SURVEY

Work continued steadily throughout the year on the Moorland Survey. In June Dr. Bartley and Miss Hewitt of Leeds University came over and carried out probes in an endeavour to establish the age of the peat deposit on Crawshaw Moss from pollen analysis. The peat here is over 12 feet deep in the centre, and samples were taken from varying depths for analysis. A preliminary report has been received.

Further work was done on the distribution of the flowering plants and bryophytes, and concern was expressed over the draining of the small bog near the Tarn where in 1960 20 plants of the Lesser Twayblade were discovered. This plant was considered 'extinct' in 1885 so it was an exciting find, but unfortunately this year there were only nine plants and only two of them flowered, and the site is becoming very choked with crowberry.

These small bogs on the moor are of fascinating interest as each has its individual problems and all are different. Members who have been seen sitting in the middle of bogs working with a contraption looking like a knitting machine are actually recording each plant at 5 cm. intervals; the final result when worked out on a graph gives a remarkably true picture of the vegetation.

Besides bogs a record of the succession of plants recolonising the burnt areas is being carried out and several permanent transects and studies of plant communities have been established. These are, however, a long term project and full results will not be complete for some years.

More species of moths have been added to the moorland list but 1961 was a poor season for butterflies. A great deal of work has been done on other insects and on spiders, and we hope to have a full report later.

The section on the Ecology of the Crowberry has been published in The Naturalist, and a report of the Fungi will be offered in the near future. An account of the Mammals based on a recorded discussion with Mr. Walter Flesher has already been submitted to the Editor of The Naturalist.

OBITUARIES

It is with sorrow that the deaths of two well-loved former Presidents of the Society are recorded. Mr. H.J. Williamson and Lt.-Col. R.S.P. Bates both did valuable work for the Society, Mr. Williamson as Honorary Treasurer and Colonel Bates in pioneering the bird ringing activities of the Ornithological Section.

Mr. H.J. WILLIAMSON

Some people appreciate living things as naturally as they breathe. To H.J. the love of Natural History, and especially bird-watching was a hobby, but it was also an expression of his attitude to life.

He responded warmly to beauty, and enjoyed common birds, beasts and flowers with a zest which quietly influenced younger people.

He was not, in the strict sense, scientifically interested in Ornithology but he had something which is probably rarer, a non-sentimental deep and lasting interest in birds for their own sakes.

He extracted from half a century's field experience values which became an integral part of his character.

His most complete work was probably his study of British Grasses, on which he was at one time an expert. He collected every species growing in Britain. At this stage in his life, H.J. was a member of the Bradford Naturalists' Society, (later he became a life member) and his contemporaries included H.B. Booth, and other well known Yorkshire Naturalists. Later he transferred his active support to the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society, of which he was a founder member. Many younger members there remember his kindly encouragement.

One simply must comment on one of his many lovable traits. He believed the best about his fellows, and firmly translated this into action. Carp, cant and destructive criticism were entirely foreign to his nature, which was never other than courteous and unassuming.

Although field naturalists of his calibre are rare enough today when specialists thrive, it is as a warm, tolerant human being that he is most missed.

J.B.N.

Lt.-Col. R.S.P. BATES

From the founding of the Society until he moved to Surrey Colonel Bates was an indefatigable worker both manually and mentally. One of the prime movers in the construction of the bird-ringing station at Ben Rhydding filter beds, he gave considerable time and energy to bird-ringing. He was adept at making small bird traps, some of which are still in use today.

Colonel Bates served almost 30 years in the Indian Army during which time he managed to do much bird photography. He was the author of "Bird Life in India" (1930), and co-author of "Breeding Birds of Kashmir" (1952), and was a member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

He was a very good companion, the life and soul of the party, with a fund of anecdotes. He tackled all his natural history activities with the vigour and enthusiasm of youth, which helped and inspired younger members. Although he was a great authority on birds and a very keen observer, he was always modest about his achievements. The Society owes much to him for setting a high standard of Ornithological work.

5.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1961

Evenings:		Leaders
May 9	Middleton Woods	R.C. Parkinson
May 16	Bolton Abbey	L.G. Dewdney A.C.M. Duncan
May 23	Burley Moor for Moorland Survey Work	
May 30	Nesfield	Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Baker
June 6	Denton	F. Ball
June 13	Ilkley Moor for Moorland Survey Work	
June 20	Ben Rhydding	W. Flesher
June 27	Cow and Calf for Moorland Survey Work	
July 4	Kex Beck	Misses P. and B. Knowles
July 11	Spicey Beck for Moorland Survey Work (cancelled)	
July 18	Farnley Lake	H.N. Cameron
July 25	Burley Moor for Moorland Survey Work	
Saturday afternoons:		
July 29	Visit of Craven Naturalists to Ilkley Moor	
Aug. 12	Coniston Cold	Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan
Full day by coach:		
June 11	Leighton Moss and Silverdale	Dr. R.A.W. Procter

WINTER PROGRAMME 1961-62

Sep. 19	A Naturalist in Yorkshire	John Armitage
Oct. 3	Dolomite Flora	F. Murgatroyd
Oct. 10	R.S.P.B. colour film Reserved for Birds	
Oct. 17	Wild Geese in Britain	Hugh Boyd
Oct. 31	The Tale of Three Beetles	J.H. Fidler
Nov. 14	Members' Evening	
Nov. 28	Flowers of the Craven Limestone	O.L. Gilbert
Dec. 12	In Search of Colour	G.A. Newby
Jan. 16	A Photographer's Notebook	H. Marjoram
Jan. 30	Natural History colour slide Battle with Ilkley Camera Club	
Feb. 13	1961 in Retrospect	
Feb. 27	The Entomologist in the Garden	A.H. Mallinson
Mar. 13	Wild Animals in Yorkshire	J.R. Govett
Mar. 30	Annual Dinner at the Lister's Arms Hotel, Ilkley	
Apr. 10	Annual General Meeting	

The thanks of the Society are due to all those, both members and visitors who have contributed to the above programmes, and to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette for publishing reports of meetings.

WEATHER REPORT

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
TEMPERATURE												
degrees F												
Highest maximum	53	57	63	65	74	81	74	83	76	62	57	54
Lowest minimum	23	29	30	32	34	37	45	41	39	36	28	17
Mean F	34.9	42.9	46.5	48.2	51.0	57.6	57.8	58.5	61.5	50.7	43	33.4
degrees C	1.7	6.0	8.7	9.0	10.6	14.1	14.3	14.7	14.4	10.3	6.5	2.7
SUNSHINE hours												
Monthly total	-	45.8	120.2	84.5	123.7	169.4	131.3	186.1	113.3	91.0	60.9	27.7
RAINFALL												
No. of days .2" or over	13	7	3	6	3	1	5	4	5	7	4	10
Monthly total	4.64	3.04	0.64	4.27	1.51	1.29	3.34	2.46	3.61	3.18	1.99	4.20
Annual total	35.17 inches											
WIND FORCE												
Number of days												
8 or more	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 7	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
4 - 5	5	8	4	1	3	2	3	3	1	5	2	2
1 - 3	25	20	25	29	27	28	26	28	29	26	27	27
calm	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-

Sunshine record not available for January, hence no annual sunshine total.

The year was an average one in respect of sunshine, rainfall and temperature taking it as a whole. March was a dry month, April was rather wetter than usual with a shortage of sunshine. May remained cold throughout the month. The end of August and beginning of September brought a really fine warm week but this broke down with a thunderstorm on the night of 2nd to 3rd September. The thunderstorm was one of the most prolonged in living memory, two inches of rain being recorded, with 1.89 inches on the 2nd and 0.2 the next day. September had three other days on which 0.2 or more inches of rain fell one of these being on 29th September after a drier spell. This made it a wetter month than usual.

The end of the year gave an unusually cold spell for December, beginning with fog, frost and snow, then a mild period, the snow melting. Fog returned followed by frost night and day, which gave several days skating on the Tarn. This was followed by a fall of 6 inches of snow. London and the south had more snow, and Scotland had more continued snowfall.

Our thanks are due to the staff of the Surveyor's Office for supplying the weather data.

A.C.M. DUNCAN

BOTANICAL SECTION

List of Fungi recorded

Coprinus atramentarius (Ink cap) Beech stump, Burley. April
Polyporus squamosus (Dryad's Saddle) Dead tree, Burley Woodhead.
 April, fruited again in August
Tricholoma gambosum (St. George's Mushroom) In turf. Ilkley Moor,
 April and Burley Woodhead, May.
Polyporus sulphureus (Sulphur Polypore) NEW RECORD. On dead oak at
 Bolton Abbey, May.
Pleurotus ostreatus (Oyster Mushroom) Dead tree Burley Woodhead,
 in June
Agaricus xanthoderma (yellow-staining Mushroom) In turf, Robin Hole,
 Burley Woodhead, June.
Phallus impudicus (Stink-horn) In bracken, Burley Woodhead and Ben
 Rhydding in July, Middleton Woods and Valley of Desolation, November
Coprinus ~~u~~micaceus on dead wood, Ben Rhydding, August
Russula cyanoxantha under trees, Ben R., August
R. xerampelina Plantation, Burley, August
Collybia radicata (Rooting Shank) Burley Woodhead, August
Hygrophorus nigrescens in turf, Burley Woodhead, August
Psilocybe semilanceata (Liberty Cap) in turf Burley Woodhead, August
Hypholoma velutinum in grass, Burley Woodhead, August
Boletus chrysenteron (Cracked-cap Boletus) in turf, Robin Hole, Aug.
Agaricus arvensis (Horse Mushroom) pasture, Burley Woodhead, August
A. campestris (Field Mushroom) pasture, Burley Woodhead, September
Coprinus squamosus (Shaggy Cap) pasture, Burley Woodhead, September
Lepiota cristata (Crested Parasol) in grass, Ben Rhydding, Sept.
 In pasture, Burley Woodhead, September:
Stropharia semiglobata, Coprinus plicatilis, Bolbitius vitellinus,
Panaeolus campanulatus, P. sphinctrinus, Clavaria vermicularis,
C. corniculatus, Hygrophorus pratensis, H. coccineus, H. niveus.
Mutinus caninus (Dog Stink-horn) Middleton Woods, November.

SPHAGNA or BOG MOSSES

There are 34 species of Sphagna or bog mosses listed as occurring in the British Isles and 13 of them grow on Ilkley Moor.

Identification of Sphagna is difficult and generally involves microscopic examination - even the experts will rarely commit themselves and name a species in the field - I am grateful to Miss U.K. Duncan for her unfailing help in identifying these species.

Sphagna have a wide range of colour from deep crimsons through chestnut to almost white but unfortunately we do not get these vivid colours on the moor, presumably because of atmospheric pollution which affects the quality of the light, for the colours do not develop where the plant grows in shade. The best we can manage is a mild shade of pink occasionally.

The species listed below were all found on Ilkley and Burley Moors.

List of Sphgna

- S. palustre* Linn. widespread on lower slopes
S. papillosum Lindb. widespread on lower slopes
S. teres (schp) Angstr. occasional in bogs
S. squarrosum Pers. ex Crome. in less acid flushes
S. recurvum P. Beauv. abundant especially with rushes
S. cuspidatum Ehrh ex Hoffm. in very wet places, often submerged
S. subsecundum var *inundatum* (Russ) C.Jens. in wet places
S. subsecundum var *auriculatum* (Schp) Lindb. often submerged
S. fimbriatum Wils. often beside streams
S. russowii Warnst. occasional. NEW RECORD for V.C. 64
S. nemoreum Scop. occasional
S. plumosum Roll. widespread
S. rubellum Wils. occasional and only a mild pink at best.

FLOWERING PLANTS

There was a warm spell in early spring bringing out many flowers. This was followed by colder weather which slowed down flowering.

Early dates for spring flowers:

- Jan. 1st Barren Strawberry, Aconite (Burley)
 Feb. 1st Male flowers of Hazel
 Feb. 3 - 12 Celadine. (Paceroft, Bolton Abbey, Washburn, Ilkley)
 Feb. 11 Coltsfoot, Daisy, Snowdrop (Washburn)
 Feb. 10 Spring Whitlow grass (Bolton Abbey)
 Feb. 19 Male Alder, Female Hazel, Male Dog's Mercury, Elm.
 Mar. 5 Butterbur
 Mar. 12 Wood Anemone } Ilkley
 Mar. 21 Bluebell }
 Mar. 4 Three-fingered Saxifrage (Grassington)
 Mar. 28 Male and female Crowberry (Ilkley)

Plants recorded for the first time by the Society:

- Euphrasia nemorosa* July 30 (Buckden)
Polygala amara August 17 (Skirethorn)
Bupleurum protractum July 21 weed in old hen run (Ben Rhydding)
Eleocharis australica July 30 (Buckden) Y.N.U. excursion.
Carex strigosa Sept. 16 (Middleton Woods) shown by Mr. G.A.Shaw

New stations for plants, and general observations:

Scrophularia umbrosa (Western figwort) and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (Water Speedwell) were found to be still present in the stream at Kilnsey.

At Appletreewick a large patch of Purple Loosestrife was found in full flower, and the Yellow Loosestrife was flowering well in Bolton Woods.

A new station for Heath Spotted Orchis was found near Panorama Drive.

Specimens of *Raphanus raphanistrum* (Wild Radish) were collected of five different petal shades: white, white with dark veins, pale yellow, pale yellow with dark veins and darker yellow.

F.C. DRAPER (Fungi) M. DALBY (Sphagna)

J.E. DUNCAN
Recorder

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

LEPIDOPTERA

10 species of butterflies and 126 species of moth were recorded.
List of Butterflies:

Pararge megera (Wall Brown) Near Farnley Lake May 13
Coenonympha pamphilus (Small Heath) Burley Woodhead June 6.
Common on the moor during June. One seen on August 29.
Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral) Burley Woodhead July 6, Ilkley on
Sept. 20. Frequent at Burley Woodhead and Ben Rhydding during the
latter half of September.
V. cardui (Painted Lady) Ben Rhydding May 23
Aglais urticae (Small Tortoiseshell) Ilkley Feb 10, Ben Rhydding
March 8, Burley Woodhead March 16, and several in August.
Nymphalis io (Peacock) Washburn valley below Lindley May 10.
Lycaena phlaeas (Small Copper) Burley Woodhead June 24, Ben
Rhydding August 28, Burley Woodhead August 29 and September 25.
Pieris brassicae (Large White) Burley Woodhead May 2, Burley Moor,
one on August 29.
P. rapae (Small White) Burley Woodhead August 28
P. napi (Green-veined White) Burley Woodhead May 29, Washburn
valley May 10, several on Burley Moor August 29.

New records of moths:

m.v.l. - caught at mercury vapour light.
Notodonta dromedarius (Iron Prominent) Burley Woodhead July 10 mvl.
Euproctis chryorrhoea (Yellow or Gold Tail) Otley July 22. Larvae
numerous on hawthorn hedge in Pool Road during June.
Apatele megacephala (Poplar Grey) Burley Woodhead July 1 (m.v.l.)
Hadena serena (Broad-barred White) " " " "
H. conspersa (Marbled Coronet) " " " "
Bombycia viminalis (Minor Shoulder Knot) " " August 23 "
Procus fasciunculus (Middle-barred Minor) " " June 24 "
Cosmia trapezina (Dunbar) bred from larva collected from Hawthorn
at Burley Woodhead. July 3.
Conistra vaccinii (Chestnut) Menston Feb. 13 (m.v.l.)
Abrostola triplasia (Dark Spectacle) Burley Woodhead July 1 (mvl)
Dysstroma citrata (Dark Marbled Carpet) " " Sept. 3 "
Thera obeliscata (Grey Pine Carpet) " " May 12 "
Alsophila aescularia (March Moth) " " March 16 "
Phigalia pilosaria (Pale Brindled Beauty) " " Feb. 20 "
Biston betularia (Peppered Moth) " " June 14 "
Ilkley June 22
Dyscia fagaria (Grey Scalloped Bar) Burley Woodhead June 9.
Selenia lunaria (Lunar Thorn) Burley Woodhead June 7 (m.v.l.)

F.C. DRAPER
Recorder

OTHER INSECTS

List of species collected:

	Locality	Habitat	Date
<u>Loderus vestigalis</u> Klg.	Above Spicey : Beck	on Crowberry	Apr. 10
<u>Velia caprea</u> Tam.	Spicey Beck	on water	Apr. 16
<u>Cicindella campestris</u> L.	Lanshaw	dry path	Apr. 21
<u>Notiophilus biguttatus</u> F.	Barmishaw	on path	May 10
"	Hangingstones Quarry	under stones	July 7
<u>Myrmica ruginodes</u> Mg.	Panorama	on nettles	May 22
"	Carr Bottom reservoir	on heather	May 23
"	Black Beck	on vegetation	June 13
<u>Agriotes pallidulatus</u> Ill	Panorama	on nettles	May 22
<u>Ceuthorrhynchus quadrimaculatus</u> F.	Panorama	on nettles	May 22
<u>Haltica ericiti</u> F.	Lanshaw	on heather	Apr. 4
"	Carr Bottom reservoir	on heather	May 23
<u>Cassida rubiginosa</u> L.	Lanshaw	on thistle	Nov. 11
<u>Lochmea suturalis</u> Thom.	Carr Bottom reservoir	on heather	May 23
<u>Gerris lacustris</u> (L)	Upper Tarn	on water	May 31
"	Barmishaw	on pool	July 29
<u>G. gibbifer</u> Sol.	Upper Tarn	on water	May 31
<u>Nemoura camberica</u> St.	Cowside Beck	on hawthorn	June 2
<u>Corymbites aeneus</u> (L)	Barmishaw	on path	June 2
<u>Rhagonycha limbata</u> Th.	Panorama	on nettles	June 13
<u>R. lignosa</u> Ml.	Panorama	on nettles	June 13
<u>Agriotes obscurus</u> L.	Panorama	on nettles	June 13
<u>Trichoniscus roseus</u>	Cow Close	under stones by beck	July 6
<u>Oniscus asellus</u>	Cow Close	"	July 6
<u>Bombus pratorum</u>	Cow Close	on thistles	July 6
<u>Chalcoides fulvicornis</u> F.	Cow Close	on nettles	July 6
<u>Calocoris norvegicus</u> (Gb.)	Cow Close	by sweeping	July 6
<u>Ephemerella ignata</u> (Pol.)	Cow Close	"	July 6
<u>Crepidodera ferruginata</u> Scop.	Cow Close	"	July 6
"	Rushy Beck	thistle flower head	Aug. 10
<u>Phylobius urticae</u>	Cow Close	by sweeping	July 6
<u>Agabus bipustulatus</u> (L.)	Spicey Beck	on water	July 11
<u>Notophilus substriatus</u> Lch.	Hangstones Quarry	under stones	July 7
"	"	"	July 9
"	Near Cow and Calf	on crowberry	Apr. 18
<u>Trigoxotylus rufornis</u> Gf.	Hangingstones Quarry	under stones	July 9
<u>Calathus melanocephalus</u> L.	Hangingstones Quarry	under stones	July 9
<u>Formica fusca</u> F.	Stoney Beck	on rushes & fern etc.	July 25

<u>Species</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Opheon luteus</u> L.	Burley	bred	Aug. 22
<u>Aphidecta oblitterata</u> L.	Burley Moor	on larches	Aug. 15
<u>Aphodius fossor</u> L.	Rushy Ravine	in turf	July 27
<u>Carabus nitens</u> L.	Burley Moor	amongst mat grass	May 11
<u>Bombus terrestris</u> L.	Coldstone Ravine	dead in grass	May 11
<u>Pedicia rivosa</u> L.	Hugh Lanshaw	amongst grass	June 29
"	Coldstone Ravine	Amongst grass	Aug. 16
<u>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</u> (Subz.)	Coldstone Ravine	amongst rushes	July 24
<u>Enallagma cyathigerum</u> (Charp)	High Lanshaw	on floating vegetation	July 29
"	Carr Bottom	on rushes	July 1
<u>Aeshna juncea</u> (L)	Coldstone Ravine	on gorse	July 25
"	Coldstone Ravine	in flight	July 24
<u>Vespa vulgaris</u> (L)	Coldstone Ravine	visiting bilberry	May 3
<u>Forficula auricularia</u> L.	Coldstone Ravine	gorse bush	Aug. 16
<u>Coccinella septempunctata</u> L.	Coldstone Ravine	Crowberry	July 24
<u>Sirex gigas</u>	Burley	on wood	November

J.H. FIDLER
Recorder

VERTEBRATE SECTION

MAMMALS AND AMPHIBIANS

<u>Badger</u>	Stainburn Ghyll, March - May and August; Denton.
<u>Long-tailed field mouse</u>	Ben Rhydding (caught in school garden) 1 on March 23, 4 on March 26, 01 on April 28. Seen at Riffa June 27
<u>Fox</u>	Riffa April 4; Stead Wood, Burley Woodhead March 30
<u>Brown Hare</u>	2 male in pasture Burley Woodhead March 30 in pasture at Askwith April 3. common at Riffa young in meadow at Burley May 18
<u>Newts</u>	Common and Palmated newts in water piped from Hartley's reservoir Burley Woodhead to swimming pool Ben Rhydding May 18
<u>Mole</u>	Common
<u>Rabbit</u>	all areas in fair numbers. Young 8-9 weeks old Burley April 7 4 young with myxomatosis Robin Hole June 27 One dead from myxomatosis near Tarn July 28
<u>Grey Squirrel</u>	Ilkley July 14 and Sept. 16; Addingham Moorside July 14, Nesfield October 3; Scalebor Park June 21.
<u>Red Squirrel</u>	Farnley June 12 <u>Bank Vole</u> caught in trap
<u>Toad</u>	from all areas common H. MARJORAM Recorder
<u>Pygmy Shrew</u>	Coldstone Ravine Aug. 7
<u>Common Shrew</u>	caught in trap Ben Rhydding March 19.

WING MEASUREMENTS OF HEDGE SPARROW

Ilkley 1956-61

m/m	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	total	range	m/m
adults	-	-	9	14	19	13	15	7	3	80	66 - 72	
juveniles	1	9	8	9	8	3	1	-	-	39	64 - 70	
										<u>119</u>		
The Handbook of British Birds (Witherby)										12	64 - 71	
Fair Isle Bird Observatory (Vol.4 no.7 1961)										102	64 - 74	

WING MEASUREMENTS OF BLACKBIRDS

Ilkley 1956-61

m/m	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	total	range	
♂ 1st w.	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	1	4	6	6	1	1	3	2	-	2	2	37	120-138	
♂ 2nd w.	2	-	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	4	5	-	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	30	120-137	
♀ 1st w.	3	4	-	2	6	9	5	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	43	120-133	
♀ 2nd w.	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	
																				total	range	
The Handbook of British Birds (Willerby)																				♂	12	117 - 134
																				♀	12	118 - 128
Fair Isle Bird Observatory (Vol.4 no.7 1961)																				♂	742	118 - 141
																				♀	697	118 - 137

WING MEASUREMENTS OF JUVENILE BLACKBIRDS

m/m	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	total	range	
MAY			1				2			1		2								1	7	116-130
JUN				1				2		1	1	1	1	2	2	2					13	117-129
JUL	1				1			1	1	1		2	2	6	1	3	2			1	22	114-132
AUG							1		2			2	1	2	1	2					11	120-129
SEP						1	2		2			4	3	1							13	119-127
	1	-	1	1	1	1	5	3	5	3	1	11	7	11	4	7	3	-	1	66	114-132	

Do wings become longer as birds grow older?

Measurements:-

S90708	1st w.	♂	126 mm.	Jan/59,	132 mm.	Apr/60,	134 mm.	Dec/61
S90712	"	"	123 mm.	Jan/59,	127 mm.	Aug/59		
X96082			133 mm.	Feb/56,	137 mm.	Jun/59 and Jun/60		
S66156	juv		130 mm.	Jul/56,	♂ 138 mm.	Apr/60		
S66183	"		125 mm.	Sep/56,	♂ 129 mm.	Oct/60		
V44949	"		127 mm.	Jul/58,	♂ 130 mm.	Jun/60		
R86950	"		125 mm.	Aug/59,	♀ 127 mm.	May/61		

C.G. BOOTH M.B.O.U.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

BIRD RECORDS

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

31 Mar. Pair at Farnley Lake, one sitting

10 Sept. Two young seen on Farnley Lake, birds also seen on Lindley, Swinsty and Chelker reservoirs

LITTLE GREBE

13 Apr. Two on Farnley Lake

22 May Two on Farnley Lake; also on river Wharfe during Oct. & Nov.

MALLARD

22 May Six ducks with broods of ducklings on Farnley Lake

Eight ducklings on Swinsty reservoir

5 Sept. Duck with eight young on Chelker reservoir

TEAL

23 Jan. Six on Lanshaw dam

WIDGEON

12 Nov. Eight on Swinsty reservoir

SHOVELER

12 Nov. Three pairs at Lindley reservoir

TUFTED DUCK

Have been noted on Lindley, Farnley and Swinsty reservoirs during most of the year.

POCHARD

4 Nov. 64 On Lindley reservoir

GOLDENEYE

18 Feb. one at Lindley reservoir, 19 Feb. three at Lindley reservoir

LONG-TAILED DUCK

12 Feb. Two on Swinsty reservoir

GOOSANDER

26 Jan. At least five on river at Mickle Ing

GREY GEESE

23 Feb. Nine flying west over Ilkley cemetery

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

23 Feb. One flying west over Ilkley and calling

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

10 Jan. Flock flying west over Riffa

CANADA GOOSE

18 Feb. Two on Lindley reservoir 8 Oct. Three on Lindley reservoir
 12 Nov. Two on Swinsty; a flock of over 100 often seen at Swinsty
 and Fewston reservoirs

MUTE SWAN

7 May A pair with nest at Farnley Lake
 22 May Young in nest at Farnley Lake

WHOOPEE SWAN

6 Nov. Two on Swinsty reservoir

BUZZARD

November One seen several times in the Lindley area

KESTREL

22 Feb. A female swooped up to a living room window chasing a vole
 at Burley Woodhead
 December One found dead at Leathley mill

MOORHEN

22 May Twelve on Farnley Lake

COOT

Frequently seen at Farnley Lake throughout the year
 5 Mar. 22 counted at once on Farnley Lake.
 14 Nov. Two on Denton Lake

LAPWING

7 Sept. Flock of 300 at Riffa

GOLDEN PLOVER

7 Sept. Flock of 200 at Riffa; 11 May Four chicks on Burley Moor

TURNSTONE

1 Aug. One at Chelker Reservoir

SNIPE

11 May Four broods of four chicks each above Lanshaw dam

WOODCOCK

22 Mar. One in Stead wood, Burley Woodhead
 7 May One disturbed from nest near Farnley Lake

CURLEW

15 Feb. At Riffa.
 3 June Nest with three eggs Burley Moor, chicks hatched 4 June

WHIMBREL

19 Apr. Two flying over Ilkley Moor
 11 May Two flying west over Ilkley Moor calling consistently

GREEN SANDPIPER

8 Aug. Two at Riffa; 7 Sept. Three at Riffa

COMMON SANDPIPER

29 Apr. Two caught and ringed at Ben Ryhdding sewage farm

REDSHANK

15 Feb. At Riffa; 31 Mar. Two in field at Farnley; 19 Apr. Two at Upper Tarn; 23 May Two at Crawshaw Moss; 21 May Pair with young in Scalebor Park

GREENSHANK

3 Sept. Six at Swinsty. 1 Oct. One flying over Ilkley S.S.W.

RUFF

24 Mar. One at Ilkley

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN

13 May Two were seen at Chelker reservoir at 4 p.m. and watched until 5 p.m., and were again watched from 8 p.m. to 8-30 p.m. Next morning they had gone

SANDWICH TERN

25 June Five at Ilkley sewage farm

CUCKOO

29 Apr. Seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds

23 June Young cuckoo in nest with three young Meadow Pipits all partly fledged.

27 June Only the cuckoo left; 3 July First flight of the young cuckoo

LITTLE OWL

16 Feb. A pair mating in a holly bush at Burley Woodhead

TAWNY OWL

18 Mar. One seen in opening at top of broken off tree trunk in the early morning near Panorama reservoir. On one occasion it was mobbed by rooks which had settled on the tree

SHORT-EARED OWL

31 May One on Ilkley Moor

SWIFT

23 Apr. One at Ilkley filter beds 26 Aug. One over Ilkley

GREEN WOODPECKER

8 Mar. One yaffling at Farnley

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

1 Jan. One in Heber's Ghyll

GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

22 May Nest with young in Scalebor Park

SKYLARK

29 June Nest with two eggs, Burley Moor

SWALLOW

9 Apr. One at Ben Rhydding, 27 Oct. One at Menston

HOUSE MARTIN

23 Apr. At Ben Rhydding filter beds

SAND MARTIN

7 Apr. Five at Ben Rhydding

ROOK

29 Mar. One without a tail near Pool bridge

GREAT TIT

21 Mar. Chasing sparrows from nesting site used last year

LONG-TAILED TIT

18 Feb. Seen at Bolton Abbey 2 Apr. Seen by side of Cow Close
26 Nov. Eight at Pawpots beck, Ilkley Moor

NUTHATCH

1 Jan. One in Ilkley Cemetery 8 Jan. One near New bridge
22 Jan. One in Middleton woods 24 Mar. Two in Middleton woods
22 Apr. Pair in Bolton woods 21 May One in nest box in
12 Sept. Four at Bolton Abbey Heber's Ghyll

TREE CREEPER

18 Feb. Seen at Bolton Abbey. Seen in Heber's Ghyll wood and
Panorama woods all the year round

DIPPER

24 Mar. Sitting on four eggs at Ilkley

FIELDFARE

25 Mar. About 12 between Lindley and Stainburn
30 Mar. 50 at Burley Woodhead, 6 Apr. 250 at Burley Woodhead
27 Oct. In numbers at Burley Woodhead

SONG THRUSH

16 Mar. Building at Burley Woodhead, 28 Mar. 4 eggs in same nest

RING OUSEL

18 Mar. One at Ilkley 3 Apr. A pair on Ilkley Moor

BLACKBIRD

1 Mar. Building in garden at Ilkley
14 Mar. Three fully feathered chicks

WHEATEAR

28 Mar. On Burley Moor

REDSTART

16 Apr. One at Middleton

ROBIN

5 Feb. One in garden in Burley had a mate
1 Mar. Same bird carrying nesting material

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

9 Apr. One at Ilkley filter beds

BLACKCAP

8 Apr. One caught and ringed at Ben Rhydding

GARDEN WARBLER

6 May One at Ben Rhydding

WHITETHROAT

23 Apr. One at Ben Rhydding

WILLOW WARBLER

5 Apr. One singing in Heber's Ghyll

CHIFF CHAFF

8 Apr. One in Middleton woods

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

6 May One at Ben Rhydding

DUNNOCK

6 Apr. Building in dwarf conifer on rockery, four eggs laid and three chicks fledged on 13 May. Another nest in another conifer 3 yards away, 28 June four eggs, three fledged.

MEADOW PIPIT

10 May Nest with five eggs at Burley; 23 June Nest with three chicks and one cuckoo, Burley Moor, 27 June Cuckoo only

TREE PIPIT

30 Apr. One at Ben Rhydding

GREY WAGTAIL

End of April nest with eggs at Lindley; 3 May young in this nest

YELLOW WAGTAIL

9 Apr. A male at Ben Rhydding filter beds

HAWFINCH

24 Mar. One in Middleton woods

SISKIN

5 Jan. 60 at Riffa 8 Jan. 16 at Addingham

LESSER REDPOLL

8 Jan. Six in Panorama woods

BULLFINCH

20 June A pair feeding amongst ^{ow}crab~~an~~berry on Burley Moor
1 Oct. A pair near Farnley Lake

BRAMBLING

25 Dec. Seven at Coldstone Beck

REED BUNTING

14 Mar. A pair in rushes on Burley Moor

SNOW BUNTING

10 Feb. Party of four on Ilkley Moor

HOUSE SPARROW

4 Mar. Nest in nest box in apple tree, King's Road

W.F. FEARNLEY
Recorder

BIRD RINGING REPORT

During 1961 we have ringed 1,055 birds of 49 different species, new to our list is the Goldfinch.

Recoveries of note

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed</u>	<u>Recovered</u>	<u>Place of recovery</u>
Snipe	Ilkley 31:7:59	1:1:61(dead)	Ballinafid Lake Multyfarnham, Ireland
Snipe	Ilkley 4:10:59	10:10:61(dead)	near Randers (Jutland) Denmark
Willow Warbler	Ilkley 7:5:60	26:8:61(dead)	Covelo (Pontevedra) Spain
Greenfinch	Ilkley 16:10:60	2:8:61(dead)	Shilbottle, Alnwick Northumberland
Meadow Pipit	Ilkley 7:5:60	6:1:61(dead)	Algorta (Vizcaya) Spain
Starling	Ilkley 13:12:59	22:7:60(dead)	Idritsa (Pskov) U.S.S.R.

Once again our thanks are due to members who are ringing for the Society and whose efforts enable us to produce this comprehensive report.

O.M. PENNOCK

WILDFOWL COUNTS

This year the reservoirs in the Washburn valley have been covered as in previous years, but Grimwith Reservoir near Grassington was not counted, as few ducks seemed to be found there and it could not be visited regularly.

A fair amount of ice formed on the reservoirs in January, otherwise there was little to affect the numbers of wildfowl using the reservoirs in the early part of the year. Water levels remained usual in the autumn, gradually filling up by December.

To facilitate comparison with previous years, details of which are given in the W.N.S. Transactions for 1960, the totals of wildfowl counted on the three Washburn reservoirs are summarised below:-

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	
Mallard	439	201	168	120	499	217	433	
Teal	9	4	65	60	53	49	110	
Widgeon	-	?	-	-	2	8	15	?some heard
Pochard	40	10	3	1	55	63	12	
Tufted Duck	65	25	42	42	40	48	27	
Goldeneye	22	16	21	1	1	10	9	

Other species recorded:-

WHOOPEE SWAN Two were seen on Swinsty during the first week of November by the reservoir foreman.

CANADA GOOSE As in previous years, Fewston reservoir seems to be the headquarters of the Washburn flock. 134 were recorded there on Dec. 17. A few birds do appear occasionally on the other two reservoirs.

SHOVELER One was seen on Swinsty on Sept. 17. Eleven were seen on Lindley on Oct. 15, and seven were still present there on Nov. 12.

GOOSANDER A party of six were seen on Lindley on Jan 15.

LONG-TAILED DUCK Two females were seen on Swinsty on Feb. 12.

E.S. SKINNER

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