

TRANSACTIONS

of the

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

VOL. VI.

JANUARY - DECEMBER 1952.

OFFICERS FOR SESSION 1951-52

President	G.R. Frost
Vice-President	Miss E.M. Brown
Hon. Secretary	Miss M. M. Bartle
Hon. Treasurer	L.S. Moss
Hon. Assistant Secretary and Librarian	Miss J.E. Bartle
Committee	A.C.M. Duncan H.Marjoram W.F.Fearnley H.Nicholas

REPORT OF THE SESSION 1951-52

MEMBERSHIP

We had pleasure in enrolling eight new members during the year, making the total membership 59 adults and 11 juniors. Our good wishes go to all those members who have had to resign from the Society.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Revenue account for the year ending 30th September 1952 showed a surplus of income over expenditure of 14/9, and a balance in the bank of £23.0.1. The subscription remained at 7/6 for adult members and 2/6 for junior members.

WINTER PROGRAMME

Oct.	2	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
Oct.	16	"INSECT PROTECTION"	D. M. Jesper
Oct.	30	MEMBERS' PAPERS: "A NATURALIST IN KENYA" "NUMBERS IN NATURE"	Dr. K. C. Crosbie Miss J. E. Bartle
Nov.	13	"TALKING ABOUT FLOWERS" Colour transparencies	J. Wilde
Nov.	27	"BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN SCANDINAVIA"	R. F. Dickens
Dec.	11	FILM EVENING at Ghyll Royd	
Jan.	8	RECORDERS' REPORTS AND EXHIBITS	
Jan.	22	"LIMESTONE FLORA IN WEST YORKSHIRE" Lantern	P. Jefferson
Feb.	5	R.S.P.B. Colour Films "BIRDS OF THE ORKNEY AND SHETLAND ISLANDS"	
Feb.	19	MEMBERS' PAPERS: "GEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS" "COLOUR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE", Lantern	B. Morrell A. C. M. Duncan

Mar.	4	"SLUGS AND SNAILS"	S.G. Appleyard
Mar.	18	COLOUR FILMS	T.H. Pighills and A.C. Whitehead
Apr.	1	SECTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	

We are grateful to visiting lecturers who came to speak on various branches of Natural History, and to the four members who gave papers. The R.S.P.B. film evening was particularly successful, and we were pleased to welcome many visitors and members of neighbouring Naturalists' Societies.

The Ornithological Section have continued their work in the Wild Fowl Census, and held a dinner at Riversdale Cafe with members of the Harrogate and District Natural History Society to discuss results.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Apr.	29	NESSFIELD. Botanical Section.	Leader: Miss J.E. Bartle
May	6	GEOLOGY SECTION.	Leader: Miss A. Stansfield
May	10	BOLTON WOODS. Ornithological Section.	
May	13	FARNLEY LAKE. Ornithological Section.	Leader: H.E. Adamson
May	14	GEOLOGY SECTION.	
May	17	NEW SCARBOROUGH: Pond Life. General.	Leader: Miss M. Jagger
May	20	MOORSIDE. Botanical and Entomological Sections:	Leader: G.R. Frost
May	25	FLAMBOROUGH. General.	Leader: G.R. Frost
May	27	Meeting for records and display of specimens.	
June	10	RIFFA WOODS. Ornithological Section. Leader: H. Marjoram GRASSINGTON for Grass Woods. Botanical Section.	
June	14	LITTON. Y.N.U. Meeting	
June	15	MALHAM. Joint meeting with Harrogate and District Natural History Society.	
June	17	CROOK FARM: Survey of Field. General.	
June	21	GEOLOGY SECTION.	Leader: Miss A. Stansfield
June	24	PANORAMA WOODS. Ornithological Section.	Leader: H. Clarke.
July	1	MOOR EDGE. Botanical and Geological Sections.	- Leader: Miss E.M. Brown.

- July 5 - 6 LINTON. General.
July 8 MIDDLETON MOOR. Ornithological Section. Leader: A.C.M. Duncan.
July 15 Meeting for Records and Display of Specimens.

We thank all leaders of excursions, and members who kindly provided transport by car on many occasions. The week-end at Linton enabled members to make further studies of the limestone districts, whilst the coach trip to Flamborough and Bempton, although outside our own area, provided opportunity for observing sea birds at the cliffs.

Some members spent an enjoyable day at Malham with the Harrogate and District Natural History Society's excursion.

Throughout the year the Ornithological Section have carried on work at the Bird Ringing Trap, which is reported elsewhere.

AFFILIATION

Members of the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society have attended meetings of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union to which the Society is affiliated. Miss E.M. Brown has been elected to the Plant Records and Ecological Committees of the Y.N.U.

ILKLEY GAZETTE

We are grateful to the Editor for giving publicity to the Society by printing reports of meetings.

BOTANICAL SECTION

The total number of species of flowering plants recorded from Wharfedale during 1952 was 309. Of these 19 were species recorded by the Society for the first time.

The winter was again fairly mild with cold dry weather in the early part of the year delaying the appearance of early flowering species. Flowering dates were, however, on the whole earlier than in 1951, until April and May. Many plants made good growth in May and June. In June and July a profusion of Rockrose and Selfheal was noted in the Grassington and Threshfield district.

The leafing of trees was earlier on the whole than last year and Autumn leaf fall particularly early in the lower part of Wharfedale. The colour changes before leaf fall were very striking, especially the redness of the leaves of Horsechestnut noted on the South side of the valley at Ilkley.

Fruiting of Horsechestnut and Sycamore was moderate but, following a good crop last year, no fruits were seen on Ash trees in the Ilkley area. Mountain Ash was good and Rose hips ripened early and gave a moderate crop.

FIRST FLOWERING DATES 1952

	1952	
Hazel (male and female)	Feb. 23	E.M.B.
Barren Strawberry	Feb. 23 Dec. 28	E.M.B.
Golden Saxifrage	Feb. 23	E.M.B.
Coltsfoot	Feb. 25	E.M.B.
Lesser Celadine	Mar. 11	N.S.
Wood Anemone	Apr. 6	J.B.
Primrose	Apr. 4	K.C.C.
Bluebell	Apr. 20	E.M.B.

LEAFING OF TREES - Ilkley at 450 ft. approx.

	<u>FULL LEAF</u> 1952	1951	<u>LEAF FALL</u> 1952	1951
Horsechestnut	Apr. 14	May 3	Oct. 24	Nov. 2
Sycamore	Apr. 22		Oct. 20	
Ash		June 3	Oct. 13	Oct. 22
Beech			Oct. 29	

PLANTS RECORDED FIRST TIME BY WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY 1952.

		<u>First Recorded From</u>	
Nasturtium sylvestre	Creeping Watercress	Denton	J.B.
Brassica synapsis	Charlock	Denton	J.B.
Rhaphanus raphanistrum	Wild Radish	Farnley	J.B.
Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St.John's Wort	Grassington	
Rhamnus catharticus	Buckthorn		
Spiraea Filipendula	Dropwort		
Rosa Glauca		Denton	J.B.
Saxifraga umbrosa	London Pride		
Carduus nutans	Musk Thistle	Denton	J.B.
Senecio aquatica	Marsh Ragwort	Denton	J.B.
Sonchus arvensis	Corn Sowthistle	Ilkley	J.B.
Gentiana campestris	Field gentian		
Scrophularia aquatica	Water Figwort	Denton	J.B.
Polygonum viviparum	Alpine or Viviparous Bistort		
Alisma Plantago-aquatica	Water plantain	Denton	
Scirpus lacustris	Bulrush	Farnley	J.B.
Trioda decumbens	Heath Grass	Kilnsey	
Koeleria cristata	Crested Hairgrass	Kilnsey	
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Slender False Brome	Threshfield	

Key to initials:

Miss J. Bartle Dr. K.C. Crosbie
Miss E.M. Brown Miss N. Saunders.

FERNS RECORDED BY WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

(A.C.M. Duncan)

The Latin names used are in accordance with "Welsh Ferns" by H.A.Hyde and A.E.Wade.

<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard fern
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's tongue fern
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort
<i>Asplenium viride</i>	Green spleenwort
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue
<i>Athyrium filix-foemina</i>	Lady fern
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle bladder fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad buckler fern
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft shield fern
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Hard shield fern
<i>Thelypteris oreopteris</i>	Mountain fern
<i>Thelypteris phegopteris</i>	Beech fern
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak fern
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	Limestone fern
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Polypody
NEW RECORD: May 20th 1952, Ilkley Moor.	
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adder's tongue fern (G.R.Frost)

E.M. Brown
Recorder.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

1 9 5 2

March	19	Bee seen flying	Ilkley	Miss McLaughlin
	23	Red Admiral	"	B. Morell
April	19	Small Tortoiseshell	"	G.R.F.
	3	Large White (female)	"	Miss N. Saunders
	5	Wasp	"	" "
	15	Painted Lady	"	" "
	20	Andrena bee burrowing	"	Miss E.M. Brown
	30	Knot Grass Moth (bred in captivity)		Miss M. Bartle
May	18	Brimstone Butterfly	"	Miss N. Saunders
	18	Orange Tip (Male)	Ben Rhydding	K. Crosbie
	20	Small White	"	G.R.F.
	20	Common Heath Moth	"	"
	21	White Ermine Moth	Ben Rhydding	Miss J. Bartle
	23	Common Blue	"	H. Nicholas
	24	Orange Tip	Ilkley	G.R.F.
	28	Small Heath	"	"
June	11	Several Orange Tips	"	"
	12	Common Blue	"	"
	30	Painted Lady	Beamsley Beacon: 1300 ft.	"
July	1	Yellow Underwing	Ilkley	"
	1	Poplar Hawk Moth	"	Miss E.M. Brown
	5 & 6	Common Blue, Small Heath, Small Tortoiseshell, & Sweep Moth	Grassington	A.C.M. Duncan & others.

July 8	Small Heath	Middleton Moor	A.C.M.Duncan
Aug 31	Painted Lady	Ilkley	G.R.F.

Species recorded:

Butterflies

Moths

Red Admiral

Knot Grass

Small Tortoiseshell

Common Heath

Large White

White Ermine

Small White

Yellow Underwing

Green-veined White

Poplar Hawk

Painted Lady

6. Sweep

Brimstone

Orange Tip

Small Heath

10. Common Blue

Another rather poor year for this Section but lack of knowledge, interest and observation is as much to blame as weather. It is gratifying, however, to note the re-appearance in the records of the Common Blue and Painted Lady, and the number of Orange Tips seen.

G. R. Frost.

Recorder.

GEOLOGICAL SECTION 1952

Work was started on the mapping of Nesfield sandstone, Middleton grit and the overlaying shales.

We should like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Holmes of Lobwood who, on our first evening excursion, very kindly allowed us to examine the section of Nesfield sandstone which is exposed in their garden.

During this and subsequent explorations, various out-croppings have been plotted, marine horizons in the shales overlaying Middleton grit located, material being collected.

The Saturday excursion on June 21st gave an opportunity of reaching the higher outcropping of Middleton grit at an interesting point, Ling Park Quarries, where fault line is inferred by the direction and extent of dip of the grit and the presence of flaggy sandstone exposed some yards away in Lurgy Delph.

A. Stansfield.
Recorder.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

- BLACKBIRD. Nest and 3 eggs 22.3.52. deserted later. Burley in Wharfedale. ESS.
Some nests still had eggs Ilkley in middle of May.1952.G.R.F.
- BLUE TIT 10 eggs hatched in box in Firbeck Wood Ilkley 22.5.52.GRF.
- BRAMBLING One with chaffinches in field between Denton & Marsh Ghyll. 16.1.52. WFF.
- BULLFINCH Found dead in garden Ilkley 30.11.52. A.C.M.D.
Nest and 5 eggs Ghyll Royd 19.5.52. GRF.
- CANADA GOOSE 4 flew over W.N.S. trap Ben Rhydding calling and flew westwards. 24.2.52. HJW.
A pair with 6 goslings Fewston 3.7.52.ACMD.
2 at Swinsty 27.4.52. OMP.
A pair on shore of Fewston Reservoir with at least 5 goslings 4.6.52. WFF. - 4 Fewston 19.9.52. JPB.
- CHAFFINCH. A cock with an injured wing captured on road between Denton and Marsh Ghyll 16.1.52. was bandaged and put in cage, fed on bread and coarse oatmeal, kept for three weeks but wing would not heal. OMP.
Flock 200 at Farnley 13.1.52. HEA.
one in partial song Oakburn Rd. Ilkley 17.2.52. HJW.
Building Ghyll Royd, Ilkley 29.4.52. GRF.

GREY WAGTAIL.

One bird frequenting the B.R. filter bed 13th and
20th Jan. 1952. WFF.
Several on shore by river Bolton Abbey. 10.5.52. ACMD

HAWFINCH.

2 coming in early morning to garden in Ilkley 10.4.52. OMP.
1 calling in derelict garden Ilkley 10.4.52. OMP. HJW.
1 Parish Ghyll Drive Ilkley 22.5.52. WFF. HJW.
2 flying towards Esscroft Burley 24.5.52. ESS.
1 feeding on haws, Burley Lane 1.2.52. JPB.
1 St. John's Park Menston 29.7.52. JPB.

HERON.

One flying over Denton Park 20.1.52. WFF.

HOOPOE

There seems no reasonable doubt about this record although it
is most unfortunate that the bird was not seen by any
competent ornithologist.

Mr. Neville Jackson of Manor Park, Burley in Wharfedale
telephoned HJW that he had a strange bird about in his garden.
It had been there for several days, first seen 9.8.52. last
seen 12.8.52. HJW was not informed until 16.8.52. On 17.8.52.
HJW. WFF and OMP visited Mr. Jackson who, with Mrs. Jackson,
described the bird as having a bill like a snipe but curved,
with a crest which it erected from time to time, mainly
cinnamon brown and black and white, flew rather like a
pigeon, perched on trees sometimes for long time, spent much
time walking about the lawn and picking something up with its
bill. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson immediately picked it out
when shown the illustration plate 22 of Collins Pocket Guide
to British Birds.

HOUSE MARTIN.

Near Otley 9.30 a.m. 11.4.52. ESS.
4 young in nest Burley 11.10.52. being fed by adult.
One only left later, finally left 20.10.52. AEP.

JACKDAW.

One on boy's shoulder Parish Ghyll Road Ilkley 16.1.52. HJW.

JAY.

3 in Middleton Wood 10.12.52. KCC.

LAPWING

Several scrapes without eggs in pasture west of Hundwith
Ghyll 6.4.52. WFF. HJW.

LESSER REDPOLL

Brood of young in garden Manor Rise Ben Rhydding 1.8.52.
to 31.8.52. also seen there 5.10.52. KCC.

LESSER SPOTTED
WOODPECKER

At Fewston 19.10.52. ACMD.

LESSER WHITE-
THROAT.

One between Ben Rhydding Filter beds and railway, driven
westwards towards trap but passed by 20.4.52. ESS.

- LITTLE GREBE 3 pairs Fewston 19.9.52. JPB.
- LITTLE OWL. One at Esscroft, Burley. 20.6.52. KCC.
Several at Denton August 1952 KCC.
- LONGTAILED TIT Small party in bushes adjoining WNS trap 20.1.52. WFF
Pair very interested in thick part of Hawthorn hedge east
of Hundwith Ghyll 6.4.52. OMP.
- MALLARD. 6 m. 3 f. standing on edge of ice at Chelker 17.2.52.
joined a few minutes later by another 6 then all flew
off. WFF.
3 m. 3 f. Lindley 27.4.52. JPB.
- MEADOW PIPIT one on B.R. filter beds 20.1.52 WFF.
Flock of about 100 taking short flights in pasture east of
Hundwith Ghyll. 6.4.52. HJW.
- MISTLE THRUSH. Building Burley 7.3.52. 1 egg 13.3.52., 4 eggs
16.3.52, feeding one young 4.4.52. which flew on 15.4.52. ESS.
- NUTHATCH. J.A.Forder (keeper) reports one near main lodge at
Farnley Hall during most of the winter, 1.2.52. WFF.
Singing in Harewood Park, 9.4.52. HJW.
- OYSTERCATCHER. 2 Chelker 15.6.52. JPB.
2 at Kilnsey 5.7.52. ACMD.
- PIED FLYCATCHER. At Farnley 27.4.52. ESS.
2 cocks both at Bolton Abbey 10.5.52. ACMD
nest and one egg Nessfield Dene 21.6.52. ESS.
Hen taking food to young at West End. 5.6.52. ACMD.
- POCHARD. One at Knotford Nook 3.2.52. HEA.
2 on Chelker 2.3.52. OMP.
- REDSHANK. At Ilkley 17.3.52. WFF.
- REDSTART. One at Addingham 17.4.52. KCC.
- REDWING. In Ilkley 13.10.52. OMP.
- RING FLOVER. One Chelker 3.9.52. JPB.
- ROOK. 622 occupied nests between Cockin End and Otley inclusive JPB.
- SANDMARTIN. 10 Harewood Lake 9.4.52. WFF.
full strength at colony near Crook farm 13.4.52 ACMD.
- SHOVELER. One male Lindley 19.9.52.
A pair Lindley 21.9.52. JPB.

SNIPE. Nest with 4 eggs Ilkley Moor 12.5.52. robbed on 15.5.52. GRF.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. Burley 10.5.52. ESS.
first egg in nesting box Ghyll Royd Ilkley on 21.5.52.
one egg per day until a total of 5 G.R.F.
a white plumaged juvenile amongst a family being fed by
adults on railings near top of Victoria Avenue, Ilkley
19.7.52. OMP. HJW.

SWALLOW. six or seven Ben Rhydding 10.4.52. JCC.

SWIFT. one Burley 29.4.52. ESS.
2 Ilkley 15.8.52. WFF.

TREE PIPIT. Denton 18.4.52. KCC.

TUFTED DUCK. 2 Knotford Nook 6.1.52, 5 Mickle Ing. 13.1.52.
6 Knotford Nook 2.2.52, HEA.
4 Marsh Ghyll 6.1.52. WFF.

WATER RAIL. One seen several times by J. Forder Keeper
Farnley Lake about 1.2.52. WFF.
One Farnley Lake and one Weeton Filter beds. 16.3.52. CGB.
One Esscroft 21.10.52. KCC.

WHEATEAR. One Burley Woodhead 10.3.52. W.FI.

WHINCHAT. 2 near Railway at Draughton 30.4.52. OMP.
2 pairs at Kex Ghyll 28.6.52. ACMD.

WILLOW WARBLER. singing Riffa Wood 10.4.52. HM
Ilkley 10.4.52. HJW.
Nest with one egg near Ghyll Royd 10.5.52. GRF.

WOODCOCK. Bird sitting 4 eggs Denton 2.4.52. hatched 8.4.52. WFF.
Flying over Ghyll Royd, Ilkley April 1952 but not later
which is unusual GRF.

WOOD WARBLER. Panorama Woods 29.4.52. OMP.
Nest and 7 eggs Panorama 21.5.52. GRF.

YELLOW HAMMER One singing near trap 24.2.52. ESS. GRF.
Nest with 3 eggs on moor 20.5.52. GRF.
Nest with 3 visible young in Hawthorn hedge Leathley.
Hen less yellow than nestlings. 16.7.52. HJW.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. Near W.N.S. trap 13.4.52. WFF.

JACK SNIPE. One at Riffa from 8th to 12.9.52. H.M.

GREEN SANDPIPER. At Riffa 3.10.52. H.M.
Heard at Riffa 29.12.52. H.M.

LESSER REDPOLL. Resident in Homestead Menston summer 1952.
Flock of 20 to 30 9.9.52. JPB.

MERLIN. Female took a pipit Trollers Ghyll 23.8.52. J.P.B.
A pair attempted to nest on Burley Moor but eggs were
taken. W.F.I.

W.F.Fearnley
Recorder.

TRAP RECORDS FOR 1952. BIRDS RINGED.

Total number ringed 587. Number of species 38: they included STARLING.
GREENFINCH. LINNET. BULLFINCH. CHAFFINCH. YELLOW HAMMER.

MEADOW PIPIT. YELLOW WAGTAIL. PIED WAGTAIL. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.

WILLOW WARBLER. WHITETHROAT. MISTLE THRUSH. SONG THRUSH. RING OUSEL

BLACKBIRD. WHEATEAR. REDSTART. ROBIN. DUNNOCK. WREN. SWALLOW.

SAND MARTIN. SWIFT. TEAL. GOLDEN PLOVER. LAPWING. CURLEW.

WOODCOCK. HOUSE SPARROW. GREAT TIT. BLUE TIT. COLE TIT. REDSHANK.

HAWFINCH. REDWING. LITTLE OWL. JACKDAW.

During the year we have notification from Miss Leach at the British Museum
that 14 of our ringed birds have been recovered:- the most interesting of
these are:- A lapwing ringed as a juvenile on 26th May 1951 was recovered
Loughor Glamorgan 20.1.52.

A Little Owl ringed 4th June 1951 was recovered at Doncaster on 16th April 1952.

A Meadow Pipit ringed as a nestling 3rd June 1952 was recov^{er}ed at St. Geours de
Marenne, Landes France. on 10th Oct. 1952.

Mistlethrush nestling ringed 10th April 1952 recovered Shackelford, Surrey on
30th November 1952.

It is very interesting that many chaffinches ringed in the early months of 1950
were retrapped in the early months of 1951 and were again retrapped in Jan/Mar
1952 several of the same birds have been caught in Jan 1953.

W.F.Fearnley
Recorder.

Key to initials:

H.E.Adamson
J.F.Busby
K.C.Crosbie
A.C.M.Duncan
W.F.Fearnley

W.Flesher
G.R.Frost
H.Marjoram
B.Morrell
Mrs.O.M.Pennock

A.E.Pullan
E.S.Skimer
H.E.Stembridge
H.J.Williamson.