

JED.

TRANSACTIONS
of the
WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
VOL. XIII
JANUARY - DECEMBER, 1958.

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Officers for the Session 1958-59:

President:	C.G. Booth, M.B.O.U.,
Vice-President:	H.A. Robinson.
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan.
Hon. Assistant Secretary & Librarian:	Miss E.A.W. Gill.
Hon. Treasurer:	H.J. Williamson.
Hon. Ornithological Secretary:	Mrs. O.M. Pennock.
Committee:	A.C.M. Duncan; W.F. Fearnley; H. Marjoram; E.S. Skinner;

Recorders:

Botany:	Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan.
Vertebrates: (other than birds)	H. Marjoram.
Ornithology:	W.F. Fearnley.
Geology:	P.D. Lamming.

MEMBERSHIP:

In March, 1958, the total membership was 107, including 5 honorary members and 4 juniors.

At this time we were very sorry to receive the resignation of Dr. K.C. Crosbie, a founder member of the Society and its first President. A few years later he was again President, and has given continuous service on the Committee. A book token was presented to Dr. Crosbie by the Society in appreciation of all the work he had done, and the good wishes of the members went with him and Mrs. Crosbie for their new life in Westmorland.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

The balance on the account for the year ending 31st March, 1958, was £9. 17. 8d., with a total balance in hand of £39. 14. 2d.

At the Annual Meeting the subscription was kept at 10/- and 2/6 for juniors.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION:

The affiliation of the Society to the Union has continued, and members have given good support to the Meetings and field excursions.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' TRUST:

The Society is a member of the Y.N.T., and was represented at the annual Meeting of the Trust.

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS:

These have been well supported by members, the average attendance being 48 at lectures and 30 on the outings. Two of the evening excursions were cancelled for rain, but the rest were successfully taken in fine weather.

The thanks of the Society are due to all lecturers, both visitors and members and to the leaders of excursions.

ANNUAL DINNER:

This event, in March, 1958, was well attended by members and friends. The special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Morley Hedley of Morley, and after the dinner Mr. Hedley, who is a Member of the Zoological Photographic Society, showed some of his own lantern slides.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS:

In October, 1958, the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society was the first in the North of England to organise a showing of the new R.S.P.B. colour film Highland Birds. The audience numbered about 380.

PUBLICITY:

The Society is once more grateful to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette for printing the monthly records and accounts of the Meetings.

CARL THOMPSON WALKER

It was with deep regret that we learned in February, 1959, of the death at Filey of Mr. C. Thompson Walker, our first Secretary-Treasurer, who can rightly be called the Founder of the Society.

In September, 1945, he advertised a Meeting which was attended by 12 members, and from these small beginnings has grown up a flourishing Society of some 120 members.

Mr. Thompson Walker will be remembered with gratitude by the members for his enthusiasm and hard work in bringing the Society into being, and for his wise counsel in starting it on the right lines in aims and activities.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1958.

		<u>Leaders</u>
April 29	BOLTON ABBEY	E.S. Skinner R.C. Parkinson
May 6	LANGBAR MOOR	O. Cornish
May 13	BURLEY	Miss M. Dalby
May 20	FARNLEY	H.N. Cameron
June 3	GRASS WOOD	Miss B. Knowles
June 10	STAINBURN MOOR	H. Marjoram
June 15	HUTTON-le-HOLE	H.A. Robinson
June 24	BARDEN and APPLETREEWICK	O.G. Bowen
July 1	ILKLEY MOOR	Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan

WINTER PROGRAMME 1958-59.

Sept. 23	Wildlife in Colour	K. Scott Kilner, A.I.B.P.
Oct. 7	Teesdale	Miss C.M. Rob, F.L.S.
Oct. 21	Round the World in 80 Minutes	Miss Hilda Wood
Oct. 28	Highland Birds: R.S.P.B. Colour Film.	
Nov. 4	With a Naturalist in the Dales	A. Pilkington
Nov. 18	Local Rocks	P.D. Lamming
Dec. 2	The Changing Status of our Lepidoptera	C.R. Haxby
Dec. 16	Bird-Watching in Finland	E.S. Skinner
Jan. 6	Zermatt and its Mountains	R. Müller
Jan. 20	The Attraction of Spurn	J.C. Leedal
Feb. 3	Members' Evening: Recorders' Reports Waders Nigel Ward Ammonites Miss Jean Clarkson Heredity Mrs. H. Marjoram Members' Colour Slides	
Feb. 17	Crane-flies of Malham Tarn	H. Henson, Ph. D., D.Sc., F.R.E.S.
Mar. 3	Bird Watching in Finland (repeated by popular request)	E.S. Skinner
Mar. 20	Annual Dinner	
April 7	Annual General Meeting	

WEATHER REPORT, 1958.

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	MAY. APR.	JUNE MAY	JULY JUNE	AUG. JULY	SEPT. AUG.	OCT. SEPT.	NOV. OCT.	DEC. NOV.	DEC.
<u>TEMPERATURE</u> degrees F.												
Highest maximum	48?	52?	57	69	71	75	75	75	73	63	57	52
Lowest minimum	17	20	21	25	33	39	39	41	40	33	26	23
Average	-	-	37.3	44.95	50.9	56.1	59.75	60.85	58.55	50.65	42.05	39.0
<u>SUNSHINE</u> hours												
Monthly total	46.1	63.8	89.3	132.5	143.7	111.0	155.0	119.5	96.9	106.6	43.7	23.3
Annual total	- 1131.6 hours.											
<u>RAINFALL</u> number of days												
.2 inches or over	5	12	3	1	11	9	7	5	8	3	2	8
Monthly total inches	2.87	6.30	1.67	0.80	4.32	4.53	3.50	2.97	3.92	2.64	1.08	4.65
Annual total	- 39.25 inches											
<u>WIND FORCE</u> number of days												
8 or more	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
6 - 7	4	6	7	8	6	-	6	4	4	10	-	6
4 - 5	7	13	9	13	15	15	15	13	16	10	5	5
1 - 3	18	8	14	9	10	15	10	14	10	10	24	20
Calm	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

The maximum temperatures for January and February are unreliable owing to the breakdown of the thermometer, which was replaced for March. This also explains the absence of average temperatures for January and February.

1958 has given us a smaller allowance of sunshine than usual, whilst at the same time rainfall has been on the generous side. The last two months were characterised by light winds with fogs. The reservoirs were not frozen over after January, and have kept at a high level throughout the summer.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help received at the Ilkley Surveyor's Office in supplying the above figures.

A.C.M. DUNCAN.

BOTANICAL SECTION

The earliest flowering dates were:-

- 15th January: Winter aconite (Burley)
- 1st February: Barren strawberry, Dog's mercury, Hazel (Middleton).

Then the snow, followed by generally cold weather, held back flowering which was very slow until May.

Flowering of herbaceous plants was on the whole not prolific, though that of dandelions was abundant, but short lived. Trees, especially catkin-bearing ones flowered and fruited well and this was a good mast year for Sycamore, Ash and Oak.

1958 was the fifth and last year of the Botanical Society of the British Isles Mapping Scheme, and I wish to thank the organisers of the scheme for the help they have given us in identification of difficult species. As a result, there are certain corrections to be made in the 1957 records, viz:-

For *Elatine hexandra* (wrongly named) put *Peplis portula* (det. B.S.B.I.).
Delete *Senecio squalidus* and *Trientalis europaea* (stations unconfirmed).

Mrs. Draper's records from Burley Woodhead, and new records through work done in the Washburn Valley (by kind permission of Leeds Waterworks Dept.) have combined to increase greatly the total number of species recorded by the Society. Recently the naming of British Vascular plants has been completely revised and a list prepared by J.E. Dandy was published by the British Museum and B.S.B.I. The Latin names used here are according to the list. Several common species are now known by a different Latin name and it is hoped to publish in the near future a complete list of the flowering plants recorded by the Society. For this reason just a selection of new records is given below:-

Some of the sedges, grasses, etc.

Isolepis cetacea (Bristle scirpus)
Carex binervis (Ribbed sedge)
C. pallescens (Pale s.)
C. pilulifera (Pill-headed s.)
C. paniculata (Panicked s.)
C. spicata (Spiked s.)
C. dioica (Dioecious s.)
Festuca tenuifolia (Fine-leaved sheep's fescue)
Festulolium loliaceum (det. Kew) intergeneric hybrid found at Burley by
Mrs. Draper
Lolium multiflorum (Italian rye grass)
Poa nemoralis (Wood poa)
Helictotrichon pubescens (Downy oat)
Aira caryophyllea (Silvery hair grass)

Amongst the flowers found in Upper Wharfedale during Society and individual visits were:-

Mecanopsis cambrica (Welsh poppy) Hawkswick.
Draba incana (Hoary Whitlow grass) Arncliffe.
Potentilla crantzii (Alpine cinquefoil) Bastow Wood.
P. tabernaemontani (Spring cinquefoil) Grassington.
Ophrys insectivora (Fly orchid) Grass Wood.
Allium oleraceum (Field garlic) Grassington.
A. scorodoprasum (Sand leek) Hawkswick

A special find at Arncliffe was the rare white form of *Primula farinosa* (Bird's eye primrose)

New stations were found for

Eleocharis multicaulis (det. B.S.B.I.) (Many-stemmed spike rush)
Ilkley Little Tarn.
Epilobium nerterioides (Creeping willow herb) Cowside Beck.
Equisetum telmateia (Giant horsetail) Burley.
Hypericum humifusum (Trailing St. John's wort) Ilkley Moor and Burley Moor.

Records received from:- Miss M. Dalby, Mrs. L. Dougherty and Mrs. F.C. Draper.

J.E. DUNCAN - Recorder.

VERTEBRATE SECTION

No reports or records of mammals have been received from members during 1958. It is taken for granted that members will have observed the common animals of the countryside on many occasions and have not considered these of sufficient interest to report.

We have not had reports of badgers lately, the last one was seen in Stainburn Ghyll. Any reports or observations on these animals will be of great interest.

During the spring and summer of 1958 the wild rabbit increased in numbers, but unfortunately during the autumn and winter they have been seen in widely separated areas suffering from myxomatosis. Seven or eight were picked up recently in a dying condition on land near Pool.

H. MARJORAM -- Recorder.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

(RECORDS)

<u>Great Crested Grebe</u>	7.4.58: Two birds at Farnley 10.5.58: One sitting at Farnley without results.
<u>Little Grebe</u>	27.4.58: Seen at Farnley Lake. 7.11.58: Three near Ilkley New Bridge.
<u>Cormorant</u>	28.4.58, and the following day, one seen flying West over Ilkley.
<u>Heron</u>	1.3.58: One at Esscroft and two on the following day. 19.4.58: 5 nests in Beech trees 80 feet up at Harewood. 27.4.58: 2 at Farnley Lake.
<u>Mallard</u>	On the first two days of March 18 at Esscroft. Seen frequently on Denton Lake during January the largest number being 77 on 19th of the month.
<u>Shoveler</u>	18.10.58: Two seen flying over Lindley reservoir.
<u>Teal</u>	During January were seen on Denton Lake and at Ben Rhydding, there being 50 on the 12th January at Denton Lake. 63 were seen at Esscroft on 1st March and 35 the following day.
<u>Wigeon</u>	17.10.58: Four at Chelker reservoir.
<u>Pochard</u>	13.5.58: Two at Ben Rhydding filter beds.
<u>Goldeneye</u>	17.10.58: Eight at Chelker reservoir.
<u>Common Scoter</u>	28.6.58: About 250 male and female on Swinsty reservoir, they had left next morning. This is the largest flock ever seen in June anywhere in Yorkshire.
<u>Goosander</u>	26.12.58: Four female or juveniles on Chelker.
<u>Shelduck</u>	30.8.58: One flying over Denton Moor.
<u>Grey Geese</u>	Were seen flying up the valley on 2nd March, 7th November and 26th December. On 29th March a flock of 13 were seen flying east.

- Pink-footed Goose Flocks seen flying up the valley on 25th October and 15th November. The bird seen consorting with Muscovy ducks at Esscroft last year was seen several times during January, 1958.
- Canada Geese 12 were seen at Marsh Ghyll reservoir on the 30th April and on 5th June a family of 7 goslings and another with 3 goslings besides 36 adults were at the same place.
- Buzzard Species uncertain, seen flying over the slopes of Whernside above Kettlewell on 9th April.
- Sparrowhawk Occasionally seen in Hebers Ghyll wood and one seen near Riversdale during the year. One was being chased by Lapwings at Middleton on 11th May.
- Merlin 2 nests during June on Hawksworth Moor.
- Kestrel One has been seen on most days during the year in the Victoria Avenue area.
- Corncrake One calling at Addingham moorside on 23rd July.
- Moorhen 24 were seen at Farnley on 27th April.
- Coot Biggest number was noted at Farnley Lake, 45 being present on 7th April. 13 on Denton Lake on 6th April. 5 nests were counted at Farnley on 18th May.
- Oystercatcher One at Ilkley filter beds on 17th May.
- Lapwing One nest at Marsh Ghyll contained 6 similarly marked eggs which would seem to indicate that the clutch was laid by one bird.
- Golden Plover Birds had arrived on Ilkley Moor by 30th March. On 11th May a flock of 50 was on Middleton Moor. On 3rd August 100 at Chelker.
- Common Snipe The largest number seen was 60 at Esscroft on 9th March. Smaller flocks have been seen at various dates.
- Jack Snipe 5 were seen on 1st March at Esscroft, 4 on the 9th and one on the 29th March.
- Woodcock A bird nested in the garden of one of our members; 2 of the young which hatched on 5th May were ringed.
- Curlew There were 92 at Esscroft on 9th March. Smaller flocks were 26 at Askwith on 8th March, and 20 at Halton East on 3rd August. Four nests were found on Ilkley Moor on 16th May.
- Whimbrel One was heard calling over Denton on 9th August.
- Green Sandpiper One at Ben Rhydding 8th August.
- Common Sandpiper First date 20th April at Ben Rhydding, last record 19th September also at Ben Rhydding.
- Dunlin Three records during April from Marsh Ghyll, Middleton and Ilkley filter beds.

- Black-headed Gull A new colony was noted near Addingham, over 300 Gulls were seen and about 100 nests were counted.
- Tern (Common or Arctic) Two were flying over Barden Reservoir, pursued by Blackheaded Gulls on 6th July.
- Cuckoo First date - 23:4:58. Heard and seen on Ilkley Moor.
- Barn Owl Has been recorded at Farnley, Heber's Mount and Middleton. On 13th December one was seen hunting in daylight at Farnley.
- Little Owl Nested in usual place in Middleton, the young were all reared successfully.
- Tawny Owl 24.5.58: One flew along Trafalgar Road 11.30 p.m. Can be heard most nights calling in and around Ilkley.
- Short-eared Owl 29.6.58: One seen on Barden Moor.
- Nightjar During June birds were seen and heard at Barden. On 22.7.58: 1 male and 2 young were flushed in the same place, they were able to fly well.
- Swift On 24th April two were seen near the old bridge. On 29.4.58, one at Ben Rhydding stepping stones. Last date seen 12.8.58.
- Hoopoe 16.8.58: One seen on lawns at each side of the main road at Menston. Seen by 6 of our members.
- Green Woodpecker 27.4.58: One at Ben Rhydding.
3.5.58: One at Hebers Ghyll.
- Swallow 29.3.58: First seen at Ben Rhydding.
Last date 30.10.58: Two at Ilkley.
- House Martin 26.4.58: Seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds.
- Sand Martin First seen 29.3.58 at Esscroft. 4 seen the same day at Bolton Abbey. 57 on 21st April at Esscroft.
- Jay Fairly common on the Middleton side.
- Nuthatch 29.4.58: One heard near Cavendish Pavilion at Bolton Abbey, during W.N.S. Outing.
28.6.58: One seen at Barden.
- Treecreeper Seen regularly in Hebers Ghyll Wood.
- Dipper Nested in usual places, some of the young ringed.
- Fieldfare Many flocks seen the largest being 120 at Fewston on 1.11.58. Smaller flocks seen during January and March also November.
- Redwing First seen 18th October when 30 were seen over Ilkley. Two at Denton on 6th April.
- Ring Ousel First seen at Ilkley and Middleton on 30th March.
16.5.58: One nest on Burley Moor 5 eggs.

<u>Blackbird</u>	13.4.58: One nearly all white seen at Ben Rhydding Toll Bridge. Probably the same bird seen in Sunset View, 13.10.58, found dead 20.10.58.
<u>Wheatear</u>	26.3.58: One on Burley Moor. 31.3.58: Two at Middleton. 19.9.58: One at Ben Rhydding.
<u>Stonechat</u>	March 9th one at Ben Rhydding filter beds.
<u>Whinchat</u>	6.5.58: One pair edge of Moor near White Wells. 11.5.58: 4 on Snowden Moor.
<u>Redstart</u>	22.4.58: 1 male at Middleton.
<u>Black Redstart</u>	2.4.58: One at Hawksworth a female.
<u>Sedge Warbler</u>	10.5.58: Ilkley riverside also seen at Ben Rhydding on same day.
<u>Blackcap</u>	On 26th and 27th April a pair at Ben Rhydding filter beds.
<u>Garden Warbler</u>	3.5.58: One seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds and in Middleton Woods.
<u>Lesser Whitethroat</u>	One heard at Burley on the 16th and 17th July.
<u>Whitethroat</u>	1.5.58: One at Ben Rhydding. 10.5.58: Seen making nest at Middleton.
<u>Willow Warbler</u>	First seen 16.4.58 at Ilkley riverside near filter beds. 22.4.58: Seen at Middleton. 9.6.58: A nest about 18" above the ground in a bush, in a garden in Victoria Avenue, the nest superficially resembled a Wren's nest.
<u>Chiff Chaff</u>	19.4.58: 7 or 8 in Harewood Park.
<u>Wood Warbler</u>	3.5.58: One seen and heard in Grass Woods.
<u>Spotted Flycatcher</u>	4.5.58: One at Middleton. 3.5.58: One at Hebers Ghyll.
<u>Pied Flycatcher</u>	3.4.58: One at Middleton - male. Nested in usual site in Hebers Ghyll during June. 27.4.58: At Bolton Woods.
<u>Duncock</u>	25.3.58: A nest with 3 eggs at Burley Woodhead.
<u>Tree Pipit</u>	26.4.58: One at Ben Rhydding.
<u>Yellow Wagtail</u>	On 20th and 21st April there were 13 male and female at Ilkley filter beds. 14.9.58: There were six in the same place.
<u>Hawfinch</u>	20.3.58: 1 in garden off Hebers Ghyll Drive. 13.4.58: 1 in Ilkley Cemetery. 7.7.58: 1 at Denton.

<u>Siskin</u>	12.1.58: 7 or 8 at Burley and 1 at Ben Rhydding. 30.1.58: Often seen at Riffa. 8.2.58: 4 feeding in Alder trees at Ben Rhydding.
<u>Lesser Redpoll</u>	Often seen in Middleton Woods during the year.
<u>Bullfinch</u>	Not quite as many seen as in the previous year.
<u>Crossbill</u>	These birds were first seen in Hebers Ghyll on 2.11.58, the party built up in numbers until there were about 40. On 26.12.58, 2 males were heard to be singing and several pairs have been seen since.
<u>Brambling</u>	26.1.58: One at Lindley.
<u>Yellowhammer</u>	2.11.58: Flock of 30 near Highfield Hotel. 7.12.58: About 30 at Ben Rhydding.
<u>Reed Bunting</u>	12.4.58: A pair at Ilkley filter beds.
<u>Tree Sparrow</u>	23.5.58: 2 at Middleton.
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	A female on Chelker on 16th April, 1958.
<u>Red-legged Partridge</u>	1 at Marsh Ghyll seen on 4th May.
<u>Waxwing</u>	8.1.58: 1 in garden at corner of Victoria Avenue. 20.4.58: 1 at Ilkley filter beds.
<u>Whooper Swan</u>	12.1.58: 7 adults and 1 juvenile at Fewston. 17.10.58: At Chelker. (3) 3.11.58: 1 at Lindley.

Thanks are due to all members who have supplied these records.

W.F. FEARNLEY - Recorder.

TRAP REPORT

During 1958 the members of our Society have ringed a total of 1,617 birds of 44 species. New species ringed this year are:- Manx Shearwater and Ringed Plover.

We have had a number of recoveries and the following are worthy of note:-

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date ringed</u>	<u>Date recovered</u>	<u>Place</u>
Blackbird	7.7.57	29.5.58	Harrogate. Killed by car.
Meadow Pipit	7.6.58.	22.10.58	Tondela(Beira Alta) Portugal - Shot.
Sand Martin	21.9.57.	20.8.58	Skewsby Yorks, - found dead at breeding colony.
Sand Martin	30.7.57	25.5.58	Masham Yorks, - trapped and released at nest hole.
Song Thrush	7.9.57	7.4.58	Nr.Bolton, Lancs - found dead
Lesser Blk.Bk. Gull	21.7.56	14.3.58	Algeciras (Cadiz) Spain
Song Thrush	12.3.55	12.2.58	Cregagh, Belfast - trapped & (N.Ireland) released
Woodcock	24.5.58	18.12.58	Saint Evarzec(Finistere) France.

WILDFOWL COUNTS

The three Reservoirs in the Washburn Valley (Lindley, Swinsty and Fewston), together with Grimwith Reservoir were counted for the National Wildfowl Counts.

Due to repair work, the water level at Grimwith Reservoir has been kept very low, which affected the numbers of duck seen on this water. The Washburn Valley reservoirs were full or almost full on all the count dates and this no doubt affected the numbers of wildfowl visiting these reservoirs, since no large numbers of any species were recorded during the year.

Notes from the counts:-

- MALLARD** Lindley appears to have been the favourite reservoir during this year, 150 or more being present in January and February, and October to December, with a maximum of 183 on 16th February. Usually recorded in much smaller numbers on all other waters.
- TEAL** Recorded in small numbers, but not always present. They seem to prefer smaller and shallower waters and streams. 41 on Denton Lake on 19th January and 60 on Farnley Lake on 14th December.
- WIGEON** No large numbers recorded. January - April 20 to 25 were seen on Grimwith and 29 were counted on Swinsty on 14th September.
- PINTAIL** Single record of a drake seen on Swinsty on 15th Nov.
- SHOVELER** 2 pairs were seen on Swinsty on 13th April.
- TUFTED DUCK** Nearly always present on Washburn reservoirs in small numbers and seen occasionally on Grimwith. 21 on Fewston on 19th January; 31 on Swinsty on 16th Feb; and 27 on September 14th; 29 on Fewston on 14th Dec.
- POCHARD** Not always present, numbers fluctuate considerably. 59 were seen on Swinsty on 16th February. 26 were seen on the same water on 14th September and numbers increased gradually each month till 14th December when there were about 100 present.
- GOLDEN-EYE** Recorded in varying numbers from January to April and then absent till October. 14 seen on Fewston on 16th February; 15 on Lindley on 16th March; 23 on Fewston on 13th April; 12 on Fewston on 14th December.
- GOOSANDER** Not recorded on any count date during this year.
- CANADA GOOSE** Nearly always present on Fewston reservoir. 39 seen there in January and February and 45 on 16th March. 60 recorded on 14th September and 50 on 14th December on the same water.
- WHOOPEE SWAN** A party of 7 Adults and 1 immature were seen on Fewston on 12th January, 3 were seen there on 16th March.

Thanks are due to the Leeds Corporation Waterworks Department for permission to visit the Washburn Valley Reservoirs and to the following observers for helping in the counts:-

Mr. C.G. Booth
Dr. K.C. Crosbie
Mr. & Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan.
Mr. W.F. Fearnley
Miss E.A.W. Gill
Dr. R.A.W. Proctor
Mrs. O.M. Pennock
Mr. R.C. Parkinson
Mr.A.J. Wallis (Scarborough)
Mr. H.J. Williamson.

E.S. SKINNER.