

TRANSACTIONS

of the

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

VOL. VI.

JANUARY - DECEMBER 1951.

OFFICERS FOR SESSION 1950 - 51.

President	Lt.Col. R.S.P.Bates	
Hon.Secretary	Miss E. M. Brown	
Hon.Treasurer	L.S.Moss	
Hon.Assistant Secretary and Librarian	Miss M.M.Bartle	
Committee	Miss J.E.Bartle,	V.Huddleston
	W.F.Fearnley,	H.Marjoram
	G.R.Frost,	H.Nicholas

REPORT OF SESSION 1950-51

MEMBERSHIP

During the year membership was 58 adults and 10 junior members, of whom 10 adults and 8 juniors joined during the session.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Annual subscription remained at 7/6 for adult members and 2/6 for junior members. The Revenue Account for the year ending 30th September 1951 showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £1.7.2. The balance in the bank at this date was £19.12.6d.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE SESSION

In the winter session there was a varied programme of lectures and on one evening visitors were invited to see films of Bird Migration. A meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was arranged by members of the committee and supported by the Society.

Most of the excursions arranged for the summer were carried out and interesting recordings made. An enjoyable evening was spent at the Exhibition of the Craven Naturalists' Association. It was unfortunate that so few members could attend the meeting with the Harrogate and District Natural History Society, but those who did had a very successful afternoon. The Ornithologists of the two Societies have continued their census of wildfowl and were able to discuss results at a joint dinner held in Harrogate.

Work has continued at the Bird Ringing Trap, of which a report appears in the Ornithological Records.

In May a week-end for Natural History Societies was held at Grantley Hall, and those who attended had interesting lectures and excursions under the leadership of Professor E.A.Spaul.

AFFILIATION

The Wharfedale Naturalists' Society is affiliated to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union. Members attended meetings of the Union, and local records were reported.

THANKS

It was with much regret that we said good-bye to the President, Col. Bates, who left the district in the summer. The Society owes much to his enthusiasm and support, and we hope that Mrs. Bates and he will be happy in their new surroundings.

Thanks are extended to all others who have furthered the work of the Society: to visiting lecturers, members who have given papers, and leaders of excursions; to other local Natural History Societies for invitations to meetings and co-operation in various ways; to those who have worked at the Bird Trap; and to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette for publishing reports of the meetings.

We offer good wishes to all those who for various reasons have had to resign from the Society.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1950 - 51

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|----------|--|---|
| Oct. 17. | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. | |
| Oct. 31 | "FROM JUNGLE TO ZOO" LANTERN. | G.Cansdale, B.A., B.Sc., F.L.S.,
Supt. London Zoo. |
| Nov. 14 | "BIRD MIGRATION." FILMS & LANTERN. | G.R.Edwards. |
| Nov. 28 | "MOUNTAINEERING UNDERGROUND" LANTERN. | H.W.Rhodes.
Ex-Pres., Craven Pot Hole Club. |
| Dec. 12 | "A VISIT TO FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY"
EPISCOPE. | E.Skinner. |
| Jan. 9 | RECORDERS' REPORTS AND EXHIBITS. | |
| Jan. 23 | "ANTS AND THEIR WAYS" LANTERN. | W. Pickles. |
| Feb. 13 | MEMBERS' PAPERS - Bird Ringing
Colour Slides | W.F.Fearnley
H.Marjoram |
| Feb. 27 | "BIRD STUDY AT MALHAM TARN FIELD CENTRE." | P.F.Holmes, M.A. |
| Mar. 13 | "SURFACE SCENERY". | J.H.Watson, B.A. |
| Mar. 27 | SECTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. | |

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1951

April. 24 Tues. DENTON (Ornithological Section)

May. 1 Tues. MIDDLETON WOODS (Botanical Section)

May. 5 Sat. CHELKER and LOB WOOD (General)

May. 6 Tues. Meeting for reports and records.

May 18 Fri. GRANTLEY HALL ADULT COLLEGE RIPON. Course on FIELD BIOLOGY
to 20 Sun. for Natural History Societies.

May 22 Tues. SKIPTON. CRAVEN NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION

May 29 Tues. ADDINGHAM MOORSIDE (Ornithological Section)

June. 5 Tues. FARNLEY LAKE (Botanical Section)

June. 9 Sat. KETTLEWELL (General)
10 Sun.

June 12 Tues. RIFFA (Ornithological Section)

June 16 Sat. ILKLEY MOOR to LANSHAW DELVES (Geological Section)

June 11 Tues. ILKLEY MOOR (Botanical Section)

June 24 Sun. LITTONDALE (General)

June 26 Tues. ILKLEY for Exposed Marine Bands (Geological Section)

July 3 Tues. CHELKER to ADDINGHAM (Ornithological Section)

July 7 Sat BLUBBERHOUSES (General) with Harrogate and District Natural
History Society

July 10 Tues. Meeting for reports and records.

July 14 Sat. THORP ARCH (General Y.N.U.)

BOTANICAL SECTION

During 1951 a total of 317 species of Flowering plants was recorded from Wharfedale. 21 of these were plants observed in flower and recorded in our lists for the first time.

A comparatively mild winter was followed by a cold dry spring and the early plants were slow to develop, Hazel (female), Barren Strawberry and Coltsfoot flowers not appearing until March. These dates are earlier than those for 1947, when there was a prolonged cold spell, but the leafing dates for trees are mostly later than the corresponding dates for 1947.

Fruit crops of Horsechestnut were poor, Sycamore was good and the Ash had a good crop this year. Blackberries and Rose hips were very late in ripening. Leaf fall was generally rather earlier than last year.

FIRST FLOWERING DATES - ILKLEY

<i>Corylus Avellana</i> (Hazel-female)	Mar. 1.	J.C.
<i>Potentilla sterillis</i> (Barren Strawberry)	Mar. 1.	B.B.
<i>Tussilago farfara</i> (Coltsfoot)	Mar. 1.	J.C.
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i> (Golden Saxifrage)	Mar. 1.	B.B.
<i>Tussilago petasites</i> (Butterbur)	Mar. 30.	J.C.
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> (Lesser Celandine)	Mar. 22.	J.C.
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> (Wood Anemone)	Apr. 4.	J.C.
<i>Primula vulgaris</i> (Primrose)	Apr. 5.	J.C.
<i>Scilla nonscripta</i> (Bluebell)	May. 11.	J.C.

LEAFING OF TREES - ILKLEY at 450 ft. approx.

	<u>FULL LEAF</u>		<u>LEAF FALL</u>	
	1951	(1950)	1951	(1950)
Horsechestnut	May 3	(Apr. 10)	Nov. 2.	Oct. 27
Beech	May 13	(May 13)		Nov. 18
Oak	May 21	(May 15)	Nov. 20.	Nov. 24
Ash	June 3	(May 25)	Oct. 22.	Nov. 8

SPECIES RECORDED FOR FRESH LOCALITIES

Epilobium pedunculare A. Cunn previously noted in Spicey Ghyll, Ilkley Moor, 1948 (and in a local garden) was observed this year in a similar habitat along Backstone Beck, Ilkley Moor.

Saxifraga granulata L. observed at Thorpe. A.S.

Parnassia palustris L. observed at Yockenthwaite E.M.B.

Epipactis latifolia All. previously recorded from Wells House grounds was this year seen on the property of Craiglands Hotel. E.M.B.

SPECIES RECORDED BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

FIRST RECORDED FROM

Impatiens glandulifera Royle (Balsam)	Otley	J.B.
Ulex Gallii Planch. (Autumn Flowering Gorse)	Marsh Ghyll	J.B.
Lotus uliginosus Schkuhr (Bird's Foot Trefoil)	Nessfield	J.B.
Dryas octopetala L. (Mountain Avens)	Arncliffe	
Sedum villosum L. (Hairy Stonecrop)	Yockenthwaite	
Galium pumilum Murr.	Arncliffe	
Antennaria dioica Gaertn. (Mounting everlasting)	Yockenthwaite	
Leontodon autumnalis L. (Autumnal Hawkbit)	Chevin	
Sonchus asper Hill	Middleton	J.B.
Veronica persica Poir. (Buxbaum's Speedwell)	Linton and Denton	A.S.
Pedicularis palustris L. (Red Rattle)	Arncliffe	
Rumex obtusifolius (Broad Dock)	Otley	J.B.
Rumex conglomeratus Murr. (Clustered Dock)	Otley	J.B.
Eriophorum latifolium Hoppe (cotton grass)	Grassington	M.B.
Schoenus nigricans L. (Black bog rush)	Kettlewell	
Carex panicea L. (Carnation Sedge)	Kettlewell	
Phalaris arundinaceae L. (Reed grass)	Otley	J.B.
Arrhenatherum elatius (L) Presl. (false oat)	Otley	J.B.
Agropyrum caninum Beauv.	Otley	J.B.
Bromus erectus Huds. (Erect Brome)	Ilkley	J.H.W.

Initials indicate records by individual members. Other species were recorded from excursions.

Key to initials:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Miss J. Bartle | Jean Clarkson | |
| Miss M. Bartle | Miss A. Stansfield | |
| Betty Black | J.H. Williamson. | |
| Miss E.M. Brown | | E. M. Brown
Recorder. |

Entomological Section

The following species were recorded:

Butterflies.

Moths.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Green Hairstreak | Northern Eggar |
| Small Heath | Elephant Hawk |
| Orange Tip | Poplar Hawk |
| Peacock | Emperor |
| Red Admiral | Sweep |
| Small Tortoiseshell | White Ermine |
| Large White | 7. Yellow Underwing |
| Small White | |
| 9. Green-veined White | |

1951 has been an extremely lean year for this section of the Society. While it was admittedly a very poor year for butterflies no records were received of the Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Small Copper or Painted Lady, although there surely must have been some specimens in the district. The recorder noticed the dearth of Small Heaths which are usually abundant, and the absence of ladybirds was most marked after the variety seen in 1950.

G. R. FROST.
(Recorder).

VERTEBRATE SECTION

Frog Spawn. April 3 seen in Ilkley upper Tarn. Spawn much less than usual; later became frozen and much did not hatch. E. M. Brown.

Red Squirrel Oct. 1st. Seen at Bolton Abbey. A.C.M. Duncan.

Pipistrelle Bat. Dec. 12th. Seen flying low over Tarn at 1.45 p.m. Tarn frozen. Temperature about 32°F. E.M. Brown.

H. Marjoram
Recorder.

GEOLOGICAL SECTION

Activity for the most part was exploration for fossiliferous material with particular endeavour to collect specimens in situ, although it has been useful to note the different species encountered en route in walls or in streams.

Scar Limestone. Most interesting of our river bed collection was single *Zaphrentis* located (B.M.) in the river bed at Yockenthwaite. A very good specimen of fossiliferous limestone containing *Diphyphyllum* and *Bellerophon* was found (B.M.) in the small valley running N.E. from Kettlewell. The only brachiopod recorded actually taken from the rock face was *Martinia* (Scars on northern slope of Liddendale between Arncliffe and Litton).

Bowland Shale. In an exposure of Bowland shale near Linton stepping stones, *Posidonia* was abundant.

Millstone Grit Series The evening excursion was an endeavour to locate two *Homoceras* Horizons, one below and the other above Middleton Grit. The first locality, Crabtree Gill, where exploration of the wet shale banks was undertaken, did not yield any trace of marine fauna due perhaps to our being at too high a level in the shale stratum. The second effort in the Ghyll opposite Tivoli, was more successful. The marine band was examined at various levels and was found to contain many fragmented specimens of goniatites (not yet identified).

The main interest in our Saturday excursion with Mr. Charlesworth to Ianshaw Delves was in following the stream course along the fault plane where polishing and striation of the rock surface due to faulting movement, was observed.

A. Stansfield.
Recorder.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

One adult and two immature Bewick's Swans were noticed on the river near Nessfield on Mar. 4th (ACMD) and last seen there on Mar. 22nd.

Bullfinches have been seen in the trap area on several occasions right through the year, and on Nov. 25th a female was trapped and ringed by (ESS).

Canada Geese have been seen at Harewood Lake (WFF) and 2 on Fewston on Mar 11th (ESS) and May 2nd (RSPB) and a pair on Bow Beck reservoir on May 31st (RSW).

A Chiffchaff was seen and heard near the trap on April 1st (WFF) but not subsequently.

Common Sandpipers were first seen on April 22nd (WFF) a pair nested successfully on a cultivated filter bed near the traps, the eggs hatching on July 8th (ESS)

There is good news concerning Corncrakes this year, a pair having nested successfully near Greenholme Mill, Burley in Wharfedale. The young were seen when they were well grown (WFL).

AEP first heard one there during the first week in May, and last heard one June 16th. He also heard one just north of Ben Rhydding Toll bridge on June 12th. One was also reported calling in the Curley Hill area July 2nd and 9th from 9 p.m. till midnight. (RSW)

The first Cuckoo reported was from Riffa April 16th (HM)

One Dunlin was on the Riverside near Riversdale on April 26th and on 29th there were 8 on Ben Rhydding filter beds (WFF). One was seen near Trollers Ghyll May 15th (JPB)

The last Fieldfares noticed were a flock of about 100 between Beamsley and Nessfield on May 25th. An individual in a flock near Bolton Abby on Dec. 9th had a whitish ring round its neck (WFF)

Goldfinches have been seen in Ilkley on Mar 4th (ACMD), at Menston Jan. 15th and Otley May 3rd (JPB), Ben Rhydding Dec. 7th (KCC).

A flock of Grey Geese seen flying N.W. in the Washburn Valley on Dec. 22nd (JPB) might be the same flock as seen flying west over Riffa House on the same day (HM)

On Jan. 7th (ESS) drew the attention of several members to a Great Grey Shrike perched on a tree near the trap.

Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been seen at Farnley Lake (WFF), Panorama Woods (GRF) and Denton (RSPB).

Green Woodpeckers at Fewston (JPB), near the trap (ESS), Denton Park (WFF), Lindley (HEA) and Panorama Woods (GRF)

A Green Sandpiper probably remained near Farnley Lake for about a week at the beginning of August seen there on the 1st and 8th (WFF)

Greenshanks three gradually dwindling to one frequented Ben Rhydding filter beds during the latter half of Sept and the first half of Oct. (DITW)

A flock of 11 Hawfinches in Ben Rhydding Hydro grounds on Mar. 7th is the largest party ever reported to this Society (RSPB). A bird was seen at Addingham on June 22nd (OMP) and one at Burley stepping stones on June 9th (JPB)

A Hooded Crow was seen at Snowden on April 14th (RSW).

The first House Martins appeared on Ben Rhydding filter beds on April 18th (ESS)

A Kingfisher's nest was found between Bolton Abbey bridge and the Abbey by (HJW)

At Lindley a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was watched at a nesting hole in the top of a tree by (HJW) (OMP) (WFF).

Little Grebes have been seen on the river between Otley & Pool (OMP), Mickle Ing and Cocking end (WFF) and on Swinsty reservoir (WFF).

Little Owls maintain their numbers, and birds have been reported from Marsh Ghyll (WFF), Burley Woodhead (OMP), Riffa (HM) & Menston (JB).

Longtailed Tits were photographed nesting at Farnley Lake by (RSPB)

A Merlin was seen to capture a Starling from a flock at Marsh Ghyll on Mar 18th (ACMD) and (JPB) saw one at Lanshaw on Oct. 13th.

Mute Swans nested at Otley gravel pits and 4 cygnets were seen (HEA) the pair at Farnley were unsuccessful.

Three Oystercatchers were seen at Kilnsey on June 3rd ^(RSW) (RS) and 2 near there on July 22nd (HJW) (ACMD) saw one over Ilkley May 4th.

Pied Flycatchers have nested again being seen at Lindley (WFF), Bolton Abbey (RSPB) and Fairy Dell (ACMD).

(RSPB) found a Reed Bunting's nest on the ground at Blubberhouses on July 2nd.

The first Ring Ousel appeared at Highfield April 3rd (OMP)

Sandmartins at Ben Rhydding filter beds April 17th (WFF)

A Sanderling was sheltering from the gale at Chelker Dec 30th (WFF)

The only Siskins reported have been a party at Denton Mar 24th (RSPB)

Our first Swallow record was April 7th at Mickle Ing (WFF) On August 7th (KCC) saw a white one flying over Denton Park.

The first Swift was noted by (JPB) May 2nd at Ilkley. 2 were ringed with our rings this year.

About 7 Treecreepers were in the same tree with long tailed Tits near Ilkley Golf Course on Feb. 15th (BM).

An unusual visitor to Chelker was a Velvet Scoter seen there on Feb. 4th by (HJW) (OMP) (WFF).

A Whooper Swan spent much of the summer on Farnley Lake (WFF) Three adults were on Lindley Mar. 11th (RSPB) and 1 on Ben Rhydding gravel pits Dec 2nd. (ESS).

First Willow Warbler this year was reported at Ilkley April 18th (RSW) (JPB).

One of our most interesting and fruitful activities has been our share of the Wildfowl Census and the results which were tabulated by Mr. A.E. Walker of the Harrogate N.H.S. make very interesting reading. A copy is being kept with the Society's records but it is too lengthy a document to be included in this report.

The ornithological section has suffered a big loss by the removal of Lt. Col. R.S.P. Bates from the district this year, and we would like to express our appreciation of his ready help and advice whilst he was here.

W. F. Fearnley.
Recorder.

BIRD RINGING REPORT

During the year October 1st 1950 to September 30th 1951 592 birds were ringed, from 33 species. Blue Tits headed the list with 137, other notable numbers were Starlings 64, Blackbirds 63, Great Tits 61, Robins 43, Chaffinches 39, House Sparrows 30, Song Thrushes 24, and Swallows 20. Interesting species ringed included Reed Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, Swift, Cuckoo, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Teal, Lapwing, Redshank, Curlew, and Black Redstart, the latter being ringed in London.

We have had one long distance recovering, a Blackbird ringed in Ilkley on March 10th 1951 having been found dead at Hillerød, North Zealand, Denmark, on July 5th 1951. A Robin ringed on January 2nd 1949 was retrapped on Dec. 31st. 1950, a Blue Tit ringed on Jan. 17th 1950 was retrapped on December 16th 1951 (and twice in between) a cock Chaffinch ringed on January 25th 1950 was retrapped on March 4th 1951 and several others with approximately the same interval, also a Blackbird, and Dunnock,

A Blue Tit bearing a ring with a strange number proved to have been ringed in our area by a neighbouring ringer Mr. R.F. Dickens of Apperley Bridge whilst in our district. A Great Tit caught on Feb. 25th 1951 had no right leg.

W. F. Fearnley
Recorder.