

TRANSACTIONS
of the
WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
VOL. III
1948

OFFICERS FOR SESSION 1947-48

President	Lt. Col. R.S.P. Bates
Hon. Secretary	Miss E.M. Brown
Hon. Treasurer	L.S. Moss
Hon. Assistant Secretary and Librarian	Miss J.E. Bartle
Committee	W.F. Fearnley Dr. K.C. Crosbie
	A.E. Pullan Miss N. Saunders
	H. Marjoram H.J. Williamson

REPORT OF SESSION 1947-48

MEMBERSHIP Membership was 38 adult and 7 junior members.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Subscriptions remained at 5/- for adult members and 2/6 for junior members. At the Annual General Meeting on 5th October, 1948 the Financial Statement showed a deficit of £ 5. 13. 3. on the revenue account. This was accounted for largely by increased printing costs and the cost of duplication of Transactions for 1946-47. With Balance in Hand from 1946-47 the final Balance sheet showed a Balance in Hand of £ 13. 12. 10.

At the Annual General Meeting 1948 in order that the Society might continue all its activities including duplication of Transactions, it was resolved that the initial Entrance Fee of 7/6 be abolished and that the adult subscription for 1948-49 be raised to 7/6.

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

Affiliation with the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union has continued. Reports have been contributed by the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society and members have attended meetings of the Union, particularly the Excursion to Malham in June.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE SESSION

Fortnightly meetings were held during the winter when lectures on a variety of subjects were heard, and members exchanged information for records.

The summer programme was interfered with to some extent by the weather, but nevertheless, some interesting and useful excursions were held.

An important venture during the year was the setting up of a Bird Ringing Post at Escroft. Work was held up owing to delays in obtaining necessary permits and materials but the trap was in use just before the end of 1948.

THANKS are due to all who have contributed to the work of the Society during the year: to visiting lecturers and members who gave talks; to Col. Bates for the use of his lantern; to all members who generously subscribed towards the setting up of the bird trap and to those who assisted in its construction; to other local societies for their interest and invitations; to those who gave books for the library and to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette for including reports of meetings in the local papers.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1947-48

- Oct. 7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Followed by showing of
Members' Slides.
21. Recorders' Reports for 1946-47 and Members' Collections.
- Nov. 4. "FUNGI AND THE FARMER" W.G. Bramley
18. "BIRDS OF THE SHETLANDS" R. Chislett
- Dec. 2. "PEEPS THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE" J. Bruce
16. "REGINALD FARRER, HIS WORK AND HIS PLANTS" J.R. Kerfoot
- Jan. 6. "GEOLOGY IN A LOCAL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY" Dr. H.C. Versey
20. "WITH A CAMERA THROUGH THE SEASONS" H. Marjoram
- Feb. 10. "THE LIFE OF PLANTS" Miss E.M. Brown
24. "A NATURALIST IN BAGHDAD" S. Jackson
- Mar. 9. Junior Members' Night.
23. "CLASSIFICATION AND ECOLOGY OF MOSSES" Miss I.L. Scott
- Apr. 6. Members' Papers
20. Sectional Meetings

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1948

- May 4. Tues. DENTON (Botanical Section)
11. Tues. RIFFA (Ornithological & Botanical Sections)
Leaders Mr. and Mrs. H. Marjoram.
22. Sat. BOLTON ABBEY (General) Leader Rev. C.F. Tomlinson
- June 1. Tues. DENTON (Ornithological Section)
5. Sat. MALHAM (General Y.N.U.)
6. Sun. LINDLEY (Ornithological Section)
8. Tues. Meeting for report and records 8-0 p.m. Grove
Schoolroom.
15. Tues. ILKLEY MOOR (Botanical Section)
20. Sun. WASHBURN VALLEY (General)
- July 3. Sat. HAREWOOD PARK (General)
13. Tues. Meeting for records 8-0 p.m. Grove Schoolroom.

BOTANICAL SECTION

RECORDER'S REPORT.

The total number of species of flowering plants recorded this year, 208, is greater than it has been since this Society started keeping records. This is very satisfactory and is enabling us to continue steadily our task of building up a list of all species to be found in the locality.

Amongst plants appearing in our Records for the first time this year are some interesting plants from the limestone country. Some of these are recorded from Malham which is not strictly in our area but is such a rich hunting ground for the botanists that we have included these plants, some of which can also be found in Upper Wharfedale.

On the occasion of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union visit to Malham, members of the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society observed the following in flower :-

Thalictrum flavum (Meadow Rue)
Actea spicata (Baneberry) also five plants in Grass Woods
Draba muralis (Wall Whitlow grass)
Viola lutea (Mountain Pansy) seen in profusion on moor,
yellow, blue and mixed colours.
Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage) abundant in village.
Primula farinosa (Bird's-eye Primrose) good show in some
areas of moorland. Also
Kettlewell and Grassington.
Pinguicula vulgaris (Butterwort) quite abundant in flower,
also Grassington.
Polemonium caeruleum (Jacob's Ladder) at Malham Cove.

Further new records of note from Upper Wharfedale include :-

Draba verna (Whitlow Grass) Kettlewell A.S.
Arabis hirsuta (Hairy Rockcress) Kettlewell and Malham.
Arenaria verna (Vernal Sandwort) Kettlewell and Malham A.S.
Hypericum perforatum (Perforated St.
John's Wort) Kettlewell A.S.
Geranium sanguineum (Blood-red
Crane's-bill) Kettlewell A.S.
Parnassia palustris (Grass of Parnassus) Kettlewell A.S.
Serratula tinctoria (Sawort) Kettlewell and Grassington A.E.P.
Gentiana Amarella (Autumn Gentian) Kettlewell A.S. A.C.M.D.
Convallaria majalis (Lily of the Valley) Grassington K.C.C.

Other plants of restricted range are some of the bog plants, and these are always of interest when found. The excursion to Fewston reservoir yielded the following :-

Potentilla palustris (Marsh Cinquefoil) *Galium palustre*
(Marsh Bedstraw) *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell)
Scutellaria galericulata (Skullcap) *Listera ovata* (Lesser
Twayblade) *Carex acutiformis* (Marsh Sedge)
Carex rostrata (Bottle Sedge) *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge)

From Ilkley moor an interesting find was *Epilobium pedunculare* (a Willow-herb with a creeping habit similar to Yellow Pimpernel). This is a New Zealand species which since its introduction into this country seems to be spreading, particularly along the moorland streams, such as Spicey Ghyll in which it was found. An article on this plant is to be found in *The Naturalist* 1947 p.157-8. Our plant was sent to Dr. Sledge for confirmation and we believe that this is a new record for Ilkley. It is, however, apparently not rare here now, as it was subsequently observed growing in profusion between crazy paving stones in an Ilkley Garden near the edge of the moor, and in an Otley garden.

Flowering dates were more normal this year :

Eranthis (Winter Aconite) was found at Burley on Jan. 20 (W.F.)
Corylus avellana (Hazel) male catkins were open by Jan. 30 (H.M.)
and the female stigmas were seen on Feb. 15 (W.F.F.)
Chryso-splenium oppositifolium (Golden Saxifrage) was out
in Panorama Wood by Feb. 23 (G.R.F.)
Tussilago Farfara (Colt's-foot) was out on Feb. 24 (N.S.)
Tussilago petasites (Butterbur) was out on Feb. 28 (A.E.P.)
Ranunculus ficaria (Lesser Celandine) was not seen
until Mar. 13 (A.E.P.)

These dates, however, are much earlier than the corresponding ones for last year, (viz. Lesser Celandine Mar. 22, Colt's-foot Mar. 24, Butterbur Mar. 29)

Potentilla sterilis (Barren Strawberry) Mar. 13 (A.E.P.) and *Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone) Mar. 20 (A.E.P.) were also about a month sooner this year.

Leafing of trees in Ilkley began with Elder on (Feb. 24) followed by Hawthorn, (Mar. 11) and Horse chestnut, (Mar. 15) Lime (Apr. 15), Sycamore (Apr. 18), Elm (Apr. 19) and Beech (Apr. 22) appeared in leaf during April and Oak by May 3. Most interesting this year was the very late appearance of leaves on the Ash trees. The young trees were showing first leaves by May 20, but it was not until June 14 that all the older trees were in full leaf.

In addition to the recording of Flowering Plants this season, some interest has been shown in Ferns, a list of 17 species having been contributed by one member.

A start has also been made in the identification of Mosses.

Fruiting of trees has been exceptionally heavy except for a good crop of Rose hips and a fair abundance of Holly berries. Following the late leafing there has been a remarkable scarcity of Ash keys.

Initials of members who first recorded the species are: Miss E.M. Brown, Dr. K.C. Crosbie, A.C.M. Duncan, W.F. Fearnley, W. Flesher, G.R. Frost, H. Marjoram, A.E. Pullen, Miss A. Stansfield, Miss N. Saunders. Where no initials are given the species were observed on Society excursions. A complete list of plants recorded by members of the Society is to be found in the Botanical Section Record Book.

Recorder Miss E.M. BROWN.

VERTEBRATE SECTION

RECORDS OF MAMMALS, REPTILES etc.		1948
Feb. 15.	White Stoat seen	W. Flesher
March 4.	Frog spawn seen	
7.	Large numbers of frogs paired in Ilkley Upper Tarn	E.M. Brown
April 11.	Bat (Piprestielle ?) flying in afternoon came down to surface of small pond and appeared to drink or take an insect from the surface.	K.C. Crosbie
20.	Fresh Otter tracks seen in sand below Ilkley Toll Bridge.	K.C. Crosbie
June 9.	Otter seen fishing near Toll Bridge	K.C. Crosbie
		Recorder. H. Marjoram.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION 1948

The main factor is that the Orange Tip which was not observed last year in this district was seen several times this year.

BUTTERFLIES

Red Admiral -	March 8. Ilkley (6)	
	July 29. and onwards, Ilkley	D.H.
Small Tortoiseshell -	April 16. Ilkley	E.M.B.
	July 29 and onwards, Ilkley	D.H.
Common Blue -	April 19. Mr. Marjoram, Pool.	
	July 12. Washburn	K.C.C.
Orange Tip -	May 14. Denton	
	16. "	K.C.C.
	June 11. Fewston	
Small Copper -	May 15. Escroft	K.C.C.
Small Heath -	June 7. Ilkley	D.H.
Common Skipper -	June 11. Fewston	K.C.C.
Peacock -	June 11. Fewston	K.C.C.
Meadow Brown -	July 12. Washburn	K.C.C.
Dark Green		
Fritillary -	July 12. Washburn	K.C.C.

There were as usual Large and Small Whites reported but there was no record this year of the Green hairstreak.

MOTHS

The most interesting records were :-

Brindle Beauty -	Feb. 29. Ilkley	W.S.
Buff Ermine -	May 17. Ilkley	D.H.
Poplar Hawk -	July 27. Otley	W.F.F.

K.C.C. - Dr. K.C. Crosbie, D.H. - D. Hurst, W.F.F. - W.F. Fearnley
 N.S. - Miss N. Saunders, E.M.B. - Miss E.M. Brown.

Recorder. D. Hurst.

Report of the ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION 1948

This year we have had several additions to the number of species encountered in our territory, including Blacknecked Grebe, Green Sandpiper, lesser Spotted Woodpecker, lesser Whitethroat, little Auk, Mealey Redpoll, Shelduck, and Turtle Dove, and in most instances, thanks to the connections made by this Society, these have been seen by several of us.

This Section has been strongly represented on the Society's outings, and has profited by the mutual assistance enjoyed on these occasions. A good example of team-work has been apparent in the erection and operation of the WNS Bird Trap, which has now got really going. Although the number of birds ringed to date are few, we are mastering the technique of driving, and as our bushes develop our numbers of ringed birds should increase. In the following list of records received there are the usual gaps of some of the common species, but the taking of full lists on our excursions is now ensuring that we do not miss so many, and we should soon have as complete a picture of the avifauna of our area as it is possible to get.

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*) - Still plentiful. Young heard in nests at Otley on April 23rd. (W.F.F.) A Sparrow Hawk was seen swooping at what were presumed to be young birds on June 6th. (K.C.C.)

JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula spermologus*) - Often with Rooks, especially noticeable when flocks are going to and from Weston Rookery (W.F.F.) Seen building in Ben Rhydding Church on March 9th. (Miss J.B.)

MAGPIE (*pica pica pica*) - No appreciable increase here this year, although still too numerous. Up to 13 at a time have been present at Ilkley Filter Beds and 7 or 8 on Ben Rhydding Filter Beds, and larger numbers around Ilkley Tip (W.F.F.) In the latter area a junior member estimated over 100 to be present on Feb. 7th (Miss M.M.)

JAY (*Garrulus glandarius rufitergum*) - No increase this year; in fact they have been reported less commonly. Pairs or parties have been seen at Harewood (W.F.F.) and Denton (D.I.T.W.)

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) - Collecting nesting material on April 18th. Young fledged and flying with parents on May 25th. Main roost not located, but three flocks seen flying up the valley E. to W. early in the morning, during October. (W.F.F.)

HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*) - Feathers and head of one apparently killed by a hawk found on Otley Golf Links on April 30th by Mr. R. Rawling. Col. R.S.P.B. showed one in his garden to H.J.W. and W.F.F. on Aug. 1st. It had been feeding on cherry stone kernels. Up to three birds, including at least one juvenile were present there or in the vicinity during the summer (R.S.P.B.). Dr. K.C.C. saw one in his garden at Ben Rhydding on Apr. 3rd and two cocks and a hen there next day. D.I.T.W. saw a nest at Bolton Abbey on May 22nd.

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris chloris*) - Singing on March 13th (W.F.F.)
A flock of 40 was near Ben Rhydding Toll Bridge on Feb. 3rd ()
A flock of 80-100 were seen on Otley Sandbeds on March 7th and 11th
(H.E.A.). Occasionally in small numbers near B.R. Filter Beds (W.F.F.)

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis britannica*) - Five were near St.
Margaret's Church on Mar. 9th (H.J.W.) and five on thistles near
Ben Rhydding Trap on Nov. 7th (R.S.P.B.) and a pair at Ben Rhydding
on April 24th (K.C.C.)

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*) - A few in alders near B.R. Trap on Nov.
21st (W.F.F.) and about thirty near Ilkley Tennis Courts on Dec.
30th (K.C.C.). A large flock on Curly Hill on Dec. 22nd. (D.I.T.W.)

MEALY REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea flammea*) - Six or seven were seen
at Ben Rhydding on Nov. 21st (K.C.C.)

LINNET (*Carduelis cannabina cannabina*) - Reported from Harewood on
Apr. 14th and Timble on June 20th (W.F.F.) and a flock moved over
B.R. Trap area on Oct. 24th. They are not infrequently seen in the
neighbourhood now, Dec. 31st. A pair at Ilkley Filter Beds on
Apr. 26th (K.C.C.)

BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula nesa*) - Three parties were seen in
gardens in Ilkley between Feb. 1st and 8th. (R.F.G.) A cock was
feeding on yellow poppy seeds in W.F.F.'s garden on July 11th, and
a hen was there on Nov. 7th. There was a pair in Westfield Road on
Mar. 9th (H.J.W.) and a pair at Menston at the end of December. (J.P.B.)

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella citrinella*) - There was a small
party on waterside trees at Lindley Reservoir on Jan. 21st (W.F.F.)
and small parties in the fields near Farnley Lake on Feb. 18th
(K.C.C.) One was calling at B.R. Filter Beds on Mar. 21st (W.F.F.)
a nest and 5 eggs were found there on June 1st by D.I.T.W. and a
little later three of the young were standing on the road near by,
waiting to be fed, when a passing car crushed two of them without
any effort being made to avoid them. (W.F.F.)

REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*) - Seen at Lindley,
Farnley (young) and Fewston (young) (W.F.F.) and at Ilkley Filter
Beds on March 7th (K.C.C.)

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis arvensis*) - Singing on Denton Moor on
March 14th. (W.F.F.)

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis trivialis*) - Singing at Farnley on
Apr. 18th (H.E.A.) Sitting on nest on ground beneath trees in wood
below Panorama Wood on May 30th (G.R.F.)

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*) - Plenty still on Ilkley Moor on
Sept. 26th. One or two on Ilkley Filter Beds on Oct. 24th, and
there were still some there at the end of the year. (W.F.F.)

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava rayi*) - Two on Ilkley Filter Beds on April 11th (W.F.F.)

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*) - Seen on riverside at Ben Rhydding on Feb. 1st and at Ilkley Filter Beds on Mar. 7th (W.F.F.) A nest contained five eggs quite close to the public footpath in Heber's Ghyll on June 15th, and the family was safely fledged later. (G.R.F.)

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*) - Two on Ilkley Filter Beds on March 7th. Noticeable increase in numbers in the district by March 28th. About 20 on Ilkley Filter Beds on Oct. 24th and some still there at year end. (W.F.F.)

TREE CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris britannica*) - Seen at Denton on Jan. 3rd, two, (A.E.P.) one at Farnley on Feb. 18th, and in Panorama Woods on Apr. 18th (W.F.F.) feeding young in Ilkley on May 30th (D.I.T.W.) and two on trees adjoining B.R. Trap on Dec. 12th (R.S.P.B)

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea affinis*) - Heard trilling at Harewood on April 14th. Seen in wood adjoining Fewston Reservoir by several members during W.N.S. outing on June 20th (W.F.F.)

GREAT TIT (*Parus major newtonii*) - Singing on Jan. 4th (W.F.F.)

COLE TIT (*Parus ater britannicus*) - Reported from Farnley on Feb. 18th and Fewston on June 20th (W.F.F.)

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris dresseri*) - One at Fewston on June 20th (W.F.F.) and two in Middleton Woods on Apr. 4th (K.C.C.)

LONGTAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus roseus*) - Twelve in Crook Wood, Denton, on Jan. 3rd (A.E.P.) up to 12 or 14 at Denton in January, (F.B.) Six in Owlter Park Wood on Jan. 12th (R.F.G.) One alone at Hepper Carr, Denton, on Feb. 15th. two in Queen's Drive, Ilkley, on Mar. 26th and one at Farnley Lake on Apr. 21st (W.F.F.) A pair were feeding young at Ilkley on May 19th. (D.I.T.W.) On June 20th members of W.N.S. outing saw two parties, one on each side of Fewston Reservoir. On Nov. 17th a party were seen near Lindley Bridge (K.C.C., W.F.F.)

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata striata*) - At Ilkley on May 7th (D.I.T.W.) Calling at Otley on May 9th. Young being fed at Denton on Aug. 8th (W.F.F.)

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*) - Has again bred at Lindley. Mr. J.A. Forder saw a cock there on April 20th. and H.E.A. saw a pair feeding young on June 13th. Two were seen at Bolton Abbey on May 22nd by D.I.T.W.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus anglorum*) - Numerical strength not yet recovered. One at Fewston during W.N.S. outing on June 20th and one at Lindley on Nov. 17th (W.F.F.) being the total reported.

CHIFF-CHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita collybita*) - Heard at Harewood on April 14th. One was singing at Farnley Lake on April 21st; none have been reported nearer to Ilkley this year (W.F.F.)

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus*) - At Riffa on Apr. 18th (H.M) Ben Rhydding Apr. 12th (K.C.C.) Near Trap, Aug. 4th (W.F.F.)

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*) - Nest found on May 19th (D.I.T.W.) One sitting closely on four eggs near Panorama Wood on May 30th. (G.R.F.)

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*) - Seen and heard singing in West Park Wood, Denton, on May 2nd. (R.S.P.B., W.F.F.) One singing on a small bush at Fewston, very close to an apparently unconcerned Marsh Tit, appeared to be challenging it, during W.N.S. outing on June 20th.

COMMON WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis communis*) - Singing at B.R. Filter Beds on Apr. 25th (W.F.F.) Nest and five eggs at Otley on May 28th (H.E.A.)

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca curruca*) - One singing amongst bushes and hawthorns at side of Farnley Lake on May 5th (W.F.F.)

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*) - 200-300 seen at Otley on Feb. 21st (H.E.A.) Some at Menston on Sept. 29th (V.H.) Four near Lindley Bridge on Nov. 17th (W.F.F.)

MISSEL THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*) - One standing on the road near Burley in a dazed condition allowed itself to be picked up, but soon commenced to struggle and when released flew away protesting vigorously. May 29th (W.F.F.)

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum ericetorum*) - One singing at Otley on Jan. 14th (W.F.F.) One sitting on eggs near Otley Railway Station on Mar. 1st (H.E.A.)

REDWING (*Turdus musicus musicus*) - About 200 in a field at Copmanroyd, Farnley on Feb. 18th (K.C.C.) Flock in trees adjoining B.R. Trap on Oct. 31st (W.F.F.)

RING OUSEL (*Turdus torquatus torquatus*) - Arrived on Burley Moor on Mar. 26th. There have been a few more than usual on the moor this year (W.F.F.)

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula merula*) - A pair again reared young in a nest on a fall-pipe about forty feet above ground on the south wall of W.F.F.'s house. An all-white bird was seen at the top of Curly Hill on Apr. 4th (J.H.B.), a pied specimen was seen at Otley on May 9th (H.E.A.) and a cock with a white head was feeding young near Oakburn Road, Ilkley, during July (H.J.W.)

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*) - First seen on April 12th (D.I.T.W.) One near Chelker on April 16th. (R.F.G.) Only four were seen during a visit to Grassington in May, by K.C.C. which indicates a considerable diminution in numbers in that district.

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra rubetra*) - Seen at Lindley on April 28th by Mr. J.A. Forder. A family below Woofa Bank on July 18th (W.F.F.) Birds seen at Snowden on June 13th and near White Wells on July 5th (W.F.F.) and near Marsh Ghyll (D.I.T.W.)

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*) - At Riffa on April 12th (H.M.)

ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula melophilus*) - No notes of special interest except that one of the first birds to be ringed in the Trap was a Robin.

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis occidentalis*) - One singing in Grove Road on Feb. 15th (W.F.F.)

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes*) - Rapidly recovering numbers in this area (W.F.F.)

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus gularis*) - Nesting under Ben Rhydding Toll Bridge on March 14th (K.C.C.) Nested under Ilkley Old Bridge but nest pulled out later (H.J.W.) Nest seen at Garnett's Mill, Otley on April 11th (H.E.A.)

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica rustica*) - Three at Riffa on April 10th (H.M.) At Esscroft on April 16th (K.C.C.) and three between Chelker and Bolton Abbey on April 16th (R.F.G.)

HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica urbica*) - 2 or 3 near B.R. Toll Bridge on April 30th (K.C.C.) Seen at Otley until Oct. 2nd. (W.F.F.)

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia riparia*) - At Mickle Ing, near Otley on April 13th (D.I.T.W.) At Ilkley, April 14th (H.J.W.) Esscroft colony robbed by boys on July 6th (W.F.F.) Some near B.R. Filter Beds on Sept. 17th (W.F.F.)

SWIFT (*Apus apus apus*) - One seen to go under the roof of a house in Ben Rhydding at 7.10 p.m. on April 28th, and remained there (K.C.C.) 6 at Mickle Ing, Otley, on May 1st (W.F.F.) Two at Ilkley on Sept. 1st (H.J.W.)

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus*) - Two calling in Riffa Wood on July 12th and most subsequent evenings until about July 19th (H.M.) On Aug. 20th a young fully-feathered bird with a damaged wing was brought to H.M. by children who found it at Riffa. W.F.F. tried unsuccessfully to rear it, and it is now stuffed and in the Cartwright Hall Museum, Bradford.

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis hispida*) - Not so frequently reported this year, but there have been several about the river between Ilkley and Burley (K.C.C.) Two at Ilkley Filter Beds on Feb. 29th (W.F.F.) One at Denton Lake on Aug. 4th (W.F.F.) One at Kettlewell on March 14th (J. Boardman). One at Ilkley Old Bridge on Mar. 7th (D.H.) one at Ilkley New Bridge on Apr. 2nd (M.M.) and one by Ilkley Golf Links on Apr. 6th (H.J.W.)

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis pluvius*) - Seen or heard at Harewood Apr. 14th, Farnley Lake Apr. 21st, Denton, Ben Rhydding and Lindley. (W.F.F.)

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dryobates major anglicus*) - At Denton, Lindley, and Panorama Woods (W.F.F.) One noticed at Menston since Nov. 27th (J.P.B.)

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dryobates minor communus*) - One seen in Owlter Park Wood on or about March 14th (A.C.M.D.)

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus canorus*) - One seen by Mr. J.A. Forder at Lindley on Apr. 21st. Last heard on July 2nd, near Cow and Galf Rocks (K.C.C.)

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba alba*) - One at Riffa on Jan. 4th (H.M.)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua vidalii*) - One near Rhodes' Farm, Ben Rhydding, on Jan. 4th at 4.0 p.m. (R.S.P.B.) Three or four at Riffa all summer, but nest not found (H.M.)

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*) - Often seen in most parts of our area. Reports come from Denton, Harewood, Heber's Moss, Fewston, Ben Rhydding, Burley, Otley and Chelker. One took a brood of Tufted Ducklings which had been hatched under a domestic fowl at Lindley, during May and June (W.F.F., from Mr. J.A. Forder).

SPARROW HAWK (*Accipiter nisus nisus*) - One seen swooping at Rocks, thought to be young birds, on June 6th (K.C.C.) One pursued and killed a Green Woodpecker at Lindley Reservoir in November, watched by Mr. J.A. Forder.

HERON (*Ardea cinerea cinerea*) - The heronry at Harewood had six occupied nests in the trees by the lakeside this season, an increase of two nests on last year's number. (W.F.F.)

WHOOPEE SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*) - Two were on Chelker Reservoir on Dec. 22nd and 23rd and 27th (R.F.G.) They were still there at the year end (W.F.F.)

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*) - The pair which frequented the Ben Rhydding stretch of the river only succeeded in rearing one cygnet past the downy stage, and the pair on Farnley Lake were robbed of their eggs, and later one of this pair was found with its head and feet cut off. On Aug. 3rd there were 15 adults on Farnley Lake when J.A. Forder was there.

GOOSE (A ? sp) - 31 flew N.W. over Ben Rhydding and Ilkley on Jan. 1st at about 600 feet (R.S.P.B., R.F.G.), about 80 flew W. over Ilkley on Feb. 15th (K.C.C.), over 50 were over Ilkley on Feb. 25th (J.H. Boardman) and 49 were over Riffa on Sept. 24th (H.M.) About 50 flying W. over Ilkley on Dec. 24th at 3.15 p.m. (R.F.G.), and about 25 flying up the valley at Ilkley on Dec. 23rd (D.I.T.W.)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis canadensis*) - Five were on Swinsty Reservoir on Jan. 3rd (F. Broadbent). 25 were counted on Harewood Park Lake on July 3rd during W.N.S. outing (A.C.M.D.)

SHELDDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*) - There were three on Chelker Reservoir on Mar. 28th. They flew quickly away to W. (W.F.F.) Eight rested for about an hour on Chelker Reservoir on Apr. 16th (R.F.G.)

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*) - Frequently seen on most of the reservoirs and lakes of any size in the area, but not in such large numbers as in some previous years. Largest numbers reported have been on Lindley Reservoir, where K.C.C. and W.F.F. counted over 200 on Feb. 18th. Many were seen there on Dec. 8th by K.C.C.

TEAL (*Anas crecca crecca*) - Seen in much the same places as the preceding species, but in smaller numbers. Denton Lake, where up to 200 could sometimes be seen in former years, has been nearly empty for much of this year, and the biggest flock reported consisted of about twenty, seen by W.F.F. on March 28th. Many seen on Lindley Reservoir on Dec. 8th by K.C.C.

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) - Very few reported this year. W.F.F. saw 3 on Chelker Reservoir on Feb. 1st.

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*) - One pair on Lindley Reservoir on Jan. 21st (W.F.F.) and at least two drakes there on Dec. 8th (K.C.C.) This species must have decreased considerably, or changed its haunts.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*) - Seen in fewer numbers than previously. Two drakes on Farnley Lake on Feb. 18th, and possibly the same two on Lindley the same afternoon (K.C.C.). Two were on Harewood Lake on April 7th (W.F.F.). Three on Farnley Lake on Apr. 18th (H.E.A.) two drakes and a duck there on Apr. 21st and on May 5th there were a pair there. They nested but the eggs met with misfortune (W.F.F.) A few on Lindley on Dec. 8th (K.C.C.)

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula clangula*) - Four were noticed on the river at Mickle Ing on Jan. 3rd, and one seen to dive in the swollen river there on Jan. 14th, and two were present on Jan. 28th (W.F.F.) H.E.A. reported one in the same place on May 7th. One was seen on Chelker on Jan. 4th, Feb. 1st and 8th by W.F.F. and on Jan. 16th by R.F.G. No more were seen there until Nov. 10th, when two were seen by W.F.F. and also on Nov. 21st. One was on Fewston Reservoir on March 15th, and 6 or 7 on Harewood Lake on Apr. 7th and 14th (W.F.F.) 5 or 6 were diving on Lindley Reservoir on Nov. 17th and a few were there on Dec. 8th (K.C.C.)

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser merganser*) - Two on Lindley on Nov. 17th (K.C.C. and W.F.F.) and four on Dec. 8th (K.C.C.)

GANNET (*Sula bassana*) - 3 were seen flying over Riffa at about 1,000 feet, E. to W. on Sept. 18th, by H.M. and his brother. They were in sight for about five minutes. One, a juvenile, which was seen by K.C.C. on the shore of Chelker Reservoir at the end of September proved to be one which was picked up in Bradford about Sept. 27th and later released on Chelker Reservoir.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus cristatus*) - A pair nested at Farnley Lake and one chick was seen by H.E.A. on May 31st, but the chick had disappeared by June 16th. There were two pairs on Fewston Reservoir but the very low water level must have prevented successful nesting. The remains of one nest was found on June 20th about 100 yards from the water level at the time. Swinsty Reservoir had two pairs, and one pair had three well-grown chicks on June 20th, when W.N.S. outing took place. Only one bird was seen on Lindley Reservoir, on June 13th, by K.C.C. and W.F.F.

BLACKNECKED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*) - One was seen on Chelker by W.F.F. on Jan. 4th and on various subsequent dates up to Feb. 8th. Most of the time it kept company with a Goldeneye, swimming, diving, flying or resting on the water. Seen also by R.F.G., H.J.W., K.C.C., D.I.T.W.

LITTLE GREBE (*Podiceps ruficollis ruficollis*) - At entrance to Mickle Ing Beck on Nov. 13th.

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur turtur*) - Two at Riffa, seen on June 7th, 8th and 9th by H.M.

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata arquata*) - Several singing on Moors round Marsh Ghyll on March 14th (W.F.F.) One was seen on Ilkley Moor on Feb. 10th by J.P.B. There were eight at Chelker on Nov. 10th and 12 there on Nov. 21st (W.F.F.)

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*) - R.S.P.B. saw a very pale bird in West Park Wood in spring. One of normal colour was flushed from Ben Rhydding Filter Beds by H.M. on June 15th and several were seen in the Timble area on March 14th by K.C.C.

COMMON SNIFE (*Capella gallinago gallinago*) - Drumming at Marsh Ghyll on March 14th. Party of four feeding close to road adjoining Chelker Reservoir on Nov. 10th (W.F.F.)

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina schintzii*) - Not proved to have nested on Ilkley Moor this year, but three birds, apparently a pair and a single bird, were seen at Heber's Moss on May 16th. One was on B.R. Filter Beds on July 6th (W.F.F.) There was one at Esscroft on Apr. 20th (K.C.C.)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) - Passed up-river at Ben Rhydding on Apr. 11th (W.F.F.)

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) - One seen at Denton Lake on Aug. 4th and 8th by J.A.C., H.J.W. and W.F.F. The lake was 2/3 empty at the time. One was seen at Riffa on March 18th and 20th and on Apr. 15th (very close view from behind a horse) by H.M. On Dec, 26th H.M. again saw one at Riffa.

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus britannica*) - Two on Ilkley Filter Beds on March 7th (D.I.T.W. and W.F.F.) Fifteen on Ben Rhydding Filter Beds on June 15th (W.F.F.)

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) - One on B.R. Filter Beds on Aug. 23rd (H.J.W. and W.F.F.) One in stream by Riffa House Farm, Riffa, on Sept. 5th (H.M.)

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*) - In nesting areas on moors behind Marsh Ghyll by March 14th (W.F.F.) One was found with a broken wing on Ilkley Golf Course on Aug. 13th. H.J.W. kept it in a pen on his lawn until Sept. 3rd, when it pecked its wing off and had to be chloroformed. It appeared quite happy and plump, calling occasionally, and coming readily to feed on worms when offered. It was weighed and found to consume about its own weight of worms per day.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*) - Numbers appear to be back to normal in breeding areas, but winter flocks are not so large as they used to be. H.M. found a nest with 3 eggs at Riffa on Apr. 7th.

OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus occidentalis*) - Two at Castley on April 20th (H.M.)

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) - Three seen on Chelker on June 15th by K.C.C., either this species or Arctic Terns.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna macrura*) - H.M. saw 3 resting on grass on Castley Moor, not near any water, on Sept. 20th. Near views obtained.

BLACKHEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus ridibundus*) - Attempted, unsuccessfully, to breed on Heber's Moss. Several empty nests, and an egg floating in the water, were there on May 16th, but no gulls were there. Four birds were prospecting on the site of March 26th (W.F.F.) G.R.F. saw birds and eggs there on about May 2nd. One with complete brown hood, apparently complete breeding plumage, with about 120 others in winter plumage, on Chelker Reservoir on Nov. 10th (W.F.F.)

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus argentatus*) - A few with about 200 Blackheaded Gulls on flooded fields near Otley Mill on Jan. 4th; nine were counted. 4 on Lindley Reservoir on Jan. 21st (W.F.F.)

LITTLE AUK (*Alle alle alle*) - One was found alive on Otley Chevin near Otley Railway Station on Nov. 9th. During the night it died, and was exhibited to the Society later. (W.F.F.)

CORNCRAKE (*Orex orex*) - One was shot when with a covey of Partridges near Burley, in September (W. Fl)

COOT (*Fulica atra atra*) - Numbers much less than formerly (W.F.F.)

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus scoticus scoticus*) - W. Fl. has noticed there were more hens than cocks on Burley Moor this year.

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*) - In a nest with ten eggs at Denton found by R.S.P.B. on Apr. 31st. the eggs varied in colour from greenish khaki to sandy.

- ADDENDA -

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) - In Panorama Woods on April 21st (D.I.T.W.)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua vidalii*) - A pair were seen on Ben Bhydding Golf Links in December (K.C.C.)

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone corone*) - One was seen leaving a nest in West Park Wood in May (R.S.P.B.)

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*) - One seen in the swamp at Wharfeside, Burley, on Dec. 27th and still there at the end of the year (W.Fl.)

SPARROW HAWK (*Accipiter nisus nisus*) - A cock and a hen were at the swamp at Wharfeside, Burley on Dec. 27th. (W.Fl.)

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis pluvius*) - One seen pecking oak-galls in Moor Lane, Burley, on Dec. 28th and several days following. (W.Fl.)

Key to initials.

H.E.A.	H.E. Adamson	W. Fl.	W. Flesher
F.B.	F. Ball	G.R.F.	G.R.Frost
Miss J.B.	Miss J. Bartle	R.F.G.	R.F. Graham
R.S.P.B.	Col. R.S.P. Bates	V.H.	V. Huddleston
J.H.B.	J.H. Boardman	D.H.	D. Hurst
F. Br.	F. Broadbent	M.M.	Miss M. Mackenzie
J.P.B.	J.P. Busby	H.M.	H. Marjoram
J.A.C.	J.A. Chadwick	A.E.P.	A.E. Pullan
K.C.C.	Dr. K.C. Crosbie	D.I.T.W.	D.I.T. Walker
A.C.M.D.	A.C.M. Duncan	H.J.W.	H.J. Williamson
W.F.F.	W.F. Fearnley		

Recorder W.F. Fearnley

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' BIRD TRAP

Report for 1948

W.F. Fearnley.

The trap which was planned last year has been erected and ringing has been commenced this year. During the winter the materials for the framework were prepared, freed from rust, and given a coat of paint, and on March 21st a barbed wire fence was erected across the corner of the field to keep cattle off the site. On May 23rd a start was made with erecting the framework, and a week later all the uprights were in position. Bit by bit during the summer evenings and week-ends work progressed, as crosspieces, staywires, posts and netting were assembled according to plan. But on Aug. 4th wire netting ran short, as had been anticipated, because the permit to procure it had been cut below the estimated requirements, and it was not until Sept. 16th that the necessary allocation of more was received. Meanwhile bushes were planted, and spioe was added to operations by the presence of an active and inquisitive bull on the other side of our fortunately sturdy wire fence. Two workers bringing privet bushes had to make a hurried exit from the field. Two large props of natural tree trunks (ash and lilac) were fixed to support the span of wire-netting, and by Oct. 31st the outside wiring was completed. The trap-box was first placed in position on Nov. 7th, then more small trees (willow and blackthorn) were planted in the mouth of the trap and on Nov. 21st the trap was operated for the first time. The first bird captured was a Blackbird, which was given ring No. V.8321. But although a Blue Tit (C.3101) and a Robin (C.3102) had been ringed by Dec. 5th, it was obvious that more would have to be done to ensure consistent success, and so the rest of the year was devoted to improvements such as planting more trees and bushes, whose growth is impatiently awaited, and fixing an extension of the wire netting to one side of the trap. Although the construction took longer than was anticipated, a good job has been done, and 1949 should see many birds successfully ringed at the Wharfedale Naturalists' Bird Trap.