

TRANSACTIONS

of the

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS SOCIETY

Volume XVII

January - December 1962

## HELFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1962-63.

President: Walter FlesherVice-President and Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A.C.M. DuncanHon. Treasurer: J.I. ThackrahHon. Asst. Secretary and Librarian: Miss E.A.W. GillHon. Ornithological Secretary: Mrs. O.M. PennockCommittee:

Miss M. Dalby      Dr. R.A.W. Procter    H. Marjoram      C.G. Booth

Mrs. F.C. Draper    Dr. J.H. Fidler      E.S. Skinner      R.C. Parkinson

Recorders:Vertebrates(other than birds) H. MarjoramOrnithology: E.S. SkinnerBotany: Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan

Secretary: Miss M. Dalby

Geology: P.D. Lamming

Secretary: Miss N.R. Payne

Lepidoptera: Mrs. F.C. DraperSpiders: Mr. I.R. SpinkOther Invertebrates: Dr. J.H. FidlerLanternist: A.C.M. DuncanAssistant Librarian: Miss J. Wooler

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## NOTES ON 1962.

During 1962 the membership continued to grow, and a count at the end of the year showed a total of 220: 176 seniors, 40 juniors and 4 honorary members.

The financial position remained steady, at the end of March there being a satisfactory balance in the general account and in the Research Fund. The subscriptions were kept at 10/-, and 2/6 for juniors.

The Annual Dinner at the Lister's Arms Hotel was again popular, and the special guests were Mr. and Mrs. A. Pilkington; after the meal Mr. Pilkington entertained members and friends with his colour slides.

In May the Society staged an exhibition for a fortnight in the Manor House, Ilkley. Under the title 'How to enjoy being a Naturalist', there were five stands showing the Weather, Geology, Botany, Birds and Insects. The exhibition was visited by quite a number of school parties.

At Whitsuntide the Society welcomed to Ilkley 26 members of the London Natural History Society who came to spend a weekend exploring the Craven limestone. Miss P. Walker, a member of both Societies, was largely responsible for the event, with Mr. P. Holland, Secretary of the Botanical Section of the L.N.H.S. in charge at the London end, and Mrs. F.C. Draper organising the three outings with Miss Walker. The whole occasion proved very successful and enjoyable; members of the W.N.S. gave hospitality to some of the visitors, and joined in the excursions and the two evening meetings. It was a real opportunity to get together to compare notes, and many new acquaintances were made. Members of our Society now have a generous open invitation to contact the London Naturalists when in London and go to any of their meetings and excursions.

The Summer Programme is given in full below, followed by the Winter Syllabus, once again arranged by Miss E.A.W. Gill, the Assistant Secretary. These speak for themselves of the activities of the Society.

One event not mentioned was an Ornithological Quiz between the Society and the Harrogate Naturalists at Harrogate. The Wharfedale Naturalists were represented by Messrs. W.F. Fearnley, W. Flesher and E.S. Skinner, and they won the contest by 41 points to 39½ points.

The Society's Library has recently been much enlarged, having nearly 100 books. It is being used more than before, and thanks are due to those members who have kindly given books.

As well as keeping in touch with other local naturalists' societies, the Society continues to be affiliated to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union. Previously all members of the W.N.S. were automatically associate members of the Union, but under the new rules membership costs 5/- for associates, although members of affiliated societies may attend field meetings and the Union A.G.M.

The Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust recently sent out an appeal for membership to all W.N.S. members not already members of the Trust. As a result several more have joined the Trust. The Society is a Life Member of the Trust.

As always the Society is indebted to many, both members and friends, who take an active part: leading excursions, giving lectures and in other ways offering their services. Thanks are due to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette for publishing the reports sent in of lectures and excursions.

## SUMMER PROGRAMME 1962.

<u>Tuesday evening excursions</u>		<u>Leaders</u>
May 8	Bolton Woods	Miss M. Dalby and E. S. Skinner
May 15	Moorland survey: Greengates	
May 22	Riffa Wood	H. Marjoram
May 29	Moorland survey: White Wells	
June 5	Askwith	Peter Ridley
June 19	Denton	Dr. R.A.W. Procter and F. Ball
June 26	Moorland survey: Spicey Beck	
July 3	Washburn from Lindley	J.I.Thackrah
July 10	Moorland survey: Lower Lanshaw (cancelled owing to rain)	
July 17	Middleton	L. G. Dewdney
July 24	Ilkley Moor (cancelled owing to rain)	Thomas Dewdney and Graham Pegg

Weekend excursions

May 26 (Saturday)	Bolton Abbey. Y.N.U. Field Meeting	
June 9, 10, 11 (Whitsuntide)	Visit of members of London Natural History Society for tour of the Craven Limestone.	
	Day excursions: Grassington (June 9) Malham (June 10) Arncliffe (June 11)	
	Evening meetings: June 9 and 10, in Grove Schoolroom	
June 23 (Saturday)	Troller's Ghyll Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan	
July 8 (Sunday)	Clumber Park and Welbeck Abbey J. I. Thackrah	
July 15 (Sunday)	Visit of Leeds Naturalists to Ilkley Moor	

## WINTER PROGRAMME 1962-63

Sept. 18	The Chough and its Neighbours. Film	H. Platt
Oct. 2	Alpine Flowers. Colour slides.	Miss C. Shaddick
Oct. 9	Garden Birds. R.S.P.B. Colour Film	
Oct. 16	With a Naturalist in North Wales. C. slides.	A. Pilkington
Oct. 30	Butterflies and Moths in Colour. "	Mrs. F. C. Draper
Nov. 13	Members' Evening: Puzzle specimens Members' Colour Slides	
Nov. 27	A Walk through the Seasons. Hand coloured slides.	Miss D. Walker
Dec. 11	Bird Conservation in Scotland. Colour slides. The Return of the Osprey. Colour film.	G. Waterston, F.R.S.E.
Jan. 15	Forest Commission in Yorkshire. Colour slides.	A. Hartley
Jan. 29	A Matter of Detail. Colour slides.	J. R. Rundle
Feb. 12	1962 in Retrospect.	
Feb. 26	Colour Slide Battle with Ilkley Camera Club.	
Mar. 12	Birds in Colour. Colour Slides.	M. Hedley
Mar. 29 (Friday)	Annual Dinner at the Blue Bird Cafe.	
Apr. 23	Annual General Meeting.	

The attendance at the excursions and indoor meetings has been very good. At one of the Moorland survey meetings members of the Craven Naturalists joined in the Society's work. The Leeds Naturalists were shown the more interesting features of the Moor.

The meeting for Mr. Waterston's lecture was an open one, and members and visitors gave generously to the collection for the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust.

Mr. A.H. Mallinson and Mr. J.H. Robinson of Otley Photographic Society judged the colour slide battle: Naturalists 155 points, Camera Club 144 points.

## SURVEY OF ILKLEY MOOR

Partly owing to the wet summer, work on the Moorland Survey was rather unspectacular. However, on three of the four evenings arranged in the Summer Programme, successful surveys were organised. The first was an estimation of the encroachment of Crowberry on Greengates cotton grass bog, the second a mass survey of Spicey Beck, and the third a transect of part of the Upper Tarn.

Further work has been done in surveying Crawshaw Moss, and it is hoped to produce a full report on this together with the results of the pollen analysis carried out by Dr. Bartley and Miss Hewitt of Leeds University.

Two papers have been accepted for publication in *The Naturalist* during 1963: one written by Dr. J.H. Fidler on the localised areas where bracken has been grazed by sheep, and the other on the bryophytes of the moor compiled by Miss M. Dalby. Accounts of the fungi and the insects are also in preparation, so that we are gradually building up a composite picture of the ecology of the moor. In due course a supplement to the report of 1960 will be written.

During the past two years the Secretary has, on behalf of the Society, lectured to seven neighbouring societies, and has three more visits booked. After one of the lectures, the account in a local paper caught the attention of the national press. Reports appeared under such headlines as 'Ilkley Moor baht 'Eather', and there was mention by the B.B.C. on both sound and T.V. So both the Society and Ilkley Moor got some unexpected publicity. This can be a help in that it brings to the notice of others the kind of work which naturalists can do; but the real study involves painstaking collection of data and attempts to solve the many problems which arise.

In connection with the more detailed investigation of the plant associations of the moor it was found necessary to have some up-to-date aerial photographs. The Society is fortunate in being awarded a grant of £50 by the Carnegie Trust for this purpose. The photographs are to be taken before May 1963 by Dr. J.K. St. Joseph of Cambridge, and then subsequent work using the aerial survey will be directed by Dr. Bartley.

One member who has had a long and intimate association with the wild life on Ilkley Moor is the President, Mr. Walter Flesher. In order to put on record his valuable knowledge, he was offered the medium with which he is familiar through his work with the B.B.C. A small group of members gathered with Mr. Flesher at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Robinson and sat round a microphone for questions and discussion about the mammals of the moor.

From the recording which was made, and which Mr. Robinson still has, the following account was written. It comes out in Mr. Flesher's own inimitable style.

THE MAMMALS OF ILKLEY MOOR told by Walter Flesher.

Mr. Flesher, who has known the Moor for sixty years, twenty of which he spent as Gamekeeper of Burley Moor, recounted his experiences. A tape recording was made and the following account was written from this. He was asked to start with the predators.

Foxes are always with us. Prior to 1914 they were fairly rare, then during the first world war they increased enormously and have never been reduced in numbers. In fact, although sixteen were destroyed in 1961, this month\* 2 vixens and two dog foxes have been destroyed, and from the marks in the snow we know of at least two other pairs on the moor. Anything up to half a dozen pairs breed on the moor; that means they bring up forty youngsters. Generally they have fairly big litters, we've had them with nine, rarely less than five, and six to seven is quite common. Foxes generally make deep earths, though occasionally have litters in a short hole, but they move the cubs after about ten days to a deeper and bigger earth. They breed in the Rocky Valley, behind the Cow and Calf, in Woofa Bank and on Ashlar Chair. Some breed very close to the moor where no gamekeeper interferes, then when they've bred they immediately make for the moor which is a good feeding ground with its abundance of grouse. It appears to me that the fox population is likely to be maintained and probably to increase. The abolition of the gin trap gave foxes a better lease of life; now other methods are used, such as shooting and digging out.

It didn't appear to make any difference to the numbers when the rabbits went, but they were keener on poultry and carrion. The afterbirth from sheep never used to be bothered with, but when the rabbits went the foxes cleaned up every bit. Now of course there are a lot more hares than there were, and we find round the earth where the foxes have cubs the remains of hares where we used to find the remains of rabbits.

There are also the foxes that go to the moor to feed; there may be anything up to twelve ranging about some nights when the litters break up. To follow a fox track in the snow is a revelation; they come to us from their breeding places at Esholt, Otley Chevin, Hawksworth, Catton Wood in Burley and from Silsden at the other end. Ten to twelve miles is nothing for a fox to travel, hunting all the time. I followed one in recent snow and it had trotted round the hen huts and rabbit burrows, occasionally killing a mouse, killing it just because it was there and leaving it headless.

Foxes have competitors in stoats and weasels. Stoats are fairly constant in numbers, even though every year twenty to thirty will be trapped on the moor, there's always twenty to thirty left, so you don't catch up on them any quicker than that. But weasels fluctuate; there may be very few for two or three years, then suddenly there comes a time when they are abundant as in 1925-1928. Today they are almost a rarity. Of course the moor is a game preserve and weasels have to be caught. They are easy to control because once you catch a weasel in a trap, the others seem to be drawn to the trap and you might get one each day going into it, till you have the whole family. We use Samson traps since the gin was abolished.

There was an influx of stoats in 1954 but since then there has always been a reasonable stoat population. Both stoats and weasels breed on the moor in wall bottoms and holes under rocks, they are rarely found breeding in a place easy of access.

White stoats are seen on the moor sometimes in winter. I don't know what dictates this change of colour. In some severe winters we never see a white  
\*January 1962.

one, then comes a mild winter and there white ones. They certainly change by the calendar, we always find them from the second half of December to mid-February. Sometimes they are all white except for the black tip on the tail. The brown coat is not always completely cast, occasionally we see them white with a brown ribbon down the back, and sometimes half and half.

Badgers are a rarity and always have been. I think for one thing the moor is too public, with too much disturbance; badgers like privacy and we just get odd ones periodically. I have no knowledge of them having bred on the moor, but I do know they've used the earth on Ashlar Chair.

Otters do not live on the moor. There are no fish in the reservoirs, and though they don't live entirely on fish, there's nothing else for them to eat on the moor. In 1954 tracks of an otter were seen near Ashlar Chair, it was probably crossing the moor from Wharfedale to Airedale.

We get quite a number of hedgehogs on the moor, particularly soon after they come out of hibernation. We see more of them in May than at any other time, and that rather tempts me to think they are after eggs. I wouldn't say the hedgehog deliberately hunts for eggs, it is hunting for other things, but eats eggs if it comes across them, and there are plenty of eggs about in May. I have never heard of anybody who has found a hedgehog in hibernation on the moor, they certainly don't stay there in autumn and winter, but go down to lower ground to hibernate. They are not known to breed on the moor, they live below and come up to feed. In May they get well up beyond Lanshaw. They used to get into gin traps and tunnel traps when we used them.

At that altitude moles are quite common, where around Lanshaw there seems to be good feeding ground for them, which is rather surprising on the acid soil. Round the ruins of Horncliffe House, which used to be a small-holding, there are quite a lot of moles. The moles burrow into black soil, but not peat, and they follow the banks of streams. They will eat slugs if they don't find worms, and they never burrow very deep up here; the molehills on the moor are never as big as those you see in meadows. Moles on the moor stay there all the year round, but keep pretty near the surface unless the ground is very dry, and the numbers seem fairly constant.

The common shrew is found in fair numbers, but there are not many pigmy shrews. Water voles are common and plentiful, but as they are vegetarians the keeper doesn't bother about them. There are never so many as to be likely to weaken the reservoir banks with their burrowing.

Small rodents are always there, long and short-tailed field mice and the like. In snow we get a pretty good guide if there's an invasion. When they are very numerous the Short-eared owls come in and feast off them and stay on and nest on the moor. These owls kill enormous quantities of them. The small rodents feed on heather seeds, and a good heather crop such as we had in 1961 will bring lots of these small rodents up to the moor. So the fluctuations may be due to a good breeding season or to rodents coming in from an area where food has run out. I think food supply dictates movement of all wild creatures. The decrease of heather and increase of crowberry has not reduced the rodent numbers, there is still plenty of food to maintain a fairly large number of them.

We see the remains of quite a number of young rats round Short-eared Owls' nests but I'm fairly certain these have been fetched up by the owls from the farms below the moor, and did not come up to feed. The only rats we see or catch are old ones. They often have a skin disease such as scurvy, and you can tell they are old by their long yellow teeth and scaly tail with no hair. They

are probably driven out by the younger ones and come up from the farms to try to catch a few young birds.

Rabbits used to be more abundant than hares, but since myxomatosis has killed off so many rabbits the hares have increased a lot. This seems to bear out the theory that the old buck rabbits used to kill young hares. I think the two species eating the same food are not good neighbours.

There has never been a dense population of rabbits and they are mainly on the lower slopes. Only once have I seen a rabbit above 1,000 feet. In the snow we can see how they cross the road and go below the moor to pasture land to feed. On the moor they graze mainly on grasses and sedges, and they will eat roots of plantain and tree bark.

Squirrels are creatures of the woods, but they are seen on the moor from time to time as visitors. A pair of grey squirrels spent a couple of weeks or more by the Shooting Box in 1953; what they lived on I don't know, there was nothing for them to eat but heather seeds. Although squirrels are not resident on the moor they may be seen round the moor edge near farms with a few trees. I have never seen a red squirrel on the moor.

In 1930 a red deer stag spent five or six weeks in August and September on the moor and moor edge. It must have been an escape from a park. It was never destroyed and I think it eventually moved off. This is the only occasion I have known of a deer on the moor. I wish we could have some, for they are delightful to see.

The moor is, of course, a game preserve and there is always a keeper there. One wonders why there should always be foxes when they are persistently destroyed, yet hares and rabbits that we don't bother about fluctuate in numbers. I think food supply influences the numbers more than man. The preservation of game is not likely to be the cause of any species of bird or mammal being exterminated. Only a small percentage of the acreage of the countryside is game preserved. On the remainder, predators breed unmolested.

#### WEATHER REPORT.

Some early snow in January soon thawed and we had a genial month for the time of the year, with maximum temperatures between 40 F (4 C) and 50 F (10 C) with little night frost. Some fine rainbows were seen. More rainbows were observed in February and on 9th February flowers were noted on the Mezerion bush. We were soon to be shaken out of our complacency, for on the night of 11th - 12th February a whole gale, force 10, occurred. Much structural damage was done to roofs, chimney stacks brought down, walls blown over and large trees blown down. Gusts of 80 and 90 miles per hour were recorded in some places. The river ran bank high flooding Nesfield Road at 4.00 p.m.

The Azores High had extended northwards into the Bay of Biscay area and a very deep depression passed to the south of Iceland pushing the isobars closer together, this steep pressure gradient causing very high wind speeds.

On 15th February a vivid violet glow was observed at sunset. The sun's rays striking upward underneath the cloud cover. The next day, 16th February, another gale was blowing, force 10, with gusts of 96 miles per hour recorded at Sheffield where 70,000 houses were damaged, 100 beyond repair. Ilkley also suffered structural damage in this second gale.



At Fewston a plantation at the south side of the reservoir was clear felled, many trees being broken off at about 10 feet from the ground. Another plantation at Swinsty was almost clear felled. It seemed that the wind had been let in by the storm which blew down a part of the plantation at Fewston in 1956. 350 trees were blown down, some broken off above the ground, in the Ilkley Moor plantations.

After these gales the year remained cold, temperatures never rising into the 80's F (26 C), 79 F (25.5 C) being the maximum for July. Night frosts were recorded until 1st June when the temperature fell to 32 F (0 C). July, August and September were the only months of the year free from night air frosts. The first air frost of autumn was recorded on 27 October. There was a cold spell in the beginning of December, 2nd - 6th.

23rd December saw the start of the Continental Arctic air stream bringing frost night and day, all exposed water freezing over. Soon the river was frozen from bank to bank, the freeze being so rapid that the Crum Wheel was frozen completely over. The ground became frozen hard before any snow fell, so when the snow did come it lay. Skating was enjoyed on the Tarn until the end of the year. The full extent of the freeze will have to come in next year's report.

1,160.8 hours of sunshine is somewhat below normal, but on 16th June we had a record day's sunshine for a single day, with 14.9 hours, this equalling that on 15th June 1957. Previously Ilkley had had 14.1 hours sunshine on 5th May 1938, 8th August 1935 and 12th July 1955. The year has also been drier than usual with a total of 29.06 inches of rainfall.

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
TEMPERATURE												
highest F	52	51	51	68	64	76	79	71	72	64	55	52
maximum C	11.1	10.5	10.5	20	17	25	27	21.5	22	18	13	11
lowest F	20	25	20	30	31	32	43	46	40	28	20	14
minimum C	-6.6	-4	-7	-1	-1.5	0	6	7	4	-2	-6.6	-10
mean F	38.8	39.4	37.8	44.7	50	55.9	56.9	57.16	53.9	50.1	41.2	33.2
C	3.7	4	3.5	7	10	13	19	19.5	12	10	5	0.5
SUNSHINE hours												
monthly total	35.3	69.1	109.9	158.4	159.2	171.6	107.5	115	87.5	71.5	28.4	47.5
annual total	1160.8 hours											
RAINFALL												
no. of days 0.2" or over	8	3	3	5	3	1	4	5	5	2	2	5
monthly total inches	4.05	1.93	1.29	2.73	2.16	0.7	2.32	3.88	3.49	1.27	1.71	3.53
annual total	29.06 inches											

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

A.C.M. DUNCAN

## BOTANICAL SECTION

## FLOWERING PLANTS.

## Flowering:

There were a few records of early flowering and then the bitterly cold spring slowed down flowering, and during the early summer plants were up to four weeks late in coming into bloom. For the visit of the London Naturalists, however the previous cold weather had been an advantage, since some of the early flowers which would normally have died by then were still to be seen. The later flowers seemed less affected by the weather.

On the excursion to Arncliffe with the London Naturalists two almost white heads of Primula farinosa (Bird's-eye Primrose) were found, and one pure white. A specimen of the latter had been seen two years ago near the same place.

Near Simon's Seat Jenifer Baker recorded Rubus chamaemorus (Cloudberry), Vaccinium vitis-idaea (Cowberry) and Melampyrum pratense (Cow-wheat).

An excursion to Langbar was held for the Botanical Section, led by Rosemary Hey. Amongst a good list of plants were Corydalis claviculata (Climbing Corydalis) and Carex paniculata (Panicked sedge).

Three water plants new to the Society were recorded: Myriophyllum alterniflorum (Alternate Water Milfoil) and Potamogeton alpinus (Reddish Pondweed) from Addingham, and F. X cooperi from the Wharfe.

On the moor Dryopteris borreri (Golden-scaled fern) was found for us by the London Naturalists.

Two new alien plants have been found: Cardaria draba (Hoary Cress) from Ben Rhydding and Addingham by Mrs. F.C. Draper, and Tolmiea menziesii (Pick-a-back plant) escaped and naturalised in Ilkley, by Mrs. J. Kennedy.

Now that the new Plant Atlas has been published, there will be a lot of checking of records to do. It will be especially important to find out if all plants in the area recorded by the Society are also in the Atlas, as it is part of our job to send in the records. At the same time, plants may have been found by others and shown in the Atlas but not in our own lists, so they must be searched for. The Society owns a copy of the Atlas which is available for members to use. Help with work on the Atlas will be warmly welcomed by the Recorder for flowering plants.

J.E. DUNCAN,  
Recorder.

## BRYOPHYTES

The most interesting find during 1962 was the moss Scorpidium scorpioides in the Lanshaw bogs of Burley Moor by a party of London Natural History Society members during their visit to us at Whitsuntide. This moss, generally regarded as a strict calcicole, is rather surprising to find in the middle of an acid moor, but there are several more basic areas on the moor and a number of lime loving bryophytes have been found.

The bryophyte section of the Y.N.U. also visited the moor in September and were able to add Ctenidium molluscum, Cratoneuron filicium and Brium capillare to the moorland list. Other additions include Scapania curta on a rock up Black Beck and Rhacomitrium fasciculare on stone work at Gill Head reservoir.

Bryophyte records are now being compiled for the district and the recorder would be glad of specimens giving locality and habitat. M. DALBY.

## FUNGI

The autumn of 1962 was a good one for fungi, the grassland species being particularly abundant. 96 species were recorded, and of these, six were new to the records and several others were found in new localities.

- \*+ Lyophyllum decastes in turf by Rushy ravine. 6 Oct.  
 \* Mycena galericulata on old stump, Burley Moor. 6 Oct.  
 + Marasmius confluens plantation, Burley Woodhead. 25 Sept.  
Stropharia aeruginosa (Verdigris Agaric) Askwith. 21 Oct. C.G. Booth  
Hypholoma sublateritium (The Brick) Bolton Abbey. 24 Oct.  
 + Amanita mappa (False Death Cap) Under beeches, Bolton Abbey. 4 Oct.  
 + Amanita virosa (Destroying Angel) Under beeches, Bolton Abbey. 4 Oct.  
     Rare and deadly poisonous.  
Amanita muscaria (Fly Agaric) By Robin Hole, Woodhead. 19 Sept.  
 + Helvella crispa in grass under beeches, Bolton Abbey. 4 Oct.  
 \* Clavaria cristata (Crested Clavaria) In turf by Rushy ravine. 6 Oct.  
 \* Cordyceps militaris (Red Caterpillar Club) Abundant in pasture, Woodhead.  
     Also found on Moor and at Middleton. Sept. - Nov.  
     Parasitic on pupating caterpillars.  
Geoglossum nigritum Robin Hole, Woodhead. 19 Sept.  
G. glutinosum abundant on mossy lawn, Burley-in-Wharfedale. 29 Oct.  
 \* Xylaria hypoxylon (Candle Snuff) on buried wood by Rushy ravine. 6 Oct.  
 + Sclerotinia currenyana on base of wet rushes, Addingham. 3 May J.E. Duncan.  
     + new to records      \* new to moorland list

F.C. DRAPER

## ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

## LEPIDOPTERA

1962 was not a good year for the Lepidoptera generally and disastrous for the butterflies owing to the cold winds and lack of sunshine. The Y.N.U. recorder regards it as 'the worst year in living memory' in Yorkshire for butterflies.

Seven different butterflies were recorded and of these one was added after an appeal for information at the November records meeting. This is the Orange Tip and a male was seen on the south side of the river at Pool last June. It is nice to know this species can still be found in the district.

121 different moths were recorded, 13 species being new to the general list and four new to the moorland list.

Butterflies

Coenonympha pamphilus (Small Heath) Grassington, 9 June. Burley Woodhead,  
 14 June. Fairly plentiful.

Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral) Ilkley, 15 Oct. Miss E. Gill. The only record.

- Aglais urticae (Small Tortoiseshell) Burley Woodhead, 24 April and again in Oct. Burley-in-Wharfedale, 7 May.
- Pieris brassicae (Large White) Burley-in-W. 1 May. Menston 7 June. Woodhead 8 June. Numerous larvae on nasturtium, Ilkley 25 Oct. G.R. Bottomley.
- Pieris rapae (Small White) Burley and Menston, 18 June.
- Pieris napi (Green-veined White) Burley-in-W. 3 May. Burley Moor, 9 May.
- Euchloë cardamines (Orange Tip) Pool, 6 June. W.F. Fearnley.
- Moths new to records
- Gerura furcula (Sallow Kitten) Egg found on willow, Burley Woodhead, 15 July, and larva reared in captivity.
- Xylophasia lithoxylaca (Light Arches) Woodhead, at light, 28 July
- Miana literosa (Rosy Miner) Woodhead, at light, 19 Aug.
- Leucania lithargyria (Clay Wainscot) Woodhead, at light, 27 July
- Orthosia cruda (Small Quaker) Burley Woodhead, 9 April.
- Geometra papilionaria (Large Emerald) Burley-in-W. 30 Aug.
- Sterrhia virgularia (Small Dusty Wave) Woodhead A female at light, 28 July. Second brood reared Spet. - Oct.
- Euphyia rubidata (Flame Carpet) Woodhead, at light, 31 Aug.
- Earophila badiata (Shoulder Stripe) Woodhead, at light, 1 May
- Oporinia christyi (Pale Autumnal) Woodhead, at light, 2 Sept.
- Eupithecia icterata ssp. subfulvata (Tawny Speckled Pug) Woodhead, at light, 19 Aug.
- Orthonama vittata (Oblique Carpet) Woodhead, at light, 28 June. Menston, 2 Sept. R.W. Draper.
- Itama wavaria (V-moth) Menston, at light, 3 Sept. R.W.D.

F.C. DRAPER  
Recorder.

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SOME WINTER BIRD WEIGHTS

The broad picture of weights of passerines is one of maximum adult weight during winter, followed by a gradual decline during spring and early summer, with a sharp drop associated with moulting about the middle of summer.

Account must also be taken of variations between individual birds, climatic conditions and the availability of food, and diurnal variations.

It would seem to be misleading ever to refer to 'normal' weights without qualification.

Examples of variations in Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) in hard weather:

♂ 34924.S		♂ 34925.S	
23 Dec. '62	131.0 g.	23 Dec. '62	120.5 g.
16 Feb. '63	119.0 g.	9 Feb. '63	102.0 g.

♂ <u>34979S</u>	6 Jan. '63	94.0 g.	10 Feb. '63	108.5 g.	
	26 Jan. '63	106.5 g.	2 Mar. '63	104.0 g.	
♀ <u>38422 R</u>	26 Jan. '63	89.0 g.	♀ <u>38407 R</u>	12 Jan. '63	91.0 g.
	16 Feb. '63	95.5 g.		26 Jan. '63	100.0 g.
	24 Feb. '63	96.0 g.		16 Feb. '63	107.0 g.

WEIGHTS OF BLACKBIRDS (*Turdus merula*)

wts. in grammes	86 -90	91 -95	96 -100	101 -105	106 -110	111 -115	116 -120	121 -125	126 -130	no. of weighs	range
<u>Adult males 1955-62</u>											
Dec.					1	1	3	6		11	110.0 - 124.5 g.
Jan.					3	1	5	2	2	13	106.0 - 129.5 g.
Feb.			1	3		2	3			9	96.0 - 116.0 g.
total			1	3	4	4	11	8	2	33	
<u>Period of frost and snow 1962-63</u>											
Dec. 23-31				1	1	2	2	1	3	10	104.0 - 131.0 g.
Jan.	1	2	1	2	4	7	1	3	1	22	87.5 - 130.0 g.
Feb.			1	2	2	2	3	2		12	99.5 - 125.0 g.
total	1	2	2	5	7	11	6	6	4	44	
<u>Adult females 1955-62</u>											
Dec.				3	5	2		1	1	12	101.0 - 126.5 g.
Jan.			1	5	4	7	1	1		19	99.0 - 123.0 g.
Feb.				3	1	3	2			9	104.0 - 119.0 g.
total			1	11	10	12	3	2	1	40	
<u>Period of frost and snow 1962-63</u>											
Dec 23-31				2	2	1	3	1	2	11	103.5 - 127.0 g.
Jan.	3	2	3	2	6	6	1			23	89.0 - 117.0 g.
Feb.		4	5	4	3	4	1	1	1	23	91.5 - 130.5 g.
total	3	6	8	8	11	11	5	2	3	57	

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

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

## GREAT CRESTED GREBE

3 seen on Lindley reservoir and 1 on Swinsty on 17 March. Recorded on several dates on Farnley Lake and Chelker reservoir during summer.

## LITTLE GREBE

1 or 2 seen on the river at Ilkley and Ben Rhydding during November and early December.

## CORMORANT

1 seen on Swinsty reservoir on 3 March (ESS)

## MUTE SWAN

A pair attempted to nest again at the Ilkley filter beds during May. 2 eggs were seen by LGD but they disappeared long before they were due to hatch.

## WHOOPEE SWAN

A single bird was seen on the river between Ben Rhydding and Burley between 19 and 22 March (GP & ESS). Another seen on river between Grass Woods and Starbotton (WFF & DMP). 2 adults were on Chelker reservoir for a few days up to 22 December (JRR & ESS).

## BEWICK'S SWAN

6 adults were seen on Chelker reservoir on 20, 21 December. They spent a considerable time feeding by the water inlet at the east end of the reservoir, within about 15 yards of the main road (JRR & ESS).

## GREY GEESE (?species)

Flocks reported flying over Ilkley at night on 19 & 25 January (Mrs. JHF). A flock of c. 50 flying west over Otley on 16 December (ESS).

## CANADA GOOSE

3 were seen at Brownholme Swamp, Burley on 3 April (WFF).. Over 100 were recorded on Fewston reservoir on a number of occasions between June and November - maximum 138 on 8 July (JKF).

## MALLARD

A nest found near Ben Rhydding filter beds on 22 April contained 9 eggs and 3 Pheasant's eggs, but the nest was deserted (ESS). Another nest on Burley/Hawksworth Moor contained 11 eggs on 20 April (WFF).

## TEAL

c. 50 seen on Lindley reservoir on 7 January.

## WIGEON

Up to 12 seen on Lindley reservoir during January, February and March.

## TUFTED DUCK

Usually present on Lindley reservoir and Farnley Lake throughout the year. 7 seen on Knotford Nook gravel pits, Otley on 15 April (WFF), and a pair recorded on the pond at Brownholm, Burley, on 3 May (GP).

## GOLDEN-EYE

2 seen on Knotford Nook gravel pits, Otley on 15 April (WFF).

## COMMON SCOTER

2 immature males seen on Chelker reservoir on 25 November (RCP)

## COMMON BUZZARD

Several different records during May from three people probably refer to the same bird. Mr. George Harrison reported one on Ilkley Moor on 12 May. Mr. George Cowling reported one over Burley/Ilkley Moor about 29 May, and Mr. David Smith, a gamekeeper at Askwith, saw one there on several days in mid May. (per WF).

## SPARROW HAWK

2 birds were seen in Heber's Ghyll on 9 May and subsequent dates, and are reported to have nested there (OMP). A single bird was seen near Barden Bridge on 16 July (JKF).

## HEN HARRIER

A Hen Harrier was seen over Snowden Moor, above Askwith by several observers on 11 November and had been in the area for a week or more. From the date of observation it can only have been this species (WFF, OMP, WF).

## MERLIN

1 was seen on Ilkley Moor on 3 April (RCP), and a male was seen on the Ilkley/Burley Moor on 12 May (WF).

## KESTREL

A pair were seen in a quarry on Ilkley Moor on 20 May (RCP, WF), and a pair bred successfully on Addingham Moorside, when there were well-grown young in the nest on 14 July (RCP).

## RED GROUSE

Nest with eggs found on Burley Moor on 5 April (WF).

## PARTRIDGE

A nest was found at Askwith on 22 May containing 11 eggs (WF).

## CORNCRAKE

This bird was NOT recorded in the area this year.

## COOT

One was seen on Ilkley filter beds on 15 August (LGD).

## OYSTER CATCHER

A pair was seen at Bolton Abbey during April. The nest was located, but no young birds were seen (OMP).

## LAPWING

A nest with 4 eggs was found in Scalebor Park, Burley on 6 April (WF). This was the earliest record for the year.

## GOLDEN PLOVER

Nested successfully on Burley Moor 30 May (WF) and on Ilkley Moor (OMP). c. 300 were seen in a field at Langbar on 30 September (ACMD).

## COMMON SNIFE

Young were found on Burley Moor on 30 May (WF)

## WOODCOCK

Several records in April in Ilkley and Burley. Nested in Heber's Ghyll 30 May (OMP).

## CURLEW

Nested successfully on Burley Moor and young found on 30 May (WF).

## WHIMBREL

Single birds heard calling as they flew over Ilkley on 9 and 18 May (OMP, WF)

## GREEN SANDPIPER

2 birds were at the Ilkley filter beds on 16 August and one was trapped and ringed (LGD). 3 birds were seen at Castley on 9 August (HM).

## COMMON SANDPIPER

First recorded on 22 April at Ben Rhydding (ESS).

## REDSHANK

The first record for the year was at Ilkley filter beds on 17 February (TD).

## GREENSHANK

Single birds recorded at Ilkley filter beds on 15, 19 August and 1 September (LGD, ESS) and at Chelker reservoir on 2, 7 September (SF). The one recorded on August 15 was trapped and ringed, and was the first to be ringed by the Society.

## DUNLIN

4 were seen at Ilkley filter beds on 14 April (RCP, TD). Occasional birds seen there on several dates in spring and autumn.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL  
 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL  
 HERRING GULL  
 COMMON GULL  
 BLACK-HEADED GULL

All five species of Gulls are often seen in the Wharfe Valley in the vicinity of Ilkley almost all the year round, more often during the autumn and winter months. The Black-headed Gull is particularly common, coming to feed in gardens in winter. More records of the larger gulls would be welcome, as they appear to be becoming increasingly common.

All the Black-headed gulls left the Addingham Moorside colony in early July and successful breeding was not proved. (OMP).

## LITTLE GULL

This small gull was seen on 31 March dropping down on the Ilkley filter beds, but was driven off by the Black-headed gulls present. It was noticeably smaller (RCP, TD).

## WOOD PIGEON

One incubating on a nest 8 feet up in a holly bush in Scalbor Park, Burley, sat tight whilst about 40 people stood around the bush (WF).

## CUCKOO

First heard at Burley Woodhead on 25 April (GP, WF). It has been suggested that the cuckoo is on the decrease, and this seems to be borne out by the lack of records for this area.

## BARN OWL

Recorded on 24 February and 17 March in the area of Manor Park and Riversdale (GP, LGD). Another bird seen at Blubberhouses on 3 March.

## LITTLE OWL

2 seen on the edge of Hawksworth Moor on 2 May (WF), and also at Denton on 3 May (OMP).

## TAWNY OWL

Two nests with young recorded at Burley on 7 May (WF).

## NIGHTJAR

2 birds were heard churring in June at Bardon (ESS).

## SWIFT

First reported on 24 April at Burley and Ilkley (GP, OMP). Two were seen flying along the riverside at Ilkley filter beds on 1 September (ESS).



## KINGFISHER

NOT recorded this year. Has it disappeared from the district or is it lack of observation?

## GREEN WOODPECKER

2 seen in Panorama Woods on 10 March (OMP).

## GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Recorded from Farnley Lake, Heber's Ghyll, Grass Woods. Nested in silver birch tree at Burley (WF) and young heard in nesting hole in June (GP).

## SWALLOW

Single birds seen on 8 April over King's Road (OMP) and on 14 April near Stepping Stones (TD). Latest birds were 4 at Ilkley filter beds on 30 Sept. (LGD, ESS).

## HOUSE MARTIN

First birds seen at Ilkley filter beds on 22 April (TD).

## SAND MARTIN

6 birds seen at Ilkley filter beds on 13 April (TD).

## HOODED CROW

2 birds were seen near Timble on 27 November (RCP).

## CARRION CROW

Nest with young at Askwith on 22 May, and another with 3 almost fully fledged young near Swinsty reservoir on 11 June (RCP).

## MAGPIE

During May, two gamekeepers located 31 nests in and around Burley Woodhead and Menston (WF).

## JAY

Seen frequently in Heber's Ghyll and Panorama Woods (OMP). Also reported visiting gardens in Middleton.

## BLUE TIT

A party of 30 were seen feeding on a small lawn during heavy drizzle on 11 February (ESS).

## LONG-TAILED TIT

Nests found in May at Ben Rhydding (LGD) and Burley (WF) and a family party was seen in Heber's Ghyll on 21 May (OMP).

## NUTHATCH

This species is apparently on the increase in the area. It has been recorded in Grass Wood, Bolton Woods, Middleton Woods, Heber's Ghyll, Ilkley cemetery, and in the area of Grove Road and Parish Ghyll Drive. (RCP, LGD, WFF, OMP, ESS). 5 fledged young were seen in Middleton Woods on 17 July (JPU).

## TREE CREEPER

Fairly well distributed throughout. Recorded on 25 January in Ben Rhydding (Mrs. JHF), 24 March at Brownsholme, Burley (GP) and on 4 November at Menston (MD).

## WREN

Nest with 8 eggs at Askwith on 22 May (WF).

## DIPPER

Almost fully fledged young in nest at Bolton Abbey on 8 May (ESS)

## MISTLE THRUSH

A party of at least 12 were seen in the early morning of 25 August in Shannon Close (ESS).

## SONG THRUSH

Two nests containing young were found in Bolton Woods on 5 May, and both nests were built on the ground.

## FIELDFARE

c. 100 seen at Clifton on 11 April and c. 24 at Dob Park on 20 April (GP). The first autumn record was c. 100 seen at Addingham on 14 October (SF).

## RING OUZEL

1 heard singing on Ilkley Moor on 29 March (RCP). Two nests were found on Ilkley Moor within 100 yards of each other on 20 and 21 May (WF, RCP).

## BLACKBIRD

An early nest was found at Burley on 19 March.

The young had hatched on 3 April and fledged on 20 April (WF).

## WHEATEAR

4 males were seen on Burley Moor on 6 April (WF).

## WHINCHAT

2 pairs seen near the Keeper's Cottage on Ilkley Moor on 30 May (RCP).

## REDSTART

First recorded at Riffa, near Pool on 20 April (HM) and at Ilkley on 21 April (TD).

## SEDGE WARBLER

Recorded at Burley on 30 April (GP) and at Ilkley filter beds on 6 May (LGD).

## BLACKCAP

Male seen and heard singing in Bolton Woods on 5 May (ESS). 1 female seen at Ilkley filter beds on 30 September (LGD).

## GARDEN WARBLER

1 seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 2 May (RCP). 1 trapped and ringed at Ilkley filter beds on 22 July (LGD).

## WHITETHROAT

1 seen and heard at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 29 April (ESS).

## WILLOW WARBLER

First recorded at Ilkley and Ben Rhydding on 21 April (TD).

## CHIFFCHAFF

Single bird in Heber's Mount garden on 8 April (OMP) and 2 seen at Ilkley filter beds on 14 April (LGD, TD).

## WOOD WARBLER

Nested in Heber's Ghyll woods in June (OMP).

## SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

First recorded at Ilkley filter beds on 8 May (RCP). Latest record was 11 September in Ilkley (ESS). A pair nested in a nest box in a Ben Rhydding garden - 5 eggs on 1 July, hatched on 13 July and young flew on 25 July. (Mrs. Riley)

## PIED FLYCATCHER

Several pairs were seen in Bolton Woods on 5 May and one male was seen investigating a nesting hole high up in a tree (ESS).

## HEDGE SPARROW

A nest was found, built on the ground, on Burley Moor on 29 May, and contained 5 eggs (WF, ESS).

## TREE PIPIT

First seen and heard at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 22 April (ESS). Nest with 5 eggs found in Heber's Ghyll on 10 May (OMP).

## PIED WAGTAIL

c. 30 seen at a roost on Ilkley Moor on 30 March (RCP).

## YELLOW WAGTAIL

First occurred at Riffa, near Pool on 19 April (HM) and at Ilkley filter beds on 21 April (TD). Last recorded at same place on 9 September (ESS).

## WAXWING

One seen in Sunset Drive, Ilkley from 22 to 24 January (EAWG).

## GREENFINCH

On 6 October, 57 were trapped and ringed at Ben Rhydding filter beds (LGD).

## GOLDFINCH

Recorded feeding by roadside near Cow and Calf on 22 April and 2 September (WFF and G.Harrison).

## SISKIN

A flock of 13 birds were trapped and ringed at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 4 March (LGD, ESS). 3 birds seen at same place on 16 December (LGD).

## LESSER REDPOLL

4 seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 22 April (ESS).

## BULFINCH

A nest was found in an Ilkley garden in early August with newly hatched young, which were later taken by a predator (ESS). Recorded feeding on Burley Moor on 25 October (FCD).

## CROSSBILL

c. 20 seen near Barden Bridge on 16 July (JKF). A party of c. 40 flew over OMP's garden on 23 July. A single bird was heard in Heber's Ghyll on 8 September (ESS), and a small party were seen and heard near Swinsty reservoir on 12 November (OMP).

## CHAFFINCH

A flock of c. 200 of both sexes were seen feeding in a stubble field near Blubberhouses on 3 March (ESS).

## YELLOW HAMMER

c. 20 seen near Low Austby on 4 November (ACMD).

## TREE SPARROW

Usually present in variable numbers during October, November and December at both Ilkley and Ben Rhydding filter beds.

## Key to observers' initials:

MD	Miss M. Dalby	WF	W. Flesher	RCP	R. C. Parkinson
LGD	L. G. Dewdney	JKF	J. K. Fenton	OMP	Mrs. O.M. Pennock
TD	T. Dewdney	JHF	Mrs. J. H. Fidler	JRR	J. R. Rundle
FCD	Mrs. F. C. Draper	SF	S. Flood	ESS	E. S. Skinner
ACMD	A.C.M. Duncan	EAWG	Miss E.A.W. Gill	JPU	J. P. Utley
WFF	W. F. Fearnley	HM	H. Marjoram		

Thanks are due to the above named observers who have supplied records during the year, and also to other members who have given information, without which it would not have been possible to compile this report.

It is hoped that members will keep a look-out in 1963 for species which appear to be declining (or increasing) so that an up-to-date status of each species can be recorded.

E. S. SKINNER  
Recorder.

#### BIRD RINGING REPORT

875 birds have been ringed during 1962 of 41 different species. Perhaps the most interesting bird ringed during the year was a Greenshank, a new species for the Society. Another new species was the Siskin, 13 of these were ringed.

#### Recoveries of note

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed</u>	<u>Recovered</u>	<u>Place of recovery</u>
Pied Wagtail	25 . 6 . 60 Ilkley	- . 3 . 62 dead	near Obidos (Estre Madura), Portugal.
Pied Wagtail	2 . 7 . 61 Ilkley	18 . 1 . 62 dead	Paiao, near Montemor-o-Novo (Alto Alentejo), Portugal.
Pied Wagtail	24 . 7 . 60 Ilkley	winter 61/62	Ponte de Sôr (Ribateto), Portugal.
Lapwing	24 . 6 . 55 Ilkley	4 . 1 . 62 dead	Dunderrow, Kinsale (Cork).
Lapwing	27 . 5 . 58 Ilkley	7 . 1 . 62	Vera del Bidascoa (Navarre), Spain.
Lapwing	9 . 6 . 56 Ilkley	1 . 1 . 62 dead	Daoulas (Finistere), France.
Swift	28 . 6 . 59 Ilkley	26 . 1 . 62 dead	Kikwit (Leopoldville), Congo

#### Record of birds ringed from January 1st to December 31st 1962.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>
Kestrel	5	Wren	1	Meadow Pipit	38
Lapwing	7	Song Thrush	9	Pied Wagtail	41
Snipe	1	Ring Ouzel	5	Grey Wagtail	1
Green Sandpiper	1	Blackbird	23	Yellow Wagtail	12
Common Sandpiper	1	Wheatear	4	Starling	65
Redshank	11	Whinchat	5	Greenfinch	86
Greenshank	1	Redstart	8	Siskin	13
Swift	141	Robin	17	Linnet	24
Swallow	52	Blackcap	1	Bullfinch	3
House Martin	121	Garden Warbler	1	Chaffinch	9
Sand Martin	40	Whitethroat	1	Reed Bunting	5
Great Tit	6	Willow Warbler	40	House Sparrow	36
Blue Tit	12	Spotted Flycatcher	3	Tree Sparrow	3
Tree Creeper	1	Dunnock	21	Total	<u>875</u>

Our thanks are due to all members ringing for the Society.

O.M. PENNOCK.

## WILDFOWL COUNTS

Apart from the special note later regarding January 7th, the only month during the yearly counts when the reservoirs were partly covered by ice was March. This as seen from the following table showed a decrease of surface feeders with an increase of diving ducks.

For the first three months of the year the reservoirs were full, but for the remainder they varied from half full to quarter full.

	14 Jan.	18 Feb.	18 Mar.	16 Sep.	14 Oct.	18 Nov.	16 Dec.
<u>Mallard</u>							
Lindley	211	295	154	150	226	161	195
Swinsty	30	30	11	13	4	130	30
Fewston	55	106	3	59	76	95	74
total	<u>296</u>	<u>431</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>299</u>
<u>Teal</u>							
Lindley	38	50	7	90	108	4	65
Swinsty	-	-	-	11	1	9	4
Fewston	4	2	1	-	43	3	-
total	<u>42</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>Wigeon</u>							
Lindley	11	13	12	-	-	-	13
Swinsty	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Fewston	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
total	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	-	<u>2</u>	-	<u>13</u>
<u>Pochard</u>							
Lindley	1	2	2	8	33	-	-
Swinsty	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Fewston	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
total	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>4</u>	-
<u>Tufted Duck</u>							
Lindley	5	-	13	19	10	-	11
Swinsty	-	-	-	9	1	-	2
Fewston	16	9	33	3	5	5	-
total	<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Golden-eye</u>							
Lindley	1	4	4	-	-	-	3
Swinsty	-	-	1	-	-	1	5
Fewston	4	6	15	-	-	-	-
total	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Canada Goose</u>							
Lindley	6	3	2	-	-	-	-
Swinsty	-	-	2	8	150	60	40
Fewston	-	5	87	13	9	-	62
total	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>102</u>

Additional Species Recorded

Goosander - two females were seen on Lindley on 14 January, four birds were seen on Swinsty on 18 March.

Pink-footed Goose - one seen on Swinsty on 18 November.

Shelduck - two seen on Swinsty on 16 September. (The only other record of this species in the Washburn Valley was eleven birds seen at Fewston on 29 January, 1956.)

It is interesting to note that on 7 January which was not a special duck count, Lindley was mostly frozen over, except for a large open patch in the middle. The following birds were seen:

Mallard c. 300, Teal c. 50, Widgeon 6, Pochard 4, Tufted Duck 81, Golden-eye 2, Goosander 1 (female), Whooper Swan 6 (adults).

This is by far the largest congregation of Tufted Ducks seen since the wildfowl counts began. (They should have stayed until the following weekend - pity!)

Thanks are due to the Leeds Corporation Waterworks Department for permission to visit the Washburn Valley reservoirs and especially to the staunch band of observers who turn out regardless of climatic conditions.

R. C. PARKINSON

