

TRANSACTIONS

of the

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Volume XVIII .

January - December 1963

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1963-64

President: Mrs. A.C.M. DuncanVice-President: G.R. BottomleyHon. Treasurer: J.I. ThackrahHon. Secretary: Miss E.A.W. GillHon. Assistant Secretaries: Miss J. Wooler and Mrs. O.M. PennockCommittee: ex-officio: W. Flesher

Miss M. Dalby Mrs. F.C. Draper R.C. Parkinson E.S. Skinner

Committee for Junior Activities: Miss M. Dalby (Chairman)

President Secretary Mrs. B. Aldridge H.N. Cameron H. Flood

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

Miss M. Dalby (Bryophytes)

Mrs. F.C. Draper (Fungi)

Geology: P.D. Lamming Miss N.R. Payne (Secretary)Lepidoptera: Mrs. F.C. DraperOther Invertebrates: Dr. J.H. FidlerHon. Auditor: J.A. Chadwick Weather Notes: A.C.M. DuncanHon. Lanternists: A.C.M. Duncan R. Draper

CONTENTS:	page
Summer and Winter Programmes	3
Wharfedale Naturalists in 1963	4
Junior members	4
National Nature Week	5
Survey of Ilkley Moor	6
Weather Report	7
Temperature chart	9
Botanical Section	9
Entomological Section	11
Ornithological Section	13
Bird Ringing Report	20
Wildfowl Counts	22
List of birds ringed to 31.12.63	24

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1963

Tuesday evening excursions

		<u>Leaders</u>
May 7	Lindley	J.A. Forder H. Marjoram
May 14	Ilkley Moor - Junior members only (recording for B.B.C.)	

National Nature Week

May 18	Grass Wood (Botany)	Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan A. Hartley
May 21	St. Kilda Summer. Colour slide lecture by Kenneth Williamson	
May 23	Visit to Craven Naturalists' and Scientific Association Exhibition at Skipton.	
May 25	Grass Wood (Ornithology)	Dr. R.A.W. Procter

Tuesday evening excursions

May 28	Ilkley Moor Survey (Shepherd's Hill)	
June 11	Burley-in-Arharfedale	G. Parker
June 18	Ilkley Moor Survey (top of Cow Glose Beck)	
June 25	Denton (postponed owing to rain)	
July 2	Ilkley Moor Survey (cancelled owing to rain)	
July 9	Brownholme, Burley	Mrs. F.C. Draper W. Flesher
July 16	Denton	F. Ball Dr. R.A.W. Procter
July 23	Addingham Moorside	G.R. Bottomley

WINTER PROGRAMME 1963-64

Sep. 17	In Search of Alpines	Mrs. F.C. Draper
Oct. 1	Birds of the Costa Brava	K. Dawson
Oct. 15	Looking at Animals	G. Cansdale (Open Meeting)
Oct. 22	Bird Recognition (Juniors)	E. S. Skinner
Oct. 29	A Visit to Swedish Lapland	J. Gudworth
Nov. 12	Scottish National Trust Cruise (Colour film)	Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Green
Nov. 26	A Naturalist in Iceland	Miss S.D. Brooks
Dec. 3	Members' Evening: Talks by Juniors, followed by Members' Slides.	
	Birds	Derek Ross
	Grizzly Bears	Frazer Benson
	The Sea Shore	Stephen Flood
Dec. 10	Flowers on our Doorstep	Mrs. A.C.M. Duncan, B.Sc.
Jan. 7	Field Craft and Quiz (Juniors)	H.N. Cameron
Jan. 14	A Trip to Mexico	C. Worrin, M.B.O.U.
Jan. 28	The Thrills of Orchid Hunting	J. Armitage, F.R.E.S., F.R.P.S.
Feb. 11	1963 In Retrospect. Presented by the Recorders of the Society.	
Feb. 25	Life between the Tides	R.N. Smithson, B.Sc.
Mar. 10	Birds and Flowers of the Westmorland Pennines	R.W. Robson
Mar. 17	Map-Reading (Juniors)	G.R. Bottomley
Apr. 3	Annual Dinner	
Apr. 7	Afternoon outing for Juniors to practise map-reading.	G.R. Bottomley
Apr. 14	Ilkley Moor Survey - information about work done so far	
Apr. 21	Annual General Meeting	

The lectures were held in the Riddings Road Lecture Hall owing to an increased attendance at meetings, the Grove Schoolroom being too small. Both the summer and winter activities were very well supported.

The Dalesman for February 1964 published a paragraph about the Society.

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS in 1963

The Society continued to flourish, and the membership increased to about 250, including about 40 juniors. The Rules of the Society were amended on February 12th at a special meeting called for that purpose. The main change was to provide for three secretaries instead of two, owing to the extra work involved in a happily growing Society.

The Special Guest at the Annual Dinner in March was Mr. Norman Ellison, Nomad of the B.B.C. After the meal he spoke about the Birds of Hilbre Island.

An extra meeting was held in June when the Wild Flower Society came to Ilkley for a weekend; members were invited by the President to a coffee evening at the Blue Bird Cafe for a showing of colour slides of flowers taken by members of both Societies.

All excursions and lectures were well attended, the latter to the extent that a move was made into the Lecture Hall. As the new film of the R.S.P.B. had not been released, the Society did not hold the showing in autumn. The lecture by Mr. George Cansdale as an alternative was equally enjoyable and successful. It is gratifying that the Winter Syllabus, arranged by Miss Gill, proved so popular, and the thanks of the Society are due to her for planning it so well.

As before the Society continued its contacts with other local societies and the larger associations. When the inquiry into the gravel workings at Ben Rhydding took place in December, the Society supported the objection upheld by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and were represented by that Council at the inquiry. (The results are not known at the time of going to press).

Financially the position continued sound, and the Society subscriptions remained at 10/- (seniors) and 2/6 (juniors from 10 to 18 years of age).

JUNIOR MEMBERS

In May there was a special outing for junior members, and it speaks much for their enthusiasm that 18 of them came, without any prior knowledge of what had been arranged. They had the pleasant surprise that they were to take part in a piece of fieldwork for a B.B.C. programme. Miss Bertha Lonsdale, of the B.B.C., and a member of the Society, organised the recording.

First, instructions were given to the juniors by the President, whilst Dr. Fidler and other members marked out the ground. Then the juniors made a survey of the presence or absence at paced intervals of Crowberry on an area of Cotton grass bog. A recording was made of some doing the work, and at the end all took part in stating the results.

On June 18th the recording was included in the North of England Home Service programme, Northern Naturalist, compiled by Miss Bertha Lonsdale and introduced by Nomad. In the programme, Mr. Walter Ffiesher, who had helped with the recording, explained the results of the survey which had been worked out.

Sub-committee: this was formed in the autumn especially to deal with junior activities, and meetings for juniors were arranged, as shown in the programme on page 2. Proficiency Certificates will be given for observation and general knowledge of natural history during the year.

NATIONAL NATURE WEEK May 18 to 25.

As will be seen from the Summer Programme, the Society planned special events, and these were well attended, considering that the Week coincided with the Wharfedale Music Festival held in Ilkley.

In addition the Society staged a small exhibition in the Ilkley Public Library by kind permission of the Ilkley U.D.C. Posters, books and pamphlets were on view, giving information about many aspects of natural history, and ways of studying and enjoying its various branches. Material was supplied by the Council for Nature, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust and other bodies.

The area of Grass Wood which is managed by the Trust was visited on the two Saturdays of the Week. The first day was unfortunately wet, and only about ten members braved the weather, but on the second occasion a good number of members enjoyed the excursion in warm sunshine.

Two competitions were set in connection with the Week: one for members to draw an emblem for the Society, and an open essay competition for children in the Ilkley area. Several emblems were submitted, but the Committee felt that none of them was suitable.

In the essay competition, which was judged by Dr. E.W. Taylor, President of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust, the titles for choice were:

The Natural History of an Area I know well

My best Nature Walk

My special study in Natural History.

There were three age groups, with two book token prizes in each. These were presented at Mr. Kenneth Williamson's lecture to which all competitors were invited. The results were:

Class 1.	1. Stephen Flood	Addingham	Woodhouse Grove School
	2. Sheila Ross	Ilkley	St. Joseph's College, Bradford
Special mention.	Jennifer Cockroft	Ilkley	Ilkley Grammar School
	Meriel Crowson	Horsforth	Oaklands School, Ilkley
Class 2.	1. Stella Clarkson	Burley	Burley C.E. School
	2. Elizabeth Atkinson	Burley	Burley C.E. School
Special mention.	Christopher Pigott	Ilkley	Ghyll Royd School, Ilkley
Class 3.	1. Rebecca Gibbins	Ilkley	Moorfield School, Ilkley
	2. Sandra Rabbidge	Ben Rhydding	Westville House School, Ilkley
Special mention.	Alice Werrrell	Ilkley	Oaklands School, Ilkley

The winning essay, on the Sea Shore, by Stephen Flood, a junior member of the Society, was published in the Ilkley Gazette by courtesy of the Editor.

Two articles on Conservation of Nature written by the Society were published in the Gazette in preparation for the Week.

THE THANKS OF THE SOCIETY

are extended to all who have contributed to a happy and successful 1963.....
Lecturers, both visitors and members.....Leaders of excursions.....Officers...
Committee members.....Recorders.....Judges of competitions.....Editor of the
Ilkley Gazette.....Staff of the Ilkley Surveyor's Office.....Dr. D.D. Bartley
of Leeds University for help and advice in the Survey of Ilkley Moor.....and
all members for their support and interest in many ways.

SURVEY OF ILKLEY MOOR

The main work of the 1963 season was in connection with the aerial photographs taken at the end of May by Dr. J.K. St. Joseph of Selwyn College, Cambridge. These are in the form of 63 photographs 9 inches square to a scale of about 14 inches to one mile. They were received by the Society in July, and thereafter many members of the Society were occupied in examining the floristic communities as indicated on these photographs. In practice some twelve types of community were defined and their outline drawn on a sheet of plastic covering the aerial photograph selected. These outlines were then traced onto a blank master map and the type of community indicated by an appropriate letter. By the end of the season rather more than half the moor had been covered in this way. When completed this map will give a permanent and detailed record of the exact distribution of the various floristic communities as they occurred at the end of May 1963, and will be the basis for comparison of any changes which may take place at a future date.

Another activity of the Survey was an examination of an area on the ridge running north from Shepherd's Hill where the heather has been decreasing and crowberry has been invading. Some 32 members took part in this survey on the evening of May 28th, and covered an area about 250 yards square. At the western end of this area heather is still growing strongly, whilst to the east the flora is mainly crowberry. Pairs of members set off walking from the western end in an easterly direction in 16 equidistant parallel lines. Every fifth step they recorded whether there was heather, crowberry or bare ground. A plan of these records form a grid on which is plotted the occurrence of these two plants. This will make a good record for comparison in future years to see if the heather continues to decrease and the crowberry to invade the area.

The method described above is an elaboration of that done on the cotton grass bog where crowberry is believed to be invading, in 1962, and on the similar nearby area investigated by the juniors (see page 3).

A problem which is of great interest, and has not yet been solved, is the degeneration of large patches of bracken on the moor. An article about this was written by Dr. J.H. Fidler, and published in *The Naturalist*, the quarterly journal of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, under the title 'The Role of Sheep in the Degeneration of Bracken on Ilkley Moor'. (1963 April-June)

Miss P. Walker and Mrs. F.C. Draper compiled an article on 'The Fungi of Ilkley Moor', which was published in the *Naturalist* for October-December 1963.

The Society has a limited number of reprints of these articles which may be borrowed by members.

Future work will include detailed study of the plant communities directed by Dr. Bartley of Leeds University for the report to the Carnegie Trust which paid for the aerial photographs, and the compilation of an article on the flowering plants of the moor.

Although expert knowledge is needed for the interpretation of the results, much of the observations can be made by members who have no specialised knowledge, as will be seen from the above notes. Thus every member can take part in this very well worthwhile activity of the Society.

WEATHER REPORT

		JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
TEMPERATURE													
highest	F	44	41	57	62	75	78	80	74	76	65	56	51
maximum	C	6	5	14	16	24	26	27	23	24	18	13	10
lowest	F	9	10	15	33	35	43	40	40	36	39	26	18
minimum	C	-13	-12	-9	1	1	6	4	4	2	4	-3	-8
mean	F	29.5	29.5	40.2	45.4	50.3	58.2	58.3	56.8	54.9	51.1	45.1	37.3
	C	-1	-1	4	7	10	14	14	13	12	10	7	2
SUNSHINE hours													
monthly total		52.8	48.5	80.2	99.3	164.4	260.8	152.1	122.2	154.9	92.7	23.3	22.5
annual total		1273.7 hours											
RAINFALL													
no. of days													
0.2" or over		1	3	7	5	3	8	3	5	3	3	12	0
monthly total		0.58	1.28	3.22	2.77	1.73	3.86	2.06	3.69	2.55	2.67	6.59	0.94
annual total		31.9 inches											
WIND FORCE													
no. of days													
8 or more		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 7		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	2	1	
4 - 5		2	1	4	-	6		2	6	3	6	5	3
1 - 3		9	10	20	22	21		22	20	17	16	12	9
calm		20	17	7	8	3		7	5	7	8	11	18

The staff of the Ilkley Surveyor's Office have kindly supplied the above data.

The Winter of 1962-63

This was the coldest winter since 1740. Other cold winters of recent times have been 1947, 1940, 1929, 1917 and 1895. The criterion for 'winter' is the mean temperature of the three months, December, January and February:

Dec. 33.2 F (-1 C); Jan. 29.5 F (-1 C); Feb. 29.5 F (-1 C).

Mean 30.7 F (-1 C).

Any winter with a mean below 34 F (1 C) is reckoned as a cold winter. As already stated in the report for 1962, the ground began to freeze on 23rd December, snow falling on to a hard frozen ground which remained snow covered throughout January and February and into the first week of March - over ten weeks. The thermometer rose above freezing point on only three nights, those of January 27th, 28th, and 29th. Snow fell on 16 days of the period.

DECEMBER: The Continental Arctic air stream which commenced on 23rd December 1962 extended from Finland through Europe to Spain, bringing snow as far as the Spanish Mediterranean coast. Frosts were almost continuous throughout the month, the temperature sometimes rising above freezing point during the day.

JANUARY: The coldest spell was 22nd to 25th January, when the temperature dropped to 12 F (-11 C); 9 F (-13 C); 17 F (-8 C); 12 F (-11 C). The lowest was thus 23 degrees of frost on the 23rd. There was a slight thaw from the 25th to 29th, no night frost being recorded on 27th, 28th and 29th.

Many service water pipes to houses were frozen and some mains became frozen; workmen reported frozen ground at nearly three feet deep.

The river was frozen from bank to bank for almost its entire length, and footprints over the snow-covered ice showed where people had walked across. Snowfall amounted to about one foot all told.

FEBRUARY: Through February pressure remained high over Germany and Scandinavia, outliers of the Siberian High. From time to time previous low systems approached from the Atlantic only to be diverted either to the south or north by the continued high to the east of the British Isles. This gave easterly or south easterly winds blowing from a cold continent, bringing frost at night, often severe, and a good deal of sun by day, raising the temperature above freezing point.

The river remained frozen from bank to bank. Trickle of water ran along the roads and found their way into the gutters, but this water froze over every night. Apart from drifted places, the snow, which had been at most 18 inches deep, from the heavy fall on 14th and 15th, was reduced in depth to 6 to 8 inches. There was still complete snow cover.

The water position became serious; Leeds reported only 61.9 days' stocks (145 at the same time in 1962). Aireborough (Rombalds Water Board) was badly affected, and preparations were made for extracting water from the river at Crum Wheel. It was the driest winter for at least ten years.

A Song Thrush was heard singing on the 12th when there was snow over all.

MARCH: Frost continued for the first four nights of March, the temperature remaining at freezing point all day on the 3rd. On the 4th the temperature rose to 40 F (4 C) during the day and there was a shower of rain which produced a glazed frost, covering all cold surfaces with a sheet of ice. This caused many people to fall, and some fractured limbs.

This was how the long awaited thaw began: The wind was blowing from the west on the 5th; temperatures had remained above freezing point through the previous night and reached 45 F (7 C) during the day. On the evening of the 5th the ice on the river was heard to be cracking and breaking up; by the morning of the 6th all signs of ice had disappeared from the river, which was now running bank high. Trees all along the river bank had their bark removed by the blocks of ice sweeping past. Flooding occurred in the lower reaches of the river.

The mild weather continued and by the 7th nearly all snow had melted, except for some of the deeper drifts. Rain came on the 8th and 9th and the serious water position quickly improved, owing to the run-off from the thaw, followed by heavy rain. Leeds had been down to 59.2 days' supply (148 days when full) on the 6th. By the middle of the month 115 days' supply were in hand. Some frozen pipes were only just thawing out at this time; some people were without water for many weeks because the service pipes could not be thawed.

March continued mild with a good deal of rain (3.22 inches). Frost was recorded on only three more nights, the 24th being the last frost of the winter.

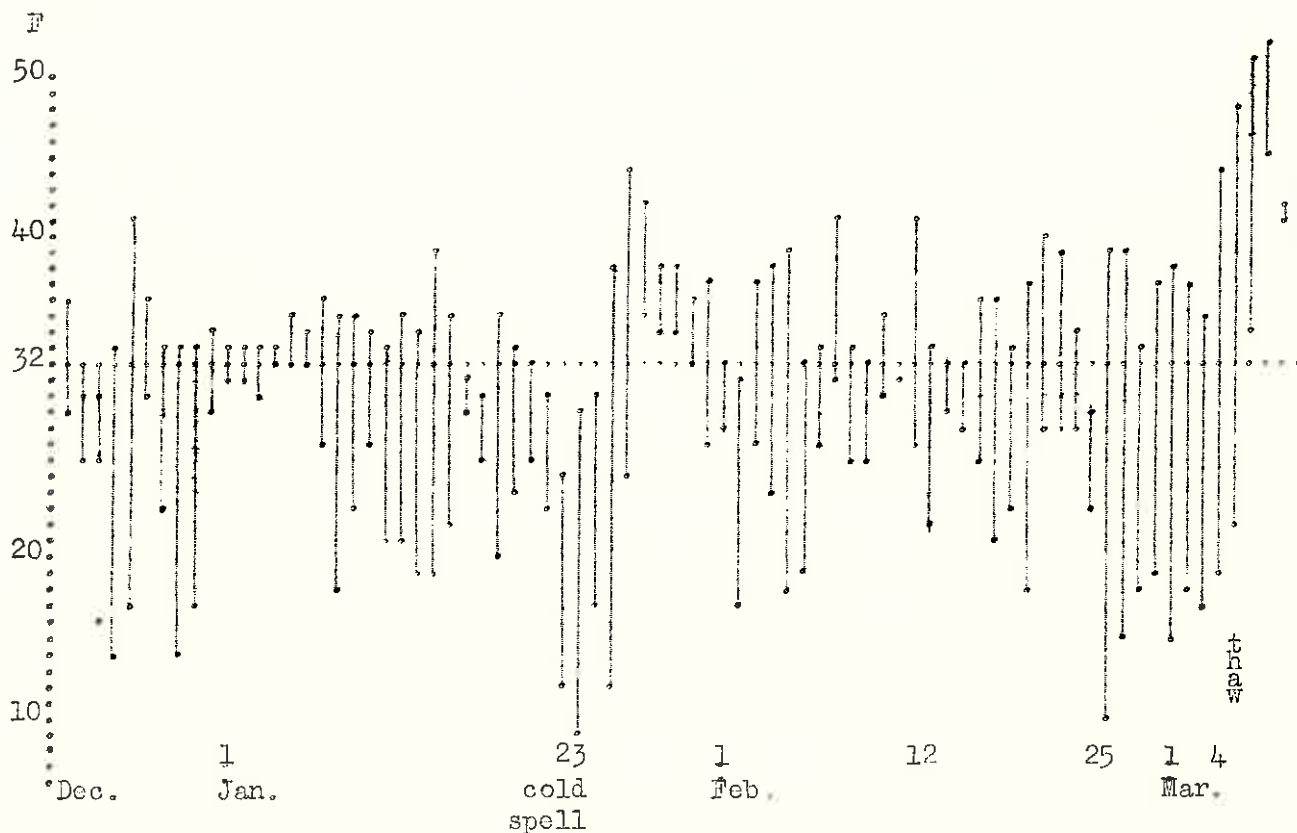
There was no more frost until the night of the 16th November.

RAIN: For rainfall, 31.94 inches is well below the average, which is about 35.5 inches. The first two months of the year were dry, as was December. November was the wettest month with 6.59 inches of rain. The 21st November had 0.9 inches in Ilkley; heavy rains up the valley brought a lot of water down the river, which overflowed in places causing some flooding.

SUN: The first ten days of June were the sunniest of the year; this included Whit weekend. June 2nd and 3rd both equalled the record for one day's sunshine, with 14.9 hours each. A sunshine total of 1273.7 hours is quite average.

A.C.M. DUNCAN

Chart showing the maximum and minimum temperatures from December 22, 1962 to March 9, 1963.



BOTANICAL SECTION

FUNGI.

1963 was not an ideal year for fungi and many species did not appear. About 50 species were recorded, and eight are new to the records. Two new species were added to the considerable moorland list.

New records

Daldinia concentrica (Cramp-balls) on ash trunk, Burley. 22 April. 9 Nov.

Peziza vesiculosa in garden path, Burley. 6 May

Polyporus hispidus on ash trunk, Ilkley. 19 July (R.C.P.)

Clitocybe cyathiformis felled woodland, Fewston. 18 Nov. (J.E.D.)

Lepiota castanea in lawn, Bransty, Ilkley. 11 Nov. (J.E.D.)

Coprinus cinereus on straw and manure, Burley. 29 Dec.

Coryne sarcoides imperfect (conidial) stage on fallen silver birch, Barmishaw Wood, Ilkley Moor. 7 Nov. (M.D.)

Stereum sanguinolentum on fallen pine, Barmishaw Wood. 7 Nov. (H.D.)

F.C. DRAPER

BRYOPHYTES

There were only a few records during the year - the most noteworthy being Sphagnum girgensihni for Ilkley Moor. This brings the total of Sphagna species found on the moor to fifteen.

It is interesting to note how rare or even absent many of the true epiphyte mosses and liverworts have become in this district judging by the records of former years. This may be as a result of pollution. The recorder would be glad to receive any specimens of mosses (especially those growing as small cushions) found on the bark of trees locally, together with details of the kind of tree and date of collection.

M. DALBY

FLOWERING PLANTS

After the prolonged cold spell the spring flowers came out late, and spring continued cold. Generally speaking flowering was about a month late all round, until May. Then the hot weather in June brought on the flowers, and in July some plants had grown taller than usual. But 1963 cannot be called a good flowering year. The Yellow Gagea at Burley, however, flowered very well.

The trees in the mild autumn had some good colours, and many plants were still flowering in mid-November when the first (slight) frost came. Further evidence of the mild weather at this time was in the flowering of a biennial, the Common Sow Thistle, which produced flower heads at ground level in the centre of the over-wintering rosette. A Sycamore seedling had germinated on Dec. 10th, and Barren Strawberry was in flower on the last day of the year.

First flowering dates in spring

Barren Strawberry	Feb. 17	
Coltsfoot, Celandine	March 26	(A.C.M.D.)
Fingered Saxifrage	March 28	(F.C.D.)
Crowberry	April 2	(M.D.)
Wood Anemone	April 3	(A.C.M.D.)

Records of plants not so far recorded in the Society's lists

<u>Ribes sylvestre</u> *	}	Bolton Woods 9 June
<u>Hieracium vulgatum</u> * (Common Hawkweed)		
<u>H. pellucidum</u> *		

<u>Valerianella carinata</u> *	Grassington.	9 June
<u>Crocossia x crocosmiflora</u> (Montbretia)	Grass Wood.	(F.C.D.)

Groenlandia densa (Opposite-leaved Pondweed) In river Wharfe at Ilkley and Burnsall.

New stations for plants

<u>Corydalis claviculata</u> (Climbing Corydalis)	}	Lindley. 7 May
<u>Carex paniculata</u> (Panicled sedge)		

Menyanthes trifoliata (Bogbean) Nr. Bolton Abbey.

<u>Aira caryophyllea</u> (Silvery Hair-grass)	}	Otley tip. 9 June
<u>Symphytum asperum</u> * (Rough Comfrey)		
<u>Sx uplandicum</u> * (Blue Comfrey)		
<u>S. officinale</u> * (Comfrey)		

Myriophyllum alterniflorum (Alternate-flowered Water-milfoil) In ponds of Ilkley garden near moor.

* plants shown to members of the Society by Mrs. F. Houseman of Otley.
(contd. overleaf)

New stations contd.

Alisma plantago-aquatica (Water Plantain) } Middleton Woods. 9 May
Polygonum hydropiper (Water-pepper) }

Alchemilla vestita Denton. 16 July

Sonchus arvensis (Corn Sow Thistle) weed at side of path, Brook Street, Ilkley

Veronica hederifolia (Ivy Speedwell) abundant weed in Addingham garden (L.S.Moss)

Chaenorhinum minus (Lesser ^{Tossilian} Snapdragon) weed near sewage works between Burley and

Tellima grandiflora This was brought from Somerset, and planted in the ^{Otley} grounds of Mendip House, Curly Hill, Ilkley. It is recorded here in case at any future date it may be accidentally spread. (Mrs. F.A.Baker)

J.E. DUNCAN

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies 1963 was a very poor season for butterflies, with only seven species recorded.

Maniola jurtina (Meadow Brown) Burley-in-Wharfedale. 21 July

Coenonympha pamphilus (Small Heath) Burley and Hawksworth Moor. 15 June

Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral) Ilkley. 16 Sept.

Aglais urticae (Small Tortoiseshell) Ilkley. 23 April (J.E.D.)
 Burley-in-Wharfedale. 12 Sept.

Pieris brassicae (Large White) Burley-in-Wharfedale. 15 June

P. rapae (Small White) Burley-in-Wharfedale. 15 June

P. napi (Green-veined White) Burley-in-Wharfedale. 25 May
 Bolton Abbey. 30 June (Miss J.Wooler)

Moths The moth records were quite good with 126 species. As most of the recording was done in Burley itself this year instead of Burley Woodhead, some of the moorland species are missing, but there are 12 new species.

The recording was helped by a mercury vapour light-trap in the Recorder's garden for two nights in June. This attracted several new species and large numbers of the commoner moths. The most interesting result was the high percentage of melanic specimens, indicating an area of high industrial pollution.

All the following species were found with melanic (dark) forms:

Gonodontis bidentata (Scalloped Hazel) Burley-in-Wharfedale and Ilkley

Dysstroma truncata (Common Marbled Carpet) chiefly melanic forms. Burley & Ilkley

Procus strigilis (Marbled Minor) Burley. Some entirely black.

Biston betularia (Peppered) Burley and Ilkley. All quite black.

Agrostis exclamationis (Heart and Dart) Burley and Ilkley.

Xylophasia orenata (Clouded-bordered Brindle) Burley

Hydriomena furcata (July High flyer) Burley

- Apatele psi (Grey Dagger) Ilkley. One dark specimen.
Agcis repandata (Mottled Beauty) Burley. Many dark forms.
A. rhomboidaria (Willow Beauty) Burley. Very variable.
Chloroclystis rectangulata (Green Pug) Burley. A new record, and all those
 seen were melanic forms.
Celaena secalis (Common Rustic) Burley.
Allophyes oxyacanthae (Green-brindled Crescent) Burley
Colotois pennaria (Feathered Thorn) Burley. One dark specimen.
Oporina dilutata (November Moth) Burley. Some nearly black.
Lasiocarpa quercus var. callunae (Northern Eggar) Both males and females of the
 rare dark variety (var. olivacea) were recorded on the moor.

New records

- Apamea unanimitis (Small Clouded Brindle) Burley. 13 June
Phalera bucephala (Buff Tip) Burley. 15 June
Thyatira batis (Peach Blossom) Burley. 16 June. Ilkley, 18 June
Arctia cata (Garden Tiger) Burley. 1 Aug. (W.F.)
Hypena proboscidalis (Snout) Burley. 19 July
Zanclognantha tarsipennalis (Fan-foot) Burley. 21 July
Pylarge fumata (Smoky Wave) Hawksworth Moor. 17 June
Cidaria fulvata (Barred Yellow) Burley. 24 July
Chloroclystis rectangulata (Green Pug) Burley. 20 July
Eupithecia absinthiata (Wormwood Pug) Burley. 31 July
Perizoma affinitata (Rivulet) Burley. 2 Aug.
Sterrrha dimidiata (Single-dotted Wave) Burley. 29 July

F.C. DRAPER

A key to the initials used will be found after the bird records on page 19.

THE RECORDERS of the Sections keep the records in special note books or loose-leaf files. A selection of these, including any new records, is published in The Transactions. If any section is not represented here it means that there are no new records, or any others worthy of note, although they will have been written up.

Records sent in by members are used in the reports; where no initials appear after a record, the species has been found by the recorder concerned, or by members on one of the Society outings.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

It is impossible to give a full picture of the effect of the hard winter on the bird life of the district, as this would have required the full time assistance of a large number of people making daily records of all birds seen in given areas. One can only make guesses from personal impressions and from rather isolated observations of a number of society members. Records of certain species later in the year have helped in indicating some of the effects of the continued period of frost and snow.

There is no doubt that many bird's lives were saved by people who put out daily all sorts of scraps of food - a letter from a correspondent in Addingham says that they must have put out about 20 stones of oats, bird seed, wheat, maize and offal, which attracted such birds as Black-headed Gulls, Magpies, Rooks, Jackdaws, Moorhens, Yellowhammers etc. In some cases unusual species were recorded feeding in backyards and on window ledges. Bramblings, Redwings and Fieldfares were seen in Burley. Redwings in Ben Rhydding and Ilkley.

Records of dead birds picked up were few. A drake Widgeon was found at Bolton Abbey on 27th January. 8 Mallards were found at Ilkley and Ben Rhydding filter beds on 9th March. A Green Woodpecker fell off a tree at Huby on 18th February and died shortly afterwards. Mrs J.E. Duncan saw some boys picking up dead Red Grouse near Askwith Moor around the same date.

The species which seems to have been most affected was the Wren which is normally a very abundant bird in the district. All through the spring and summer there have been very few records of Wrens seen or heard singing, nevertheless a few seem to have survived and reared broods successfully.

At one time it was thought that the Kingfisher had been exterminated, but single birds have been seen later in the year at Addingham, Burley and Ilkley.

All the Lapwings were driven out of the area, and a lot must have died as the numbers seen on the favourite breeding grounds were very much reduced. Here again, recovery seems to have been quite good from the flocks seen locally in November.

On the other hand Dunnocks seem to have managed to exist very well throughout the cold spell as they were particularly numerous throughout in the spring. Similarly all the Tits survived well, including the Long-tailed Tit which is probably the least hardy.

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Recorded on Fewston res. & Farnley Lake in March (RCP, HNC)

LITTLE GREBE

One on Farnley lake 17 March (HNC) 2 seen on river at Burley 19 Sept (GP)

CORLORANT

One picked up in garden at Ben Rhydding, died later, on 28 January (OMP)

HERON

1 or 2 birds seen on several occasions near the river at Ilkley and Burley
Party of 13 at Farnley lake on 8 Sept. (HMC)

MALLARD

c.200 on Lindley res. in Jan and Feb. when frozen over (ESS). On 9 March
6 were found dead at Ben Rhydding and 2 at Ilkley filter beds (LGD) On
4 August 30 plus seen at Ilkley filter beds (RCP)

TEAL

Never abundant, but seen on numerous occasions, 36 on Lindley res. on
22 Sept. (ESS)

WIGEON

A first winter male was picked up dead at B olton Abbey on 27 Jan (MAH)
A male was seen at Ilkley filter beds 29 Dec. (RCP)

SHOVELLER

3 seen on Lindley res. on 13 Oct (RCP ESS)

TUFTED DUCK

12 seen on Farnley lake on 17 March (HMC)

POCHARD

4 seen on Farnley lake on 31 March (HMC)

COMMON SCOTER

2 males seen on river at Ilkley between 21 & 28 Jan (JPU) One on Chelker
res. on 9 Nov. (JKF)

SHELDUCK

One seen on Lindley res. on 7 April (HMC)

GOOSE (? species)

A flock of c. 50 seen flying over Ilkley on 4 Dec (F.Marshall) Probably
pink-footed.

CANADA GOOSE

A flock, varying from c. 60 to c.100 birds, almost always present around
Fewston res. 4 seen on the river between Burley and Otley on 18 March (GP)
2 near Riversdale, Burley on 13 April (RCP)

MUTE SWAN

Pair present throughout the year near Ilkley filter beds but did not nest.

WHOOPE SWAN

10 seen on Fewston res on 6 Jan (ESS) 7 at same place 15 Dec. (ESS)
3 seen on Chelker res. on 19 Dec (JRR)

BEWICK'S SWAN

16 flew west over Lindley res. on 25 Dec. (per A.F.G.Walker)

BUZZARD

One seen soaring over edge of Ilkley Moor on 24 April (GP)

SPARROW HAWK

Only one record of one seen at Fewston on 29 Dec (RCP)

HEN HARRIER

On 17 March one flew over Farnley lake chased by a Carrion Crow, seen by
A.Forder and HCN.

MERLIN

C.Markwell saw one on Ilkley Moor on 17 March. One seen on B eamsley Moor
on 4 May (RCP et al.) A pair are reported to have nested successfully in
the area.

REESTERL

Probably 3 pairs in Burley, Ilkley, Addingham area. Observations of this species in 1964 are required in view of the suspected effect of toxic chemicals.

RED GROUSE

On 10 and 17 Feb, about 1000 could be seen feeding on Askwith/Snowden Moor on the bits of heather which were not covered by snow. About this time boys were seen picking up dead grouse in the same area. (JED)

PARTRIDGE

On 16 Feb a flock of c.100 flew over Askwith westerly at 09.30 hrs and another flock of c.120 flew over again at 10.30 hrs (CGB)

MOORHEN

Common on Ilkley filter beds most months of the year.

COOT

One seen with 7 young on Farnley lake on 1st June (HNC) 27 on Lindley res. on 15 Dec. (ESS)

OYSTER CATCHER

One seen by river on Ilkley golf course on 7 Nov (GRB)

LAPWING

All left the district during the cold spell apart from one seen on Lindley res. on 24 Feb. Considerable drop in numbers in favourite nesting areas. A flock of c.250 seen in fields near Burley on 1st Dec (GP) On 24 Dec. there was a considerable westerly movement along moorland edge between Menston and Ilkley when 2/300 birds were seen between 08.30 and 08.45 hrs (JKF ESS) A young bird ringed at West End near Otley on 4 June 1957 was shot at Marinha Grande, Estremadura, Portugal during the winter 1962/63 (ESS)

GOLDEN PLOVER

C. Markwell saw one on Ilkley Moor on 17 March. A flock of c.50 were seen in the fields above Menston on 24 Dec. (JKF)

COMMON SNIPE

8 seen feeding on the edge of Lindley res. on 22 Sept. (ESS)

WOODCOCK

4 seen at Stead Hall Wood, Burley on 2 Nov (WF)

CURLEW

First seen in the district on 7 March above Hebers Ghyll (GRB)

WHIMBREL

One heard over Ilkley filter beds on 21 July (RCP)

GREEN SANDPIPER

Single birds seen at Denton lake on 16 July and at Ilkley filter beds on 4 August (RCP)

COMMON SANDPIPER

First recorded on 22 April between Burley and Otley (GP) Newly hatched young found in Grass Woods, Grassington on 25 May (RCP)

REDSHANK

Earliest record was one seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 9 March (LGD)

GREENSHANK

One seen on Ilkley filter beds at beginning of August, trapped and ringed 4 Aug. (LGD)

DUNLIN

4 on Ilkley filter beds on 14 April (TD) 2 on Lanshaw Delves on 10 May (WF)

LONG TAILED SKUA

A dead bird was picked up on Burley Moor on 10 Oct by W. Flesher. It was an immature bird and identification was confirmed later from the wings which had been saved from the decomposing body. This is a first record for the area.

GREAT BLACKBACKED GULL, LESSER BLACKBACKED GULL, HERRING GULL.

Small numbers of all three species seen on numerous occasions in the river valley. A few also roost on Fewston and Swinsty res. in the winter.

COMMON GULL

Small parties seen feeding in fields bordering the river in Oct, Nov, Dec.

BLACKHEADED GULL

The commonest gull in the area and recorded in all months. A daily visitor to Ilkley filter beds. 2000 plus roosted on B arden Lower Reservoir in December (ESS)

BLACK TERN

4 seen at Farnley lake on 1st June (HNC)

CUCKOO

First heard in Burley and Ilkley on 18 April and by many other observers a few days afterwards.

BARN OWL

No records at all this year - has it disappeared from the district ?

LITTLE OWL

One in Denton Park on 13 Jan (SF) and one seen perched on house guttering in the middle of Burley on 16 Feb (GP) 2 pairs resident on Burley Moor (WF)

TAWNY OWL

A pair seen roosting side by side in holly bush at Ben Rhydding on 14 April (ESS)

SHORT-EARED OWL

2 seen regularly on Burley/Hawksworth Moor during spring and summer (WF)

SWIFT

First recorded at Burley on 24 April (CGB) Over 120 trapped and ringed at Ilkley filter beds on 3 July (RCP TD) Several birds retrapped at Ilkley filter beds at end of June and early July which were originally ringed there in 1959. c.20 seen at Ilkley filter beds on 27 Aug. (RCP)

KINGFISHER

After last years nil report and the bad winter there are still some in the district. Single birds seen as follows :- Pool Bridge on 16 Feb (LGD) Brownholme, Burley during early summer (GP) Ilkley filter beds on 27 Oct (LGD RCP) Ilkley golf course on 7 Nov (R. Spence) Addingham on 12 Nov by Mrs J. Clapham.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Seen in Scafebor Park, Burley on 28 Feb. (GP) and in Middleton Woods in Feb. (RAMP) Not common but well scattered throughout the district.

GREEN WOODPECKER

One seen at Farnley on 16 Jan (RAMP) and at Burley on 16 Feb (WF)

SWALLOW

First seen on 12 April at Bolton Abbey (RAMP) Last record on 13 Oct when there were 6 at Lindley res. (ESS)

HOUSE MARTIN

2 seen at Pool (LGD) and 1 at Ilkley (RCP) on 15 April. 2 at Ilkley on 6 Oct (ESS)

- SAND MARTIN**
6 seen at Pool (LGD) and 2 at Ilkley (ESS) on 15 April and 6 Oct respectiv.
- CARRIAN CROW**
50 plus seen scavenging on the ice at Fewston res. on 26 Dec around the flocks of ducks and gulls (RCP)
- ROOK**
Some nests were being built in trees at Ben Rhydding on 24 Feb (ESS)
- JAY**
A party of five was seen in gardens off Grove Road, Ilkley on a number of occasions in August (ESS)
- COAL TIT**
Two unusual nesting sites were found. On 25 May a pair were seen feeding young in Sand Martin hole near Grass Woods (RCP) On 9 June a pair were seen feeding young in a ground level drain pipe in a building near Hebers Ghyll (ESS)
- WILLOW TIT**
As far as can be ascertained this species has not been recorded in the district before. One was trapped and ringed near Ilkley filter beds on 5 Sept (RCP)
- LONG-TAILED TIT**
Seems to have survived the cold spell very well as it has been recorded on several occasions in B urley and Ilkley. A nest was found at Burley on 7 April while being built (GP)
- NUTHATCH**
This species seems to be extending its range down the valley from its original haunt at Bolton Abbey. In addition to several records in and around Ilkley, 2 pairs were located at Burley - on 26 March and subsequently by the riverside on 26 March and on 17 Dec in Scafebor Park (GP)
- TREE CREEPER**
During the first three weeks of March 2 birds came for food on a window sill in Bolton B ridge Road, Ilkley (Miss B. Thresh per JED)
- WREN**
Greatly reduced in numbers by the cold spell at the beginning of the year as very few singing birds were located in March and April. Individuals were heard at Bolton Abbey, Ilkley filter beds, Middleton Hospital and Farnley lake. 4 young were seen flying at Addingham on 10 June (RCP)
- DIPPER**
A nest was built near Ilkley New B ridge on 31 March but the eggs were apparently taken (RCP)
- SONG THRUSH**
An early nest was found in a garage at Burley on 27 March and contained 5 eggs (RWD)
- FIELDFARE**
2 came to feed on a window ledge at B urley on 19 Feb (FGD) c.200 seen at Storiths on 7 April (RCP) 100 at B olton Abbey on 19 April (O&P) and 100 in fields above Middleton Hospital on 21 April (TD) Not recorded again until 26 Oct at Clifton (GP) A flock of 2/300 seen at B urley Woodhead on 4 Nov. (WF)
- REDWING**
Seen feeding in several gardens and back yards in built up areas of Ilkley, Ben Rhydding and Burley on many dates in Jan. and Feb. 2 parties of 10

- and 20 birds seen at Addingham on 24 March (SF) 1 seen at Lindloy res. on 13 Oct (ESS) and c. 50 near Ilkley filter beds on 27 Oct. (RCP)
- RING OUZEL**
2 males seen near Spicely beck, Ilkley Moor on 27 March (RCP) Two nests each with 4 eggs found on Beamsley Moor on 4 May (RCP ESS)
- BLACKBIRD**
A partial albino male seen on many dates throughout the year near the Crum Wheel.
- WHEATEAR**
One seen at Blubberhouses on 14 April (CGB) 1 seen at Addingham Moorside on 15 Sept (RCP)
- WHINCHAT**
Single birds seen at Ilkley filter beds on 25 Aug (RCP) and 8 Sept (LGD)
- REDSTART**
First recorded at Askwith on 19 April (WF)
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**
One seen at Farnley lake on 1st June (HNC RCP)
- REED WARBLER**
A first record for the area when a full grown bird was trapped and ringed near Ilkley filter beds on 25 Aug. (LGD RCP)
- SEDGE WARBLER**
One at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 5 May (RCP) at Ilkley filter beds on 28 July (ESS) and 31 Aug (RCP)
- BLACKCAP**
1 seen at Burley Woodhead on 29 April (GP) Between 10 and 30 August 14 were trapped and ringed near Ilkley filter beds.
- GARDEN WARBLER**
A pair nested at Burley and had 4 eggs on 27 May but the young disappeared a few days after hatching (GP) Between 5 and 22 August 12 were trapped and ringed near Ilkley filter beds.
- WHITETHROAT**
First seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 28 April (LGD)
- LESSER WHITETHROAT**
1 seen at Ben Rhydding filter beds on 5 May (RCP) 1 singing daily in July in garden off Grove Road, Ilkley (ESS)
- WILLOW WARBLER**
First seen on 13 April at Ben Rhydding filter beds (RCP TD) Movement of birds down the valley on 5 Sept and last recorded on 8 Sept.
- CHIFFCHAFF**
First heard on 14 April at Ben Rhydding filter beds (LGD ESS) One trapped and ringed at Ilkley filter beds on 6 Sept (RCP)
- WOOD WARBLER**
One at Ilkley filter beds on 1 Sept (LGD)
- GOLDCREST**
Still reasonably numerous throughout the district in suitable localities despite the cold spell
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER**
A nest in Scafebor Park, Burley on 14 July contained 4 young, one of which was a pure albino. They had all left the nest by early morning 19 July (GP)
- PIED FLYCATCHER**
2 males seen at Bolton Abbey on 27 April (ESS)

HEDGE SPARROW

Survived the winter very well as it has been very common throughout the year

MEADOW PIPIT

c.40 at Ilkley filter beds on 6 Jan (RCP) over 250 at Addingham Moorside on 15 Sept.(RCP) 35 ringed at Ilkley filter beds on 6 Oct.(LGD ESS)

TREE PIPIT

3 seen and heard at Ben Rhydding on 21 April (LGD RCP)

PLED WAGTAIL

Over 30 at a roost on Ilkley Moor on 30 March (RCP)

YELLOW WAGTAIL

male at Ilkley filter beds on 15 April (LGD)

WAXWING

Although recorded in many districts not far from Ilkley before the end of the year, only 2 records in this area. On 1 Dec. one was picked up dead at Fewston carrying a Finnish ring (OLP) On 28 Dec about 5 were seen in Burley (FCD) However a number of birds were seen in Ilkley in Jan. 1964.

CROSSBILL

3 were seen at Burley Woodhead on 21 Nov (JKF) Mr D.F. Walker reported seeing 5 at Lindley res. on 24 Dec.

CHAFFINCH

Over 50 seen near Swinsty on 17 March, approximately two thirds being males

BRAMBLING

2 came to food on window ledge at Burley on 12 Jan (GP) 2 at Ilkley filter beds on 24 Feb (LGD) About 20 seen near Addingham on 29 March (SF) and 12 at Farnley on 21 April (HNC)

REED BUNTING

1 seen picking at bits of grass sticking out of the snow near Crum Wheel on 6 Jan (RCP) 1 seen at Burley on 1 April (GP)

SNOW BUNTING

An immature or female seen feeding on moor edge above Troutbeck Hotel (C. Markwell)

TREE SPARROW

2 were feeding in a backyard at Burley on 19 Jan (GP) A flock of c.50 at Ilkley filter beds around 22-26 Dec

Key to observer's initials

CGB	C. G. Booth	GRB	G. R. B. ottomley	HNC	H. N. Cameran
LGD	L. G. Dowdney	TD	T. Dowdney	FCD	Mrs F. C. Draper
RWD	R. W. Draper	JED	Mrs J. E. Duncan	JKF	J. K. Fenton
SF	S. Flesher	SF	S. Flood	LAH	L. A. Heslop
GP	G. Parker	RCP	R. C. Parkinson	OLP	Mrs O. L. Pennock
RASP	Dr R. A. W. Procter	JRR	J. R. Rundle	ESS	E. S. Skinner
JPU	J. P. Utley				

I should like to thank all the above mentioned members who have supplied records, and also other members who have given notes which could not be included in this report. As far as possible all occurrences are entered in the Record Book so that the information is available to future recorders of the Society.

No records were received of two species which normally occur in the area but which are not common - Nightjar and Hawfinch. It would be appreciated if members would look out for them in 1964.

E. S. SKINNER.