

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB

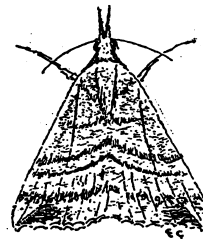


RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 6 Part 4

Spring 1998

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THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 1998-9

President, Mrs Pam Law 'Brinby', Hutton Lowcross, Guisborough.

Secretary, Mr Eric Gendle, 13, Mayfield Road, Nunthorpe.

Membership Secretary, Mrs Jean McClean, 28 Pendle Crescent, Billingham.

Programme Secretaries, Mr Vincent Jones, 'Hillways', Ingleby Greenhow.
Mr Darroll Fryer, 8 Rye Dale, Guisborough.

Treasurer, Mr John Blackburn, 6 Bylands Grove, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees.

The immediate past-president, Mr Norman Thompson.

Ordinary members: Mr Colin Chatto, Mr Neil Baker, Mr Ian Lawrence, Mr Alick Hunter.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrs Jessie Graham, Mrs Joan Williams, Mr Ian Lawrence, Mr Maurice Ward, Mr Maurice Hallam

CONSULTANT MEMBERS

The following members will be pleased to assist in the identification of specimens.

Flowering Plants	Bryophytes	Birds	Lepidoptera
Ian Lawrence	John Blackburn	Maurice Hallam	Neville Harwood (and General Entomology)
			Malcolm Birtle (and Geology), Eric Gendle

Representatives

I.C. Lawrence (CWT)

J.Blackburn (YNU)

M.Birtle (NNU)

Membership Details

The Club seeks to promote an interest in all branches of Natural History and to assist members in finding out about the living things that they see in the countryside around them. The present membership includes those who have particular interests in birds, insects, slugs and snails, lichens, fungi, flowering plants and mosses and liverworts. Members with interests in other fields would be very welcome.

In spring and summer there are evening, half-day and whole-day visits to investigate the natural history of a particular area. During the winter months there is a series of monthly meetings that are held at the Leeds University Centre, Harrow Road, Middlesbrough. A meeting usually takes the form of a lecture given by a club member or visiting speaker. The annual subscription is £5.

Any person interested in joining the Cleveland Naturalists Field Club should send their subscription to the Membership Secretary. **Potential members are welcome to our field meetings listed at the back of this issue.**

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January each year.

(Adult £5.00. Students under 18 yrs. £1.00)

Members are entitled to attend meetings of:

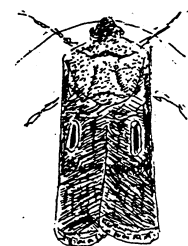
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Northern Naturalists' Union

Cleveland Wildlife Trust

The Ramblers' Association.

The Club is affiliated to these organizations.



Editorial

This is the eighth issue of the new Proceedings. It hardly seems possible that it is eight years since we re-started publication. This issue is also the end of a volume. Past volumes of the Proceedings contained four issues. So, we can congratulate ourselves on successfully producing two volumes- Volumes five and six (Volumes 1-4 were the old Proceedings discontinued in 1933). The site chosen for specific comment this year was Billingham Beck. As last year this site was an area of interest for the Club but our attention was drawn to other areas. Perhaps it would be wiser to let the Proceedings actually reflect the activities the Club members find of interest. These are normally site based but are not always predictable in advance. Site based articles also tend to exclude contributions based on particular species or ecologies which may have attracted the attention of some members. In actual fact many of the articles in the Proceedings are extensions of observations made at field meetings. Therefore, a site will not be proposed for next year. We will see what attracts our interest in 1998 and record our observations and activities accordingly.

Acknowledgements to Contributors

Many thanks to all the contributors that include Christopher Lowe (Botany), Pat Wood (Botany), Malcolm Birtle (Proceedings preparation, Moths), Ian Lawrence (Botany), Darroll Fryer (Proceedings preparation, Botany), Maurice Hallam (Ornithology, Entomology and Botany), Vince Jones (Botany), John Blackburn (Bryophytes), Eric Gendle (Drawings), Gwynn Williamson (Moths), Norman Thompson (Botany), Alan Legg (Mycology), Alick Hunter, Joan Bradbury, Norma Pagdin, Maurice Ward, Colin Chatto, Pam Law, Neil Baker, Andrew Astbury (field reports). Many people contribute to botanical records including Ian Lawrence, Vince Jones, Darroll Fryer, Pat Wood, Norman Thompson, John Blackburn, Pam Law, Maurice Ward, and Chris Lowe. Apologies in advance to anyone overlooked in these acknowledgements.

News

Tom Dunn

Perhaps the saddest news of 1997 was the death of Tom Dunn. A full obituary was published in the Vasculum Vol. 82, No. 4, Dec. 1997. Anyone who has been on field meetings of the Northern Naturalists Union with Tom will know of his extensive knowledge and willingness to help anyone who asked him for assistance. His passing will be sorely felt by many. Tom's extensive collections, including Lofthouse's collection of local lepidoptera, have been deposited in local museums (Hancock and Sunderland).

Warm weather

1998 has started with exceptionally mild weather during February. Primrose and daffodils in flower, dawn chorus, birds pairing up and hawthorn bursting into leaf are just some of the unusual, early activities in the year. Let's hope it does not indicate that the Summer

will be wet, windy and miserable. Note how many 1997 field meetings in the descriptions below were affected by rain.

Commas and Gatekeepers

Ian Waller reported (in the *Vasculum* Vol. 82, No.1, 1997) a Comma (*Polygonia c-album*) on the Castle Eden Walkway in 1996, and a Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) at a confidential site in South-west Durham. He points out that Tom Dunn had noted that there were reports of Gatekeepers at Teesmouth in the past. Given the recent rapid expansion of Commas perhaps we should be keeping a look-out for Gatekeepers locally.

Tree Sparrow

Tree Sparrows have been seen regularly in 1997/98 around Cow Bridge between Cowpen Bewley and Greatham.

Flounders

A recent programme in the 'Time Team' series on archaeology (1st March, Channel 4) featured the abandoned village at Worsall. Part of the programme covered a demonstration of medieval fishing techniques using the Tees at Worsall. One of the fish caught was a Flounder. It was encouraging to see that Flounders have survived the construction of the barrage. The Tees was a well known Flounder fishery in the past.

Malcolm Birtle

Duke of Burgundy Fritillary

On the Field Club outdoor meeting at Hawnby on June 1st a small colony of Duke of Burgundy Fritillary was found on the Western side of Hawnby Hill. Up to twelve individuals were seen.

Maurice Hallam

Camberwell Beauty

A Camberwell Beauty was reported from Ashberry in April 1997 by Peter Waterton.

Eric Gendle



Highlights of Field Meetings, 1997

Saturday 12th April, Raincliffe Wood, led by Darroll Fryer.

Several spring woodland flowers were admired. These included Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinerva*) and Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*). Some dandelions were studied, in particular there were several plants of *Taraxacum maculosum*, a spotted-leaved dandelion of section *Naevosa*. At the end of the day some members had a short walk in the Forge Valley. Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*) was in good flower and the fine stands of Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*), not yet in flower, were observed.

This was an excellent outing for birds. A number of Bullfinches were noticed next to the car park feeding on emerging buds on nearby cherry trees. Chiff-chaffs were also heard calling. In the woods Coal and Long-tailed Tits, Wood Warbler, Marsh Tits, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Blackcap, Treecreeper, and Nuthatch were seen. Blue Tits, Great Tits, Robin, Blackbird, Coot, Moorhen, Canada Goose, Jackdaw, Rook, Crow, Wood Pigeon, Pheasant, and Sparrowhawk were also noted. Grey Wagtails were seen in the Forge Valley. Slippery Snail (*Cochlicopa lubrica*), Plaited Door Snail (*Cochlodina laminata*) and Silky Snail (*Ashfordia granulata*) were found in the woods. Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) and Peacock (*Inachis io*) butterflies were in flight. The river contained some healthy looking Brown Trout.

Saturday 26th April, Hayburn Wyke, led by Eric Gendle.

On a rather chilly, misty day we walked from Cloughton via the Cleveland Way to Hayburn Wyke and back along the disused railway line. We saw a good display of typical spring flowers, particularly primroses. Malcolm Birtle discovered a plant fossil on the beach at Hyburn Wyke, the rarest plant we saw all day! Birds seen included kittiwake, fulmar and skylark. There were signs of badgers along one stretch of the coastal path that was bordered by trees. Willow Warblers, and Chiff-chaff were heard calling.

Wednesday 7th May, The Holmes and Bassleton Wood, led by Ian Lawrence.

In spite of the inclement weather several unusual plants were seen. In the woods were the well-naturalised garden escapes Spotted Dead-nettle (*Lamium maculatum*) and Garden Grape-hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*). Several plants, still in their vegetative state, of Great Yellow-creed (*Rorippa amphibia*) were found by the river. A few members braved the increasingly unpleasant weather and visited The Holmes where a fine stand of Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*) was rewarding.

Saturday 10th May, Sheepwash, Osmotherly, led by Maurice Ward.

A well attended meeting but unfortunately the rain started as we left Sheepwash and continued all afternoon making any sustained recording difficult! We walked beside Cod Beck reservoir, across the dam and back via the woods. Plants we saw included Common Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), Floating Club-rush (*Eleogiton fluitans*), Tufted Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*), Alternate Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum alternifolium*). There were greylag geese on the reservoir. Two cuckoos, three Whinchats, two Mistle Thrushes, Meadow Pipits, Pied Wagtail, Curlew, Lapwing, Chaffinch, Willow Warbler, Blue Tit, and Wren were seen.

Wednesday 14th May, Soapwell Wood, led by Pat Wood.

By the side of arable fields Bugloss (*Anchusa arvensis*) and Cut-leaved Dead-nettle (*Lamium hybridum*) were found. Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*) and Silver Hair-grass (*Aira caryophylla*) were found on the woodland edge. In the woods the morphotypes of Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*) were studied; subspecies *affinis* and *borreri* were identified. Perhaps the best botanical find was the rare dandelion (*Taraxacum landmarkii*), (confirmed by A.J.Richards) found in unimproved grassland. The Black and Red Frog hopper was noted between Upleatham and Soapwell with 14 spot ladybird (*Propylea 14-punctata*) and St Marks Fly (*Bibio marci*). Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) and Brown Silver Line (*Petrophora chlorosata*) were flying in the wood.

Wednesday 21st May, Darlington West Cemetery, led by Ian Lawrence.

This meeting had been arranged as a follow up to last year's study of the excellent display of trees in the area and to see some of the trees in flower, but owing to the early spring many of them had already flowered. Those in flower included Common Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), and Bladdernut (*Staphylea pinnata*) and in bud, Portugese Laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) and Walnut (*Juglans regia*). We toured the area with Ian's list of trees to renew acquaintance with the wide variety of coniferous and deciduous trees. It was also possible to study some of the early grasses, including Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and Spreading Meadow-grass (*Poa humilis*). We also saw a Hawkweed (*Hieracium grandidens*) and the white form of Pink Purslane (*Claytonia sibirica*).

Sunday 1st June, Hawnby Hill, led by Vincent Jones.

The botanical highlight of the day was the finding of a new site, in the short turf on Hawnby Hill, for Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*). A hawkweed (*Hieracium decolor*), confirmed by D.J.McCosh, was abundant in one area on the limestone rocks. A diversion to the track leading into Hawnby village enabled the party to admire fine stands of Dusky Crane's-bill (*Geranium phaeum*). Later in the day Smooth Lady's-mantle (*Alchemilla glabra*) and Rue-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*) were observed.

Wednesday 4th June, Low Middlefield Farm, led by Chris Lowe.

A dozen CNFC members enjoyed a fine evening at this complex and in some senses remote site. A number of habitats comprised the two hours' walkabout: the tributary valley with its stand of Purple Willow (*Salix purpurea*); a section of steeply-sloping, terraced hillside, with elements of both slightly acid and mildly alkaline grassland floristics; the river-bank of Thorpe Beck; and a flat, low-lying, neglected area north of the footbridge. Here, artificial ponds and drainage ditches proved to be well-endowed with plant-life, from emergent semi-aquatic to submerged charophytes. The reeling of a grasshopper warbler accompanied this part of the outing. See article on Billingham Beck below.

Sunday 15th June, Teesdale, led by Neil Baker.

As always, when visiting a botanically rich area, the problem of a brief report is not which plants to mention but which to leave out. Soon after leaving Middleton we were delighted to find several plants of the rare Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla monticola*). Also in the meadows we were able to distinguish the two subspecies of Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), the common subspecies *minor* and the rare ssp. *stenophyllus*. Eyebrights were abundant; these were almost exclusively *Euphrasia arctica* x *E. nemorosa* (pers.comm.A.J.Silverside). By the river were Northern Bedstraw (*Galium boreale*), a Monkey-flower hybrid (*Mimulus luteus* x *M.guttatus*), Tea-leaved Willow (*Salix phylicifolia*), Flat-sedge (*Blysmus compressus*), Stone-bramble (*Rubus saxatilis*), Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), Viviparous Sheep's-fescue (*Festuca vivipara*) and Few-flowered Spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*). Several hawkweeds, confirmed previously by D.J.McCosh, were seen. These included *Hieracium pellucidum*, *H. iricum*, *H. auratiflorum* & *H. diaphanoides*.

The large Sexton Beetle *Nicrophorus humator* was found under a dead rabbit. Notable birds seen were Common Redstart, Goldfinch and Sand Martin.

Wednesday 18th June, Seal Sands, led by Angela Cooper.

Celery-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus scleratus*) was seen in a wet area. The dry stony ground yielded Tall Rocket (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), Great Lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*), not yet in flower; the rare Steppe Cabbage (*Rapistrum perenne*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), and the grasses Sea Fern-grass (*Catapodium marinum*) and Rat's-tail Fescue (*Vulpia myuros*). The Common Hawkweed (*Hieracium vulgatum*) was abundant. Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) was noted with *Scoparia ambigualis* and Shaded Broad Bar (*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*). A moth was observed which has turned into something of a mystery. This moth was small (about 3/4 inch long), pale brown with two very distinctive dark brown bands on the forewing running from leading to trailing edge of the forewing. It was behaving similar to a pyralid grass moth but had very long antennae. When at rest it adopted a very upright posture. The Common Snail (*Helix aspersa*) and Brown Lipped Banded Snail (*Capaea nemoralis*) were also noted. The Gall Wasps *Phanacis hypochoeroidis* were noted on Cats Ear and Robin's Pin Cushion or Bedeguar Galls (*Diplolepis rosea*) were seen on Dog Roses.

Sunday 22nd June, Askham Bog and Wheldrake Ings, led by Pam Law.

Another rather damp morning but the wealth of botanical interest more than compensated for the weather! Askham Bog is an SSSI managed by the Yorkshire Wild-Life Trust; it is a diverse wetland, part wooded, part maintained open fen. The plants we saw included Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*), Water Violet (*Hottonia palustris*), Purple Small-reed (*Calamagrostis canescens*), Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum flavum*), Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*), Ivy-leaved Duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*), and Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*).

A Thorn (*Ennomos sp.*), Herald (larvae) (*Scoliopteryx libatrix*), and Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) were seen. Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Wren, and Sedge Warbler were also noted.

In the afternoon the sun came out and we went to Wheldrake Ings, a national nature reserve in the lower Derwent Valley, another interesting area with the opportunity for bird watching as well as botany. Grasses seen included Meadow Brome (*Bromus commutatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Black Grass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*). Other plants included Water Chickweed (*Myosoton aquaticum*), Treacle Mustard (*Erysimum cheiranthoides*), Scented Mayweed (*Matricaria recucitita*) and Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquatica*). The following Lepidoptera were seen at Wheldrake Ings-Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), Green Veined White (*Pieris napi*), Garden Carpet (*Xanthorhoe fluctuata*), and Common White Wave (*Cabera pusaria*). In addition, the following birds were observed- Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Swallow, House Martin, Swift, Greylag, Canada Geese, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Ruddy Duck, Mute Swan, Mallard, Moorhen, Lapwing, Curlew, Cormorant, and Heron. *Agrion splendens* was also seen.

Saturday 28th June, Ellerburn Banks Nature Reserve, led by Collin Chatto.

Four members of the club braved heavy rain to be given a guided tour of the reserve by Pat Staniforth, chairman of the management committee. She explained the problem of keeping out invasive plants, to retain the reserve's special flora. Among plants seen were: Musk (*Mimulus moschatus*), Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Woolly Thistle (*Cirsium eriophorum*), the latter two not in flower, Common Rock Rose, (*Helianthemum nummularium*), in profusion, Dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*), Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). Small heath butterflies and many grasshoppers were seen. The visit concluded in warm sunshine with a walk along the forest drive to Low Dalby during which, a blue damsel fly, a scorpion fly and a burnet moth were observed.

Wednesday 2nd July, The Winneys Nature Reserve, led by Malcolm Birtle.

This is an interesting area lying between the old road to and the new by-pass round Middleton St George. Conditions are mainly calcareous and plants seen included a good display of Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuschii*), a stand of Dyers Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), and various grasses including Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*),

Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*). There were newts in the pond. The following lepidoptera were seen- Ringlet (in abundance) (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), Shaded Broad Bar (*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*), Latticed Heath (*Semiothisa clathrata clathrata*), and Yellowshell (*Camptogramma bilineata bilineata*). The snail *Discus rotundatus* was also noted.

Saturday 5th July, Billingham Beck Ecology Park, led by Malcolm Birtle.

See article on Billingham Beck below.

Wednesday 9th July, Brewsdale, led by Rob Scaife.

The woodland yielded Fool's Watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), and Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus ssp. minus*), much the rarer subspecies locally. Also present were the grass, Bearded Couch (*Elymus caninus*) and several ferns, including Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*).

The following lepidoptera were seen- Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Barred Straw (*Eulithis pyraliata*), *Phlyctaenia coronata*, the Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*), Garden Tiger (*Arctia caja*), Clouded Border (*Lomaspilis marginata*), and Hook Marked Conch (*Agapeta hamana*). The mirid bug *Nototira elongata* and the Copse snail (*Arianta arbustorum*) were also seen.

Sunday 13th July, The Lythe coastal area, led by Pat Wood.

An abundance of Shepherd's needle (*Scandix Pecten-veneris*) was observed near Deepgrove farm. Deepgrove woods were rich in ferns including Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis ssp. affinis*), Lady-fern (*Athyrium felix-femina*), Hart's-tongue (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*). On an area of waste ground Beaked Hawk's-beard (*Crepis vesicaria*), Stinking Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), Parsley Piert (*Aphanes arvensis*), Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*), Short-fruited Willowherb (*Epilobium obscurum*) and Bugle (*Anchusa arvensis*) were noted.

Among the abundant plants on the former railway line were well established colonies of Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*) and Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*). We looked at the sites of the former quarries and Malcolm Birtle gave an account of the geology of the area.

The Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*) and 2 Spot Ladybird (*Adalia bipunctata*) were seen amongst nettles adjacent to farm buildings, and Clouded Border (*Lomaspilis marginata*), Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*), Small White (*Pieris rapae*), and Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) in, and on the edge of, Deepgrove Woods. Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*), Beautiful Yellow Underwing (*Anarta myrtilli*), Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), Large Skipper (*Ochlodes venata*) and Common White Wave (*Cabera pusaria*) were also seen. The weather changed radically just after this meeting finished and Lythe was lashed by a dramatic thunderstorm with torrential rain and hailstones.

Wednesday 16th July, Stainsby Beck, led by Ian Lawrence.

The most interesting botanical areas visited were adjacent wasteland and coarse grassland, rather than the woods by the beck itself. Docks were in good seed, so we were able to study their important diagnostic feature. Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*) and the convincing hybrid between them were all evident in one small area. Also here were Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) and Bristly Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*). In the grassland Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*) was abundant in one area and there were isolated clumps of Imperforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum maculatum*) and the hybrid ragwort (*Senecio x albescens*).

Saturday 19th July, Jugger Howe Area, led by John Blackburn.

A number of CNFC members attended this Yorkshire Naturalists Union meeting, most of whom walked with the botanical group. During the morning we walked downstream through Castlebeck Wood; among the plants observed were Marsh Valerian (*Valeriana dioica*), Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*), Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*) and Flea Sedge (*Carex pulicaris*). A rather more vigorous walk upstream across an area of Jugger Howe Moor was made in the afternoon to locate Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*); finding this in flower was the highlight of the day. Among other plants observed in this area were Heath Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*), Broad-leaved Cottongrass (*Eriophorum latifolium*), Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), Cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idea*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), and Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*).

Saturday 26th July, Stanhope area, led by Joan Bradbury and Norma Pagdin.

This was yet another of our outings badly affected by the weather. We met in Stanhope and had intended walking through woodland to an area of old lead-mine workings and returning by a high level route over moorland but had to cut the walk short owing to torrential rain. We saw plenty of Giant Campanula (*Campanula latifolia*) and Wood Cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*) also good specimens of Lesser burdock (*Arctium minus ssp. minus*) and Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*).

Sunday 3rd August, Lockwood Beck Moor, led by Chris Lowe.

Before the start of the walk, members were told about the life-history and habits of the adder (*Vipera berus*) by Graeme Skinner who observes and records the species in that area. During the walk Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) was observed on disturbed land near the moor edge. The flowers, rarely seen, of Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) were searched for and found by the reservoir edge. The best find on the moor itself was Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*).

Sunday 31st August, Grosmont and Sleights, Andrew Astbury.

We met in Grosmont car park, where there were good specimens of Dark Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*) and two Hawkweeds (*Hieracium vagum* & *H. vulgatum*). We walked down the Esk valley, partly on an old stone 'trod', to Sleights and returned via Iburndale and a minor road to Grosmont. We were pleased to find Wood Barley (*Hordelymus europaeus*), Rat's-tail Fescue (*Vulpia myuros*) and a hybrid Cinquefoil (*Potentilla x mixta* = *P. anglica* x *P. reptans*).

Saturday 13th September, Fungus Foray, Lazenby Bank, led by Alan Legg.

Previous visits to this area had produced many different specimens of the larger fungi but on this occasion the woods were extremely dry and very few of these were found. We were however, with Alan's assistance, able to make a more detailed study of the mildews and rusts in the area; full details are given elsewhere in the 'Proceedings'. The species recorded are all common with the possible exception of *Erisiphe urticae*. In the woods we also found Prickly Heath (*Gaultheria mucronata*). This has been recorded here for some time but there were at least three separate clumps; the plant appears to be spreading. There was also a large colony of Good-King-Henry (*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*) near the disused ironstone mine buildings below Lackenby Bank.

Sunday 28th September, Newtondale, led by Eric Gendle.

A small group of members walked down into Newtondale through Pifelhead Wood. At this late time of year there was still a large amount of Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) in flower. By the stream adjacent to the railway line we noted Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and in the stream Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) no longer in flower. In the woodland we observed a number of fungi of various species. Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) was seen at the Hole of Horcum. In Newton Dale Sexton Beetles (*Nicophorus* sp.), a Devils Coach Horse (*Staphylinus olens*), and Green Veined White (*Pieris napi*) were seen. There were many *Amanita* sp. in the woods with many Blusher (*Amanita rubescens*) and some False Death Cap (*Amanita citrina*).

Saturday 11th October, Newgate Bank, led by Alick Hunter.

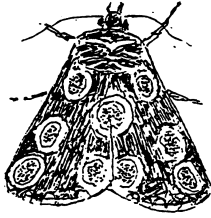
A pleasant autumn walk on a fine day with some good views of Bilsdale and some good autumn colour in places. Cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idea*) was flowering well on the moor. Plants seen in the woodland included Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), New Zealand Willowherb (*Epilobium brunnescens*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Perforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), and Square-stemmed St. John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*). A mint, no longer in flower, was identified, after much discussion, as Corn Mint (*Mentha arvensis*). Fungi included Larch Bolete (*Suillus grevillei*), Shaggy Parasol (*Lepiota rhacodes*) and Beefsteak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*).

Moths from Nunthorpe

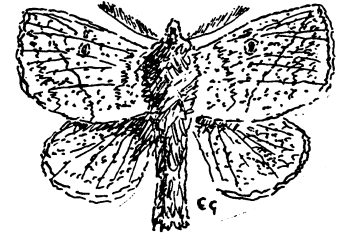
by Eric Gendle

The following moths have been recorded and photographed for the first time in the garden of 13 Mayfield Rd Nunthorpe, a typical small suburban garden, perhaps surrounded by more mature gardens than is often the case.

Peach Blossom	<i>Thyatira batis</i>	Widely scattered but frequently recorded throughout Yorkshire
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	(noted on Nunthorpe bypass in daylight). Common throughout Yorkshire
Dark Spinach	<i>Pelurga comitata</i>	A local moth, previously collected at Lovell Hill Ponds Wilton
V Pug	<i>Chloroclytis v-ata</i>	Common throughout Yorkshire
V Moth	<i>Semiothisa wauaria</i>	Locally common
Short Cloaked moth.	<i>Nola cucullatella</i>	common throughout Yorkshire
Shuttle Shaped Dart	<i>Agrostis puta</i>	previously recorded at Wass and further south, but uncommon
Bright Line Brown Eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracia</i>	Common
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimnia impura</i>	Common
Shark	<i>Cucillia umbricata</i>	A common moth usually found south of the moors
Dusky Sallow	<i>Eremobia ochroleuca</i>	Previously little known in Yorkshire, it has extended its range, but is mainly caught south of the North York Moors.
Flounced Rustic	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Widely distributed in the county. The Rustics are difficult to separate.
Fanfoot	<i>Herminia tarsipennalis</i>	Common but very rare north of the moors.
Gold Triangle	<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i>	more common in the south of the county.
Bee moth	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Common
	<i>Udea lutealis</i>	a common micro moth in the Fanfoot family.
	<i>Croesia forsskaleana</i>	Has now become a common micro moth in the county.



Another surprise was a Grey Chi (*Antitype chi*), a specimen of which had been caught some 15 years previously. This moth is usually found on higher ground in the southern areas of the moors.



Cleveland Wildflowers under Pressure

by Ian Lawrence

I often wonder how many of the wildflowers described in my Guide to the Wildflowers of Cleveland will still be around in thirty years time. I am quite concerned about the state of some of them already. Since I roamed the area during the years preceding the publication of the flora I decided to film the species I had listed as a follow-up project and eventually produce a video showing the 800+ species mentioned. This has been a more difficult task than I had imagined. Many of the sites for some of our cherished species have undergone changes resulting in an alarming decline in numbers.

For example, one of the sites for our rare Yellow Star of Bethlehem (*Gagea lutea*) has had a massive 'facelift' down in the Leven Valley. The Alternate Leaved Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*) has gone from much of this valley and so has the Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*), which, I suppose, was an intruder in the first place.

Then, landscaping and the creation of an inlet of the River Tees to form a pondscape at Preston Park has all but decimated the few plants of Sand Leek (*Allium scorodoprasum*). There is still a nice colony at The Holmes near Thornaby (the large horse shoe bend inn the river) but surely someone will fancy creating something there for 'recreational' purposes in the none too distant future

Plants relying on the maintenance of hedgerows are certainly under threat. We have lost Sharp-toothed Mint (*Mentha x villosonevata*) which has gone from it's hedgebank site near Stanghow. I will have to go to Upper Teesdale to film it, in lieu, by the Bowlees Beck.

These are just a few examples. I could go on. But now, hold steady! The Cleveland Wildflower ARK Project is being launched by the Industry and Nature Conservation Association (INCA) in association with the Botanic Centre at Nature's World. We will be collecting seed from plants which are deemed to be living under potential pressure and these will be grown on at Nature's World so that a 'reservoir' of growing plants will be created ready for introducing into suitable places in the wild. Sounds good does'nt it? This means, of course, reproducing the correct habitat at

Nature's World (quite a task). But, given the financial backing that INCA is hoping for - who knows? Some of our threatened species may be growing in Nature's World in 2030 if not out in the wild. Unfortunately I doubt whether this grandiose scheme will perpetuate the many orchid species we have in our area. Some of the plants are struggling because of the excessively dry weather we have been having during the '90's. That is also something that Nature's World cannot do much about. Anyway, watch this space in the years to come. If I will not be reporting about it I hope that somebody will.

Unusual Colour Varieties in Plants and a rare Fleabane

by Norman Thompson

Having watched Geoffery Smith's television programme on 'Violets' wherein he showed a large area of white violets at Rievaulx Abbey, I decided to go looking for them during the last week of March 1991. I not only found these but another two large patches, one near Goldstead and the other near Carlton. This started me off looking for other white varieties and to photograph those I found. The members have seen quite a lot of these when I have given my slide shows.

There were quite a lot of letters in the Botanical Society of the British Isles News in recent years reporting white varieties and it was stated that over 800 varieties had been recorded.

The following is a list of white varieties which I have found within an 11 km radius around Helmsley.

Common Spotted Orchid	Ragged Robin	Bugle
Broad-leaved Willowherb	Great Hairy Willowherb	Marjoram
Dames Violet	Dove's-foot Cranesbill	Herb Robert
Marsh Thistle	Musk Mallow	Columbine
Cross Leaved Heath	Foxglove	Selfheal
Red Dead Nettle (<i>var.</i> <i>albiflorum</i> according BSBI but not mentioned in Stace)	Sweet Violet	White Campion
Red Campion (white form)	Bluebell	

This year I have added Forget-me-not, Harebell, and Early Dog Violet to the list.

I have also found RED varieties of Wood Sorrel, Wood Anemone, Bramble and Primrose. It is my opinion that white varieties of all blue and red flowers can be found, but I have never found a white variety of yellow.

One of my other interesting finds this year was *Erigeron annuus* one of the fleabanes. I was walking around the industrial estate at Helmsley when I noticed the flower, and thought it was just another of those garden escapes. As there was a Naturalists' outing on the Sunday I picked it without much enthusiasm to see if anyone could identify it. Ian Lawrence pronounced it to be *Erigeron annuus* which he had seen in Poland and France.

Stace names it Tall Fleabane a plant from North America, very scattered in S.W. England, and a rare casual elsewhere. There is a drawing on page 856. Ian Lawrence thinks that it is the first time it has been found in Northern England.



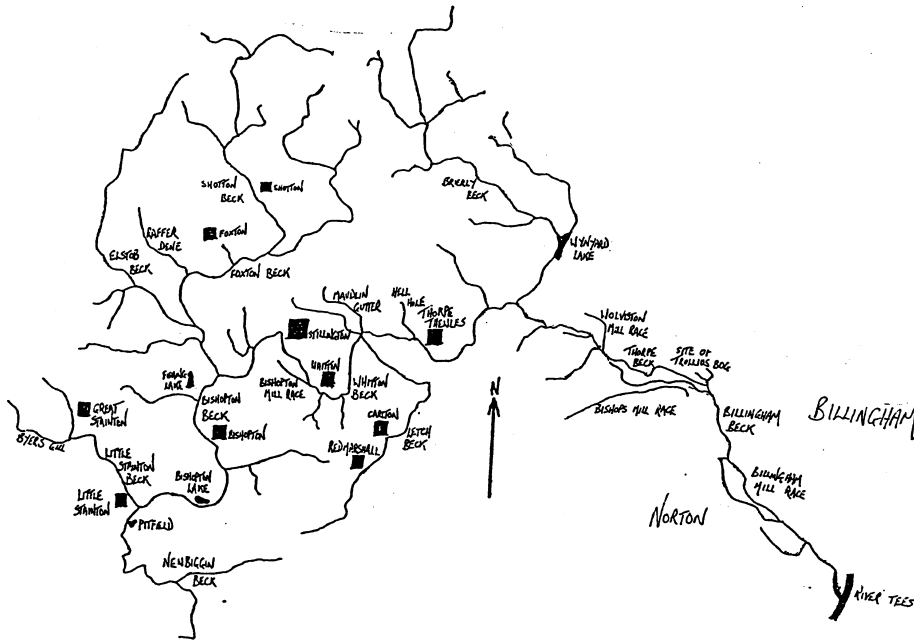
The Origins and Fields of Billingham Beck

by Malcolm Birtle

[This is a transcript of a lecture given to the Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club, February 1998]

Billingham Beck is a significant tributary of the River Tees. The name 'Beck' is based on Old English *baece, bece, or broc* and Old Norse *bekke*. Study of ordnance survey maps of the area reveals that Billingham Beck is actually the final part of a wider network of small streams. These streams drain land north east of Darlington and north west of Stockton, in the south eastern extremity of County Durham. The various becks merge to join Billingham Beck which carries all the water from these becks into the Tees a few yards downstream from the Newport Bridge. The becks supported a number of mills including Billingham Mill, Norton Mill, Wolviston Mill, Bishopton Mill and Portrack Mill. Both Norton and Billingham Mill were noted for their rich wildlife by local people. Unfortunately neither mill now exists.

Figure 1: Map of Becks forming the Watercourse



Newbiggin Beck

This beck rises from flat land north east of Sadberge. This is an area of intensively farmed land reclaimed from pre-existing carrs. The beck is now solely in the form of farm ditches of seemingly little natural interest. However, the footpaths adjacent to the beck around the Newbiggin Farms may repay some close inspection in the future. There are two large bodies of water at Pitfield Farm and Bishopton Lake. Pitfield is probably flooded sand and gravel workings. There is no public access to either but a footpath passes adjacent to Bishopton Lake from the Little Stainton road. **Byers Gill** joins **Little Stainton Beck** to drain Byers Gill Wood and the area immediately south of Great Stainton. Newbiggin Beck joins with Little Stainton Beck to form **Bishopton Beck**.

Bishopton Beck

This beck flows through fields used primarily for stock grazing. The marginal vegetation is confined to the immediate edges of the beck. A sewage works for Bishopton has been constructed adjacent to the beck. Close to Old Stillington the beck flows through some wider flat fields which are often flooded in Winter. These fields, normally grazed by sheep, attract large flocks of Curlew, Lapwing and Gulls. Old quarry workings have been flooded to produce a lake used for private fishing. In places the beck side is quite steep and large willows and scrub grow here.

Figure 2: Survey Sheets by O. Wilson of Shotton and Billingham Beck

Freshwater Macro-invertebrates Survey Results and Biotic indices

Location		Shotton Beck Site 1 NZ 361 227							Billingham Beck Site 5 OS 457 233								
Date & Time		16-Jun-96 10:00AM Surveyed by: OW							17-Jun-96 19:30 PM Surveyed by: OW								
Organism	Organism-	Riffle	Riffle	Riffle	Flat	Flat	Flat	BMWP	Organism-	Riffle	Riffle	Riffle	Flat	Flat	Flat	Flat	BMWP
English Name	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	
Mayfly	Baetidae*	7	50	100+			3	25	Baetidae*	1	many**	many**	many**	many**	many**	25	
Caddis fly	Hydrophiliidae*			1				2	Hydrophiliidae*		2					2	
Shrimp	Gammaridae	3	5	3	6		2	25	Gammaridae		1	3		1		25	
Flatworm	Tricladia			1				2	Tricladia							2	
Waterboatmen	Coleoptera				1			2	Coleoptera							2	
Alderfly Larvae	Sialidae				2			2	Sialidae							2	
Watermites	Hydracarina	1 red			Many	1		2	Hydracarina	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	
Blackfly larva	Simuliidae	1	3					2	Simuliidae		14	16				2	
Non red Chironomids	Chironimidae		10	8				2	Chironimidae	5	4	7			3	2	
Cranefly Larva	Tipulidae	7	1	9	15	8	5	2	Tipulidae	5	8	8		8	2	2	
Tabanids	Diptera Larva'							2	Diptera Larva'							2	
Beetle Larvae	Coleoptera		4	2	3			2	Coleoptera			2				2	
Snails	Gastropoda				1			2	Gastropoda							2	
Freshwater mussel	Unionidae							2	Unionidae						2	2	
Leeches	Hirudinae	1		7	5			2	Hirudinae	3	2	2	2	3		2	
Water Hoglouse	Asellidae		1		2	2		2	Asellidae	1		1	2			2	
Red Chironomids	Chironomidae			3	7	5	2	2	Chironomidae				3			2	
Tubificid worm**	Oligochaeta	Many	Many	Many	Several	Several	Several	2	Oligochaeta	Few	many**	many**	many**	Few	Few	2	
Sewage Fungus		No	No	No	No	No		2								2	
								Average								Average	
BMWS		2.0	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.2	4.5	25.8		1.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	2.2	1.5	2.2	
ASPT		220	375	400	530	280	520	37.0		300	410	475	260	440	310	44.5	
Notes	* Identified to family level							* Identified to family level									
	** To numerous to Count							** To numerous to Count									

Foxton Beck, Raffer Dene, Elstob Beck and Shotton Beck

This network of becks which drain land between Bishopton and Sedgefield join Bishopton Beck to form **Whitton Beck**. Survey work by O. Wilson has shown that Shotton Beck is relatively rich in invertebrates.

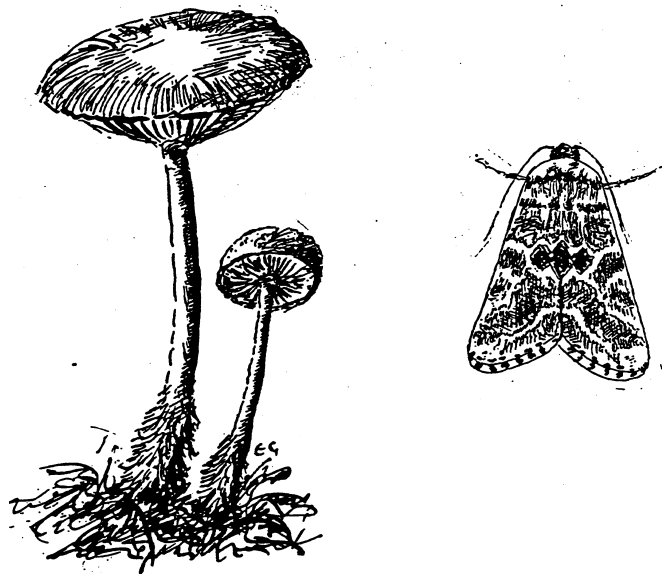
Whitton Beck

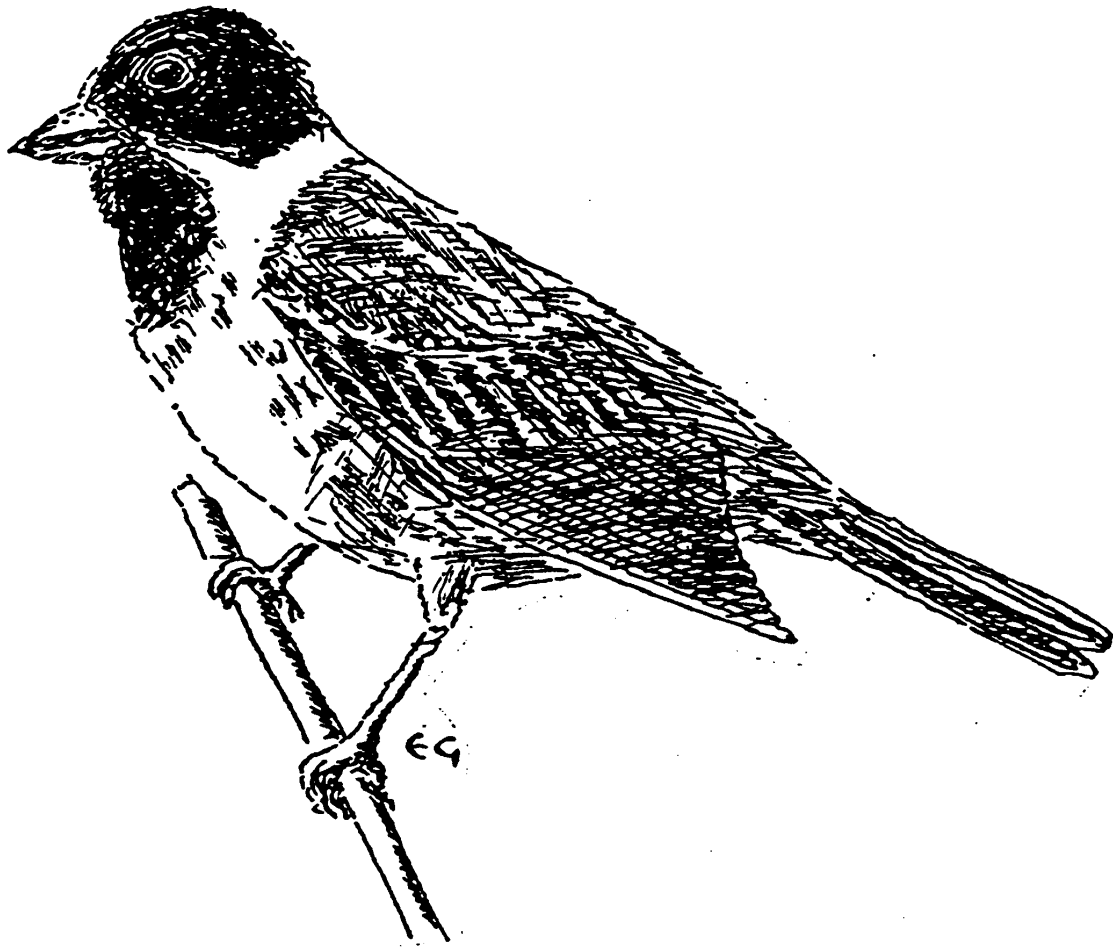
This becks flows around the southern edge of Stillington. The study by O. Wilson indicated that there was a significant intermittent source of pollution along this stretch of beck. A mill race was constructed adjacent to this beck to drive Bishopton Mill. Whitton Beck joins with **Letch Beck** and **Maudlin Gutter** to form **Thorpe Beck**.

Thorpe Beck/Wolviston Beck

Thorpe Beck receives water from **Brierly Beck** and others feeding into Wynard Lake from plantations north of the Hall. The old mill race for Norton (Bishops) Mill can be traced along the southern margin of the valley. The mill race formed interesting linear wet habitats until recent years. These areas have been gradually eroded by tipping, drainage and reclamation.

On 4th June 1997 the Field Club had a meeting at Low Middlefield Farm led by Chris Lowe. The party walked from the farm down the valley side through some old sand workings to the field adjacent to the confluence of Brierly Beck and Thorpe Beck (NZ416243). This was found to contain an interesting wet area currently hosting breeding Reed Bunting, Skylark, Sedge and Grasshopper Warbler. The standing water contains stoneworts. Unfortunately this field is also a likely site for sand and gravel working. The following birds were also noted Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Cuckoo, Yellowhammer, Long Tailed Tit and Greater Spotted Woodpecker. The Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) and the pyralid *Scoparia ambigualis* with the Chimney Sweep (*Odezia atrata*) were also found. At dusk Common Swifts (*Hepialus lupulinus*) were seen in the grassland.





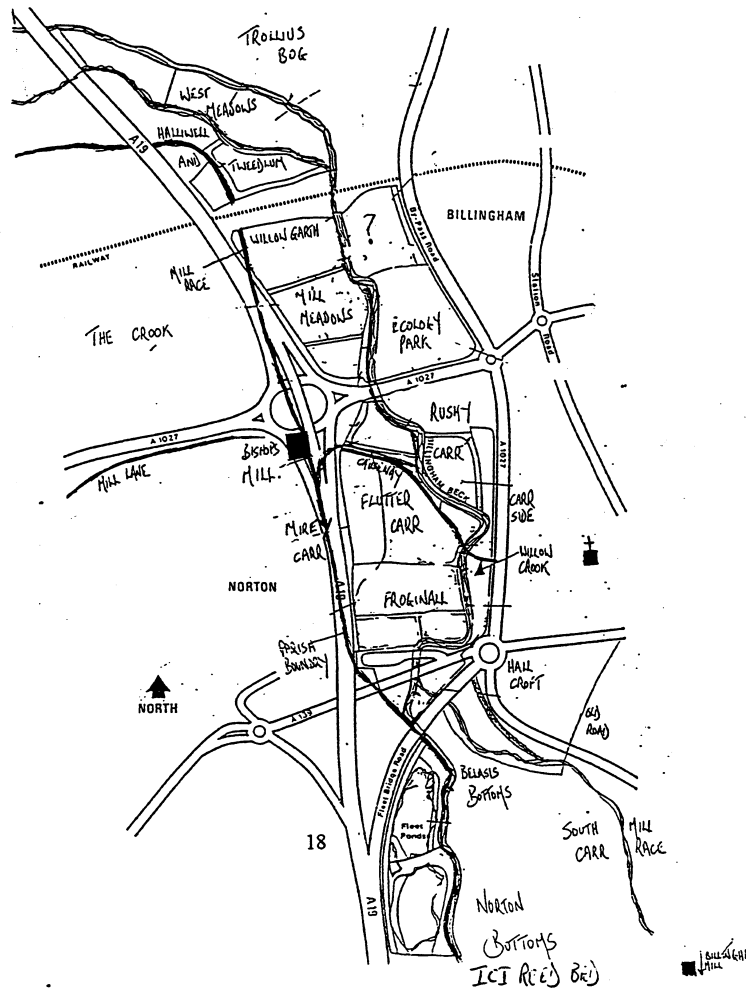
The valley has the remains of many sand and gravel quarries. One of these quarries- Gravel Hole- is a small nature reserve which contains some interesting calcicole vegetation. Notable species in this reserve are Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza* sp.), Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*), Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*), Large Skipper (*Ochlodes venata*), and Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*).

Billingham Beck

Billingham Beck rises along the southern edge of the valley and joins Thorpe Beck. The remaining beck to the confluence with the Tees takes the name Billingham Beck. This part of the watercourse has been highly modified, redirected and 'canalised' in parts. The beck is tidal up to Fleet Ponds. In the past it would have been tidal much further upstream - perhaps virtually the complete length of Billingham Beck. It is likely that the bulk of Thorpe Beck would also have been tidal. There is evidence that the Becks were navigable by barges for the transport of grain, flour and other agricultural produce as far upstream as Thorpe Thewles. Clearly the beck would have been deeper and wider(?) than at present.

D.W. Pattenden has published two papers in the Bulletin of the Teesside Local History Society on 'Pre-enclosure Norton' and 'Billingham Before and After Enclosure'. These provide important information on field boundaries and natural features that can be traced today, and evidence of lost habitats. Pattenden et al have established the boundaries of the pre-enclosure open field systems. The valley containing Thorpe and Billingham Beck contained pastures which had been enclosed before the major enclosure of 1673. An interesting feature of Pattenden's map is that Thorpe beck is indicated as Wolviston Beck and is joined directly to the current source of Billingham Beck. If this is correct then the stretch of beck on the north side of the valley is a relatively recent redirection of the beck. The fields named on this map south of Billingham Beck still exist to various degrees namely New Close Howll/North Meadows, Christmire, Halliwell and Tweedlum, Mill

Figure 3: Pre-enclosure Field Names, Billingham Bottoms, after Pattenden



Meadows, Mirey Carr, and South Meadows.

Unfortunately Christmire which was a field between Billingham Beck and the southern valley side below and to the East of Calf Fallow Lane has been tipped over with waste from a concrete works and only part of the field survives. It is also grazed heavily by horses. However, it is still a wet field and can flood in wet conditions. The concrete works at the end of Station Road, and the start of Calf Fallow Lane were built on the site of ironworks. The waste tipped from both these works into Billingham Beck Valley consisted of lime rich materials. The area has calcicole plants in the normal flora as can be seen in Gravel Hole Reserve and adjacent fields. Consequently these waste tips have been, and continue to be, colonised by interesting calcicole floras including species like Sickle Medick (*Medicago falcata*), Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*), and Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*). Molluscs are also abundant and of interest. The habitat is unstable and parts are used for pig rearing and reclamation of valuable building products.

The extreme eastern portion of Halliwell and Tweedlum is an important habitat and currently forms a triangle of land bounded by Billingham Beck, Norton Mill Race and the Stockton to Billingham railway. It contains an interesting flora; the details of which can be found in the management documentation held by the Billingham Beck valley country park. Interesting species include Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*), and Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe fluviatilis*)

Butterflies recorded-

Small Tortoiseshell

Agrias urticae

Peacock

Inachis io

Common Blue

Polyommatus icarus

Small Heath

Coenonympha pamphilus

Meadow Brown

Maniola jurtina

Large White

Pieris brassicae

Large Skipper

Ochlodes venata

Dingy Skipper

Erynnis tages

Whitethroats are known to occur every year. The beck here has been sampled and is known to contain Caddis Flies, Alder Flies, *Gammarus*, *Dytiscus* sp., *Planorbis* sp., and *Lymnaea peregra*.

The Trollius Bog existed close to the confluence of Thorpe and Billingham Beck. This was an important habitat described by Heslop-Harrison and was destroyed by tipping in the the 1950's. This site was reviewed by Birtle [Birtle, 1995] in the Proceedings of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club.

North of the Ring Road are Mill Meadows. One part of these meadows was destroyed by tipping but has been reclaimed as the Billingham Beck Ecology Park and now has a great diversity of species due to pond construction and meadow recreation. The pond has even attracted a Whooper Swan in recent years. The northern end of Mill Meadows was buried

under the Clarence Railway embankment around 1833. This embankment now has a number of mature Railway Poplars. Two long tunnels were built for the mill race and the beck which provide potential for bat roosts. The field immediately south of the railway is commonly known as the Willow Garth and the 1899 OS map shows an area of plantation. The field itself exhibits shallow pillar shaped mounds that look like cultivation beds. This field was very wet and contained reeds with Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Spotted Orchids (*Dactylorhiza* sp.). More recently the field has reverted to grassland. Most of Mill Meadows is now grazed by sheep and cattle. Parts of the beck margin have been planted with alder and willow of dubious provenance and variety. Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) is the more typical native tree on this watercourse. Crack Willow provides an excellent substrate for lichens in this area and hosts *Parmelia* sp., *Physcia* sp., *Xanthoria* sp., *Hypogymnea* sp., and others. Areas adjacent to chemical plants may not be the most promising of sites to look for lichens but Billingham does not seem to have suffered as badly as some other places. Billingham Beck valley is very close to the site of I.C.I. Billingham. This site is largely cleared of polluting chemical plants now and the atmosphere is significantly cleaner than it has been for the last 70 years

Pattenden [Pattenden, 1969,] has also described pre-enclosure Billingham and provided details relevant to the northern side of Billingham and Thorpe/Wolviston Beck. The 'Commons, Moors, and Marshes' were enclosed in 1676 and 'Townfields and Meadows' in 1716. Pattenden quotes from Still a court order from 1365 restraining an individual from producing oil with a 'strong odour' anywhere but 'Pekesker'. It has been suggested that this oil may have been derived from seals which would have been available locally.

Rushy Carr is now the site of allotments at the junction of the old A19 and Norton ring-road. It also includes two fields which can be extremely wet i.e. flooded in heavy rain. One is currently grazed by cattle. The other is covered by a reed bed. This was trapped for moths on a regular basis during the summer of 1996 but the number of species was extraordinarily low. The course of the beck on either side of the ring-road was substantially altered when the road was constructed in 1969. The course was moved some 100 yards eastwards.

Flutter Carr and Froginall (Froginale) are substantially complete and form the wet fields bounded by the Norton Ring Road, Billingham Beck, the new A19, and the old road from Billingham to Stockton. Flutter Carr forms the north half of these fields and Froginall the southern half. This area is crossed by the medieval causeway between the site of Norton Mill (Bishop's Mill) and Chapel Road, Billingham.

This part of the beck valley was well known for its population of water voles (*Arvicola terrestris*) until the early 1980's. There appears to be no water voles in this area now. The decline of the water vole nationally has been well documented by Strachan and others [Strachan 1993, 1997, Yalden 1997]. The primary causes seem to be mink predation and the loss of marginal vegetation along watercourses. It seems likely that the water vole may have been able to cope with the predation if it had not coincided with habitat loss.

The effect of both pressures together has been sufficient to cause a collapse in the national population. Pollution has also been a factor in the Peak District.

The area called Belasis Bottoms in Pattenden's paper seems now to be covered by the Fleet Ponds. This area is separated from Froginall by the Drove Road (old road from Billingham Bank to Tanners Bank) built in the 1750's. Fleet Ponds are an extensive area of open water and marginal reedbed adjacent to the old Fleet Road, now the southbound Billingham slip-road of the new A19. Although these ponds have hosted breeding wildfowl-mainly mallard-the ponds have been grossly contaminated with acidic wastes. They receive material from the tidal part of Billingham Beck. The Beck is now tidal from this point to its confluence with the Tees.

The old mill race for Billingham Mill runs along the southern margin of Billingham village and is now commonly confused with the main beck which runs slightly further south through a large chemical tip. This tip contains enormous quantities of nitro-chalk ((NH₄)₂SO₄) and completely destroyed the pre-existing habitat of low lying salt and freshwater marsh (Norton Bottoms).

The mill race and Billingham Beck merge on the northern margin of the tip and the beck is then canalised to Billingham Beck Bridge adjacent to Portrack round-a-bout. The beck here is grossly polluted and is probably almost biologically dead. The most interesting feature here is the extensive reed bed on the waste tip being used to treat industrial effluent. The beetles of this reed bed (and of Fleet Ponds) have been surveyed and published by Les Jessop in the Vasculum [Jessop, 1997]. Jessop concluded that the Fleet Ponds reed bed and the ICI reed bed do not differ significantly in terms of species numbers. The ICI reed bed has only been in existence six years. It was also noted that reed beds are colonised very quickly and rapidly become stable in terms of the mix of species. 18 notable and rare species of beetle were found including *Anaspis thoracica* (Fleet Pond), *Atomaria barani* (ICI reedbed), *Atheta deformis* (ICI reedbed), *Dyschirius luedersi* (both), *Stomis pumicatus* (ICI reedbed), and 19-spot Ladybird (*Anisosticta 19-punctata*).

The last part of Billingham Beck runs through private industrial land to the Tees. Although designated for industrial use this land is largely neglected. Close to the confluence with the Tees the land is contaminated on both banks by industrial waste-boiler ash on the north side and incinerator residue on the South side. So, in general from the bottom of Billingham Bank it is probably fair to say that Billingham Beck flows through a chemical waste tip all the way to the Tees.

In conclusion, the network of becks which includes Billingham Beck comprise an interesting mix of habitats worthy of detailed further study. The area between Norton and Billingham has features which still demonstrate continuity with the pre-enclosure landscape. Perhaps this continuity needs to be taken into account in future management of this area.

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Fungi of Lazenby and Lackenby Banks

by Alan Legg

The following are records made on the 6th September 1997 (marked *) and on a field club outing on 13th September (marked +)

BASIDIOMYCETES

Agarics and Boleti (Toadstools)

*+ <i>Amanita rubescens</i>	The Blusher with Beech	+ <i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll-rim With Birch
*+ <i>Armillaria mellea</i> Agg..	Honey Fungus Rhizomorphs only on fallen Beech	*+ <i>Pleurotus cornucopiae</i>	On Elm log
+ <i>Collybia confluens</i>	Clustered Tough Shank Deciduous litter	+ <i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	On indeterminate wood
*+ <i>Collybia peronata</i>	Wood Woolly Foot Deciduous litter	*+ <i>Russula cyanoxantua</i>	With Beech
+ <i>Coprinus atramentarius</i>	Common Inkcap Very rotten stump	* <i>R. mairei</i>	Beechwood Sickener With Beech
+ <i>Coprinus domesticus</i>	Rotting wood	* <i>R. nigricans</i>	Blackening Russula With Beech
+ <i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	*+ <i>R.</i>	Common Yellow

	Rotting wood	<i>ochroleuca</i>	Russula With Beech
+ <i>Lacrymaria velutina</i>	Weeping Widow Path sides	*+ <i>Xerocomus chrysenteron</i>	Red-cracked Boletus With Beech
+ <i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac or pink Mycena Deciduous litter	*X. <i>subtomentosus</i>	With Beech
+ <i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>	Rooting Shank With Beech		

Aphylophorales (Bracket Fungi and Allies)

+ <i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Polypore Indeterminate stump	*+ <i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	Birch Polypore Decaying Birches
*+ <i>Ganoderma adpersum</i>	Artists Fungi Deciduous stumps	* <i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	Dryad's Saddle From lesion in living <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> trunk
* <i>Hirschioporus (Trichaptum) abietinus</i>	Old conifer log	+ <i>Polyporus varius</i>	Elegant Polypore On indeterminate stump
*+ <i>Phellinus ferreus</i>	Razor Strop Indeterminate branch and stump		

Tremellales (Jelly Fungi)

+ <i>Calocera cornea</i>	On decorticate log	+ <i>E. glandulosa</i>	Witches Butter Fallen Oak branch
+ <i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	On decorticate log	*+ <i>Hirneola auricula-judae</i>	Jew's Ear Fallen Beech; Elder wood
+ <i>Exidia huretiana (albida)</i>	On rotting wood		

Gasteromycetes (Puff Balls)

+ <i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puff Ball With Birch and Bracken	* <i>L. pyriforme</i>	Decorticate trunk
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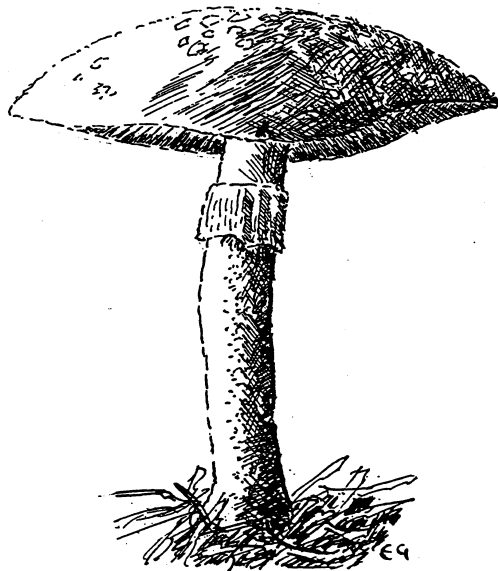
Uredinales (Rust Fungi)

*+ <i>Melampsora epitea</i>	Living leaves of <i>Salix caprea</i>	*+ <i>P. punctiformis</i>	Living leaves of <i>Cirsium sp.</i>
* <i>M. betulinum</i>	Living leaves of <i>Betula</i>	*+ <i>P. violacea</i>	Living leaves of <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
*+ <i>Phragmidium tuberculatum</i>	Living leaves of <i>Rosa canina</i>	*+ <i>Pucciniastrum vaccinii</i>	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
* <i>Puccinia annularis</i>	Living leaves of <i>Teucrium</i>	* <i>Uromyces trifolii</i>	Living leaves of <i>Trifolium pratense</i>
* <i>P. coronata</i>	Indeterminate grass leaf		

ASCOMYCETES

Erysiphales (Mildews)

+ <i>Erysiphe cichoraceurum</i>	Living leaves of Sow Thistle	* <i>M. ornata</i>	Living leaves of Birch
*+ <i>E. heraclei</i>	Living leaves of Hogweed	* <i>Podosphaera clandestina</i>	Living leaves of Hawthorn
+ <i>E. sordida</i>	Living leaves of Plantain	* <i>Sawadae bicornis</i>	Living leaves of Sycamore
*+ <i>E. urticae</i>	Living leaves of Nettle	*+ <i>Sphaerotheca epilobii</i>	Living leaves of Great Willowherb
*+ <i>Microsphaera alphitodes</i>	Living leaves of Oak	*+ <i>S.mors-uvae</i>	Living leaves of Gooseberry



Others (Cup Fungi and Allies)

+ <i>Chaetosphaeaerella</i> <i>phaeostroma</i>	On indeterminate log	* <i>Mollisia</i> <i>discolor</i> v. <i>longispora</i>	Attached to dead Hawthorn twig
+ <i>Cymadothea trifolii</i>	Conidial state on clover leaves	*+ <i>Monilinia</i> <i>fructigena</i>	<i>Molinia</i> state on fallen apples
*+ <i>Colpoma</i> <i>quercinum</i>	Dead attached Oak twigs	+ <i>Nectria</i> <i>cinnabarina</i>	Conidial state on various twigs
*+ <i>Diatrype</i> <i>disciformis</i>	Fallen Beech branches	* <i>Nitschkia</i> <i>grevillei</i>	On indeterminate decorticate wood
*+ <i>Diatrypella</i> <i>favacea</i>	Fallen Birch	+ <i>Orbilia</i> sp.	On rotting wood
* <i>Diplocarpon rosae</i>	Conidial state on Rose leaves	+ <i>Phyllachora</i> <i>graminis</i>	Living leaves of indeterminate grass leaf
* <i>Hormotheca</i> <i>robertiana</i>	Living leaves of Herb Robert	* <i>Pseudopeziza</i> <i>trifolii</i>	Living leaves of Red Clover
* <i>Hypoxylon</i> <i>fragiforme</i>	Fallen Birch trunk	*+ <i>Rhytisma</i> <i>acerina</i>	Living leaves of Sycamore
+ <i>H. multiforme</i>	Fallen Birch	+ <i>Xylaria</i> <i>polymorpha</i>	On stumps

COELOMYCETE

*+*Libertella faginea* Dead twigs of Beech

ZYGOMYCETE

**Peronospora alta* Living leaves of Broad-leaved Plantain

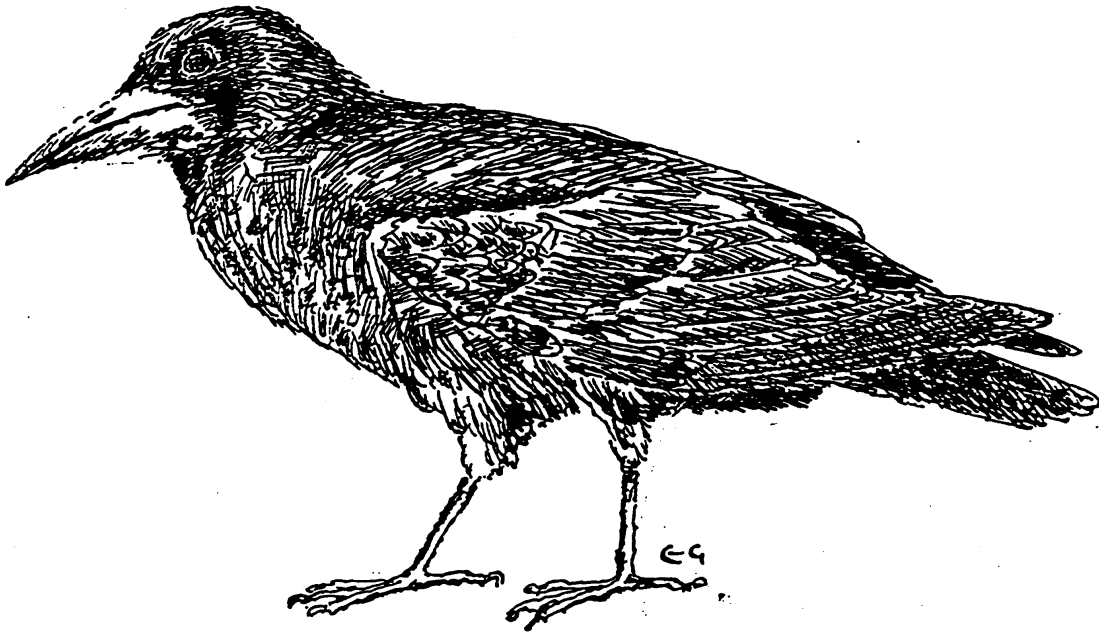
Total 72 species

References

- ‘Mushrooms and other Fungi of Great Britain and Europe’, Roger Phillips, Pan Books
‘The Mushroom Identifier’, David Pegler, Brian Spooner, Apple Press
‘Microfungi on Land Plants’, Martin and Pam Ellis, Richmond Publishers

Observations on some Cleveland Rookeries

by Malcolm Birtle



The rook is a familiar bird to us all, and their rookeries can be very noticeable features in the landscape. There have been some studies [Sowerbutts and Summers-Smith, 1980] in Cleveland which have produced estimates of the number of rooks in the area i.e. approximately 3500-4000 pairs. The largest rookery was found to be All Saints, Skelton. However, I have been unable to find any documents which list the rookeries used for breeding in Spring and early Summer. Sowerbutts and Summers-Smith reported their results on a grid square basis. During 1996 and 1997 I made some casual observations on numbers in a few local rookeries. I have given the rookeries names so that they can be referred to in the future. How stable over time are these rookeries? Do they move around substantially, or have they been present since the trees became suitable? I have found one reference to a particular rookery in a historical document namely I.W. Ord's History and Antiquities of Cleveland of 1846. On page 348 can be found the following "*Upleatham is a small, pretty, retired village, pleasantly situated on the southern declivity of a sloping range of hills covered with trees, chiefly of fir, which constitute on the higher part an extensive rookery*". Are any other rookeries mentioned in any historical documents? The following is not intended to be a list of every breeding rookery in the area. Perhaps it will grow to be so over the coming years. Counting nests can be a very error-prone activity as Jackdaws habitually associate and nest with Rooks. It can be difficult to separate nests of the two birds. Rooks are also known to start building one nest and then later in the season abandon it to build another. Consequently the counts below probably include Jackdaw nests and abandoned nests. Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists Field Club have been carrying out surveys of breeding Rookeries in Darlington recently, counting nests in

Spring and early Summer. The numbers refer to rough estimates of nests during April and May.

1.	St. Peter's, Elwick	30	NZ4532
2.	Gunnersvale,A19	36	NZ4429
3.	Sunderland Lodge, A19	50	NZ451284
4.	Greatham	100+	NZ491274
5.	Cowpen Lane	10	NZ473242
6.	St.Mary's,Norton	12	NZ442222
7.	Layton	35	NZ382267
8.	Durham Rd., Sedgefield	50+	NZ3529
9.	Thorpe Larches	20	NZ391257
10.	St.James, Thorpe Thewles	36	NZ403236
11.	Wynard Rd	30	NZ418247
12.	Cold Comfort, Neasham	60+	NZ329108
13.	St. Mary's,Long Newton	30	NZ384165
14.	Airport North	30	NZ375140
15.	Fighting Cocks	70+	NZ3414
16.	Kayhouse, nr Picton	25	NZ408067
17.	Picton Rd	16	NZ437089
18.	St. Martin's, Kirklevington	100	NZ4309/10
19.	All Saints, Ingleby Arncliffe	150	NZ454002
20.	Holy Cross, Swainby	16	NZ478020
21.	St. Cuthbert's, Kirkleatham	100	NZ5921
22.	St Mary the Virgin, Poole	30	NZ539139
23.	Voyager, Guisborough	35	NZ596153
24.	All Saints, Skelton	200+	NZ652191
25.	Easby House	25	NZ579087
26.	Ayton Green	50	NZ55/5610
27.	Pied Piper, Osmotherly	25	SE4497
28.	Black Swan,A19	20	NZ4403
29.	Total pairs	455	

Larry Griffin, a doctoral zoologist at Durham University delivered a fascinating presentation on Rooks in County Durham to the Durham Bird Club on the 15th January. Larry is completing his Ph.D. thesis on Durham Rooks this year and has been invited to deliver the 1998 Heslop-Harrison Memorial Lecture in Hart Village on the 31st October. He will present his research results. His definition of a 'rook parish' covers all the breeding rookeries which contribute to a specific winter rookery, and the winter rookery itself. Rooks come together during the Winter to form large roosting rookeries. In Spring they disperse to the breeding rookeries. Larry has plotted most of the Rook Parishes in County Durham and traced movements of birds within and between them. His results and his theories derived from this work should make for a very interesting Heslop-Harrison lecture.

References

Sowerbutts D.L., Summers-Smith D., County of Cleveland Bird Report, 1980
Yeates G.K., 'The Life of the Rook', 1934

Moths Of Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park

by Gwynn Williamson

The majority of the following species were trapped at light. Others were casual observations. The most notable record- Dusky Sallow- was taken from a flowering Buddlia during the day. Another individual of this species was recorded a few days later in the same area.

Small Square Spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricpeda</i>
Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>
Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Shaded Broad Bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopidiata</i>
Beautiful Golden Y	<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypta</i>	Barred Straw	<i>Eulithis pyraliata</i>
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	Yellowshell	<i>Costconvexa bilineata bilineata</i>
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Magpie	<i>Abraxus grossulariata</i>
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua orbona</i>	Shoulder Stripe	<i>Anticlea badiata</i>
Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>	Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>
Common Rustic The Snout	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> <i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Early Thorn Riband Wave	<i>Selenia dentaria</i> <i>Idea avarsata ab. remutata</i>
Flounced Rustic	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata repandata</i>
Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia populeta</i>	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>
Double Dart	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	Tawny Speckled Pug	<i>Eupithecia icterata subfulvata</i>
Double Square Spot	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Small Rivulet	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>
The Mouse	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	The Drinker	<i>Philudoria potatoria</i>
The Gothic	<i>Naenia typica</i>	Poplar Hawk	<i>Laothoe populi</i>
Square Spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Five Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>
Dusky Sallow	<i>Eremobia ochroleuca</i>	Mother of Pearl	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>
Ingrailed Clay	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>		<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>
The Sallow	<i>Xanthis icteritia</i>		<i>Agrophila tristella</i>
The Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>		
Bulrush Wainscot	<i>Nonagria typha</i>		

Field Meetings 1998

Full details of the walks and their starting-points are given below. If you require further details about a walk or in the event of inclement weather and possible cancellation please contact the leader of the walk. Please carry suitable refreshment with you! This will be necessary for the walks that start on a morning and it may well be appropriate to take tea on an afternoon walk. At certain town sites a security guard will be with the parked cars; such sites are marked ☞. The charge by the Club, at these sites, will be 50 pence *per person*.



Presidents message to members and potential members

I hope that you will find outings to your taste from this varied programme. Any suggestions for future outings are always welcomed by the committee. It is hoped that members will share transport, where possible, to ease any parking-problems and be prepared to offer lifts to members without cars.

I should like to welcome any prospective members to join some of the outings. I am sure that you will find our members friendly and helpful. I have found the field-trips a splendid way of learning more about the natural history of the area.

by Pam Law (President)

Saturday 18th April, 2.00pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380

G.R. NZ666216. **Saltburn Woods**. We shall meet in Glenside near the bandstand.

Sunday 26th April, 11.00am, leader Marion Atkinson ☎ 01751 432552

G.R. SE697863. **Kirkbymoorside** area. Meet in the market place outside the 'George and Dragon'. Cars are parked in the main street.

☞ **Wednesday 13th May, 7.00pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055**

G.R. NZ405284. **Castle Eden Walkway**, north of the Sedgefield to Wolviston road, the A689; there will be two miles of flat, easy walking. Cars will be parked at the northern extremity of the walkway; **take extreme care** when turning into and out of the car park.

Sunday 17th May, 11.00am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

G.R. NZ906283. We shall meet at the **Bowlees** car park for a walk through the fields to High Force and return along the river bank; it is not a strenuous walk.

Wednesday 20th May, 7.00pm, leader Pat Wood ☎ 01642 484983

G.R. NZ629233. The **stray** between **Redcar** and **Marske**. We shall park on the stray near the toilets that are **nearest** to Marske.

Saturday 30th May, 11.00am, leader Jack Marshall ☎ 01642 315365

G.R. SE550860. For this walk in **Nettle Dale** and the **Ashberry Hill** area we shall park in Old Byland Village.

Wednesday 3rd June, 7.00pm, leader Andrew Astbury ☎ 01642 823114

G.R. NZ572036. We shall walk in the **Hasty Bank** area and park in the Clay Bank car park

Wednesday 10th June, 7.00pm, leader Ian Reynolds, ☎ (Colin Chatto 01642 599616)

G.N. NZ575239. The **British Steel 'Ecology Park'**. We shall park in a lay-by inside the works entrance just off the trunk road.

Sunday 14th June, 11.00am, leader Pam Law ☎ 01287 636976

G.R. SE003638. **Grassington**. We shall park in the car park near the information centre. This is on the road leading to Pateley Bridge. The walk will be about five miles in length and will include a variety of habitats; it is a limestone area. It may be wise to bring tea as well as lunch.

Wednesday 17th June, 7.00pm, leader Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814

G.R. NZ592061. **Ingleby Incline** area. The walk will be to the foot of the incline from the beginning of the private road at Bank Foot, where the cars will be parked.

Wednesday 24th June, 7.00pm, leader Angela Cooper ☎ 01347 868051

G.R. NZ528273. **Seal Sands** area. We shall park at the Field Centre car park near the power station and visit an area of grassland to the north of the Field Centre. If approaching from Port Clarence along the A178, turn right at the second roundabout. There is a Field Centre sign at this junction..

Sunday 28nd June, 11.00am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

G.R. NY793128. For this visit to **Waitby Greenriggs** we shall meet in Brough Sowerby, four miles north of Kirkby Stephen, and then drive to Waitby Greenriggs, where there is limited parking. It is a very easy, there and back walk along two railway tracks. It is a rich site, managed by English Nature, with possibly eight species of orchid.

Wednesday 1st July, 7.00pm, leader Russell McAndrew ☎ 01429 277291

G.R. NZ484362. The **Hart/Haswell Walkway**. Park at Hart Station that is at the junction of Hartville Road and Ocean Road.

Wednesday 8th July, 7.00pm, leader Rob Scaife ☎ (Vincent Jones 01642 722814)

G.R. NZ410154. **Carter Moor**, visited a few years ago, proved to be a very interesting, hence this repeat visit. We shall meet to the south of this area in a lay-by near the Urlay-Nook level crossing and the road junction to Long Newton. Access to Urlay-Nook may be gained from the A66 to the north or the A67 to the south..

☞ **Wednesday 15th July, 7.00pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380**

G.R. NZ575239. **The Black Path.** We shall park at the roadside, adjacent to the roundabout that gives access to the British Steel works from the trunk road.

Saturday 18th July, 11.00am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616

G.R. NY994135. For this eight mile walk along **Sleightholme Beck**, Bowes, we shall park in Bowes village.

Saturday 26th July, 11.00am, leader Norma Pagdin ☎ 01429 268416

G.R. NY867297. This walk in **Upper Teesdale** is about seven miles in length and will be in the Widdybank Fell & Cow Green area. We shall meet at the Hanging Shaw picnic area at Forest -in-Teesdale, but may park further up the dale.

Saturday 8th August, 10.30am, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815

G.R. SE676857. This is a YNU visit to **Kirkdale**. Cars may be parked in the field adjacent to the to the car park of St Gregory's Minster.

Saturday 16th August, 11.00am, leader Norman Thompson ☎ 01642 316204

G.R. SE536882. For this walk in the **Murton Grange** area we shall park on the large area of grassland by the roadside.

Sunday 6th September, 11.00am, leader Pam Law ☎ 01287 636976

G.R. NZ719183. For this walk in **Rosecroft Woods** we shall meet in the Loftus car park. Access to the car park is gained from a narrow road, North Road, that leads north from the beginning of the market place and is opposite the town hall. The lower route before the market place is only a footway.

Saturday 26th September, 11.00am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

G.R. SE555794 For this walk in the **Wass** area we shall park at the village hall car park on Wass bank. The park is small; it will be wise to travel in as few cars as possible. This six mile walk with gentle rises and falls is through open forest. There was a good display of fungi last year.

Sunday 11th October, 11.00am, leader Alick Hunter ☎ 01751 417630

G.R. SE796841. For this six mile walk we shall meet at the **Beck Isle Museum**, Pickering. The circular walk is by Howl Dale, Scalla Bridge and Newbridge.

MEETINGS OF THE YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

Details are available from John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815.

MEETINGS OF THE NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

Saturday 4th July	12.00am	Botanic Gardens, Durham.
Saturday 1st August	(Timing subject to tides).	Holy Island
Saturday 12th September	11.00am	Baal Hill Woods.

Further details are available from Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055.

DATES FOR WINTER MEETINGS 1998-99

October 5, 19. November 2, 16. December 7. January 18. February 22. March 1, 15, 29.

