

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 7 Part 3

Spring 2001

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THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2001-2002

President: Dorothy Thompson

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

Programme Secretaries, Mr Vincent Jones, 'Hillways', Ingleby Greenhow.
Mr Neil Baker

Treasurer: Colin Chatto

The immediate past president. Pamela Law.

Ordinary members: Mr Ian Lawrence, Mr Alick Hunter, Maurice Hallam, David Barlow

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrs Jessie Graham, Mrs Joan Williams, Mr Ian Lawrence, 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	Malcolm Birtle (and Geology), Eric Gendle

Representatives

I.C. Lawrence
(TVWT)

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

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

The Ramblers' Association.

The Club is affiliated to these organizations.

Editorial

This is the eleventh issue of the new Proceedings. The contents again reflect the diversity of interest that members have. All previous Volume and Parts of the new Proceedings are now freely available in electronic form. Back copies are available from Malcolm Birtle on request (including by e-mail-m.birtle@tees.ac.uk). It is anticipated that all will be available on a web site by the end of the year. A project is underway to make all previous Proceedings available electronically in the fullness of time.

Acknowledgements to Contributors

So many people contribute in various ways to the 'Proceedings' it seems a little unfair to pick people out-so, many thanks to all contributors. Please remember Malcolm Birtle will accept any contributions that can include scientific articles, records, historical or biographical articles, poems, artwork, in fact anything which documents or celebrates natural history in Cleveland. Contributions can be hand-written, typed or received electronically at any time of the year. The deadline for contributions in any year is the same date as the General meeting.

News

Websites

Members with access to the world wide web may find the following sites of interest.

<http://nnu.8m.com/cnats.htm>
<http://www.davebarlow.co.uk>

Spider Recording

Isobel Baldwin is now British Arachnological Society Recorder for spiders in Co. Durham. Her address is 14 Murrayfield Drive, Brandon, Durham, DH7 8TG.

Isobel will be pleased to check any spiders sent to her - they can be live but preferably pickled in 70 per cent alcohol. Dry, Dead specimens are almost impossible to identify. Grid reference, locality, habitat, height above sea level and date are also required with the specimen.

Northern Naturalists' Union Annual lecture

This will take place in the Scarborough Lecture Theatre in the Science Laboratories of Durham University on Saturday October 20th at 2.00 p.m.. The speaker will be John Coulson on 'Moors, Bogs, Birds and Bugs'.

The Electronic Vasculum

Electronic back copies of 'The Vasculum' (Northern Naturalists' Union journal) from 1940-1980 are now available from Malcolm Birtle (m.birtle@tees.ac.uk) on request.

Obituary

Joan Waddington

We were all very shocked to hear of Joan's sudden death on January 19th, 2001. She had been a member for over fifty years and was a regular attender at our Winter meetings. In her more active days, she was a keen walker.

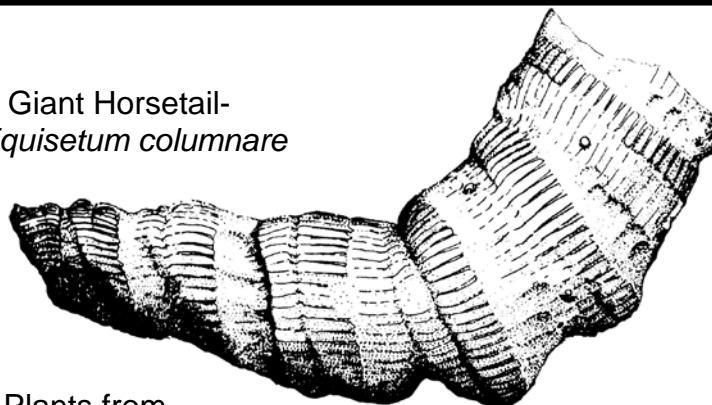
One of her great loves was her painting and we will all remember her beautiful countryside diaries she put on display for the Elgee Lecture in December 2000.

In Memoriam

Connie Lawrie passed away on October 31st, 2000. Due to failing health she had not attended the meetings in recent months, but she was a member for many years, a committee member, and , with her sister Peggy, was our auditor. She led many of our walks and was particularly interested in birdlife.

Dorothy Thompson

A Giant Horsetail-
Equisetum columnare



Examples of Fossil Plants from
the Yorkshire Jurassic Flora.

Illustrations from '*British
Regional Geology-Eastern
England*', Institute of Geological
Sciences



A Fern- *Coniopteris
hymenophylloides*

Highlights of Field Meetings 2000

Saturday, 29th April, 11:00 am, Riccal Dale, leader Jack Marshall

Prior to lunch the walk was mainly through an area of recently felled plantations. At first sight it was not promising but it became interesting. Early growth of Chickweed Wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*) was found and a visit two weeks later ascertained it had become an extensive display. Lesser Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pileasa*), Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*), Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla glabra*) and Slender Parsley Piert (*Aphanes microcarpa*) were seen. A Green Veined White (*Pieris napi*) was also seen.

Lunch was eaten in the "Bluebell area" near the River Riccal. We were too early to benefit from the extensive display (which achieved it's maximum two weeks later). The walk continued along the dale bottom before regaining high ground and some particularly photogenic small groups of Common Dog Violet (*Viola riveriana*) were passed on the bank at the side of the track. Hairy Violet (*Viola hirta*) was also seen.

Many common species were identified during the walk and comment was made that we had seen the four "common" species of St. John's Wort, i.e. Perforate (*Hypericum perforatum*), Square Stalked (*H. tetrapterum*), Slender (*H. pulchrum*) and Hairy (*H. hirsutum*).

On our walk we were particularly interested to find two slime moulds. These are known as *Myxomycetes*. Although they are often studied by Mycologists they are not fungi. They have two stages in their life history;

Stage 1: a plasmodial stage where they appear as a streaming mass of protoplasm and feed on microorganisms such as bacteria and fungal spores.

Stage 2: a resting stage when under unfavourable conditions the plasmodium contracts to form a sclerotium. This is a hard resting body within which it may remain dormant for some time. Later if conditions are favourable the slime mould produces fruiting bodies in which their spores develop.

On our walk we saw only the fruiting bodies of the two slime moulds.

1. *Lycogala lycoperdon*.

This has a white plasmodium and is found on rotting wood, old tree stumps and fallen branches. The plasmodium is an orangey red colour. The fruiting bodies are globose or cushion shaped 3-15 mm. They vary in colour from pink to buff or dark grey with scales.

2. *Enteridium lycoperdon*.

This is a white plasmodium and is found on dead tree trunks. It forms a solitary cushion 2-10cms. At first the surface is soft and white but later this becomes silvery and then brown due to the presence of spore dust.

Acknowledgements to Pat Wood for the information on slime moulds.

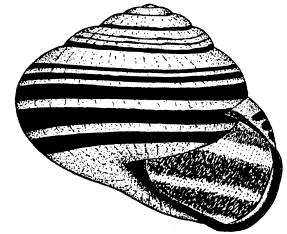
Wednesday, 17th May, 7:00 pm, Clarkson's Wood, leader Tony Wardaugh

To date, 40 species of land mollusc have been found in Clarkson's Wood which makes it one of the most species rich woods in the area. On this short visit we found 18 species; a good total.

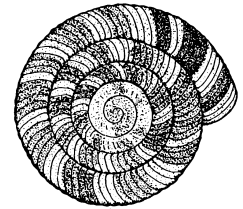
(The scale bar under each illustration represents 1 mm.)

At the top of the wood, by loose spoil material:

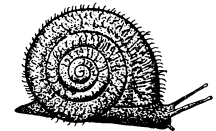
1. *Cepaea nemoralis*. The Dark-lipped Banded Snail. Colour of the shell may be yellow, pink, or brownish with up to five brown spiral bands. Shell lip of adults is almost always dark brown. Common in various habitats locally, especially grassland and sand dunes. (see *Cepaea hortensis* below). (diameter about 20 mm).



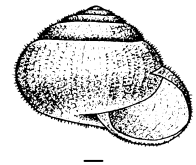
2. *Discus rotundatus*. Has alternating reddish and yellow-brown bands on shell. Umbilicus (i.e. hole in middle on underneath of shell) is very wide. Very widespread and common. (diameter about 6 mm).



3. *Trichia hispida*. Has curved hairs on shell. Common in a variety of habitats. (diameter about 10 mm).

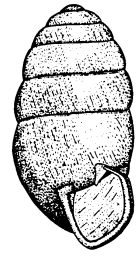


4. *Ashfordia granulata*. Straight hairs on shell. Almost confined to Britain in distribution. Occurs in moist, old woodland locally and mostly near the coast, e.g. Whitecliff Wood, Rifts Wood, and Saltburn Gill. (diameter about 8 mm).



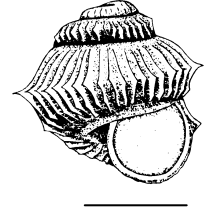
5. *Arion ater*. Large black slug. Very common almost everywhere. Brightly coloured varieties are associated with human habitation. (extended length about 10-15 cm)
6. *Arion circumscriptus*. Small relative of *Arion ater*, about 4 cm long when extended. Has a whitish sole, grey sides and black spotting on the mantle. Common. (n.b. there is a less common species, *Arion silvaticus*, which has whitish sides and no spots on the mantle). (Extended length about 4 cm)
7. *Deroceras reticulatum*. Usually pale pinky brown. Body mucus milky white when prodded. Very common. (Extended length about 4 cm)

8. *Lauria cylindracea*. Common in various moderately moist to dryish habitats. (height about 4 mm).

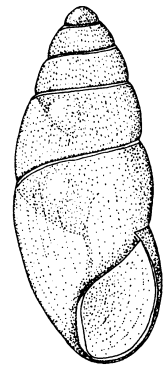


Lower in wood:

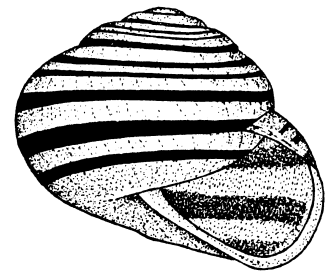
9. *Acanthinula aculeata*. Very small, only 2 to 3mm in diameter. Always low density populations therefore not often found. Occurs in dark coloured leaf litter e.g. holly and hawthorn.



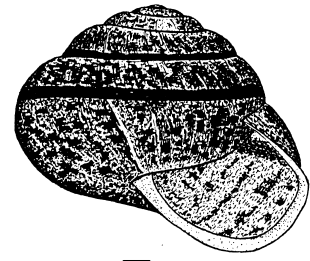
10. *Cochlicopa lubrica*. Quite common in mossy and grassy places generally. (height about 5 mm).



11. *Cepaea hortensis*. White-lipped Banded Snail. Shell lip almost always pale. Shell yellow (not normally pink or brown) with up to five brown spiral bands. Occurs locally in more moist sites than *Cepaea nemoralis* (see above) e.g. alongside or near streams. Also on some clay cliffs locally, but not sand dunes. (diameter about 17 mm).

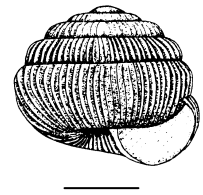


12. *Arianta arbustorum*. Always has a single median brown spiral band (which the two *Cepaea* species can have!) but has a two toned somewhat blotchy background colour, yellowish to brownish, unlike the "clean" single colour background (yellow or pink to brown) of the *Cepaea* species. Lip pale. (diameter about 20 mm).



13. *Arion distinctus*. Another small dark slug. Sole is orange-yellow. (see *Arion circumscriptus* above). (Extended length about 4 cm)

14. *Spermodea lamellata*. About 2mm in diameter i.e. very small. This snail seems to be confined to ancient semi-natural woodland on a national scale and is therefore a very good indicator species. There is a large population in Clarkson's Wood in oak/woodrush leaf litter. This is a species of northern Britain and is not common so this was an interesting find.



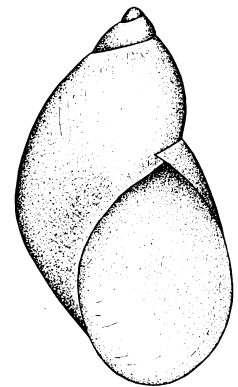
15. *Clausilia bidentata*. The tall narrow shape is distinctive. Has regular, closely spaced transverse ridges on the shell. (there is one similarly proportioned snail in local woods, larger and with a smoother shell; *Cochlodina laminata*) (height about 10 mm).



16. *Limax cinereoniger* Adults of this species are black, very large, have a distinct keel along the top of the tail and have a black and white striped sole. (*Arion ater*, see above, very rarely has a similarly striped sole but never has the keel). We found a juvenile. These are pinky-brown, lack the striped sole but have a strongly keeled tail. (n.b. there are other small pink-brown slug species!). Locally *L. cinereoniger* is restricted to ancient semi-natural woodland so this was another interesting find. (Extended length about 15 cm).

17. *Arion subfuscus* Yet another relative of the common big black slug *Arion ater*. This species is a little smaller, is most often a dull orange-brown colour and has orange body mucus. (Extended length about 6 cm).

18. *Succinea putris* This is a species of wetlands and other at least fairly moist sites. There is a colony on Pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) by a pond in the wood. There is another, smaller but otherwise very similar species, *Oxyloma pfeifferi*, which occurs locally. The two can be distinguished with certainty only on internal anatomy. (height about 15 mm).



Useful books

'A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North West Europe'. M.P. Kerney & R.A.D. Cameron, Collins 1979. This is the best book on identification available. Quality of line drawings is better in the original than in the more recent reprints. 'Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland'. M. P. Kerney, Harley Books 1999

Wednesday, 24th May, 7:00 pm, Marton West Beck, leader Colin Chatto

Ten members walked from the Botanic Centre car park via Newham Grange Leisure Farm, Slip Inn Bank and back along Ladgate Lane (there being no time to walk to Devil's Bridge due to the fading light). On the footpath/cycleway near the farm we encountered Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), a new record for that area. A little further on, next to a garden fence, was Three Cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*) looking like a white Bluebell Danish Scurvy Grass (*Cochleariadanica*) was noted on Ladgate Lane; now a common plant of roadside verges.

Ian Lawrence led a few of us along the beck-side footpath north of the "Slip Inn" in order to check that Artichoke Knapweed (*Rhaponticum cynaroides*) was surviving there. It was found amongst brambles and nettles.

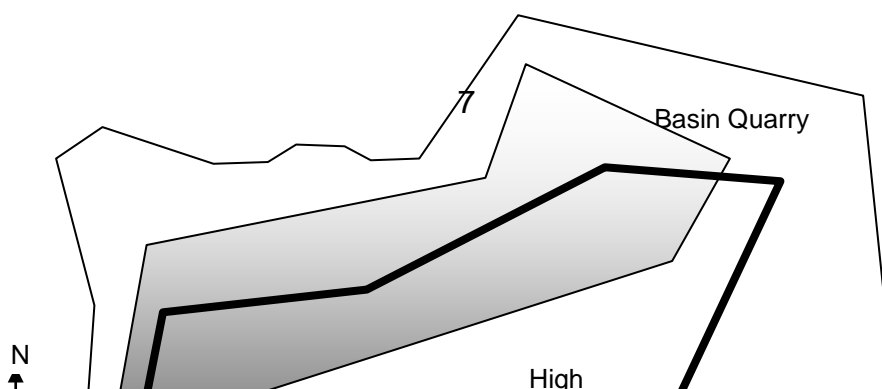
Although the area is fairly typical of the surroundings of a town (much of it planted), there was plenty to interest us thanks mainly to Ian's observations and knowledge.

Tuesday, 30th May, 7:00 pm, Wingate Quarry, leader Malcolm Birtle

Terrestrial Molluscs:

Cochlicopa lubrica
Cochlicopa lubricella
Vertigo pygmaea
Lauria cylindracea
Ena obscura
Arion ater agg.
Arion subfuscus
Arion intermedius
Aegopinella pura
Oxychilus alliarius
Deroceras reticulatum
Euconulus fulvus
Helicella itala
Monacha cantiana
Trichia striolata
Cepaea nemoralis

All at least fairly common except *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Helicella itala*. Two of the former were found in sieved moss litter collected from on top of boulders in the gorge-like area at the north side of the quarry. It seems to be uncommon in VC66 (Kerney 1999) but is known from this 10km square.



Woodlice:

Philoscia muscorum
Oniscus asellus
Trichoniscus pusillus
Armadillidium vulgare

All very common species in this area.

Birds:

Yellowhammer
Chaffinch
Jackdaw
Whitethroat
Willow Warbler
Cuckoo
Three Grey Partridge

Adderstongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) was noted in grassland nearby.

In the pond visited at the end of the walk:

Freshwater Snails:

Potamopyrgus antipodarum
Lymnaea peregra

Both very common species seen together with
Horse Leech (*Macanthis polymorpha*).

Sunday, 4th June, 11:00 am, Hole of Horcum , leader Pamela Law

Torrential rain resulted in this meeting being officially cancelled. However, one member did brave the weather and encountered Chickweed Wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*) in flower on the moor between the Goathland-Egton road, and the gorge of the West Beck at New Wath Scar.

Saturday, 10th June, 10:30 am, Oldstead , leader John Blackburn

A full report on this Yorkshire Naturalists' Union meeting will no doubt appear in due course in a Y. N. U. publication. Cleveland naturalists noted the following-

Snails amongst moss covered limestone boulders and dry stone walls in Great Cockerdale Wood

Capeae hortensis
Arianta arbustorum
Oxychilus cellarius
Discus rotundatus
Oxychilus alliarius
Ashfordia granulata
Trichia hispida
Zenobiella subrufescens
Azeca goodalli
Trichia striolata

Zenobiella subrufescens and *Ashfordia granulata* are characteristic of old, undisturbed, deciduous woodland. *Azeca goodalli* is a widespread but local species of shady woodland.

There were many butterflies and moths around in the hot sunshine and shade including Green veined White (*Pieris napi*), Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*), Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), Silver Ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata montanata*), and White Ermine (*Spilosoma lubricipeda*).

The common hoverflies *Rhingia campestris*, *Xylota segnis*, *Leucozona lucorum*, and *Eristalis balteatus* were busy feeding on the various flowers. The Hawthorn Shield Bug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*) was noted and the longhorn

beetle *Rhagium mordax* was found on a car windscreen. Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) was frequent along the woodland tracks.

Wednesday, 14th June, 7:00 pm, Margrove Park Heritage Centre , leader Pamela Law

A Kestrel was watched as it hunted the rough grassland nearby and Willow Warbler, Black Headed Gull, Mute Swan, Tufted Duck, Coot, Swallow, Water Hen, Blackcap, Chiff chaff, Garden Warbler, and Long tailed Tits were much in evidence.

A Silver Ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata montanata*) and the Black and Red Frog hopper (*Cercopis vulnerata*) were seen. The wet ground was covered with Northern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*) and Rough Hawksbeard (*Crepis biennis*) was seen on the old railway track.

Sunday, 18th June, 11:00 am, Horton in Ribblesdale , leader Vincent Jones

About twelve members wandered the south eastern slopes of Inglebrough on a scorching hot day. House martins were hawking in numbers around the stream and village. Wheatears were fairly frequent on the grassland and limestone crags. The Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) was present in large numbers together with the Common Heath (*Ematurga atomaria atomaria*). A Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*) was also seen. The plants noted included Birds Eye Primrose (*Primula farinosa*) and Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*). The weather was too hot for molluscs but the Rock Snail (*Pyramidula rupestris*) was abundant.

Wednesday, 28th June, 7:00 pm, Greenabella Marsh, leader Vincent Jones

Despite the very wet vegetation the common pyralid moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella* was abundant with odd specimens of Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), *Scoparia* sp. and Silver Ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata montanata*). The only living molluscs noted were the Common Garden Snail (*Helix aspersa*), and the Brown-lipped Banded Snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*) but there were many dead (sub fossil) marine species in sand wherever holes had been excavated on the marsh.

Roe deer were seen in the longer vegetation in the centre of the marsh. Smooth Newt was also seen.

Wednesday, 12th July, 7:00 pm, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, leader Malcolm Birtle

About ten members met to walk around the field that contains Pigeon Wood (next to the railway). The field consisted of very rough grassland densely planted with small deciduous trees.

In Pigeon Wood members were subject to an aggressive assault by the resident mosquitoes. This wood is notorious for them and a specimen was taken for

closer examination. See the 'A Mosquito from Pigeon Wood' elsewhere in the Proceedings.

Sunday, 6th August, 11:00 am, Upper Bilsdale leader Andy Astbury

This walk was declared by common consent of the participants, 'The Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club Millennium Walk'. On Hasty Bank Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and Twin Spot Carpet (*Perizoma didymata didymata*) were noted.

On Cold Moor Common Heath (*Ematurga atomaria atomaria*), Northern Eggar larvae (*Lasiocampa quercus callunae*), Small Tortoiseshell, Emperor larvae (*Pavonia pavonia*), Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*), and Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) were seen. Green Tiger Beetles (*Cicindela campestris*) were very active.

A Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) and Yellowhammer were noted in Cold Moor Lane.

As the party walked along the eastern scarp edge of Bilsdale, the western edge of Urra Moor, a raptor was seen soaring above the scarp. This was identified as a Hobby, a rare but increasingly seen bird in our area.

Sunday, 20th August, 11:00 am, Gundale and Yatts Farm leader Eric Gendle

On the West Dyke Road

Peacock (*Inachis io*), Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*), Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), Large White (*Pieris brassicae*), Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*), Green Veined White (*Pieris napi*) were flying with many Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*) and the pyralid Pale Straw Pearl (*Udea lutealis*). The Empid fly *Empis tessellata* and the hoverfly *Rhingia campestris* were found on umbellifer flowers. *Daphne mezereum* was found growing close to the lane. The only snail noted was the Strawberry Snail (*Trichia striolata*). Artichoke Galls (*Andricus fecundator*) were seen on an Oak.

Yatts Farm

The Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) was flying around the farm pond.

Gundale

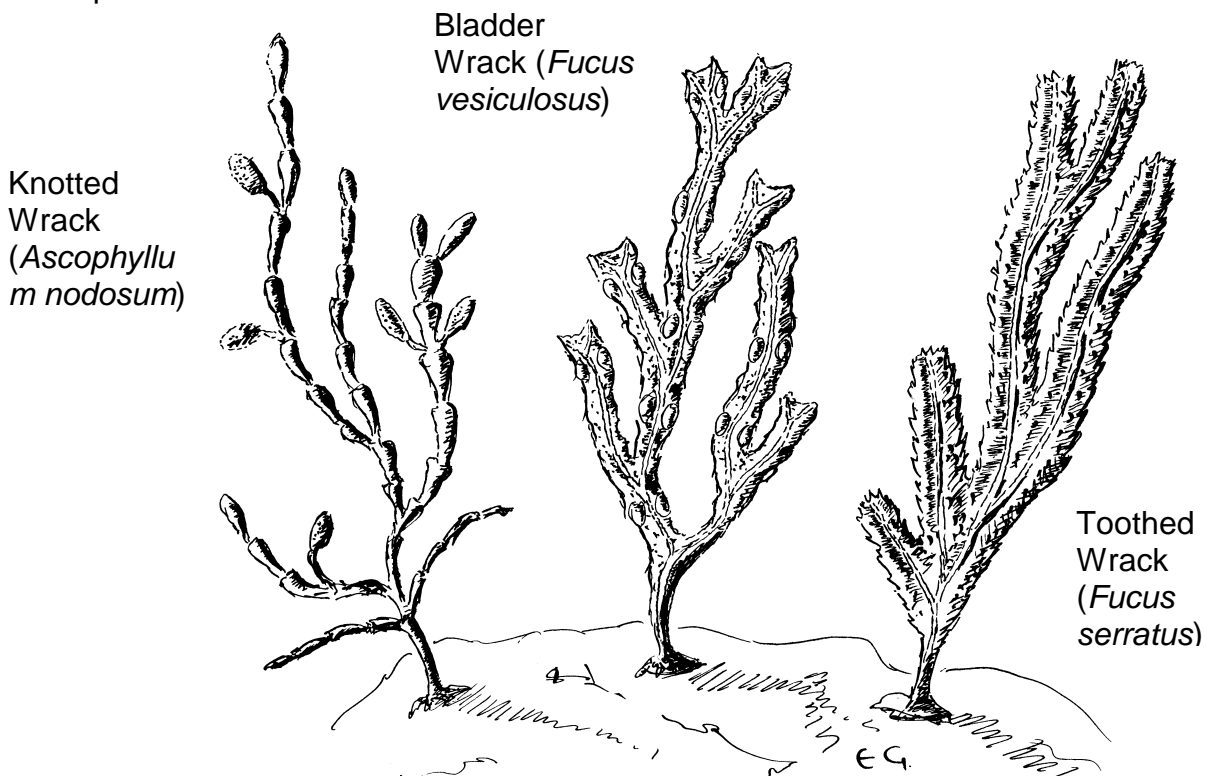
A number of butterflies were seen in the 'raspberry' dale. They included Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*), Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), Small White (*Pieris rapae*), and the Wall (*Lasiommata megera*), together with Grey Pine Carpet (*Thera obeliscata*) and the Mother-of-Pearl (*Pleuroptya ruralis*). Unidentified large dragonflies were watched for some time on the shooting range.

The Striped Snail (*Ceruella virgata*) and Aquilegia (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) were also noted.

However, the most notable event of the day (if not the whole season) was the weather. The day started out very warm and sunny. As the day progressed thunder could be heard rattling around the moors to the north. The air became very still with the atmosphere that typically precedes a thunderstorm. When the party was within sight of the start/end point of the outing at Saintoft Grange a terrific storm began with torrential hail and rain. 'Torrential' does not seem an adequate word to describe the ensuing deluge. Within literally minutes the roads had turned to flowing streams and the countryside was covered in hail, inches thick in places. The result was a sight more appropriate to January than August with the landscape seemingly covered by snow. The weather that weekend produced tornadoes in the Humber estuary and caused some consternation at Seamer Show (nr. Stokesley). A quote from the show report in the Darlington and Stockton Times may be of interest-'*People watched in amazement as the showground turned white, resembling a winter landscape. The noise was deafening and horses and dogs were terrified [so were some naturalists!.....ed.] . Noone had seen anything like it before and it will certainly be something to remember the millennium show for.*'

Saturday, 2nd September, 11:00 am, Staithes to Runswick Bay, leader Colin Chatto

On a day, which saw a little rain and a little sunshine, about a dozen of us walked along the shore from Staithes to Runswick Bay and then back, along the cliff top. Aspects of the geology along the shore were pointed out by Malcolm Birtle who showed us the fine dark horizontal bands in the cliff face in which could be found plant fossils.



We looked in some of the pools along the shore and identified some of the common seaweeds such as Bladder Wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*), Toothed Wrack (*F. serratus*), Knotted Wrack (*Ascophyllum nodosum*), Channel Wrack (*Pelvetia canaliculata*), Oarweed (*Laminaria digitata*), Sea Oak (*Halidrys siliquosa*) and Sea-lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*) and many others not identified. There were many small Shore Crabs (*Carcinus maenas*), Hermit Crabs (*Eupagurus bernhardus*), unidentified fish etc. Members discovered two worms in the pools. The first was a Paddle Worm called the Green Leaf Worm (*Eulalia viridis*) and the other a Nereid worm called *Nereis pelagica* which has a conspicuous red blood vessel running the length of the body.

A Blue-rayed Limpet (*Patina pellucida*) was found in the holdfast of a specimen of *Laminaria digitata* and smaller ones were discovered on fronds of another specimen. Other molluscs noted were Coat-of-Mail Chitons (*Lepidochitona cinereus?*), Limpet (*Patella vulgata*), Flat Winkle (*Littorina littoralis*), Edible Winkle (*Littorina littorea*) and Dog Whelk (*Nucella lapillus*)

Blue Jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita?*), Common Starfish (*Asterias rubens*), and Beadlet Anemone (*Actinia equina*) were also noted.

On our return along the cliff top the hoverfly *Syrirta pipiens* was identified due to its strongly swollen hind femora.

Birds were not very evident, particularly waders, but Fulmar, Cormorant, Herring Gull, Oyster Catcher, and Greater Black Backed Gull were seen. A sizeable gathering of unusual looking birds seen on rocks close to the breaking waves turned out to be a party of juvenile Sandwich Terns.

Saturday, 21st October, 11:00 am, Newgate Bank to Helmsley, leader Alf Rout

A Kestrel was seen and Meadow Pipits were still active on the moor. A November/Autumnal Moth (*Epirrita* sp.) emerged from a Lawson's Cypress.

"Latin" For Botanists

Eric Gendle

The Swedish botanist Linnaeus initiated the practice of naming plants systematically using a binomial name in Latin. However it should be noted that not all of the names are in fact of true Latin derivation since some Greek roots are also used. Below is given a rough translation of some of the more common specific names. Though most of the names offer a clue as to the English name, colours may refer to seeds or hairs, rather than the flower colour.

<i>aestivum</i>	Summer	<i>alba</i>	White
<i>arenaris</i>	Sand	<i>arborescenc</i>	Woodland
		<i>e</i>	
<i>arvensis</i>	Waste land. Cultivated land	<i>aureum</i>	Golden
<i>aurita</i>	Eared	<i>campestra</i>	Field
<i>ciliata</i>	Fringed or fine hairs	<i>cineria</i>	Grey

<i>collina</i>	Literally a Hill appears to mean Club shaped ?	<i>cordata</i>	Heart shaped
<i>crispus</i>	Wrinkled	<i>cyanus</i>	Blue
<i>dubium</i>	Doubtful- often one of several similar species	<i>edulis</i>	Edible
<i>esculentum</i>	Edible	<i>flexuosa</i>	Wavy
<i>flora</i>	Appertaining to the flowers	<i>-folia</i>	Appertaining to the leaves
<i>foetidus</i>	Stinking	<i>fruticose</i>	Woody stalks, shrubby
<i>fuchsii</i>	Pink	<i>glaucous</i>	White
<i>glabrous</i>	Hairless	<i>hirsuta</i>	Hairy
<i>incana</i>	Grey	<i>incarnata</i>	Red or pink
<i>juncea</i>	Rush like	<i>lactea</i>	Milk, Pale
<i>littoral</i>	Shore or beach	<i>lutea</i>	Yellow
<i>lutescence</i>	Yellow	<i>maculata</i>	Spotted
<i>majalis</i>	Broad leaved	<i>mollis</i>	Soft, often downy
<i>moschata</i>	Musky	<i>muralis</i>	Walls
<i>nemorosa</i>	Woodland	<i>nigra</i>	Black
<i>nivalis</i>	Arctic, Snow	<i>nodosa</i>	Knotted or having nodules
<i>nutans</i>	Nodding or drooping	<i>odoratum</i>	Having an odour or scent
<i>paludosa</i>	Fen or marsh	<i>palustris</i>	Fen or marsh
<i>paniculata</i>	Flowers in a cluster	<i>parvi flora</i>	Small
<i>perfoliata</i>	Joined leaves	<i>persica</i>	Peach
<i>pratensis</i>	Meadows	<i>procumbens</i>	Prostrate
<i>pubens</i>	Downy	<i>pubescens</i>	Downy
<i>pulchellum</i>	Small and beautiful	<i>pulchra</i>	Beautiful
<i>punctata</i>	Spotted	<i>repens</i>	Creeping
<i>reptans</i>	Creeping	<i>rivularis</i>	Field
<i>rubella</i>	Red	<i>ruber</i>	Red
<i>rubra</i>	Red	<i>rupestris</i>	Rocks or sand
<i>sanguinium</i>	Blood red	<i>sativa</i>	Cultivation
<i>saxatile</i>	Rocks	<i>serotina</i>	Late flowering
<i>spicata</i>	Spiny or spiked	<i>squarrosa</i>	Scaled
<i>stricta</i>	Gathered	<i>supine</i>	Small or flat
<i>sylvatica</i>	Woods and banks	<i>sylvestris</i>	Woods and banks
<i>tinctorius</i>	Used for dyeing cloth or as paint or pigment	<i>tomentosa</i>	Downy
<i>tuberosa</i>	Tuberous roots	<i>uliginosa</i>	Growing in wet or swampy ground
<i>umbrosum</i>	Brown	<i>vernalis</i>	Spring
<i>vernum</i>	Spring	<i>villosa</i>	Rough or hairy
<i>viridis</i>	Green		

Bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (formerly *Endymion non-scriptus*)

Norman Thompson

'One day, one day, I'll climb that distant hill
And pick the bluebells there!
So dreamed the child who lived beside the rill
And breathed the lowland air.
'One day, one day when I am old I'll go
And climb the mountain where the bluebells blow.'

George Barlow

Hyacinthoides (*oides* meaning like) took its name from the Greek prince Hyacinthus beloved by the god Apollo, who accidentally killed him with a carelessly tossed discus. The remorseful Apollo caused a beautiful plant to arise and wrote the letters AL on the petals expressing with ALAS his sadness. These letters are not to be found on bluebells, so has been named *non-scripta*, the unlettered hyacinth.

Endymion, the former name of the plant, was the subject chosen by Keats for his poem about the classical shepherd who chose, as his gift from Zeus, perpetual sleep so that he might remain youthful for ever.

There is another species which grows in Britain, *H. hispanica*.

It has erect racemes and the flowers emerge from all sides of the stem, whereas in *non-scripta* the racemes are pendant at the apex. *Hispanica* has a bell-shaped perianth whereas *non-scripta* has a tubular one. *Hispanica* was introduced into gardens from Spain and Portugal, but has escaped and is now naturalised.

There is also a hybrid, *non-scripta* x *hispanica*. Where the two species meet they hybridise freely. The hybrid is more commonly found than *hispanica*.

Some years ago Kew conducted an experiment with bluebells. They planted an area with bulbs and then divided the area into quarters.

The first area was not touched and allowed to flower.

The second area had the flowers picked.

In the third area, they picked the flowers by pulling them out with the white stem from below ground.

They then trampled all over the last area.

The following year, they found that the first three areas flowered without any apparent detriment, but in the trampled area hardly any flowers appeared.

Near Helmsley, there are some quite large drifts of bluebells in the higher part of the valleys, but they are very difficult of access.

By far the best place to see the flowers is in Riccal Dale. There the lower path is carpeted on both sides with sheets of bluebells.

In a normal year, the third or fourth week in May would be the best time to view them.

A Rough Guide to Common Conifers

Eric Gendle

Larches are deciduous with needles in tufts of 30 -to 40

Pines can have needles in 2's ,3's or 5's. Those described below are all in pairs

Spruces - needles falling naturally leave a peg behind on the twig

Firs have solitary flattened needles which do not leave pegs behind

Note that aromas may refer to the crushed, perhaps young, foliage

Species	Needles	Bark, Branches etc	Cones
EUROPEAN LARCH <i>Larix decidua</i>	Bright GREEN 3cm flattish	YELLOW twigs. Droopy branches	Conical 3cm
JAPANESE LARCH <i>Larix kaempferi</i>	Dull BLUE-GREEN WHITE bands below	RUSSET twigs. Branches not Drooping	Squat,3.5 cm Scales Reflexed Rosette like

HYBRID *L x marschlinsii* Variable Intermediate Characteristics but Vigorous

SCOTS PINE <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	BLUE GREEN 3- 8cm. Terminal bud long and blunt	REDDISH aging to GREY often in plates	pointed 8cm Symmetrical PINK aging to GREY
CORSICAN PINE <i>P. nigra ssp laricio</i>	GREY GREEN 10- 18cm soft -twisted pointed buds	GREY fissured	8cm pairs Asymmetrical
AUSTRIAN PINE <i>Pinus nigra ssp nigra</i>	V.Dark GREEN 8- 12 cm Stiff & straight	GREY BLACK V. Rough	7cm pairs PINK aging BROWN spiny scales
LODGEPOLE PINE <i>Pinus contorta var. latifolia</i>	Bright GREEN 3- 8cm Sharp Pointed Twisted long blunt terminal bud	Dull BROWN Sq plates	5cm Egg Shaped groups of 2 -to 4 RED aging BROWN Prickly
NORWAY SPRUCE <i>Picea abies ssp abies</i>	Mid GREEN 4 sided 2 to 3 cm soft point Arranged above twig only	GREY, with RED Tinge	16 cm erect then pendant Dk RED aging RED BROWN
SITKA SPRUCE <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Flat BLUE GREY Paler Below SHARPLY POINTED	Smooth GREY BROWN	8cm pale BROWN Erect then pendant Papery Scales

DOUGLAS FIR <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Dk GREEN 3cm thin Sharp Flat Fronds Pointed Buds Fruity aroma	Corky Ridged GREY but ORANGE in Fissures	10 cm ovoid Pendulous RED or GREEN aging to BROWN 3 Pointed bracts
SILVER FIR <i>Abies alba</i>	BLUE GREEN 3cm Flat Fronds Bare above & below twig	GREY smooth but cracked when old	15cm erect reflex bracts High in tree
GRAND FIR <i>Abies grandis</i>	Dark GREEN glossy 2-6cm Flat Fronds Grapefruit aroma	Smooth	Erect 8cm High in Tree Candles remain after seeds dispersed
NOBLE FIR <i>Abies procera</i>	BLUE GREEN 3 cm Twigs bare below	Pale GREY smooth tree -tops often misshapen	20cm erect long reflex feathery bracts
WESTERN HEMLOCK <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Dk GREEN VARIABLE LENGTH Blunt,Hard Flat Display	PURPLE BROWN Flaky DROOPING Leading shoot	2-3 cm BROWN egg shaped pendant
WESTERN RED CEDAR <i>Thuja plicata</i>	Glossy YELLOW GREEN scales not needles 2-3mm pressed to shoot FRUITY AROMA maybe PINEAPPLE?	REDDISH shredding Never Droopy	1 cm slender GREEN aging to BROWN
LAWSON CYPRESS <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	DK GREEN 1-2mm Scales Pressed to Shoot PARSLEY SCENTED	DK BROWN plates Lead shoo-t leans but never nods	Globular 1cm GREEN aging to BROWN
YEW <i>Taxus baccata</i>	Dark GREEN light below flat 3 cm Sharp pointed	Rusty RED Trunk ribbed or fluted	BERRY GREEN or BLACK ripening to RED
JUNIPER <i>Juniperus communis</i>	BLUE GREEN 1-3 cm Stiff & prickly In whorls of 3	REDDISH Shrubby Shredding	BERRY PURPLE SILVER sheen

The Wildflower ARK Project (WAP)

Ian Lawrence

The Wildflower Ark Project was set up in late 1998 with the express purpose of establishing a seed bank of some of Cleveland's rare and threatened wild flowers, so that hopefully they may be re-established in the wild where the needs arose.

A list of around 20 such species was drawn up by myself extracted from my own 'Flora of Cleveland'.

Since the early 90's it had become evident that so many of these species were fast disappearing mainly due to changes in management at the sites in which they grow.

Funding for the project was obtained from the Cleveland waste Management Landfill tax Fund to set the project going for two years. It was initially kickstarted by a token amount from I.C.I. in 1998.

The project was to be monitored by INCA (Industry and Nature Conservation Association) at Billingham who (through Ken Smith) instigated the idea initially by putting forward a plan to myself.

The first year (1998-99) was mainly concerned with the details of locating, recording, and collating plant material from the sites indicated by myself and establishing healthy plant stocks in the nursery at Stokesley set up and nurtured by Helen herring of Stokesley, an experienced horticulturalist who readily became part of the WAP team from the beginning. She has been assisted by John Jenkins (a retired Biology teacher) also of Stokesley who has researched the soil requirements for each species as well as their history in the area. This also entailed the tracking down of the owners of the sites involved.

The second year has concentrated on the planting out of some of these plants at Nature's World under the expert guidance of Martin Allen who has worked for the centre since it's inauguration. The education angle has also been brought in . seeds of some of our more attractive wild flowers have been grown so that schools may be involved in that side of the project. The River Tees model has provided an ideal habitat situation for this aspect with the theme for the younger generation of 'Wildflowers for the Future'.

For those interested the following are amongst those drawn up for the Ark's attention. All are now in danger of extinction in Cleveland by 2020 unless something is done to conserve them.

Water Violet	<i>(Hottonia palustris)</i>
Field Garlic	<i>(Allium oleraceum)</i>
Sand Leek	<i>(Allium scorodoprasum)</i>
Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>(Gagea lutea)</i>
Pale St John's Wort	<i>(Hypericum montanum)</i>
Imperforate St John's Wort	<i>(Hypericum maculatum)</i>
Corn Buttercup	<i>(Ranunculus arvensis)</i>
Coral Spurge	<i>(Euphorbia coralioides)</i>
Gromwell	<i>(Lithospermum officinale)</i>
Dropwort	<i>(Filipendula vulgaris)</i>

Dwarf Spurge	(<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>)
Autumn Gentian	(<i>Gentianella amarella</i>)
Long-Bracted Sedge	(<i>Carex extensa</i>)
Knotted Bur-parsley	(<i>Torilis nodosa</i>)
Rough Hawksbeard	(<i>Crepis biennis</i>)
Corn Spurrey	(<i>Spergula arvensis</i>)
Round-headed Rush	(<i>Juncus compressus</i>)

Many of the above species are rare in the North East generally. Some are now rare nationally. The WAP is now awaiting further funding to keep the project on the move for the future preservation of our flora. Further information from myself or the Botanic Centre at Acklam, Middlesbrough.

Extract from ‘*Rambles in South Durham and North Yorkshire*’ by Angus Macpherson, 1888- On a ramble ‘*along a shady lane*’ to Skelton Beck between Skelton and Upleatham

“.....Similar in quality of colour [to the coltsfoot] and in having a medical virtue is the Pile-wort (*Ranunculus ficaria*), sometimes called the Lesser Celandine to distinguish it from the greater Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*), which is a member of the poppy tribe. The former only belongs to our Spring bouquet, and gets its common name of Celandine because it was supposed to appear with the swallows, Celandine being the Greek Chelidon or swallow, softened down to the popular utterance. The greater Celandine, by the way, got its scientific as well as its popular name because, according to Pliny, swallows were said to have discovered to us a virtue in it to remove films from the cornea of the eye. The golden yellow flowerheads of the Lesser Celandine, gleaming above the smooth glossy heart shaped leaves of the plant, frequently arrest the eye of the passer-by from the sunny side of our hedgerows. Wordsworth it is well known doted on this Spring wilding.

Pansies, lilies, king cups, daisies,
 Let them live upon their praises ;
 Long as there's a sun that sets
 Primroses will have their glory ;
 Long as there are violets,
 They will have a place in story :
 There's a flower that shall be mine-
 'Tis the little Celandine.

But the little celandine is a practical as well as a poetical little flower. It shuts up its blossoms before rain. It never opens out, besides, before nine in the morning, and it puts up its shutters at five in the afternoon. It is a veritable child of the sun. Solomon sent the sluggard to the ant for the natural law of these things. The sluggard might have pled the practice of the Celandine. The path of duty is not a flowery one, although perhaps we may be allowed to take a leaf out of the floral diary in the matter of early closing.....”

Surveying Breeding Birds in Cleveland

J.V. Fairbrother

Cleveland can be an exciting place to live if you are interested in the rare or unusual birds which fleetingly visit our area. Recent records would suggest that very little escapes the attention of the dedicated band of birders who regularly monitor all the most likely sites. The year 2000 seems to have been no exception with the following being some of the highlights :-

Tawny Pipit, Short-toed Lark, American Wigeon, Great White Egret, Red-footed Falcon, Alpine Swift, White-winged Black Tern, Caspian Tern, Rustic Bunting, Little Bunting, American Golden Plover, Honey Buzzard, Desert Wheatear, Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler, Olive-backed Pipit and Desert Lesser Whitethroat.

A comprehensive list and further details can be found in the Teesmouth Bird Club newsletters and the annual Cleveland Bird Report.

Records of such exotic visitors are understandably a source of endless fascination and annual expectation. However, given the well publicised and continuing concern about the national decline in the numbers of many of our British breeding birds there is a growing need also for much more detailed information on the status of those rather more familiar birds which actually breed in Cleveland, both resident species and summer visitors.

I have been taking part in the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Breeding Birds Survey since it was launched in 1994. This survey replaced the Common Birds Census and uses a line transect method to record birds in randomly selected 1 km. squares. Over 2000 squares are monitored in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and I was allocated two squares near Liverton and Dimmingdale.

Also this year I was invited to take part in the Countryside Survey 2000 Bird Count, which aimed to examine habitat associations in detail by tying in bird counts with detailed habitat data already collected by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. This was the fourth national Countryside Survey, following surveys in 1978, 1984, and 1990, but this was the first time that bird surveys had been included. I was asked to survey a 1 km. square at Tockets, one of the 569 randomly chosen sample squares in Great Britain.

In addition Teesmouth Bird Club has embarked on an ambitious project to produce an atlas of the breeding birds of Cleveland and during 2000 I was surveying the Westworth Wood tetrad (2km. x 2km.).

Table 1 summarises some of the results from my four breeding bird surveys in 2000.

Reports

In addition to my fieldwork I have noted a number of national reports which are of particular interest in any consideration of the status of our local breeding birds.

In May 1999 the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) published the White paper "A Better Quality of Life" which contains 150 indicators of the sustainability of life styles in the U.K.. Within these is a set of headline indicators which most encouragingly include a wildlife indicator based on population trends of breeding birds. The wild bird indicator summarises information on the status of nearly 140 breeding species over the past 30 years.

"The State of the U.K's Birds 1999" was the first in a series of annual reports summarising the fortunes of bird populations in the U.K. It covers all species but focuses in the first year on breeding birds of conservation concern and others which are well monitored. The report begins with the headline indicator for birds and notes that although the index for all common birds rose slightly up to the mid 1970s, the pattern since then has been of shallow decline. Within a total decline of 7% woodland species have fallen by 20% and farmland species by 40%.

The report also considers species which are priorities in the U.K. Government's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) involving 25 species of breeding birds which are globally threatened or which have declined by more than 50% in the last 25 years.

The report also draws attention to species red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC). In this document the U.K's leading non-governmental bird conservation organisations have agreed the priorities for bird conservation after reviewing the status of all bird species in the U.K., Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Red listed species are of greatest concern and deserve urgent, effective action. Amber listed species are of medium conservation concern, while green list species must at least be monitored.

The Breeding Bird Survey 1999 is the fifth annual report of the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey covering the years 1994 to 1999. The primary aim of this report is to provide population trends for a range of common and widespread birds in the U.K..

Locally the Teesmouth Bird Club publishes newsletters and the Cleveland Bird report, an annual publication, based largely on random records submitted by members but also including some systematic counts and special studies.

Status and Trends: National and Local

The year 2000 was an unusually busy bird survey year for me and I have found it interesting to take this opportunity to consider the species I encountered in my four Cleveland squares in the light of their status and trends as discussed in the above reports.

The U.K. government has included 10 widespread and 15 scarce and rare species in its Biodiversity Action Plan. Of the 10 widespread species, all of which have been red-listed on the basis of long term population trends I encountered seven species :- Grey Partridge, Skylark, Spotted Flycatcher, Linnet, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting and Song Thrush. The Breeding Bird Survey 1999 (BBS) suggests that all these showed significant declines over the six year period 1994-99 except for the Song Thrush which now appears to have stabilised.

Local Teesmouth records for 1997 (TBC) identify the Bullfinch as being fairly common (101-1000 individuals) with no indication of any real change in the last six years.

TBC records (1999) suggest a breeding population of between 250-500 pairs of Reed Bunting representing a steep decline from the 1960s and 1970s.

Records of 12 breeding pairs of Spotted Flycatcher were received in 1990 when it was estimated that Cleveland held 30-100 pairs in a declining population. Skylark, Linnet and Song Thrush are all regarded as common residents (1001-10,000 individuals) in Cleveland and there is little data on local trends but Skylark was felt to be declining in 1996.

Grey Partridge is regarded as a fairly common resident but indications of a local decline were noted in 1997.

The three red-listed but widespread species not located in my squares were Corn Bunting, Tree Sparrow and Turtle Dove. The B.B.S. suggests that Turtle Dove and Corn Bunting have declined significantly in the last six years whilst Tree Sparrow numbers have increased.

Local TBC records class Turtle Dove as an irregular breeder (not annual in the past 10 years). There has been no reported evidence of territorial birds since 1996 when up to four singing birds were present.

Tree Sparrow numbers are subject to large fluctuations, however a special detailed report in 1993 (TBC) estimated that 130-150 pairs bred in Cleveland that year.

Corn Bunting is listed as a scarce resident (11-100 individuals) in Cleveland. A TBC review in 1993 suggested that numbers were fairly stable from 1966-83 followed by a fairly rapid decline of about 70% from 1984-90. Numbers appear to be currently stabilised at between 10-20 pairs.

It is perhaps not surprising that I did not encounter any of the 15 scarce and rare red-listed birds in my squares, in fact there are no recent breeding records for any of these species in Cleveland.

Aerial feeding species such as Swallow and House Martin have increased significantly on BBS squares since 1994 and both are classed as common breeders in Cleveland. Swift have also shown a tendency to increase and in Cleveland are regarded as fairly common breeders.

Among woodland birds Redstart, Treecreeper, Nuthatch, Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker continue to do well throughout the U.K. In Cleveland Redstart is a scarce breeder (TBC) and so I was delighted to locate a pair in one of my squares. Likewise the Nuthatch which is still a scarce resident in Cleveland despite evidence of a northwards expansion in range. Another scarce resident, the Green Woodpecker, was estimated by TBC in 1996 to have a breeding population of 5-10 pairs and this has remained fairly stable for the last 20 years. The Great Spotted Woodpecker is a fairly common resident with little evidence of population change in the last 20 years.

Widespread resident species such as Wren (abundant resident in Cleveland - over 10,000 individuals), Robin (common resident), Dunnock (common resident), and Goldcrest (fairly common resident) all seem to be increasing in BBS squares.

Like the Song Thrush (common resident) both Blackbird (abundant resident) and Mistle Thrush (fairly common resident) appear to have stabilised in BBS squares.

Across the U.K. in BBS squares Carrion Crows and Jackdaws have continued to increase but Magpie numbers have stabilised and Jays have declined significantly. Locally Jay is listed as a fairly common resident but there is too little TBC data to provide an up to date picture.

Chaffinch and Goldfinch numbers are stable across the U.K., Greenfinch have shown a significant increase and Yellow Hammer a significant decline. Local records place Chaffinch as abundant resident and Greenfinch and Yellow Hammer as common residents. Goldfinch is also listed as a common resident and in 1993 the breeding population was estimated at 100- 500 pairs and regarded as stable (TBC). Siskin numbers have increased in BBS squares and in Cleveland there are breeding records for 1991 and 1998 with breeding also suspected in other years (TBC 1991/98).

With the exception of Willow Tit and Marsh Tit populations of most Tit species are stable or increasing in BBS squares. Locally Marsh and Willow Tits are regarded as scarce residents, both estimated in 1989 to be in the range of 10-50 pairs with the Willow Tit as rather more common.

House Sparrow and Starling are declining in BBS squares. Locally both are listed as abundant residents but House Sparrow numbers are falling.

Wood Pigeon are stable across the U.K. and Collared Dove are increasing. Both are common residents in Cleveland.

Pied Wagtail have increased and Meadow Pipit have declined significantly in BBS squares. Locally Pied Wagtail is a fairly common resident and Meadow Pipit is an abundant species especially in moorland areas (TBC).

Willow Warbler and Blackcap have both increased in BBS squares from 1994-9 but Chiffchaff have decreased during the last year. In Cleveland Willow Warbler is a common breeder and Blackcap is regarded as a fairly common breeder. In 1991 TBC listed Chiffchaff as a scarce breeding bird with 30 pairs recorded compared with 20 pairs in 1981, an increase in line with the national trend at the time. It is currently regarded as a fairly common breeder. Whitethroat is stable in BBS squares at present and locally is a fairly common breeder. They have struggled to recover from the crashes in 1969, 1984 and 1991 and their status will be reviewed in the Cleveland Bird Report 2000 (TBC).

In England , Red Grouse numbers are stable whilst Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge have shown signs of increase. Stocks of game birds are of course subject to management.

Cuckoo and Kestrel have shown significant declines in the U.K. The Cleveland Cuckoo population was estimated at between 80-100 pairs in 1999 placing it in the scarce breeding category. Kestrel is regarded as a fairly common resident in Cleveland.

Mallard are showing a significant increase in BBS squares and in Cleveland are fairly common breeders.

Of wader species, Golden plover and Redshank have shown an increase in England whilst Lapwing, Snipe and Curlew have decreased between 1994-9.

In Cleveland Lapwing and Curlew are regarded as fairly common breeders and Golden Plover, Redshank and Snipe are listed as scarce breeders. Early records from the new atlas surveys are revealing higher breeding populations of Snipe than previously envisaged.

Conclusion

As previously indicated some of the data from the surveys summarised in Table 1. feeds into the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey reports. Each year the number of volunteers taking part has increased and the target of 2500 squares has now almost been reached. Furthermore with the publication of the Survey 2000 Report this year the BBS data will span seven consecutive years, and each

subsequent year will add to the value of the material which is used to monitor the changing fortunes of our British breeding birds.

Along with other more specific survey data these records will help to inform decision making in the continuing development of Biodiversity Action Plans and other conservation initiatives.

In a further development, with the increase in data available it is now possible to provide not only U.K. and individual country summaries, but because of the excellent coverage in England, results can now be analysed for a good range of species by specific English regions including the North East and also Yorkshire/Humberside. This extends the value of the reports to local government and other local and regional organisations.

In attempting to review my contact species against local data, as well as national BBS trends it soon became apparent that although there is a wealth of information to be culled from the annual Cleveland Bird Reports published by Teesmouth Bird Club, the data on breeding is somewhat intermittent and incomplete. Much of the report is based on many random records, plus some organised counts and some targeted effort on special study species. There is insufficient evidence on which to satisfactorily update the status of local species in the light of continuing fluctuations and trends in breeding populations.

Teesmouth Bird Club has recognised this and the new atlas will provide a new much needed record of breeding birds in Cleveland which will link into national and regional records and provide a vital benchmark against which to monitor future fluctuations in our local breeding bird populations. It will be of particular value in the further development of the Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan.

It is encouraging that government now includes a wildlife indicator based on population trends of breeding birds along with the other measures of our national quality of life.

Breeding birds are viewed as a useful indicator in assessing the health of our natural environment and the proposed atlas of breeding birds in Cleveland will not only be of interest to naturalists but will be a valuable addition to the range of tools available with which to inform decision making on a variety of issues which may affect our quality of life here in Cleveland and beyond.

Table 1 (T)-Tockets W-Westworth Wood

	Liverton (L)						Dimmingdale (D)						L	D	T	W
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	0	0	0	0
	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	0	0	0
Mallard		*	*													
Sparrowhawk		*		*											*	
Kestrel			*				*	*	*		*	*		*		
Red Grouse							*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
Red-legged Partridge											*	*		*		*
Grey Partridge			*										*			
Pheasant	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Golden Plover							*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
Lapwing		*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Snipe								*		*	*			*		*
Woodcock								*				*		*		*
Curlew							*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
Redshank												*		*		
Wood Pigeon	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Collared Dove															*	
Cuckoo	*	*					*	*		*	*	*		*		*
Tawny Owl						*							*			
Swift	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*			
Green Woodpecker		*														
Great Spotted Woodpecker										*				*		*
Skylark	*	*	*	*	*	*							*	*	*	
Swallow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
House Martin															*	
Meadow Pipit							*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
Pied Wagtail	*					*							*		*	*
Wren	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Dunnock	*	*	*	*	*	*							*		*	*
Robin	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Redstart							*	*	*	*	*	*				
Whinchat							*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
Wheatear		*					*				*	*				*
Blackbird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*	*	*
Song Thrush	*	*	*	*	*	*						*	*	*	*	*
Mistle Thrush		*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Whitethroat	*	*	*	*	*	*							*		*	
Blackcap	*	*	*	*	*								*		*	

	Liverton (L)						Dimmingdale (D)						L	D	T	W
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	0	0	0	0
	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	0	0	0
Chiff chaff		*			*								*		*	
Willow Warbler	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Goldcrest					*	*		*				*	*			*
Spotted Flycatcher								*		*	*	*		*	*	
Long Tailed Tit			*												*	*
Marsh Tit			*	*												
Coal Tit			*		*							*	*		*	*
Blue Tit	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*			*		*	*
Great Tit	*	*	*			*						*	*		*	
Nuthatch															*	
Tree Creeper		*				*						*	*			*
Jay	*			*	*	*										
Magpie	*	*	*	*		*							*		*	
Jackdaw					*	*							*			
Rook		*	*		*								*		*	
Carrion Crow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Starling	*	*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	
House Sparrow		*	*	*	*								*			
Chaffinch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Greenfinch	*	*	*			*							*		*	
Siskin																*
Goldfinch	*		*										*		*	
Redpoll															*	
Linnet	*		*			*		*			*			*	*	*
Crossbill								*							*	*
Bullfinch		*		*	*								*		*	
Yellowhammer	*	*	*	*	*	*							*		*	
Reed Bunting							*	*	*	*	*	*		*		

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- Anon. (1999) '*A better quality of life - a strategy for sustainable development for the United Kingdom*'. Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.
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- Noble,D.G. Bashford,R.I. and Baillie,S.R. (2000). '*The Breeding Bird Survey 1999*', BTO Research Report 247. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.

A Mosquito from Pigeon Wood, Cowpen Bewley.

Malcolm Birtle

The following was produced whilst attempting to identify the mosquito which made our excursion to Cowpen Bewley a little uncomfortable. It was thought that it might be of interest to some members. This is not intended as a definitive key. See references below for keys.

Female mosquitoes are substantially easier to identify than males.

Female mosquitoes have two wings, two small 'stubs' (halteres) behind wings (Diptera), a long proboscis, and 'thread-like' antennae (males have bushy antennae).

There are two basic groups of mosquitoes-the **Anophelines** and **Culicines**.

Female **Anopheline** mosquitoes have an 'upright' posture i.e. the body is angled upwards from the resting place and their palps (structures either side of the proboscis) are the same length as the proboscis.

Female **Culicine** mosquitoes have a 'flat' posture i.e. the body is more or less parallel to the resting place, and the palps are shorter than the proboscis.

Anophelines

Anopheles algeriensis-Upper thorax (Mesonotum) a single colour, with no white frontal tuft. Very rare. Highly unlikely to occur in Cleveland.

Anopheles atroparvus and *Anopheles messeae*- Mesonotum darked at the sides with white frontal tuft. Wings spotted. Both common.

Anopheles plumbeus and *Anopheles claviger*- Mesonotum darked at the sides with white frontal tuft. Wings unspotted. *Plumbeus* is small and black. *Claviger* is large and brown. Both common.

Culicines

Culicines can be split into two groups-**Aedes** and **non-Aedes**

Aedes (tapering abdomen)

Aedes are split into three groups-**Group 1**, **Group 2** and **Group 3**

Group 1 have no pale rings on the legs (tarsi, tarsal rings)

Aedes cinereus-no pale bands on abdomen. No white knee joints. Common.

Aedes geniculatus-no pale bands on abdomen. White knee joints. Common.

Aedes rusticus-Abdominal bands tend to form a stripe down abdomen. Common.

Aedes punctator-Abdominal pale bands widen laterally at the end of the abdomen (on the distal tergites).

Aedes detritus-Abdominal pale bands are uniform width. Common.

Aedes leucomelas-Abdominal pale bands are uniform width. Very rare. Highly unlikely to occur in Cleveland.

Aedes stictus-Abdominal pale bands are uniform width. Very rare. Highly unlikely to occur in Cleveland.

Aedes communis-Abdominal pale bands are uniform width. Very rare. Highly unlikely to occur in Cleveland.

Group 2 have tarsal (leg) segments (rings) which embrace only the joints in the leg.

Aedes caspius-dark and light scales on wings evenly mixed. Common

Aedes dorsalis-dark scales on wings aggregated on certain veins. Common

Group 3 have pale tarsal segments in various arrangements on the legs.

Aedes flavescens-First tarsal segment pale except for narrow dark ring at tip. Unlikely to appear in Cleveland.

Aedes vexans-First tarsal segment has basal pale band i.e. the pale band is towards the body in the first tarsal segment. Pale abdominal bands narrow in the centre. Unlikely to appear in Cleveland.

Aedes cantans- 2nd to 5th tarsal segments have pale bands occupying half the tarsal segment. Common

Aedes annulipes-2nd to 5th tarsal segments have pale bands occupying a third of the tarsal segment. Common

Non Aedes (blunt abdomen)

These mosquitoes can be separated into Culex and non-Culex.

Culex- no pale bands on the legs

Culex modestus-no complete bands. Highly unlikely to occur in Cleveland.

Culex territans-pale apical bands. Widespread but scarce.

Culex pipiens, *Culex torrentium*-pale basal bands. Very common. Species extremely difficult to distinguish.

non-Culex- with pale bands on the legs

Orthopodomyia pulcripalpis-Palps half as long as proboscis. Scarce.

Coquillettidia richiardii- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Posterior cross-vein separated from mid cross-vein by three times the whole length i.e. the cross veins are not in line or nearly in line. Common.

Culiseta annulata- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Spotted wings. Cross veins in or nearly in line. Pale leg bands conspicuous. Common.

Culiseta subochra- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Spotted wings. Cross veins in or nearly in line. Pale leg bands conspicuous. Uncommon.

Culiseta alaskanensis- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Spotted wings. Cross veins in or nearly in line. Pale leg bands conspicuous. Sparse records.

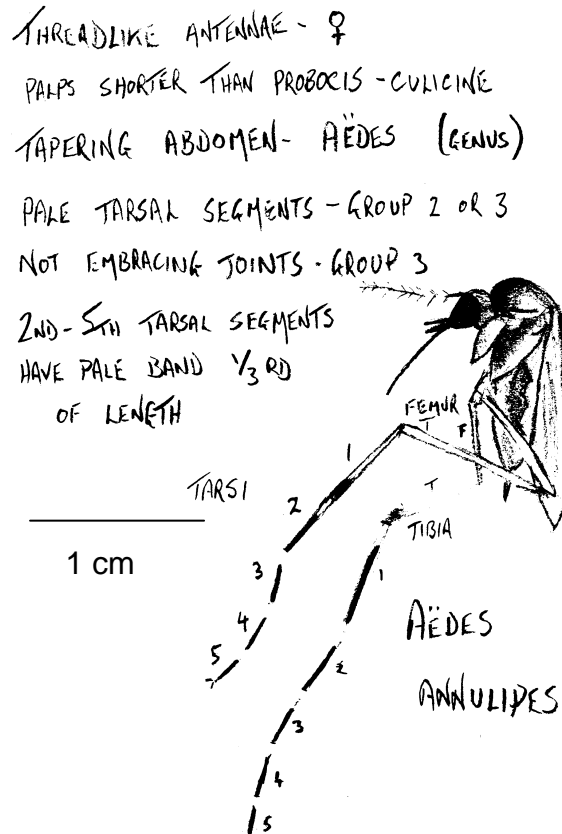
Culiseta morsitans- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Cross veins in or nearly in line. Pale leg bands inconspicuous. Proboscis uniformly black. Common.

Culiseta fumipennis- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Cross veins in or nearly in line. Pale leg bands inconspicuous. Common.

Culiseta litorea- Palps less than half as long as proboscis. Cross veins in or nearly in line. Pale leg bands inconspicuous.

Only females 'bite' in order to take a blood meal before laying eggs. The specimen taken from Pigeon Wood, on our outing to Cowpen Bewley on the 12th July, was a female Culicine mosquito. It had a tapering abdomen with pale bands on the legs that did not embrace the joints. It was therefore an *Aedes* Group 3 mosquito and probably *Aedes cantans* or *Aedes annulipes*, which are very difficult to distinguish. However, the pale bands on the tarsal segments of the legs occupied one third of the length of the second to fifth segments. This is a characteristic of *Aedes annulipes*.

Sketch from Notebook



References

Snow K.R., 'Mosquitoes', Naturalist Handbook 14, Richmond Publishing, 1990
 Marshall J.F., 'The British Mosquitoes', British Museum, 1938

Stillington Forest Park

Records from meetings of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club (Wednesday, 26th May, 1999) and Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club (20th June 2000)

Records were made by members of the Clubs

Report compiled by Dr. Malcolm Birtle, September 2000
(m.birtle@tees.ac.uk) for Forest Park Warden



This is a re-working of a field report first published in the 'Proceedings of Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, Vol. 7, Part 2, Spring 2000'. It has been modified to include the records made at a later meeting by the Darlington Club.

This is an industrial area that has been cleared and re-seeded. There are still quite a few bare areas but it is still regenerating. Trees planted consist mainly of alder and willows as there are a number of wet areas and some ponds.

Plants

Sycamore
Yarrow
Water Plantain
Garlic Mustard
Alder
Cow Parsley
Kidney Vetch
Quaking Grass
Bindweed
Cuckoo Flower
Wetted Thistle
Lesser Tussock Sedge
False Fox Sedge

Acer pseudoplatanus
Achillea millefolium
Alisma plantago-aquatica
Alliaria petiolata
Alnus glutinosa
Anthriscus sylvestris
Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. polyphylla
Briza media
Calystegia sp.
Cardamine pratensis
Carduus acanthoides
Carex diandra (S)
Carex otrubae

Hardheads	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Fat Hen	<i>Chenopodium album</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Crested Dogs Tail	<i>Cynosurus cristata</i>
Cock's Foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
Northern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Viper's-bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
Hairy Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Goosegrass	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cut Leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum(G)</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Hard Rush	<i>Juricus inflexus</i>
White Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera arborea</i>
Common Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Garden Privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>
Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos cuculi</i>
Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Lucerne	<i>Medicago sativa</i>
Ribbed Melilot	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>
Field Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
Spiked Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum.</i>
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Carex pendula(S)	<i>Pendulous Sedge</i>
Lolium perenne(G)	<i>Perennial Rye grass</i>
	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>
Lesser Cat's-tail	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>
Scot's Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>

Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Annual Meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Rough Meadow Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Salad Burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba ssp. muricata</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula Vulgaris</i>
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Celery-leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>
Wild Mignonette	<i>Resedea lutea</i>
Yellowrattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor ssp. minor</i>
Burnet Rose	<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus.</i>
Broad Leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>
Hoary Ragwort	<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Charlock	<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
Branched Bur Reed	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Russian Comfrey	<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>
Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Alsike Clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago tarfara</i>
Great Reed-mace	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>
Ivy-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa ssp. segitalis</i>
Iris pseudacorus	<i>Yellow Iris</i>

N.B. There was masses of *Myriophyllum spicatum* in flower covering the large pond. A small patch of Black Grass, *Alopecurus myosuroides* was found which was probably introduced when the area was re-seeded. There are only two previous

records for this in Cleveland. There were also a number of non native plants here like *Malva moschata* and *Anthyllis vulneraria* ssp. *polyphylla* which suggests the seed used was obtained from abroad.

Snails (*Mollusca*)

Brown Lipped Banded Snail	<i>Capaea nemoralis</i>
Garden Snail	<i>Helix aspersa</i>
Strawberry Snail	<i>Trichia striolata</i>

Beetles (*Coeleoptera*)

2-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>

Bugs (*Hemiptera*)

Black and Red Frogopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>
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Birds (*Aves*)

Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	(Fem +7yg.)
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	(+yg)
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	

Amphibians

Smooth Newt	<i>Triturus vulsaris</i>
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Fish

A talk with the fishermen present disclosed the presence of the following

Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Tench	<i>Tinca tinca.</i>

Damselflies (*Odonata*)

Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrosoma nymphula</i>

Butterflies and Moths (*Lepidoptera*)

Hook-marked Conch	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>
Common White Wave.	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Shaded Broad Bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Semiothisa clathrata</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>

Bumble Bees (*Hymenoptera*)

Red-tailed	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
White-tailed	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>

Field Meetings 2001

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.

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 the President

Saturday, 7th April, 10:30 am, leader David Barlow ☎ 01287 634679

GR NZ557274. Park near the fishermen's huts at the **South Gare**. This is primarily a bird watching day, though there will be a walk along the beach. Please bring binoculars if possible.

Sunday, 29th April, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR NZ047167. Follow the main road (from Darlington) into Barnard Castle, turn right at the end, then left at the church into Vane Terrace. There is adequate free parking in the wide streets overlooking the river. About a 6 mile walk in **Deepdale**.

Thursday, 10th May, 7:00 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055

GR NZ394155. Park in the car park on the Long Newton to Urlay Nook road. We shall visit **Coatham Stob**. A short, easy walk.

Sunday, 13th May, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114

GR NZ572036. Meet in the **Clay Bank** car park. A circular walk of about 6 miles involving some climbing.

Wednesday, 23rd May, 7:00 pm, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

GR NZ382106. Take the road to Aislaby just north of the bridge in Yarm. Carry on through Aislaby for about 2 miles and take the well signposted track to Newsham. There is limited parking, so please share cars if at all possible. We shall visit **Newsham Woods**. An easy walk there and back.

Wednesday, 30th May, 7:00 pm, leader Jack Marshall ☎ 01642 315365

GR NZ538135. Park in the overflow car park past the main access to the NHS office block up the drive from the A172. We shall explore **Poole Hospital and Grey Towers** grounds. An easy walk, but there is some overgrown vegetation.

- Sunday, 10th June, 10:30 am, leader Pamela Law ☎ 01287 636976**
 GR NZ853937. **Hole of Horcum**. Meet in the car park above the Hole of Horcum (Saltergate Brow). A circular walk of not more than five miles. The terrain is not difficult but the descent into the Hole of Horcum requires care.
- Sunday, 17th June, 1:30 pm**
 GR NZ403237. This is a public walk to be led by the **Castle Eden Walkway** staff, but club members have been invited to come along and lend their expertise to help identify and record specimens. Park at the Castle Eden Walkway Visitor Centre car park. The walk will be led by Ian Bond.
- Wednesday, 20th June, 7:00 pm, leader Andrew Ferguson ☎ 01642 311831**
 GR NZ587250. Park in the reserve car park. An easy walk through **Coatham Marsh**. Wellingtons may be advised.
- Sunday, 24th June, 10:30 am, leader leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055**
 GR NZ112256. Meet where a small stream crosses under the road in **Butterknowle** village (west of Bishop Auckland). There is no car park, but it is possible to park in and around the village. An easy walk on level ground.
- Saturday, 30th June, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815**
 GR SE728679. This is a YNU VC 62 meeting, visiting **Castle Howard Estate**. Park in a field off Chestnut Avenue, which is a turning east in Welburn village.
- Wednesday, 4th July, 7:00 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380**
 GR NZ462193. Meet in the car park immediately west of the Barrage Hotel car park. If approaching from the south, cross the **river Tees at the Barrage**, turn right and the car park is on the right. An easy walk on level ground.
- Sunday, 8th July, 10:30 am, leader Peter Waterton ☎ 01642 724270**
 GR NZ893024. Meet at the **Old May Beck** car park. This is approached from the B1416 from Ruswarp at Red Gate (GR NZ893047). There will be a walk in the area, but the focus of the meeting is to look for butterflies.
- Saturday, 14th July, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616**
 GR SE705902. Meet in the public car park at the north end of **Hutton-le-Hole** village. A fairly easy walk of about 7 miles in the Hutton-le-Hole area.
- Wednesday, 18th July, 7:00 pm, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01287 633404**
 GR NZ740126. Meet in the car park at the western end of **Scaling Dam**. A short easy walk, but stout footwear advisable.
- Sunday, 22nd July, 10:30 am, leader Judy Dinwiddie ☎ 01845 537340**
 GR SE534890. Meet at **Daleside Farm, Hawnby** (permission granted for parking). Turn west onto the farm road at SE543892, just south of Hawnby. A moderate walk of about 5 miles.
- Wednesday, 25th July, 7:00 pm, leaders Trevor Cook and Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744**
 GR NZ781185. Meet in the car park at **Staithe**s. An easy walk of about 3 miles.

Sunday, 5th August, 10:30 am, leaders Norma Pagdin and Joan Bradbury 01429 68416

GR NZ005025. Meet in the car park (pay and display) in **Langthwaite** village. A walk of between 5 and 8 miles (depending on the return route), including a steep climb.

Sunday, 19th August, 10:30 am, leader Norman Thompson ☎ 01642 316204

GR SE614837. Meet at the bridge over the **river Rye** on the road out of Helmsley to Sutton Bank. There should be adequate parking nearby. A flat easy walk of about 5 miles, the last bit on a narrow woodland path.

Sunday, 2nd September, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR SE812906. Park and meet in **Newton on Rawcliffe** village. A circular walk of about 6 miles involving a little climbing.

Saturday, 22nd September, 2.00 pm, leader Tony Wardaugh ☎ 01642 322935

GR NZ862125. Meet at **East Row Beck, Sandsend**. Parking should be adequate nearby. This is primarily a meeting to study snails. It will be an easy walk. Please bring a hand lens if possible.

Saturday, 20th October, 10:30 am, leader Alf Rout ☎ 01642 818045

GR NZ853937. Meet in the car park on the A169 overlooking the **Hole of Horcum**. The walk will be on the eastern side of the A169. It will be about 8 miles and will involve some climbing.

Meetings of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Details are available from John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815

Saturday, 19th May, Stainton Woods Swaledale

Saturday 9th June, Manor Farm, Eddlethorpe

Saturday, 30th June, Castle Howard Estate

Saturday 21st July, Oughtershaw, UpperWharfedale

Saturday, 11th August, Cannon Hall Park, Barnsley

Meetings of the Northern Naturalists' Union

Details are available from Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055.

26th May, 2.00 pm Raisby Hill Grassland

30th June, 5.00 pm Low Countess Park, nr. Bellingham, Site visit, Moth Trap and Barbecue, **Please note start time.**

18th August, 2.00 pm Ladycross Nature Reserve 2.00 pm

28th July 2.00 pm, Hamsterly Forest

8th September 2.00 pm Shincliffe