

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 8 Part 2

Spring 2004

President's Address.	.....1
Highlights of Field Meetings 2003	.....1
Epilobium (Willowherb) hybrids found in South Durham and North Yorkshire	.....8
Black Spleenwort in Cleveland	.....10
Moonwort (<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>) at South Gare - results of 2002/2003 studies.	.....11
Moths from Greenabella Marsh, Seaton Road, Teesside, in 2003	.....13
Ring Ouzels on the North York Moors.	.....16
Canon Atkinson's Observations on the Ring-Ousel or 'Moor Blackbird'	.....20
In Search of the Winter Heliotrope	.....22
<i>Cydia succedana</i> (Light Striped Edged Piercer)	.....24
Butterfly Conservation, Priority Moth Species 2004	.....25
Update of 'A Guide to the Wild Flowers of Cleveland'29
Field Meetings 200430

THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2004-2005

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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 Botanic Centre, Ladgate Lane, Acklam, 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 organisations.

President's Address.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as President of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field club and I have thoroughly enjoyed the year. Members shared twenty varied and stimulating field trips during the year as the highlights recorded in this issue of the Record of Proceedings demonstrate. It was particularly pleasing to be able to take part in joint events with the Yorkshire Naturalist's Union at Sykes House Farm and with the Wild Flower Society in Upper Teesdale. Both meetings were well attended and much appreciated by the relevant organizations.

It was with considerable trepidation that I learned that my induction as President was to coincide with the closure of the Leeds University, Harrow Road Centre, which had been the home of the club for so long. Could we find another convenient venue with appropriate facilities and would our members readily migrate to a new home? A number of options were considered and happily the new Hydroponicum and Eco-centre at Natures World proved to be an excellent choice, being fairly easy of access, with good parking and having particularly suitable meeting facilities.

Attendance at indoor meetings has been maintained and illustrated lectures from members and visiting speakers have taken us from the Arctic to the Antarctic as well as to the tropics and across the Pacific. Nearer to home we have journeyed down the Tees and explored the North York Moors. The social evening was convivial and perplexing as usual and our members' night featured memorable video footage from a number of our field trips. We shall be concluding our winter programme with scenes from the west coast of South Africa before returning outdoors and embarking on our 2004 season of field trips.

I am extremely grateful to all the officers and members of the committee. They fulfill their duties with such quiet and unassuming efficiency and they have been a source of vital support and encouragement to me throughout the year. Thank you also to all the members of this club who collectively make this such a friendly and welcoming organization.

Finally I would like to thank Malcolm Birtle for once again editing and producing our Record of Proceedings, and continuing the fine tradition begun by the club so long ago in 1895. (Not by Malcolm I hasten to add!)

Vic Fairbrother

Highlights of Field Meetings 2003

Saturday, 12th April, leader Colin Chatto, Richmond area.

We walked along the south bank of the River Swale, west of Richmond. There were sheets of *Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone), several good patches of *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) and *Viola reichenbachiana* (Early Dog-violet), and one good stand of *Gagea lutea* (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem). *Ribes alpinum* (Alpine Currant) was in good flower and *Prunus X fruticans*=*P. spinosa* X *P. domestica* (a hybrid plum) had clearly been abundantly planted in hedges. *Saxifraga X geum* =*S. umbrosa* X *S. hirsuta* (Scarce Londonpride) was well-naturalised in Hudswell Woods. On the return journey on the north

side of the river it was pleasing to note that *Dipsacus pilosus* (Small Teazel) was spreading in its *Locus classicus* in the environs of Whitecliffe Wood.

Sunday, 27th April, leaders Norma Pagdin and Joan Bradbury. Weardale.

The walk was a loop north of the village of Eastgate. *Orchis mascula* (Early-purple Orchid), *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage) and *Saxifraga granulata* were all in excellent flower. *Carex caryophyllea* (Spring Sedge) was in short calcareous grassland and on ruined walls by Rook Hope Burn *Taraxacum nordstedtii* (a dandelion) was seen.

Sunday, 11th May, leader Eric Gendle. Kirkham area

Carex divulsa (Grey Sedge), *Geranium pyrenaicum* (Hedgerow Crane's-bill), *Chelidonium majus* (Greater Celandine) and *Symphytum orientale* (White Comfrey) were on a road verge near the abbey. A *Philudoria potatoria* (Drinker) caterpillar was also seen in the hedge.

Wooded areas yielded *Lonicera xylosteum* (Fly Honeysuckle) and *Berberis vulgaris* (Barberry) in fine flower, and fine spikes of *Orchis mascula* (Early purple Orchid). Members noticed that Figwort plants were attracting the attention of a number of distinctive weevils. These were probably *Cionus hortulanus*, or *Cionus scrophulariae* (Figwort Weevils). The ground beetle *Carabus monilis* was also observed. A good specimen of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood) was also noted. Other insects recognized were the hoverflies *Syrphus ribesii*, and *Rhingia campestris*, the Dung Fly *Mesembrina meridiana*, and *Propylea 14-punctata* (14 Spot Ladybird). The common snails *Discus rotundatus* (Round Snail) and *Trichia striolata* (Strawberry Snail) were seen.

On the return route on the west side of the R. Derwent *Alopecurus myosuroides* (Black-grass), *Stellaria nemorum* (Wood Stitchwort) and *Lamium hybridum* were spotted. There were many large trees of *Populus X canadensis* 'Serotina' (Black-Italian Poplar) displaying their lovely, pale brown, spring foliage. A Fox sped across fields close to us. Lepidoptera noted were *Perizoma didymata* (Twin Spot Carpet), *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip), *Lycaena phlaeas* (Small Copper). The following birds were seen (or heard!)-Cuckoo, Tree Creeper and Common Sandpiper. An orange Rust was found on Meadow Rue

Wednesday, 14th May, 7:00 pm, leader Jack Marshall Saltburn

Many spikes of Twayblade were seen in the woods at eastern end of valley. Song Thrush was also noted.

Wednesday 21st May, leader Ian Lawrence, Crathorne

It was a wet, dull, miserable May evening when several members met near the church. I half expected that they would all be wanting to abandon the whole idea of setting off into the gloom. None of it! The rain had eased off in any case so off we went.

First of all we admired the fine old specimen of *Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane)-the only tree of this species I know of in our region. A little further along is a magnificent old Copper Beech. We then set off along the road, which leads to Hutton Rudby and very soon taking the small road which leads to High Foxton.

The hedgebanks were full of wild flowers, which, alas, were looking wet and bedraggled, but there was no doubting the rich variety perhaps dominated by the Cow Parsley which acted like a beacon with the blaze of white flowers on that dismal evening. Red Campions, Herb Robert, Creeping Buttercup, and Bluebells all added their own colours to the scene.

Down by the river Leven, as we crossed the road bridge, the Dame's Violet and Sweet Cicely all added their own splash of colour without us having to go down into the soaking vegetation.

We then walked into the darkest part of the roadway, under the dripping trees, and were amazed to see, shining out into the deep gloom, a colony of the yellow-flowered Welsh Poppies with Lady's mantle nestling nearby on the bankside. We were now needing torches! But we soon came out into open countryside with the roadside full of flowers. Unfortunately a large patch of Germander Speedwell had decided to go to sleep so all we saw were the pale underside of the lovely azure blue petals. Bush Vetch looked very unhappy and the brilliant white flowers of the Greater Stitchwort were nodding in despair. We walked as far as the bend in the road where there was a pond, which sported a fine patch of Water Crowfoot. By then, though, the rain had started again and looked to set in for the night. Some members had, by then, decided to do the same before even, reaching the pond, leaving their grateful messages of thanks, and so we all decided to follow suit.

However those Crowfoots were, to me, the 'pot of gold' (even though they are white) for that evening because *Ranunculus aquatilis* is nowadays, alas, a rare sight.

Postscript: It is amazing how such a dismal evening made me 'wax lyrical' about it. If it had been a lovely May evening there may well have been a bigger list of the rich variety of plants which were not evident on that evening. I certainly would not have dreamed of stepping over my doorstep that evening if I had not been the leader and having to drive along a very wet A19 into the murk to get there!

I did, however, return a few days later on a sunny May afternoon with my video camera to capture the glorious countryside around there with its wealth of wayside flowers and including the May Blossom which we barely noticed on that evening. We daren't look upwards. It was heads down and hoods up!

Heron and French Partridge were the only birds reported.

Wednesday, 28th May, 10:30 am, leader David Barlow Bempton Cliffs

Needless to say, a few (!) birds were seen-Guillemot, Fulmar, Puffin, Gannet, Razorbill, Kittiwakes, Rock Doves, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Wheatear, Tree Sparrow, Kestrel, Pied Wagtail, Herring Gull, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Peregrine. A Greater Black Backed Gull was watched feeding on a Guillemot at the base of the cliffs. Attention was paid to non-ornithological matters during the day. A fine patch of white *Silene dioica* (White Red Champion) amongst numerous normal coloured plants was found growing on the cliff top.

Insects were about and *Perizoma affinitata* (Rivulet), *Lasiommata megera* (Wall), *Pieris brassicae* (Large White), *Anthophila fabriciana* (Nettletap), and *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell) were on the wing.

Cercopis vulnerata (Black and Red Froghopper), *Adalia bipunctata* (2 Spot Ladybird) and a Burnet Moth Caterpillar were also seen.

Sunday, 8th June, leader Neil Baker. Greta Bridge area.

A wall, rich in plants, near the Meeting of the Waters sported *Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved saxifrage), *Cystopteris fragilis* (Brittle Bladder-fern) and the hawkweeds *Hieracium pellucidum* and *H. cravoniense*. By the road verge in the adjacent woodland, an unusual Leopard's-bane was spotted by Maureen Gendle. Further research proved this to be a plant very rarely recorded in the British Isles, *Doronicum columnae*. Several interesting plants were found by riverside rocks by the River Tees and in adjacent woodland. These included *Galium boreale* (Northern Bedstraw), a white-flowered form of *Ajuga reptans* (Bugle), *Geranium phaeum* (Dusky Crane's-bill), *Carex divusa* ssp *leersii* (Grey Sedge), a hybrid monkeyflower *Mimulus X robertsii* and the hawkweed *Hieracium praesigne*. On rocks in the river some fine patches of the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* ssp *polymorpha* were spotted.

Wednesday, 11th June, 7:00 pm, leader Andrew Ferguson Dalehouse Nature Reserve

The leader reported an impressive first find of the night as people arrived for the meeting, namely a Slowworm under a barrel. Stems and leaves of *Daphne laureola* (Spurge Laurel) were growing in the hedge bottoms. Other plants seen were *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Spotted Orchid), *Veronica officinalis* (Heath Speedwell), *Tamus communis* (Black Bryony), *Sanicula europaea* (Sanicle), and *Lysimachia nemorum* (Yellow Pimpernel).

Olethreutes lacunana (Indefinite Marble), *Agapeta hamana* (Hook Marked Conch), *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweep) in swarms, and *Eupoecilia angustana angustana* (Barred Marbled Conch) were active. *Taphrina pruni* is a fungus, which distorts the shape of sloes, and this infection was seen on a Blackthorn.

Wednesday, 18th June, leader Eric Gendle. Cotherstone area in Teesdale.

Plants on riverside shingle near Cotherstone village included *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Melancholy Thistle), *Myosotis scorpiodes* (Water Forget-me-not) and *Salix phylicifolia* (Tea-leaved Willow). Woodland by the river yielded *Stellaria nemorum* (Wood Stitchwort), *Melampyrum pratense* (Common Cow-wheat) and *Cicerbita macrophylla* (Common Blue-Sowthistle). *Pseudofumaria lutea* (Yellow Corydalis) made a good show on the churchyard wall in Romal Kirk. However the most important botanical finds of the day were two hawkweeds of section *Cerinthoidea*, *Hieracium flocculosum*, a plant very rarely recorded in England and a stylose-flowered form of *H. ampliatum*, the only previous records of which for the British Isles were from very few sites in the Lake District. The hawkweeds were in two different colonies, the former had over 100 plants and the latter only very few. Thanks are due to D. J. McCosh for confirmation of the determinations.

An immature Shield Bug, and *Nemophora degeerella* (Long horn moth) were seen on the riverside woodland edge.

A *Campaea margaritata* (Light Emerald) was found fluttering along a field margin between Eggleston and Cotherstone on the North side of the river.

Sunday, 22nd June, 10:30 am, leader Vincent Jones Bowlees

Wednesday, 2nd July, 10:30 am, leader Judy Dinwiddie, Kirby Knowle

A group of 12 people met at Kirby Knowle for a walk on the edge of the Hambledon Hills via Ravensthorpe Manor. Boltby, Gurtoff, Seta Pike and Kirby Knowle Moor. Habitats included arable land, forestry, scrub, moorland and roadside verges. Over 120 species of plants were noted including a group of plants cultivated for game birds including *Fagopogon esculentum* (Buckwheat), and *Phalaris canariensis* (Canary Grass). N. B. A later walk revealed a large acreage sown for birds with at least six species including the above plus Sunflowers and Millet.

Among plant species found were:-

<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Skullcap
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>	Trailing St. John's Wort
<i>H. hirsute</i>	Hairy St. John's Wort
<i>H. pulchrum</i>	Slender St. John's Wort
<i>H. perforatum</i>	Perforated St. John's Wort
<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Chickweed Wintergreen (leaves only)
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	Bristle Club Rush
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel

The following sedges were noted on our travels- *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge), *Carex ovalis* (Oval Sedge), *Carex binervis* (Green Ribbed Sedge), and *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge).

Near the cars parked at the old village hall was a long established colony of *Geranium phaeum*.

The butterflies and moths observed were *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Noctua pronuba* (Large Yellow Underwing) in numbers on field margins, *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral), *Lomaspilis marginata* (Clouded Border), *Epiblema scutulana* (Large Blotch Marked Bell) and *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweep).

It was good to see Buzzard (pair of) haunting North Yorkshire again. Jays were also seen.

Wednesday, 9th July, 7:00 pm, leader Ian Lawrence, Maze Park

There was quite a large turn-out waiting at the road end leading into the Wildlife Trust's nature reserve on the south bank of the Tees near to the Barrage. Light was beginning to fade when we set off and so a quick tour was necessary so as to see the extraordinary diversity of wild plants, which thrive there. They have colonized what was once railway sidings, and has since been landscaped into large mounds.

Obviously, the material brought in to do this is responsible for the number of plants, many of which are lime-loving species such as Clustered Bell Flower, Wild Parsnip, Greater Knapweed, and a rayed form of Lesser Knapweed which used to be known as Slender Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* ssp. *nemoralis*). This is a new plant in this area. I can remember seeing it on the Chalk Downs of southern England and is not uncommon in the nearby continent.

The botanical highlight of the evening was found along the far end of the trackway towards the A19 flyover. Several plants of the one metre high Moth Mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*) were scattered along the trackside in the gathering gloom. Their yellow flowers open up at night to attract moths. This was a new plant for the area and indeed for me. Its' distribution in the U. K. tends to be mainly in the southwest. So, how did it get there? Or where did the soil come from? In all, a goodly list of plants was seen, but once again, these would be best appreciated in broad daylight.

Sunday 13th July, leader Alan Bunn around Great Ayton

A group of ten met on a very hot day and explored the areas taking a route: Little Ayton, the Fishing Lakes, Aireyholme Farm Lane, edge of Cliff Ridge Quarry and Cliff Rigg Quarry. Botanical highlights were *Persicaria amplexicaulis* (Red Bistort), *Chenopodium rubrum* (Red Goosefoot), *Chaenorhinum minus* (Small Toadflax), *Carex versicaria* (Bladder Sedge), *Prunus avium* (Wild Cherry) in full fruit. The excursion into Cliff Rigg Quarry was very disappointing botanically due to expansion of gorse into the quarry and mountain bike activities. In contrast, the area around the Private Fishing lakes looks promising and in future permission should be sought to study this area in more detail.

The hot weather suited the Buzzards which have been seen in the wooded area under the Cook Monument site since the Spring and twice the group had good close views of one of the birds. Additionally several butterflies were observed including a *Celatrina argiolus* (Holly Blue).

One of the objectives of this trip was to assist in recording a flora list for the Great/Little Ayton Parishes. This is a project jointly with the Ayton Wildlife Association and Great Ayton Community Archaeology Project. The list has been collated from members' observations, previous Field Club surveys, and historical data from Baker's book in 1909 and a Yorkshire naturalists' Union field trip to the area in 1913. Observations on this trip of an additional 30 species has boosted the total to 407 species. Prior to this trip 45 species on the Flora had not been seen since 1913; recordings on this excursion reduced this total by 5.

Sunday, 20th July, 10:30 am, leader Peter Waterton Rosedale Abbey

Wednesday, 30th July, leader Vic Fairbrother. Grosmont area.

Two typical plants of railway ash-*Senecio viscosus* (Sticky Groundsel) and *Chaenorhinum minus* (Small Toadflax)- were spotted at Grosmont station. *Physalis alkekengi* (Japanese-lantern), a superb stand of *Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell) and a white-flowered form of Rosebay Willowherb, *Chamerion angustifolium* f. *album* were found by the path adjacent to the railway. By the River Esk were *Claytonia sibirica* (Pink Purslane), *Galeopsis bifida* (Bifid Hemp-nettle) and *Mentha arvensis* (Corn Mint). Near the car park at Grosmont were *Verbascum nigrum* (Dark Mullein), *Inula conyzae* (Ploughman's Spikenard) and *Pimpinella major* (Greater Burnet-saxifrage).

Saturday, 9th August, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn Sykes House, north of Fadmoor.

A detailed report from this meeting will appear in YNU publications in due course.

Sunday, 31st August, leader Malcolm Birtle. Hurworth Burn.

There were many roses by the old railway. *Rosa canina* (Dog-rose) and *R. mollis* (Soft Downy-rose) were common. *R. sherardii* (Sherard's Downy-rose), *R. caesia* ssp *caesia* (Hairy Dog-rose) and *R. caesia* ssp *vosagiaca* (Glaucous Dog-rose) were occasional. *R. X dumalis*=*R. canina* X *R. caesia* was common, this hybrid being very common in parts of northern England. There was one very convincing bush of *R. X molletorum*= *R. canina* X *R. mollis*, one inflorescence actually showing each type of hip. The hawkweed *Hieracium sabaudum*, exhibiting forms with dense simple hairs and with very few simple hairs on the phyllaries, was common. Other plants by the railway included *Galeopsis bifida* (Bifid Hemp-nettle), *Hypericum X desetangsii*=*H. perforatum* X *H. maculatum*, (Des Etangs' St John's wort), *Silaum silaus* (Pepper Saxifrage) and *Lepidium campestre* (Field Pepperwort). Two willowherb hybrids, *Epilobium X subhirsutum*=*E. hirsutum* X *E. parviflorum* and *E. X limosum*=*E. parviflorum* X *E. montanum*, growing in ditches by the side of the railway were found. Determination of these hybrids was confirmed by G. D. Kitchener. *Persicaria amphibia* (Amphibious Bistort) was common in the reservoir, and *Rorippa palustris* (Marsh Yellow-cress) and *Chenopodium rubrum* (Red Goosefoot) were growing at its northern edge.

Inachis io (Peacock), *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue), *Autographa gamma* (Silver Y), *Cynthia cardui* (Painted Lady), *Polygonia c-album* (Comma), *Lasiommata megera* (Wall), *Hydraecia micacea* (Rosy Rustic), *Anthophila fabriciana* (Nettletap), *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral) were all observed. The ground beetle *Carabus nemoralis* was seen.

The variety of birds seen was rather disappointing but included Swift, Tufted Duck, Ruddy Duck, Great Crested Grebe with young, Ruff on a scrape east of the old railway, Snipe, Herring Gull, Black Headed Gull, Grey Heron, Swallow, House Martin, Curlew and Wigeon.

Frog was the only amphibian encountered

Saturday, 27th September, leader Malcolm Birtle, Crag Wood

The party left Duck Bridge, walked up to and east through Crag Wood, then across the valley to Houlsyke and back to Duck Bridge via the upper road on North side of valley. Bedugar Galls were seen on rose bushes in the hedges. Few birds were recorded but Swallows were active, Green Woodpecker was calling, and a Kestrel was soaring around. The wood has a good mix of trees including Alder, Mountain Ash, many impressive large Holly trees, both Silver Birch and Downy Birch, Pendunculate Oak, Hazel, Ash, Hawthorn, Sycamore, and Crab Apple. Sulphur Tuft and Honey Fungus were identified. Evidence of Mole was found. The only butterfly reported was *Lycaena phlaeas* (Small Copper). A number of interesting plants were found including *Polygonum hydropiper* (Water Pepper), *Ranunculus hederaceus* (Ivy Leaved Crowfoot), and *Gnaphalium uliginosum* (Marsh Cudweed). Obvious ferns were *Blechnum spicant* (Hard Fern), *Dryopteris affinis* (Scaley Male Fern), *Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady Fern), and *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken).

Beside the main road into Houlsyke was a *Malus domestica* (Apple) tree, which provided abundant excellent apples. Around Houlsyke were bushes of *Rosa mollis* and Sycamores with abundant *Rhytisma acerinum* (Tar Spot).

Saturday, 11th October, leader Andy Astbury. Bilsdale/Bransdale

Cockayne, at the head of Bransdale, in particular the area immediately to the west of Hodge Beck, was visited. Here many relics of Victorian planting remain, fitting well into the natural countryside. *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Ostrich Fern) and the shrub *Photinia davidiana* (Stranvaesia) were found. Large stands of *Lysichiton americanus* (American Skunk-cabbage) and *Gunnera* (Giant Rhubarb) were thriving well.

Saturday, 25th October, leader Alf Rout. Goathland area.

It is of note that throughout the day over 60 plants in flower were recorded. The colony of *Equisetum hyemale* (Dutch Rush), near the bottom of the path to Mallyan Spout, was admired. *Mentha X piperita* var. *citrata* (Eau de Cologne Mint) was escaping from the long-abandoned garden of Murk Esk cottage.

***Epilobium* (Willowherb) hybrids found in South Durham and North Yorkshire**

Vincent Jones

On August 9th, 2001 I discovered a field situated near Skelton in N. E. Yorkshire, V. C. 62, GR NZ 6519. The northern and eastern boundaries of the field were respectively the A174 and the Cleveland Way footpath. The field had clearly been recently disturbed earlier in the year but now was a mass of thousands of willowherb plants. These plants were studied on this and a subsequent visit the following week. *E. tetragonum* (Square-stalked Willowherb) was abundant, *E. hirsutum* (Great Willowherb) and *E. parviflorum* (Hoary Willowherb) common, and *E. montanum* (Broad-leaved Willowherb) occasional. Five out of the six possible hybrid combinations from the above parents were found, each with several plants. These were

E. hirsutum X *E. parviflorum* = *E. X subhirsutum*

E. hirsutum X *E. montanum* = *E. X erroneum*

E. hirsutum X *E. tetragonum* = *E. X brevopilum*

E. parviflorum X *E. montanum* = *E. X limosum*

E. montanum X *E. tetragonum* = *E. X haussknechtianum*

Another willowherb hybrid was found in the field. This looked typical *E. obscurum* X *E. ciliatum* which is a common hybrid, but the presence of abundant *E. X tetragonum* (rare in northern England) and the immediate absence of *E. obscurum* (a common plant) would indicate the strong possibility of the much rarer cross. It was felt that the plant could not be precisely determined and could only be recorded as

E. tetragonum or *E. obscurum* X *E. ciliatum*

The presence of *E. ciliatum* (American Willowherb) as one of the parents is not surprising, it can often occur as a parent in a hybrid when it does not occur as a species.

Unfortunately this excellent site has now been developed. There are still willowherbs in the vicinity, but it is unrealistic to hope that so many hybrids will reoccur in such a small area.

On August 13th, 2001 I visited Ashdale Quarry near Helmsley, N. E. Yorkshire, VC 62, GR. SE 6184. Three of the most common willowherb hybrids were found.

E. parviflorum X *E. montanum*=*E. limosum*
E. parviflorum X *E. ciliatum*=*E. X floridulum*
E. montanum X *E. ciliatum*=*E. X interjectum*

On August 28th, 2002, in company with Eric Gendle, I found
E. obscurum (Short-fruited Willowherb) X *E. palustre* (Marsh Willowherb)=*E. X schmidtianum*
growing in a marsh north of Arden Hall near Hawnby, N. E. Yorkshire, VC 62, at GR. SE 542927.

On August 10th, 2003 Ian Lawrence and I visited Haverton Hill ponds, Co. Durham, VC 66. At GR. NZ 489227, on wasteland, two plants which, we thought were a good candidate for *E. hirsutum* X *E. obscurum* were found. This has not been positively confirmed, but if it proves to be correct it is a very important find, as doubt has been thrown on all previous records for the British Isles. We soon learned that the site was to be landscaped so a plant was uprooted and I am now growing it in cultivation. Further research will be done.

On August 13th, 2003, again in company with Eric Gendle, I found
E. parviflorum X *E. obscurum*=*E. X dacicum*
growing in a set-aside chalk field near Stonegrave, N. E. Yorkshire, VC 62, at GR. SE656784. Both parents were abundant in the field.

On August 31st, 2003 the Cleveland Naturalists had an outing to Hurworth Burn, Co. Durham, VC 66, led by Malcolm Birtle. In ditches at the side of the disused railway two willowherb hybrids
E. hirsutum X *E. parviflorum*=*E. X subhirsutum*
E. parviflorum X *E. montanum*=*E. X limosum*
were found at GR NZ 408321 and 409347 respectively.

I am grateful to G. D. Kitchener for his confirmation of my determinations, rectifying any errors, his helpful comments and his information, especially concerning the putative hybrid *E. hirsutum* X *E. obscurum*.

Hints for suspecting *Epilobium* hybrids

-Look out for free-flowering plants with many long branches and flowers flushed purple.

-Examine the stigmas. Willowherbs have either 4-lobed stigmas, often appearing like a cross, or entire stigmas (club-shaped). Plants which have intermediate stigmas, looking like a clenched fist, will be hybrids between these two groups. Stigma character is not helpful to detect hybrids within one of the groups.

-The most important character to establish that a willowherb is a hybrid is to check for the presence of abortive seeds. This can only be done late in the season. A typical hybrid capsule will contain some good seeds but will contain a proportion of shrunken seeds, which are sterile. These can usually be detected with the naked eye.

To identify the hybrid a detailed knowledge of the characters of the species of willowherb is essential and to know which other willowherbs are present in the area is very useful. Particularly important, as for parents, is to examine the type and quantity of the hairs present. Also certain leaf characters and the presence of stolons may be inherited from particular parents.

I should be pleased to hear from anyone who thinks that he/she has found a willowherb hybrid.

Black Spleenwort in Cleveland

Alan Bunn

The first record of Black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) was made on May 10th 2001 during a visit of Ian Lawrence's Thursday group to the South Gare. At this time three mature i. E. with sporangia, Black Spleenwort plants were found on the edge of the Cabin Rocks. This species of fern is very widespread in the UK and is often associated with coastal districts. However, it has not previously been recorded on the coast between Whitby and just south of Alswick (Ref.: New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora).

Since the original discovery the author has searched near the original site (Grid Ref. NZ 5568127284) and has found more plants, additionally two new sites have been found. As Black spleenwort fronds are evergreen the plants can be monitored at any time of the year and the current status is:

- September 2001 a mature fourth plant was found nearby to the original site at NZ 5566227261.
- January 2003 a mature plant and a small plant found within a few metres of the original site.
- February 2003 another mature plant discovered on the bank opposite the Pumping Station at Warrenby NZ 5739525282.
- On 27th March 2003, during an Ian Lawrence Thursday group visit, 10 plants were recorded growing on the Mausoleum wall of St. Cuthbert's Church at Kirkleatham at NZ 5942221829.

A summary of sites and plant numbers of Black spleenwort within Cleveland (updated with a January 2004 count) is:

- i) Edge of Cabin Rocks – 5 mature + 6 small plants
- ii) Bank opposite Pumping Station at Warrenby – 1 mature plant
- iii) Mausoleum wall Kirkleatham Church – 6 mature plants + 8 small plants.

Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*) at South Gare – results of 2002/2003 studies.

Alan Bunn and Jean Hellier

In the spring 2002 Proceedings we reported on our study of Moonwort in 2001. Following on from this study we obtained permission from Corus to place cages over the plants and for the past two growing seasons we have erected three wire-mesh supported by wooden post cages around the site which we know as the 'plateau'.

For both growing season cages were erected around the 'plateau' at Grid References:

Cage 1 (C1) ca. 18 in. x 12 in. cage at NZ 5636126249;
cage 2 (C2) ca. 24 in. x 24 in. at NZ 5639726262;
and a large 3 ft. x 5 ft. cage (C3) at NZ 5642426274.
All cages were 18 in. high.

In 2002 the protection cages were erected on May 7th and unprotected areas were marked out nearby each cage site and chosen, where possible, so that the initial numbers of moonwort were similar. Cage 1 lasted less than 5 days before vandals removed it from its site. The number of moonwort in C2 and C3, and their reference unprotected areas were monitored regularly until early July. Area C3 is in the middle of the 'plateau' and has poor vegetation growth, this season produced a maximum of 16 plants, all of which were small: the reference area contained a maximum of 4 plants, which were soon lost to grazing. By early May area C2 and its reference area had approximately 25 and 15 plants respectively which were maintained until the moonwort plants were mature at the end of June. Interestingly there was not a large loss of unprotected plants unlike the previously reported study.

In 2003 we recorded moonwort plants on April 7th, so, on April 10th we erected cages 2 and 3 on the same sites as in 2002 – cage 1 site was too close to a motorcycle route and was not used. Despite this the moonwort growing in the area of area C1 was monitored, however, only ca. 22 plants were observed in the area around C1's position (in 2002 ca. 100 plants were recorded in this same area). Area C3 behaved very similarly to the same area in 2002 with the peak population of ca. 15 plants occurring at the end of May. In contrast to 2002 area C2 behaved very differently with large losses on the unprotected areas. Dates and moonwort counts for C2 and its reference area were:

Dates	10/4	17/4	28/4	3/5	10/5	17/5	26/5	6/6
Area within Cage 2 (C2)	0	2	3	23	40	47	59	30*
Ref. Area near C2	0	0	3	21	6	2	0	0

*the cage had been devastated and moonwort exposed and grazed prior to this date. A few plants, which were exposed through the flattened wire-mesh had had their tops grazed.

The period between the April 28th and May 2nd was very wet with at least three long spells of rain and this seems to have boosted germination of moonwort plants. In the caged area the number of plants steadily increased until the end of May with 59 plants (in 2002 this area peaked at 33): the nearby reference area showed a dramatic decrease because of grazing.

In conclusion, the 2002 and 2003 studies show similar features reported in our previous report. The major effect of a few heavy rainfalls suggests that the concentration of moonwort plants each year will depend upon the wetness of the April / early May period. The presence of moonwort plants on the 'plateau' on April 7th 2003 may indicate that our May 7th date for erection of the cages in 2002 could have been too late. A study which will look for moonwort earlier than early April is planned for 2004. In cage 2 in 2003 the maximum number of 59 plants equates to about 160 plants per sq. m. – this population has an unusual growth pattern as Page (Ref. 1) states that moonwort seldom form dense colonies, and occur more often as scattered individual shoots.

Reference 1. C. N. Page, The Ferns of Britain and Ireland, Cambridge Univ. Press 1982.

Post-script: Rabbit diet May 2003. Moonwort for main course; *Viola canina* for dessert ?

During the course of the 2003 study we found several *Viola canina* on the 'plateau' and at the northern edge of the shrubby seablite growing on what is known as the Lagoon at South Gare. On the 3rd May ca. 275 plants were counted on the plateau and ca. 620 near the shrubby seablite; only a week later a re-count yielded figures of 70 and ca. 90 respectively. We believe rabbit grazing has resulted in this dramatic reduction because i) evidence of the presence of a significant rabbit populations in the two areas – fresh droppings and new scraped shallow hollows and ii) some *Viola canina* which were near to obstacles e. g. large stones, preventing free access to grazing, had been decapitated leaving behind a length of stem (similar observations have been made on the moonwort study). Additionally, on the second visit we observed that a significant proportion of the plants we included in our count were in-bud and had grown in the previous few days i.e. after the first count was recorded. If allowance were to be made for these in-bud plants the loss of *Viola canina* by grazing would have been more severe than the counts given above indicate.

Although the population of *Viola canina* at South Gare is inherently reasonably high, because of rabbit grazing, the number of plants observed on a particular visit will be very time dependent and will inevitably be much lower than the actual population present.

Moths from Greenabella Marsh, Seaton Road, Teesside, in 2003

Peter Waterton, Great Ayton, N. Yorks.

(The following records were made with access permission from Huntsman Tioxide, Teesside). Records are from two locations on the marsh.

(NZ 5126)

Bradley Number	Genus	Species	Name	Food Plants	Comments	Numbers
14	<i>Hepialus</i>	<i>humuli</i>	Ghost Moth	Grasses, Polyphagus	Common	1
15	<i>Hepialus</i>	<i>sylvina</i>	Orange Swift	Dock, Dandelion, others	Common	2
169	<i>Zygaena</i>	<i>filipendulae</i>	Six Spot Burnet	Birds-foot Trefoil	Common	3
170	<i>Zygaena</i>	<i>trifolii decreta</i>	Five-Spot Burnet	Birds-foot Trefoil	Common	2
425	<i>Yponomeuta</i>	<i>padella</i>	Orchard Ermine	Hawthorn, Blackthorn	Common	1
937	<i>Agapeta</i>	<i>hamana</i>		Thistles	Widespread	1
970	<i>Pandemis</i>	<i>cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit Tree Tortrix		Common	1
972	<i>Pandemis</i>	<i>heperana</i>	Dark Fruit Tree Tortrix	Polyphagus	Very Common	2
993	<i>Clepsis</i>	<i>spectrana</i>	Cyclamen Tortrix	Saltmarsh Plants	Fairly Common	2
1193	<i>Eucosma</i>	<i>tripoliana</i>		Sea Aster	Local	1
1332	<i>Scoparia</i>	<i>subfusca</i>		Coltsfoot	Regular	1
1388	<i>Udea</i>	<i>lutealis</i>			Abundant	3
1526	<i>Thymelicus</i>	<i>sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper	Grasses		Numerous
1549	<i>Pieris</i>	<i>brassicae</i>	Large White	Crucifers		
1551	<i>Pieris</i>	<i>napi</i>	Green Veined White	Crucifers		
1574	<i>Polyommatus</i>	<i>icarus</i>	Common Blue	Birds-foot Trefoil		3
1590	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	Nettles		1
1591	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>cardui</i>	Painted Lady	Thistles		1
1593	<i>Aglais</i>	<i>urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	Nettles		3
1626	<i>Maniola</i>	<i>jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	Grasses		Numerous
1627	<i>Coenonympha</i>	<i>pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	Grasses		Numerous
1640	<i>Philudoria</i>	<i>potatoria</i>	The Drinker	Grasses		5
1708	<i>Idaea</i>	<i>dimidiata</i>	Single Dotted Wave	Cow Parsley, Bedstraws		2
1713	<i>Idaea</i>	<i>arversata</i>	Riband Wave	Dandelions, Docks etc.	Common	1
1732	<i>Scotopteryx</i>	<i>chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad Bar	Clovers, Vetches	Common	5

1738	<i>Epirrhoe</i>	<i>alternata</i>	Common	Bedstraw,	Common	5
		<i>alternata</i>	Carpet	Cleavers		
1758	<i>Eulithis</i>	<i>pyraliata</i>	Barred	Bedstraw,	Common	1
			Straw	Cleavers		
1765	<i>Cidaria</i>	<i>fulvata</i>	Barred	Wild Roses	Common	1
			Yellow			
1825	<i>Eupithecia</i>	<i>centaureata</i>	Lime-speck	Polyphagous		2
			Pug			
1956	<i>Cabera</i>	<i>exanthemata</i>	Common	Willows,		1
			Wave	Poplar		
2030	<i>Euproctis</i>	<i>similis</i>	Yellow-tail	Hawthorn,		1
				Blackthorn		
2069	<i>Tyria</i>	<i>jacobaeae</i>	The	Ragwort	Scarce	1
			Cinnabar			
2107	<i>Noctua</i>	<i>pronuba</i>	Large		Abundant	3
			Yellow			
			Underwing			
2109	<i>Noctua</i>	<i>comes</i>	Lesser	Grasses		2
			Yellow			
			Underwing			
2112	<i>Noctua</i>	<i>interjecta</i>	Lesser	Ragwort	Scarce	1
		<i>caliginosa</i>	Yellow			
			Underwing			
2123	<i>Diarsia</i>	<i>rubi</i>	Small	Dandelions,	Widespread	3
			Square-spot	Docks		
2130	<i>Xestia</i>	<i>baja</i>	Dotted Clay	Nettles	Common	1
2134	<i>Xestia</i>	<i>xanthographa</i>	Square Spot	Grasses	Abundant	5
			Rustic			
2192	<i>Mythimna</i>	<i>conigra</i>	Brown-line	Grasses	Fairly	1
			Bright-eye		Common	
2198	<i>Mythimna</i>	<i>Impura</i>	Smoky	Grasses	Common	20+
		<i>impura</i>	Wainscot			
2199	<i>Mythimna</i>	<i>pallens</i>	Common	Grasses	Common	5
			Wainscot			
2303	<i>Thalpophila</i>	<i>matura</i>	Straw	Grasses		1
			Underwing			
2321	<i>Apamea</i>	<i>monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	Grasses	Common	3
2322	<i>Apamea</i>	<i>lithoxylaea</i>	Light Arches	Grasses	Common	1
2340	<i>Oligia</i>	<i>fasciuncula</i>	Middle-	Grasses	Common	3
			barred Minor			
2341	<i>Mesoligia</i>	<i>furuncula</i>	Cloaked	Grasses	Scarce	1
			Minor			
2343	<i>Mesapamea</i>	<i>secalis</i>	Common	Grasses	Common	1
			Rustic			
2440	<i>Plusia</i>	<i>putnami</i>	Lempkes	Reeds,	Scarce	2
		<i>gracilis</i>	Gold Spot	Grasses		
2441	<i>Autographa</i>	<i>gamma</i>	Silver Y	Polyphagous	Common	5

**NZ 4621
Bradley
Number**

	Genus	Species	Name	Food Plants	Comments
15	<i>Hepialus</i>	<i>sylvina</i>	Orange Swift	Dandelions, Docks etc.	Common
1076	<i>Olethreutes</i>	<i>lacunana</i>		Polyphagous	Very Common
1304	<i>Agriphila</i>	<i>straminella</i>		Grasses	Abundant
1388	<i>Udea</i>	<i>lutealis</i>		Thistles, Knapweeds	Abundant
1405	<i>Pleuroptya</i>	<i>ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl	Nettles	Abundant
1501	<i>Platyptilia</i>	<i>gonodactyla</i>		Coltsfoot	Common
1526	<i>Thymelicus</i>	<i>sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper	Grasses	
1549	<i>Pieris</i>	<i>brassicae</i>	Large White	Brassicae	
1550	<i>Pieris</i>	<i>rapae</i>	Small White	Brassicae	
1574	<i>Polyommatus</i>	<i>icarus</i>	Common Blue	Birds-foot Trefoil	
1590	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	Nettles	
1591	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>cardui</i>	Painted Lady	Thistles	
1593	<i>Aglais</i>	<i>urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	Nettles	
1597	<i>Inachis</i>	<i>io</i>	Peacock	Nettles	
1615	<i>Lasiommata</i>	<i>megea</i>		Grasses	
1626	<i>Maniola</i>	<i>jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	Grasses	
1728	<i>Xanthorhoe</i>	<i>fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	Crucifers	Common
1839	<i>Eupithecia</i>	<i>succenturiata</i>	Bordered Pug	Mugwort	Local
2107	<i>Noctua</i>	<i>pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	Grasses	Abundant
2134	<i>Xestia</i>	<i>xanthographa</i>	Square Spot Rustic	Grasses	Abundant
2199	<i>Mythimna</i>	<i>pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	Grasses	Common
2274	<i>Xanthia</i>	<i>icteritia</i>	The Sallow	Sallows, Poplars	Common
2353	<i>Luperina</i>	<i>testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic	Grasses	Very Common
2369	<i>Nonagria</i>	<i>typhae</i>	Bulrush Wainscot	Bulrush	Scarce
2440	<i>Plusia</i>	<i>putnami gracilis</i>	Lempkes Gold Spot	Reeds, Grasses	Scarce
2474	<i>Rivula</i>	<i>sericealis</i>	Straw Dot	Grasses	Rare Migrant

Ring Ouzels on the North York Moors. *Vic Fairbrother*

We live in an excellent area for birds. Although the main local focus for birdwatchers in Cleveland is on Teesmouth and the estuary, we are blessed with some other very rich habitats, as work on the new atlas of breeding birds is demonstrating. One such habitat which has a great attraction for me is the expanse of heather moorland situated in the south of the county and which stretches away as far as the eye can see as the North York Moors. This is not an area, which is rich in large numbers of species or large numbers of birds but it is home to some rather special and very rewarding birds. If you visit Guisborough Moor in summer you will soon have a circling escort of anxious Curlews and before long you will be startled by the sound of Red Grouse as they explode into the air from almost under your feet. As peace is gradually restored you may just be able to hear the plaintive piping of nesting Golden Plover and overhead a very distinctive and unique drumming and chipping will have you craning your neck in search of the Snipe wheeling and diving overhead. Another unique sound will alert you and the resident Meadow Pipits to the fact that a pair of Cuckoos is on the lookout for some suitable foster parents. Sadly the appearance of a raptor is much less likely now but you may get a glimpse of a Merlin flashing low over the heather, or perhaps even an occasional Harrier or Short-eared Owl.



It was here in this very special habitat that in 1986 I chanced on the nest of a pair of Ring Ouzel with three young, an unusual breeding record for Cleveland and the start of my particular interest in this little-studied upland bird. The Ring Ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*, is a member of the family of thrushes which breeds in Britain and which includes Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare and Redwing. Superficially similar in appearance, to the much more common Blackbird, the male Ring Ouzel has a striking white gorget whilst the female resembles the female Blackbird but with a pale breast crescent.

There is a very early reference to Ring Ouzels in Yorkshire by Martin Lister of York who in writing to John Ray on 2nd July 1676 said “as to that question of a Heath Throstle, I find that the Ring Ouzel is so called with us in Craven, where there is everywhere on the moors plenty of them.” In his Report of 1844, Thomas Allis found them to be “common on high moorlands” whilst in *The Birds of Yorkshire* (1907), Nelson wrote “as a summer visitant in the wide area occupied by its habitat it is as numerous as it was two centuries ago.”

When the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland 1968-72, was published in 1976, the Ring Ouzel was recorded in 780 10 km squares and the population was estimated as 8,000-16,000 pairs.

By 1993 when the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland 1988-91, was published, the Ring Ouzel was recorded in only 573 squares, a contraction of 27% in 20 years. The population estimate then was 5,500-11,000 pairs.

Concern over these findings led the RSPB to establish the Ring Ouzel Study Group and also to organize a special survey of breeding Ring Ouzel in 1999. The results of this sample survey indicated a population of between 6,155-7,547 pairs, placing the species at the lower end of the range of 5,000-11,000 pairs estimated in the last atlas. Of even more concern was the revelation that 40% of tetrads, which held Ring Ouzels in the last atlas did not have them in this survey which had been dedicated to finding Ring Ouzels.

A literature search revealed that there were very few detailed studies available on the Ring Ouzel and it now became clear how little we really knew about a bird, which had once seemed to be quite familiar.

Pentland Hills	SW of Edinburgh	Durman & Poxton	1973-1984
Glen Esk	Angus, Tayside	David Arthur	1992-
Long Mynd	Shropshire	Leo Smith	1994-
Glen Clunie	Grampian	Sim & Rebecca	1998-
Glen Esk Moorfoot Hills	Angus, Tayside Lothian, Borders	Ian Burfield	1998-2001

One of the most interesting studies from a local point of view however was one based on the Yorkshire Dales. In 1935 the father of a 12 year old boy suggested that he “choose a species and try to find out more about it than anyone else.” The young boy chose the Dipper and for several formative years studied this species in Wharfedale. Many years later whilst driving in Coverdale he caught a glimpse of a strange bird and eventually located a Ring Ouzel at its nest. Ian Appleyard then remembered his father’s words and so began a long term study of Ring Ouzels in the Yorkshire Dales. It is a strange coincidence that the Dipper is sometimes known as the Water Ouzel.

His initial area of study included Airedale, Wharfedale, Nidderdale and Wensleydale and in the 15 year study Ian located 353 pairs of Ring Ouzel and 164 nests. From 1984 he decided to concentrate his efforts on to one dale of about 14km square where he located 219 pairs and 136 nests. (5 territories in 1979; 24 pairs in 1984; and 21 pairs in 1991)

Typical habitat was above the tree line, usually above the 250m contour in the Dales. He found that 32% nests were associated with grass and heather slopes; 29% in gullies and gorges; 23% on crags; 5% in quarries; 5% in walls and buildings; 4% on tracks and cuttings; and 2% in potholes and shafts. Male birds were the first arrivals from their wintering grounds in Morocco and Spain, the earliest record being 15th March and the average being 25th March. The females usually arrived from 26th March. First clutches were laid in the second half of April and second clutches at the end of May or beginning of June. Average clutch size in the Dales was 3.93; incubation period was 12.8 days; nestling period was 12-14 days and the average brood size was 3.6. Predation varied in accordance with the level of game keeping activity from a normal level of 20% to the worst level of 62%.

Ian found that double brooding was far more common than previously reported. In the best season, 73% had two broods, including 2 pairs with triple

broods. He also found that he could detect a local dialect in the calls and songs of his Dales population.

A wide variety of factors had been suggested as possibly contributing to the decline in numbers and range of Ring Ouzels breeding in Britain.

1. Agricultural changes including both overgrazing and under grazing.
2. Varying effects of afforestation.
3. Increased recreational disturbance.
4. Effects of pollution.
5. Competition and predation.
6. Problems on wintering grounds and on migration routes.
7. Climate change.

The Burfield PhD study focused on increasing our knowledge about the species' breeding ecology and habitat requirements in Britain. A comparative approach was used to examine potential differences in the breeding biology and reproductive success of two contrasting populations in Scotland, one stable and one declining. Detailed habitat requirements on the breeding grounds were quantified and the possible impacts of land use changes were also assessed.

The study failed to reveal any differences between the two populations that could be implicated in causing declines. The key findings were that both populations experienced high levels of nesting success and productivity. Nestlings grew at comparable rates and they appeared to fledge in similar condition. Earthworms dominated nestling diet in both areas. Birds in both areas preferred to site their nests in mature heather on steep slopes, particularly in stream gullies or on crags. Foraging adults typically collected food for chicks in areas of short grazed pasture and intimate grass and heather mosaics usually within 100-400 m of the nest. Ungrazed areas and conifer plantations were avoided. If land use had caused the decline, then loss of nesting habitat, or foraging habitat, or the moorland mosaics that have these sufficiently close together are likely factors. The main changes have been in grazing pressures and afforestation.

Priorities suggested for further work included:

- Determine the optimum sward length and mosaic structure for foraging birds.
- Investigate the importance of bracken for breeding Ring Ouzels.
- Investigate the species' ecology and survival during the post-breeding season.
- Encourage the establishment and continuation of other local studies.

I was becoming interested in the status of the Ring Ouzel on the North York Moors when in 1998 I attended the Raptor and Upland Bird Conference at Durham University and heard an excellent talk by Chris Rollie on the decline in numbers of the Ring Ouzel and the work done by Ian Appleyard and others. As a result I joined the Ring Ouzel Study Group, which meets in Penrith and it was here that I met Kendrick Hutchinson who in 1999 had begun to survey the Ring Ouzels in Farndale, Rosedale and Northdale in the North York Moors National Park. Although there were annual records, mainly coastal, of passage migrants on their way north through Yorkshire to their Scandinavian breeding grounds, there were only a few occasional records of Ring Ouzels breeding in the North York Moors. We agreed that it would be useful if I could make an initial check of the north and west of the moors in

2000 whilst Ken continued his studies in the south, so that we could begin to get a clearer picture of the overall numbers and distribution of breeding Ring Ouzels on the North York Moors.

Continuing the strategy implemented by Ken, the 300 metre contour was marked on the 1:25,000 maps of the North York Moors and a series of searches from public rights of way in the vicinity of this contour was commenced with particular attention being paid to steep sided gills. This was obviously a huge area to survey and often not very easy of access. In addition no fieldwork was possible during 2001 due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. However by the end of the 2003 breeding season we had located Ring Ouzel territories in 38 tetrads (2x2 km). In 2003 we had decided to concentrate our main effort on locating and studying nest sites in Rosedale in an effort to better understand their local breeding ecology, to obtain more detailed information on local breeding success and how it relates to habitat. We also wished to make detailed comparisons with the findings of the other surveys, and so be able to contribute to the development of conservation recommendations. As a secondary exercise, we would continue to try and build up as complete a picture as possible of the overall extent of the Ring Ouzel populations on the North York Moors in order to provide a baseline from which the status of local Ring Ouzels could be monitored.

Sixteen Ring Ouzel territories were identified in Rosedale during 2003 and seven nests were located. Ground nesting birds can be very vulnerable and a female Ring Ouzel was seen attacking a Kestrel hovering over its territory and a Merlin was also seen in the dale. There were also several sightings of stoats hunting in the area. One nest with 4 eggs was predated at the egg stage, whilst the young from another nest were taken possibly by weasel seen hunting in the area. A nest with an un-hatched egg and one chick was found to be empty one week later and the young from another nest were thought to have been lost following disturbance by a dog.

Despite these problems with predators eleven young were successfully fledged from three of the located nests and seven of these young were ringed and it will be interesting to see whether any of these survive to return to the area in 2004.

Recordings of three Rosedale Ouzels were made by Dave Stemple in April and these enable interesting dialect comparisons to be made with recordings from Glen Esk and Glen Clunie in Scotland and also from Derbyshire.

At the end of the breeding season habitat surveys were carried out in the vicinity of the located nests. Eight transects radiating out from the nest sites for a distance of 200 m were sampled at 25 metre intervals and % cover of different types of vegetation was recorded. The height and type of vegetation at the actual nest sites was also recorded along with the aspect, gradient and altitude. These results will be compared with the findings from Glen Clunie, Glen Esk and from the Yorkshire Dales.

These are the very early stages of what it is hoped will be a long term study, but already the number of tetrads in which Ring Ouzels have been recorded between 1999-2003 confirms that the population on the North York Moors is not an insignificant one. It is also distinctive in being the most easterly population in the UK and in being rather isolated from the other centres of population. The Ring Ouzel is one of our least studied species and

there remain large gaps in our knowledge of the species ecology providing ample scope for further rewarding study.

Any records from members of casual sightings of Ring Ouzels in Cleveland and the North York Moors would be gratefully received.

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Canon Atkinson's Observations on the Ring-Ouzel or 'Moor Blackbird' *Malcolm Birtle*

In his 'Forty Years in a Moorland Parish' Canon Atkinson made some observations on the Ring Ouzel in the context of birds raiding his fruit garden. His description of attitude towards ownership of gardens by birds may be familiar to readers. Note the numbers of birds referred to and their feeding habit.

' .But the moor blackbird or ring-ousel is the bird of all birds to "walk into" your fruit of the berry sort. I do not know for certain that birds do blush, or else I should say he is the most unblushing, the most unabashed of all possible delinquents in the fruit-stealing and wasting line. His effrontery exceeds that of the Irish member of fiction, of caricature even. The blackbird flies away when caught in the act with a startled cackle; the thrush retires with an apologetic cheep. But the moor blackbird-always a past master in birds' Billingsgate-swears at you, calls you all the choicest names in his repertory, blackguards you for interfering with his meal, and if forced to make himself scarce, does so with the assurance emphatically delivered and repeated that "you are no gentleman". I have sometimes ventured to represent to them that I thought I had a little right in my own garden, even if it was only to see what sort of a feed they were getting. They flatly and insultingly declined to see it. I suppose it must have been the rankling of their contumelious treatment of me which

always made me gloat with a fine sense of compensation obtained, whenever one of them fell a victim to my avenging gun.

Some years large numbers of these birds are produced on our moors. Sometimes I have seen them, when out with my gun, well on into September, in flocks of some hundreds together. This would be of course at their commencing stage of their making ready to “flit” at the accustomed “term”. If it so happens that there is a plentiful harvest of bilberries, it is very seldom we see them in the gardens very early. Nay, even our common blackbirds go up on to the moors to share in the feast, when it so befalls. During this past autumn I have seen the plainest evidence that foraging parties of blackbirds had gone from the very center of the dale, and had not come away empty. If any one suggests that there is no reason why blackbirds, and thrushes too, should not have the occasional picnic on the moors as well as what the Sufflok people used to call “humans”, I have nothing to say against it, except that I think they must picnic every day of the week, for ten or fifteen days together.

When the bilberries are exhausted, then down come the moor blackbirds; and if they are left alone, they show that bilberries are better appetizers than sherry-bitters, or even than the boasted solan. I have literally seen them fifty at a time in this garden, on occasions when they had been left undisturbed for two or three days. It is then that they resent so bitterly and so abusively your intrusion upon their refreshment room. After the somewhat precarious time in the gardens is over, and that much-grudged supply is exhausted, they fall back upon the berries of the mountain-as or rowan-tree, and as these trees are fairly abundant throughout the district, there is usually a fair board spread for their enjoyment during the greater part of the period they have yet to spend in the haunts of their callow-hood.....’

Extract from ‘*Forty Years in a Moorland Parish Reminiscences and researches in Danby in Cleveland*’, Rev. J.C. Atkinson, 1st ed. 1891 , 1908 reprint Macmillan, p.320.

Perhaps the availability of bilberries in quantity may be the key to promoting the conservation of Ring Ousels? I would certainly support all efforts towards this aim, being a passionate believer in the merit of unlimited supplies of bilberry pie!

Postscript: I would be interested to know who ‘*the Irish member member of fiction*’ was and what ‘*contumelious treatment*’ consists of, not being a conisseur of Victorian literature and attitudes. I also do not recommend the good Canon’s means of bird control given the current state of Ring Ouzel’s populations.

In Search of the Winter Heliotrope *Ian Lawrence*

On Saturday February 7th 2004, an expedition was made into Saltburn Valley Woods hoping that, after a spell of mild and wet weather we would find Winter Heliotrope (B.F.F. 288/2) in flower so that I could video it for my 2004 filming programme. I had received reports that it was flowering way back in early January so my fingers were crossed.

I was accompanied by my friend Martin Harland and his 11 year old son Josh who had been primed by me in what to look for. We had made three attempts to get there and as Josh is limited to weekends we had been prevented and frustrated by very adverse weather conditions. So, on this 4th attempt we set off on a rather chilly, breezy day, and in between showers into a not too inviting valley.

However, Josh was all geared up, not only with warm clothes, but with a copy of B.F.F. (see below) and a checklist of early flowering plants for him to spot if they were to be seen. He was bursting with enthusiasm to find the target plant I had made for that day. I was not all that optimistic but prepared him to perhaps just see dead plants, but he was keen that I should be awarded with something worth filming.

We followed the Skelton Beck, along which I knew the plant grew, when I came across an Alder tree in full flower (B.F.F. 358/2). The male catkins were waving in the chilly breeze just waiting to be photographed. So out came my video camera and aimed it at the mass of flowers when I heard my name called out in full voice, which echoed through the valley. "Ian! I've found it". He was around 50 metres away, his eyes staring at a plant he had been primed to see for the past several weeks. There they were. Although not at their best, he had found them and could hardly contain himself. There they were on the banks of the fast flowing stream. He was then slightly disappointed when he realized they were really not photo-worthy. But, quite undaunted, he said there must be some more further along. He was right. Nestling in the shelter of a small fence to keep the bank side stable was a real beauty in flower!

His delight was greater than mine, which was was also quite high as it did make a good shot.

Now fired with enthusiasm he asked, "Will there be anything else to find?" Hoping also for more ticks on his checklist. "Well", said I, looking around at the bleak winter landscape, "a plant called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob used to grow over there by the stream, but it doesn't look as though it will be there now".

I pointed down to a very muddy area, which looked as though it had been recently flooded by the angry-looking stream. There were many large, and battered looking leaves which may well belong to the plant in question. It did not look hopeful.

Josh asked where was its picture was in the book and so I showed him the rather strange pointed blue flowers in the picture. So, much to his dad's concern, he plunged himself into the mire which surrounded the leaves (even I was ready to pull him back) when another exclamation from Josh. "Uncle Ian, there IS something blue down here!" So I, just as eager as Josh, followed him

down into the mud, and there, sure enough, was a clump of the pale blue flowers of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Martin then spotted more on the other side of the mass of leaves. So, regardless of where I was standing, then crouching, I aimed my camera at a plant I had not really expected to see in flower that day and with Josh's help in keeping back the surrounding vegetation which I did not want in my picture, I got another good shot on this cold February day. Two "target" plants in one go!

Josh was elated, out came his checklist and it was duly ticked off, and with much pride because I had not included it in the days expedition.

"Anything else?" he asked. After much thought I said "You may find Dog's Mercury (B.F.F. 168/7) which is plant 22 on your checklist".

Well, only a few metres away he pointed to a group of folorn-looking plants, which turned out to be female plants not yet in flower. At this stage Josh was not aware that Dog's Mercury has its male and female flowers on separate plants. That one could not be counted as it was not yet in flower (rules of the Wildflower Society) but I told him that where there were females there should be males not far away and they would be in flower (opportunities here for later lessons on the sex life of plants!)

I have never seen anyone search so avidly in the nearby scrub. Armed with its picture he found one not at its best but nevertheless good enough for him (and the points value it was worth) finding a 'first of the year'.

In his haste to find a male Dog's Mercury he skipped over a couple of species which he thought were just 'weeds'. I did explain that 'weeds' were all part of nature's set-up and had their value. I must admit that the Groundsel did look rather pathetic and perhaps later taller plants in full flower may be more attractive.

We had to very quickly skip over Shepherd's Purse and Hairy Bittercress, two little plants with small white flowers which would warrant better attention when they were better developed and he would be able to see the different types of seed pods they both produced. Just then they both looked like little white weeds.

After the male Dog's Mercury was ticked off we made our way towards the car. But there was yet one more plant he cleverly spotted and I had not expected just then, and that was one Lesser Celadine. When I named it for him he opened the book to check if the flower and the picture matched. Yes they did, and that was one more to his first ever venture into the world of wild plants (B.F.F. 24/5).

I must say that, I was still trying to get over the after effects of a feverish cold and was not relishing going out on that chilly day, I thoroughly enjoyed that expedition into Saltburn Valley and even felt the better for it. It must have been Josh's tremendous enthusiasm to find plants he had never seen before or even heard of.

All I can say is "Well done Josh". At that rate of enthusiasm and good spotting eyes I feel that he will make a good naturalist and hope that he will, as he grows up, play a vital part in the conservation of our plantlife and all the wildlife that goes with them. Not many of our young people are geared up for that sort of thing these days.

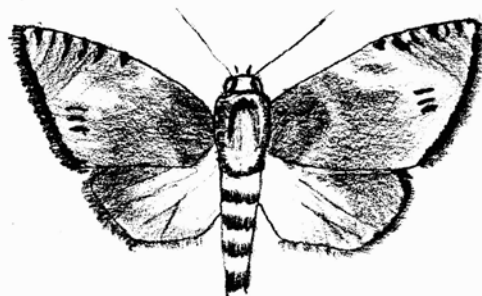
I will look forward to seeing him in action again. He certainly has the right enthusiasm for it.

B.F.F. stands for Blamey, Fitter and Fitter who, together, have produced the latest pocket guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. A Domino book published by A & C Black. A well illustrated guide costing £16.99. The numbers following B.F.F. refer to the page followed by the plant number.

Cydia succedana (Light Striped Edged Piercer)

Malcolm Birtle

A nice warm day in Summer. Gorse in flower, the air filled with the smell of biscuits. Of course, Gorse does not have to wait for summer or the sun to flower, only for kissing to be in season. However, when next you are lazing in sunny fields in summer enjoying the fragrance of the Gorse have a closer look. Perhaps there is a swarm of pale coloured, small moths fluttering around the bushes. If so, it is very likely to be *Cydia succedana* (Light Striped Edged Piercer). This moth is one of the so-called micromoths (microlepidoptera). The micromoths have a reputation for being hard to identify, requiring close examination. Although some are very hard to identify, by the same token, some of the larger moths (macrolepidoptera) are as well. Anyone who has attempted to identify a Pug, or one of the many 'Rustics', will testify to the difficulties. However, as with the 'macros', some of the 'micros' are easily identifiable and are encountered on our field excursions. Quite a number of micros are host plant specific and so are worth seeking wherever their foodplant is found in abundance. *Cydia succedana* is one such moth.



The larva (caterpillar) feeds in Gorse seedpods. The 'adults' (imago) emerge in May and the males swarm around Gorse in the sunshine. The females generally remain at rest during the day and emerge towards sunset. They are common in northern England and are very likely to be seen wherever Gorse is found. Individuals are 'micro' with a 12-16 mm wingspan and alone do not present an impressive appearance. However, they are rarely alone, and when in hundreds, which they commonly are, present an interesting phenomenon. Have a look on the outings this year and let me know if you encounter this moth for inclusion as records for next year's Proceedings.

Butterfly Conservation, Priority Moth Species 2004

*Terry Coult, Durham Wildlife Trust, Rainton Meadows, Chilton Moor,
Houghton le Spring, Tyne and Wear, DH4 6PU.*

Butterfly Conservation is seeking information on the status and distribution of a number of scarce/rare moth species. In the northeast the target species are Argent and Sable (*Rheumapter hastata*), Chalk Carpet (*Scotopteryx bipunctaria*) and Dark Bordered Beauty (*Epione vespertaria*). I have added Least Minor (*Photedes captiuncula*) as it is recorded from sites in common with Chalk Carpet.

I have included all records for each species as a guide to where to look, flight times can be found from field guides but I have included local dates to guide search times. Where possible I have made my best guess suggested search areas and where I know it, contact details for access. Please make sure that if you look for these moths you do not trespass, upset landowners (including multiple phone calls), destroy or degrade habitat or contribute in any way to a decline in moth numbers. A number of sites are open access and several have public rights of way. Some sites such as Newham Fen/Bog have no public access please respect this restriction.

Some of the suggested search sites are SSSIs and certain actions are prohibited. Including the removal of any specimens from the site and any trampling which may damage the ground flora. All specimens must therefore be released at point of capture immediately after identification and searchers should keep to the footpaths. As a general rule, because these species are so rare, no specimens should be collected or removed from any site, proof of identification if needed should be by photograph only.

Suggested search techniques

All of these species can be found by daytime searches of their habitat, with Dark Bordered Beauty also coming to light traps.

Argent and Sable, search small birch (*Betula sp*) saplings in sunny locations, on warm sunny days for this day flying species.

Chalk Carpet, search exposed south facing rock faces on warm sunny days for this day flying species.

Least Minor, watch for it in flight on warm sunny days in the same areas as Chalk Carpet.

Dark Bordered Beauty, disturbed from creeping willow (*Salix repens*) and other willow species during the day. Light trapping, it comes to light late at night and in the early morning.

Records

I would appreciate a record of negative searches as well as positive it helps to understand how much effort is being made to find these species. All positive

records should be submitted for inclusion in the moth database for Northumberland and Durham.

Durham

Taxon	Vernacular	Site	Gridref	VC	Date	Recorder	Suggested search site
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Middleton Quarries	NY945245	65	13 Aug 1976	Ian Findlay	Middleton Quarries
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Hoppyland	NZ0932	66	1846	Rev. E. Blenkinsopp	Knitsley Fell
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Witton le Wear Nature Reserve	NZ1631	66	13 Jul 1997	Birtle, Dr M.	Low Barns Nature Reserve
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	BLANCHLAND	NY9650	66	12 Jul 1930	Unknown	
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Bishop Middleham Quarry	NZ3332	66	1954	Heslop-Harrison, Prof	Bishop Middleham Quarry
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Cassop	NZ3438	66	14 Jul 1956	N.N.U.	Cassop Vale NNR
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Wingate Quarry	NZ3737	66	09 Aug 1978	Sheppard, Dr D.	Wingate Quarry
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Fulwell Quarry Sunderland	NZ3860	66	1966	N.N.U.	Fulwell Quarry Sunderland
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Hawthorn Dene	NZ4345	66	19 Jul 1930	N.N.U.	Hawthorn Hive
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Beacon Point	NZ443455	66	03 Aug 1977	Sheppard, Dr D.	Beacon Point
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Easington Coast	NZ4443	66	18 Jul 1925	N.N.U.	
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Blackhall Rocks	NZ4738	66	07 Jul 1933	Heslop-Harrison, Prof	Blackhall Rocks
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Hawthorn Dene	NZ4245	66	1978	Unknown	Hawthorn Hive
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Seaham Bay	NZ4349	66	1977	Unknown	
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk Carpet	Hawthorn Hive	NZ4446	66	03 Aug 1954	Tom Dunn	Hawthorn Hive
<i>Photedes captiuncula</i>	Least Minor	Bishop Middleham Quarry	NZ3332	66	02 Jul 1989	Woods, Mr R.	BISHOP MIDDLEHAM QUARRY
<i>Photedes captiuncula</i>	Least Minor	Blackhall Rocks	NZ4738	66	1982	Unknown	Blackhall Rocks
<i>Photedes captiuncula</i>	Least Minor	Sherburn Hill	NZ346419	66	1945	Unknown	Sherburn hill
<i>Photedes captiuncula</i>	Least Minor	Thrislington Plantation	NZ3132	66	1982	Unknown	

Northumberland

Taxon	Vernacular	Site	Gridref	VC	Date	Recorder	Suggested search site
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	06 Aug 1925	Unknown	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	22 Jul 1964	Long, A.G.	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	01 Aug 1998	Cook, Mr N.	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	1985	Unknown	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	28.7.87	Nick Cook	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Redpath and Fallowlees	NZ0092	67	30 Jul 1952	Heslop-Harrison, Prof Captured female amongst Salix aurita, NZ028937	Fallowlees SSSI
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	26 Jul 1983	PARRACK, Dr J.D.	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Learmouth Bog	NT867376	68	1863	Lamb Mr	English Strother Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Newham Bog	NU1728	68	29 Aug 1890	BOLAM, Mr G.	Newham Bog
<i>Epione vespertaria</i>	Dark Bordered Beauty	Kirkwhelpington	NY998845	67	8.8.96	Joyce Keating	
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Detchant Wood	NU070370	68	1928	BOLAM, Mr G. On west side of wood where moor is fringed with bog myrtle.	Holburn Moss
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Hepburn Bell	NU054240	68	1928	BOLAM, Mr G.	Hepburn Bell
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Hexham	NY9363	67	1928	Maling W	
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Dipton Woods	NY970615	67	1985	Unknown	
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable	Dipton Woods	NY970615	67	22 Sep 1956	Heslop-Harrison, Prof	
<i>Photedes captiuncula</i>	Least Minor	Arcot Hall	NZ2475	67	1985	Tim Melling	
<i>Photedes captiuncula</i>	Least Minor	Newton Links	NU2424	68	1960	Unknown	Newton Links

Suggested search sites, priority moth species 2004.						
Name	Species	Grid Ref	Access	Landowner	Contact details	Telephone No.
Fallowles Burn, Harwood Forest, Fallowles SSSI.	Dark Bordered Beauty	NZ032937	Public footpath, private land, SSSI	Forestry Commission, National Trust, Northumbrian Water	FC. Jonathon Farries, NT. Warden Richard Dickinson, NT tenant farmer Geoff Paxton, NW	RD. 01670773604
Middleton Quarries	Dark Bordered Beauty	NY945245	Arrange through Sam Ellis at Butt.con.	Strathmore Estates		
Newham Bog	Dark Bordered Beauty	NU1728	None	English Nature, closed NNR	Sarah Cole, EN. Stocksfield	01661845500
Fulwell Quarry	Chalk Carpet	NZ3859	Open access	LNR		
Beacon Point	Chalk Carpet	NZ443455	Public footpath, private land	National Trust	NT. Dennis Rooney	01915279190
Cassop Vale	Chalk Carpet	NZ3438	Public footpath, private land, NNR, SSSI	English Nature, NNR	EN. John Hope	01915860004
Sherburn Hill	Chalk Carpet	NZ346419	Public footpath, private land, SSSI	Peter Gibson, Sherburn Farm, Sherburn, DH6 1HB	Dave Mitchell, English Nature, Peter Gibson	DM 01661845500
Dipton Woods	Argent and Sable	NY9660	Public Footpath	FC		
Holburn Moss	Argent and Sable	NU050364	Via Northumberland Wildlife Trust, public footpath	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Duncan Hutt	01912846884
Knitsley Fell	Argent and Sable	NZ096346	Public footpath, private land, common	Three private landowners.	Gamekeeper Michael Gibson, Head Keeper Sep Fawcett	
English Strother Bog	Dark Bordered Beauty	NT867376	Private land	J. Hayward	J. Hayward, Flodden Farm, East Leamouth.	
Low Barns	Argent and Sable	NZ1631	Footpaths only	Durham Wildlife Trust	Mark Richardson	01915843112
Blackhall Rocks	Chalk Carpet	NZ4738	Footpaths only	Durham Wildlife Trust	Mark Richardson	01915843112
Hawthorn Hive	Chalk Carpet	NZ4446	Footpaths only, dangerous site	Durham Wildlife Trust	Mark Richardson	01915843112
Thrislington Plantation	Least Minor	NZ3132	NNR, SSSI, public footpath	English Nature	John Hope	01915860004
Wingate Quarry	Chalk Carpet	NZ3737	Open access, LNR, SSSI	Durham County Council		

Update of 'A Guide to the Wild Flowers of Cleveland'

Pat Wood

In 1994 Ian Lawrence's book "A Guide to the Wild Flowers of Cleveland" was published by Cleveland County Council. With the help of a number of local botanists the list of plants has now been updated and Dave Barlow has put this on the Cleveland Naturalists' Club web site. The address is <http://clevelandnats.org.uk/> and the documents can also be found at http://www.thevasculum.com/cnats/cleveland_naturalists.htm This list covers the plants recorded in Ian's book and additional plants recorded until 2002.

Listed below are the plants that have been recorded since 2002. The aim is to update these each year and put them in the Club's Proceedings. Alan Bunn has offered to take on this task and all new records should be sent to him at 16, Primrose Court, Guisborough TS14 8ED, by the end of December each year. Please include relevant information-

- Grid Reference
- Site Details
- Number of plants
- Associated species
- Native/introduced/casual
- Possible Sketch map of area

We would welcome any additional records from Cleveland that do not appear in these lists. We would also be interested in records of plants from Cleveland that do not appear in these lists. We would also be interested in records of plants from other areas in the North east which have not been recorded in the past.

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and the Wildflower Ark Project at the Botanic Centre in Middlebrough both have Recorder 2003 on their computers. This system has been adopted by many Universities and Naturalists groups throughout the country to monitor the flora of the U.K.. We hope to get as many records as possible into these recorder systems as well as producing a database for the Clubs' records.

Additional Records for 2003

Medicago arabica

Verbascum blateria

Centaurea nemorosa

Spotted Medick

Moth Mullein

Common Knapweed (Narrow Leaved)

Field Meetings 2004

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. Please note that a number of full-day walks taking place on a Wednesday have been introduced as new for the Summer 2004 programme.

by the President

Saturday, 3rd April, 10:30 am, leader Vincent Jones. ☎ 01642 722814

SE744858. Meet by the village green in **Sinnington**. There should be ample parking. An easy walk, with some intervals of gentle climbing, of about 5 miles. The wild daffodils should be at their best.

Saturday, 17th April, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto . ☎ 01642 599616

SE038993. Meet at Reeth village green. We shall walk via **Fremington Edge to Langthwaite** and return along Arkle Beck, a distance of about 9 miles involving some climbing. There will be opportunities for a shorter walk.

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

SE668756. Meet in **Hovingham**, where there is ample parking. We shall then take some cars to Appleton-le-Street. An easy linear walk.

Wednesday, 12th May, 10:30 am, leaders Norma Pagdin and Joan Bradbury . ☎ 01429 268416

SE012887. Meet at the Visitors' Centre at **Aysgarth**. There is a charge for parking. We shall walk via Carperby to Castle Bolton and back by Aysgarth Falls. A walk of about 6 miles with some easy climbing.

Wednesday, 19th May, 7:00 pm, leader Andrew Ferguson . ☎ 01642 311831

NZ583198. Park in **Wilton** village. Meet at the church. An easy woodland walk.

Saturday, 22nd May, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn . ☎ 01642 583815
SE475971. This is a YNU VC 62 meeting. Meet at the roadside by Chequers Farm. The excursion will be to the **Thimbleby Park Estate**.

Wednesday, 2nd June, 2:00 pm, leader David Barlow. ☎ 01287 634679
NZ570128. Meet in the car park by Roseberry Lane in Newton under Roseberry. We shall explore **Newton Wood**. A short walk, but there may be some climbing at the choice of the party .

Sunday, 6th June, 10:30 am, leader Peter Waterton ☎ 01642 724270
SE637948. There is ample parking by the road verge at the point north Or **Ousegill Bridge**, in Bransdale, as indicated by the grid reference. There will be some moderately steep climbs.

Saturday, 12th June, 2.00 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380
NZ493171. Meet near the 'Endeavour' pub, which is part of the **Tollesby** shopping complex. There is plenty of parking in the vicinity. The meeting place may be best approached along Hall Drive by turning east off Acklam Road. An easy walk.

Wednesday, 16th June, 7:00 pm, leader Jack Marshall ☎01642 315365
NZ668216. Meet in the lower car at **Saltburn** (the site of the old boating lake). An easy walk.

Sunday, 20th June, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547
SE112905. Park in Leyburn. Meet at the war memorial at the top of the market place. We will leave **Leyburn via the Shawl**, a limestone ridge with excellent views of Wensleydale, making our way to Preston-under-Scar and then through Wensley back to Leyburn. A circular walk of about 7 miles with some gentle slopes.

Sunday, 27th June, 10:30am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235
NY793128. Meet initially at the layby on the A685 (Brough to Kirby Stephen road) at Brough Sowerby. The main walk will be along the old railway at **Smardale**, especially the area around Smardale Gill. The walk will be easy. We will then visit **Waitby Greenrigg** nearby, another old railway. These are two very rich sites and the day should be most rewarding. For those intending to visit both sites it may be advisable to bring two meals.

Sunday, 11July, 10.30 am, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01287 633404
NZ740126. Meet at **Scaling Dam** car park near the Sailing Club. An easy circular walk of about six miles in the area north of the main moor road.

Wednesday, 21st July, 10:30 am, leader Peter Waterton ☎ 01642 742270
SE946953. Meet near **Lownorth Bridge**. The walking will be easy and no more than four miles. The area is rich in butterflies and plants.

Wednesday, 28th July, 2:00 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055
NZ173178. Meet in the layby on the **Gainford** to Ingleton road near Hollin Hall. An easy walk on country lanes and field footpaths.

Sunday 1st August, 10:30 am, leader Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744
NZ846131. Meet in the car parking area of **Lythe** village. There will be a circular walk of about seven miles, though there will be several opportunities to shorten. We shall walk from Lythe across farmland to Kettleness, returning along the Cleveland Way coastal path. There will be about 500 ft of climbing in total.

Wednesday, 11 August, 10:30 am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055
NZ206300. Meet at the south end of **Newton Cap** Viaduct. There is ample parking in Bishop Auckland town centre public car parks which are very close to the meeting place. An easy walk.

Wednesday 18th August, 10:30 am, leader Judy Dinwiddie ☎ 01845 537340
SE447952. Meet on the wide verge near Sandpit Lane which is just south of **Thimbleby** Village. The walk will be about five miles and will involve some climbing.

Saturday, 4th September, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616
NZ807161. Meet at **Runswick Bay** top car park. A walk along the shoreline east of Runswick Bay. About 6 miles involving some rocky terrain.

Saturday, 25th September, 2:00 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380
NZ529174. Meet in the car park at the north east end of **Stewart park**. An easy stroll to enjoy the trees in early autumn.

Saturday 2nd October, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114
NZ607093. Park tidily in the village of **Kildale**. A circular walk of about eight miles, involving some climbing, starting from Kildale and taking in the lovely valley of Baysdale.

Saturday, 23rd October, 10:30 am, leader Alf Rout ☎ 01642 818045
NZ781185. Meet in the car park at **Staithes**. The walk will be in the area south of the village. It will involve some climbing and will be 6-8 miles, depending on the choice of the party.

Northern Naturalists' Union Meetings

17th April Plankey Mill 2.00 pm
22nd May Knitsley Fell 2.00pm
26th June Coxhoe 2.00 pm
11th July Bishop Middleham and Wingate Quarry 10.30 am and 2.00
respectively
24th July Harwood Forest, Rothbury 2.00 pm
21st August Whitburn 1.00 pm
11th September Briarwood Banks (North Eastern Fungi Study Group) 11.00
am

Details in 'The Vasculum' and at www.thevasculum.com.

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Meetings

Details are available from John Blackburn 01642 583815, and the 'YNU
Bulletin'

Elgee Memorial lecture

This will be hosted by Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club and will be held in the
Dorman Museum, Friday December 3rd at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Jack
Youdale and the topic 'The Universe around us'.

Winter Meetings Dates

October 4th, 8th
November 1st, 15th
December 6th
January 17th
February 7th, 21st
March 7th, 21st

Web Sites

Cleveland Naturalists

<http://www.clevelandnats.org.uk>

<http://www.davebarlow.co.uk>

Northern Naturalists' Union

<http://www.thevasculum.com>

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

<http://www.ynu.org.uk/>

Durham Wildlife Trust

<http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/durham/DurhamTrust/TrustInfo.html>

Hancock Museum

<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/hancock/>

Natural History Society of Northumbria

<http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk>

Ryedale Natural History Society

<http://www.ryenats.org.uk/>

Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club

<http://www.communicate.co.uk/ne/dtnfc/index.phtml>

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

<http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/teesvalley/>

Teesmouth Field Centre

<http://www.teesmouth.freeserve.co.uk/Website%20Link.htm>

Teesmouth Bird Club

<http://www25.brinkster.com/teesmouthbc/default.asp>

Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club Records Committee.

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/crc/>