

ORKNEY FIELD CLUB.

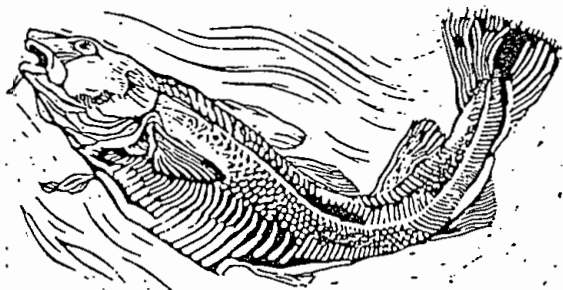
Founded 1959.

Objects: To promote the study and conservation of the natural and cultural heritages of the County.

BULLETIN No. 1:1989



Content	page
Officers, subscriptions.	1
Notice to Contributors.	1
Obituries	1
Chairman's Report.	2
Report of AGM.	3
Archives	6
Biological Recording	7
Northern Studies	8
Fungi Records	9
Insects in Pods	14
Lepidoptera Report & Records	15
Wasps in Orkney	16
Cetacean Report 1987	17
Mammal Records and Notes	19
Bat Report	20
The Ornithological Year	21
Grasshoppers.	26
Dragonflies and Mayflies	28
Woodlice	28
BSBI Monitoring	29
OFC Primula scotica Project	29
Who needs a Field Club?	32
What's in a Name?	33
Junior Activities Reports	35
Junior Activities in 1989	35
Junior Competition	36
Winter Robin Survey	37
WHAT'S ON	39/40.



OFFICERS.

Hon. President. Mr. P. Goria, Pipersquoy, Kirkwall.
Hon. Vice President Miss J. Merriman, 21 Hillside Road, Stromness.
Chairman Miss B. Smith, Don, Outertown, Stromness.
Vice Chairman Mr. M. Hayes, Summerley, Burray.
Treasurer Mrs. M. Eggeling, Stacklebrae, Stromness.
Secretary Miss Andrewina Ross, Outer Dyke, Stenness.
Editor Miss E. R. Bullard, Toftwood, Kirkwall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due on 1st January 1989. Adults £4. Family £6. OAP & Unemployed £2.50.
Junior 50p. Please pay to the Treasurer, address above.

ADDRESS

Written communications ONLY should be made to:-

ORKNEY FIELD CLUB. c/o County Library, Laing Street, Kirkwall.

Material appearing in the Orkney Field Club Bulletin is Copyright.

REMINDERS TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Deadline for Bulletin 2. 1989 is 15th September 1989, a month later than usual. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The present layout of photo-ready copy is 6" x 9" (72 characters by 54 lines.) Graphs, tables etc. must be kept within these limits. Before duplicating the copy is reduced approximately 80%, so if scales are used, remember, they will also be reduced. Contributions on 3" Amstrad floppy disc are welcomed or, of course, typewritten or in legible handwriting.

Illustrations, preferably black and white drawings, are required. especially of mammals (including cetaceans, seals etc.) birds and insects, and small sketches of places in Orkney. These will be reduced to fit within the photo-ready copy.

The Editor cannot accept responsibility for errors and omissions in any item which is not submitted sufficiently long before the deadline to allow draft copy to be returned to contributor for checking.

Obituries.

We regret to report the death of several members including Molly Wylie, and Philip Mankin and we remember with gratitude Wilfie Marr, one of our earliest members who for some years held the keys of the Hoy Hut and who helped the Club with printing from time to time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, a welcome to all new members and especially the juniors. Our membership has been steadily increasing over the year and now I believe we have a larger membership than ever before.

Many of our new members are juniors who through the Youth Activities sub-committee have been active participants of the Club. One aim of my report is to ask for more active participation from members. Many of the sub-committees are seeking new members and recorders. We would also like to know from you what you would like to see developing in the club, such as more fieldwork, outings, meetings, talks etc. The committee would greatly appreciate feedback from you.

This year we are glad to see the appointment of the new Farm Conservation Officer who the club had been pressing for for years. The Field Club is represented on the management committee for the post. We also had a very successful County Show exhibition which displayed the club's aims, objectives and some of its activities. A great deal of organisation and hard work went into that exhibition and I wish to thank the members involved.

More recently a new sub-committee has been set up for biological recording, to complete and store data on Orkney's natural history. It is our intention in the near future to set up another sub-committee for the Bulletin and other publications. The widespread ownership and use of computers will be a tremendous asset to both of these sub-committees.

New improvements have taken place to the club hut in Hoy and to our evening talks. Here we have instituted an earlier starting time to enable us to have refreshments and informal discussion afterwards. If anyone would like to help with the production of the Bulletin, the maintenance of Durkadale and meetings refreshments, please contact any of the committee members.

Lastly I would like to thank my fellow outgoing committee members and especially the secretary, who have made this year for me as chairman a very enjoyable and pleasant one.

Beverly Smith.

January 26th. 1989.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. REPORT.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 26th January 1989 in the Lynnfild Hotel. This venue had been chosen because it gave members a relaxed atmosphere in which to meet and chat after the business. We also borrowed the 8ft Video screen and projector from Stromness Academy and Mr. George McEwan of the Academy kindly came along to set up and operate it. The film shown was "The Flight of the Condor" and indeed it was spectacular to see those most beautiful and interesting sites on such a super screen.

As for the meeting itself, about 26 people attended and apologies were accepted from another 11 members.

The Minutes of the 1988 AGM were amended as follows:-

- (1) that Maurice Hayes and not Andrew Ross was the Vice-chairman.

(2) in the Durkadale Report, "NCC" should have read "RSPB".

There were no other matters arising from them and their adoption was proposed by Elaine Bullard, seconded by Reuben Johnston.

(for The Chairman's Report, see above)'

The Treasurer's Report was circulated and explained by the Hon. Auditor, Mr. James Watson, on behalf of Miss Young. He noted the healthy state of the closing balance and praised the Junior section for their large input in the form of monies raised by grants, etc. He concluded with the general comment that the turnover of accounts had doubled, borne out by the final figure which was over £600 higher than that of 1987.

There were no reports from either the Reserves or Cetaceans subcommittees. Other subcommittee reports were:-

Durkadale. Miss Bullard told the meeting its subcommittee was complete and working well, but the tree nursery work now required was getting beyond it and far more help was needed. Although a black polythene mulch was being used it could not be put in place until some preliminary weeding was done and the weeds were now causing a marked slowing down in the tree growth which had been excellent at first, with astonishingly few losses. She thanked the faithful members of the inspection rota. Through illness etc. there were three gaps in the rota which required filling and if two further names could be added to the total it would run for 15 months, giving each member a change of season over a period of six years.

Walks and Talks subcommittee's report was given by Pat Proctor on behalf of its convener, John Mowat, who was unable to attend. John expressed his confidence that a good variety of topics had been presented and this had drawn good audiences. The October club meeting however had been cancelled because of previous poor attendance, presumably attributable to school holidays. They were always open to suggestions for new topics and for offers of lectures from members. The change of timing to 7.30 had caused slight hiccups at first and requests that refreshments should not be available until after "question time" had been made. Help with refreshments from other members would be welcomed. Walks had been reasonably well attended, and again, ideas would be valuable. Although present subcommittee members would continue to serve, he said anyone else who wished could join with them. He hoped there could be a closer liaison with the full committee in 1988.

Their subcommittee convener, Ralph Faulkner, reported that the Juniors had completed a busy year with Activity Days in Evie during March, to the Broch of Gurness and the Aerogenerators; in May, at Durkadale (tree planting and freshwater ecology), and in September to Swanbister - a sea and shore day with Orkney Diving Club. There were also days in May with the Guide Camp at Aikerness, and the County Show Day, with its publicity display and sale of trees and plants. The highlight of the year had been the weekend in Papay where the school gave over its resources to the Club and worked with the Juniors. John and Kenny McCallum made and donated a badge for the children and made a terracotta model of the Great Auk. This was made into a monument, complete with a bronze plaque. A sponsorship of £25 from Jewsons kindly financed this part of the project. Other generous financial support came from Occidental and the Bank of Scotland. Although the Junior section still owes £200 to OFC reserves, he hoped it

would be paid back very soon. Their last activity for the year was a work/greetings card sent to all Juniors to give them something to do over Christmas. Finally, Ralph Faulkner thanked his team and all the other people who had given help and support in any way.

Publications. The Editor told the meeting that, with increasing membership, Bulletin production work also increases; assembly by members (including the youngest) had saved the Club considerable money. The biggest problem continued to be "deadlines"; a few contributors' failures making forward planning difficult. The Publications subcommittee was anxious to increase its membership so that future new Editors could be found. The use of home computers for "desk top publishing" was making familiarity with word-processing almost a necessity and those who put in their contributions on disc were a great help.

Tom Eggeling informed the meeting that the Research Register had now been superseded by the idea of a Biological Recording system. A subcommittee had been formed to discuss the feasibility of a scheme, design a record card for field work, and the possibility of using a computer for records, so that there would be a centre of information.

Ross Andrew presented the Hoy Hut report - he explained that expenditure had exceeded income this year more than usual because two engraved signs identifying use and contacts had been put in place. In 1988 it had been used for 14 nights by five members. KGS are now using it, at least, one Sixth Former so far. Ross stressed the importance of using the Hut and urged more members to do so.

Maurice Hayes told the meeting that 40 more slides had been added to the Slide Library this year.

The Archives Report was given by Elaine on behalf of Paul Heppleston: he had produced a detailed and comprehensive list of the contents of the archives which will be summarised in the next Bulletin.

There were no other reports and the meeting continued with the election of Officers and new Committee. At this point Beverley Smith handed over the Chair to the Club's President, Mr Pat Gorie, who welcomed all new members to the Club and noted his pleasure at the increased membership. He thanked the outgoing Committee for their work and hoped for an effective new Committee.

Written nominations were received for the re-election of Beverley Smith, Chairman; Maurice Hayes, Vice-chairman; Andi Ross, Secretary and Elaine Bullard, Editor. A seconded proposal was received from the floor for the nomination of Mrs. Megan Eggeling as Treasurer. Written nominations were also received for the election of Ian MacDonald, and the re-election of Ross Andrew, Chris Booth, Tom Eggeling, Ralph Faulkner, Reuben Johnston and David Lea.. There were no additional nominations for either Officers or Committee members so all the above were elected. Mr. James Watson was re-elected Auditor.

The next Annual General Meeting was provisionally set for January 25th, 1990. in Stromness. (someone suggested making it a Burns Night party!).

Any Other Business consisted of a question from Pat Proctor about Bulletin deadlines and programmes. The Chairman replied that these had been discussed in Committee.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing members of the 1988 committee who had not stood for re-election - Ethel Young, Sydney Gauld, Eric Meek and George Wylie -

An award was presented to a Junior member. Various displays and exhibits were available.

The Secretary, Andi Ross, thanks everyone for bearing with her and Jennie.

(Editor's note: Jennie, who is almost certainly the Club's youngest member, behaved impeccably during the AGM.)

O.F.C. Archive Material in Kirkwall Library.

P. Heppleston.

The following summarises the contents of boxes kept in the Archive Room at the Library. Full and detailed lists are with the O.F.C. Secretary, Editor and Archivist.

Box 1. Folder. OFC Beginnings, History, Constitutions.

" Minute Books, 1960 - 81; 1981 - 82.

" OFC Bulletins, 1961 - 86.

Box 2 Egilsay/Wyre trip pages.

Checklist of Vascular Plants of Orkney.

Correspondance from:-

Robert Rendall, Stanley Cursiter, John Shearer, Jo Grimond.

Hardwood Trees - feasibility study.

Correspondance re local records centre.

Register of Orkney Field Research 1977

Papers re Westray Mink Enquiry 1977 - 78

Papers and correspondance re Seal Cull,

1963 - 72

1976 - 78

Booklets of Nat. Hist. Society Northumberland, esp. relating to Farne Islands.

Box 3 Further papers and letters relating to Seal Cull 1978

Seals and Fisheries.

O.F.C. Journal (x2) 1980

Letter to New Members 1980

Inventory of OFC documents and Property, 1980

Correspondance and plan re Durkadale

Durkadale Reserve Management Plan 1986.

These documents are available for consultation within the Orkney Archive Reading Room. Access to the papers is given by the Archivist (Miss Alison Fraser) during opening hours ON PRODUCTION OF OFC MEMBERSHIP EVIDENCE.

The Field Club is starting a biological records centre this year. The concept has been discussed previously but this is the first time that the idea has been put into practice.

The aims of the (Orkney) biological records centre, in common with other local biological records centres, are as follows :

- i) to encourage the recording of plants and animals throughout the County, on land, in freshwater and in the sea.
- ii) to incorporate previous records of animals and plants.
- iii) to operate one centre holding records of individual animals and plant distribution and abundance and of sites of biological interest, accessible to everyone interested in natural history and conservation.

The recording of animals and plants will be carried out by recorders using Field Club Record cards, similar to sample card below for Scottish Primrose, *Primula scotica*.

ORKNEY BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE	
Individual Report Sheet	
SPECIES <i>PRIMULA SCOTICA</i>	PHYLUM <i>PLANTS</i>
	ABUNDANCE <i>RARE</i>
	HABITAT <i>SEDGE HEATH</i>
LOCALITY <i>KELLANHELLIER</i>	REMARKS <i>NEAR CLIFF.</i>
	RECORDER <i>C. B. KENNEDY</i>
NGR <i>219146</i>	
DATE <i>5/8/87</i>	DET. <i>—</i>

The cards will be filed in a cabinet, together with information on sites, and kept in Kirkwall (at present, in NCC office). Large scale maps of the County will also be kept showing the distribution and extent of records for sites of biological interest.

A successful biological records centre will encourage more people to identify animals and plants in Orkney, it will show how the distribution and abundance of living things varies through time, it will encourage the recording of sites of biological interest which are of County (as well as national) importance and it will provide a service for those requiring information on land use.

Field Club members who are interested in recording are encouraged to come along to recorders meetings, to be held this coming season, where identification methods for particular plants and animals and recording using the cards will be demonstrated.

Recorders sub-committee:

Convener, Alison Sutherland. (Work Farm, St. Ola.)

Ross Andrew, Chris Booth, Elaine R. Bullard, Liz Charter and Tom Eggeling,

THE NORTHERN STUDIES CENTRE.

Letter from Mr D Omand, the University of Aberdeen's Extra-mural Department.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to invite the financial support of your authority for a new venture which I hope will be of great benefit to the North of Scotland.

Northern Scotland has a long tradition of interest in its environment and history but there has never been any kind of study institution which could pursue potential economic and educational developments related to the area.

To remedy this situation an institute, to be known as The Northern Studies Centre, has been established to cover Caithness, Orkney and Shetland. It is a charitable trust which will aim to involve local interest and initiative in the pursuit of activities of a practical, scientific and cultural nature. Examples of projects which have been identified to date are as follows:-

- (i) Climatic change in Northern Scotland: influence of the "greenhouse effect" on wild plants and agricultural crops in Caithness and Orkney.
- (ii) Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) evidence in Caithness and Orkney, and comparison with Shetland settlement in the light of new evidence on the Ice Age.
- (iii) Agriculture: land use patterns and rural employment in Caithness, Orkney and Shetland in the context of changing national agricultural and conservation policies.
- (iv) Astronomical investigation of stone settings in Caithness and Sutherland.
- (v) Land ownership in Shetland, from analysis of old records.
- (vi) Investigation of the decline of seabird colonies in Shetland.

The Centre will:

- * encourage research and initiate projects
- * liaise with researchers elsewhere in the UK and other countries to assist research on the northern counties and make the results known in the area
- * establish a database of work published on geology, landscape, plant life, archaeology, history, agriculture, forestry and industry
- * help organise and fund high quality lectures and conferences in the area
- * help with courses relevant to the development of the area, e.g. training for tourism
- * produce an annual publication giving an account of its work and its plans for the future

ORKNEY FUNGI

Tom Eggeling

The following additional records were all determined by Dr Roy Watling [RW] prior to the 21st November 1988.

Collectors (referred to by initials in text):

Mr T.W. Eggeling	TWE	Mr M. Baker	MB
Mr T.A. Rigg	TAR	Mr R.J. Tulloch	RJT
Mr A.J. Eggeling	AJE	Mr K. Fairclough	KF
Mr A.D. Smith	ADS		

ADDITIONS TO LIST: PART I

Suillus variegatus

Under *Pinus contorta* at Lyness Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 29/08/85 [475: RW on 17/12/86]. Under mixed conifers at the Lyrava Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 31/08/85 [507: RW on 17/12/86].

Hygrocybe berkeleyi

In short turf at Billia Croo, Stromness: TAR/TWE on 17/10/83 [57.2: RW on 02/02/87].

H. coccinea

In short turf in fields at Billia Croo, Stromness: TAR/TWE on 17/10/83 [55(1)(1): RW on 02/02/87]. In rough grass at Newark Bay, S. Ronaldsay: TWE on 03/11/83 [55(3)(1): RW on 02/02/87].

H. coccineocrenata

In salt marsh and damp moorland at Rackwick, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 24/08/85 [384: RW on 02/02/87].

H. conica

In rough pasture at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: TWE on 20/11/83 [166(1)(1): RW on 02/02/87]. In *Sphagnum* heath near Sandy Loch, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [217: RW on 02/02/87]. On moorland or rough grassland to the west of Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [343: RW on 02/02/87]. Under *Pinus contorta* at Lyness Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 29/08/85 [472: RW on 02/02/87].

H. helobia

In rough grassland and horse pasture beside Sandy Burn, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [372: RW on 02/02/87].

H. nivea

In rough grassland at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: AJE on 02/11/83 [57(3)(2): RW on 02/02/87].

H. pratensis

In rough grassland at Newark Bay, S. Ronaldsay: TWE on 03/11/83 [58(2): RW on 02/02/87]. In sheep pasture to the east of Bu Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 30/08/85 [483: RW on 02/02/87].

H. psittacina

In rough grassland at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: AJE on 02/11/83 [54(1)(2): RW on 02/02/87]. On heather moorland or rough grassland to the west of Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [338: RW on 02/02/87].

H. quieta

In mown grass lawn at Lyness Naval Cemetery, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 29/08/85 [477: RW on 02/02/87].

H. unguinosa

In short turf by the sea at Howe, Stromness: TWE on 22/10/84 [135(1)(1): RW on 02/02/87].

Hygrophorus nitratus

In salt marsh and damp moorland at Rackwick, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 24/08/85 [379: RW on 02/03/88].

Calocybe gambosa

On Papa Westray, Orkney: RJT in June 1986 [195(2): RW on 24/06/87].

Collybia dryophila

Under partly burnt *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [311: RW on 02/03/88]. Under *Picea sitchensis* and *Pinus contorta* at Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [354: RW on 02/03/88].

C. maculata

Under partly burnt *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [312: RW on 02/03/88].

Flammulina velutipes

On dead wood under bark and on *Ulex* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 24/11/83 and on 19/12/83 [95(1)(1-2): RW on 24/06/87]. On *Salix* at Widedford Burn, St. Ola: TWE on 14/11/84 [95(2): RW on 24/06/87].

Hygrophoropsis aurantica

On *Larix* needles at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 26/09/84 [107(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87]. On windblown moorland at Garth, Stromness: TWE on 14/10/84 [125(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87].

Laccaria proxima

Under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [333: RW on 02/03/88]. Under mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [453: RW on 02/03/88].

L. tetraspora (var. *scotica* Singer)

On sloping bank under *Ulmus glabra* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 20/10/83 [66(1): RW on 24/06/87].

Lepista irina

Under *Larix* on needles and wood chips by wall at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 26/10/83 [70(1): RW on 24/06/87].

L. nuda

In short turf by the sea at Billia Croo, Stromness: TAR/TWE on 17/10/83 [52(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87].

L. saeva

In short turf by old quarry near the sea at Billia Croo, Stromness: TAR/TWE on 17/10/83 [51(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87].

Marasmiellus ramealis

On dead frondose stump at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 20/10/83 [62(1): RW on 02/03/88].

Marasmius androsaceus

On dead heather branches near Berriedale, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [216: RW on 02/03/88]. On needles under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [331: RW on 02/03/88].

M. peronatus

On wet ground near the burn, Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 [110(1)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

Mycena acicula

On mossy limb of living *Acer* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 03/10/84 [119(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87].

M. alcalina

Clustered on dead *Larix* branches at Berstane Woods, St. Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [61(1): RW on 24/06/87].

M. corticola

On dead *Larix* bark at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 14/11/84 [159(1)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

M. epipterygia

On boggy moorland at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: TWE on 10/11/84 [149(1)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

M. fibula

On dead wood at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [434: RW on 02/03/88].

M. filopes

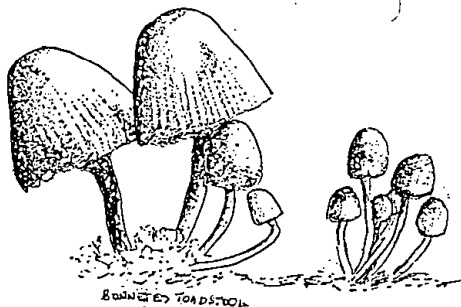
On dead *Rubus* at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 24/10/84 [137(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87]. On dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 28/12/83 [104(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87]. Under *Salix* near Quoys, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [303: RW on 02/03/88]. Under *Acer* and mixed woodland at Melsetter, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [514: RW on 02/03/88].

M. galericulata

Clustered on fallen trunks and stumps at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 20/10/83 and 26/10/83; TAR on 31/10/83; TAR/TWE on 03/11/83; TWE on 10/11/83 [65(1)(1-5): RW on 24/06/87]. Clustered and rooting on *Crataegus* at Wideford Burn, St. Ola: TWE on 14/11/84 [65(2)(1): RW on 24/06/87].

M. haematopus

On dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TAR on 31/10/83 [89(1)(1): RW on 24/06/87].



M. hiemalis

On the inside of peeling frondose bark at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 20/10/83 and TAR on 03/11/83 [64(1)(1-2): RW on 02/03/88].

M. latifolia

On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [397: RW on 02/03/88].

M. leptcephala

Under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [307: RW on 02/03/88]. Under *Picea sitchensis* and *Pinus contorta* at Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [350: RW on 02/03/88].

M. leucogala

On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [391: RW on 02/03/88].

M. oortiana

Under *Acer* and mixed deciduous trees at Melsetter, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [522: RW on 02/03/88].

M. rorida

On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [403: RW on 02/03/88].

M. sanguinolenta

On *Sphagnum* heath beside Hoy Burn, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [226: RW on 02/03/88]. Under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [314: RW on 02/03/88]. Under *Picea sitchensis* and *Pinus contorta* at Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [347: RW on 02/03/88].

M. sepia

Under mixed foreign conifers at the Lyrawa Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 31/08/85 [499: RW on 02/03/88].

M. uracea

On *Sphagnum* heath near Sandy Loch, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [231: RW on 02/03/88]. On short moorland heath at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: TWE on 09/11/84 [146(1)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

M. vitrea

Under *Betula* at Berriedale, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [218: RW on 02/03/88].

Omphalina fusonigra

In *Sphagnum* on year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [402: RW on 02/03/88].

O. oniscus

On wet moorland behind the Dwarfie Stane, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 03/09/85 [532: RW on 02/03/88].

O. pseudoandrosacea

On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [386: RW on 02/03/88].

Oudemansiella mucida

On dead and living branches and trunks of frondose trees, especially *Fagus* at Berstane Woods, St Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [60(1): RW on 02/03/88]; and at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 [60(2)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

Panellus serotinus

On decayed frondose trunks and branches at Binscarth Firth: TAR/TWE on 03/11/83 [85(1)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

Resupinatus trichotis

On decayed *Acer* branches at Berstane Woods, St Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [67(1) and 68(1): RW on 02/03/88].

Leptonia corvina/nigroviolacea

In rough grassland and horse pasture beside Sandy Burn, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [371: RW on 02/02/87]. In salt marsh and damp moorland at Rackwick, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 24/08/85 [382: RW on 02/02/87].

L. sericella

Under *Betula* at Berriedale, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [233: RW on 02/03/88].

Nolanea cetrata

Under *Picea sitchensis* and *Pinus contorta* at Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [357: RW on 02/02/87].

N. leptopus

Under mixed conifers at Lyrawa Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 31/08/85 [500: RW on 02/02/87].

N. staurospora

In pasture at Billia Croo, Stromness: TAR on 24/10/83 [78(1): RW on 02/02/87]. On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [393: RW on 02/02/87].

Cortinarius anomolus

Under *Acer* and mixed deciduous trees at Melsetter House, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [515: RW on 09/05/88].

C. decolorans

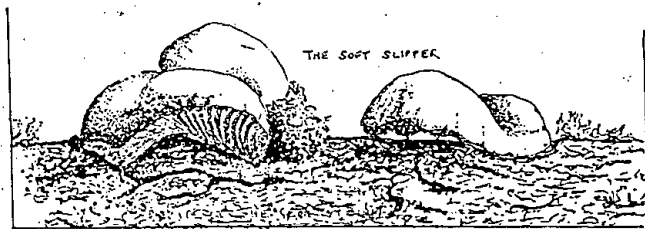
Under mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [451: RW on 18/03/87].

C. tabularis

Under mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [209: RW on 18/03/87] and ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [456: RW on 18/03/87].

Crepidotus cesatii

On frondose wood at Breck Woods, Orphir: TWE on 24/10/84 [132(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87]; and TWE on 27/11/84 [132(1)(2): RW on 18/03/87].



C. mollis

On decayed frondose trees at Binscarth Woods, Firth: TWE on 20/10/83 [63(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87]; TAR on 31/10/83 [63(1)(2): RW on 18/03/87]; TAR/TWE on 03/11/83 [63(1)(3): RW on 18/03/87]; TWE on 14/11/84 [132(2)(1): RW on 18/03/87].

Galerina calyptrata

On moorland behind the Dwarfie Stane, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 03/09/85 [535: RW on 18/03/87].

G. marginata

On dead frondose wood at Isbister Mill, Evie: TAR on 27/10/83 [83(1): RW on 18/03/87].

G. mniophila

Under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [316: RW on 18/03/87].

G. mycenopsis

In short turf and moss on moorland at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: TWE on 30/09/87 [117(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87] and on 09/11/84 [147(1)(1-2): RW on 25/04/88].

G. paludosa

Under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [334: RW on 18/03/87]. On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [400: RW on 18/03/87].

G. rubiginosa

Beside the Pegal Burn, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 31/08/85 [504: RW on 18/03/87].

Gymnopilus fulgens

On hill behind the Dwarfie Stane, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 03/09/85 [536: RW on 18/03/87].

G. junonius

Under *Acer* and mixed deciduous trees at Melsetter House, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [523: RW on 18/03/87].

G. penetrans

Rooting on dead twigs, branches etc at Binscarth Woods, Firth: TAR on 31/10/83 [88(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87]; TWE on 30/10/84 [88(1)(2): RW on 18/03/87]. On *Larix* needles and chips at Binscarth Woods, Firth: TWE on 03/10/84 [120(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87].

INSECTS IN WILD "PEA" PODS. A study is being carried out on the distribution of insects feeding on the pods of native Leguminous plants. Perhaps some members might like to have a go (it's easy) this summer. Mr. I Lorimer, suggests concentrating on whin, broom and bird's-foot trefoil. The pods should be collected before they split and packed in strong envelopes, separating each plant species, and sent to :- T Y Moon, Department of Plant Biology and Genetics, University of Hull, HULL HU6 7RX. Let Mr. Moon know if you want your postage refunded and ask him to let you know what species of insect he finds. There is just a chance something new might turn up! Please send a note of your results to the Bulletin.

Despite an excellent spring and early summer, the results obtained in 1988 were rather poor: there were few migrants, butterflies were rather scarce and only three new species of moths were added to the list. :-

Nepticulidae.

Stigmella myrtillella (Stainton). Hoy, Berriedale; larval mines on *Vaccinium myrtillus*. 23rd September. This species might well occur elsewhere on *Vaccinium*: the leaf mine forms a dark brown blotch, tightly packed with frass.

Elachistidea.

Bilelchista eleochariella (Stainton). Sandwick. Bay of Skail; one, at rest. August 1983. (Dr. R.P.Knill-Jones), only recently confirmed by Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton.

Geometridae.

Trichopteryx carpinata (Borkhausen) Barred Tooth-striped. Hoy, Berriedale, one larva on *Salix*, one on *Betula* 29th September 1987. One moth emerged 3rd April 1988, the other larva having produced a parasite.

Extensions to recorded range.

Momphidae:

Mompha raschkiella (Zeller). Hoy, Walls, Heldale: larval mines on *Chamerion angustifolium*. 27th July.

Tortricidae:

Eana penziana colquhounana (Barrett).

Geometridae:

Orthonama vittata (Borkhausen). Oblique Carpet. Both the above species at m.v.light, Stenness, Smyril. 8th July. (Mr. E. R. Meek).

Noctuidae.

Brachylomia viminalis (Fabricius). Minor Shoulder-Knot. Orphir, Scorradaile, at m.v.light. 29th August.

Eupsilia transversa (Hufnagel). The Satellite. Orphir, Scorradaile; hibernating inside house. 18th October.

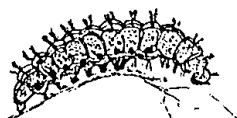
Photedes pygmaea (Haworth) Small Wainscot. Hoy, Ley House, at m.v.light, September. (Mr. K. Fairclough)

The most interesting moth seen in 1988 was a very unusual aberration of *Xestia xanthographa*. (D.&S.) Square-spot Rustic, found on Hoy by Mrs. S. Hall. The forewing, which is usually unicolorous, was divided from the base into equal thirds of chocolate-brown, tan and chocolate-brown. Mrs. Hall has given the specimen to the British Museum (Natural History) where there is nothing like it in the National Collection.

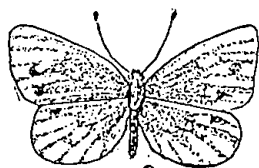
The dearth of immigrants is surprising because the U.K. mainland had a number of movements of *Cynthia cardui*, Painted Lady, from January onwards. This butterfly first appeared in Orkney on 27th May at Papa Westray while

Vanessa atalanta (L.) Red Admiral, was seen on Hoy the same day, (both records per Mr. E. R. Meek). Both species arrived in some numbers from 1st July and there are scattered records about this time over most of Orkney.

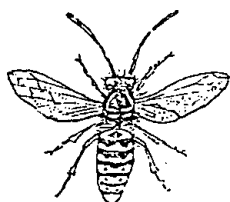
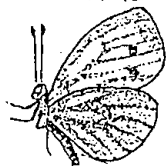
The migrant moths *Autographa gamma* (L.), Silver Y, and *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel), Dark Sword Grass, arrived in small numbers in early June. *Plutella xylostella* (L.), Diamond-back in large numbers on 7th July and a few *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), Angle Shades, were seen from 29th July. All the above species except *P. xylostella* were common from early September to late October. A male *Agrius convolvuli* (L.), Convolvulus Hawk-moth, was found, moribund, on Cava, 8th September. (Miss I. Woodham and Miss M. Peckham). An apparent movement of *Oligia fasciuncula* (Haworth), Middle-barred Minor, accompanied by the caddis-fly *Oecetis ochracea*



The status of *Argynnis aglaja* (L.), Dark-green Fritillary still causes concern and will probably continue to until there is a series of sunny Augusts. On Hoy, Rackwick was thoroughly surveyed several times by Mr. K. Fairclough, without any success. *Coenonympha tullia* (Müller), Large Heath, had a good year on Hoy, but this is a butterfly which seems less dependent than most on sunshine for pairing. The second brood of *Pieris napi* (L.), Green-veined White, was much more numerous than usual and was on the wing from early August to late September.



GREEN-VEINED WHITE



WASPS IN ORKNEY 1987 and 1988

C J Booth.

Nests of Common Wasp. *Paravespula vulgaris*, were found in several parts of Kirkwall in both years. A number of individual wasps of the species were also found in Stromness, strongly suggesting the presence of at least one colony in this area in both years. It seems that the Common Wasp has now become established in Orkney. I did not have any reports of Norwegian wasps in either year.

1987 CETACEAN REPORT.

Peter Reynolds, Berrybank, Evie, Orkney.
J C Booth, 34 High Street, Kirkwall.

Minke Whale. *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*.

07.02.87 : Partly decomposed animal stranded Bay of London, Eday. Length 4.8 metres.

10.08.87 : 1 seen Eynhallow Sound.

22.08.87 : One stranded Sanday. Length 6.3 metres. Probable female. Reasonably fresh.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocaena phocaena*

Monthly distribution of records (sightings).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	1	0	11	4	12	8	19	7	1	2	2

Total number of animals seen per month (based on minimum reported):

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
50	1	0	49	15	56	16	190	30	10	5	5

Total of 68 records (sightings) involving a minimum of 427 animals.

6 sightings of juvenile animals with three records in each of the months June and August.

Monthly distribution of Stranding Records.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
0	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0

All strandings involved single animals with the exception of an adult female found dead adjacent to a very small foetus (presumed to have been aborted) in February.

The seasonal distribution of records is consistent with that found in previous years.

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*.

08.11.87 : 1) 8+ seen 10 miles east of Sule Skerry.

2) 3+ seen 25 miles west of Kirkwall en-route to North Rona.

Both records from aircraft. Only one previous definite record of this species involving two animals which live-stranded in September 1888.

White-sided Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus*.

13.04.87 : 1 animal seen swimming close in-shore Hunda Sound. Found dead on 14.04. Female. Length 1.65 metres.

18.04.87 : 2 seen Pentland Firth.

Curiously, this is the second time that a White-beaked Dolphin has stranded in Hunda Sound. In both cases the circumstances of sighting and subsequent strandings were identical and both animals were immature (the 1985 record involved a male animal 1.56 metres in length).

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*.

27.04.87 : 1 three-quarters of a mile north of Scrabster.

11.12.87 : 1 seen Scapa Pier. Probably this species.

21.12.87 : c.3 seen half-way between Scrabster and Hoy. Probably this species.

Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*.

15.08.87 : 1 seen passing Old Man of Hoy.

08.08.87 : 1 dead stranded animal, Old Man of Hoy. Present since July.

Long-Finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melaena*

29.07.87 : 4 seen east of Papa Westray.

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*.

06.11.87 : 2 seen off Old Man of Hoy.

Whale Sp. (Identification uncertain).

04.07.87 : 1 between Herston head and Swona. Pilot Whale?

28.07.87 : 1 large whale swimming south-west, North Ronaldsay.

15.08.87 : 1 large whale off Yesnaby.

12.09.87 : Dead stranded animal, Rack Wick, Stromness. Advanced state of decomposition. Length c.4.5 metres. Killer Whale?

07.12.87 : 15 whales off Grass Holm. Pilot Whales?

Dolphin Sp. (Identification uncertain)

15.02.87 : 2 leaping clear of water, Water Sound.

10.08.87 : 4 off Yesnaby.

22.08.87 : 2 off Swona.

25.08.87 : 1 off Yesnaby.

25.08.87 : 3-4 west of Hoy near cliffs.

29.08.87 : 3 breaching off Yesnaby.

11.09.87 : 2-3 off Yesnaby leaping clear of water. White-sided or White-beaked Dolphins?

Porpoise/Dolphin (Identification uncertain)

22.04.87 : 1 off Cava.

26.06.87 : c.20 Westray Firth.

30.07.87 : 1 south of Eday.

: 2 Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to all those people who have contributed records used in the compilation of these reports. We sincerely apologise to any contributor whose name has inadvertently been omitted from the following list :

Adam R G; Adam S; Aim A & W; Andrew R; Beavan S; Bird D; Booth CM; Booth C J; Chirgwin L; Christie G; Christer G; Corrigan C; Fairclough K; Faulkner P; Flett R;

Fox T; Garrioch T; Gee K; Grieve J; Hague K; Harris R; Hayes M; H.M.Coastguard Kirkwall; Holloway J; Howarth P; Jones M; McCutcheon J & R; Meek E; Merrick E; Percival D; Pennington M; Pirie K; Rendall J; Reynolds V; Rigg A; Rinder M; Robertson I; Rouse J; Salisbury A; Starck B; Stenning J; Stewart A; Struthers D; Thompson P; Thorne R; Wilson B; Woodbridge K, (1988 Report in next Bulletin.)

Orkney Cetacean Data-base.

Orkney Cetacean records dating from the mid-1800's to the present have now been entered on a computer database which will facilitate future documentation and analysis. A preliminary review of this data has been undertaken and the results will be published in due course. Please continue to send us your records, however brief or vague. Collectively your records make an important contribution to our understanding of these mammals. All records are passed to the national recording schemes.

MAMMAL RECORDING

Sheila Spence. Linneth, Harray.

In the Orkney Field Club Bulletin 1984 No 2 an article was printed giving the progress and process of mammal recording in Orkney from 1965 until 1984. This article stated that OFC had participated in the British National Mammal Recording Scheme run by The Mammal Society with records being deposited, after scrutiny by The Mammal Society, in the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood Experimental Station. In addition to the records being deposited at BRC they were also deposited in Stromness Museum and Orkney Field Club Bulletin. When the National Mammal Scheme was brought to a close at the end of 1985, OFC continued to record mammals in Orkney depositing any new records in Stromness Museum and OFC Bulletin.

In a letter dated 3rd February 1989 from BRC to myself, I now have received the following information:

"Although the Mammal Society survey is more or less at an end, BRC is still collecting mammal records for the databank.

Please continue to send in your records; ideally a new scheme would consider the maps to be blank from 1986 and re-record so that in a few years comparisons could be made with the older record set. Thus any mammal records will be of use."

If any member of OFC wishes to submit any mammal record to me I shall be delighted to pass them on to BRC as in previous years.

MAMMAL RECORDS

Brown Rat. *Rattus norvegicus*.

One found dead plus copious droppings at Upper Quoy, South Fara, ND325960. Recorded by OFC Juniors during 'Discovery Weekend' on South Fara on 26th June 1987.

Bearded Seal *Erignathus barbatus*

Seen on Corn Slip, Kirkwall Harbour, HY4411, May. In area for a few days.

Reference."The Orcadian" Kirkwall. 19th May 1988.

(Seen and photographed in Rousay, February, seen Westray early March and near Coastguard Station, Kirkwall, 23rd July, All 1988, CJS)

BATS IN ORKNEY 1987 and 1988.

C. J. Booth.

The following sighting of bats have been reported :-

1987

Brown Long-eared Bat. *Plecotus auritus*. A Long-eared bat, probably of this species, was seen at Banks Farm, Sandwick, Mainland, by Mr. & Mrs. J Harvey sometime between the 18th and 25th August. There have been two previous records of this species (Booth 1986).

Bats not specifically identified :-

14th and 15th April. A small bat was found on a wall in the Ferry Road, Stromness.

From 17th May there were reports of single bats, on several occasions, seen in Stromness until at least the end of July (Mrs. M Ritchie and I McInnes). Three were seen together on one occasion in mid-July (Mrs. H Judson).

10th October. One seen at Sandwick House, South Ronaldsay. (S Stephen).

19th October. A small bat seen at Little-Over-The-Water, Sanday. (Mrs W Sinclair)

26th October. One seen clinging to the door of a barn at Carness, St. Ola. (A. Sinclair).

1988

Noctule. *Nyctalus noctula*. One found alive in a house at Claybraes, South Ronaldsay by Mr J Scott on 25th October. This was sent to Dr. Paul Racey of Aberdeen University for eventual release. This is the third record of this species in Orkney (Booth 1986).

Bats not specifically identified:-

There were a number of reports of single bats in Stromness from 20th June until early October, with sightings from three different areas (Mrs h Judson and I McInnes). I saw a bat on two occasions at different sites and thought that both, judging by size and method of flight, were *Pipistrelles*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.

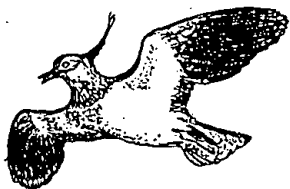
The regular sightings of bats in Stromness would suggest that there is a small resident colony in the town.

15th September. A bat was seen flying around Blackhammar, Rousay (Mrs S Scott, per J Osborne).

P A Racey, writing in the July issue of *Bat News*, notes that two bats found on North Sea oil rigs in May 1988, have been identified as Nathius's *Pipistrelle*, *Pipistrellus nathusii*, a migrant species very similar to the *Pipistrelle*. Obviously it is very important to examine carefully any small bats found in Orkney.

REFERENCE, Booth, Chris J, *Bats in Orkney*, Bull, Orkney Fld. Club, 1 1986 : 7-9.

As in previous years this review is purely a personal account of the Orkney bird scene. Some of the records have not yet been confirmed and readers are referred to the Orkney Bird Report for the definitive account.



JANUARY

On 2nd a flock of 43 Corn Buntings was reported from Stronsay while the following day a 1st-year Ring-billed Gull was found in Stromness Harbour, only the 2nd record for Orkney. After disappearing for a month this bird was relocated in February and allowed many people to familiarise themselves with the species. A Buzzard spent some time in the Hobbister area and there were a few reports of wintering Chiffchaffs. Seven Long-eared Owls were at Berstane on 13th while 2 Goldfinches were rare visitors at Melsetter next day. A Spotted Redshank wintered on the Stenness Loch shore being last seen on 6th May when it was in full summer plumage and giving a partial display. A Black-throated Diver was on the Stenness Loch on 18th when seven Little Auks were found dead at Scapa. Eleven Black-throated Divers were off Hobbister on 24th when a Jack Snipe was found at Durkadale. Only very small numbers of "white" gulls were seen this winter.

FEBRUARY.

A small movement of finches was apparent on early February, with reports of up to 35 Bramblings, several single Siskins and Redpolls and a Bullfinch. A Grey Wagtail, now only a scarce visitor to the islands, was at Binscarth on 10th, a Gooseander at Graemeshall on 13th, a Water Rail at Binscarth on 13th and a flock of ten Mealy Redpolls on Hoy on 14th. Parties of Mealy Redpolls also began to appear in Kirkwall at this time. Another Goldfinch was found, this time in Rendall on 22nd and the month ended with a Jack Snipe in Stenness on 29th.

MARCH

A Black-throated Diver and two Goosanders were just offshore at Finstown on 3rd and a Smew appeared at the Loch of Clumly. Lesser Black-backed Gulls began to return from their winter haunts and Ravens, always the first species to get the breeding season under way, were incubating by the second week of the month. Pied Wagtails began to return about mid-month. A Black-throated Diver was off North Ronaldsay on 21st and two days later the same island reported the first major migrant arrival of the year with 150 Blackbirds, parties of Chaffinches and Bramblings and at least two Hawfinches. Five Long-eared Owls and eight Woodcock appeared next day while Stronsay produced 13 Robins and, on 25th, 1000 Blackbirds. Sandwich Terns began to appear from this date on. Stronsay reported the first Wheatear and Bonxie next day but North Ronaldsay took the March prize with a Woodlark, the first in Orkney since 1913. Missel Thrushes, Yellowhammers, Grey Wagtails and finches were all characteristic late March species recorded at this time but a Lapland Bunting on Stronsay on 28th was more unusual.

APRIL

April was the month of the Red Kite with individuals reported from several localities, particularly early in the month, part of a large influx throughout the country. A Blackcap appeared on North Ronaldsay on the 15th but a much scarcer find was a Stock Dove. More migrants began to arrive on 17th when a Black Redstart was in Deerness with a Hawfinch in Kirkwall on 19th when eight Ring Ouzels were on North Ronaldsay. Uncharacteristically early, a Wryneck and seven Tree Pipits arrived in the same locality on 20th when there was also a March Harrier. Black Redstarts were found in several localities and a Great Tit was in song on Hoy. April's bird of the month, however, was a superb male Sardinian Warbler in Birsay village on 24-27th, an Orkney first. A Crane in Sanday on 28th brought the month to a fine end.

MAY

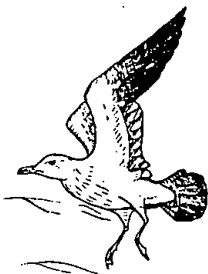
A pair of Water Rails probably bred at The Loons, often being seen in front of the hide. Other even more unusual breeding records in 1988 involved Brambling and Lesser Whitethroat, both Orkney firsts. On 3rd a Ruddy Duck and a Wryneck were on North Ronaldsay, while there on 6th were an Osprey, a Reed Warbler and an Ortolan. A Snowy Owl was a spectacular visitor to Evie on 7th while on 9th a Honey Buzzard was the pick of 13 raptors of six species on view in Russadale. An adult Barred Warbler was a rare occurrence in Tankerness on 10th when a Hawfinch was on North Ronaldsay. The 13th saw the first of a good many Red-backed Shrikes and, on 14th, a Hoopoe was found on Hoy. Bluethroats began to appear from 15th and on the same date a Hawfinch was on Westray, a Wryneck near Kirkwall and a Subalpine Warbler on Stronsay. A count of 2,591 Turnstones was made on Sanday at this time. Another Osprey occurred on North Ronaldsay on 19th when a Hawfinch was in St. Ola. and on the following day, a Dotterel was seen on Graemsay. Yet another Osprey occurred on 21st, this time over Evie while on 22nd a Hoopoe was watched in a Marwick garden and North Ronaldsay produced both Roseate Tern and Melodious Warbler, following these with a Golden Oriole trapped on 23rd. On 24th Bluethroat, Reed and Icterine Warblers were in the East Mainland, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Hawfinch on North Ronaldsay and Reed Warbler on Stronsay. Quality migrants continued to appear with, between 25th-27th, up to eight Scarlet Rosefinches, Orkney's second Thrush Nightingale, and another Golden Oriole on North Ronaldsay, four Scarlet Rosefinches, four Red-backed Shrikes and Orkney's first Tawny Pipit on Stronsay, Marsh Warbler and Honey Buzzard on Westray and Osprey and Marsh Warbler on the Mainland. However, it was on 28th that the real 'purple patch' began. That evening a superb Needle-tailed Swift was found at Melsetter, on 29th a Surf Scoter was located off Wyre and an Osprey was seen over Rousay, on 30th a Spanish Sparrow was trapped on North Ronaldsay and Hobby and Quail were seen elsewhere., and on 31st a Snowy Owl was seen in Orphir.

JUNE

June began where May left off with a classic 'fall' of seven Red-backed Shrikes, three Icterines, a Reed Warbler, a Bluethroat, a Blue-headed Wagtail and a Long-tailed Skua on North Ronaldsay on 1st. On the evening of 2nd came the news that started a mass movement of birders to North Ronaldsay, the finding of Britain's first Pallas's Rose-finch; nobody need have hurried - it stayed until mid-July and with the Needle-tailed Swift

also staying 10 days most visitors went home more than satisfied. From then on things became a little quieter but a Golden Oriole was at Melsetter on 8th, a White-winged Black Tern in Tankerness on 16th and a Crane over South Ronaldsay the next day. The latter was probably the bird subsequently found on Westray where it stayed for several weeks. Thirty Crossbills were in Rackwick on 24th when one was also at Herston but no big irruption ensued. The month ended with a Scarlet Rosefinch on Hoy and an Osprey in Birsay.

Compared with the disasters being experienced in Shetland, our sea-birds fared relatively well. Our larger Arctic Tern colonies seemed to have quite good breeding success but the smaller ones nearly all failed to produce young. Kittiwakes did well up to just before fledging when there was a high mortality apparently due to starvation. Redthroated Divers did quite well as did both Skua species; all three of these species had a very poor year in Shetland. One surprise was the poor performance of the monitored Black Guillemot colony on the Holm of Papay. Ten pairs of Merlins held territory this season but only seven bred and of these one failed during incubation, and one had its brood eaten, probably by a Feral Cat (an increasing problem); the remaining five pairs reared 16 young. Hen Harriers had a poor season for unknown reasons and it will be interesting to see the results of the full survey planned for 1989.



JULY

A Honey Buzzard was seen on several occasions during the early part of the month in the Evie and Rousay areas while it was sad to see a cock Red-backed Shrike killed on the road in Twatt on 12th. A young Glaucous Gull; was an unusual visitor to The Loons on 20th. A Buzzard was near Finstown on 26th and a Long-tailed Skua on North Ronaldsay next day. A male Black-headed Bunting stayed on North Roanaldsay 28th until 5th August.

AUGUST

Early August was characteristically quiet but the peace was pleasantly shattered on 12th when an Alpine Swift performed over the North Ronaldsay observatory! A Wood Sandpiper was in Stenness that day and on 13th a Dotterel was on Hoy. On 14th a second Black-headed Bunting was found on North Ronaldsay together with the autumn's first Barred Warbler. Stronsay began what turned out to be a superlative autumn for that island on 16th when a Greenish Warbler was found, a second appearing nearby on 18th. The 19th produced Red-backed Shrike on Burray and Dotterel on North Ronaldsay while one of the best wader passages for many years began to get under way, for example, eight Green and a Wood Sandpiper at Loch of Banks. Curlew Sandpipers began to appear from 23rd and peaks of 57 on North Ronaldsay, 19 on Stronsay and 14 at Car Ness were recorded. An American Golden Plover was located on Stronsay on 24th and Pectoral Sandpiper was found at The Shunan on 25th while Ruff, Black-tailed Godwits and Greenshank were being recorded from many spots. On 25th a Wryneck and a Scarlet Rosefinch appeared on North Ronaldsay with a second Wryneck next day. Two Tree Sparrows appeared on North Ronaldsay on 30th.

SEPTEMBER.

The first few days of the month produced one of the best autumn migrant falls of recent years. The common species involved were Wrynecks, Whinchats, Tree Pipits, Garden Warblers and Pied Flycatchers. There were also small numbers of Barred Warblers, Red-backed Shrikes, Icterines and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Rarities involved Greenish Warblers on Stronsay (2), Sanday, East Mainland and South Ronaldsay, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on North Ronaldsay and Orkney's first Booted Warbler on South Ronaldsay. Most of this action occurred on 2nd/3rd while on the 4th there was a Hobby in Deerness, a Marsh Harrier on Westray and a Black Tern on Stronsay. On 7th a Citrine Wagtail flew over Copinsay while wader passage continued to be strong and unusual passerines continued to appear with a Scarlet Rosefinch on South Ronaldsay together with Wood Warbler and , most unusually, Tree-creepers. Several Reed Warblers were recorded. Curlew Sandpipers continued to dominate the wader scene, a peak of 36 being recorded at The Shunan on 10th. Barred Warbler and Wryneck were seen on the Mainland on 11th but a quiet period ensued. On 16th a Long-tailed Skua was on Stronsay, a bird which proved to be the forerunner of an unprecedented passage of this species, especially on 18th/19th when 44 were counted off the Brough of Birsay; 82 were counted from North Ronaldsay at this time. A few Pomarine Skuas and Leach's Petrels were seen as well and the first Pink-footed Geese began to arrive on 17th. A Yellow-breasted Bunting on North Ronaldsay on 20th while an American Golden Plover joined the still-present Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the same island on 21st. North Ronaldsay also produced a Sabine's Gull during a sea-watch on 25th and the first Whooper Swans began to arrive the next day.

OCTOBER.

A Great Crested Grebe was on the Harray Loch on 2nd and a Red-breasted Flycatcher on North Ronaldsay next day. Between 4th - 7th small migrants were much in evidence with up to 11 Yellow-browed Warblers on North Ronaldsay, four on Stronsay and four in the East Mainland. Small numbers of thrushes also arrived and there was a second Red-breasted Flycatcher on North Ronaldsay. A Pectoral Sandpiper was in Deerness on 5th but much rarer was the Great Snipe which was found on Stronsay on 7th. A Glaucous Gull was near Quanterness on 9th when a Mealy Redpoll was in Holm while on 11th Orkney's second Ring-necked Duck was found at Brodgar. A few more Great Spotted Woodpeckers were found about this time while North Ronaldsay recorded a Little Bunting and Stronsay produced Orkney's third Radde's Warbler. A young Pied Wheatear, only the second ever seen in Orkney, was found on Stronsay on 16th when another Radde's Warbler was on North Ronaldsay. Scarce visitors included a Red-necked Grebe off Burray and a Great Tit on North Ronaldsay on 17th while a fine sight next day was a party of 7 Long-tailed Tits in the Merkister garden. A large thrush arrival brought 500 Blackbirds, 600 Redwings and 150 Fieldfares to the Flotta Terminal on 18th while a Pomarine Skua flying across the road at Brodgar was an unusual sight. A Bullfinch on Stronsay started a good run of this species, several of which stayed throughout the winter. Three Blue Tits on North Ronaldsay on 21st were matched by a Great Tit on South Ronaldsay but the next day brought one of the best (and certainly the best-watched) birds of the autumn - a superb cock Desert Wheatear at Honeysgeo. A Hoopoe was on North Ronaldsay on 22nd, a scatter of Black

Redstarts occurred throughout the islands and two Long-tailed Tits were found in Holm. North Ronaldsay produced a Richard's Pipit on 24th but more excitement (and media interest) was generated by the start of a considerable invasion of Waxwings, the first for many years. The largest flock reported was in Kirkwall where up to 31 frequented the Papdale area. A Pallas's Warbler was a fine find on Hoy on 25th and the Siberian influence continued with the arrival of a Pine Bunting on North Ronaldsay on 27th. The first of several Rough-legged Buzzards was reported on 28th, forced out of Scandinavia by a crash in Lemming numbers. Rousay produced six Long-tailed Tits on 29th and Sanday came into its own with a Hoopoe on that date and a Pine Bunting on 30th.



NOVEMBER

A Great Grey Shrike was in Rackwick on 1st, the day a Coal Tit was also seen on the same island. Two Goldfinches appeared at Honeysgeo on 3rd and a Blue Tit in St. Ola on 5th when an Arctic Redpoll was a good find on Stronsay. A Treecreeper was found on Hoy next day, a Leach's Petrel came ashore at Dingleshowe on 8th and a Coal Tit was found in Binscarth on 9th. A very late Garden Warbler was trapped in Holm on 10th. Long-eared Owls and Woodcock were prominent at this time and there were several records of Grey Wagtails. Two Goldfinches were found in Holm on 12th and another next day. Stronsay scored again on 18th when that most powerful of raptors, a Gyr Falcon flew across the island. A Buzzard took up residence in Binscarth from 20th. The winter survey of Scapa Flow revealed a Grey Phalarope and a Red-necked Grebe off South Ronaldsay on 25th and a Great Crested Grebe two days later. Two Goldfinches were on Hoy on 26th and a Pomarine Skua off Stronsay on 28th.

DECEMBER

A relatively quiet month. An Iceland Gull was found in Stromness Harbour on 10th and Rough-legged Buzzard flew over there on 12th. A Goosander and a Jack Snipe were in Stenness on 13th and four Goldfinches in Orphir on 15th. A few Little Auks began to appear in mid-month. Tankerness held both Blue Tit and Goldfinch on Christmas Eve. The Loch of Stenness wildfowl count on 29th revealed a Black-throated Diver and a Common Scoter but it was the Harray Loch which captured the limelight. A count on 30th revealed the presence of well over 13,000 wildfowl including 7,500 Widgeon, 1010 Whooper Swans and 655 Mute Swans - all munching away merrily at the introduced Canadian Pondweed.

Thus ended a remarkable year, surely the most productive ever in terms of unusual birds in Orkney. What will 1989 bring? It has already started well with White-billed Diver, American Widgeon and Rough-necked Buzzard in January but the best is yet to come!

The local occurrence of grasshoppers will probably come as a surprise to many people in Orkney as all recent records have been confined to Hoy. According to the Orthoptera expert E. M. Haes in a letter to OFC in 1982, the only species confirmed here in the post-1960 period was a single specimen of the Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus* from Hoy in 1971 collected by E C Pelham-Clinton. I understand from Mr. I Lorimer (pers. comm.) that this specimen was taken from the Lyrawa Hill, GR281998, and in fact a large colony of this species was rediscovered in this same area by OFC members in September 1987 (see Bulletin 2/1987). Two further colonies were discovered by myself in 1988, one on the south-facing slope of Bailiefea, GR272964, and the other on the south-facing slope of Shell Hill in the same valley, GR286965.

The Meadow Grasshopper, however, is not the only species which occurs in Orkney. *Omocestus viridulus*, the Common Green Grasshopper has been known from the grassy areas around Rackwick for many years. (see Bulletin 2/82). I personally identified the species here myself in 1984 but local residents have reported hearing this noisy grasshopper as long ago as the 1950's at least. (J. Rendall, pers. comm.). Its preferred habitat is lush grassy areas but despite their being many such apparently suitable sites it seems to be confined to Rackwick, although I did receive one slightly dubious report of stridulating hoppers from Whaness.

According to Dr. D R Ragge, Entomology Department, British Museum, one of Britain's leading experts on Orthoptera, in his book published in 1965, the only species to occur in Orkney was *Tetrix undulata*, the Common Ground Hopper. The record was made for Hoy but the exact location was not given. This small, silent, inconspicuous hopper is very difficult to detect and although its occurrence has not been confirmed in recent years, a report of a grasshopper near Sandy Loch in July 1985 sounded very much like this species.

I would be grateful to receive any records, past or present, of grasshoppers in Orkney. A date, 6-figure map reference and if possible a short description of its call or appearance or both would be extremely helpful. Ley House, Hoy, telephone Hoy 298.

Omocestus viridulus. Common Green Grasshopper. This is a medium-sized hopper, variable in colour but usually showing some bright green with varying amounts of brown/olive-brown, especially on the sides. It is normally found on lush grassy areas including roadside verges. Both sexes fly but the male is more active. The 'song' of the male is a loud, prolonged ticking noise, about 10 - 20 ticks per second and lasting about 10 - 20 seconds. According to D.R. Ragge, this species used to occur on Mainland, so any past or recent records would be of great interest. The population in Rackwick has declined dramatically due to the recent batch of poor summers with very, very few stridulating males heard. (Usually July and August.)

Chorthippus parallelus. Meadow Grasshopper. A medium-sized hopper, again very variable, with six principal colour varieties but usually showing much bright green. It cannot fly and can therefore be easy to catch. It occurs in all types of grassland, open waste ground, and heathland if not too dry. It can also occur in inland marshes. Its song can only be described as a

modest "chip" lasting 1 - 3 seconds with 10 - 15 pulses. These bursts are repeated indefinitely at 5 - 15 second intervals.

Tetrix undulata. Common Ground Hopper. A robust insect, very variable in colour, but generally dull and well-camouflaged. Unfortunately its 'song' is non-existent or insignificant, which makes it very difficult to detect. It can tolerate much drier conditions than the other hoppers and can be found in heathland. It will frequent grassy places, but seldom pure, open grassland. It is very inconspicuous and seldom seen. It sits on the ground and not up in vegetation. It cannot fly but is a remarkable jumper.

Another grasshopper which is common in Caithness but which has yet to be recorded in Orkney (but well worth looking out or listening) for is *Myrmeleotettix maculatus*, the Mottled Grasshopper. It is our smallest hopper, very variable in colour, mottled and patchy but usually dull brown. It is typically found on dry heaths and moorland but still feeds on grass. Its song consists of 10 - 30 short, rapidly repeated chirps. The chirps are about five in 3 seconds, with the burst lasting 10 - 15 seconds. The bursts are repeated at irregular intervals.

REFERENCES.

- Bellman, Heiko, *A Field Guide to the Grasshoppers and Crickets of Britain and N. Europe*, Collins 1985,
Booth, C. and Reynolds, P. *Orkney Orthoptera Bull.* Orkney Fld Club, 2, 2; 1982
Brown, Valerie K. *Grasshoppers Naturalists' Handbook* 2, CUP, 1983,
Haes, E. M. *Grasshoppers in Orkney Bull.* Orkney Fld Club 4, 1; 82,
Holst, Knud Th. *The Saltoria of Northern Europe*, Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica, Vol. 16 1986,
Ragge, David R. *Grasshoppers, Crickets & Cockroaches of the British Isles*, 1965, Warne 1965,
Personal communications with J. Clerk, R. I Lorimer, J. Marshall, J. Rendall

ODONATA RECORDS (New Sites)

Keith Fairclough

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

1. Sanday : Loch of Rummie 757450. 1+ on 26.08.86 Liz Charter.
2. Papa Stronsay : Mill Loch. 668296. 3 on 21.08.86 " "
3. Egilsay : Loch of Welland, 477313. 1+ on 17.07.86. " "

To my knowledge, these are the first and only records of any species of Odonata on these three islands.

4. Mainland : Loch of Vastray, 399253. 1+ on 15.07.86. Liz Charter.

This is only the second site for this species on Mainland, the other being The Loons.

Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*.

1. Rousay : Loch of Sockness. 540330. 1 on 13.06.77 Jeremy Godwin
" " " " " " 'Lots' on 21.07.86 Liz Charter.
2. " : Blotchnie Field, pools. 418290. 'Several' 1988 John Osborne.

These 2 sites make 3 in all on Rousay, the 3rd being the Muckle Water, the only site where the Large Red Damsel, *Fyrrhosoma nymphula* has been recorded.

3. Hoy : Recorded at several more sites than those reported in OFC. 2/87.
" Berry Lochs : 244907. Muckle Lochs, 265969 and Shell Hill, 296974.
No further additions to the 2 sites only on Mainland, The Loons and Griffyelt.

Large Red Damsel *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*

1. Mainland : Loch of Swannay. 3128 1988
2. " : Windbreck 402093. 1988. 3. : Cruland c.1 Km W of the NW tip Loch of Stenness, 236151. 1988.
4. Hoy 3 more sites, Lochs of Geniefea. 247954; Muckle Lochs, 265969; and Deregar Lochs 265978. 1988 Jim Williams.

Common Hawker *Aeschna juncea*.

1. Flotta : A specimen was caught inside the oil terminal in October 1987. It died very shortly afterwards, being an extremely late record. It is possible that breeding occurs on Flotta but this has not been proved and no sites are yet known.

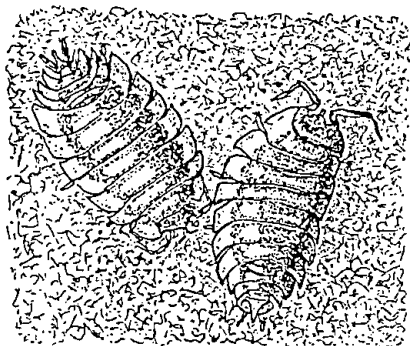
Golden-ringed Dragonfly *Cordulogaster boltonii*.

1. Hoy : Berriedale. 198017. July 1987. S. Ellis. The fifth site on Hoy. It occurs nowhere else in Orkney.

There are still no records of ANY dragonflies or damselflies from South Ronaldsay, Burray, Shapinsay, Stronesay, Wyre, Eday, Westray, Papa Westray or North Ronaldsay.

WOODLICE

Although there are unlikely to be more than half-a-dozen different species of Isopods in Orkney even that number has not been recorded. Someone has a chance to add to the knowledge of local wildlife with very little effort or expertise. The British Isopod Study Group issues a regular,



interesting and often amusing Newsletter. Did you know, for example that a 1769 writer recommends powdered woodlice, taken with wine, as an excellent diuretic? Or that a Dutch name for woodlice, "pissebed", also refers to this property? Why do we in Orkney call woodlice "slaters"? In many parts of the world its names refer to a sow or boar, but the Germans have "Keller-esel" and several species have scientific names derived from "donkey". One intrepid member of the Isopod Group actually cooked woodlice while on a survival course. Seriously, what does eat woodlice is also a subject requiring study.

Dr. Steve Hopkin, whose address is AMS Building, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O. Box 228, Reading RG6 2AJ would add the names of any interested OFC members to his mailing list and would identify voucher specimens. He would especially like to be proved wrong in his suggestion of there being only six species of woodlice in Orkney! Please get in touch with him direct. (and please let OFC publish your records in the Bulletin).

BSBI Monitoring Scheme.

1988 was the second and final year. The British Isles were covered fairly well, including some of the more remote parts of Scotland and the islands and it is amusing to see that some of the totally unrecorded 10Km squares are in England! On the whole, Orkney didn't do very well, less people taking part than in 1987 although three botanists from the south put in a lot of hard work, one coming back for a second visit. Locally help was given by Chris and Alastair Skene, while Chris Corrigan and Eric Meek helped with transport into a difficult area.

The final results are : square 30 (Orphir) surprisingly under-recorded although as the only Mainland site it should have been the best. 3 tetrads have not been visited at all and several rarities have not been re-found. The square did produce one new Vice-county record. It was a bit sad to see losses of good saltmarsh. 33 (NW Rousay) All tetrads were at least partially recorded but many "special plant localities" were not visited, including *Primula scotica* coastal heath. 60 (Copinsay) was not visited at all in the year so has only had one recording visit with not much more than 50% of the old records re-found. 63 (West Sanday) in the end was the best recorded square with a number of additional records - this is a very interesting part of Orkney for unusual 'weeds of cultivation' - but still a few old records not re-found. Apart from Copinsay it was noticeable over the whole area how roadside flowers are being eliminated by the present verge cutting methods. Verges are the only sites in Orkney for several species.



New Vice-county record : *Oenanthe crocata* L. Hemlock Water-dropwort. This very poisonous plant was found in Orphir by Dr. Charles Turner, one of the visitors helping with the Monitoring Scheme. The only other records of interest (unless members have failed to put them in) are some new localities for *Mertensia maritima*, Oyster Plant, found by Junior members.

Lichens. A lichen expert will be visiting Orkney very shortly to carry out a survey for NCC. This might be an opportunity for someone?

THE CLUB'S *PRIMULA SCOTICA* PROJECT.

OFC was founded at the beginning of 1959. Members immediately became involved in various amateur investigations, with grey seals inevitably redominating in the early years. Plant life was not neglected and a statement in a scientific journal about our own *Primula scotica*, which said the plant "overwintered as a green rosette", whereas we saw it die away almost completely, made us want to study it.

Two members, the late Fr. N. Dennis, S.J., temporarily in Orkney in 1964, and the late Mr. Kenny Flett, J.P., of Mussaquooy, helped to get the project going, the former by designing the method and the latter by helping to set it up. The idea was to mark out a 1 x 1 metre plot and record all the primula plants in it on graph paper. We were to follow their "hatchings, matchings and despatchings". That same scientific paper (and others) said

that "*Primula scotica* is a biennial or short-lived perennial". Our first plot A, at Yesnaby, was set up in 1965; in 1966 we set up four more, two at Yesnaby and two on Mid Hill, Orphir and expected the whole project to be completed within five years. Last year, 1988, a few of its original plants were still alive in plot B at Yesnaby, 23 years later!

In the early years, the plots were visited monthly by Hugo Shearer although most other members were interested and took part. In time, kneeling round the plots compressed the soil too much and latterly one visit a year, in July, has been found adequate. Those monthly visits did establish much useful information; e.g., it was found that after May, leaves often partially die away, with regrowth in July; the flowering stem elongates in seed; in a dry year many flowers are acaulescent - they don't have a stalk. As our records accumulated we realised that very few plants flower twice in a year although, as is well known, there are two main flowering periods, May, and July-to-autumn. Infant mortality was often high but those which did survive rarely flowered until they were several years old.

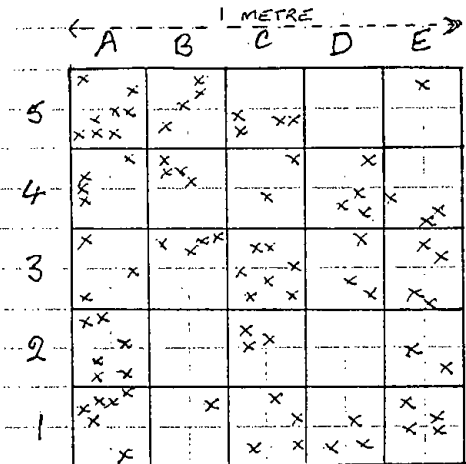
The Botany Department of the University of Aberdeen and, later, the Botany Department of the University of St. Andrews, took interest in our project and gave advice, especially after the death of Fr. Dennis. It was the first long-term *in situ* study of an individual plant species in this country and was soon imitated, e.g. on the Upper Teesdale plants where *P. farinosa* occurs. Eventually St. Andrews set up our data for analysis on their computer and a lot more information became clear. The results were published in the same prestigious scientific journal in which the original "wrong" notes appeared. We were kindly congratulated by their author who told us his work had been partially based on cultivated plants.

The Orphir colony was destroyed by discing and re-seeding shortly after Kenny Flett's death. Plot C at Yesnaby lost all its plants one stormy winter and the original plot A is now behind the new fence and, being in a rather wet site, the plants have been trampled out of position by the cattle. B still survives and we can still find its markers. The biggest problem has been in identifying both the plots themselves and the individual plants, especially as the project carried on far longer than had been anticipated. Originally the plot markers were large coach bolts sunk flush with the soil surface but they rusted away. We could not use anything projecting, it would be too dangerous for animals and passers-by, and anything conspicuous would be moved. We used bearings but some of those got moved themselves! Sometimes we spent more time trying to find our plots than actually recording!

Worse were the primulas themselves. Such tiny plants would be harmed by any physical marker. As the nearest two mature plants usually get to each other is 2 cm. a 1 x 1 m. grid was made, divided into 25 squares of 20 x 20 cms.; these could be visually subdivided into 25 2 x 2 cm squares. This method gives nearly 600 different combinations of "eastings and northings" with which to "name" each plant. It is fairly easy to transfer the positions of the plants to ordinary graph paper.

Ideally we should have recorded ALL the other plants - grasses, sedges, plantains, self-heal, bird's-foot trefoil and so on. Photographic records of the plots were made from time to time but even mature primula plants can be completely hidden by adjacent species. We refer to last year's

graph, search until we have accounted for all the plants, or found the tiny bare patch where an old plant has died, record flowering and add and "name" the new seedlings. Sometimes 4 tiny seedlings manage to occupy the same 2 x 2cm but closely packed seedlings rarely survive a second year. What does happen after many years, is that plants move a tiny bit, probably pushed by treading, or by adjacent plants. Perhaps a particular 20 x 20 cm square for ten years has had four primula plants in it. When first entered on the graph they formed a neat rectangle. Gradually one moves in a bit, another moves out and on the ground the rectangle becomes a diamond. Our system does not allow for "re-naming" old plants, (but we do know that any new



seedlings will be obvious to us in their first year.) When one of the four dies over winter, it is becoming very difficult to know which. This will be the 24th year for the remaining plot, B, at Yesnaby and maybe we will have to give up the project.

Isn't it time other OFC members started up a similar study of some other plant? Start young if the plant you choose is as long-lived as *P. scotica*. Members are welcome to join in our annual (maybe, last?) survey which usually takes place on a Saturday morning in July.

There is also a need to carry out a survey of all extant *P. scotica* colonies in Orkney, marking large scale maps with the exact positions of each colony. This entails walking round the area to determine the points to which each colony extends. Actual numbers are not so important they tend to fluctuate somewhat but some indication of the concentration or density of plants is useful to aid future monitoring. Since 1986 this mapping has been carried out for Longhope, Stromness and Sandwick and last year (1988), OFC Juniors in Papa Westray accurately mapped one of the small colonies on North Hill.

Colonies should still occur in Rousay, in the Brings and Faraclet areas, in Westray on Skea and Fitty Hills, at Aikerness and a few plants are said to remain of the once-large colonies near Noup Head and on Noup Hill. These all need accurately mapping. The exact locations of the other rather small and scattered colonies on North Hill, Papa Westray are desirable together with those at Sheepheight and Bay of Moclett. The exact position of one, old, tiny colony in Shapinsay is well-known but there are vague reports of a hitherto unrecorded colony on The Galt. As losses of *Primula scotica* colonies have been so great in recent years it is important to keep a watchful eye on those which remain. I can supply large-scale maps to anyone interested. Thanks to Roy Harris, the Skene family (senior and junior) and Junior member Morag Adam for valuable work done.

There are aspects of natural history to be seen casually on tv today which a lifetime of travel and careful observation could not provide. So what, isn't that an invaluable service I hear you say? Yes, but there could be a price to pay.

Technically perfect colour films of the rare, inaccessible or seldom seen from every corner of the world, in air, underwater or on land, by night or day, are now everyday events. But this cramming of (lengthily obtained) perfection into thirty or forty minutes may make it harder for us to be excited by what we can see for ourselves. More distancing is to come, witness John Sparks, head of the BBC Natural History Film Unit, "Video techniques are being used to create the kind of pictures that make viewers gasp".

Heinz Sielmann with his film taken inside Bavarian woodpeckers' nests, amazing in 1955, is now old hat. Hans and Lotte Haas filming their sub-sea adventures, positively antediluvian. Now there are 'live' shows relaying electronically generated high definition pictures from distance parts bounced via satellites into the living-room. Sparks promises that single chip cameras will 'bug' birds' nests and mammals' lairs. Video images will be 'layered' to show one flying insect against a moving background and superimposed foreground. Macro filming, "shows aphids giving birth in the kind of detail we have been used to when observing wildebeest dropping their calves on the Serengeti." For this producer, this high technology in programmes must come, "there is no sign that people are becoming bored with them, perhaps because technical advances in equipment and the use of artifice have helped to maintain a high level of innovation".

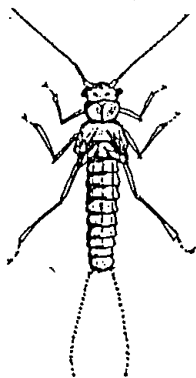
Raised on tv, we need constant change and innovation, we are told increasingly that we live in the 'three-minute culture'. Sparks again, "producers strive to let you know what they could see and hear in nature if they were lucky enough to be there at the right time and in the right place" - "actuality can be rather dull".

Is the dusty victorianism of curious specimens in bottles and cabinets, observations through magnifying glasses, dutifully maintained field note books and reference to dull identification manuals to be swept away, replaced by the solitary pursuit of sitting in front of the box to watch the latest spectacular? What of the spirit of the past? Can today's nature lovers from Aberdeen match the feat in 1819 of William MacGillivray, later Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen University, who walked 800 miles to see the fabled bird collection in the British Museum? (By Inverary he had £5 left, "bread and water will do very well for the greater part of my journey").

Sales of nature guides have never been higher. Lavish, pleasantly unchallenging nature films have become the stuff of prime time tv and good export earners in the world market. (TV natural history doesn't have to be so anodyne, but it sells better.



Most of us recall the comprehensive 'Life on Earth' blockbuster featuring a globe-trotting Attenborough popping up with hushed tones in front of some noteworthy animal or other, but what about Jonathan Miller's 'Body in Question' of the same period? Miller's multi-faceted approach and mind-stretching metaphors to communicate the natural history of the human body were revelatory, but couldn't compete in the ratings. A triumph of technological wiz over the imagery of challenging ideas).



Back to the nature enthusiast. With all these books and tv shows there should be myriads of nature students investigating every aspect of the natural world. Instead, the many natural history clubs and societies of the past dwindle, amalgamate and ultimately die, leaving a few die-hards to peer down their microscopes.. Have all the natural historians become viewers instead of doers?

The Field Club is about to find out when it launches its expanded programme of field meetings this coming season to look at flowers bugs, birds and everything. Will anyone come?

REFERENCES,

- Sparks, J. 1988, *Filming What Comes Naturally*, New Scientist, 1644/1655; 41-45.
 Allen, D E. 1976 *The Naturalist in Britain, a Social History*, Allen Lane.
 Attenborough, D. 1979, *Life on Earth*, Collins.
 Miller, J. 1978, *The Body in Question*, Macmillan.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

E. R. BULLARD

To-day the average 11-year old can discuss electronics and computers and use the associated technical language with its bytes and bauds. Why then is there an ever-increasing tendency to talk-down and trivialise the study of wild things by the avoidance of their scientific names?

Many naturalist speakers and writers studiously avoid anything to which they cannot give a "common" name. Their readers or listeners really begin to believe that scientific names are hopelessly difficult and get the idea that anything without a common name is unutterably dull.

This limits interest in wild life to birds, the larger mammals, some widespread wild flowers and a very few invertebrates. Ah, birds, you say, if they can have common names, why not everything else? My French ornithologist friends are quite ready to use scientific names for birds! There are only about 560 species of birds on the British List and it isn't too difficult for ornithologists in the UK to agree on standard common names, though some still prefer "Hedge-sparrow" to "Dunnock" and "Lammergeier" to "Bearded Vulture", (in ancient world - ossifragus, in Spain - quebranta-huesos, "bonebreaker".) By contrast, the UK has about 22,000 species of insects, 3507 other invertebrates, (excluding Protozoa, Nematodes, Ticks, Mites and Crustaceans) several thousand species of mosses, liverworts, lichens and algae and about 3000 different wild

flowers. The majority never have had common names; to invent and standardise such names now would be a waste of energy.

From time immemorial country people named the really familiar species in their own small localities. As a result, one common insect or wild flower may have a dozen or more common names in different parts of Britain, or the same common name may be given to many quite different species. An old professor of Botany used to claim that there were only four valid common names for wild plants - "Baby's-breath" for all white-flowered plants, "Old Men's Britches" for those with coloured petals, "Kecks" for all Umbellifers and "grass" for everything else. "Rose", "Lily" and "Grass" are indeed used for a vast number of plants which are not true roses, lilies or grasses. Readers of Shakespeare will know some names would hardly be repeatable in polite society today, and even the French "Pissenlit" for Dandelion might offend some..



Although there is a recommended list of common names for wild flowers, this is a compromise and many local favourites are not included. Too rigid adherence to it in a local condition can lead to greater confusion than the use of the straightforward scientific name. After all, we all use *Anemone*, *Angelica*, *Cotoneaster*, *Fescue*, *Fritillary*, *Gentian*, *Iris*, *Laburnum*, *Viola* and many others without demanding a common name, while some very Orcadian common names are direct derivations from scientific names. "Tushilago" is more familiar than "Colt's-foot" for *Tussilago farfara*, "Meal-an-folly" or "Melancholy" (useage now dying out) than the English "Yarrow" for *Achillea millefolium* while "Primula scotica" is more appropriate for *Primula scotica* than the English "Scottish Primrose".

Scientific names are often as descriptive as common names. Colours; *alba*, white, *aurea*, golden, *nigra*, black. Shapes; *stellata*, starry, *triflora*, flowers in threes, *hirsuta*, hairy. Habit or habitat; *alpina*, alpine, *maritima* by the sea, *major*, greater.

By all means use common names when they are unambiguous. But do not be afraid of the scientific ones; unlike a computer, they don't have a byte.

REFERENCES,

- Kerrich, Hawkswarth, Sims, 1978, *Key Works to the Fauna and Flora of the British Isles and North-western Europe*,
 Purnell's *Encyclopedia of Animal Life*, 1968,

JUNIOR PAGES

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REPORT.

Did all of you have a Happy Christmas? Ninety three children were sent our Christmas Activity Booklet to help them. If we missed any children please let us know. Thank you for all the rodent and the robin reports.

EXPEDITION HIGH HOY : 24th Sept was a great success. Thirty children managed this tough trek through the bushy heather of the valley of the Rackwick Burn, scrambling into, along and out of Britain's most northerly natural woodland - Berrie Dale. We climbed up to Grut Fea and the walk to Clicknafea took us over "fell field" and showed clearly the changes in plants due to altitude and exposure. We also provided entertainment for the mountain hares who hopped out for brief looks at us. The Hoy mothers turned out too - and provided a fine tea in the North Hoy Hall where Ross showed us a collection of Hoy butterflies and moths and we looked again at our illustrated worksheets.

ORKNEY YOUNG NATURALISTS CHALLENGE

Sanday children hit the headlines again, what an enterprising lot they are! All but one of our recent award winners come from there. Congratulations to Silver Award winners Barrie Allen, Graham Clarke, Jamie Lewington, Andrew Moore, Helen Towrie, Linda Towrie, Adam Towrie and Verity Luke. More congratulations too to Gold Award winners Richard Groat, Maxwell Carstairs, Angela Moore and Sarah McPadyen. To our special roll of honour of Advanced Award winners goes our fifth name, Sallyann Smales, of Barswick, South Ronaldsay.

We have just begun work on a new edition, illustrated and reorganised and with extra helpful information in it. If you have started our present scheme please continue, we are still presenting awards for it.

SEA AND SHORE STUDY : Mr Alistair Skene tells me that the arrangements for this are going ahead, but it will now be run during the summer months. If you have already been keeping notes and records we are VERY interested in seeing them. Send them in to me now. Special interim awards will be made.

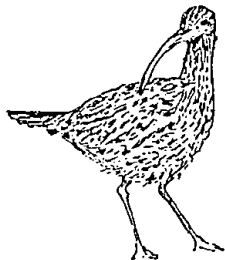
ACTIVITY DAYS in 1989 : Pleasure with Learning for all schoolchildren. As part of our Project Youth Outreach non-members are welcome so bring a friend. Adults also are welcome if brought by a child! Full details will be available nearer the time of the events.

MAY 13th. WORK AT DURKADALE tree gene bank plantation. Find out how your trees have grown, plus new practical work and a contrasting activity.

MAY 20th. CRUADY QUARRY AND YESNABY : Reading the book of the rocks - plus birds, and the plants of "maritime heath"

JUNE 3rd. SEA AND SHORE : a study with the Diving Club's help.

JUNE 23rd to 26th. : EXPLORATION EDAY...A Discovery weekend for 30 children. Details still to be confirmed. Priority bookings for O.Y.N. certificate holders and Junior Club Members...many more details to follow.



JULY 15th. WATER ECOLOGY AT GRAEMSHALL and possibly Echnaloch. Can we record a new species as we did at Durkadale last year?

JULY 16th to 22nd. STROMNESS SHOPPING WEEK

WILD FLOWER COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN.

Anyone aged between 5 and 14 may enter..

Each section must show the entrant's name and age.

There are three separate subject sections and you may enter all three.

Each section will be judged in three groups according to age;

Group A : 5-7 years, Group B : 8-10 years, Group C : 11-14 years.

Money prizes donated, by the Stromness Flower Club will be awarded to the best entries.

Section 1 : WILD FLOWERS6 common wild flowers drawn coloured and named on paper not larger than 12" X 10"

Section 2 : PICTURE COMPOSED OF PRESSED WILD FLOWERS , grasses, ferns, leaves etc. Maximum size of sheet 9" X 7"

Section 3 : COLLAGE made from material from the seashore. (A shallow cardboard box might be a suitable container.)

The entries may be handed in to the Stromness flower Club Exhibition in the Community Centre any day from Monday 17th July. The closing date is Friday 21st. July at 5pm.

Entries will be displayed on Saturday at the Community Centre from 10am. Have a go, start in good time.AUGUST 12th. COUNTY SHOW.our Publicity and Fundraising opportunity. Everyone's ideas are needed SOON....so...DO SOMETHING about it.

SEPTEMBER 16th. SEEING ON SHAPINSAY...woods, fungi, beaches and birds. Another new island for our activities.

OCTOBER....Still to be planned. Any requests?

And also see the adult's programme. You will be most welcome. If you can't persuade your parents to take you contact me. We will make arrangements for you.

OUT WITH THE FIELD CLUB.....Your chance to help make our Bulletin more interesting - and win a prize for yourself as well, Write a story for us of up to 150 words (about the size of an exercise book page) which we can print in our next issue. Tell us what you discovered, enjoyed, disliked, or how you could have improved the day. Prizes will be given in three age groups : Up to and including 9 years on the day you wrote it; 10 - 12 years; 13 years and over.

Send in your stories any time now until 31st August 1989. We will acknowledge them all. Why not try it when writing for school?

Ralph Faulkner, Junior Activities Convener, Glebe Mill, Evie. (Evie 267).

This is a summary of the survey work carried out by Junior members of the Field Club, together with a little bit of help from some of the adult birdwatchers.

The robin only breeds in a few places in Orkney. However, in winter, birds from northern Europe migrate to the Islands because of our mild climate. These "continental" birds are usually much more shy and secretive than the familiar robin of the British mainland.

Robins are very "territorial" birds which means that they have an area in which they will not allow any other robins to enter. This way they make sure they have a large enough area to hunt and find food. What sort of food do robins eat? Perhaps you know the answer already. If not, see if you can find out.

The results of the Survey.

Mainland.

The towns seemed to be the favourite places, but perhaps that is just because there are more people to look for them! Stromness was reported to have about 20 birds. There were not as many seen in Kirkwall but this is probably because there was not such a thorough search. However, I did manage to see one regularly outside the Nature Conservancy Council office. Although several birds were seen elsewhere in the town not everyone was lucky enough to have one in their garden. Catherine McLeod wrote to say she had not seen a single one in her garden in Papdale East.

On the outskirts of town, Morag Adam had at least two birds in her garden. She only ever saw one at a time but as her father had put a special ring on the left leg of one bird and the right leg of the other, it was easy to tell the two apart (providing you had a pair of binoculars!) This shows that even if you only see one robin in your garden, it does not mean that it must be the same bird every time. Morag also reported two robins at Wideford Burn (near the airport), two at Binscarth (Finstown) and two at Graemshall (Holm). These three places have plenty of trees and bushes which robins like.

There was quite a collection of records from the eagle eyed observers in Evie with one or two birds at Woodwick House and another two more not far away in Kate Reynolds garden. One of these had an unusual thin white mark on the wing (a "wing bar") and so could be easily recognised. Two robins in Kate's garden was unusual because it is fairly small and only has a few bushes but more about that later. Not everyone in Evie was as sharp eyed as Kate. Ralph Faulkner has an ideal garden for robins with



plenty of bushes yet he didn't manage to spot a single one. Perhaps we should buy him a new pair of spectacles for his birthday!

The Islands.

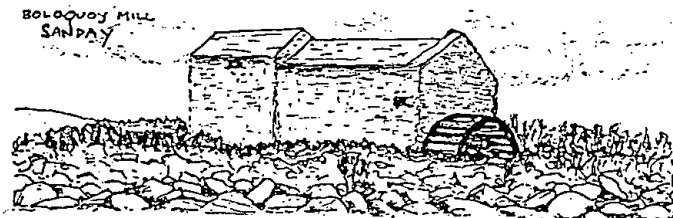
There were much fewer reports of robins from the islands. This was either because there really were less robins or there were just less people looking out for them. In fact, there probably really are less robins because even after talking to local birdwatchers, it seemed that most islands only had one or two. Surprisingly there was not one reported for the whole of Hoy!. Even the RSPB warden had not seen any robins since 14th December!. The only exception was Eday which had at least six or eight, including four recorded at different places by Joanna Cox of Breck.

Mike Cockram, an Eday farmer, thinks that there have been more and more wintering robins on the island during the past five years. He thinks the birds like to feed around the field in which he keeps his horse, perhaps because the horses hooves churn up the ground which uncovers insects for the robin to feed on. Perhaps this is the same sort of thing as the robins which sit by gardeners, waiting to pounce on any worms as the ground is dug over. Interestingly, Kate Reynolds in Evie has a field with several ponies in the bottom of her garden. Could this be why there were two robins in only a small garden? Do you think that this theory might be right? Have you got any other ideas as to why robins seem to prefer some places and not others? Please let me know if you can think of anything.

What has our Survey discovered?

One thing we can say for sure is that we have not found all the robins in Orkney! Nevertheless, over 40 robins have been reported and from that we have shown that

- 1) Robins seem to like small gardens, especially those with bushes which are in sheltered places such as Kirkwall and Stromness.
- 2) Robins also seem to like small woods including Binscarth, Woodwick House and Graemshall.
- 3) Robins seem to be less common on the outer islands perhaps because they are less sheltered and have fewer bushes. On the other hand it may just be that there are less people looking for robins here than there are in say Kirkwall or Stromness. What do you think?
- 4) Despite the mild weather, most people seem to think that the number of robins this winter is about the same as normal. Finally, many thanks to everyone who provided me with records - adults as well as Juniors. If you have any ideas about robins in winter, please write and tell me all about it.



What's On in Orkney Field Club.

MARCH

11th, Saturday. A Biological Recording meeting to look at and discuss a range of coastal grassland and heathland habitats on the *S.W.T. RESERVE* at the *HILL OF WHITE HAMMARS* and on adjacent coastal areas, (Longhope). Dept. Houton 9.45 a.m. for Lyness. (Leave Lyness 15.30), Organised by Roy Harris and Mary Jones, Longhope 444. Please notify Organisers previous evening so that transport from Lyness can be arranged. In the event of SNOW, GALES or HEAVY rain, this trip will be postponed to 8th April

16th Extra-Mural *HEBRIDEAN YEAR: human and natural.* By Dr N Buxton. Stromness New Academy. 8.00 p.m..

17th Club night. *THE NATURAL WORLD OF ZIMBABWE.* By Chris Corrigan. Kirkwall Town Hall. Room 3. 7.30 p.m.

26th A walk around and about the *ORPHIR HILLS.* Meet at the Guide Hut, Orphir, GR 335060, at 2.00 p.m.

APRIL

19th Extra-mural. *HEATHS AND MOORS: harmonising use and conservation.* By Prof. C H Gimingham. Stromness New Academy 8.00 p.m.

21st Club night. *ANTARCTICA* by Capt. Andy Alsop. Kirkwall Town Hall, Room 3. 7.30 p.m.

23rd Sunday. A walk along *BU SANDS* and visit *BU FARM*, Burray. Meet Bu Sands, 2.00p.m. GR485970

MAY.

6th. Saturday. Visit to *EGILSAY & WYRE*, Leave Tingwall at 9.30 a.m. approx. Exact time will be announced nearer the date.

13th Saturday. *DURKADALE* Work Party, Picnic and Tree Planting. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. but come and go as you please. Bring grub, drink, tools and stout footwear. We want EVERYBODY to take part, enjoy our reserve and have fun. Also Junior Activities. (There will be separate notification.)

20th. Saturday. *CRUARDY QUARRY & YESNABY.* Junior Activities meeting. Rocks, Birds and Plants.

27th. Saturday. *SCORRADALE.* Biological Recording, mainly moths, plants etc. Meet 4 p.m. near the entrance of drive to Scorradaile House. GR326054. Leader. Mr. I. Lorimer.

JUNE.

3rd. Saturday. *SEA & SHORE.* Junior Activities meeting with Orkney Diving Club's help, time and place to be arranged.

4th. Sunday. Visit to *FARA.* A boat is arranged from Lyness. Leaving at 10.30 a.m. for Fara. Leave Mainland from Houton.

23rd - 26th. Weekend. *EXPLORATION EDAY.* A Discovery Weekend for 30 children. Priority bookings for O.Y.N. certificate holders and Junior OFC members.

continues/

What's On in Orkney Field Club continued.

JULY.

15th. Saturday. Water Ecology at *GRAEMSHALL* (and possibly Echnaloch). Junior Activities meeting.

16th - 22nd. Stromness Shopping Week Wild Flower Competition for children.

AUGUST.

12th. Saturday. *COUNTY SHOW*. Publicity and fund-raising opportunity. Help and ideas wanted.

20th Sunday. A ramble by *BRECKNESS* and the Shore, including Breckness House. GR227099. 2.00p.m. Access by farm road beyond Brockan, by kind permission of Mr. Johnstone.

27th. Sunday. *SANDAY, LADY PARISH*. Biological Recording Meeting. dunes and machair SSSI's. Depart Kirkwall Harbour 8.45 a.m. by m.v. "Guide". Leave Sanday approx. 6 p.m. Boat fare, £9 adults, £4.50 under 16. (A small extra for land transport). Leaders, Ian MacDonald, Kirkwall 2561, and Rodney Thorne, Sanday 404. The boat will be shared with members of Orkney Camera Club. Land transport and permission for access is limited so those wishing to take part in guided meeting should give their names to Ian MacDonald well in advance and be at boat in good time! (Unaccompanied Juniors apply to Mr. R. Faulkner).

SEPTEMBER.

15th. Club Night. *PLANTS AND LANDSCAPES IN CHINA*. An illustrated talk by Miss Liz Charter, Conservation Officer Orkney FF Wag.

16th. Saturday. *SHAPINSAY*. Junior Activities meeting. *SEEING* woods, fungi, beaches and birds.

17th. Sunday. A walk through *BINSCARTH WOOD* & by *WASDALE LOCH*. Meet at roadside by Binscarth Farm at 2.15 p.m. GR 346143.

OCTOBER.

Friday Club Night - date to be announced - *THE HISTORY OF GARDENS* by Mr. Mr. James Johnstone. The story of this local company who supplied stores and goods to North Scotland and the Isles, by boat.

NOVEMBER.

Friday 17th. Club Night. *LATE FROM HUDSON BAY*. Orkney men in the Hudson Bay Co. An illustrated talk by Mr. Bryce Wilson.

All the talks will be held in the Town Hall, Kirkwall, Room 3 at 7.30 p.m.



Junior and Biological Recording meetings October onwards will be announced in Bulletin 2/89.

Lifts can be arranged to any of these events by contacting any member of the Walks & Talks sub-committee. John Mowat, Kirkwall 2922. Tom King, Kirkwall 3524. Pat Proctor, Orphir 337. Ethel Young, Stromness 850 416. (Junior and Biological Recording Meetings excepted.)

ORKNEY FIELD CLUB

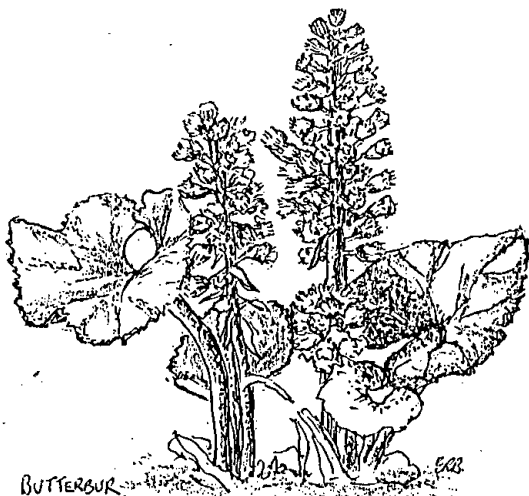
Founded 1959.

*Objects; To promote the study and conservation of the
natural and cultural heritages of the County,*

BULLETIN No. 2:1989



Contents	page
Officers, subscriptions.	2
Chairman's Letter.	2
Secretary's Report	3
Editor's Report	4
FFWAG Report	5
Biological Recording	6
Aquisition by OIC	7
Durkadale Report	8
Fungi Report	9
Cetacean Report 1988	15
Verges	18
Junior Activities Reports	19
WHAT'S ON	23/24



OFFICERS.

Hon. President.	Mr. P. Gorie, Pipersquoy, Kirkwall.
Hon. Vice President	Miss J. Merriman, 21 Hillside Road, Stromness.
Chairman	Miss B. Smith, Don, Outertown, Stromness.
Vice Chairman	Mr. M. Hayes, Summerley, Burray.
Treasurer	Mrs. M. Eggeling, Stacklebrae, Stromness.
Secretary	Miss Andrewina Ross, Outer Dyke, Stenness.
Editor	Miss E. R. Bullard, Toftwood, Kirkwall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due on 1st January 1990. Adults £4. Family £6. OAP & Unemployed £2.50. Junior £1. Please pay to the Treasurer, address above.

ADDRESS

Written communications ONLY should be made to:-

ORKNEY FIELD CLUB. c/o County Library, Laing Street, Kirkwall.

Material appearing in the Orkney Field Club Bulletin is Copyright.

Deadline for Bulletin 1. 1990 is 14th February, 1990.

The Editor cannot accept responsibility for errors and omissions in any item which is not submitted sufficiently long before the deadline to allow draft copy to be returned to contributor for checking.

We regret to report the deaths of longstanding members, Miss M A Bacon and Mr. P Scott.

Chairman's Letter.

Beverley Smith.

This year has seen an increase in membership especially of Junior and Family members who are taking full advantage of what the Club has to offer, including its programme of events. The membership presently stands at just over 250.

Unfortunately this year has seen a drastic decline in income as many people have not paid their subscriptions. In order to run efficiently and keep you informed of activities and Club developments, your subscriptions are urgently needed.

With this Bulletin we have included a green subscription reminder and a Standing Order form. The Club's financial year ends on December 31st each year and you may find it convenient to pay future years' subscriptions by Standing Order through your Bank. It would be appreciated if you could

pay your subscriptions by this method as soon after the 31st December as possible.

It is difficult to budget the Club's finances when subscriptions are paid throughout the year and it is also expensive. Payment by Standing Order would be appreciated and would mean that the Club could make better use of your money, ease the Treasurer's burden and be generally more efficient.

Next year there will be changes in Bulletin style. A single, printed edition will be the likely outcome as well as twice-yearly news letters/events sheets as previously. Much valuable and informative study is regularly done by Club members and we owe it to them to reach a wider audience. In future the Club may well produce a high-class publication or a series of these on various themes which could be sold locally.

This is your Club, please take advantage of its facilities; if you have ideas or can help in any way, please contact our Secretary, Andi Ross, Outerdykes, Stenness, tel. 850 207.

1989 Committee Report

Andi Ross.

There have been 7 Committee meetings with an average attendance of around 50%.

OIC has been approached about guidelines and planning regulations relating to sea bed developments, such as the recent introduction of Manilla Clams which are sown at low tide. There was concern that the balance of the ecology of the Orkney sea life might be upset should this alien species be allowed to breed uncontrollably. Other organisations such as FFWAG, Countryside Committee and NCC were alert to the problem and regular meetings are now scheduled - with FFWAG more or less acting as go-between Council and conservation groups such as ours.

On the lighter side of Club business we had entered the Durkadale Reserve in a Times/PM competition of which we were among five runners-up, receiving prizes of £250 each. Five of the Club's representatives were invited, expenses paid, to collect the prize in London. All had a super time and took material to promote OFC. As a result of the publicity of this a £2000 gift was given to us by the author of a book about the hurricane which swept through Kent and SE England devastating trees. This means we can press ahead with the hut/information centre and buying tools and a new roofing system. It has been decided to spend this money exclusively on tree-related matters. The Juniors Section has also been runners-up in an ESSO/RSPB competition, winning posters and a book.

Our Biological Recording is now to be computerised in Orkney and a programme is well under way with the work.

Unfortunately our County Show appearance had to be cancelled this year; there was neither enough time nor people available to make a proper job of it. For next year we have already started making plans and work can begin more or less straight away. Anybody with ideas or the time and inclination to join in? Contact Andi Ross or other Committee members.

The "new style" Club Nights appear to have been successful. Everyone seems to enjoy having refreshments and a chance to chat. Comments to Andi Ross. "Walks & Talks" subcommittee have had their usual success and we look forward to another year's interesting programme

Junior Activities have had an eventful year with many outings. The number of young members in the Club has grown considerably; this is all to the good and their sub-committee is to be congratulated on its hard work.

Members have attended training courses and conferences. The latest one is to be on learning to work with other groups and organisations.

Fears have been expressed that our good name will suffer if members acting on behalf of the Club fail to make sure that they have the owner's full permission before carrying out any activity on his land.

Finally you will see the new nomination forms enclosed. Democratically and administratively it is far better to have nominations in before the AGM and it saves any possible confusion, although, of course, nomination can still be taken from the floor on the night, which brings me to tell you the date and venue of the next AGM.

THE LYNNFIELD HOTEL, Thursday, 27th January 1990 at 7.30 p.m.

Again we hope to show a film and provide refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

Editorial.

E.R.Bullard.

Your Committee had hoped to take advantage of the new "Orcadian" facilities to type-set from our Amstrad 3" floppy discs and so produce our long-hoped for "properly printed" Bulletin and this 2/89 copy was to be a trial run. If successful the intention then would have been to print one annual Bulletin in Spring, after the AGM, plus two photocopied newsletters set up on the Amstrad W/P, one going out with the Bulletin the other in early Autumn in time for winter programmes. The Newsletters would be mainly "forthcoming events" and similar ephemeral news while the "records" "notes" "reports" "articles" etc. would have continued to appear in the Bulletin, but only once a year.

Unfortunately financial considerations (see Chairman's Letter) have ruled this out for the time being. There is also the problem that while the present method allows the Editor to "edit" and "lay out" in one operation, the type-setting would require two and would be a much longer process. A new DTP program available for the Amstrad 8000 range may be able to produce near-print quality text from which printing plates can be made and your Committee will be considering these. Members who know about DTP and would like to take part in discussion should get in touch with Andi or me.

Even with the present method the failure of some sub-committees and individuals to keep to "deadlines" continues to be a cause of delay and frustration and puts back the issue by several weeks. The given "deadline" is NOT the date to start thinking what you want to put in the Bulletin but the LATEST date for the completed item to be in the Editor's hands.

The Club still needs members willing to assist with "Publications"; editing, articles, illustrations, (black and white), production etc. Please do not grumble at poor contents or quality unless you are willing to lend a hand. The DEADLINE for the next issue will be 15th February 1990. Please remind any sub-committee of which you are a member.

Orkney Farming, Fishing and Wildlife Advisory Group.

John Crossley,

This has been the first year of work for the FFWAG adviser, Elizabeth Charter. Between May and October John Crossley filled the post while Liz was on maternity leave.

It has been a busy and, we think, fruitful time. much of it has been taken up with drawing up management regimes for areas of value for wildlife and farms, under the Agricultural Development Programme, which has involved a great deal of background work and liaison to ensure that appropriate conservation measures are being taken. In this connection the Orkney Biological Records Centre will eventually be invaluable. We now know that a greater proportion of Orkney's most valuable wildlife habitat not already conserved by the RSPB or NCC is officially protected, for a time. Some of the remainder belongs to sympathetic owners, but some is benefitting from traditional non-intensive farming methods, or even neglect, which often changes with a new generation or owner taking over. We hope for continuing and new environmental protection measures, with more generous incentives to farmers.

We have also been called on for advice on tree planting, wildflower meadow and pond creation, school projects and competitions, and a variety of other activities. As well as providing detailed information for specific proposals we have produced information leaflets, done an Agricultural Training Board tree planting course, and had a stand at the County Show. As the period for new applications for ADP plans draws to a close (Feb. 1990) we expect Liz will be engaged in more educational and promotional work.

FFWAG has had a meeting between representatives of fishing, farming and conservation interests, and the OIC to discuss the probable development of manilla clam farming in Orkney, and its environmental impact. There are serious concerns too about pollution from fish farming and agricultural effluents; this is not an area where we advisers have waded in, but the group as a whole intends to provide a forum for discussion of these problems.

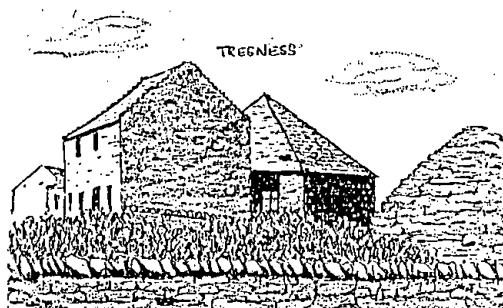
Biological Recording Field Meetings 1989.

A cold, blustery but dry March day saw us guests of Roy Harris and Mary Jones at Loft and the new SWT Reserve at Snelsetter, Longhope. Exceptionally heavy rainfall in February had left much of the area still somewhat waterlogged and the expected young leaves of *Primula scotica* had not materialised. However, we were able to see some of the changes (and improvements) to the Maritime Heath brought about by grazing management.

Inevitably "puzzles" were numerous; exactly what causes flushing in heathy places? How long does evidence of past farming techniques persist? What causes the faint parallel lines at right-angles to the coast? Do some breeds of farm livestock exhibit different grazing patterns from others? A sheltered hollow near the cliff edge provided us with a comfortable lunch site and we managed an experimental listing of a square metre of herb-rich turf which even at that early season contained a large number of recognisable plants, but bird life kept many eyes glued to field glasses.

At Scorradale in May the backwardness of the season was shown up clearly by short lists of moth adults and larvae and wildflowers. only 3, 12 and 55 respectively seen in the space of an hour. Guided however by the expertise of Mr. Ian Lorimer, younger members took home some common caterpillars to rear, knowing the correct food plants. This is much of what "biological recording" is about.

The highlight of the year was our trip to Sanday on the last Sunday in August. As on the same Sunday in 1988, the weather was perfect and, but for the lack of tropical vegetation, the long white beaches and clear seas in Lady Parish could have been in the Caribbean. Guided by Ian MacDonald, the main purpose of the meeting was to study the dune and machair formations and as with all BRC meetings, these raised inevitable questions - why are so many sand-covered "ayres" and tombolos in Orkney based on a shingle ridge? Is there an unlimited supply of shell-sand off-shore? It seems that in both cases the materials ARE limited and are merely recycled by wind and wave with very little true replenishment. Distances in Sanday are deceptive and for various reasons - including a bull and an electric fence! - we did not have time to see all the special dune and machair plants although the minute size of some we did see fascinated our Juniors. The outward sailing to Sanday had taken us east around Shapinsay with unusual views of the islands' coasts. Returning home we came between the Holms and Spurness and between Muckle and Little Green Holm with sightings of seals. Many Sanday farmers had given us permission to cross their land; we were unable to take advantage of all but at low tide in the afternoon we waded Cata Sand to be picked up by Roderick Thorne and put down again at Silverha' for a short exploration of saltmarsh before a welcome cuppa at the School House. The Camera Club was unable to take part in this trip but several members of OFC were so very busy with their viewfinders that for a time we lost one member! Needless to say the group of very isolated farm buildings much in the local news this year was a popular "model", while a guest (Swiss?) reported a profitable lone session photographing waders.



ACQUISITION BY ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL OF THE GLOUP AND BROUGH OF DEERNESS

(T W Eggeling)

Approximately two and a half years ago, Mr S Bichan, Denwick, Deerness asked Mr E Meek whether the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) would be interested in acquiring land and access to the Gloop and north to the the Brough of Deerness as a local bird reserve. Although interested in the site for such a purpose, the RSPB approached Orkney Islands Council (OIC), with the agreement of the landowner, to ascertain whether it would be interested in acquiring this land instead.

The matter was considered by the Planning Committee, OIC on 1 September 1987 when it was resolved to recommend that the District Valuer be asked to provide a valuation on a) the parking area and access to the Gloop and b) the area of land extending north from the Gloop to the Brough of Deerness. That recommendation was ratified by OIC at its General Meeting on 6 October 1987.

On 24 March 1988, the District Valuer submitted a valuation for these areas of ground, extending to a little over 50 acres, and on 7 June 1988 this valuation was considered by the Planning Committee, OIC who resolved to recommend that the land be purchased at that valuation. That recommendation was ratified by OIC at its General Meeting on 12 July 1988 but with the proviso that this would only be done once another transaction had been completed.

On 31 January 1989, the Planning Committee resolved to recommend that once the title to the land had been finalised footpath improvements be carried out between the Gloop and the Brough of Deerness by Scottish Conservation Projects; and on 7 March 1989, that recommendation was ratified by OIC.

On 23 March 1989, an application was submitted to the Countryside Commission for Scotland for grant aid towards the costs of land acquisition and of the necessary improvement works to the footpath and, on 12 May 1989 an offer of grant amounting to approximately 60 per cent of the total costs was made to Orkney Islands Council.

The necessary transaction was duly completed and, over the period 7-21 July 1989, a workforce of volunteers from Scottish Conservation Projects visited Orkney to carry out certain footpath improvements, including stone step construction, the erection of way marker posts, and a kissing gate.

Arrangements are now in hand to transfer the Guardianship of the chapel and enclosure on the Brough of Deerness from the Secretary of State for Scotland to Orkney Islands Council, and it is likely that proposals for improving the interpretation material at this site will be submitted to OIC in due course.

Further improvements to this popular area are planned and the Planning Department, OIC would be pleased to receive any practical suggestions for improving the area.



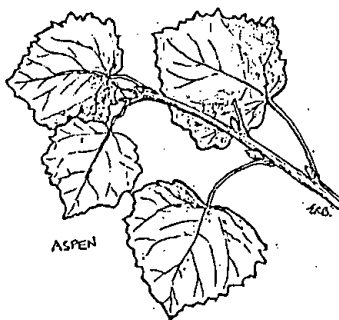
Work this summer has shown that the most efficient method of preparing weedy ground for planting is by use of black polythene mulch and further effort must be taken to cover the as yet unplanted rows. These are, all of the long rows A, B and C, and parts of D, also smaller part-rows Q, U V & W which have been overlooked. Then there will be all the western halves of the six long slanting rows and also the unploughed area by the bottom fence (which is intended for native willows). This will require about 500 more birch and 200 more native willow. For the last few years we have been planting LESS than 50 new trees a year! And in a few years' time we may also have to consider removing the alien "shelter" trees and in some way replacing them with native species, HOPEFULLY from seed of the trees now growing there.

A conventionalised "map" of the layout together with dates, sources etc of trees so far planted has been made and a copy may be obtained from me. Spare used black plastic is at the site and any help in laying it down this winter will be most welcome, also help in raising native willows from cuttings and MORE birch from seed. The rabbit wire netting is rusting at base and may need replacing. With any luck we will get some sort of hut/shelter in place which will make work at the site more comfortable - as have been many birds which have used the plot for nesting.

The workparty in May was well-attended, other "work" visits have been made by individuals or small groups. The Inspection Rota, now covering 15 months, seems OK although the sub-committee would wish more "inspectors" to 'phone back after their visit.

The Reserve itself has been rather neglected; OFC Juniors had some study there in May and a class from KGS later on, the latter adding the only new record to the Plant List - the Moonwort Fern, *Botrychium lunaria*. This is such a lovely part of Orkney, it seems sad members are not making more visits to it.

"Native Trees" are causing much interest in Orkney at present and perhaps some controversy. There is an obvious demand for trees as many people are wanting to plant them and no one as yet has been able to raise enough for their own needs, let alone supply "customers". Propagating from Orkney's tiny remaining Hazel stock seems to have been unsuccessful so far, Aspen has not proved too easy from cuttings and many people seem unable to germinate Birch seed. Perhaps an opening here for someone to start a semi-commercial nursery? Grant aid would probably be available. On the other hand I have heard rumours that claim that the native stock is "degenerate" and others that complain that trees (of any kind?) are unsuitable for the kinds of wild birds Orkney is famous for, and should not be encouraged.



Apart from one specimen determined by Mr J. Trist [JT] in 1984, the following additional records were all determined by Dr Roy Watling [RW] prior to the 21st November 1988. In addition, Dr I. Lorimer identified the victim of one parasitic fungus.

Collectors (referred to by initials in text):

Mr T.W. Eggeling	TWE	Mr K. Fairclough	KF
Mr T.A. Rigg	TAR	Mr E.R. Rutland	ERR
Mr A.D. Smith	ADS	Miss E.R. Bullard	ERB
Mr M. Baker	MB		

ADDITIONS TO LIST: PART II

Hebeloma arenosa

Under *Pinus contorta* at Lyness Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 29/08/85 [471: RW on 24/06/87].

H. versipelle

Under partly burnt *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [315: RW on 18/03/87].

Inocybe brunneoatra

Under *Picea sitchensis* and *Pinus contorta* at Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [351: RW on 18/03/87].

I. cincinnata

Under mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [426: RW on 18/03/87].

I. fastigiata

Under mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [420: RW on 18/03/87].

I. longicystis

Under *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [330: RW on 18/03/87]. Under *Picea sitchensis* and *Pinus contorta* at Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 23/08/85 [353: RW on 18/03/87].

Phaeomarasmium eriaceus

Beside the Pegal Burn, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 31/08/85 [505: RW on 18/03/87].

Pholiota squarrosa

Clustered at base of frondose trees and moss covered wood at Binscarth, Firth: TAR on 19/10/84 [130(1)(1)pp: RW on 09/05/88] and TWE on 30/10/84 [142(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87].

Tubaria furfuracea

On decayed wood at Binscarth Woods, Firth: TWE on 26/10/83, 10/11/83, 24/11/83 and 19/12/83 [80(1)(1-3); 98(1)(1); 99(1)(1), and 103(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87] and TWE on 19/12/83 [102(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87]. At foot of

Acer at Council Offices, Kirkwall: TWE on 10/11/83 [80(2)(1): RW on 18/03/87]. In pasture at Deepdale, Stromness: TWE on 13/12/83 [101(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87]. Rooting on dead *Ulex* at Binscarth, Firth: MAE on 29/09/84 [108(1)(1): RW on 09/05/88]. On moss covered *Salix* at Wideford Burn, St Ola: TWE on 14/11/84 [154(1)(1): RW on 09/05/88].

Hypholoma elongatum

With *Arctostaphylos alpina*, moss etc. on Ward Hill, N. Hoy: HH-J on 09/09/25 [3104]: RW on 02/03/88].

Panaeolus ater

In short rough pasture at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 14/11/84 [161(1)(1): RW on 18/03/87].

P. rickenii

In short rough pasture at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 14/11/84 [161(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Psathyrella cf. vinosofulva

With *Mycena hiemalis* on dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TAR on 03/11/83 [64(1)(2): RW on 02/03/88].

Russula emetica

Under mixed conifers at Lyrava Plantation, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 31/08/85 [498: RW on 17/12/86].

Clavulinopsis fusiformis

On sheep pasture east of Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 30/08/85 [486: RW on 25/04/88].

Clavulina cristata

Under partly burnt *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [308: RW on 25/04/88].

C. rugosa

On wet ground under deciduous trees at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 [24(1)(2): RW on 25/04/88].

Byssomerulius corium

On decaying *Ulex* at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [32(2)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Gloeocystidiellum porosum

On decayed frondose tree at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [169(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Hyphodontia pallidula

On soil on the underside of roots of wind-uprooted tree at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [170(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Phlebia radiata

On decayed frondose wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 04/01/84 [30(1)(2): RW on 25/04/88].

Radulomyces confuens

On decaying frondose tree at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [168(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Schizopora paradoxa

On buried fence stob at Howe, Stromness: TWE on 07/01/84 [106(1)(1): RW on

09/05/88]. On dead wood at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 24/10/84 [140(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Hydnum rufescens

In mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [411: RW on 25/04/88].

Inonotus radiatus

On decayed frondose branches etc at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 26/10/83 and 03/11/83 [41(1)(1-2): RW on 09/05/88]; TWE on 18/11/83 [38(1)(1-2): RW on 25/04/88]; TWE on 02/12/83 [42(1): RW on 09/05/88]; and TWE on 30/10/84 [144(1)(1): RW on 09/05/88].

Amyloporia xantha

On plank near the ground near Hillhead, Stromness: TWE on 10/11/84 [150(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Djerkandera adusta

On decayed *Ulex* buried in grass at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 02/12/83 [39(1): RW on 09/05/88].

Coriolus hirsutus

On decaying frondose branches and trunks at Binscarth, Firth: TAR on 31/10/83 and TWE on 10/11/83 [44(2)(1) and 43(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

C. versicolor

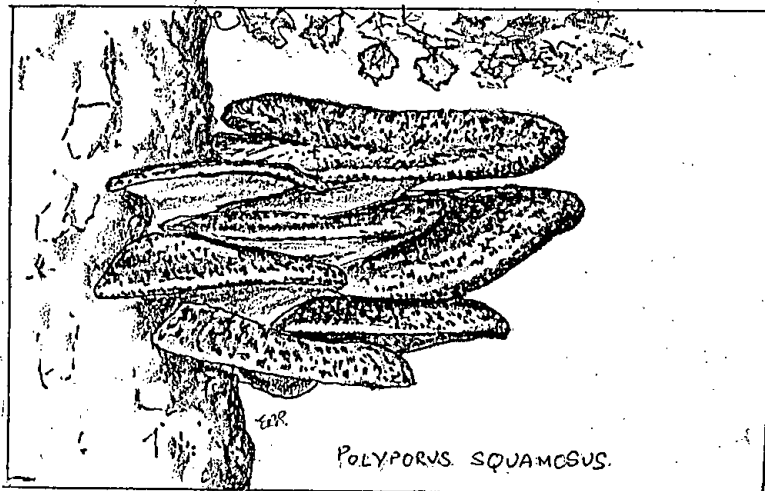
On decaying and fallen frondose trunks etc at Berstane Woods, St Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [44(1): RW on 25/04/88] and at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 20/10/83, 18/11/83, 18/12/83 and 03/10/84 [44(1), 43(1)(2) and 44(2)(2-3): RW on 25/04/88].

Gloeocystidiellum porosum

On decayed frondose tree at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [169(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Polyporus squamosus

On dead branch wound of mature and living *Acer* at Palace Gardens, Kirkwall: TWE on 08/10/83 [36: RW on 25/04/88]. On decayed *Acer* stumps at Berstane Woods, St Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [46(1): RW on 25/04/88].



Polyporus varius

On decayed and fallen frondose branch at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 19/12/83 [37: RW on 25/04/88].

Ptychogaster albus

On dead and fallen frondose trunk at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 26/10/83 [71(1): RW on 09/05/88].

Steccherinum ochraceum

Under *Acer* and mixed woodland at Melsetter, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [525: RW on 25/04/88].

Trametes suaveolens

On dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 10/11/83 [45(1)(1): RW on 09/05/88].

Tyromyces caesioides

On dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TAR on 19/10/84 [126(1)(2): RW on 25/04/88].

T. subcaesioides

On dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 [126(1)(1): RW on 09/05/88]; at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [436: RW on 09/05/88]; and at Melsetter House, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [510: RW on 09/05/88].

Stereum rugosum

On decayed frondose limbs at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 04/01/84 [35(2)(2): RW on 25/04/88] and at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [433: RW on 25/04/88].

Thelephora terrestris

Under partly-burnt *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [327: RW on 25/04/88].

Auriculariopsis ampla

On bark of decayed wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 10/11/83 [93(1): RW on 09/05/88].

Exidia recisa

On dead wood at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [RW on 09/05/88].

Tremella mesenterica

On *Ulex* in sheep pasture east of Bu Hill Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 30/08/85 [490: RW on 25/04/88].

Calocera cornea

On deciduous wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 and 19/10/84 [112(1)(1-2): RW on 25/04/88].

C. viscosa

On dead frondose tree stump at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 03/10/84 [17(1)(2): RW on 25/04/88].

Femsjonia pezizaeformis

On twig under *Salix* near Quoys, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [302: RW on 25/04/88].

Nectria coccinea

On decayed frondose branches and trunks at Binscarth, Firth: TAR/TWE on

03/11/83; TWE on 04/01/84; and TAR on 19/10/84 [11(1)(3-6): RW on 25/04/88]. On decayed frondose wood, at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [11(2)(2): RW on 25/04/88].

Tubercularia vulgaris

Bursting through the bark of frondose trees at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [11(2)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Claviceps purpurea

On specimen of *Glyceria pedicellata* at mouth of burn, Round Church, Orphir: ERB in late 1984 [741: JTL].

Cordyceps militaris

In mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [443: RW on 25/04/88].

Isaria farinosa

On abdomen of a large nocturnal moth of the *Noctua pronuba* or *Dasypolia templi* type [RIL on 10/02/88] at Hobbister, Orphir: TWE on 03/10/87 [718: RW on 21/11/88].

Chaetosphaeria pulviscula

On dead *Larix* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 14/11/84 [158(1)(1): RW on 02/03/88].

Hypoxylon multiforme

On dead wood at Binscarth, Firth: TAR on 31/10/83 [47(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Ustulina deusta

On roots of uprooted frondose tree at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 30/10/84 [143(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Xylaria hypoxylon

On dead frondose stump at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 14/11/84 [173(1)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

X. polymorpha

Under *Acer* and mixed deciduous trees at Melsetter, N. Walls: ADS/MB on 02/09/85 [509 and 513: RW on 25/04/88].

Arthronia radicata

On frondose branches at Berstane Woods, St Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [7(1)pp: RW on 06/02/85].

Dasyscyphus pygmaeus

On year-old burnt heather moorland on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [398: RW on 25/04/88].

Thuemenidium atropurpureum

On salt marsh and damp moorland at Rackwick, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 24/08/85 [378: RW on 25/04/88].

Coryne dubia

Gregarious on deciduous wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 [7(2)(4): RW on 25/04/88].

Aleuria aurantia

Short turf beside small rubbish pit at Brinkie's Brae, Stromness: TWE on 09/11/84 [145(2)(1): RW on 25/04/88]. On underside of roots of a wind-

fallen frondose tree at Breck, Orphir: TWE on 27/11/84 [145(3)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Cheilymenia fimicola

Swarming on cow dung at Wideford Burn, St Ola: TWE on 14/11/84 [2(3)(1): RW on 25/04/88].

Humaria hemisphaerica

On dead *Betula* branch at Berriedale, N. Hoy: TAR on 02/10/84 [229: RW on 25/04/88].

Scutellinia barlae

On mud in Orkney: ERR in October 1960 [(64)16]: RW on 02/03/88].

Helvella crispa

In mixed woodland at Berriedale, N. Hoy: ADS/MB/KF et alia on 28/08/85 [450: RW on 25/04/88].

Rhizina inflata

Under partly-burnt *Picea sitchensis* at the White Glen Plantation, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 22/08/85 [306: RW on 25/04/88].

Leptoglossum retirugum

On year-old burnt heather on the east side of Ward Hill, N. Hoy: ADS/MB on 25/08/85 [396: RW on 02/03/88].

Verticillium fungicola

On *Mycena alcalina* at Berstane Wood, St. Ola: TWE on 20/10/83 [61(1): RW on 24/06/87].

Lycogala epidendrum

On dead conifer wood at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 29/09/84 [113(1)(3): RW on 25/04/88].

Acremonium strictum

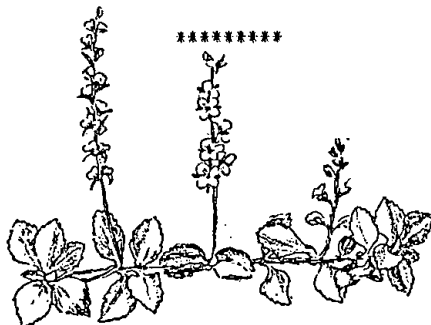
On living *Larix* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 04/01/84 [40(1)pp: RW on 09/05/88].

Scopulariopsis brevicaulis

On *Pholiota squarrosa* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 19/10/84 [130(1)(1)pp: RW on 09/05/88].

Stysanus putredinis

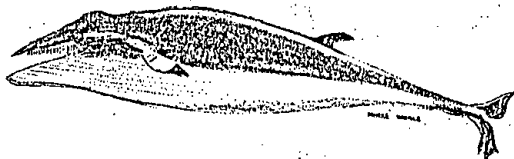
On *Pholiota squarrosa* at Binscarth, Firth: TWE on 19/10/84 [130(1)(1)pp: RW on 09/05/88].



1988 CETACEAN REPORT.

Minke Whale. *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*.

09.09.88 : 1 seen off Rora Head, Hoy.



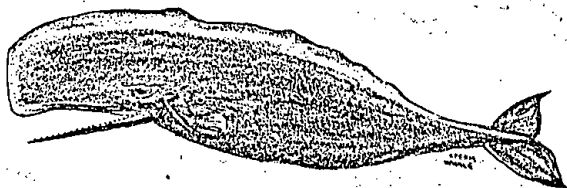
Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus*

26.02.88 : 1 stranded Sanday. Male, length 14.7 metres. Reasonably fresh.

19.03.88 : 1 stranded Newark Bay, Deerness. Male, length 14 metres. Reasonably fresh.

25.11.88.: Westray. Male, Male, length 14.3. metres. Advanced state of decomposition.

Only 6 previous records of this species since 1916 involving 3 sightings and 3 strandings. 1988 was therefore exceptional.



Harbour Porpoise *Phocaena phocaena*

Monthly distribution of records (sightings):

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	1	0	1	0	8	7	8	2	1	2	0

Total number of animals seen per month (based on minimum reported) :

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	25	0	2	0	23	21	109	5	2	5	0

Two stranding records, involving single dead animals found in July and September.

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*.

13.06.88 : 1 dead stranded animal North Ronaldsay. Juvenile animal.

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*.

24.07.88 : 1 dead animal stranded Egilsay. Length 2.6 metres. Decomposition advanced. Only the fourth record of this species since 1888 (see 1987 Cetacean Report).

Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melaena*.

06.03.88 : 1 freshly dead animal stranded Papa Westray. Length 4.6 metres.

11.05.88 : 15 - 20 seen off Grise Ness, Stronsay.

June '88 : 1 dead animal found in Gairsay Sound, c.3 metres in length.

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*.

12.01.88 : 1 seen persistently swimming close inshore at head of North Bay, South Walls. Several attempts made to drive the animal into deeper water but all were unsuccessful. On 13.01 dolphin still present and in order to prevent it stranding it was caught and transferred to open water at Melberry on the shores of the Pentland Firth. On 14.01 the same animal was found stranded on the beach at Melberry. No obvious signs of injury. A second rescue attempt was mounted and the animal was again returned to the water. Last seen swimming out into the Pentland Firth.

Whale Sp. (Identification uncertain).

15.04.88 : 1 seen near Eday. Pilot Whale?

21.06.88 : 1 seen near Cantick Hd.

Dolphin Sp. (Identification uncertain)

09.06.88 : 1 seen near Holm of Hulp.

11.06.88 : 1 seen South Holm, Elsness.

13.06.88 : 2 seen Galt Point.

06.07.88 : 1 seen Egilsay.

07.07.88 : 1 seen South Holm, Elsness.

09.09.88 : c. 10 seen breaching off Rora Head, Hoy.

Acknowledgements

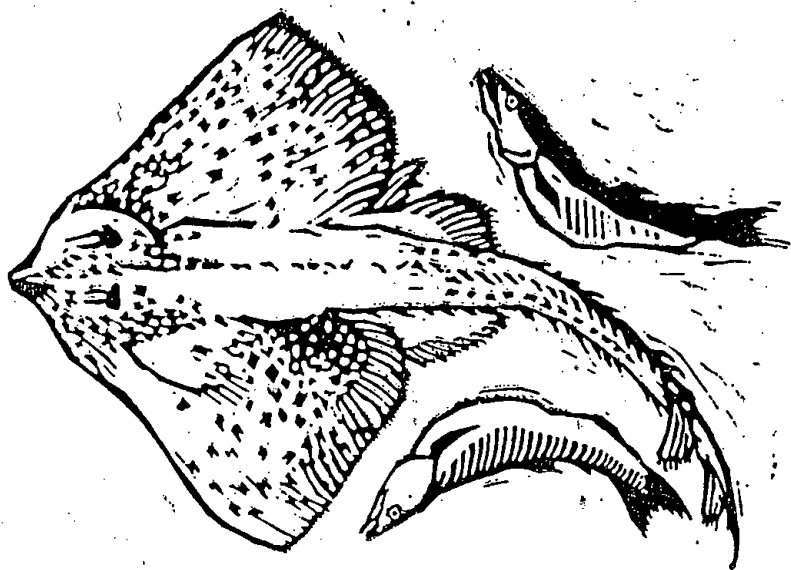
We are indebted to all those people who have contributed records used in the compilation of these reports. We sincerely apologise to any contributor whose name has inadvertently been omitted from the following list :

Adam R G; Adam S; Ains A & W; Andrew R; Beavan S; Bird D; Booth CM; Booth C J; Chirgwin L; Christie G; Christer G; Corrigan C; Fairclough K; Faulkner P; Flett R; Fox T; Garrioch T; Gee K; Grieve J; Hague K; Harris R; Hayes M; H.M.Coastguard Kirkwall; Holloway J; Howarth P; Jones M; McCutcheon J & R; Meek E; Merrick E; Percival D; Pennington M; Pirie K; Rendall J; Reynolds V; Rigg A; Rinder M;

Robertson I; Rouse J; Salisbury A; Starck B; Stenning J; Stewart A; Struthers D;
Thompson P; Thorne R; Wilson B; Woodbridge K.

Orkney Cetacean Data-base.

Orkney Cetacean records dating from the mid-1800's to the present have now been entered on a computer database which will facilitate future documentation and analysis. A preliminary review of this data has been undertaken and the results will be published in due course. Please continue to send us your records, however brief or vague. Collectively your records make an important contributions to our understanding of these mammals. All records are passed to the national recording schemes.



When I came to live in Orkney 40 years ago, "obnoxious weeds" (docks, thistles and ragwort) on the verges of public roads were cut by scythe. The minimum necessary attention was paid to the legal "Highway" obligations concerning "sight-lines" (12" high verges on corners and road junctions).

Our lorry drivers used to watch the progress of birds nesting in the verges from their high seats. I can remember accounts of lapwings, curlews, short-eared owls, even swans. When I began to list the wild flowers of the County I discovered that many were most abundant on the roadsides; increasingly so as agricultural development obliterated other habitats. Almost all our wild orchids, particularly the Greater Twayblade, seemed to prefer verges, both Greater and Lesser Stitchworts were almost confined to them and the two big Bedstraws, Hedge and Upright, totally so. In addition to these "rarities", most verges were bright from spring to late autumn with pretty small flowers and grasses and to step into them to avoid a passing car was a pleasure.

I'm not sure when our Council decided that something other than hand cutting would be more "efficient" (?) but an outcry soon followed the use of chemicals, not before roadside Twayblade orchids had been killed. Road widening not only removed others - the colony of Scented Orchids in South Ronaldsay - but the raw soils exposed were a perfect seedbed for weeds.

Then, presumably based on recommendations intended for the totally different climate of the S.E. of England, came the gang-mower. This machine seems to inspire a frenzy of destruction of all roadside NATIVE vegetation, be it little willows, a bank of orchids, or harmless heather and heath grasses. The two big Bedstraws have gone, orchids get scarcer every year, no self-respecting bird dare nest on a verge; tourists jeer at "the twin green ribbons" stretching monotonously across the Orkney countryside. As for road safety! Verges are shorn on dead-straight, dead-end country roads but a huge clump of docks is left to obscure oncoming traffic at a busy junction. Stepping off the road gets the pedestrian tangled in a swathe of coarse wet "hay" while his ankles are stabbed by hard stumps. High and overhanging banks are pared, leaving them liable to collapse on the road after heavy rain. Coarse and "obnoxious" weeds are spread throughout the whole county, even along moorland roads. Quite the silliest thing of all was when, before a visit of H.M. The Queen Mother, the Scapa Gills were shorn of their wild flowers as high as the mower could reach. H.M. is a knowledgeable President of the Botanical Society of the British Isles!

From the polltax-payers' point of view, the gang-mower is making an ever-increasing cost of road servicing inevitable. By leaving the cut material to rot, even where original vegetation used to be short and slow-growing, the finer herbs and grasses are smothered but the coarser cocksfoots, hecks and "obnoxious weeds" are encouraged *ad infinitum*.

Now there are reports of verges through Reserve and SSSI-protected areas being cut TWICE A MONTH. Is this legal? The largest potential wildlife "reserves" so far OWNED by OIC are our roadside verges and they are being destroyed. This madness ought to stop NOW. Can OFC do anything about it?

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REPORT

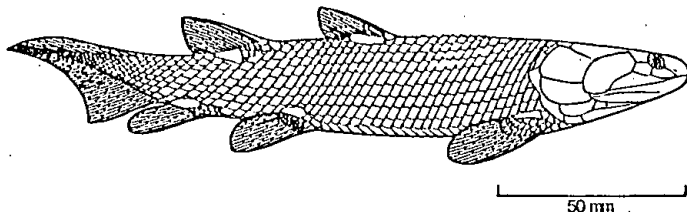
Hello Young Orcadians, here is a report on the activities this year for those of you who were not able to attend any of them.

Our first activity was cut short by a blizzard of snow on April 23rd when we went to BU SANDS and BU FARM. We did first enjoy a talk from Mr Dass and the wind that brought the snow also clearly showed us how sand erodes and dunes move and make new bedding planes. It was all good preparation for seeing the same thing later on in solid rock at Yesnaby.

On May 6th we again went with the adults, this time to EGILSAY (St Magnus Church) and WYRE (Cubby Roo's Castle). As usual we tried to learn from clues in the buildings what they were like when Norsemen walked and worked in them. St Magnus Church not only gave us its own history but its position dominating the panorama of the North Isles was our viewpoint for identifying the islands. Our visit to the Magnus Stone is remembered for the nests we found as well as the dangerous barbed wire fence we had to climb over. What a pity the stile has not been replaced.

Saturday 13th May at DURKADALE - we planted more Downy Birch and weeded around the young trees to help them compete for sunlight and food with the weeds which grow so well in the sheltered plantation. We also had a wild flower search in our reserve area using a botanical key but the delay caused this time by rainstorms stopped us from making the records of growth of the trees. Wouldn't a shelter have been useful that day!

On the 20th May we explored CRUADY QUARRY and searched for fossil fish in the rock. David Matheson found a complete specimen of *Osteolepis macrolepidotus*. This name, from Greek and Latin words, tells us that it was the bony-scale fish with the large scales.



-Reconstruction of *Osteolepis macrolepidotus* Agassiz (after E. Jarvik).

It is the most important of the fossil fish because it is a "milestone" in evolution. It may look just like an ordinary fish but it is the earliest evidence of changes in the skeleton which led from fish to amphibians and the conquest of dry land. At the base of some of the fins the scales are encroaching on the fin ray area. By using X-ray techniques it is possible to see within it the beginning of bones in the fins which led to the development of legs. Did you realise how far back in the world's history

our fossil fish went? I wonder what it was like here in Orkney that day 300 million years ago when he died and sank down into the mud? Our thanks to Dr. Paul Heppleston for this information. Our activities also took us on to YESNABY where we spotted everything from rock pippits and *Primula scotica* on the maritime heath to a millstone quarry and the fossil algae, "stromatolites"

June 3rd was the day we shared with the Diving Club at BIRSAY for a SEA and SHORE STUDY. Some of the specimens brought ashore for us by the divers were taken to the Marine Life Centre in Stromness, I wonder if you have visited it yet? Did you find the day useful for your work for the Sea Life competition?

The FARA visit on 4th of June was cancelled as the guide for the day had no voice. I'm sorry if you were disappointed.

EXPLORATION EDAY was from 23rd to 26th June. We lived in fine style in the school, thanks to the help of the Headmistress, Mrs Shearer. 34 children took part and included children from Hoy, Sanday and Eday as well as the Mainland. We wanted to experience the island, and between our walk on the beach at Greentoft in the south to the long hike to the northerly Red Head on the Heritage Walk and the expedition across the Sound we did just that. We enjoyed wide views on the sunny Saturday. We worked and walked in the rain on the Sunday - and not a single grumble was heard from anyone. We had a Widgeon Watch on Whitemaw hill and a Myrtle Hunt near Skail. This is the only place in Orkney where Bog Myrtle is to be found and the dry summer allowed us to plot exactly where this fragrant little shrub is growing on a quaking bog.

These quotes from letters from the Sanday children give a good impression of the weekend :

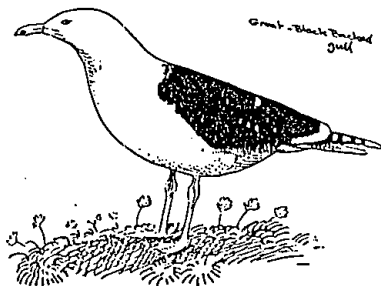
From Alistair Thorne....The highlight of my trip was the tombs. they were very interesting and gave us a lot of information about what life was like in those days (about 2000 B.C.)

Graham Clarke....I liked the Calf of Eday with the puffins and arctic terns

Tammy....When we went to the Calf of Eday we saw the biggest colony of Black-backs in the world. The chicks were big but still cute.

Rachel Drury....It was my first time on Eday as I only moved to Orkney in November. Even though I liked everything we did I think the best thing was to see the chicks on the Calf of Eday. They were so cute I felt like taking one home with me.

Maxwell Carstairs....The place I liked best was the tomb on the Calf. The tomb had four rooms. It was not spooky; but was nice to know I had been where the ancient people of Orkney had once lived.



Linda Towrie....I am glad I went to Eday for the weekend.I enjoyed it very much but the best part was seeing the puffins perched up on the cliffs.

Helen....I liked the saltworks best. It was funny to think that such a common thing like salt was once known how to be made by a few people. We take salt for granted now but then it must have been very expensive. I like to think what all the holes were used for. I wonder what the roof was like?

Tristan....I know that the unexcavated chambered cairn was Maxwell's favourite place, and it would probably have to be said as mine too because of walking where our 4000-year-old ancestors would have been. The only thing was that the bones and treasures were not there. (They could have been preserved in glass cases!)

WATER ECOLOGY at GRAEMSHALL on July 15th was a chance to look at the "mini-beasts" which flourish at the loch's edge - caddis fly larvae, beetles and boatmen, Jenkins' snails and water fleas. We found marsh cinquefoil, bog bean and sorted out three horsetails too.

The County show stand was cancelled as we had too little on hand to show and were too late to organise it. This was one of our failures. We will try to do better next year.

27th August, SANDAY : The Juniors who joined the adults on this Biological Recording expedition reported that they had a most enjoyable, interesting day. (The Biological Records sub-committee says that Juniors ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ON ANY OF THEIR WORKING TRIPS. It's a wonderful way to learn about all aspects of natural history. If you are interested contact their secretary, Miss Alison Sutherland, or me.)

September 16th, Seeing and doing on Shapinsay unfortunately had to be cancelled as our team of leaders just couldn't fit in the preparation and be available on the day. See you there next year, we hope!

September 17th, BINSARTH WOOD and WASDALE LOCH. An exhilarating walk on a windy-sunny-showery day. How calm and sheltered it was amongst the trees. This is the environment that seedling trees like best in which to grow, remember that, if you are beginning your own "forest." We found lots of fungi and found that most of us couldn't name our common trees. It's time to make a leaf collection and get out the reference books. Press and dry the leaves for your own record book, jot down where and when you collected them too.

ORKNEY YOUNG NATURALIST CHALLENGE :

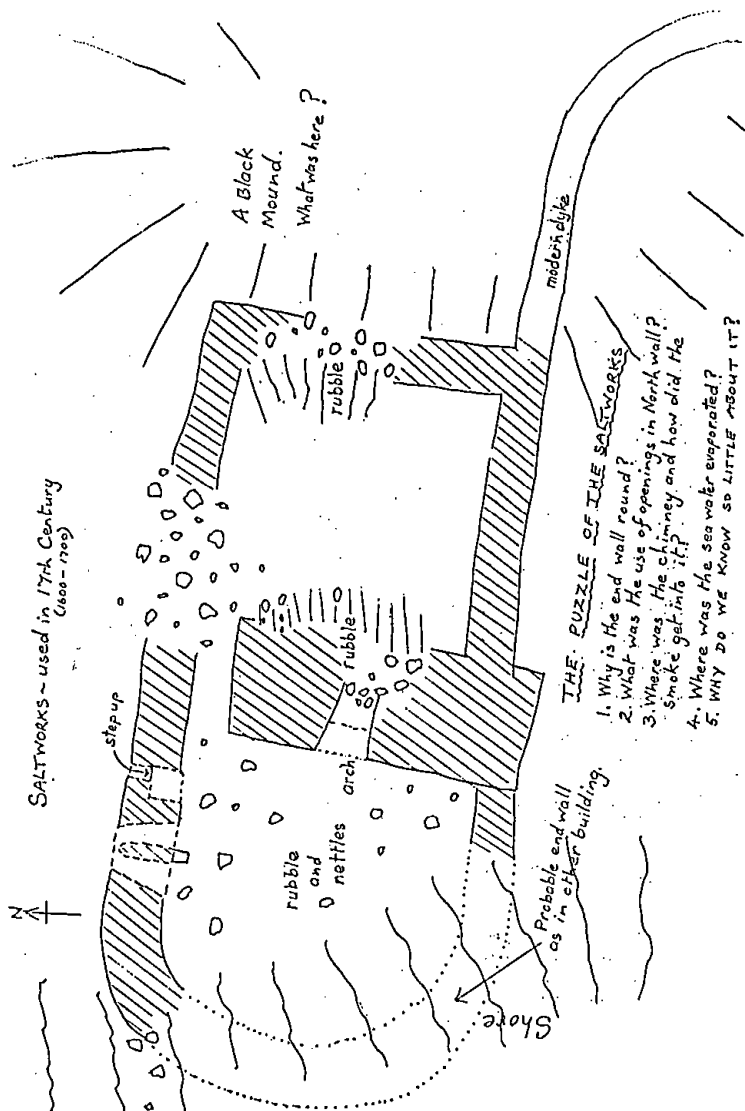
Congratulations to our latest award winners. The Silver Award was gained by Derek Manson of Toab, Edwin Cooper of Stromness, Claire Ross of Kirkwall and Nathan Crew of Longhope.

The Gold and Silver Awards were won in one go by Nadine McLaren (Longhope) and Barbara Anderson (Kirkwall) Congratulations to you both.

The premier award, the Advanced Young Naturalist Certificate goes to Kate Reynolds of Evie. It has taken her three years to make enough records to earn this certificate and our very special congratulations go to her for her hard work over such a long period of time.

Young Naturalists Challenge - Second edition- is not quite ready yet. Look out for it in the new year.

WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR?If you have a request for a SUBJECT for activities or a PLACE you would like us to visit please let me know as soon as possible. For our Expedition Weekend we would like to go to North Ronaldsay. Ideas and requests, phone me, Ralph Faulkner, at Glebe Mill, Evie 267 while you remember.



What's On in Orkney Field Club, 1989/90.

PLEASE NOTE: Club Nights start at 7.30 p.m. in Room 3, Town Hall, Kirkwall, and there will be refreshments and opportunity for discussion, but non-members will be welcome. All Extra-mural lectures are "open to the public" and refreshments will not be laid on. At both, although no charge will be made for admission, collections will be taken for Club funds and to cover expences. Other meetings will be detailed individually.

OCTOBER.

20th. Friday Club Night 7.30 p.m. *THE HISTORY OF GARDENS* James Johnston tells the story of this local company which supplied stores and goods by boat to the north of Scotland and the Isles

28th. Saturday. HOY. Durkadale sub-committee will be taking over one car - seats available for first three applicants to Lister Hogarth, Kil 2583. Other drivers welcome to make up further car-loads - an excellent opportunity for Biological recording, our Hut will be available. Depart Houton 09.45, return Lyness 15.30. (check times with OIS Co).

NOVEMBER.

9th Thursday, 8.00p.m. Kirkwall Town Hall. Extra-mural & Northern Studies lecture. *SCIENCE AND SOCIETY: NEW HORIZONS FOR THE NORTH* by Howie Firth.

11th. Saturday. *REDLAND, FIRTH*, by kind permission of Eoin Scott. Biological Recording meeting to look at the established tree plantings and also on the effect of their shelter on other wildlife. Meet at Redland 2 p.m.

17th. Friday Club Night. 7.30 p.m. *LATE FROM HUDSON BAY*. Orkney men in the Hudson Bay Company. Illustrated talk by Bryce Wilson.

30th. Thursday. Stromness New Academy. Extra-mural lecture *SOME RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN SHETLAND & ORKNEY* by Olwyn Owen.

DECEMBER.

1st, Friday. STRYND ROOMS 7.30 p.m. *PROJECT AND RESEARCH WORK ON WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS* Presentation by 6th Year Biology Students from KGS and Dr. Paul Heppleston.

6th. Wednesday. Kirkwall Town Hall. Extra-mural lecture *MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY* by Dr. I Morrison.

14th. Wednesday. New Stromness Academy. Extra-mural lecture *IN MOROCCO'S MOUNTAINS* by Hamish Brown.

21st NO Club Night.

JANUARY, 1990.

19th. Friday Club Night. 7.30 p.m. *WESTERN NORWAY: TRAVL AMONGST FIORDS, MOUNTAINS, GLACIERS AND WATERFALLS OF WEST NORWAY*, with advice on travel and accommodation. Illustrated talk by John Mowat.

25th. Thursday 7.30 p.m. The Lynnfield Hotel. *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*.

Refreshments, film or video, displays, exhibits, etc. A GOOD ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED.

What's On in Orkney Field Club. JANUARY 1990 continued.

27th. Saturday. Biological Recording meeting to *STROMNESS MUSEUM* by kind permission of ONHS. The Museum houses many important local mammal, bird, plant, insect and mineral records. Meet at Museum at 2.15 p.m.

FEBRUARY.

11th, Sunday. *BIRDWATCH* with Eric Meek. Meet at Stenness Community Centre at 2.00 p.m.

15th Thursday. Stromness New Academy. Extra-mural lecture *INTEGRATING COUNTRYSIDE* by Vanessa Halhead.

16th Friday Club Night, 7.30 p.m. *An introduction to ORKNEY SEAL RESCUE* BY Pat Proctor and Ross Flett.

MARCH.

1st. Thursday. Kirkwall Town Hall. Extra-mural & Northern Studies lecture *NORTH SEA OIL: THEN AND NOW* by Prof. A Kemp.

13th Tuesday. Stromness New Academy. Extra-mural and Northern Studies lecture *THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT* by Dr. E Voice.

16th. Friday Club Night. 7.30 p.m. *WESTERN CANADA: TRAVELS IN ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS* Illustrated talk by Ethel Young.

25th Sunday. Biological Recording Meeting, NO. 4 *BARRIER* with Liz Charter. To look at sand accretion, wildlife colonisation etc. When can the outer sand ridge be crossed on foot? Meet Burray side car park 2.30 p.m.

APRIL

15th, Sunday, Walk from *MARWICK BAY* to fishermens' huts. with exploration of shoreline. Arranged by Ethel Young. Meet 2.15 p.m. Marwick Bay, GR 228242.

19th Thursday. Kirkwall Town Hall. Extra-mural lecture *THE OTTER* by Mr.J. Conroy.

ADVANCE NOTICES:-

April 20th. Friday Club Night. To be arranged.

May, Saturday 5th, Boat trip to Stronsay on m.v. "Guide". Advance telephone bookings to Anthony Proctor, Orphir 337.

June 3rd, Sunday, Marwick Bay and Marwick Head to see cliff nesting seabirds. Assemble Marwick Bay parking area. No unaccompanied Juniors.

Date to be announced - Doomsday Project, with Alastair McCormack at KGS.

Enquiries & requests for lifts to W. & T subcommittee: John Mowat, K11 2922; Tom King, K11 3524; Pat Proctor, Orphir 337; Ethel Young, Stromness 416.

