

Dundee Naturalists' Society

Instituted 1874



Bulletin No16 1991 -92

Summary of Accounts : Year to 15th February 1992.

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

BROUGHT FORWARD:

Current A/c 6021419	13.34
Deposit A/c 5404632	494.50
Cash in hand (Sec.)	4.01
Cash in hand (Treas.)	.97
	<u>512.82</u>

512.82

BULLETIN AND SYLLABUS:

Printing Bulletin	110.40
Print Syllabus/Enc.	95.93
Postage	35.82
Stationery	<u>42.20</u>
	284.35

284.35

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Session 1990/91	5.00
Session 1991/92	659.00
Session 1992/93	<u>4.00</u>
	668.00

668.00

OFFICE BEARERS' EXPENSES:

Secretary	27.19
Treasurer	<u>15.47</u>
	42.66

42.66

INTEREST:

War bonds	1.74
Deposit A/c	11.85
Current A/c	<u>3.14</u>
	16.73

16.73

LECTURE ROOM RENTAL:

Room T9 to Mar 89	200.00
Chaplaincy centre	<u>20.00</u>
	220.00

220.00

LECTURERS' FEES ETC.:

123.70

DONATIONS:

Dr Berry	6.00
Mr Benvie	2.00
Mr Murray	10.00
Mr & Mrs Methven	<u>10.00</u>
	28.00

28.00

INSURANCE:

65.00

MISC. EXPENSES:

Photo Cards	48.00
Get Well Fruit	50.00
AGM Quiz Prizes	3.28
Bot Garden Donation	2.50
Miss Fullerton Gift	7.33
Photo Comp. Prizes	<u>25.00</u>
	136.11

136.11

FUND RAISING:

AGM '91-Tea/Coffee	20.35
Poster Sale	4.40
Car Stickers	1.00
Xmas '91-Tea/Coffee	21.93
Photo Card Sales	<u>49.00</u>
	96.68

96.68

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

FFWAG	10.00
Habitat	10.00
S. W. T.	<u>25.00</u>
	45.00

45.00

RIGHTS OF WAY (Donation):

15.00

CASH IN BANK/HAND:

Current A/c 6021419	.42
Deposit A/c 5404632	390.50
Cash in Hand - Secretary	-1.01
Cash in Hand - Treasurer	.50
	<u>1322.23</u>

TOTAL INCOME

1322.23

TOTAL:

1322.23

CARSEGOWNIEMUIR ACCOUNT

Balance at Feb 1991	258.15
Donations	0.00
Interest	<u>6.92</u>
Total Income:	265.07
Expenditure:	-59.22
Balance at 15th Feb '92	205.85

WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Speyside

Income	2604.86
Expenditure	-2590.50
Net Profit	<u>14.36</u>
Balance from Feb '90	<u>47.58</u>
Balance at Aug '91 c/f	61.94

OUTINGS ACCOUNT

c/f from Feb 1991	16.76
Income	<u>1122.11</u>
Sub total	1138.87
Expenditure	-1133.76
Balance at 15th Feb '92	<u>5.11</u>

WEEKEND ACCOUNT - Silverdale

Brought forward	61.94
Deposits received	660.00
Bank Interest	<u>2.43</u>
Balance at 15th Feb '92	724.37

Examined and found correct

Frances Towns

Gundabikil 11/3/92

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

ANNUAL BULLETIN No. 16 1991-92

Hon President : Dr John Berry

Hon Vice Presidents : Mr James D. Boyd
Dr Derek A. Robertson

President : Mr Richard K. Brinklow

Vice President : Mr James K. Cook

Hon Secretary : Mrs Jennifer H. Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive
Monifieth, (0382) 533132

Hon Treasurer : Mr Brian Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive
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Excursion Secretary : Mrs Marjory Tennant, 39 Balgillo Road
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Bulletin Editor : Miss Mary Galloway, 30 Loraine Road
Dundee, (0382) 454431 (1991/92)
Mrs Jennifer H Allan, 18 Grangehill Drive
Monifieth, (0382) 533132 (1992/93)

The Bulletin cover illustration is by Leonore Fullerton and shows a selection of our area's alpine plants, including the Society's emblem the Dwarf Cornel.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Fellow members,

As my second year as President draws to a close it is time to reflect on some of the ups and downs of the past twelve months.

Firstly I must mention the loss of a number of long term and valued members of the Society, of whom individual appreciations are included elsewhere in this Bulletin. They will all be greatly missed.

Secondly, I must thank all the other officers and committee members who work so tirelessly on your behalf. The smooth running of the Society is largely due to their effort and efficiency and it is their support which makes the position of President so much easier and more enjoyable to hold.

Looking back on our summer excursion programme, I must admit that it hasn't all been plain sailing. I don't just mean the Isle of May trip where the sea conditions nearly prevented the party from landing and threatened to spoil an otherwise excellent day. The fact that two of the outings had to be cancelled, one through failure of the coach firm, but the other due to lack of support from members is a cause for concern. Clearly further adjustments are still required, but I sincerely hope that the forthcoming programme will be well supported and successful as such a lot of time and effort is put into its organisation.

Continued/...

Turning now to our winter lectures. External factors, mainly the non-availability of speakers, caused a number of changes to the programme as originally envisaged by your committee. However, I am sure you will agree that the variety of resulting talks were all informative, entertaining and justifiably well supported.

Looking forward to the coming year, there are two developments I would particularly like to see achieved. The first is to successfully attract and recruit more new and enthusiastic members as I believe the future wellbeing of the Society depends on a steady influx of new ideas and talents.

The second is for the Society to take a more active role in the studying and recording of our local wildlife. In the past, Dundee Naturalist's Society members have provided much of the information used to help safeguard local wildlife sites. I am not suggesting that the Society should in any way become the preserve of experts, nor over scientific at the expense of enjoyment and comradeship. What I would like to see happen is for the recording of what we see to once again become an integral part of both our summer excursions and other informal Society activities.

So, may I appeal for as many members as possible to become actively involved. It isn't really too difficult and it can add a new dimension to your visits to the countryside.

Richard K. Brinklow

R K Brinklow

D. N. S. COUNCIL RESIGNATIONS

Last year Miss Leonore Fullerton, our hard working Excursion Secretary and Vice President, surprised us all by suddenly announcing her engagement to Mr John Goodliffe from Surrey. The happy couple were married in November. A Naturalists' collection for a wedding present was hastily arranged, and Leonore was duly presented with a silver brooch and matching pendant, hand crafted in silver in the Orkney Isles - the place where John and Leonore's romance first blossomed on an ornithological excursion.

We thank Leonore for all her hard work and we wish her and John a long and happy life together.

Marjory Tennant, acting assistant Excursion Secretary, has agreed to take over the position of Excursion Secretary.

After four years, our Bulletin Editor, Miss Mary Galloway, has intimated her resignation, to take effect after the production of this Bulletin. We thank Mary for all her hard work, writing and correcting articles, not to mention persuading other Members to contribute, all work which goes on 'behind the scenes' to produce your Bulletins on time.

Jenny Allan has agreed to take over the Editor's position.

Continued/...

The society has suffered a number of sad losses of outstanding members within the last year.

The most notable was **Joan Thomson**, a member for nearly 30 years. An enthusiastic and energetic member with a great sense of fun, and a very good field naturalist with a wide knowledge of and interest in birds, higher plants, fungi and even mosses, Joan also contributed much to the running of our society. A valuable council member for a long period, she was always a source of good ideas, ranging from fungus 'frizzles', through suggestions for many interesting lectures to a week-long study trip around the north of Scotland. Her organisational skills were much admired by those in the know, being displayed at council and winter meetings, during the week based at Durness, at several of our weekend expeditions and on Saturday outings too numerous to count over so many years.

An even more significant contribution was her part in the Annual General Meeting of 1972. Dundee Naturalists' Society had reached such a low point in membership and activity that the then President suggested the society could not carry on and proposed a formal winding-up. Joan rejected this idea strongly and, with others, rallied support for the continuation of the DNS. The strength of our society over the last 20 years has been derived directly from that meeting. Mrs Elizabeth Leitch became President and began rebuilding interest and membership, with conspicuous success. She was succeeded by Bob Phillip, who increased our success. During this period Joan served as Vice-president and then followed Bob as the next President, 1978 to 1981. She continued the tradition of a highly active and visible Presidency and supported and encouraged numerous extra activities. Joan contributed enormously to the success of our Society in the 70's and 80's and yet remained modest about it. We owe her a tremendous debt. Her organisational talents, wisdom and skills at committee work were recognised by a number of other organisations, including groups as diverse as the Perthshire Society for Natural Science, Dundee and Angus Tree Group, Angus Support Group, Balgavies Loch Reserve Committee and Tayside Cross Country Ski Club. She will be sorely missed.

Another notable and valuable member who sadly passed on this year was **Joyce Halley**. A member for many years, she regularly attended winter meetings over a long period and made direct contributions to a number. Her slides of flowers photographed on the latest expedition were awaited eagerly at members' nights. Other activities prevented her from joining many summer Saturday outings, but her botanical and horticultural expertise was outstanding. She was a most valuable member, being very well-known in the horticultural world, and maintained links for the Society with many gardening groups and botanical gardens. Several lecturers came to address us only because of direct invitations from her.

Joyce was highly respected for her knowledge, formidable organisational ability, wisdom and general savvy. She became Vice-president in 1978 and served in that capacity for six years, contributing greatly to the council's debates and decisions. During all this time she was running, very successfully, the Seed Exchange for the Scottish Rock Garden Club. It was a full-time job in its own right, leaving many to wonder how she managed to take part in so many other activities. Her numerous contributions will be greatly missed.

Stanley Prain will not be known to many of the newer members since, unhappily, infirmity prevented him from attending the Society's meetings for a decade. He contributed much to the running of our Society during the 1970's. An active member for many years, Stanley served as a council member for a considerable period, helping to lead a variety of summer outings and organise some of the winter meetings. He was a keen field naturalist and yet modest about his talents. Indeed, a few of us remember his unique method of finding a red deer calf on the Glen Clova outing of 1976. The Society remains in his debt.

John Fraser will be sorely missed as well. A very active and enthusiastic member over a long period, he was well known for attending every possible summer outing. A great outdoorsman and keen walker, John always was great company. His cheerful personality and booming laugh impressed themselves on all and enlivened many a meeting. When he wasn't present, the atmosphere seemed quieter and much more dull. But John contributed in other ways as well. He was a great help during the 'penguins in the clouds' outing between Glen Esk and Clova in the early 1980's. We will remember him with great affection.

JKC

Continued/...

***** SUMMER EXCURSIONS 1991 *****

ISLE OF MAY : 1st JUNE

On a beautiful June day we set off for Anstruther full of anticipation of a pleasant sail to the Isle in the middle of the Forth. The time of sailing, governed by the state of the tide, was not scheduled to leave until 2.00pm. Time was therefore available to explore the delights of Anstruther. Fishermen's Museum, coffee and ice cream shops appeared to be the favourites, with perhaps a 'find the loo' competition, another pastime.

However, we duly embarked and had a pleasant sail towards the Isle, sighting many sea birds on the way, **Guillemots**, **Razorbills**, **Gannets** and **Puffins** being numerous. On reaching the recognised landing stage, we were all surprised to be told by the boatman that landing was out of the question, due to the state of the tide creating a heavy swell. On observing the one boat which did attempt a landing, we certainly took his word and were quite pleased to stay aboard. The decision to sail round the island to await a higher tide was unanimous. This turned out to be extremely beneficial since we had lovely views of all the nesting seabirds on the cliffs, together with basking **Seals** on the rocks.

Eventually we did land without incident, to be met by the Warden who explained the salient features of the reserve, the work they were doing and the various bird species we would see. An enjoyable afternoon was spent by all, viewing nesting **Shags**, **Blackbacked Gulls**, **Terns**, **Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and the comical, but delightful **Puffins**.

At last it was time to return to the landing area, where embarkation took place without further incident, and hence by bus to Crail, where the gastronomical delights of a fish supper was enjoyed before returning to Dundee. Everyone voted the outing most enjoyable. Once again the 'Nats' were lucky with their choice of weather.

Alistair Fraser

SPEYSIDE WEEKEND
7th - 9th JUNE

We arrived at our Nethybridge Hotel in time for dinner and settled in, making a happy party. Packed lunches were organised and maps and flower books appeared amid general chatter.

Saturday - We set off for Spey Bay. An interesting bus journey, passing many whisky distilleries, took us northwards to the coast and the mouth of the river Spey. We parked beside an old Ice House which did not look too inviting from the outside. However inside had cathedral proportions; it was quite amazing. It had been used to store salmon caught locally and is now a museum depicting the fishing industry on this shore.

At this time the party split, some to walk by the river and others were taken back to visit Baxter's food factory and have a shorter walk nearby.

Those of us who walked by the river enjoyed a splendid and relaxing day. Glimpses of the river through the trees, a picnic on the shingle, warm sun, flowers, birds, butterflies and plenty of time to just look about.

When we had all joined forces in the afternoon we visited a lovely woodland garden ablaze with colourful **Rhododendrons** and **Azaleas** - and a **Handkerchief Tree**. We also partook of an equally delightful tea in the Coach House.

The evening was spent exchanging notes, being sociable and even dancing.

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Sunday - We drove to Glenmar Forest Park, where again there were walks for everyone, a hill walk to Ryvoan Bothy, or a more level walk to the Green Loch, (which lived up to its name), and splendid views of the Cairngorms.

The Naturalists were, as usual, lucky with the weather; we had a fine weekend. Our thanks to Leonore Fullerton for all her planning.
Marjory Tennant

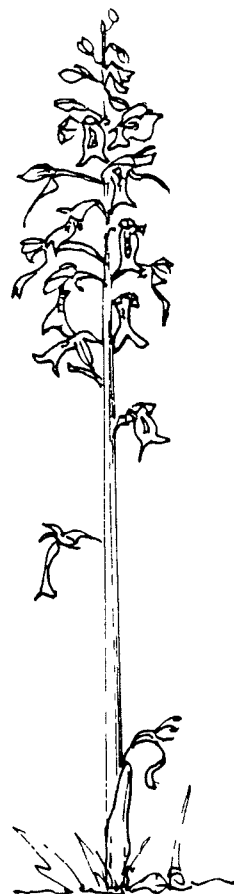
EVENING VISIT TO LUNDIE CRAGS 11th JUNE

The weather turned out to be what can only be described as dire with the cloud base at road level when we met at Tullybaccart car park. It would have been nothing short of foolhardy to proceed with the proposed itinerary since the walk would have taken us close to the edge of the steep Lundie Crag. One other reason was, of course, that as we could not see a foot in front of our noses, what was the point of climbing up there anyway!!

Not to be thwarted the small band of brave souls who did venture out were persuaded that a small spot of fieldwork would keep them from wearying.

To set the scene and explain the need for this recording exercise I must point out that in 1986 a small colony of the rare Bird's-nest Orchid, *Neottia nidus-avis* was found near to Coupar Angus. Surprisingly this locality is only the second in Angus, previously known only from the Den of Airlie. The orchids were originally spotted by Mr Les Bisset growing on a roadside verge and ditch, under a small stand of beech trees. This new record was sent to the Biological Records Centre but unfortunately the landowners were not informed. I must state at this point that landowner notification in situations like this is not normal and no criticism of the authorities is made or indeed warranted.

The dilemma of whether or not to pass on details of rare plant localities, even to landowners, is a real hot potato and has been the subject of a number of contentious issues in recent years; for who knows, some plants may stand a better chance of survival if there precise location is withheld.



Bird's-nest Orchid

Continued/...



Common Twayblade

But on the other hand the opposite may be the case. The orchids at this locality were the centre of just such a scenario when tree felling operations, together with ditch clearing, was to be the cause of a large proportion of this orchid colony being apparently wiped out. Between twelve and fifteen spikes were found to have been covered with a deep layer of spoil dredged from the adjoining ditches, while other areas were either churned up by heavy earth moving equipment or dug up when other sections of ditch were 'tidied up'.

All was not lost however, since, as if the plants knew something unhealthy was happening, a new large colony appeared some 30-40m further along the road and it was this colony which we needed to record. Good eyesight was essential and I am pleased to report that my band of 'highjacked' Nats did very well, for seventeen flowering spikes were recorded, despite the darkening gloom and the fact that the light brown coloured orchids were extremely well camouflaged against the brown leaf litter. Remarkably one small straggler was spotted poking through the soil at the original location and, who knows, this year more may well show face.

As you might expect we have now told the landowner of the plant's existence and he has promised to exercise care in future, although I should stress again that in this instance no one was to blame. Not informing the landowner was a risk taken that had a disappointing result, but not a completely disappointing end.

At the same locality we were also pleased to record a second orchid species the Common Twayblade, *Listera ovata*.
Brian Allan

QUEEN ELIZABETH FOREST PARK 6th JULY

A pleasant bus journey took us via Brig of Turk and the woodlands of the Trossachs to the Q.E. Forest Park Visitor Centre at David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle. We took the Highland Boundary Fault Trail from this base. It led us through a range of habitats, through a marsh with some Marsh Orchids still in flower and Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil, *Lotus uliginosis*, through Oak woodland with a variety of woodland flora, including Wood Sage, *Teucrium scorodonia*, Bluebell, *Endymion non-scripta*, Enchanter's Nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana*, Juniper, *Juniperis communis*, Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, and along burn sides with two picturesque waterfalls and plants such as Brooklime, *Veronica beccabunga*, Marsh Willowherb, *Epilobium palustre*, plus Horsetails, Mosses and Ferns, and the tiny Bog Beacon Fungus, *Mitula paludosa*.

Continued/...

Conifer plantations intrude in this lovely broadleaved woodland but are being felled. It will be interesting to see with what the Forestry Commission replaces them, in this more enlightened era. They have restarted a plot of Oak Coppice as a demonstration of historical activities in the area.

Woodpecker and Squirrel feeding sites were noted along the trail. The annual Climbing Corydalis, *Corydalis claviculata*, and New Zealand Willowherb, *Epilobium brunnescens*, were also of interest.

However, the route was designed to show the geological features, since it crosses the Highland Boundary fault zone. A range of metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, and one igneous rock were exposed on the trail. A geological display in the centre and an explanatory leaflet, informed those interested in the rocks. Our destination, Lime Craig Quarry, is an S.S.S.I. because "it is of great importance in the dating of the highly disrupted Highland Border Complex (Dounans Limestone), whose rocks represent the remnants of a major ocean basin, with faunal affinities, lying more with the N. American faunal province than with other regions of Britain."

Margaret Duncan

YELLOWCRAIGS NATURE TRAIL 13th JULY

This outing was previously scheduled as "Pencaitland Walk". However, the two leaders from Edinburgh Natural History Society telephoned to say that on their 'recce' the path was seriously overgrown and almost impassable in places and a change of venue was necessary.

While the rest of Scotland experienced a deluge, a watery sun greeted our arrival at Yellowcraigs, situated within a beautiful part of the East Lothian coast near the village of Dirleton. Leader, Heather McHaffie gave us the benefit of her considerable knowledge, with detailed accounts of the local geology, ferns and mosses, flowering plants and birdlife of the area.

An initial climb up a small knoll formed from erosion of a volcanic vent, gave us a marvellous view of the other volcanically formed islands in the Firth of Forth. Dominating our immediate view was the towering Bass Rock with Inchcape Island and Lamb rock in the foreground. On the nearest island, Fidra, our Leader pointed out columnar jointing within the rocks and a perfect archway formed from wave erosion. Bird enthusiasts were happy to watch the Eiders, fishing Gannets, Shags and various seagulls.

Heather demonstrated how to distinguish between Male Ferns and Broad Buckler Ferns after which we hunted for tiny Moonwort Ferns in the short rabbit grazed duneland turf. Unfortunately, only one tiny specimen previously located by the Leaders was seen. However, the other colourful duneland plants, including Thyme, Centaury, Knotty Pearlwort, and Black Medic more than compensated.

Other notable plants were the handsome Vipers Bugloss and Houndstongue. The tiny 'alien' Amsinkia was found growing behind the dunes. Two orchid species were noted, the Common Spotted and Common Twayblade.



Moonwort Fern

Continued/...

After our walk there was still time for a short visit to nearby Dirlerton. The friendly police allowed our bus to park for half an hour which gave people enough time to wander around the local fete and visit the interesting old church, beautifully decorated with flowers for a wedding earlier in the day

It was a happy group which set off home to Dundee. Some lucky persons from the Broughty Ferry to Arbroath areas even enjoyed a lift home!
Jenny Allan

LOCH MUICK : 20th JULY

Our day dawned with heavy rain and mist and everyone steeled themselves for a wet and 'dreich' day, or as the TV weather man describes it, mizzle. The route to Loch Muick is a long one passing through Blairgowrie, up to the Spittle of Glen Shee to Braemar then eastwards to Banchory and the loch visitors' centre at the start of our walk. The journey saw the rain persist but the Gods must have been with us, for as soon as we sighted the loch the weather changed, the clouds lifted and a little sun filtered through.

The walk involved an anti-clockwise circuit of Loch Muick, firstly by way of a made up track which leads to the royal retreat of Glas alt Shiel then back by a rough track round the head of the loch and the west side back to the bus park.

No sooner had we started our walk when we found the first of many unusual plants with **Mountain Pansies** and **Yellow Bog Asphodel**, beside the path. Among the heather just short of Glas alt Shiel we were delighted to find the impressive **Round-leaved Wintergreen** and a number of spikes of the **Fragrant Orchid**, *Gymnadenia conopsea* ssp. *borealis*, the latter being the sub-species of Fragrant Orchid most commonly found in Scotland, identified mainly by the small diamond shaped lip. Other plants here included **Cross-leaved Heath** and **Chickweed Wintergreen**, which incidentally is neither a chickweed nor a wintergreen, rather it is closely related to the primrose.

As we traversed round the head of the loch the terrain became more rugged and among the heather and heath moorland were occasional spikes of the delightful **Harebell** and the yellow **Cow-wheat**. About halfway back down the west side of the loch the habitat changed, with the heather giving way to a more grassy habitat where we were lucky to find more **Mountain Pansies** and a single spike of **Frog Orchid**. It is obvious that the soil here is less acidic than where the heather and heaths are dominant. As we approached the visitors' centre we saw on the skyline a large herd of **Red Deer** and by using the powerful telescope outside the centre good views of the deer were possible.

The day was completed with a stop in Banchory for fish and chips after which the leader, and I guess a few others, enjoyed a doze on the long road home.
Brian Allan

DUNDEE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDEN 30th JULY

Members of the Society spent a most enjoyable Tuesday evening at the University Botanic Garden where we were given a very comprehensive conducted tour. The Curator, Les Bisset, gave us a fascinating account of the diverse origins of many of the plants, particularly the trees, with many an anecdote of how well they grow in Dundee.

His encyclopedic knowledge of the thousands of plants in his care, and his tremendous enthusiasm were both enlightening and infectious. I hope that, as a result of our visit the Botanic Garden will have acquired several more 'Friends' and know that it certainly now has a number of additional well wishers.
Richard Brinklow.

Continued/...

DUMYAT (NEAR STIRLING) 12th SEPTEMBER

On a clear day you can see Edinburgh Castle from the top of Dumyat. This thought slipped away from me into the cool grey morning as we huddled for warmth in small groups in Lindsay Street. The weather forecast did nothing to raise our spirits, but the Nats are an intrepid bunch and we headed westwards as planned.

Leaving the bus at Blair Logie we made for the wooded southern slope of Dumyat, and prepared to tackle the most arduous part of the 3½ mile walk. The tracks up through the woodland were well marked and although steep in places were also fairly firm underfoot. Birds and plants of general interest were studied and noted with customary enthusiasm by some Members, while others focussed their minds on gaining the open moorland beyond the trees.

For those of us who reached the top there was, unfortunately, little evidence of the ancient fort which had been built there, but it was obvious that the site had been well chosen for military purposes. The view of the meandering River Forth and the valley stretching to the east coast beyond Grangemouth was suitably impressive, and a clear sky to the south allowed us to pick out Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument. The hilly expanses of Sheriffmuir were less evident, as the sky to the north was overcast, and a high mist crept over the moorland. The sheep and the Nats appeared to be non-plussed.

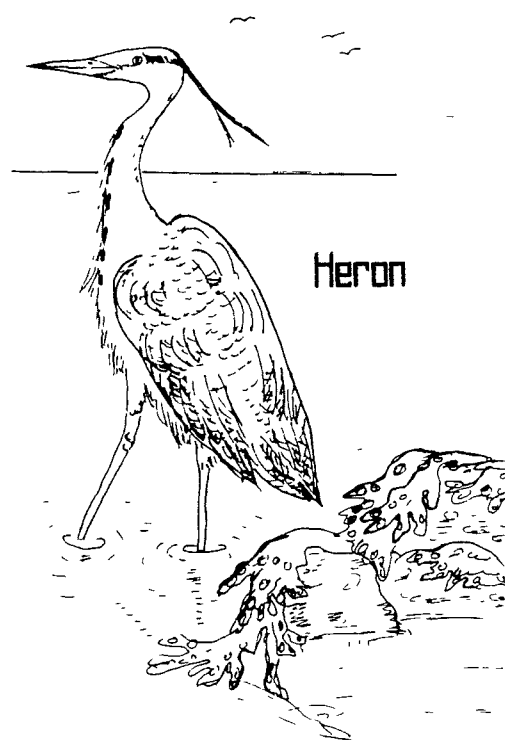
The return journey took the same route, ending with a bit of a scramble and slide down the woodland tracks to Blair Logie, where the local graveyard and church generated more interest. I particularly remember the elegant stained glass window in the church - a fine example of restrained colours and careful craftsmanship, picking out the distinctive forms of Celtic art.

Once we were on the bus and headed homewards along the Dollar road the sun came out - surprise surprise! - but the miserable forecast did not in fact spoil an enjoyable outing to a little known venue.
Shelagh Gardiner

EASTHAVEN BARBECUE 20th AUGUST EVENING MEETING

A goodly crowd of around 20 persons turned up at dusk for this event. Since the flowering period was well past for the interesting duneland flora, the natural history aspect took the form of a walk along the beach to watch the birds. We were well rewarded by sightings of several stately **Heron**s, visiting the shore for some salty additions to their diets. Waders, including **Redshanks**, **Curlews** and **Oyster Catchers** were also in evidence along with several species of **Gull**, including **Herring** and **Greater Black Backed Gulls**.

We were also treated to a spectacular sunset as we walked back to the car park where Brian attended the glowing barbecue. After various 'eats' were cooked, members took advantage of the picnic tables and chairs provided to wine and dine.
Jenny Allan



Continued/...

MYSTERY TOUR : 31st AUGUST

An anxious collection of naturalists waiting for the bus peered at the sky? Would the heavens open or had the leader performed the sun dance correctly this time? But for what parts of Tayside was the bus bound? The answer wasn't long in coming - along the back roads of the Sidlaws in thick mist. But where were we? The leader assured the party that "somewhere up there" was Macbeth's stronghold, Dunsinane hill fort, which would have been visited in good weather. Aren't our members trusting? On through Perth, stopping briefly to drop off one member who had already had enough, and then along the back roads to Madderty. Back through Methven and then a long stop at Buchanty Spout to look for washed-down arctic alpiners, fungi and water creatures. But no salmon were leaping. We just had to make do with sandwiches for lunch. At least the weather was improving. Naturalists' luck again!

All this time the enthusiastic naturalists were filling in answers to the natural history quiz provided at the start of the mystery tour. But the quiz itself wasn't a mystery. The answers were there all around us. Back to the bus for the trip through Crieff and another brief stop and then onto the Drummond Ponds nature trail on the road to Muthil. This fascinating walk provided many insights into geology, botany and ornithology. The basalt dyke is outstanding and the ponds at the far end provided a wealth of interesting plants - and answers to quiz questions - with purple loose-strife and white water-lily attracting much attention. The final stop was near Braco, at the superb roman fort site at Ardoch. The party spent a brief half hour exploring one small part of it. Counting up the totals for the natural history quiz revealed the winner - Joan Thomson, with Marjorie Tennant in second place.

LINN OF DEE : 14th SEPTEMBER

JKC

For the second year running, our Fungus Foray followed a period of dry weather which greatly reduced the variety of species encountered. On the day however, it looked as if too much, rather than too little rain might spoil the trip. But, with typical Dundee Nat's luck, the rain abated as we passed the Cairnwell and descended into Deeside, thereafter remaining dry for the rest of the day.

The wealth of toadstools typical of native Caledonian pine forest was not apparent from the shrivelled and usually unidentifiable remains found along most of the walk.

Undaunted, the remit was changed to encompass the wildlife of the forest as a whole; birds, flowers, scenery, everything was examined. At one point, three different species of grasshopper were seen within a few yards, allowing for easy comparison. Then, good, close views of a handsome male Black Grouse were obtained by a number of the party. Elsewhere, everyone marvelled at the sheer numbers and frenetic activity associated with the Wood Ants nests. One member was allegedly heard to mutter " I'm glad I don't have to count them back onto the bus!"

At the end of the walk, we visited a slightly damper area of mature plantation near the river. This proved to be the most productive hunting ground for toadstools with several younger members vying to collect the largest and most revoltingly rotten specimens.

Richard K Brinklow

Continued/...

WINTER MEETINGS

Urban Wildlife was the topic of the first winter meeting on October 15. Alison Silk, Urban Conservation Officer with Dundee district Council, described the projects presently being undertaken at Balgay Hill, The Law, Shiel Street (Broughty Ferry) and Trottick Ponds, plus school projects at Gilburn Road and Ancrum Road Primary School.

On October 29 Richard Ninnis, NCC Regional Officer based in Forfar described the Somerset Levels, their plant and bird life. He explained how the Levels formed, how they are managed and the problems of serious decline in bird numbers thought to be a result of the area drying out.

Three views of South Spain and Portugal were presented by Society members, Doreen Fraser, Jim Cook and Brian Allan at the November 5th meeting. Doreen treated us to a selection of her slides taken when she and other Society Members visited an area in south east Spain. Jim picked up the theme when he described areas further west including the desert-like Cabo de Gata, the Sierra Nevada and the picturesque Alhambra Palace near Granada. Moving yet further west Brian described the area around the Serrania de Ronda before moving on to the Monchique mountains of Portugal and the coastal area at Capo St Vincente.

Bob Davis, Warden of the Sands of Forvie Nature Reserve for over 14 years was the Speaker on November 19th. This coastal reserve, north of Aberdeen has large areas of dunes and heathland, and includes the Ythan Estuary. The reserve is home to a large number of breeding birds such as Eiders and Terns. It also has several rare plant species, including the Oyster Plant. Members should note that one of this year's Summer Excursions is a return visit to this beautiful reserve.

Chairman Richard Brinklow stepped into the breach on December 3rd as a result of the illness of the invited speaker. Wildlife in his garden at Meikle proved a varied and interesting topic, varying from Pipistrelle bats roosting on the roof to moles burrowing under the lawn.

At the Christmas meeting on December 17 Niall Benvie showed his favourite slides taken over the past two years. He divided them into four categories - landscapes, plants, animals and birds. The pictures showed the effects of different light conditions and management and different types of composition.

The recent Botanical exploration of East Nepal was the subject on January 21st. David Long of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh described the journey he and three other colleagues took, reaching heights of 18,200ft, almost the top of the world. His informative and often amusing presentation included a series of stunning slides depicting the plants, scenery and culture of this fascinating Himalayan country. David made us all cringe by relating how, early in the trip, the first fauna was encountered to compliment the spectacular flora, with ants which could easily eat through the tent's groundsheets and the disgusting but aptly named Tiger Leech which could latch onto any unsuspecting botanist and draw blood quicker than a Nepalese curry.

Continued/...

February 4th was Members' Night. Jim Cook compered the showing of the Photographic Competition entries. The judges, once again, were Mr Tony Campbell (photography) and Dr Derek Robertson (wildlife content).

The winning entries were:-

THREE SLIDES PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE BRITISH ISLES DURING 1991

- 1st - Alban Houghton (Upland Birds)
- 2nd - Barbara Hogarth (Torridon Treats)
- 3rd - Gordon Kirkland (Fieldfares)

THREE SLIDES PHOTOGRAPHED ABROAD DURING 1991

Winner - Brian Allan (Spring in the Algarve)

ONE POSTCARD-SIZE PRINT OF BRITISH OR FOREIGN WILDLIFE 1991

Winner - Peter McGrath (Robin)

Bob Philip then gave a microscopy demonstration. This was followed by a show of members' slides.

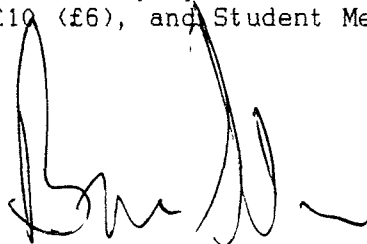
On February 18th David Tattersfield from Branklyn Garden Perth, delivered an excellent lecture about his travels in Morocco, which included precipitous treks into the High Atlas Mountains. His talk included many spectacular views of the scenery and attendant plantlife, much of which has still to be classified, as well as many interesting, colourful and humorous slides and anecdotes about the people and customs of the country.

The final lecture of this year's programme was delivered by Steve Moyes from the Tay Ringing Group on March 3rd. His expert knowledge of the Tay Estuary and its many bird species, together with excellent slides of the many birds he and his group have ringed, made for a fitting finale to our programme of winter lectures. Steve is a leading light in the campaign to try to establish a nature reserve on the north bank of the Estuary. Our Society has also contributed our views to Mr David Bell, the consultant who is carrying out a feasibility study of the area. Copies of our submission are available from the Secretary, (Please enclose a S.A.E.)

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

At this year's A.G.M. an increase in subscriptions will be proposed. I'm sure you will all agree that the present subscription has given very good value in today's economic climate, but after four years an increase is necessary. We have reached the stage where our costs have overtaken our income and to maintain the high standards of recent years a proposed increase in subscription charges was inevitable. The proposed increases are Ordinary Member - £6 (£4), Family Membership - £10 (£6), and Student Member - £2 (£1).

Brian Allan.



Continued/...

CARSEGOWNIEMUIR QUARRY RESERVE

ANNUAL REPORT 1991

Good news

A highlight of the 91 season was the participation of five new members endowed with either physical fitness, or gardeners' cunning, in doing heavy jobs. The active participation of Lorraine and Ronnie Young also added sparkle to our core of enthusiastic workers at the Quarry. One of the two planting dates in November was a day of freezing fog and we had to dig deep to find unfrozen soil. Nevertheless the total of 70 trees planted in 1991 had the biggest planting holes ever and the most additional pure soil free of stones - so we expect champion progress from them. Muscle power went into pollarding several willows at Pond 3 to allow light into the water and to improve the flight path for water birds. Two unsung heroes reported 'near frost-bite' on the day they measured all the trees. Grateful thanks to all helpers of the year.

It was another excellent season of tree growth. Last year's champion, the aspen, had a slight rest and only put on 31½". It was overtaken by many others; this year's champ' being a bird cherry, which made 54". Its companion put on 48", so it's not going to be left on its own. Many birches have put on 28 - 35" with hawthorns doing just as well. Pines, although more sedate at about 18", have also made good growth.

An interesting point was that some of the fastest growing birch, bird cherry and hawthorn grew amongst willowherb. We noted this advantage two year's ago when there was a summer drought. Willowherb's only sin seems to be in shutting out all light unless we rigorously weed it or knock it down round our trees before July.

The first ever flowers were seen on two bird cherry trees on 17 May at the barbecue site. The first blooms are always exciting, but they should be even better in future. One hedgehog was recorded this season.

Ronnie Young contributed a welcome 50m roll of rabbit wire for protection, and Freddie French of Coupar Angus donated another batch of seedling hazels, caledonian pines and acorns. These major donations and their donors' continuing interest and support help to sustain us.

Six new bird boxes were added to the two existing ones but were too late for the 1991 nesting season. The earlier box no. 2, however, was once again home to a family of blue tits. Woodcock have been noted this year and tawny owl and kestrels have been seen frequently.

Thirteen column inches describing our work at the Quarry (unidentified), and giving the Society credit, were published in the "Courier" on 2 January 1992. Thanks are due to our reporter member.

Minus points

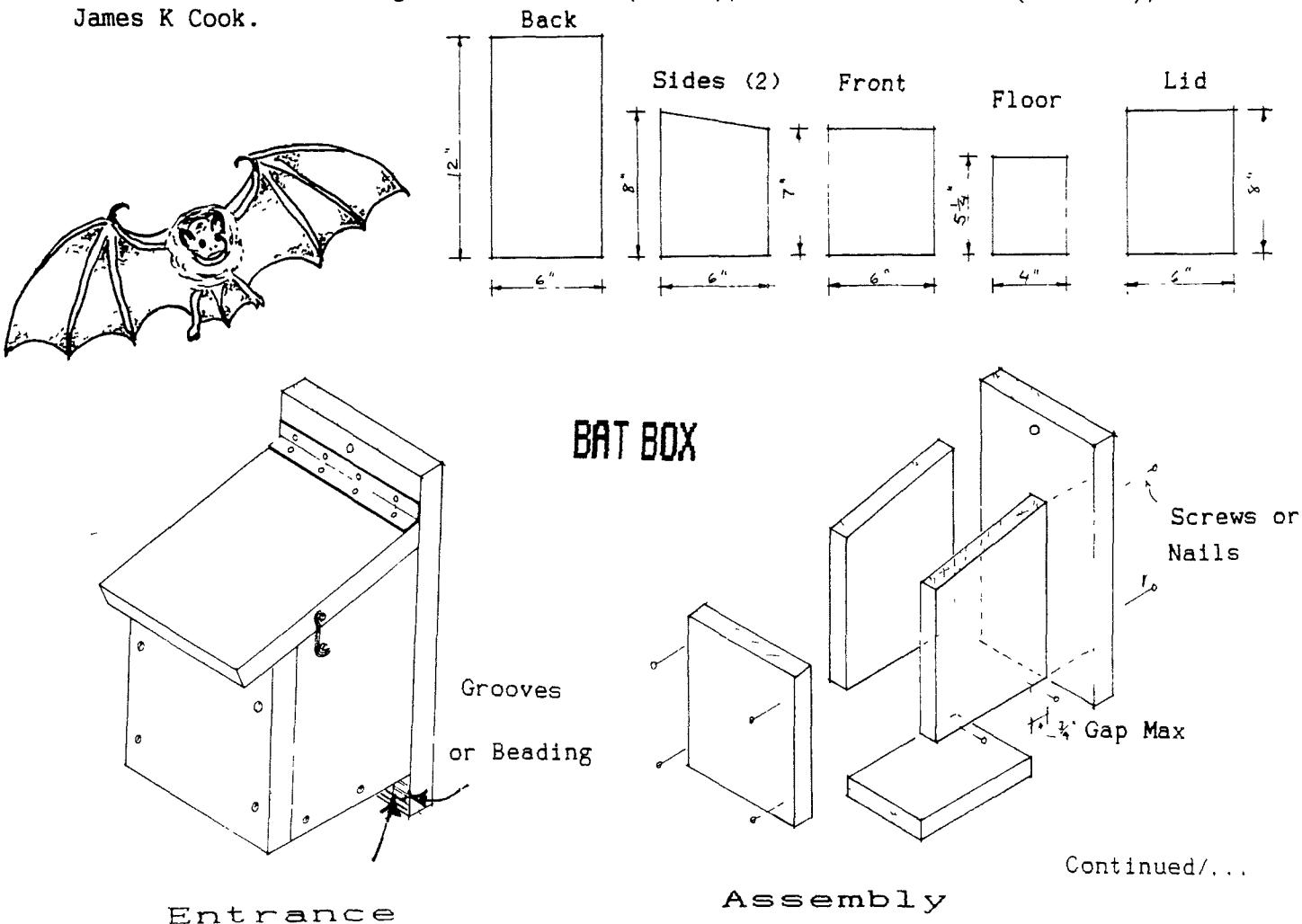
Planted ash have not so far made much progress. This seems surprising since they were already one of the commonest trees on the site. The same applies to rowan: one or two planted ones have done well, but most have sulked. Blackthorn are now mostly shorter than when planted in 1986! Few things sharing their site above the big pond (5) have done well so we might try blackthorn elsewhere in future.

Continued/...

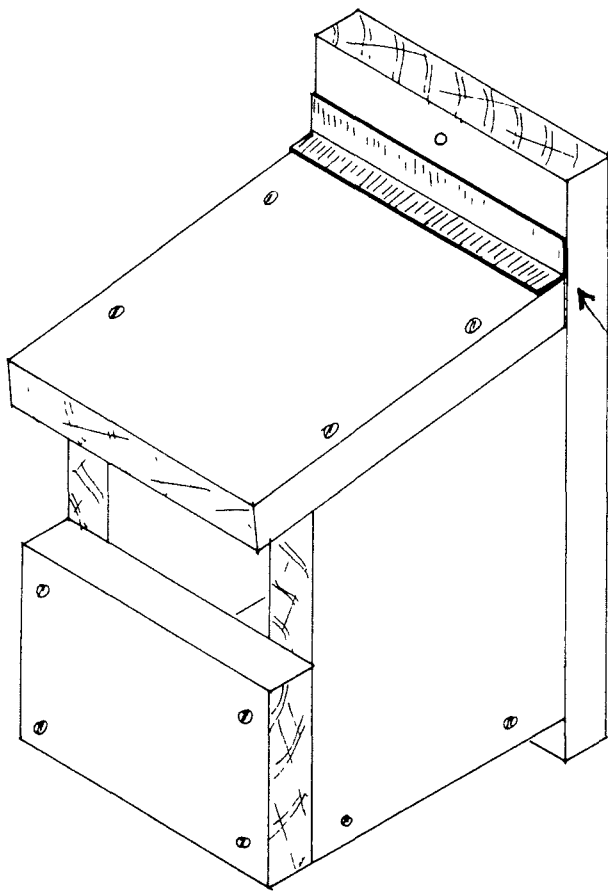
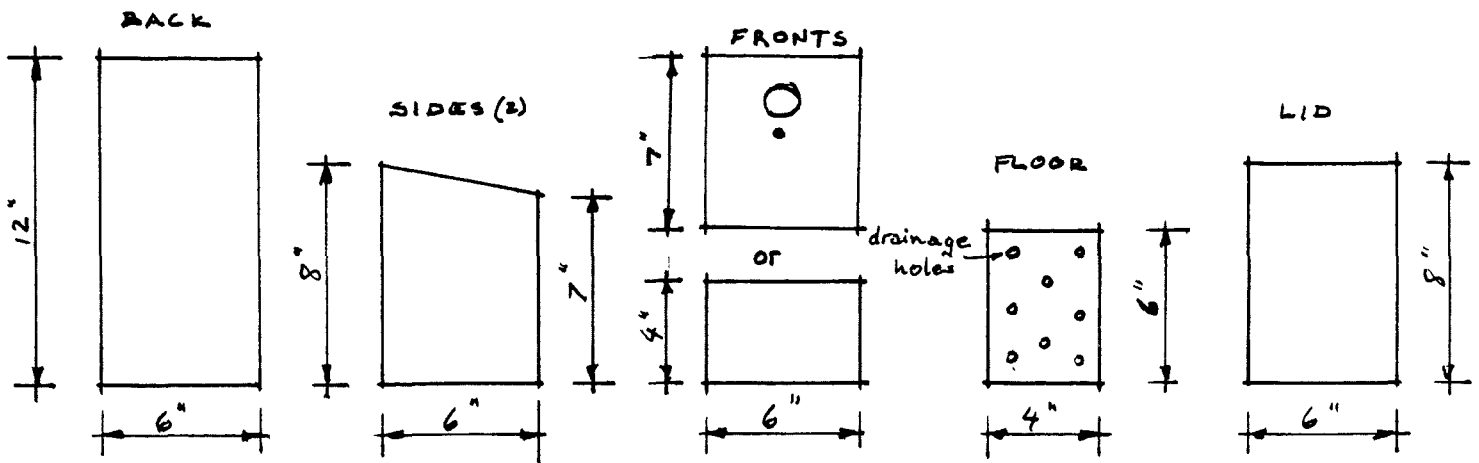
Conditions seem to have been so good at the season of upward growth that some trees have been top heavy and unbalanced. A contributing factor may be that by protecting each tree with a circle of wire attached to a post we have, in effect, staked the tree. The bigger trees are actually becoming top heavy without getting enough movement at their base to encourage strengthening growth low down. We have released some from their wires and left them free to move with only a plastic rabbit spiral guard for protection. Some have been so top heavy we have thinned their crowns by pruning to reduce wind resistance. Others have been staked at 1 foot height by an angled stake because they are unstable at the root. This may be necessary in many more cases next year. The worry that now arises is that as soon as the rabbit spirals are opened up by the expanding trunk the rabbits gnaw whatever they can reach between the spirals. They may in this way succeed in ringbarking and killing the trees.

Rabbits remain a problem, though they were reduced by myxomatosis at the end of the season. They have completely undermined some sites in the quarry with their burrowing and are causing erosion and collapse. They have even become quite adept at digging long shallow burrows under the buried wire at the west end fence. We cannot block their holes fast enough. Anything left unprotected is shown no mercy. Unfortunately some of the original tree posts are now beginning to rot and fall over, taking the wire down too if the tree is too small to support it. This is usually the case with the smaller pines. So tree repairs and planting must go on to keep ahead of the rabbits.

As we are nearing the end of our first five years at the Quarry it is time for a review of progress and preparation of plans for the next five years, to be agreed with the owners. Our marvellous initial fund is almost exhausted and fund-raising plans will need to be made if any developments are to be undertaken. Thoughts and ideas from members will be welcomed by the Subcommittee: Margaret G Duncan (67479), Alastair J Fraser (53 2316), James K Cook.

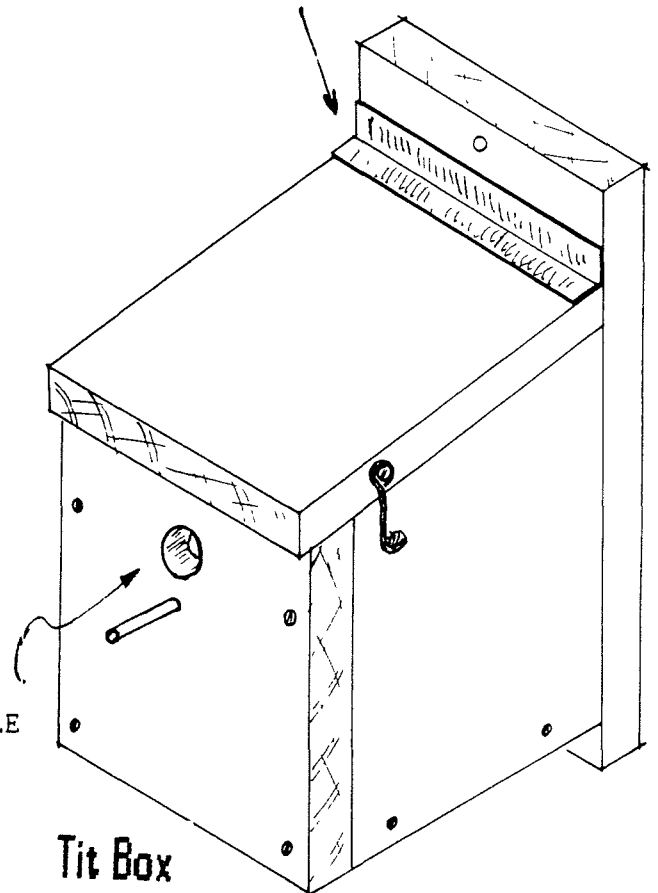


BIRD BOXES



Robin, Flycatcher, Sparrow

USE A TWO PENCE COIN FOR HOLE
TEMPLATE



Continued/...

CARSEGOWNIEMUIR QUARRY NATURE RESERVE

FIVE YEAR REVIEW, 1992

The proposal of a partnership to manage Carsegowndiemuir Quarry as a private nature reserve came from the first owners, the Compton family, in October 1984. The Society spent 1985 surveying the site and drawing up a discussion and planning document. The Society as a whole decided to tackle the proposal and a written Memorandum of Agreement with the new owner, Ronnie Young, was signed in August 1988. This came later than verbal agreements and active management began with our first plantings at the end of 1986. Our Agreement was for an initial 10-year project with review after 5 years, now due in April 1992.

The site had some mature trees but almost no young trees at all. Our ambitious aim at the outset was to take over management from the rabbits. We can't claim to have quite achieved that goal. However, the rabbits were preventing any seedling trees and shrubs from establishing and we have achieved the successful establishment of 400 trees and shrubs. So far we have covered approximately 10% of the acreage. The question to ask now is whether we can ensure that sufficient of these will survive long enough to alter the habitat to a more congenial woodland environment which will benefit a wider and more populous wildlife. We would like to see leaf litter build up on the surface, without blowing away, to enrich the soil and provide a home for woodland mosses, lichens, herbs, invertebrates, molluscs, mammals and birds. It is hoped that when the soil develops a more woodland nature then suitable wildlife will find its own way there. The main aim is to develop woodland habitats, with large deciduous trees like oak and ash, and smaller deciduous trees such as birch, as well as native pinewood habitat. We also aim to maintain diversity by keeping open areas with grass, as well as paths and pond habitats. The changes may take 20 - 30 years. At present an interesting variety of wildlife visits the Quarry but it should be able in future to support them for longer periods.

We had planned to start a semi-natural succession by planting only shrubs at first and then planting trees within their shelter. The shrubs were to be located around the perimeter. In reality we have planted mostly trees in blocks. This is mainly because of the difficulty we have found in protecting wide bushes. Upright trees are easier to protect.

Because trees are planted with individual protection we have been able to plant in natural looking clumps. The clumps are well spread throughout the site so, as planting continues in future years, the different age groups should look quite acceptable. Perhaps future visitors will not realise it was planted ...

The rabbits remain a problem. In some years at the end of the growing season their numbers are reduced by myxomatosis but they can build up to very high numbers. In frosty weather conditions they eat the bark of trees of any size and do kill even mature trees by ringbarking them. Without a secure perimeter fence more immigrate after their numbers are reduced. We are concerned in the long term because our successful wirenetting protectors are in effect staking the trees and not allowing movement of the trunk to build up strength at the tree base. Some trees become top heavy and unstable unless we release and stake them at a low level. Plastic rabbit spiral protectors work for a year or two until the expanding trunk opens up the spirals to rabbit attack. Trees cannot usually repair damage as fast

Continued/..

as rabbits can create it. Their fate is usually to blow over where they have been weakened. A solution needs to be found to this - the major problem.

Roe deer occasionally visit but have not been a problem within the period. They might build up in numbers when there is more woodland cover.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Plans for Ponds

- Pond 1 Very steep, stony and darkly shaded with tall willows.
 Maintain its seclusion for water birds and to hide its ugliness.
- Pond 2 The warmest and most obviously productive for wildlife but
 periodically polluted by fallen willow catkins.
 Open up south side to increase warmth and sunlight. Encourage low
 vegetation for insects and amphibia. Extend marshy area.
- Pond 3 Some trees already pollarded at SW end to improve flight paths
 for water birds and to allow more sunlight in. Cut some of the
 pollarded trees further to ground level. Introduce edge and
 water plants.
- Pond 4 Establish low waterside vegetation. Extend marsh area.
- Pond 5 Survey water plants and animals.
 Consider possible water plant introductions, such as shoreweed
 (*Littorella uniflora*), *Potamogeton* spp, a non-invasive crowfoot
 (*Ranunculus* sp.).
 Consider introducing edge plants such as bottle sedge (*Carex*
 rostrata), Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), branched bur reed
 (*Sparganium erectum*), flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), *Carex*
 rostrata; floating plants such as water lilies (*Nuphar* or
 Nymphaea).
- A floating island a possibility but there is probably not suffi-
 cient food available for nesting duck.

Continued/...

PLANTING PLANS**PLAN A**

Continue planting 50 - 100 trees/shrubs per year, replacing 100 existing wire netting guards and posts on established trees with plastic rabbit guards (reuse wire protectors and posts for new trees). Provide small angled posts where required for stability of established trees.

Labour input: acceptable, assuming at least 12 helpers.

Cost: 100 trees, 60cm high @ 40p (if purchased) =	£40
200* rabbit guards @ 22p each =	£44
(*2 for each tree)	
50 x 3'x1"x1" posts at ?30p =	£15

Cost p.a.: £99 + £17 vat = £116

PLAN B

As above

Cost p.a.: £116

but also -

Construct 5 small experimental exclosures (1 p.a.) to allow the planting of shrubs and the natural development of a ground flora. These would have to be impregnable to rabbits. Suggested size 5 x 3 x 5 x 2 metres.

Labour input: considerable.

Materials per exclosure:

15 m x 1 m Rabbit wire, plus height extension of 15 m x 0.5 m wide wire (0.5 buried) 1 x 50m roll =	£ 30
Fencing wire for support 200m roll =	£ 16.75
4 8ft Treated strainer posts @ £11.50	£ 46
4 intermediate posts @ £1.49	£ 6
Hog rings for joining wire 100 =	£ 3.50
Cost p.a.: £102 + £18 vat =	£120.14

Construct 3 bat boxes (@ £5).	Cost p.a.:	£ 5
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Construct 20 bird nest boxes (@ £3)	Cost p.a.:	£ 12
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Subtotal p.a.	£137
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Total cost p.a.: £253

In hand £210 (1.2.92)

PLAN C

An ideal situation would be to renew the perimeter fence to exclude rabbits and deer. This would allow natural regeneration and we would not need to do very much active management but this is impractical for the Society.

CARSEGOWNIEMUIR

PLANTING PLANS

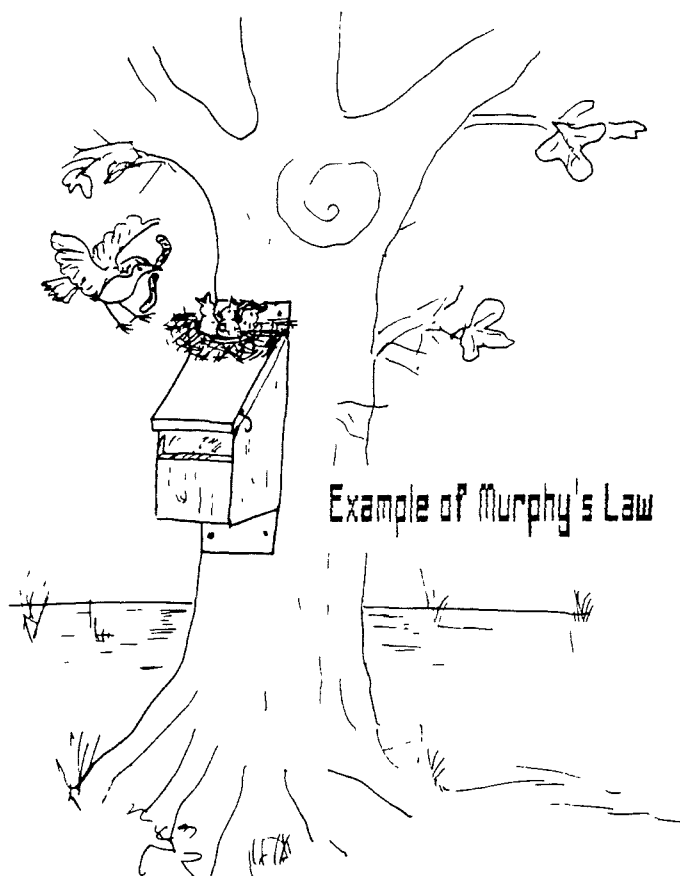
The DNS Council decided to adopt Plan A, and incorporate some elements of Plan B. Plan C was considered to be too expensive for the Society to implement.

Margaret Duncan and her C.G.M. Sub-committee would like more nesting boxes on the site, particularly Bat and Tit boxes. We have included the plans in the hope that some Members might make some boxes in their spare time.

Please note that Bat Boxes require fairly thick timber, 1 inch is ideal, and that the finished boxes must be left 'rough' and NOT treated with paint or wood preservative. These are poisonous to bats.

Bird boxes may be painted or varnished **ON THE OUTSIDE ONLY**, and roofing felt can be affixed over the lid or hinge.

We are hoping to have a 'Workshop Day' to make some nesting boxes for Carsegowniemuir. The venue will be a Member's garage & garden and materials and some tools will be provided. If you are interested in helping, please give your name to any C.G.M. Sub-committee Member or the Society Secretary who will pass on the information.



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1992

The competition categories are as follows :

One set of 3 slides on a theme of British wildlife photographed in the British Isles during 1992.

1st Prize - £10 : 2nd Prize - £5 : 3rd Prize - Free Nats' outing bus fare.

Subsidiary Categories

1. Best set of 3 slides on a Wildlife Theme photographed outside the British Isles during 1992. A prize of £5 will be awarded to the winner.

2. Best individual postcard size print on a Wildlife Theme photographed during 1992, either in the British Isles or abroad. The prize is again £5.

Only paid up members of Dundee Naturalists' Society may enter, and only one entry is allowed in each section. Those who wish to enter please complete the enclosed application form. There is no entry fee.

All slides or prints must be labelled, with the title but NOT with the entrants name. They will be numbered by the organisers.

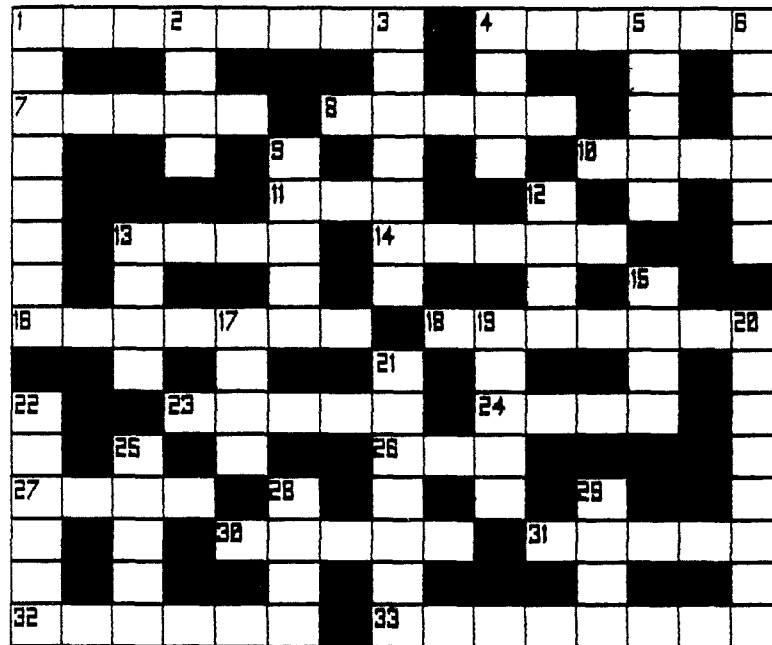
Pictures will be judged on their wildlife/natural history interest, and their impact, composition and sharpness.

Jim Cook.

Continued/...

NATURE CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mary Galloway



ACROSS

1. This grass may be perennial (8)
4. Commonest small wader on the shore (8)
7. Block of precious metal (5)
8. Scourge of the West Coast (6)
10. Soil particle finer than sand (4)
11. Type of root (3)
13. Hot rock (4)
14. High flier (5)
16. Five has two of these (7)
18. They're cute, cuddly and destructive (7)
23. This butterfly may make you pause (5)
24. Breathing space (4)
26. The sheltered side (3)
27. One in the eye for this plant! (4)
30. On such a day visibility is good (5)
31. Aromatic herbs (5)
32. You won't see this often (6)
33. In the bleak mid winter (8)

DOWN

1. It's higher in the west (8)
2. Most plants won't do this at low temperatures (4)
3. Butterfly found on a boat? (7)
4. Where archaeologists may be found (4)
5. This flower's spikes turn to pods (5)
6. Grasping this plant isn't advised (6)
9. Group of Trees (5)
12. Large block of rock (4)
13. Acid soils lack this (4)
15. Is this tree missing something? (4)
17. It's inert but gives a good glow (4)
19. Tree that appears to be nervous (5)
20. Easily identified by its beak (8)
21. Duck commonly seen on salt and fresh water (7)
22. Unpopular insect (6)
25. Bird as agile below the water as above (5)
28. This soil gives drainage problems (4)
29. Good weather for a Nat's outing (4)

Answers can be found on page 29.

PORTUGUESE ADVENTURE

Our trip to the Portuguese Algarve was courtesy of Saddam Hussein!! We had decided on a return trip to the Peloponnese region of Greece but the Gulf War meant all flights to Athens were cancelled. We were however, not in any way disappointed since the flowers and birds, together with the friendliness of the people, made the trip one of the most memorable of recent years.

We flew direct to Faro from Glasgow and were in Portugal and Spain from 7th-21st April which looking back is perhaps the best time from the botanical point of view. Having no accommodation booked we collected our hired car and headed west, planning first to visit the Capo St. Vincente area which is the the most westerly point of the European mainland. Having read as much as possible about the area prior to our departure we noted that Chris and Marie North had stayed at a Motel nearby at Sagres, and we were lucky enough to find our way there without too much trouble. The name 'motel' does not do the establishment justice since the rows of large rooms, all with en suite plumbing, set in attractive gardens overlooking the sea, were of a high standard. The motel is owned and run by a family from Holland and has a restaurant which serves a wide range of meals at quite reasonable cost, always accompanied by friendly service.

As always the first area we studied was the area immediately around our base, and we were delighted to find two new plants for us on our first brief stroll. These were a delightful Grape Hyacinth, *Bellevalia hackelii* and a rare form of the Mirror Orchid, *Ophrys vernixia*. Birds were also much in evidence with Storks flying overhead and Little Egrets roosting in the trees behind the Motel.

We were to soon overwhelmed by plants new to us when we paid our first visit to the Capo St Vincente, three or four miles from our base. Here the point is dominated by a lighthouse and is one of the most popular tourist Meccas during the summer months. The rock is a hard calcareous dolomite and the ground cover is dominated by a number of low shrubs, kept short by the almost ever constant wind from the Atlantic. The most common of these shrubs is the endemic *Cistus Cistus palhinhae* which has large white flowers and shiny sticky leaves. The other shrubs we were to record included:

<i>Cistus albidus</i>	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	<i>Halimium commutatum</i>
<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>
<i>C. crispus</i>	<i>Lithospermum diffusum</i>
	subsp. <i>lusitanica</i>

Cistus albida and *C. crispus* both have pink flowers while *C. salvifolius* and *C. monspeliensis* have smaller white flowers. The *Lithospermum* is an intense blue member of the Gromwell family.

It was however, the myriad of herbs and bulbs which grew among the shrubs which was to be the highlight of our visit to Capo St Vincente. These included:

<i>Silene colorata</i>	<i>Armeria pungens</i>
<i>Anagallis monelli</i>	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>
	subsp. <i>linkianum</i>
<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>
<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>
<i>Scilla Monophyllos</i>	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>
<i>Halimium lasianthum</i>	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>
	subsp. <i>grandiflorum</i>

Continued/...



Astragalus lusitanicus

The *Anagallis* is a large flowered blue form of Scarlet Pimpernel, the *Astragalus* is white flowered member of the pea family with huge green and yellow pods. The nodding heads of the Fritillary were Purple, or on occasions pale green, and growing close by was the Petticoat Hoop Narcissus and the unusual Brown Bluebell, *Dipcadi serotinum*. Making a fine show near the edge of the 80m high cliffs was the tall Thrift, *Armeria pungens* and the spectacular bright pink *Antirrhinum* which unusually has tendrils and climbs and pushes its way up through the surrounding shrubbery.

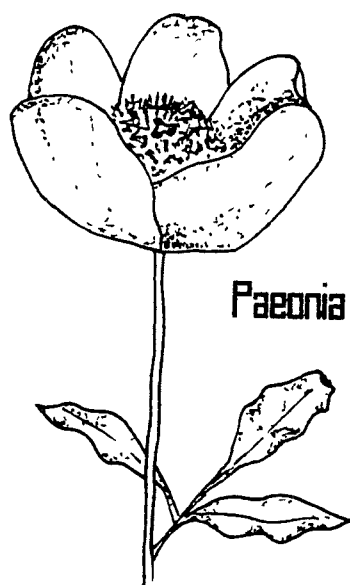
On a further visit to this same area we were to find that the best place to see the *Antirrhinum* was inside the walls of the old fort, which is some way short of the Cape lighthouse.

Reluctantly we moved from the Sagres area to explore the area centred on the mountain village of Monchique. En route we were thrilled to see our first of many sightings of Bee Eaters, Azure-winged Magpies, and close by, a dozen or so Cattle Egrets, which believe it or not were feeding in and around a herd of cattle, completely oblivious to the attendant herdsman. It was on our way to Monchique that we saw more spectacular plants including the large, bright blue Squill, *Scilla peruviana* and a number of orchids:

Ophrys solopax
O. bombyliflora
O. lutea
Gennaria diphylla

Orchis morio subsp. *picta*
Serapias lingua
S. parviflora

The area around Monchique is dominated by two mountains, Foia, 902m and Picota, 744m, which are both formed from a unique granite-like rock called predictably *foyaite*. This acidic rock means that the flora is quite distinctly different from that growing on the surrounding schists. There is a good road to the radio station on Foia with the summit somewhat bare and uninteresting, however further down the ground cover is more natural, although not completely natural, as the vast expanses of Cork Oak, which at one time covered both peaks, have all but gone. In their place are a number of large, almost tree-like Heaths, *Erica lusitanica*, *E. arborea*, both white, and the pink *Erica australis* and smaller brighter pink *E. umbellata*.



Paeonia broteroi

Continued/...

Picota has no easy access and is consequentially more natural, with at least some of the original tree cover left, with coppiced Chestnut and Cork Oaks replaced in places by fast growing Eucalyptus or Pine. It was on the lower slopes of Picota we were to find our prize, many fine plants of the pink Peony, *Paeonia broteroi*. Growing nearby were Spanish Bluebell, *Endymion hispanicus*, and some 60cm high spikes of our own Early-purple Orchid. The Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus unedo*, together with a plant which is an introduced weed of some areas of Scotland, but native here in Portugal, *Rhododendron ponticum* was also recorded, as was a number of smaller herbs including the tiny Squill, *Scilla monophyllos*, the Romulea, *Romulea bulbocodium* and a further new orchid for my records, *Orchis champagneuxii*.

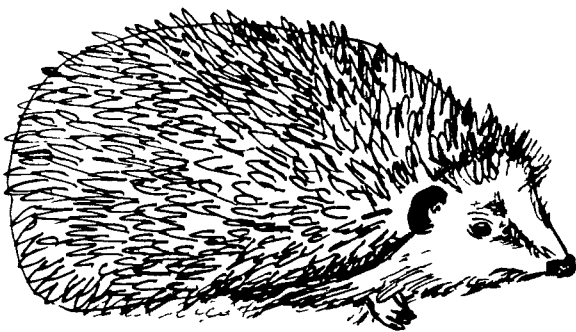
After a few days spent here in the Serra de Monchique, we headed east into Spain to continue our Iberian holiday.
Brian Allan

WOODS IN DANGER

A surprise piece of news was the announcement that Methven Woods were for sale. Before her death Miss Barbara Smyth had been negotiating with the Nature Conservancy Council to make the Oak woods, with its Bird Cherries and Hazels, into a nature reserve. Her heir was also keen to preserve this lovely area, but it appears that difficulties arose. However, I understand that any purchaser will be bound by the protective agreement to save the Oak woods, even if the adjoining conifers are not covered.

Members who visit Moncreiffe Hill during the winter will find timber operations in progress at the car parking area. Woodland Trust Development Officer, Graeme Morrison, tells me it was impossible to thin the Douglas Firs on the hillside without lowering logs into the car park, but he hopes to avoid damage to the Scarlet Pimpernels, Centaury etc, which thrive on the screes.
Bob McLeod

ANYBODY WANT A HEDGEHOG?



The hedgehog an endangered species? It doesn't seem so after a summer in Johnston Avenue. The children around here came clamouring round the door to report a hedgehog on the footway. Would Auntie Pat save it? We carried it into the back garden and fed it on dog food. It disappeared, but turned up next door. But no, was that another one? As it had a bad eye it was taken to the vet, and left there. In no time the kids were back - a hedgehog had appeared in the drive.

This one was placed in the neglected vegetable gardens over the hedge, where it should survive. Next day more hedgehogs were found, all about six weeks old, their spikes still soft. We fear their mother had been a casualty. It was difficult to tell them apart, but there were at least four, probably more. One was freed on the old railway cutting nearby, another was taken by car and given the freedom of Dronley Woods. All is now quiet on the hedgehog front.
Bob McLeod

Continued/...

It can open up a whole new world!!

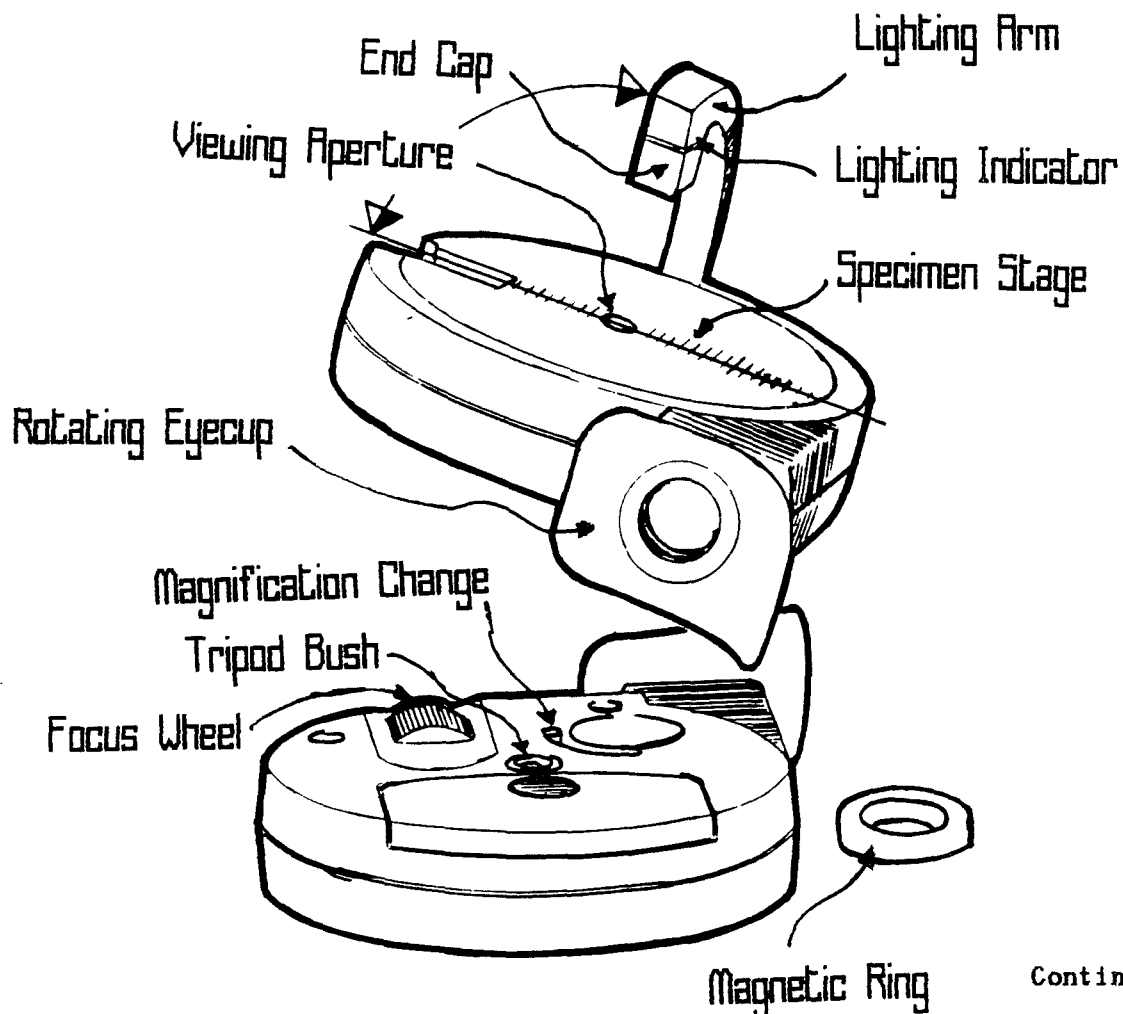
THE LENSMAN

The Lensman microscope came on the market less than three years ago, with high acclaim from a number of sources. Yes! for the amateur naturalist it really can open up a whole new world of wonder.

Microscopy is not usually something for the amateur. Laboratory bench microscopes are heavy, bulky, and can cost hundreds of pounds. On the other hand, the Lensman with batteries fitted weighs only about 225g (8oz), is portable - about 10cm (4") diameter plus eyepiece, and its cost is reasonable. The Lensman has a first class, unconventional, optical system. It has its own light source which can supply light for reflection from the viewing surface of solid objects, light for transmission through slides, or light or dark ground illumination. There is a choice of two magnifications, 80x and 200x.

As with bench microscopes, the commonest use of the Lensman is to examine slides. A project Manual is supplied giving useful guidance on the art of producing good temporary slides. It is essential to acquire this ability.

One big feature of the Lensman is its easy adaptation for photomicrography. Only two simple connecting pieces are required to link the Lensman rigidly to an SLR camera body, preferably one with a self-contained automatic shutter speed facility. Here indeed is a fascinating challenge - the opportunity to build up a slide collection of interest, of wonder, and of great variety. I have scarcely begun.



Continued/...

For more information about the Lensman, write to:- Vector Services Ltd., 13, Denington Road, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants. NN8 2RL.

Prices - February 1992

Microscope - £99-95 + P & P
Carrying Case - £4-00
Camera Adaptors - Unit to fit Lensman - £20-00
- A T-Mount unit to suit camera may be available locally.

Footnote

The Lensman can also read Micropage transparencies. For information about Micropage write to :- Science of Cambridge Limited, Croxton Park, CROXTON, Cambridgeshire. PE17 4ST.
A.R. Philip

FOR PEAT'S SAKE!

I know that many of our 'Nats' Members are keen gardeners. If YOU enjoy gardening, can I ask you some questions?:-

Do you use peat to enrich the humus content of the soil in your garden?
Do you have a 'peat wall' in your garden for growing acid-loving Alpine species?
Do you use compost containing peat for propagating plants?

A 'yes' reply to any of these questions means that you are inadvertently helping to destroy what is left of our unique Scottish peatland habitats.

Many conservationists think that we are now at a 'crisis point' in our commercial exploitation of peat. In Scotland 96% of our lowland peat has already gone and now many of our upland peat areas are under threat from planned expansion of the existing peat-cutting industry.

Last year, Richard Ninnes of the N.C.C. came to speak to our Society about the Somerset Levels, an area which has seen a great deal of commercial extraction of the underlying sedge and moss peats with the resulting conflicts between commercial and conservation interests. Richard told us that during Medieval times, the resident monks dried and burned peat as a fuel. However, like the long tradition of Scottish crofters who cut and burn peat in the Western Highlands and Islands, this had comparatively little environmental impact, until mechanisation of peat cutting was introduced during the 1950's. At about the same time the horticultural advantages of peat as a humus supplement were also being discovered.

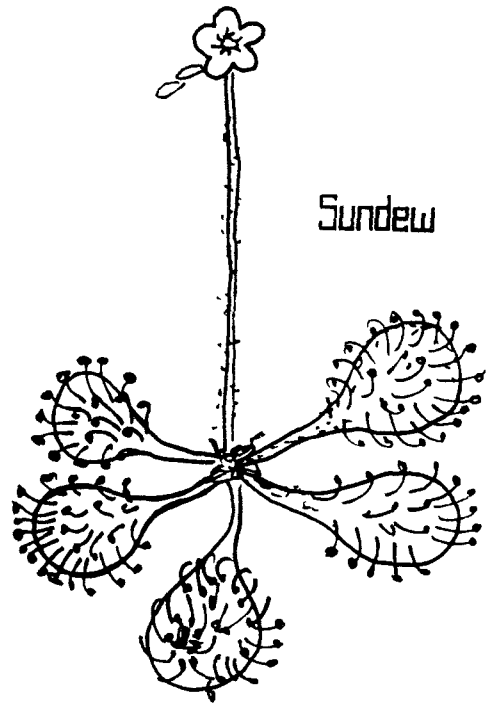
These days the peat cutting industry is 'big business'. As well as established garden centres, peat is now sold by most large D.I.Y. outlets and many garages, both as a fuel and in the familiar 'grow-bags' for growing tomatoes etc. It is comparatively cheap, convenient and hygienic to use, and the garden thrives on it!

But the real price of peat is, in environmental terms, far higher.

Perhaps one of the main problems is that the 'public image' of peat bogs is not a good one. Boggy areas are regarded as wet and unpleasant, a breeding ground for the ubiquitous Scottish Midges and Mosquitos, a habitat which many uninformed persons regard as not worth preserving.

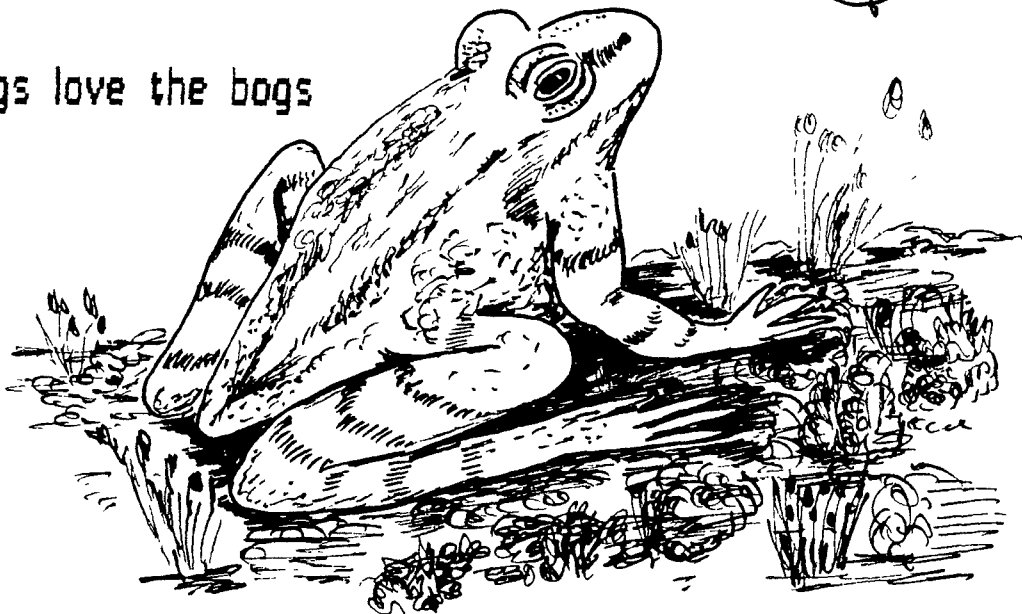
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Many landowners simply regard peatbogs as 'unproductive' areas of land. However, peat bogs are established ecosystems which have taken thousands of years to evolve. They are the habitat for the unique and interdependent floras and faunas associated with them. Plants adapted to grow in these conditions will grow nowhere else, and without the plants the attendant insects, amphibians and birds are left homeless. Peatbogs are also good 'carbon dioxide fixers', according to recent research better in this respect than the Spruce Trees which have so often been planted over them.

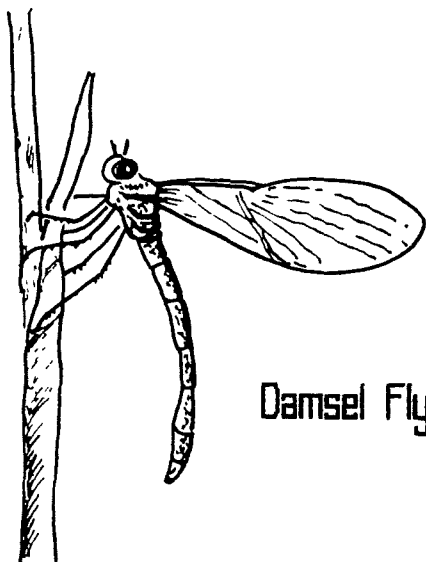


Sundew

Frogs love the bogs



In these days of the 'greenhouse effect' this means that peatbogs act as a valuable environmental regulator in Scotland.



Damselfly

The fight to conserve our peatbogs has at least one Royal Supporter. H.R.H. Prince Charles recently made the point that it was no use complaining about the destruction of the rainforests etc elsewhere in the world, while in our own country, " we would do well to set an example by not treating our peatland habitat as useless bog to be drained, dug up and scattered about our gardens".

Continued/...

So what can we, the gardening public, do in practical terms to help preserve peat? Fortunately there are many good alternative renewable sources of garden humus, depending upon the depth of your purse and your personal time and energy.

Most of the larger garden centres now stock compost made from coconut husks, and although this is presently more expensive than peat, public demand would soon bring down the price and increase the availability. Autumn leaf litter makes an excellent fine-grained compost if it is left to rot down over the winter. Fallen leaves on roads and pavements are a nuisance to the District Councils who pay dearly to have them swept up. Those wishing to sweep up a bag or two for their own use will, I am sure, be welcomed by those whose job it is to keep the streets tidy!

My own garden thrives well on a mixture of composted material including leaves, tea bags, coffee grounds, banana skins and peelings. A large plastic dustbin with holes drilled by Brian at strategic intervals keeps the compost tidy, although purpose built vessels are widely available. Machines which finely mince up household and garden organic refuse are also available at a price. Compost produced this way is less 'aesthetically' good to use than peat. Mine is always full of 'creepy crawlies' necessitating the use of rubber gloves and welly boots twice a year! However, as a humus provider it is every bit as good as the peat and is free! I should mention that well rotted farmyard manure is still considered the best compost of all. However, the one and only time I used it none of the neighbours would speak to us until the smell disbursed! Seaweed is also supposed to make a good addition to a compost heap although this too may be unpopular in the 'olfactory' department!

A bit of 'lobbying' of local District Councillors might produce a communal compost heap where persons could collect, for a small charge, bags of the compost produced from the community's organic refuse.

Dundee is trying to become known as a 'Re-cycling City' and this project seems to be an appropriate one which could benefit everyone in the long term, as well as helping to conserve our precious peatlands.

Jenny Allan

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Friends of the Earth(Scotland)- Leaflet **"DON'T FLOG THE BOGS"**: Send S.A.E to :- F.O.E. (Scotland), Bonnington Mill, 70-72 Newhaven Road EDINBURGH EH6 5QG. Leaflet is free, but donation towards printing etc. would be welcome.

Friends of the Earth - Guide - **GARDENING WITHOUT PEAT** - £5-95 from Publications Dispatch (dept D) 26-28 Underwood St, LONDON N1 7JQ. (£4-50, with discount for S.W.T. Members). Also available from the same address:-**THE PEAT ALTERNATIVE MANUAL** - £24-95 (£22-00 to S.W.T. Members).

Contact Nigel Doar, Campaigns Co-ordinator, S.W.T., Cramond House, Kirk Cramond, Cramond Glebe Road, EDINBURGH EH4 6NS, if you are interested in writing to newspapers, lobbying MP's and Councillors, or organising peat events.

Both F.O.E and S.W.T. will accept donations towards Peat Campaigns.

Continued/...

Over the past couple of years, a new computerised database of local wildlife records has been set up by Dundee Museum's Natural History Section at Barrack Street Museum.

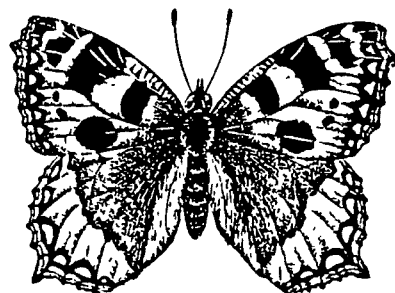
It is called **Naturebase**

So far it contains over 50,000 records relating to more than 2,700 different species of wildlife, birds and mammals, flowers and fungi, and even creepy crawlies such as beetles and spiders. Over 2,500 individual wildlife sites or areas are now on the computer.

The Natural History staff now have, at their fingertips, a sizeable bank of knowledge instantly available. This is proving invaluable in assisting with public enquiries and identifications. It is also being developed to form a baseline of data for environmental impact assessments. Knowing the current extent and distribution of the wildlife resource in and around Dundee allows the local environment to be monitored and steps taken to conserve and enhance existing wildlife interest.

Wildlife recording has always relied heavily on the active involvement of local naturalists, and Dundee Naturalists' Society Members have contributed many of the records held; but there is still a lot to do.

Examples of a few of the species that we would like to concentrate particularly on during 1992 are:- Frogs and Toads, Brown Hares and Mountain Hares, Primroses and Cowslips, the Kestrel and all of our local Butterflies.



So if you would like to help, or know more about the surveys, please call at Barrack Street Museum, DUNDEE, or Telephone Dundee 23141 ext 65154 and ask for:- **Naturebase.**

Richard Brinklow

ACTIVITIES CONVENOR'S REPORT

The Society continues to organise small groups of keen and active naturalists for natural history exploration and survey work. When the weather allowed in late winter, a number of trips were made to try to locate active badger sites in Angus. Of the number of localities visited, only one showed signs of badgers, which suggests strongly that badger numbers are down even on the small number located by Colin McLeod's survey of 1980. This is a matter of great concern and much more work needs to be done to confirm the worst fears.

A few visits were made (in 1991) to the west Sidlaw lochs to look for frog and toad spawning locations. Because of an early warmer spell and then later frosts and colder weather, it appeared that amphibian mating activities were greatly disrupted.

During the summer a number of members took part in the surveys organised by staff from Dundee Museum, filling in report forms on butterflies, kestrels and small mammals brought in by cats. These activities were highly successful, quadrupling the data collected in previous years. All members are encouraged to contribute as much information as possible.

During mild but damp autumn spells a small group of enthusiastic fungus hunters, mycologists even, visited Tentsmuir forest, Templeton woods, Backmuir wood, the area around Laird's Loch, Brighty wood, Longforgan wood and several other less interesting areas. It is intended to repeat these visits in later years to collect as much information about local fungus distribution as possible.

Jim Cook

Continued/

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS

1. Ryegrass
4. Dunlin
7. Ingot
8. Midge
10. Silt
11. Tap
13. Lava
14. Eagle
16. Lomonds
18. Rabbits
23. Comma
24. Pore
26. Lee
27. Iris
30. Clear
31. Basil
32. Rarity
33. December

DOWN

1. Rainfall
2. Grow
3. Skipper
4. Digs
5. Lupin
6. Nettle
9. Stand
12. Slab
13. Lime
15. Pine
17. Neon
19. Aspen
20. Shoveler
21. Mallard
22. Spider
25. Diver
28. Clay
29. Warm

DIARY DATES

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY WINTER PROGRAMME PROPOSED DATES

1992
 October 13th : Lecture
 October 27th : Lecture
 November 3rd : Lecture
 November 17th : Lecture
 December 1st : Lecture
 December 15th : Christmas Meeting

1993
 January 2nd : Barbecue
 January 19th : Lecture
 February 2nd : Lecture
 February 16th : Members' Night
 March 2nd : Lecture
 March 16th : A. G. M.

DUNDEE TREE GROUP

Mon 13th April: Mrs Jenny Crawford to discuss regional forestry policy. 7-30pm
 Society of Friends Rooms, Whitehall Cres. DUNDEE
 Mon 11th May : Forestry Officer, Eric Hamilton, will guide us round plantings
 in the West End. - Meet at Technology Park. 7.00pm
 Mon 18th May : Tour of Backmuir of Liff woods, which are being offered for
 sale. Meet roadside south of Muirhead Police Station. 7-30pm
 Sat 30th May : Inspect recent changes at Moncreiffe Hill.
 Meet at Woodland Trust Car Park. 2-00pm

Further information about the Tree Group, contact Secretary Miss M Wilson, 28
 Kerrington Crescent, Barnhill, DUNDEE.

Continued/...

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

March 26th SWT ROADSHOW II Inverkeillor Village Hall 7-30pm
April 9th CHEESE & WINE Montrose Sports Centre 7-30pm
(Also Talk by A Somerville)
April 15th MONTROSE SUPPORT GROUP AGM Montrose Rainbow Theatre 7-30pm
April 25th ANGUS & DUNDEE BRANCH AGM Dundee Art Collage From 10-30am
(Urban Wildlife Theme-AGM Business Meeting 12noon-Afternoon Outings)
April 26th DAWN CHORUS - Balgavies Hide Car Park 5-00am
9th May PLANT SALE - at 27 Errol Road, Invergowrie, DUNDEE. 10am -4pm
(Plant donations welcome - Contact Mrs J Bruce, 1 Hazel Dr DUNDEE)
17th May MONTROSE BASIN CLEAN UP - Mains of Dun Car Park 2-00pm
Rick Goater
24th May WESTWATER WALK - Edzell Muir Car Park 2-00pm
Richard Ninnies
30th May PLANT SALE - at 75 Camphill Road Broughty Ferry 10am - 4pm
(Plant Donations welcome - Contact Mrs J Bruce, 1 Hazel Dr. DUNDEE)
14th June WILDFLOWER WALK - Balgavies Hide Car Park 1-30pm
Jim Cook
Further details about SWT from Branch Secretary :- Miss A H. M. Prain,
Altnamuileann, 7 Lochmill KIRRIEMUIR.

CROMBIE COUNTRY PARK

14th June : ONE WORLD FAIR - 2pm-4pm, stalls and barbecue. For more details Tel
(02416) 360

FRIENDS OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN

Tues 26th May : A. G. M. at Vernonholme, followed by Cheese and Wine at Botanic
Garden.
Sun 14th June : PLANT DAY AT BOTANIC GARDEN - Tours, Information and Plant
sales.
Sat 18th July : EXCURSION to National Trust Property at Crathes, Nr Banchory,
and Mrs Murtrie's Garden, Balbithan House, Kintore.
Further details from Mrs Margaret More, Dundee University Botanic Garden,
Riverside Drive, DUNDEE DD2 1QH. Tel 66939

FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Sat 6th June : ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH - Lectures, demonstrations and
practical workshops, including the chance to take photos using own kit.
Lecturers - Sidney Clarke ARPS, Senior Photographer, and David Rae ARPS,
Horticultural Training Department.
Cost £25-00 (Excluding Lunch) Contact Marisa Main, (Events Co-ordinator), Royal
Botanic Garden, 20a Inverleith Row, EDINBURGH EH3 5LR. (Cheques payable to Royal
Botanic Garden, Edinburgh - enclose SAE for booking confirmation)

SUMMER 1992 EXCURSIONS

Glasgow Botanic Gardens & Fossil Grove Saturday 9th May

From the ancient to the sublime - and we're not talking about the DNS Council - describes this outing. We visit the superb Kibble Palace, enthusing over the fern displays, the unique clubmoss and the spring flowers outside. Then the party will travel back in time to well before the dinosaurs to marvel over the plants that gave us coal - and they're beautifully preserved.

An easy trip to view a superb collection of plants, both ancient and modern

Lochore Meadows Country Park - Saturday 23rd May

It is several years since the Society last enjoyed a day at Lochore Meadows and it will be very interesting to note the further development of this attractive park which originated from coal mining waste-land. Nowadays the visitor sees young woodlands and rolling grassland surrounding a loch, providing habitats for all manner of wildlife. A ranger will meet us and after a short slide show lead a morning walk. The afternoon will be free to explore a different area of the 1000 acres. Should the weather be unkind there is a display area and cafeteria.

Sands of Forvie - Sunday 14th June

The Sands of Forvie sand dune system is one of the largest in Britain. It comprises shifting sand to dune heath where Ling, Crowberry and many species of Lichen can be found. It also provides the habitat for many nesting birds. The Reserve is perhaps most famous for its large population of Eiders.

Glen Mark - Saturday 27th June

After enjoying the scenic ride along Glen Esk, we will walk along the clear, relatively level track leading to the Queen's Well. At various points along the way, stops will be made to take a closer look at some of the varied habitats and typical wildlife that can be found.

The total walk length is about five miles. Longer and much more strenuous walks are also available in the area for the more energetic who wish to head off independently.

Glen Tanar Forest Walk - Saturday 11th July

Glen Tanar has large areas of fine mature native Scots Pine and is one of the finest, driest and most easterly remnants of Caledonian Forest with National Nature Reserve status. Fencing has kept Red Deer to the higher hill ground and natural regeneration is taking place on an unusually extensive scale.

The Ranger, Eric Baird, will introduce us to the workings of the estate and may accompany us in the pine forest. Look out for the occasional Juniper and Aspen, Creeping Ladies Tresses, Lesser Twayblade, Common and Intermediate Wintergreen, Crossbill, Siskin, Capercaillie - all associated with pine woods.

Short waymarked paths are also available, starting at the Braeloine Centre, and there is a plant nursery (and shop) specialising in native trees* grown from local seed as well as garden plants.

Donations to the Glen Tanar Trust are always welcome,

* (Our pines at Carsegowniemuir came from here).

Glen Doll and Glen Clova - Sunday 26th July

For the second of our Sunday outings we are to visit an area almost on our doorstep but which has been sadly missing from our syllabus of late. The walk, which if completed in full, will be fairly strenuous and will start from the car park near the Glen Doll Hostel. Our route will follow Jock's Road past the famous Davie Glenn's Bothy to the watershed where we will branch off the track and head via little Loch Esk to Bachnagairn at the head of Glen Clova. We will then head down the Glen and back to the car park.

I estimate a distance of about 10-12 miles for the main walk but there are plenty shorter walks in the area for those who don't wish to walk so far.

Since both Glens are renowned for mountain plants we should see a number of the specialities of the area including our Society's emblem, the Dwarf Cornel

Cramond/Inchcolm Island - Saturday 8th August

This has always been a favourite Nats outing. The walk along the shore from Queensferry to Cramond is delightful with shady wooded areas and sandy and rocky shores. In August look out for clumps of Field Gentians growing in open short turf near the shore. Many species of woodland and shore bird life can be seen, so bring your binoculars.

In the afternoon the boat trip on the 'Maid of the Forth' will take us out to nearby Inchcolm Island where the ruins of the abbey may be explored, ending up with a seat in the lovely walled garden. Seabirds and seals basking on the rocks are almost a certainty.

The Tilt Trails - Saturday 22nd August

It is some time since we were last at Glen Tilt and this year we are to be joined by our friends from the Edinburgh Natural History Society. The Tilt trails are on either side of the river Tilt and vary in length from a few miles to about 11-12 miles if the full length of the Trail is followed.

During late August a number of upland fungus species and late summer flowers will be in evidence and Jenny will be on hand to explain some of the complex geology of the area.

**DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
17th March 1992**

The above meeting was held in the Chaplaincy Centre, The University, DUNDEE at 7-30pm.

Chairman Mr R K Brinklow Present 70+

APOLOGIES

Mrs E Leitch, Mr and Mrs Marnie, Dr and Mrs Berry.

The minutes of the AGM 1991 had been previously sent to all Members.

Mr Richard Brinklow proposed the adoption of the minutes.

Mr Jim Cook was seconder.

There were no matters arising.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Brinklow intimated the recent sad death of Mr Frank Murray, a faithful Member of the Society for many years.

Mrs Leonore Goodliffe, (nee Fullerton), has resigned from the Society following her marriage and a new 'Vice President' and 'Excursion Secretary' will have to be appointed in her place. A paragraph expressing the Society's thanks to Leonore for all her hard work is included in the Bulletin. A great deal of effort is expended, on behalf of the Society by the Office Bearers, often 'behind the scenes'. Society Members should be grateful for this work.

Last year's Summer Outings were most successful; one which had to be cancelled at the last minute is included in this year's programme. The winter programme was also interesting and successful, in spite of a few 'hiccups'. There was a very good response from Members to this year's Photographic Competition and all slides and photographs were of a very high standard. Members were reminded to bring cameras to outings etc this year. Mr Brinklow expressed the hope that as many Society Members as possible will become involved in looking closely at wildlife on outings, and hopefully making the effort to record what they see.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Current Membership numbers are :-	Honorary	- 5	(5)
	Ordinary	- 113	(129)
	Family	- 77	(72)
	Student	- 8	(11)
	Past	- 4	(7)
	TOTAL	- 207	(225)

There has been quite a steep drop in Membership numbers, caused in part by 'natural causes' including the high level of deaths during the past year. A number of Members are now finding it difficult to come to meetings and outings because of illness or increasing loss of mobility. Mrs Allan also pointed out the difficulties of attracting younger Members to the Society. Many students and employed persons now have to work on Saturdays. As an experiment, two Sunday outings are being introduced this year to enable these Members to attend. Mrs Allan asked Members to help the Excursion Secretary by supporting the Summer outings. A sheet with information about each outing is again included with the Bulletin.

Once again, our Society's programme of winter lectures was excellent and well supported with average attendances of over 70 persons. Mrs Allan expressed special thanks to President Richard Brinklow who, at very short notice, stood in for Mr Bill Brooker, ill with a flu virus. Mr Brinklow's talk about the wildlife in his garden was first class and was greatly enjoyed by all attending

Members. Mrs Allan also specially thanked Members Brian Allan, Doreen Fraser and Jim Cook who agreed to give a composite lecture about their travels in Southern Spain and Portugal. Mrs Allan had contacted 6 other prospective Speakers beforehand but none could come on this date. This lecture was so well received that another Members, composite is planned for the next winter session.

Mrs Allan thanked Bulletin Editor, Miss Mary Galloway, and Doug Palmer for his excellent drawings of Nest Box Plans. She also thanked all Members who, in addition to collecting their own Bulletins at the A.G.M., also deliver them to neighbours and friends. Bulletin envelopes are still gratefully received and re-used. In addition, the Secretary will welcome any used A4 sized envelopes which can be taped and re-used. Envelopes can be handed to any Office Bearer throughout the year.

The Secretary, has again typed up the minutes of all the winter lectures. Copies of last session's minutes are available to Members at the cost of 10p per lecture plus an S.A.E. (single or first lecture free!), except for 'The Botanical Exploration of East Nepal' which also includes a map; this costs 20p. All 10 meetings can be had for the bargain price of 60p. Payment should be made in the form of stamps to the value. (Costs reflect the current price of duplicating material).

Members were reminded about the legal requirements of the Data Protection Act as it applies to the Society. All Members' names and addresses are currently held on a data-base for labelling purposes. Any mistakes, or alterations, such as changes of address, should be notified to the Secretary as soon as possible. In addition, some persons telephone numbers are also kept. These are confidential and are not handed out to other Members without prior permission. Mailings do occasionally go astray; an early notification to the Secretary will ensure another mailing is promptly sent. The Secretary asked Members to inform her about Members who are ill or are in hospital. She also asked to be informed about deceased Members.

Unsolicited mail is still causing problems of paper mountains! Members were requested to help themselves liberally to any leaflets etc which are made available to them at meetings.

Finally the Secretary thanked all Members who have contributed to the ongoing success of the Society's A.G.M. and Christmas Night catering arrangements. There is always a tempting spread of delicious home baking with tea and coffee beautifully served. These occasions also enable Society Members to socialise.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Allan explained that inflation, V.A.T. etc. have all crept up over the years. After the last rise in subscription rates, 4 years ago, the Society's accounts recorded a large surplus. However, for the past 2 years income has exceeded expenditure and losses of £100 and £122 were recorded for 1991 and 1992 respectively, necessitating a rise in subscription levels.

Mr Allan proposed the following new annual subscription rates :-

Ordinary Members	- £6-00
Family Membership	- £10-00
Student Membership	- £2-00

Miss Shelagh Gardiner seconded the proposal, which was endorsed by a show of hands.

Mr Allan felt that the financial statement for the session 1991/92, issued with the Annual Bulletin, was self-explanatory and therefore he saw no need to go over each item unless any Member present had any queries.

TECHNICAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

Last year was an active year for local surveys. Badger setts were checked as part of a long running survey. Sadly only one sett visited was definitely active although another sett showed signs of recent activity. All Badger setts are very well hidden.

Last spring, a local hunt for frog and toad spawn resulted in very few findings.

The Naturebase computerised surveys, run from Barrack Street Museum, were very successful in the first year. Recording forms are available from the museum or Mr Brinklow. A Naturebase report is also included in the Bulletin.

Mr Cook is looking for more enthusiastic fungi recorders. This year, surveys of Templeton and Backmuir Woods, Tentsmuir and Lairds Loch are planned. Prospective participants were asked to append names and addresses on a list provided.

Mr Cook also referred Members to his own report in the Bulletin.

CARSEGOWNIEMUIR REPORT

Mrs Duncan reported good news. Last year's high rainfall resulted in excellent tree growth on the reserve. The best tree, a Bird Cherry, grew 54". There are now more than 400 trees established on the Reserve, in spite of the on-going battle with rabbits. Carsegowniemuir is now an established Reserve with excellent wildlife and educational potential. The Society should be proud to have achieved so much with the money raised from the original fund-raising plant sale held in Dorothy Fyffe's garden. However, these funds are now almost exhausted and more money is needed. An article about the reserve, featured in the Dundee Courier, was rewarded by a cheque for £25-00. This will be donated to the C.G.M. funds.

After 5 years the original informal 10 year agreement with the landowner has been reviewed. During the next 5 years the Society must consider whether to extend the agreement for a further period.

Any offers of assistance in fund-raising, tree maintenance etc, should be made to Margaret Duncan or her Sub-Committee Members.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS

There were several Council vacancies to be filled.

Margaret Duncan was willing to fill the position of Vice-President vacated by Leonore Goodliffe, and Marjory Tennant was prepared to become the new Excursion Secretary. These positions were endorsed with a unanimous show of hands.

There were 3 vacancies for Ordinary Council Members. In the absence of any other nominations, the Council proposed the following persons to fill these positions:-

Douglas Palmer
Doreen Fraser
Barbara Hogarth

These positions were endorsed by a unanimous show of hands.

A. O. C. B.

Mr Brinklow provided an 'update' on the position regarding the proposed Tay Estuary National Nature Reserve.

Mr David Bell has been commissioned to carry out a feasibility study into creating a nature reserve from this SSSI. His 6 monthly report to the local authorities is due within 2 weeks; this report is favourable to the creation of an NNR. Mr Bell asked for the views of local Societies and organisations, including the D.N.S. This issue was discussed by the D.N.S. Council and Richard Brinklow collated the information and conveyed it to Mr Bell.

Copies of the D.N.S submission are available from the Secretary. (Enclose SAE).

This ended the business at 8.22pm approximately.

Members were then given the opportunity to complete picture quiz sheets, compiled by Jim Cook. Refreshments were then served.

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

(Revised 21st March 1978)

1. The Society shall be called the Dundee Naturalists' Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be the promotion and study of all departments of Natural Science.
3. Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in Natural Science, and shall be by Annual Subscription.
Honorary Membership may be conferred on certain members by nomination and election at an Annual General Meeting.
4. The funds of the Society shall be raised by an annual subscription from each Member. Subscriptions shall become due immediately following the Annual General Meeting, covering the period up to and including the following Annual General Meeting.
5. The business of the Society shall be conducted by the following Office-bearers constituting together the Council of the Society. Viz. President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Excursion Secretary, Treasurer, and six Councillors.
Additionally, the Council shall have the power, if so desired, to appoint an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Excursion Secretary.
Five shall form a quorum.
The normal length of term of office for President and Councillor shall be three years. A member who has so served will then be ineligible for re-election to the Council for a period of one year. There are no prescribed terms of office for other Office-bearers. In the event of a vacancy occurring among the Office-bearers, the Council shall have the power to co-opt a Member to fill such a vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The Council shall have the power to arrange the dates of meetings at the beginning of each session, or to alter the date of any meeting if deemed expedient.
7. Excursions to be held shall be arranged by the Council.
8. At the Annual General Meeting, annual reports shall be submitted by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. All the Office-bearers shall be elected. These comprise Hon. President, two Hon. Vice-Presidents, and the Members of the Council. Motions, duly proposed and seconded, may be raised, if the matters do not refer to the Constitution. Any motion proposing alteration to the Constitution must be notified at least one calendar month before the Annual General Meeting.
9. Members may introduce friends to the Ordinary Meetings of the Society, but such persons shall take no part in any business proceedings of such Meetings unless invited to do so by the Chairman of the Meeting.
10. The property of the Society shall be vested in the Council of the Society.