CENTENARY ISSUE 1881-1981

60p

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, having had 100 years of continuous existence, celebrates its Jubilee on 4th April 1981.

In the Spring term of 1881 Dr. R. D. Roberts gave a course of lectures at the Philosophical Society in Corporation Road, Middlesbrough. They were very successful and aroused deep interest, and those who attended wished to follow up the subject. Accordingly the following notice was issued to members: "There will be a special meeting of the members of this society on Monday, 4th April 1881, at 8pm to consider the formation of a Field Club for putting into practice the recent lectures which have been given on Physical Geography, at which all members are requested to attend".

This meeting was held under the Presidency of Dr. W.Y. Veitch and it was resolved to form a club, to be known as the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, whose objective was to be the practical study of Natural History, Science, Archæology, and Antiquities. Invitations to this meeting had been confined to members of the Philosophical Society, and in order to open the Society to others, the meeting was adjourned and an invitation to all interested was inserted in the local press. About 70 members joined the Society. For a time the Club adopted the name of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club and University Extension Society, but the present name alone has been used since 1886. The club was well started on a successful career by 1882 and since then it has had a continuous and active existence. At the AGM of the Club held in March 1885, its constitution was amended so as to make itself entirely independent of the Philosophical Society. Thus was inaugurated the Society whose centenary we are this year celebrating.

The movement for a museum originated in the two societies whose membership was in a large degree common. The process of the movement matured into the establishment of the present Municipal Museum. In 1904, the Dorman Memorial Museum, the gift of Sir Arthur Dorman in memory of his son Lieut. G. L. Dorman, was completed and opened. The whole of the collections of birds and their eggs given by Mr. T. H. Nelson (the author of "The Birds of Yorkshire"), and the African and Indian collections of Sir Alfred Pease, were advantageously displayed.

Other members of the club who made valuable contributions to the museum were J. J. Burton, Frank Atkinson, Baker Hudson, Frank Elgee, T. A. Lofthouse, and the Rev. J. Hawell. Our Society has been fortunate in the past to count among its members many who became authorities in their own particular fields, and some whose names were known beyond the confines of Cleveland.

The Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club has made a substantial contribution to the cultured activities of Cleveland both directly, by its research work, and by its spread of scientific and botanical knowledge in our area, and also indirectly by its influence and enrichment of the lives of its members. Excursions into the countryside take place during the summer, and in winter we have interesting series of lectures both by our own members and by knowledgeable lecturers drawn from outside the Society. It may be as well to stress that one does not need to be an expert on any branch of Natural History in order to become a member of the Society. Visitors too are very welcome to attend our meetings without obligation. Our Society has accomplished much valuable work during its first hundred years of existence and we move into our second century with hope and confidence in our future.

THEN and NOW

Early Field Club records show a very different way of life from that of the present day. Members usually travelled to outings by train and in 1899 there is a note of an outing to Wear Bank Woods “by brake”. For indoor meetings there was of course no projector, but a report in 1899 mentions “Gas for the Lantern was kindly provided by the Cleveland Camera Club”.
Attitudes towards the shooting of wildlife would seem callous to us today. In 1901, R. L. Lofthouse, a keen ornithologist, writes “I have shot snow buntings at all times of their stay here and always found them in good condition”. However there seems to have been a greater abundance of wildlife in the area than at the present time. There is a report in 1897 of a corncrake in Middlesbrough, and ring dotterel were so numerous on the south side of the River Tees that one could not walk between their nests without standing on them. A blue shark was reported in the river and, of course, salmon whilst at Glaisdale there was an influx of buzzards.

It is remarkable how many similarities there are between the early days of the Club and now. There was the same interest in conserving the environment, concern being expressed that hedges were “perpetually being pulled down”, and in 1899 artificial manure was blamed for the lack of insects. Club members recorded the flora and fauna of areas about to vanish under the new industrial and urban development. Excavations for iron works and buildings brought to light many interesting finds such as axe heads, mammoth tusks, skeletons and a Pleistocene skull.

During the long history of the Field Club, some things remain constant. There are frequent references to unseasonable weather and disappointing summers, and regular reports of financial worries. The subscription at the formation of the Club was 2/6d. Over the years slight mishaps on outings have occurred fairly regularly. People missed trains, met at wrong places, got lost and occasionally the leader didn’t turn up. These things have always happened and probably always will!

W. Y. VEITCH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
FIRST PRESIDENT.
PRESIDENT 1881, 1882, 1889, 1890.

Mr.I.C.Lawrence 1979 - 1981

THE CLUB TODAY

All aspects of natural history are covered in the Field Club and its members have the opportunity to partake in these activities by a full programme of field excursions arranged for the summer season and a few in the winter months. There are always members who have knowledge of one or other particular branch of natural history and who point out things of interest for those wishing to learn. Quite often, outings are led by experts in a particular subject. The Club also meets during the winter session at the Leeds University Centre, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough for talks by various experts. Members' night is also a popular feature.

As well as actual natural history the Club covers related subjects such as geology, archæology heraldry and genealogy.

The Club is affiliated to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, the Northern Naturalists' Union, the British Council for Archæology and the three northern county naturalists' trusts. Members may attend meetings and field outings of all these.

The following pages are contributions by members and associates of the Club. Mr Alan Falconer, the 'Rambler' of the Evening Gazette, is closely associated with the Club and whose father, the late Mr. Alex Falconer was a very well-known local figure and keen member of the club.

Richard Pepper is our consultant geologist and has first-rate knowledge of the geology of the area. He has led several outings and given us some first rate lectures.

Ian Lawrence, our current president, is well known for his botanical knowledge and has led the junior section for m many years. He has been a member since 1950. Donald Rich has helped out the Club with 'fungus problems' and taken us out on many a fungus foray. He also associated with the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union mycological section.

Maurice Hallam is a more recent member of the Club but he always turns out with his binoculars and helps us with our bird records.

Gordon Simpson was the conservation officer for the Forestry Commission here in Cleveland and North Yorkshire, but has now moved on to Hamsterley Forest in County Durham. Their gain is our loss – what Gordon does not know about the countryside is not worth knowing. We all learned a lot about forestry while he was here and we miss him.

Neville Harwood is another long-standing member who has spend most of this life studying the insects around his native Guisborough and up on Eston Hills which he knows like the back of this hand. His colour slides are second to none. He also studies and photographs birds of prey – another of his specialities. He breeds moths and butterflies in his spare time.

Dr. Alan Tompsett is secretary of the newly formed Cleveland Naturalists' Trust to which we are affiliated and has very kindly written an article for us about the Trust and its aims.

The Club wishes to thank all these people for contributing to this special Centenary magazine. The Club has not published any magazine in recent years. Records are kept by many of its members and are usually sent to the various interested bodies, which add them to their files, which are also published along with other records. The Club did publish its own Proceedings until 1932. Many of these are kept in our archive section for reference when needed.

THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE NATURALIST
By 'Rambler' (Mr. Alan Falconer)

I am sure that my late father, Alex Falconer, would have enjoyed this centenary celebration of the Cleveland Naturalists. In the last few months of his life he was eagerly looking forward to serving the group in an official capacity since he had represented the interests of the Nature Conservationists on the National Parks Committee of the North York Moors for many years.

I well remember how much he had enjoyed the golden jubilee of the Middlesbrough Ramblers of which body he was a founder member sometime around 1907. He, with my mother and myself had always particularly savoured our excursions with members of the Naturalists; I recall with particular pleasure being led by Maurice and Mary Ward through the woods of Ryedale and Mulgrave. Earlier still when we lived at Liverton Mines we had Naturalists staying with us and we explored the narrow valleys around Kilton and Scaling, learning from our guests how to know and love the flowers of the forest.

In those far off days the estates still seemed to have the money to maintain the carriage drives through the woodlands. Unfortunately these have become over-grown with bramble and briar. The stone drains have long collapsed and long stretches of bog intimidate the Rambler as well as the Naturalist as visitors to the popular walk in Kildale woods well known. Only Mulgrave woods offer the well-paved walks and the carefully thinned woodlands that we knew around Kilton and Staithes in the 1920s. Then the Zetland terraced walks could still show some features, which justified their claim to resemble the Hanging gardens of Babylon; this description was aptly applied to them by an old Cleveland historian in the Nineteenth century.

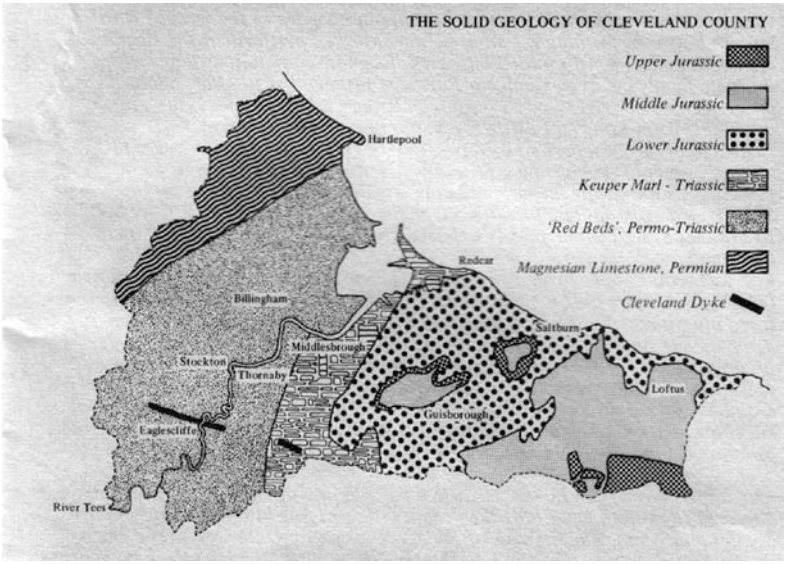
There have been some very infrequent differences between the Ramblers who claimed unrestricted access and the Conservationists who wished to protect rare and precious specimens from selfish predators (Was Cow Green one such problem?). I do recollect however that when the Cleveland Way was first being planned there was a proposal to take the route up the narrow gill behind Ashberry site in Ryedale.

This particular path was a section of the annual pilgrimage of Ramblers and the Naturalists to see the few rare flowers such as the Globe Flowers and the Birds Eye Primrose. I understand that in the final decision my father was happy to see the Way diverted up Nettledale and Flassendale so that the seclusion of the Ashberry site was preserved.

In all other respects it would seem that the Ramblers and the Naturalists have things in common. We regret the disappearance of our hedgerows. Not only has all trace of our field paths gone with the hedges but the flora and fauna have gone too. The old beech and oak woods have been replaced by crowded conifers, and the anemones, primroses and bluebells have become as rare as the song of the willow wren.

The Forestry Commission have occasionally shown themselves to be amenable to public pressure, as the delightful flowering shrubs, which border the Cropton Forest roadsides show. Perhaps a twofold effort might persuade the Footpath Officers and the Project Advisers of our local councils to do more to take over the improvement and management of some of our neglected woodlands.

Young groups have already cleared the Quakers Causeway and other moorland ways under the various Youth Employment Schemes; how about tackling the overgrown and flooded woodland drives?



A GEOLOGICAL LOOK AT THE COUNTY
By Richard Pepper

Approximately 92% of the surface area in Cleveland county is veneered by up to 40 metres of superficial deposits formed in the last 18,000 years.
Coastal and river deposition is continuing, in the un-reclaimed parts of the Tees estuary as silts and muds; with sands and gravels predominating along the beaches to the north and south-east. Much of the material for the coastal gravel appears to derive from cliff exposures of glacially formed red-brown clays with a variable proportion of exotic and local pebbles, best seen between Marske and Saltburn.
Usually beneath the young, largely unconsolidated deposits but sometimes reaching the surface, older rocks occur in Cleveland ranging in age from Upper Permian (220 million years old) to Upper Jurassic (165 million years old).
Their outcrop distribution is largely controlled by a gentle although uneven south-easterly inclination, faulting and the degree of erosion, as well as past and present quarrying.

Upper Permian rocks have limited exposure in quarries to the west of Hartlepool, but are best seen forming the stepped wave-washed platform at the Headland, Hartlepool. Here gently-folded buff-grey, magnesium-rich limestone with sporadic fossils may be examined. Further south, across the Hartlepool Fault, poorly

cemented, red-brown Triassic sandstones and siltstones (200 million years old) form Long and Little Scars, but are poorly seen elsewhere.

Redcar Scars again represent a contrast, with grey siltstones and shales (185 million years old) exhibiting a rhythmic layering of unfossiliferous and fossiliferous rocks, the latter containing a wide variety of marine species. Slightly younger and less fossiliferous shales form the lower cliffs from Saltburn to Staithes as well as the poorly exposed ground along the lower part of the Cleveland escarpment.
The succeeding rocks form a two-fold division. The lower Staithes Formation (180 million years old), a series of fossiliferous marine sandstones and siltstones is readily observed in Skelton Beck, on the wooded scarp face of Roseberry Topping and on both sides of Staithes Harbour. Overlying rocks are predominantly fossil-bearing siltstones containing six-named ironstone seams, collectively known as the Cleveland Ironstone Formation (179 million years old).
Good exposures occur at old Nab Staithes and on the main escarpment south of Guisborough; although unfortunately the seventeen feet of ironstone once mined at Eston is inadequately preserved.

The upper part of the Lower Jurassic is again represented by ill-exposed marine shales (176 million years old) their interest lying in former exploitation for Jet and Alum. The horizon of the Jet Rock can be followed round the escarpment by small shale spoil heaps 10 metres above the Main ironstone Seam.
Some 35 metres above there, sporadic large quarries may still be seen near Guisborough and on the seaward face of Boulby Cliff where shales were extracted for the production of Alum.
Capping the Alum Shales and forming the Moorland areas of Cleveland are the terrestrial deposits of Middle Jurassic age (170 million years old). These are laterally and vertically alternating sandstones and siltstones formed in river channels and marginal flood plains. Old quarries and natural exposures are plentiful in the sandstones and conglomerates but rare in the associated siltstones. Which however at Roseberry and Lofthouse reveal excellent fossil plant remains. Upper Jurassic and younger sedimentary rocks mainly occur to the south of Cleveland, although marine shales and sandstones are preserved in the road cutting east of Freeborough Hill.
The only igneous feature in the area is the much younger (57 million years) Cleveland Dyke, a vertical sheet of basaltic rock up to 30 metres wide extending discontinuously WNW – ESE across the south of the country and well seen in quarries near Great Ayton.

CLEVELAND'S WILD PLANTS

By Ian Lawrence

Although Cleveland is only a small county it can boast a wide range of wild plants, and if one goes out to seek such plants as the primrose, wood anemone, red campion, bluebell and other woodland treasures there are still areas where, in spite of industrial development and the spreading of urban areas to house the increasing population that has built up since the second world war, one can still find them flourishing as they always have done along with many other treasures of woodland, streamside etc.

Perhaps the flowers that have suffered most are those that grow around ponds and in marshes as many of these have been filled in or reclaimed to meet the needs of progress. There are no longer the fields where cowslips used to grow and I no longer see the sweet violet at Acklam where I one knew it, in fact this little flower of early spring now survives, as far as I know, only on one roadside within the county. The early purple orchid has retreated into more secluded spots but is still to be found. Unfortunately it is a temptation to those who see it to pick it. When that happens that is the end of it.

One of the richest areas in Cleveland for a good variety of wild plants is around Saltburn where the county's less common plants can be found. The bird's nest orchid will most likely still flourish in one of the ravines there and the coastal plants have survived a whole era. Many lime-loving plants grow in this coastal area between Redcar and Saltburn such as rock rose, wild thyme, marjoram, dropwort etc.

The Teesmouth and adjacent area has a very rich maritime flora, which unfortunately has been decimated in the last few years owing to land reclamation for industrial and port development. There are still, thankfully, surviving pockets of saltmarsh where many of the original Teesmouth plants still are to be found.

Some of these areas are very rich in species including several kinds of marsh orchids. The common scurvy grass, for example, with its mass of crucifer flowers, is often still the dominant plant among the salt-loving grasses etc. It is also found inland along the tidal reaches of the River Tees as far as Thornaby. Whereas some plants are on the decline and have not been able to cope with man's interference with the natural environment others have come in and made themselves at home in the changing landscape. Such plants as the Oxford ragwort with its very striking yellow flowers, the hemlock with its white umbel flowers in July, the rosebay with its large spike of deep pink flowers, make a vivid splash of colour along the roadsides especially in the east of the county where they invade the industrial areas giving that touch of brightness to an unsightly landscape.

The white hoary cress has followed the railway line from Ormesby and is spreading as a weed in the Middle Beck area invading gardens and allotments. The tall yellow melilot, a member of the pea family, and the blue flowered chicory are spreading rapidly along the main road networks in this area, and seem to be making themselves at home there.

Two striking aliens have adapted themselves completely along the River Tees from Preston Park towards Yarm and beyond, as well as along the lower reaches of the Leven. One is the pink-flowered Himalayan balsam and the other is the massive giant hogweed (well known at Yarm!)

Many marsh plants still survive on the top of Eston Hills, some of them are quite uncommon, where, to seek them one must be prepared to get very wet feet. Around the marsh are typical flowers of heath and moorland where birch and sallow are the dominant trees.
The hill slopes behind Guisborough leading up to the moors have a flora very characteristic of acid heathland. A good list of such plants has been made in the Hutton Lowcross area and along the hill range above Eston.

The Common Rock Rose

Wood Dog Violet

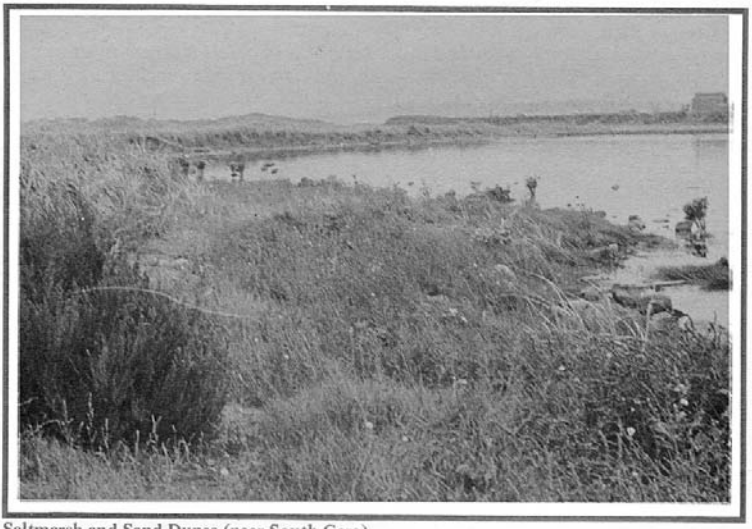
And with the moorland itself in the south-eastern part of the county, with its three species of heather, bilberry, cotton grass, bracken etc., Cleveland is not a county lacking in variety of plants all of which are worth preserving in the years to come for our future generations to enjoy.

MYCOLOGY OF CLEVELAND

By Donald Rich

Although the smallest county in England, Cleveland offers a diversity of habitats, from sea shore to high moorland, through lowland meadow and woodland of both deciduous and coniferous types. Very little would appear to have been written about the mycology of the region although in the last decade the mycological section of the Y.N.U. has met in Middlesbrough to study and record specimens in the area. Lists of their findings are available for inspection by interested parties.
According to a leading Yorkshire mycologist, Roy Watling, some twenty species of fungi can be found in a sand dune location but to my knowledge no specimens have been recorded in the area around the mouth of the Tees. Watling also indicates that moorland areas can yield a similar number of different species of fungi. Once again few records seen to exist but the small fruiting bodies of the Omphalina species do occur quite commonly on the local moorland.
The common field mushroom (Agaricus campestris) is infrequently found in the low meadows of the county. Far more common is the parasol mushroom (Lepiota procera). This is a larger fungus and is just as edible and good – this species has even been found growing in Albert Park, Middlesbrough.

The majority of fungi are to be found in the autumn but a good edible species the St. Georges' Mushroom (Tricholoma gambosum) is, as the name suggests, found in late April and during May and is common in the region in grassy places. 1979 seemed a particularly good year for this species. The species Lycoperdon (Puff balls) are frequently found in meadows throughout the area. Of particular interest to the casual observer is L. giganteum (giant Puff Balls). Farmlands in the Guisborough area seem to yield some fine specimens up to 40cm in diameter. Without doubt the greatest number of species of fungi may be collected in damp woodland areas during autumn. We in Cleveland are fortunate in that we have sizable areas of coniferous woodland planted by the Forestry Commission and whilst we have no mature broad-leafed areas we do have several steep sided valleys running down to the sea containing a variety of frondose trees.
A typical collection from a days foray in local woodland would include: species on wood. X. Hypoxylon, N Cinnabarina, D. Concentrica, I. Hispidus, F. Annosus, P. Betulinus, T. Verisicolour, P Squamosus, A. Mellea, A. Auricula. And on grass or woodland litter: Lactarius SP., Russula SP., Boletus SP., P Involutus, Coprinus SP., Mycena SP., Collybia SP.
No report on the mycology of any area would be complete without mention of the Amanita family, which contains a number of highly poisonous species.
Common in the area is A. Muscaria (Fly agaric). This is readily recognisable by its red cap with white spots growing in association with birch trees. This is not deadly but if eaten can produce symptoms of intoxication.
The deadly A. Phalloides (Death cap) has not as yet been recorded in the area but it does occur infrequently in the southern part of the North Yorks National Parks.



Saltmarsh and Sand Dunes (near South Gare)

Wilton Woods

BIRDS OF CLEVELAND COUNTY

By Maurice Hallam

To those of us who love and take an interest in birds, it is not surprising knowledge that approximately 200 different species are regularly seen in Cleveland and its coastal waters.

The fact that almost half of these also breed here owes much to the variety of habitat to be found within the county boundaries and adjacent land. Relatively speaking, for its size Cleveland is unique in containing a little bit of almost every kind of habitat to be found in England.

Our birds fall into four groups, the permanent residents, the Winter visitors, the Summer visitors, and those in between, the Spring and Autumn migrants on passage. It is these two latter groups, which stimulate the most excitement among bird watchers.

From these come our rarer but regular birds like Lapland Bunting, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Shore Lark, Red-Necked Grebe etc., and the very rare vagrants like Bonapartes' Gull from North America, the Red-throated Pipit from Lapland or Russia, and sub-Alpine Warbler from the Eastern Mediterranean, one could go on and on. However space permits only a very brief mention of a few from a very long list of birds, which all deserve a few words.

If we consider all the natural hazards and the many persecutions levelled by man against birds, such as poisoning, trapping, shooting, removal of habitat, nest-robbing etc., we must agree that they are indeed wonderful creatures to survive. Let us take a quick journey around the environment that attracts such a variety of birds.

The magnificent coastal cliffs that form the South Eastern boundary are home to Cormorants, Fulmars, countless Gulls including a Kittiwake colony, and those charming little swallows, the House Martins.

There are three main streams, which join the sea at Staithes, Skinningrove, and Saltburn. From these, small wooded valleys spread inland through rough pastures, agricultural and moorland giving food and shelter to numerous species including Corn Bunting, Pipits, Whitethroat, Crossbill, Whinchat, Woodcock, and Red-Legged Partridge. Notable predators seen here are Hooded Crow, Long-Eared Owl and that dashing little falcon the Merlin.

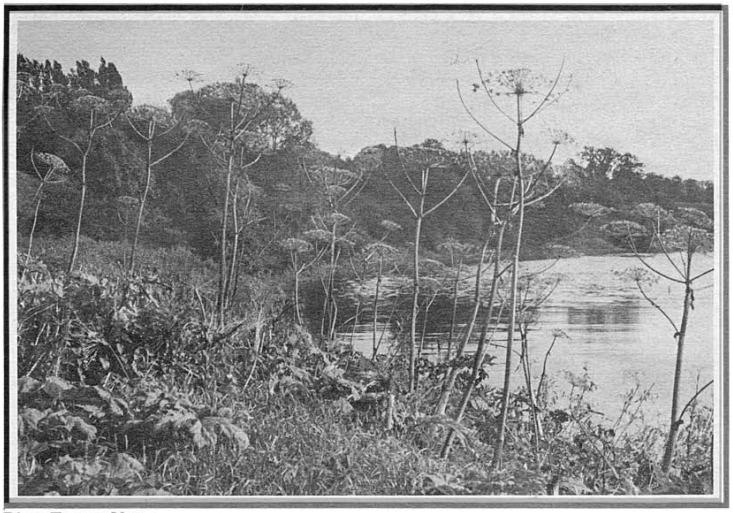
As the ground rises rapidly to the West we meet the fringe of the North Yorkshire Moors where the Red Grouse, golden Plover, and Curlew flourish. Here too we may catch a glimpse on passage of those splendid raptors the Rough-Legged Buzzard, Hen Harriers and occasionally Montagues' Harrier, which once bred on Cleveland Hills.

Two reservoirs in this area, Scaling Dam and Lockwood Beck harbour numerous waterfowl species like Pochard, Tufted Duck, Golden Eye, Wigeon, Mallard and Goosander, not to mention Grebes. Moving West across Guisborough Moor the terrain drops steeply in parts, clothed in broadleaf and conifer woodland where all

the well known Finches, Tits and Warblers live, together with the more eye-catching Redstarts, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Sparrow Hawk and Jay.

Turning North over the Eston Hills with similar birds, the scene changes to one of such dense heavy industry and housing, that the stranger could be forgiven for thinking this is the end of the bird life.
Yet here to the North lies a haven for thousands of the duck fraternity. The sheer numbers of wintering birds that are counted by dedicated local bird watchers shows the importance of the Tees estuary.
During January and February something like 50,000 Gulls of five species, 1000 Mallards, 2500 Shelduck, 500 Teal, 3000 Lapwings, 4000 Knot, 5000 Dunlin, 250 Bar-Tailed Godwit and 600 Redshank are only some of the species that find sustenance in the estuary. Sadly as the 'needs' of modern society increases its demands for land, so the habitats disappear or change and the birds with them.
The mudflats which once covered 6500 acres are now mostly reclaimed for industries leaving a mere 430 acres. The once extensive marshlands North and South of the estuary are no longer the wild and lonely places of yesteryears. The Northern and Western parts of the county are mainly flat agricultural land, well covered with woods and hedgerows, ponds and streams where Herons, Kingfishers, Owls, Game-birds, Buntings etc., all find Cleveland County to their liking. Let us hope that this will continue so, with the efforts of members pursuing the aims of the numerous conservation and protection societies, which exist in the county.

Pheasant



River Tees at Yarm

Fairy Dell Lake and naturalised vegetation

NOTES ON THE MAMMALS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

By Gordon Simpson

The last 100 years has seen a dramatic change in mans' activities due to technological advances. Wild animals have had to adapt rapidly in evolutionary terms or else succumb. Only historians in the future will be able to decide whether these changes were for the better or the worse.

The daily toll of insect deaths in summer caused by aircraft and road vehicles in Cleveland must now be millions and the monthly toll on mammals, reptiles and amphibians must be hundreds. Compare these figures with the insect and mammal deaths caused by horse transport 100 years ago. The residues of horse transport, of course, encouraged insects. Today, road deaths appear to be a serious threat to the hedgehog, frog and toad. Those naturalists that extol the nature reserves induced by the landscaping of major roads such as the A19 and the Parkway should bear this in mind.

Coupled with the use of insecticides in field and garden, the mass slaughter of insects by today's transport may account for the decline in bats.

People living in the late 19th century would have envied the running water laid on to farm buildings and fields in an attempt to eliminate such diseases as tuberculosis. Unfortunately, in some parts of Britain, the badger has suffered as it is a reputed carriers of the latter disease.

The village pond and dewponds are now redundant. So many are now filled in or form dumps for scrap and chemical containers. Fields and bogs are being drained so the wetland animals must move to fluvial zones, but, judging by the polluted lower reaches of the Tees at present, the journey is futile. Pollution of water and loss of fresh-water habitats has caused a decline in otters, water-voles, water shrews, frogs, toads and newts.

Multi-furrowed ploughs and rotavators drawn by powerful tractors reputedly crush moles before they can escape. Probably the vibrations of the hooves of horses pulling a plough relatively sedately gave sufficient warning to the mole of imminent danger. Comparatively speaking, the high agricultural wage of today has made the mole-catcher a rare sight but strychnine is replacing the traditional mole trap. Few people today appear to have the patience of our forbearers so moleskin clothing is uncommon. Nevertheless the mole population today may be little different to that in 1880 as this animal can still be recorded in most parts of the county.

One of the greatest population changes in the last 100 years is that of the rabbit. About 30 years ago the rabbit population declined from that of a serious pest, living in vast warrens, to a rarity due to myxomatosis, a disease introduced to Britain by man. Before the disease played havoc the rabbit provided many a countryman with his dinner and sport. Skins were used in vast numbers by furriers. Although the rabbit numbers are now increasing, few people today eat wild rabbits, but the meat is popular as a pet food. The fox and stoat and weasel had to find other prey. It is a rare sight today to see a stoat circling and mesmerising a rabbit before pouncing upon it, yet this was almost an everyday sight 30 years ago.

Poaching used to be for the 'pot' and a risky business, if caught. Today poachers may travel far by vehicle in an attempt to make easy money, even if caught and fired. Weapons used by poachers now include longnets, crossbows and silenced rifles accompanied by lurcher dogs. This does not appear to affect the rabbit and hare populations, but currently, fox skins and venison command high prices, so the fox and deer are shot indiscriminately, even when enclosed in parkland. The badger suffers indirectly as setts are destroyed in the search for foxes. Badger baiting is, although illegal, lifting its ugly dead, so the poacher may turn his attentions to this animal if it is possible to raise easy money.

The introduction of the American grey squirrel, which rapidly adapted to British conditions, has added a new animal to the Cleveland fauna, but it may have ousted the native red squirrel, as it is now virtually extinct in the county. A further addition to the fauna is the escaped mink, which has been recorded on the banks of the Tees.

Changes in harvesting techniques since the Second World War have caused a decline in rats, mice and vole populations. Combined harvesters have replaced corn stacks, flails and threshing machines. Baled straw stacks do not provide much food for rodents; in fact, some straw is burnt in the fields and never into a stack. Weasels, too, have probably declined in line with the rodents.

The harvest mouse is now a rarity. Hedgerows are being removed and ploughs tear out roots and destroy the rodents' habitat as the field headland creeps closer to the hedge bottom in an attempt to cultivate every square inch (or cm) in a field. The dormouse has not been recorded recently in Cleveland and is now thought to be extinct in the county. Increased port hygiene has caused a decline in the black rat population such that this animal is now very rare today.

The vast areas of sterilised agricultural land caused by housing, industrial and road developments must have reduced wildlife habitats. Most noticeable is the decline in house mouse populations, as modern houses and pest control do not favour this rodent.

Large conifer forests have formed in the last 50 years within 50 miles radius of Cleveland. These vast, dense woodlands have formed a home for roe deer, which used to be rare but is now so common that it has to be controlled. Will the vagrant red and fallow deer eventually settle and form wild herds?

The pine marten has been recorded in these forests.

The coastline must not be forgotten. Recent reclamation in the Tees estuary has reduced the sandbanks of Seal Sands on which the common seal would have basked 100 years ago in large numbers, but its presence is now much scarcer. In recent years the grey seal, whose population has exploded around Britain, has frequented the estuary to add to the Cleveland fauna.

Today's picture may appear black but there have been gains as well as losses in the last 100 years. Some animals have been able to adapt to mans' changes such as the foxes that raid dustbins in the middle of town. Unfortunately, some animals, reptiles and amphibians cannot adapt rapidly, so these creatures desperately need our assistance if we wish to preserve them for the future.

BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS AND DRAGONFLIES OF CLEVELAND COUNTY
By Neville Harwood

The resident butterflies of Cleveland number thirteen with migrants increasing the lists most years. 1980 was the year of the Painted Ladies, when butterflies started arriving in May and June in their hundreds. Their larvæ were found feeding on thistles in large numbers during July and August. Red Admirals are another migrant whose numbers fluctuate from year to year and in 1980 were only in small numbers. A few larvæ were seen on nettles in the Wilton area.

Resident butterflies are:

Large white – very common
Small white – very common
Green-veined white – very common
Orange tip – fairly common most years
Meadow brown – very common
Small heath – common
Wall brown – once common, now declining
Small tortoiseshell – common
Peacock – once increasing, now on decline
Green hairstreak – small colonies on moors
Common blue – locally common
Small copper – more local
Dark green fritillary – one or two each year

The moths of Cleveland occur in hundreds far too numerous to name. One or two localities with the county are very good, namely Eston Hills, Wilton woods, Lovell Hill marshes (Wilton) and a few areas, which I have not named. I have listed just a few of the large common moths viz:

Elephant Hawk moth – common most years
Poplar Hawk moth – very common
Eyed Hawk moth – now on the decline
Puss moth – common
Emperor moth – widespread on moors
Northern Eggar – widespread on moors
Fox moth – widespread on moors
Drinker moth – common and widespread

The resident dragonflies number eleven, but migrants sometimes arrive and increase the local population. The following are a few which occur on the moors and marshes of Cleveland.

HAWKER DRAGONFLIES
Common aeshna – numerous on Eston Hills and other localities
Southern aeshna – local on Lovell Hill march, Wilton
Golden ringed dragonfly – local on Cleveland Hills
DARTER DRAGONFLIES
Black sympetrum – common on Eston Hills
Common sympetrum – common at South Gare and Wilton marsh
DAMSEL FLIES
Banded agrion – local, Billingham Bottoms
Five other damsel flies are widespread.

Saltburn Valley

Moors above Birk Brow

WHY CLEVELAND NEEDS A CONSERVATION TRUST

A.J. Tompsett (Hon. Sec.)

The Cleveland Nature Conservation Trust is a new body, but with a considerable and respectable ancestry. When the Teesside and local structure plans were being drafted an informal group was formed by nominees from most of the local bodies interested in conservation in the Tees Estuary. Known as the Cleveland Nature Conservation Liaison Group it set itself the task of identifying major sites of special wildlife value and seeking their preservation. It soon came to represent the wider nature conservation interests at planning and public enquiries, although other societies with special interests continued to pursue their own representations or objections to developments. In due course most of the liaison group members realised that a Cleveland Trust with large membership could better represent and defend the wildlife and natural sites in the county than an 'ad hoc' committee. So the Trust was born in November 1974 at an inaugural meeting in Stockton addressed by Dr. David Bellamy.

Dr Bellamy emphasised, as those who live here know but most people outside Cleveland do not, that our county is not just a bustling, industrial area under a cloud of pollution, but has a wealth of unspoilt countryside and actively surviving wildlife. There are heather moorlands, woodlands, intertidal mudflats and adjacent salt marshes, sand dunes around the estuary, precipitous cliffs, rich farmland with its associated hedges and copses, reservoirs and rivers, old railway lines and abandoned industrial sites, as well as large areas of parks and suburban gardens.

The Trust has two main aims:

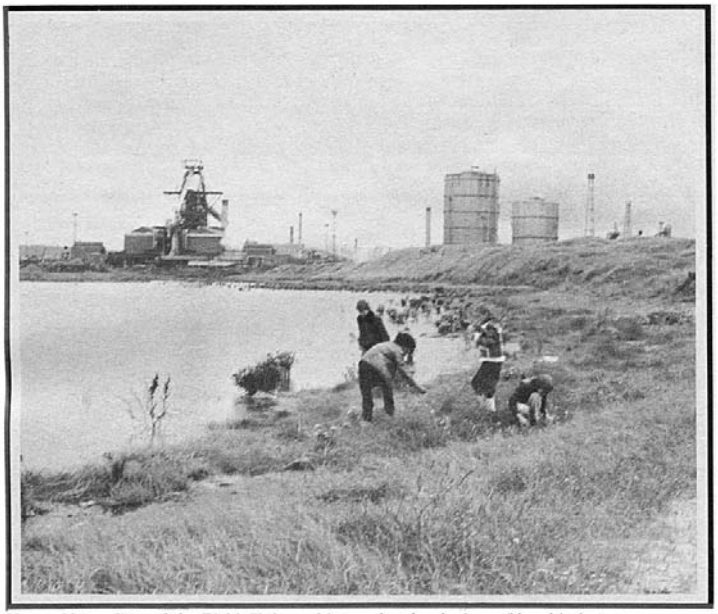
a) To conserve, in Cleveland, a varied range of habitats and species.
b) To foster in all sections of the population an awareness of the value of nature conservation, and thus to maintain a balance between the needs of wildlife and the requirements of industry and farming.

It seemed to those of us involved in launching the Trust that it should be possible to persuade the people of Cleveland that the wildlife on our doorstep is worth fighting for. Additionally, we thought that few people outside the county were likely to offer much support until we had first demonstrated that the people of Cleveland were determined to make progress on their own.

The Trust works to achieve its aim in various ways. A major task, which had been started earlier but needs constant updating, is to record all the wildlife in the county. The Trust will watch for threats to wildlife and try to ensure that adequate provision is made for it whenever development schemes are proposed. Additionally, it plans to establish nature reserves on the best and most vulnerable natural sites. Sadly this must be done with reference to conflicting interests, and the Trust will therefore have to negotiate with local authorities, statutory bodies, landowners and industrialists to get the best deals possible for Cleveland's wildlife.

This work needs two things before all others – people with the conviction to find time to help and a steady flow of money. The first task is to build up a strong, active membership, and establish close co-operation with existing natural history groups.

Fund-raising, education and steps in active conservation have already been started and will be built up as the Trust grows in strength. Affiliated societies can help with specialised knowledge, and the Trust can, in turn, help new Trust members to join these groups and enjoy their activities (lectures, visits etc.), which it would be pointless for the Trust to duplicate.
The 1980's will undoubtedly present many problems for the people of Cleveland and the dependent wildlife. The Trust aims to become a louder voice proclaiming its motto- "Cleveland Conservation Matters".



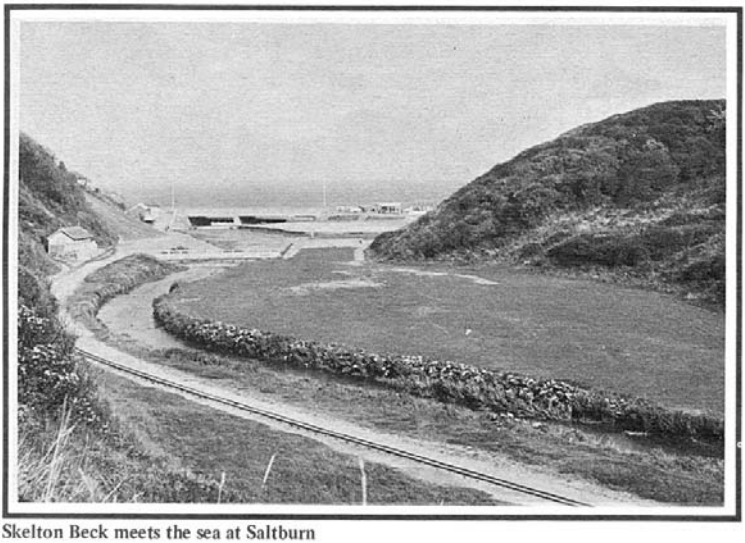
Young Naturalists of the Field Club working under the shadow of local industry

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 1981

One of the highlights of the year will be the opening of a nature trail, which the Middlesbrough Parks Department has very kindly allotted to us.
This trail follows the Marton West Beck from Emerson Avenue via Newham Bridge thence across Ladgate Lane and on through "Primrose Valley" to Fairy Dell and southwards to the county boundary – a distance of some four miles. The Field Club and, it is hoped, groups of young naturalists will help maintain this trail so that members of the public will be able to enjoy wild life in the middle of a highly developed urban area. Eventually, a leaflet will be published giving people information on what they can see.
The Parks Department have already done a magnificent job in having established a beautiful walkway as well as creating small lakes in the Fairy Dell area where everyone, young and old, can enjoy a natural environment. The Field Club will help to maintain in close liaison with the Department, a natural wild habitat for flora and fauna.
Besides the Nature Trail, which will be opened on Saturday, April 4th, our centenary birthday, by the chairman of Cleveland County, there will be a tree planting ceremony in Stewart Park on the same day.
The club are staging an exhibition in the Dorman Museum showing both the history of the club and work done by some of its members along with contributions from our associated natural history groups in the North-East.
Thereafter, a series of natural history talks will be given at the Dorman Museum on Monday evenings at 7.30pm.
Details of all these, along with other events will be announced in March 1981 in the Press as well as in the Museum, Public Libraries etc.

Part of the Nature Trail

Coastal Strip between Redcar and Marske



Skelton Beck meets the sea at Saltburn

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1886 – 1887	Mr Angus MacPherson
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1889 – 1890	Dr W. Y. Veitch M.R.C.S.
1891	Rev. J. Hawell M.A.
1892	Mr R. Lofthouse F.S.I.
1893	Mr T. D. Ridley
1894	Mr Angus MacPherson
1895 – 1896	Rev. J. Hawell M.A
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1898 – 1900	Mr W. H. Thomas
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1971 – 1973	Mrs J. Graham

1974	Mr B. Tinkler
1975	Mr B. Tinkler – Mrs J. Graham
1976 – 1978	Mrs J. Graham
1979 – 1981	Mr I. C. Lawrence

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1996—1999	Mrs P. Law
2000—2002	Mrs D. Thompson
2003--	Mr. V. Fairbrother