

RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER No.1

From Members Records

Compiled and Edited by M.King and M.Read

OUTINGS

Farley Mount 4/11/71 Leader M.Guarella

The first stop on this outing was made at the Church of St. Margaret in Wellow which was founded in 1215 A.D. and it is very closely associated with the memory of Florence Nightingale, who lived in the Parish as a child and is buried in the churchyard.

At Farley Mount much of interest was noted, including:-

Birds Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Meadow pipit, Jay, Stonechat and Pheasant.

Trees and Shrubs Spindle Tree, Yew, Privet, Turkey Oak, Sessile Oak, and Common Oak.

Bolderwood Area 13/11/71 Leader E.P.Homfray

The 8 members on this walk were first taken on part of the Forestry Commission walk in Bolderwood Grounds and then later into Highland Water Inclosure. In Bolderwood Grounds, 7 Fallow Deer, 39 Grey Squirrels Long Tailed and Marsh Tits, Robins a Green Woodpecker and other birds were seen. This was followed up by a complete lack of animal and bird life in Highland Water Inclosure, but deer tracks were noted.

Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour 11/12/71 Leaders M.Read & M.King

Just short of five hours were spent bird watching at Farlington by 10 members of the Society. The day was cold, windy and dull and 37 species were seen including:- 2,000+ Brent Geese, Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Pintail, Shovler, 90+ Goldeneye, Turnstone, Curlew, Grey and Golden Plover, Black and Bar-tailed Godwit, Skylark, Rock pipit, Linnet and Reed Bunting.

Portland Bill, Portland Harbour and Radipole Lake 6/2/72 and 13/2/72  
Leaders M.Read and M.King

On these two outings 44 species of birds were seen including:- 12 Slavonian Grebes, 2 Long Tailed Ducks, 100+ Red Breasted Mergansers, 8 Purple Sandpipers, 1 Flamingo, 1 Fulmar, 1 Kestrel and Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers and Lapwings. A Winchat was also seen, which is worth noting as these birds are only usually Summer visitors, but this one was obviously over wintering due to the mild Winter.

Creech Hill and Creech Barrow 17/3/72 Leader M.Guarella

The Saxon Church of St. Martins with its 12th century murals, Wareham Walls and St. Marys Church were visited in Wareham itself, after which a short drive took the members on this outing to Creech Hill. In the woods birds seen included:- Tree Creeper, Blue, Marsh and Great Tits and a Spotted Woodpecker. The floor of the wood was covered in Ramsons and the other flora included:- Bluebell, Primrose Roast Beef plant and Toothwort, the latter being a parasite on the roots of trees and shrubs. After Creech Hill a visit was paid to Creech Barrow which the more energetic members climbed and they obtained splendid views of the Purbecks and Poole Harbour.

Joint Meeting with Hampshire Field Club (Ornithological Section) 25/3/72

Two walks were taken during this meeting, one through woodland and one over moorland, about 6½ miles in all. Nearly 50 species of birds were seen, highlights being Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff, two early migrants, and a Buzzard was seen hunting for prey.

OUTINGS Contd.

Brownsea Island 11/4/72 Leader E.P.Homfray  
20 members and 11 non members visited Brownsea Island and by this time quite a few Summer migrants were here to be seen. This can be told by the appearance of such birds on this walk as Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Sandwich Terns. The highlight of the day came when a Spoonbill was seen. In contrast to our Summer visitors just beginning to arrive, two of our more hardy residents were seen with young. These were Mallard and Little Grebe.

Nightingale Listening 15/5/72 Leader W.A.S.Lewis  
This meeting was originally planned for the 11th of May but was put off for 4 days due to bad weather.  
On the 15th Mr. Lewis first led the party to Martin Down where he called up the Nightingales with some of his own recordings. After a while the birds went silent so the party then moved on to Whitsbury where more Nightingales, Garden and Grasshopper Warblers and Woodcock were heard.

This Outings report is incomplete (e.g. Slimbridge, Isle of Wight) as no reports were handed in.

FUNGI LIST for 1972

These fungi have been recorded this year. As fungi often present quite a problem to identify our resident expert Mr. V.J.Pickering was consulted in most cases.

Agaricus xanthodermus	(Yellow-staining mushroom)
" arvensis	(Horse mushroom)
" silvicola	(Wood mushroom)
Amantia rubescens	(Blusher)
Auricularia auricula	(Jew's Ear)
Boletus <del>Bovinus</del> <i>Bovinus</i>	
Boletus scaber	
Cantharellus cibarius	(Chantarelle)
Collybia <del>fosipes</del> <i>fosipes</i>	
Coprinus comatus	(Shaggy cap)
Craterellus cornucopioides	(Horn of Plenty)
Ganoderma applanatum	
Hypholoma velutinum	
Laccaria laccota <i>laccata</i>	
Lactarius piperatus	
Lepiota rhacodes	(Shaggy parasol)
Lycoperdon perlatum	(Common puff-ball)
Peziza coccinea	
Phallus impudicus	(Stinkhorn)
Pholiota aurea	
Pluteus cervinus	
Polyorus sulphureus	
Tremella mesenterica	

BIRD REPORT

SUMMARY OF BIRDS SEEN WINTER 1971/1972

SLAVONIAN GREBE 16+ Portland Harbour 6/2/72  
BITTERN 1 Radipole Lake (Weymouth) 23/1/72  
FLAMINGO 1 Radipole Lake 23/1/72 and 6/2/72  
Possibly a wild one, as one has been seen during the previous two  
winters.  
TEAL 3 Kingfisher Lake 2/1/72 - Rarely seen there.  
PINTAIL 5 Poole Park 23/1/72  
GOLDENEYE Max 6 Kingfisher Lake 13/2/72  
LONGTAILED DUCK 2 The Fleet 6/2/72  
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Max 100+ Portland Harbour 6/2/72  
GOOSANDEP 1 Ower (Poole Harbour) 6/2/72  
WHITE FRONTED GOOSE First seen 25 Avon Valley 16/1/72 reaching  
a max of 300-400 29/1/72 last seen 150+ 13/3/72  
BRENT GOOSE 2000+ Langstone Harbour 11/12/71  
BARNACLE GOOSE 1 Harbridge 29/1/72  
BEWICK'S SWAN First seen 10 Harbridge 11/1/72 reaching a max  
of 24 by 7/2/72 and last seen 24 on 1/3/72  
HEN HARRIER 1 Harvest Slade Bottom 16/1/72 and 1 Crow Hill 13/3/72  
LAPWING 350+ Flying south over Avon Valley 30/1/72  
GREY PLOVER 1 flying north over Kingfisher Lake 2/1/72  
GOLDEN PLOVER 220+ flying north over Kingfisher Lake 2/1/72  
TURNSTONE 12 Mundeford 24/2/72  
JACK SNIBE 2 near Hampton Ridge 12/3/72  
PURPLE SANDPIPER 8+ Portland Bill 6/2/72  
DUNLIN 1500+ Poole Park 23/1/72  
RUFF 7 Harbridge 1/3/72  
LITTLE OWL 2 Crow 17/2/72  
WOODLARK 1 Cranes Moor 26/2/72  
HOODED CROW 1 Stanpit 9/1/72  
WHINCHAT 1 Vales Moor 16/1/72 1 Portland Harbour 13/2/72  
BLACKCAP 1 Poulner 22/1/72  
DARTFORD WAEBLER 1 near Castle Hill seen twice 28/12/71, 23/3/72  
ROCK PIPIT 2 Langstone Harbour 4/12/71 and 11/12/71  
MEADOW PIPIT 200+ Vales Moor 30/1/72  
GREAT GREY SHRIKE 1 Vales Moor 28/12/71 - 24/2/72  
" " " 1 Kingston Common 16/1/72  
SISKIN 6 Wimborne Area 27/1/72 - 24/2/72  
REDPOLL 25+ Rockford 9/1/72  
CROSSBILL 1 Hurn Forest 2/3/72  
SNOW BUNTING 1 Keyhaven 2/1/72

This report is far from being complete and more reports would be most  
welcome. Common or rare birds large or small numbers. Reports  
should be given to M King or M Reed in writing.

## RAILWAY LINE REPORT

Since we have been asked by the Nature Conservancy to do a survey of the disused railway line there has been one organised outing in February and one every month from May to September inclusive to see what can be found. To supplement these few outings Mr. & Mrs. Pickering have spent many hours just walking and listing whatever they found and two botanists from Liverpool also helped out with a list of over 120 plant species so thanks must be expressed to everyone who helped, but in particular to these four people. So many plants have been found that to list them would need a newsletter the size of a telephone directory. The list below is of rarer plants that have been found, and the star rating is taken from the Collins Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers.

<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
*Agrostis setacea	Bristle bent (G)
*Anagallis tenella	Bog pimpernell
**Aquilegia vulgaris	Columbine
*Bromus commutatus	Meadow brome (G)
*Carex distans	Distance sedge
*Catapodium rigidum	Fern grass (G)
*Cirsium dissectum	Meadow thistle
*Cystopteris fragilis	Bladder fern
*Epilobium tetragonum	Square-stemmed willow-herb
*Fragaria ananassa	Garden strawberry
*Genista anglica	Petty whin
**Gladiolus illyricus	Gladiolus
**Lathyrus sylvestris	Everlasting pea
*Linaria purpurea	Purple toadflax
*Murica gale	Bog myrtle
*Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock water dropwort
**Osmunda regalis	Royal fern
*Pinus sylvestris	Scot pine
*Platanthera chlorantha	Lesser butterfly orchid
*Potentilla anglica	Trailing tormentil
**Pulmonaria longifolia	Joseph and Mary
*Rosa pimpinellifolia	Burnet rose
*Sedum telephium	Orpine
*Trifolium medium	Zig-Zag clover
*Trifolium subterraneum	Burrowing clover
*Ulex minor	Lesser gorse
**Viola lactea	Pale heath violet

### LAST WORD

YOUR help is needed.

More reports by more people makes for more interesting records and a more interesting newsletter. Please help us by sending in written reports of anything of interest to M.King or M.Read. You should state how many? what? where? when? and your name.

Thank you.