

Dundee Naturalists' Society

Instituted 1874

annual bulletin

1981-82

No 6

DUNDEE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Annual Bulletin 1981-82

No.6

Hon President	Dr. J. Berry
President	Mr. Adam Ritchie
Hon Secretary	Mrs. E. McClure, 3, Clive Street, Dundee Tel: 44461
Editor	Mr. R.T. McLeod, 65 Johnston Avenue Dundee. Tel: 825427

EDITORIAL

The 1981-82 season opened with a new "team". Mrs. Joan Thomson handed over the President's regalia to Mr. Adam Ritchie. Mr. Brian Allan filled Adam's shoes as vice president, and found it necessary to give up editorship of our annual bulletin. Mr. Bob McLeod took over the editor's chair, with H.Q. at 65 Johnston Avenue, Dundee (phone 825427).

Mrs. Thomson had every reason to feel proud at the state of the Naturalists' Society when she gave up the chair. Membership continues at a high level, and attendances at Tuesday lectures have frequently exceeded one hundred. The summer programme of outings is so popular that two buses are frequently bulging (if the word is not ill-chosen) with booted and anoraked Naturalists. The surveys of roadsides, beaches, railway cuttings and streams are well supported and provided much valuable information about Dundee district.

But there is always room for more. Show the Bulletin to your friends, tell them about our wonderful slide shows and the rambles through the glens and forests, and tell them that membership is one of the best bargains in Dundee.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I would like, through the Bulletin, to express my gratitude to members of the Society for electing me President and record the honour it bestows.

Purely coincidentally, my eleven years association with the Society has seen a period of dramatic revival in terms of growth in membership and activity. This has been due, in no small measure, to my predecessors, Mrs. Elizabeth Leitch, Mr. Bob Philip and latterly Mrs. Joan Thomson.

I took over office at the A.G.M. in March last year therefore with some degree of trepidation having observed the committed enthusiasm and dedication of these people.

With the confident support of a lively Council, I hope I can provide the necessary stimulus to continue the momentum during my 3 year term of office.

Adam Ritchie.

IT'S YOUR OPINION

A woman member appeals for a ban on smoking on the Naturalists' buses. The Naturalists have probably a bigger proportion of non-smokers than any organisation in town, and the few smokers have been very noble in the past by delaying their smoking until they leave the bus. But a ban? That sounds a bit drastic. Perhaps smokers will make an effort to wait for the coffee break.

.....

While membership is healthy, the comparative lack of young recruits has caused comment. One member suggests that a panel of speakers should be formed, to give talk to youth clubs, school leavers and the like. Photographers could contribute slides of our outings to the hills and woods and our survey groups prowling about the beaches and rivers. Any volunteers?

...../2

Members' night goes from strength to strength. I hear murmurs that slides are sometimes rushed through. Is there a case for two members' nights per season to give full scope to the talents of our colour photographers?

A lady who is unable, for domestic reasons, to take part in our Saturday excursions, thinks there may be others who would gladly join in a week-day nature ramble. She suggests a half-day outing. It could entice women who perhaps baby-sit on Saturdays and sports fans who are busy at the weekend with golf matches.

STOP PRESS: Some of these ideas have already been discussed by the Council of the Society.

The winter programme now ending has been as varied as it has been interesting. We started off on October 6 with slides of many rare and intriguing flowers photographed in the Andes by Mr. and Mrs. J.D.C. Anderson. It was back to Angus on October 20 when Professor P.S. Corbet impressed with his immense knowledge of dragonflies. Members' night on November 3 was the usual great success, with Brian Allan whipping on a host of members with pictures of the whole area from Egypt to Broughty Ferry. The joint meeting with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, on November 17 brought Mr. Duncan Bayne, of the Nature Conservancy, to expound on problems of conservation in Angus. Overseas on December 1 with Dr. and Mrs. M.J.B. Almond, who had many excellent slides of southwest Turkey. Mr. M. Taylor, of Perth Museum, had lots of interest to tell about old red sandstone and fossils on December 15. Dr. and Mrs. Trefor Woodford started the year on January 5 with an enthralling talk on their stay in Indonesia. Special thanks to Mrs. Woodford for the exhibition she had laid on. A complete contrast in subject was "Stars in Camera" on January 19, by Mr. K. Kennedy of Dundee Astronomical Society.

On February 16 Dr. A.G. Marshall from Aberdeen University gave us an insight into the fascinating nocturnal world of bats, particularly those from the tropics. The private life of badgers in Scotland was enthusiastically described by Mr. T. Parish from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology on March 2. Some of the techniques he described must be confined to research scientists but others could be easily used by our members to study our local animals.

NEGLECTED MAMMALS

Why do so few naturalists take a real interest in mammals? The question is asked by Iain Buik, a member of the Mammal Society. Iain feels that if Dundee could be made the centre for a conference on mammals, more interest could be stimulated. One hopeful sign is that Dundee membership of the Mammal Society has increased by 150 percent in the past year. No need to go overboard with enthusiasm, however, that brings the Dundee total to five! If you are interested in moles, bats, cetaceans, hedgehogs, hares and the like, Iain will be glad to hear from you.

SUMMER OUTINGS

Our first outing of the 1982 season, a new venture, takes us to the Rock garden Society's show in Perth. Remembering our visit to the Royal Botanic Garden in 1979 and the interest of the alpine houses, this should be rewarding.

The Falls of Bruar outing should give opportunities to hear some of the spring migrants, certainly the willow warbler and perhaps a courting display by the tree pipit which we saw in Glen Tilt in 1979. The alarm call of the merlin has been heard near Falls of Bruar.

Those who missed an island outing from our programme last year will be pleased to note an outing to Incheolm; puffins and other seabirds should be seen. The Dalmeny shore path will be explored in the afternoon.

Our last Sands of Forvie visit was in 1974 on a lovely sunny day. A nature reserve, a restricted part of which is used by nesting terns, will give us opportunities to see and hear them as well as other birds, particularly singing larks. There is an interesting dune flora.

The outing to Glen Lee and over to Glen Clova, weather permitting, offers an opportunity to see some of the alpiners, particularly dwarf cornel - our badge. There might be red deer and mountain hares. No doubt there will be eagles watching us - whether we see them is another matter.

Ben Vrachie will hopefully have better weather than last time. The scottish asphodel grows in the boggy area beyond the forest and near the crags is the lovely alpine milkvetch, Astragalus alpina, the tiny moonwort and Oxytropis hallei.

Shell Bay gives us an opportunity to enjoy a beach walk. There are numerous volcanic dykes. Some members may remember seeing ancient volcanic craters at Elie in 1975.

The Loch Rannoch to Innerwick Right of Way is an old one used by Rannoch people attending church in Innerwick, where there is a very old bell, which we can see as we start off. The walk is over moorland with a chance to see birds and perhaps deer. There should be sedges and grasses of interest as well as fungi near Rannoch.

Mr. Young, the former warden of Muir of Dinnet, spoke to the Society in March 1981. The Reserve has an interesting geological formation, called the Vat in which grow many interesting ferns. There may be large families of tits, and on the lochs duck to be seen.

With early September we may be lucky enough to get the first autumn tints in the Birks of Aberfeldy. There should be opportunities to brush up our knowledge of fungi.

Our last outing is to the Reserve at Montrose basin and by then many of the waders and duck will be back.

BRANCHING OUT

Dundee Tree Group is grateful for the help given by members of the Naturalists' Society in their survey of the roadside trees of south Angus. So far, most of the main roads from Dundee have been surveyed. As expected, the evidence shows that trees are a vanishing species, with very few saplings spared to take the place of the aged and dying veterans in the hedgerows. The survey has provided the basis for newspaper articles and radio talks on the place of trees in the countryside. A multiplicity of lesser roads remains to be surveyed in the year ahead. Anyone who would like to help should see Robert T. McLeod, chairman of Dundee Tree group. No great skill or knowledge is required and forms could be completed as part of an afternoon walk.

CYCLING UP THE GLENS

The first of August dawned bright and sunny as the thermos was filled, the folding bicycles stowed in the boot and off we went up Glenesk.

At the car park at the head of the glen the bikes were assembled with "practised ease" and off we went. Loch Lee was passed in less than half the time we usually take walking and we cycled on up towards the Falls of Unich. At the bridge the bikes were left and we made our way over the moor towards the falls. From the cliff face came the cries of some young creature - an eaglet? - in distress or seeking food from its parents, but nothing could be seen.

Then danger! Across our path slithered an adder. Only about a yard away, 18 inches long, light brown, with very distinct markings. We took it to be a male as males are usually less than two feet long and more clearly patterned than females. The head was surprisingly small and the neck narrow.

We froze, and the adder ignored us. It made its leisurely way through the sparse heather and disappeared while we kept a respectful distance.

The falls were as magnificent as ever despite the dry spell and the hill were ablaze with glorious patches of bell heather.

After our walk it was comforting to think that we were not faced with a four-mile walk but rather a downhill ride on our bikes. Don't think we rushed blindly on. We were admiring the butterwort and sundew in the ditch when across the dirt road came our second adder that day.

This adder was much longer over two feet, and much thicker, about two inches. It was very dark in colour so that the markings were less distinct. We decided that it was a female. The young, we knew, are born in August.

It paid no attention to us but tried to cross the ditch. Its head however, could not reach the other side unsupported. It seemed unwilling to enter the water. We left it making its way down the bank seeking an easier crossing.

The ditch had one more surprise for us. Further down the road we spotted a young snipe running along an open part of the ditch. When we stopped it, it turned across the ditch. The dried grasses on the verge now ran parallel to the streaks of colour on its head and back. The camouflage was perfect. There it remained motionless, almost invisible, with one little brown eye fixed on us.

Don't think that taking to folding bikes means you miss a lot. You do cut out some of the drudgery of the less interesting parts of the outing and you've more time and energy for the exciting parts.

Norman S. Reid.

YE OLDE NATURALISTS

Did you know that probably the first natural history society in the world was founded in England almost 300 years ago? Called the Temple House Botanic Club, it was begun by apprentice apothecaries who organised a monthly "nature walk" in the country in order that they might learn to recognise useful plants growing wild. Today we in Dundee Naturalists' Society take walks in the countryside trying to understand the wonders of nature and although many of us have difficulty remembering names, we are learning to appreciate and care for our surroundings and hopefully pass on our enthusiasm to others. The importance of the activities of a society such as ours is expressed in the following words written by Konrad Lorenz in his book "The Year of the Greylag Goose." :

"Far too much of civilized mankind today is alienated from nature. Most people seldom encounter anything but lifeless, manmade things in their daily lives and have lost the capacity to understand living things or to interact with them. That loss helps to explain why mankind as a whole exhibits such vandalism towards the living world of nature that surrounds us and makes our way of life possible. It is an important and worthy undertaking to try to restore the lost contact between human beings and the other living organisms of our planet. In the final analysis the success or failure of such a venture will determine whether or not mankind destroys itself along with all the other living things on earth."

D.F.

AUTUMN PUNCTURE

Thirty-eight intrepid members "took a chance" and booked for our late excursion to Vane Farm on 30th October. I am sure that they were delighted they had for it was a beautifully clear morning to enjoy the journey through Fife and to see the trees in their brilliant autumn colours. Birds spotted from the bus included pheasant, lapwing, curlew and heron. On arriving at the centre we were able to enjoy the excellent facilities and had good views of the wildfowl on the scrapes, Lagoon and Loch - wigeon, teal, tufted and mallard ducks, many swans with cygnets and a number of great crested grebes, while small flights of greylag geese kept arriving until there were 40-50 feeding on a potato field near the loch. The climb to the top of Vane Hill was rewarded by beautiful views of the surrounding countryside and on the descent through the trees, blue and great tits were seen and a brief view of a kestrel.

On the return journey we had an unexpected bonus of a stop in Ceres when the bus had a puncture! Some members took the opportunity to see round this lovely village while others revisited the fascinating Folk Museum. (And poor Miss Dryburgh instead of being pleased to have arrived home early for once must have spent an anxious time, with the bus parked outside her door, thinking she might have some unexpected guests for tea!)

D.F.

WINTER BIRDS IN THE CITY

In a field near home are the remains of a broccoli crop with many weeds which have gone to seed. From September onwards there have been large flocks of linnets, sometimes close on a hundred. Since December they have given place in numbers to chaffinch and greenfinch. On December 22nd, about noon I saw a charm of over thirty goldfinches feeding on the seeds. On 11th January two wood pigeons were feeding on the broccoli. Stobsmuir ponds are a less interesting habitat, though from January 9th till 19th, there was a fieldfare eating Berberis berries neglected by the Blackbirds. On 12th January a brambling came to the bird table at noon and again two hours later to feed on the wild bird seed. It fed with chaffinches, greenfinches and sparrows. On 11th January there were about a dozen chaffinch feathers on the snow near the door, I fear he supplied a kestrel's breakfast.

E.S. Mc.

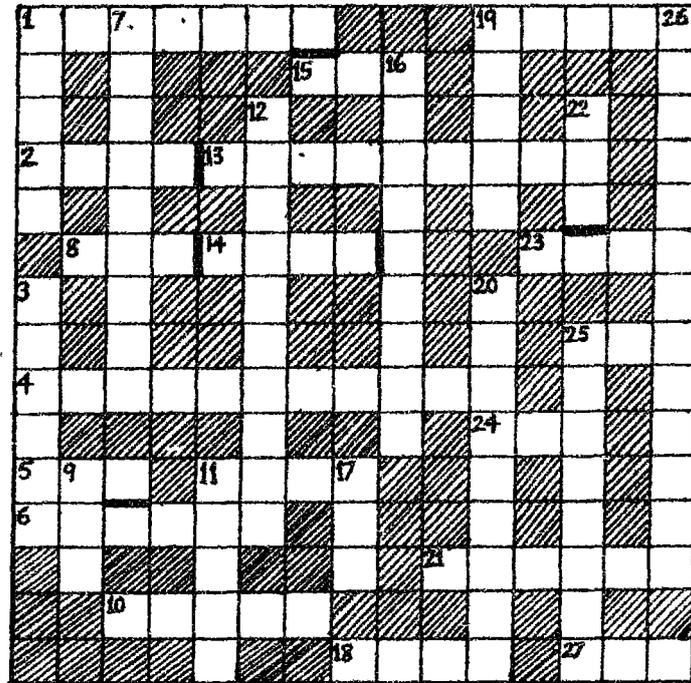
RECORD THOSE INSECTS

Although 1981 failed to produce the large numbers of migrant butterflies such as the red admirals and painted ladies seen the previous year and was a fairly average year for insects as a whole, investigations into the local wildlife still resulted in a number of new and interesting discoveries.

Fieldwork on Rossie Moor revealed colonies of the widespread but local ringlet and bordered fritillary butterflies and the Den of Airlie produced a new Angus record. - the large emerald moth. Also in 1981, a dragonfly survey in Angus began, where seven species are recorded of which five were re-discovered. No new species were recorded but many new breeding sites were located, throughout the county, thus helping to determine the spread of these striking insects in the area.

Effective wildlife conservation needs to be based on sound scientific information, so biological recording and wildlife surveys are very important in discovering the richness of our local wildlife and in continuously monitoring the habitats essential for their survival.

An Angus Naturalist's Crossword (no scientific names required)



Clues:-

Across

- 1 For pigs, alternatively cow parsnip
- 2 Or heather
- 4 Naturalist's badge flower
- 5 Flora's last grass
- 6 Religious burying beetle
- 8 Tree with asymmetrical leaf bases
- 10 Bird pines (anagram)
- 11 Native red berry
- 13 Sharp beaked bird
- 14 Avian tangle
- 15 Brewer's skip and jump
- 18 Coral: orchid ending
- 19 Small whale lost on the beach
- 21 The leaves taste of lemon
- 23 Loch Brandy is an example of this special site initials
- 24 Family of small agile birds
- 25 Female rabbit
- 27 Fisherman's worm, that casts on the beach

Down

- 1 Prickly-leaved tree
- 3 Many over-wintering sea-ducks
- 7 Like a three-leaved valley
- 9 Old churchyard tree
- 11 Britain's favourite bird
- 12 Only Angus national nature reserve
- 16 Fastest stoop
- 17 Female swan
- 19 Common meadow bird
- 20 Hoof like a young horse
- 22 Two-winged insect
- 25 Rare bird that breeds on a few high tops
- 26 Hard-backed butterfly

This is an area of conservation where involvement can be very satisfying and requires only simple observations. Any one can contribute. The surveys of moths, butterflies and dragonflies, as well as many others, are continuing : any information and records will be most welcome, from anyone wishing to participate. Mr. Cook, the Technical Convener, or any member of the Museum's Natural History staff will be available to offer advice and help to anyone wishing to run or participate in surveys.

A. Garside.

WILD GOATS IN ANGUS

Although wildlife recording is advancing our knowledge of local mammals, one species, the wild goat, now extinct in Angus, has so far escaped attention. Yet Angus did have at least two small herds of feral goats which I think should be made known. Only about ten herds are known to have existed on the eastern Grampians.

Remains of domestic goats are common in archaeological deposits from pre-Bronze-Age times onwards. In 1678 the Rev. Robert Edward wrote "Deer of different kinds, and goats, are in great abundance on the Grampians." The goats were domestic, farmed almost as sheep are today. However, Headrick, in his "Agriculture of Angus or Forfarshire" (1813) tells us "These were formerly kept in the mountainous districts, but they have been wholly extirpated on account of their hostility to plantations. Excepting a very small number kept for giving milk to private families, there are now none in the county," their place in the hills apparently having been taken over by sheep.

Despite this, M.F. Mitchie, writing of the parish of Lochlee in the Third Statistical Account (1777), records that wild goats in Glen Mark practically disappeared about 1876 or 77 but a few still survived during the 1940's by Loch Lee and Unich. A head was found on Craig Maskeldie in 1945 and was taken to Invermak.

G.K. Whitehead also records a small, short-lived herd of feral goats in his book "The Wild Goats of Britain and Ireland." (1972) These goats, on the cliffs of Creagan Chase, Glenisla, originated about 1945 with stock from Auchavan Farmhouse and were joined in 1946 by a billy, probably from the herd in Glencallater, Aberdeenshire (a large herd which became extinct in the 1950's). By 1952 only the billy, a nanny and a kid remained and in 1959 only one nanny (perhaps the kid mentioned) was left.

Wild goats, particularly the billies, are great travellers, and it is possible that there was some migration between the herds mentioned above.

Colin R. McLeod.

"FAR, FAR AWAY" OR "DINNER BY CANDLE-LIGHT."

The weekend excursion to Strath peffer, north of Inverness, was a departure from the usual in more than one way. By far the most northerly of all our weekend sites, it also was the first time we stayed in a Holiday Fellowship hostel.

The hostel laid on a romantic (?) candle-lit dinner the first evening - until some spoilsport repaired the fuse. Our keen types were undeterred, even starting at 5am the next morning to walk up to a ravine behind the town and being rewarded by the sights and sounds of deer, ravens, a fox and even mice. The Saturday excursion took us exploring towards Golspie with a stop at Bonar Bridge to watch the salmon fishing - nothing doing - and on the Mound Causeway at Loch Fleet to view the salmon running upriver - again nothing doing. The unbearable tension was broken by whipping out binoculars and going bird watching instead. Fortunately a considerable variety of species rewarded the time spent there.

The Balblair woods on Loch Fleet were chosen as suitable sites for lunch and for a gentle ornithological and botanical trot around afterwards. Before leaving the area the whole bus load of us descended upon that geological mecca of Golspie, the rock shop - a truly incredible place.

More features of geological interest caught our attention on the way to Dornoch (another stop and another queue!) These were relics of glacial times, namely kettle holes and an especially well developed esker ridge. By this time the originally fine day had changed and the wind became distinctly chilly. The ornithological stop at Cuthill sands was rather short.

Sunday's return journey began with a visit to Hugh Miller's cottage in Cromarty one of the attractions of the area, which the warden was kind enough to open especially for us. This was the cottage in which the eminent geologist, religious reformer and man of letters had been born and contained a good collection of geological specimens and other memorabilia. The dampness in the air was, by now, falling vertically but still a number of hardy souls mustered the enthusiasm to walk along the coast and onto the nature reserve of Mumlochay bay. On the way back through the Black Isle the bus slowed as it passed the well-known "Clutie Well," a wishing-well festooned with pieces of cloth. The final stop was at Carrbridge, allowing time for some food and a brief trip to the Landmark Centre.

Anon.

FIELDWORK GROUP : ACTIVITIES IN 1981

As usual the active naturalists' group have been, well, active, whetting our wildlife appetites by recording over, over a few weekends of rather cool "spring" weather, the distribution around Carnoustie of few-flowered leek (Allium paradoxum), an unusual introduction that appears to be on the increase.

In the early summer disused railway lines near Forfar formed the focus of attention. In particular, the group looked at the cuttings, recording a wide variety of plant species - mostly common ones but also some of interest such as masses of orchids, butterworts and a rare fern.

A request from a Tayside Region department led to botanical recording activities in the new country parks, Monikie and Crombie reservoirs. A comprehensive list of species of woodland, short grass land and wetland habitats and two investigators spent a fascinating morning trawling for water weeds on Crombie reservoir, although not finding as wide a variety as hoped.

The publication of the "Angus Flora" during the summer helped concentrate attention, in the face of competing interests, on botanical matters. A number of sites were visited and the plant distribution examined and recorded. In contrast a few members helped, albeit in a minor role, in an engrossing survey members survey of dragonflies of Angus organised by the local Nature Conservancy Council representative.

Finally in late summer and early autumn a number of derelict and other open sites in Dundee were examined botanically - an activity that was not altogether unrewarding some sites supporting a surprisingly wide variety of species. One species, from an almost totally barren wasteland, proved to be round-fruited rush (Juncus compressus), only the second record in Angus (the first being in 1970).

ANGUS ROADSIDE VERGE SURVEY PROGRESS REPORT

As most members will be aware over the past few years a survey of Angus road verges has been undertaken.

Last summer saw the last of the data recorded on special forms then transferred to computer coding forms prior to analysis.

The Analysis was carried out for us at Paisley Technical College by Dr. Curtis under the watchful eye of Dr. Eric Bignal of the Nature Conservancy Council who pioneered this work in Scotland. Dr. Bignal's article in "Scottish Wildlife" describing a similar survey in South Strathclyde was the inspiration for the start of the Angus survey.

The computer printouts are now to hand and we are at present extracting much useful information which should enable us to have a more complete understanding of the makeup of our local verges.

The data from the Angus verges has been added to and compared with similar data from verges in Ayrshire, South Strathclyde and Moray. This will be the basis of a N.C.C. report written by Dr. Bignal to be published soon.

It is early days to comment in detail on the Angus results but they have already shown our verges can be split into 10 or so different habitat groups which will enable us to classify any verge in the county into a recognizable descriptive group.

A few rarities have, even at this early stage, been highlighted, such as spignel - meu (Meum athamanticum), chickweed wintergreen (Trientalis europaea) as well as one or two marsh orchids.

It is hoped that a full and detailed report will be available in the near future, certainly before the end of this summer.

Brian Allan.

MAINS OF PANMURE FARM - 15TH AUGUST, 1981

A visit to a farm was a new venture for the NATS and it was therefore with some apprehension that we embarked on this particular outing to Mains of Panmure Farm. Our host and guide was John Henderson, a young, scientifically trained farmer, running his farm on modern scientific principles, his main activities being dairy farming, and the production of barley and seed potatoes.

Few of us, I think, had much first hand knowledge of contemporary farming methods, but we were well aware that some of today's farming practices are not conducive to the maintenance of the varied habitats necessary for the existence of a balanced spectrum of wildlife. I'm thinking particularly of the wholesale destruction of hedgerows in some areas, the draining of marshes, and the excessive use of chemical fertilisers and insecticides which so often results in pollution of the countryside. We may not have liked all the practices we saw - the separation of calves from their mothers when only two days old, and the confined conditions of the young bullocks, but there was no evidence of the harmful practices (from our point of view) mentioned above when we strolled through the fields: there were in fact plenty of trees and bushes to provide shelter for birds and animals.

In a rapidly changing world we have to be realistic, farmers farm in order to earn a living, and although Mr. Henderson was sympathetic to the need to preserve the land entrusted to him, and seemed to have reached a satisfactory balance between profitability and conservation, he was the first to admit that economic pressures and a concern for the environment are not always easily reconciled.

Our visit was a stimulating one, packed with interest and information, and drew to our attention the many skills and long hours of hard work involved in bringing food to our tables.

R.A.

A NATURALIST IN ICELAND

The Land of Fire and Ice, as it is known, has interested me for a long time but it wasn't until 1981 that I found a like-minded companion with whom to spend two weeks exploring parts of this fascinating country.

Situated on the North Atlantic ridge and of entirely volcanic origin, Iceland isn't rich botanically but has many interesting species, and several which do not occur in this country. Among these are a yellow and purple lousewort, the dainty cassiope, fragile pale lemon Icelandic poppy and the beautiful river beauty which is a showy willowherb growing in masses alongside turbulent rivers. The other exciting thing about the Icelandic flora is to see species very rare in this country flourishing there in great profusion. No need to walk miles or scale crumbling cliffs to see rock and alpine speedwell, alpine fleabane, alpine catchfly or moonwort fern; they can all be seen in roadside verges! Dwarf birch grows on moors as thick as heather, along with the purple alpine bartsia.

Ornithologically also the country has much to offer - towering sea cliffs thronged with the various auks and gulls; puffins so numerous they are caught in nets and sold as a delicacy - fresh or smoked. In the north of the island Lake Myvatn is a real bird watcher's paradise with large numbers of wild fowl. Here we were thrilled to catch a glimpse of a gyrfalcon and fascinated by the perpetual motion of the dainty red-necked phalaropes. Harlequin and Barrow's golden-eye ducks with their flotillas of piebald ducklings were common, along with better known species such as wigeon, pochard, shoveler, teal, scaup, etc. Red wings are a breeding bird and common in and out of towns, but it was even stranger to see a dozen or so golden plovers pecking about on a grassy bank within a town just as starlings do here.

The active volcanic nature of the island results in spectacular scenery and also phenomena fascinating to the amateur geologist. Lava flows of different ages and volcanic cones of various types are to be seen everywhere. There are even spasmodically active vents under the vast ice-caps one of which, Vatnajokull, is the largest in Europe and the source of numerous glaciers inching their way towards the sea.

In some areas boiling mud pools and hissing steam vents are the only moving things in an arid desert-like landscape where the air is saturated with the smell of sulphur. This district was considered sufficiently lunar-like to be used for training the first American astronauts. The original Geysir now no longer spouts about nearby Strokkur (the son of Geysir) gives a regular display spectacular enough for us. Roundabout the pools the earth is encrusted with the minerals precipitated from the upwelling waters.

A very small percentage of the land is fit for cultivation, resulting in very high food prices, and 95% of Iceland's economy is based on the fishing industry. Evidence for this can be seen in the acres of poles with cod hung up to dry in the northern sunshine. Surprisingly enough scavengers didn't seem to be attracted by it, nor did it have an unpleasant smell.

Marjory and I left Iceland after a wonderful holiday with the determination to return some day to see areas we had to miss; renew acquaintance with the courteous, friendly people; and again enjoy the novelty of the midnight sun.

Joan L. Thomson

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 15.2.82

<u>Income</u>	<u>£ P</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>£ P</u>
Brought Forward	564.64	Bulletin	33.01
Subscriptions	223.50	Stationery	8.52
Badges	6.00	Printing	49.10
War Bond	1.74	Postage	32.66
Interest	52.76	Summer Outings deficit	1.90
Strathpeffer Credit Balance	21.35	Scottish Rights of Way	2.00
Refund R.S.P.B.	6.00	Insurance	25.00
	<u>875.99</u>	Subscription to Habitat	3.50
	325.12	Museum Rental	62.10
	<u>550.87</u>	Lecturers Expenses	40.00
Balance 15.2.82	<u>550.87</u>	Office Bearer's Expenses	36.33
		Loch Awe Week End Advance	<u>31.00</u>
			<u>325.12</u>

Summer Outings

Total Expenditure	£1615.40
Total Income	£1613.50
Deficit	£ <u>1.90</u>

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

Across 1, Hogweed, 2. Ling, 4. Dwarf Cornel, 5. Rye, 6. Sexton, 8. Elm,
 10, snipe, 11. Rasp, 13. Razorbill, 14. Knot, 15. Hop, 18. Root,
 19. Pilot, 21. Sorrel, 23. SSSI, 24. Tit, 25. Doe, 27. Lug.

Down 1. Holly, 3. Elders, 7. Glen Clova, 9. Yew, 11. Robin, 12. Caenlochan,
 16. Peregrine, 17. Pen, 19. Pipit, 20. Coltsfoot, 22. Fly, 24. Dotterel,
 26. Tortoiseshell.