

BOOK REVIEWS

The Natural History of Badgers

Ernest Neal, Croom Helm. 1986 '9.95

This 238 page book is one of a series published in association with the Mammal Society aiming to bring together the observations of enthusiastic amateurs and the most recent research into a popular format, from which those with all levels of knowledge can gain an in depth appreciation of a particular species or group of closely related species.

The book unashamedly concentrates on the familiar European badger (*Meles Meles*), although the remaining members of the sub-family Melinae, to which our badger belongs, are discussed and their characters compared with the species which takes up most of the fourteen chapters. The book is well structured and there are chapters on almost every conceivable facet of badger biology: structure, habitat, activity patterns, and relationship with man, to name a few. The latter chapter includes a discussion of the thorny issue of the relationship between badgers and bovine tuberculosis, which I found informative and well balanced.

The book was well illustrated throughout with black and white photographs and line drawings (there are also some excellent colour photographs). I found the style very readable and Ernest Neal's enthusiasm for and knowledge of the subject comes across very well. I am sure this book will encourage even more people to take an interest in what is possibly already one of Britain's most popular mammals.

Andy Cook

Checklist of the Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians of the Harrogate District.

Deaton, R.H. Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society 1986

The Harrogate Nats are at it again! This time an annotated checklist of mammals (reptiles and amphibians) of the Harrogate area for 1986, which is contrasted with the historical checklist compiled for the area by Riley Fortune in 1894.

The sixteen page booklet is neatly divided. Firstly the present records, followed by the 1894 records extracted from 'The Vertebrate Fauna of the Nidd Valley' by R. Fortune, which appeared in 'Nidderdale and the Garden of the Nidd: a Yorkshire Rhineland' (edited by H. Speight). This book is now an extremely rare collectors item.

The booklet follows the lines of one of Mr Deaton's lectures, illustrated by Jim Counter's slides. Whether or not you've heard the talk and seen the film - read the booklet, it's an informative and entertaining comparison. Who knows, perhaps 92 years hence, someone will review Mr Deaton's checklist!

Angie Hibbert

YMG Programme 1987

Indoor Meetings

8 th January	"Seals"	Paul Thomson.
5 th February	"Bardsey Island, its observatory and Wildlife"	Dick Loxton.
5 th March	"Man and Mammals in North East Yorkshire - past and present"	Roy Brown.
2 nd April	Speaker to be arranged.	
7 th May	"The Modern Zoo"	Gordon Woodroffe.
4 th June	Speaker to be arranged.	

Indoor meetings begin at 7.30pm. and are held at Gartforth House, 54 Micklegate, York. A charge of 75p. will be made to non-members.

Outdoor Meetings

16-18 th January	Trapping at High Batts Reserve, near Ripon, with Colin Slator.
15 th February	Tracking in the snow (weather permitting).
13-15 th March	Trapping at Hopewell House Farm, Knaresborough.
19 th April	Trapping at Willow Garth Reserve with Ken Burden.
16-17 th May	Visit to Otter Haven at Bungay.
June	Badger watching at Hazelwood (date to be arranged).

Arrangements for outdoor meetings are made at the preceding indoor meeting.



Otter