1986 Mammal Records

(apart from trapping)

*Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)
262 animals recorded killed on the roads throughout the county.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	1	2	13	25	48	135	17	16	1	3

14 other sightings, usually of hedgehog seen in gardens.
2 records of carrion crows (*Corvus corone*) and 2 records of magpies (*Pica pica*) feeding on road kill hedgehog corpses.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)
Mole hills can be seen throughout the county, mainly in pasture, woodland and wide road side verges.
7 sightings of the animal itself.

*Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
A number of the 121 records of this species were of several animals seen together. 88 rabbits were recorded killed on the road.

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	0	13	54	4	1	2	2	2

Weaned young rabbits were seen before the end of March.
One recorded outbreak of myxomatosis, this occurred in mid November on the northern outskirts of Castleford SE 430 259.

Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)
20 records of the hare, 11 of which were animals killed on the road.

Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)
13 records.

Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)
8 records all from within the recording area of Castleford & District Naturalists Society.

Harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*)
One found dead on the north eastern edge of Knottingley SE 505 244.
In the latter part of the year several breeding nests were found on the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve east of Knottingley SE 515 241.

Common rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
A frequent road casualty, of the 27 records of the rat, 20 were of animals killed on the road. Magpies were seen feeding on two of these road kills.

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
21 records, 5 of which were animals killed on the road.
2 records of fox getting into sheds and killing fowl.

Stoat (*Mustela erminea*)
Usually seen as they cross the roads, there were 15 records of stoats, two of which were of animals seen dead on the road.
One was seen in ermine on the 10th February 1986 at Cattlehill SE 515 185.

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)
15 records, 8 of animals seen crossing roads, 4 of animals killed on the road.

Ferret (*Mustela furo*)
One seen in January at Stapleton SE 514 196. Lost by rabbit hunters probably.

Badgers (*Meles meles*)
A local sett was visited by four members of the Yorkshire Mammal Group on the 9th June when four badgers were seen.
A group member paid a daytime visit to another local sett which was found to be active with fresh prints seen.
Two badgers were seen as they crossed roads, with a further two reported killed as they tried to do so.

Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)
January 9th, 4 seen in Byram Park SE 500 260.
February 20th, 14 roe deer are alledged to have been seen standing in a field only 30 yards from the A645 at Little Heck SE 602 218 which is just out of the Castleford Naturalists Recording area. 7 were seen in the area on February 21st, 4 on March 4th, 3 on April 14th and 3 were seen on April 15th.
May 25th, 2 seen Brocodale SE 505 175, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve.
June 9th, 1 killed on the road between Appleton Roebuck and the A64, 532 438.
Sept. 24th, 1 killed on the road between Haddlesey Bridge and Eggborough Power Station, SE 576 256.
Nov. 28th, 1 killed on the road at Little Heck, SE 602 218.

Oct. 6th, unidentified deer believed to have been shot at Featherstone, SE 430 195.

From friends I received quite a number of records of "them mice with the pointed noses."!

Apart from trapping records the only confirmed shrew records I have is of six common shrews (*Sorex araneus*) found dead in Knottingley Willow Garth Nature Reserve (Y.N.T.), SE 515 241 on the 6th July. A cat from the nearby maggot farm is thought to be responsible for these deaths.

Many of the above records are from the recording area of the Castleford Naturalists. This area is the six 10km grid squares SE 41, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, the records being supplied by C.D.N.S. members.

Stewart Collier of the Yorkshire Mammal Group supplied many of the records from other parts of Yorkshire.

* Nothing should be read into the monthly road kill figures as they are only sporadic sightings.

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