

1991

P.S.N.S.



BOTANICAL SECTION

15

Bulletin

1

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

BOTANICAL SECTION

BULLETIN No.15 - 1991

INTRODUCTON

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of our friend Joan Thomson, after a most gallant fight against cancer. Whenever her health permitted she came through from Dundee to attend winter and field meetings, and she was a most competent botanist. Yet the PSNS was only one of her interests, she was also a member of the Dundee Naturalists, and of the SOC, and she was a keen hill-walker. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband and her family. Anne Mathers and Irene McKinnie represented the Section at her funeral.

So far as the field season is concerned, it became clear after the second and third meets that we needed to reconsider how much we could expect to do in an evening. The exploration of the Perth City Lade on 5 June had barely got half way when time ran out at 9 pm. The Laggan Walk on 26 June was finished only by carrying on until darkness fell, and we did not get back to the cars until 10.30 pm. Some of us felt the consequences next day! Though both outings were most useful botanically, it is clear we were too ambitious on both occasions.

We are again indebted to Neale Taylor for organising a workshop, this time on grasses, the results of which were quickly apparent in members' greater confidence in identifying grass species.

A feature article summarises the findings of an article by John Akeroyd in *British Wildlife* on illustrated field guides to the British flora. Anyone thinking of buying a new field guide would find it helpful to read the whole article. The Secretary has a copy for consultation by anyone who wants to do so.

YOUR EDITOR

(1) CLUNY HOUSE GARDENS (NN 8751)

25 MAY 91

Fifteen of us gathered at Cluny House car park at 2.30 pm, and were met by John Mattingley, who was going to show us round. But first he took us 'back stage' for a fascinating glimpse of the 'works'. These were an old kitchen, now used as a potting shed and an elderly greenhouse. For all that Cluny specialises in raising rare Himalayan plants, a simple home-made seed compost was made up. John emphasised that each ingredient had to be put through a fine sieve to remove all lumps and stones. The compost was then pressed down into trays with a wooden block and the seeds simply sprinkled over the top. The tray was then thoroughly soaked by plunging in a basin. Repotting was done into small multiple pots, extra deep size, all filled with the same mixture, this time giving just a sharp dunt on the bench to settle it. The seedlings were transplanted when still tiny, care being taken not to touch the roots. The greenhouse was kept very humid by liberal spraying. Plant collectors brought their seeds to Cluny from the Himalaya and Western China because the garden could offer the expertise and the microclimate which ensured a high degree of success.

John then took us round the garden. Everywhere interesting trees and shrubs, rhododendrons, in bud, flower, or past, clumps of *Meconopsis*, lilies, whole beds of rarities. Among the bushes, in little beds and rockeries, primulas of every shape and size, incredibly delicate and beautiful, John knew them all by name and origin. I don't know about the others, but my memory could not hold them all, and I was content to enjoy the feast. Across the drive, we were led uphill to an arboretum and meadow overlooking the strath, which the Mattingleys and their helpers had just begun to work at, the aim being to keep it quasi-natural, more relaxed, but just as beautiful as the rest.

Cluny House Garden is a place to go back to - as often as you can, for it is a garden for all seasons, and if you are rash enough, and think that you too can provide the shelter and moist climate the plants enjoy in their home from home at Cluny, you can buy plants, and try your hand at keeping them alive and happy.

We are most grateful to John Mattingley for an enthralling afternoon.

BILL GAULD

(2) PERTH TOWN LADE (NO 02 NW)

5 JUNE 91

A dozen of us met on a fine evening at the Almondbank Inn at 6.30 pm, with ambitions to walk along the Town Lade as far as the Perth bypass, our object being 'to give botanical aid to the civil power' (the District Recreation Dept). Mike Taylor, of the Museum staff, who was leading us, took his car round to the housing estate on the other side of the bypass, so that he could ferry drivers back to collect the rest of the party at the end of the walk.

We parked our cars behind the sports ground beside the MOD establishment, and walked along the rough track to the start of the lade. The woodwork of the 'gate' had decayed, but the metalwork seemed in good condition. Mike explained however, that the channel of the lade had considerably silted up. Not enough water now reached the other end to drive the wheel at the City Mills. It would be prohibitively expensive to clean out the channel, but the Recreation Dept wanted to develop a public walkway along the lade, along the route of the annual inspection of the lade by the City Fathers of old Perth.

We started to botanise, now one side of the lade, now the other, sometimes with open fields on the other side, more often with new housing development. There was a fair number of interesting plants, trees and shrubs beside the water, and on the verges, but in many places these were under threat from garden throw-outs as the new gardens were made. 'Mature' verges had a limited range, and it was noticeable on several places that recent disturbance of the ground had encouraged interesting 'weeds'. The highlight of the evening was the discovery of Mountain (CTW) or Hedgerow (Dony) Crane's-bill (*Geranium pyrenajacum*). This is 'doubtfully native' (CTW), but commonest in south and east England. The overgrown site of a former mill, with the iron frame of a large undershot mill-wheel still in position, added considerably to our list, but most of the ruins there were due for demolition to make room for more housing.

It being by then 9 pm, we called it a day, though we had barely got half way to the bypass, and walked back to the cars, leaving poor Mike to walk on by himself to where his car was parked.

The second evening visit was made by a smaller party on 17 July, starting from Huntingtower. It was a very pleasant leisurely evening, apart from the difficulty of crossing the A9 dual carriageway.

A wide range of species was seen, from agricultural weeds to plants of fast flowing and reasonably unpolluted streams. Some plants had undoubtedly taken advantage of the presence of humans nearby - eg the hybrid Large Apple Mint (*Mentha x villosa* var. *alopecuroides*) - or were colonising waste ground - eg American Willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), and Weld (*Reseda luteola*) in some quantity. In the main stream Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*) was thriving. Notable rarities were Alexanders (*Smyrniololus atrium*) and Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*).

Between the two visits a grand total of 281 plant species was recorded, and the general impression was of a rich area which one hopes can be kept that way despite the encroachment of urban Perth.

We are most grateful to Mike Taylor for giving us the opportunity to explore the line of the lade, and to help the Recreation Dept assess the project botanically.

BILL GAULD and RICHARD THOMAS

(3) WORKSHOP ON GRASSES (PERTH MUSEUM)

15 JUNE 91

Following the successful workshop last year, a workshop on grasses was held in Perth Museum. There was a good turnout (which must mean that last year can't have been so bad), and once again there were fresh and Perth Herbarium specimens to look at, and a key to the common Perthshire species was provided*. The aim of the session was to cultivate experience of the common species and genera by using this key; the key in Hubbard's *Grasses* (Penguin) is excellent, but difficult to get round in half a day's work. I have to say that I thought everyone seemed to cope very well with the material provided, and I think everyone enjoyed the day.

Thanks are due to the Museum staff, especially Ann Abernethy and Mike Taylor, for arranging the room, equipment, and specimens to be made available. We hope, Ann, that the Herbarium specimens did NOT become infected with any nasty foreign cellulose-munching beetles.

NEALE TAYLOR

* Extra copies are available for those who could not attend.

(4) ST CYRUS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

16 JUNE 91

After meeting at Perth Museum car park, ten members and a canine interloper (quite against the rules) made their way across to St Cyrus. It was very pleasant not to have to worry about recording every single species (Just for this once! Ed.) as we pottered around the sand dunes in the spring sunshine, although those who had been to the previous day's grasses workshop had to work harder than most (or else!). It was equally enjoyable to be able to explore habitats not found 'at home'.

The sandy 'saltmarsh' yielded Sea Milkwort (*Glaux maritima*) and Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) as well as several Orache (*Atriplex*) species which remained anonymous. It was perhaps a little too early to see the dunes at their best, possibly as a result of the cold spring. Many species, most unfortunately Clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*), were not yet in full flower. Nevertheless the list included Lesser Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum minus*), Hairy Rock-cress (*Arabis hirsuta*), Spring

Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*), Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), Early Forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*, distinguishable with practice from Field Forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis* - thank you, Jo Babbs and Richard Thomas), Common Corn Salad (*Valerianella locusta*) and Purple Milk-vetch (*Astragalus danicus*)

We then explored some of the cliffs at the eastern end of the Heughs of St Cyrus, which are evidently very calcareous, as well as being loose and dangerous. Wild Liquorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*) occurred low down (not flowering unfortunately), while Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Nottingham Catchfly (*Silene nutans* - some with petals rolled the wrong way), and Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) were on the cliffs higher up.

The path to Kirkton, which leads in fairly gentle fashion up the cliff, allowed those of us too sensible to risk life and limb on the crags to see Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), and Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*) at close hand. After the compulsory group photo-opportunity on the seat near the top (all will be revealed during members' night), a sedge was passed over by the leader on the way down as Prickly Sedge (*Carex muricata*). According to the *Atlas* this has not been found here, whereas the very very similar Spiked Sedge (*Carex spicata*) has - oh, dear, whoops, etc (no more sedge workshops for me). (Thou dost protest too much, extra tu. for you. -Ed)

In the end we managed fifteen grasses, including on the dunes Crested Hair-grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Downy Oat-grass (*Helictotrichon* - sorry, *Avenula* - *pubescens*), Lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius**), Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), Silver Hair-grass (*A. caryophylla*), and Sand Cat's-tail (*Phleum arenarium*), while on the steep grassy slopes were Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), and Meadow Oat-grass (*Helictotrichon* - Let's be consistent, *Avenula*, Ed. - and it is then *pratensis*).

It was a very good place to practise grasses, as well as of course a very scenic location. I am sure everyone who went will be heartily praying that the unpleasant mega-tourist development proposed nearby does not get the go-ahead.

Finally, sincere thanks are due to Joanna for acting as dog warden.

NEALE TAYLOR

* The old name was *Elymus*, confusingly an anagram. (Lyme Grass has nothing to do with the dread disease. The House of Lords was told the other day that the parasite had spread to Richmond Park and other London suburban districts, and their Lordships were advised to be careful when having a bath to pull out slowly any ticks they found. - *The Scotsman*, 12 November 91 - Ed)

(5) LAGGAN, CRIEFF (NN 82 SE & SW)

26 JUNE 91

Ten of us met at the Taylor-McRosty car park at 6.30 pm on 26 June. Our original plan had been to walk the crest of the Laggan Hills beyond Crieff, and back along the bank of the River Earn, by Lady Mary's Walk, but Richard Thomas, the Vice-County recorder, told us that the Crieff quadrant itself (NN 82 SE) was under-recorded, and asked us to start botanising as soon as we could see 'wild' or 'genuinely naturalised' plants. This proved to be at the bridge over the River Turret at the end of the park.

We did quite well there, but when we turned into the Laggan Road, the disturbed verges of a new housing development, and several gardens in an earlier

scheme not yet made up, proved to be full of interesting plants, including Cut-leaved Cranesbill (*Geranium dissectum*), Hairy Tare (*Vicia hirsuta*), etc, and we fell about an hour behind schedule.

Eventually we reached The Field House, where Ernie Fraser had begun to wonder what had happened to us, and we started up the estate road towards the boundary between the two squares. This was less exciting, but the list kept growing, with eg Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*, confirmed by later inspection of the mature seed-heads), and a single proud specimen of Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) on the point of flowering. We drew two red lines and started again. A diversion to the old quarry proved disappointing, and the Puddock Pond, when we reached it, was not only disappointing, but smelly as well! We went down a boggy field, through high bracken, with Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) among the fern stalks, to the old track to Trowan Lodge, and Lady Mary's Walk. The riverside, and the old railway track, provided new habitats, and our list grew again, with Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), Wall Rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) and Maidenhair Spleenwort (*A. trichomanes*), Dame's-violet (*Hesperis matronalis*), etc. It began to get dark, and soon we could only spot large plants, such as Meadow Crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*). Thankfully at last we reached the cars, and went home. But we had added considerably to the records of the two squares, with totals of 128 and 120 respectively.

Near Lady Mary's Walk alongside the River Earn a *Campanula* was spotted in bud. On a later visit by Alistair Godfrey a few leaves and flowers were collected, enough to enable it to be identified as *Campanula lactiflora*, from the Caucasus, an uncommon escape from gardens, and only the third Mid-Perth record.

BILL GAULD

(6) MEAL GARBH, GLENLYON (NN 64 NE & NW and NN 65 SE & SW) 7 JULY 91

A joint meeting of the Botanical Society of the British Isles and the Section was held to collect more records for a future Flora of Perthshire on a quadrant basis. We met at the car park at Invervar (NN 664482), where we were joined by Mr Ian Riddell, son of the estate owner, and his family (who had kindly reserved parking-space for us). The main party of eleven did a high-level route taking in the summit of Meal Garbh, while three visited interesting areas on the lower slopes of Glen Lyon.

The upper route took us on a clockwise circuit of a number of steep calcareous outcrops of no great size but still having a rich flora typical of Breadalbane. Of particular note were Hair Sedge (*Carex capillaris*), Rock Sedge (*Carex rupestris*), Mountain Willow (*Salix arbuscula*), and one very small clump of Woodsia (*Woodsia alpina*). The rare hybrid willow *Salix lapponum* x *arbuscula* was also recorded. Towards the summit the ground became more acidic, and species such as Alpine Lady Fern (*Athyrium distentifolium*), Alpine Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris expansa*), and Three-leaved Rush (*Juncus trifidus*) became common, with an occasional patch of Parsley Fern (*Cryptogramma crispera*). A somewhat hazy but pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

The dissidents drove back to Ruskich, where the owner, John Campbell Smith, awaited us. We spent nearly all day on his grazings, which were full of mini-habitats, from dry knowes to made ponds, with a final walk through a plantation and along the riverside. Altogether we amassed a huge list, over 180 species, the most unexpected

being Least Willow (*Salix herbacea*) on a rocky knove at the top of the park. We also found Water Sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) in a quiet reach of the River Lyon.

Between the two groups four different quadrants were visited. To NN 64 NW were added 81 species, giving a total of 267 for the quadrant. The respective figures for NN 64 NE were 127 and 174; for NN 65 SW were 16 and 146; and for NN 65 SE were 48 and 96.

We thank the various estate owners, particularly Dr M. J. Riddell and Mr John Campbell Smith, for permission to visit the area.

RICHARD THOMAS and BILL GAULD

(7) DALMUNZIE, SPITTAL OF GLENSHEE (NO 09 71)

13 JULY 91

The object of this afternoon meeting was to visit an area of metalliferous deposits near Dalmunzie House Hotel (NO 091 712), beside the Spittal of Glenshee. Alpine Pennycress (*Thlaspi alpestre*) had been recorded there, and we hoped to find this and other species indicative of heavy metals.

We did not find *Thlaspi*, but the cliffs above the hotel did provide records of Mossy Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*), Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), and Shining Crane's-bill (*Geranium lucidum*), all of which are associated with ultrabasic rocks.

It was however the meadowland on the haughs that provided the largest number of new records - twenty species to be added to the 205 already recorded for one of the two squares we visited. The most interesting meadows were directly below the cliff, on the south side of the river, and right on the boundary of the two quadrants. Much time was spent deliberating the precise location of the line! We recorded Meadow Oat-grass (*Avenula pratensis*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Spignel (*Meum athamanticum*), Globe-flower (*Trollius europaeus*), and Yellow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*). It was worth crossing the doubtfully safe bridge at Dalmunzie to reach this interesting area.

ROS SMITH

(8) GARROW, GLEN QUACH (NN 84 SW AND NN 74SE)

29 JULY 91

On a pleasant July day six of us met near Garrow and started by recording westwards along the River Quach. The flora was mainly typical of boggy ground with the occasional rich flush. There were many stout clumps of White Climbing Fumitory (*Corydalis claviculata*). Further on bog gave way to more calcareous rock and turf, with species like Meadow Oat (*Avenula pratensis*) and, surprisingly, Parsley Fern (*Cryptogramma crista*).

We then motored up the steep but very scenic road northwards to the lochan on the east side of the road at NN 802432. The waterside proved rewarding in parts, with some fine flowering specimens of Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), demonstrating clearly its affinity with plantains. Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*) was also plentiful. In the lochan Small Bur-reed (*Sparganium minimum*) was flowering and among the heather there were several plants of Lesser Twayblade (*Listera cordata*).

Finally we walked over to the crags of Meall a'Choire Creagaich, just into quadrant NN 74 SE. These were acidic and of little botanical interest, but a small

pond on the way, a nesting-site for Black-headed Gulls, provided a truly surprising quantity of Mare's-tail (*Hippurus vulgaris*).

The two quadrants NN 84 SW and 74 SE now have healthy totals of 205 and 260 recorded species respectively.

RICHARD THOMAS

(9) LOCH EARN (NN 62 SE & NN 62 NE)

11 AUGUST 91

Nine of us met at the car park just beyond the Four Seasons Hotel at St Fillans (NN 691245). Since we had a good turnout, we split in to two parties, the more strenuously inclined going to the north side of Loch Earn and the lower slopes of the hills, up to the boundary of our quadrant.

Four people set off from St Fillans on the footpath through Forestry Commission land to the north of Loch Earn. Some potentially interesting finds early on, such as Hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) were unfortunately too close to gardens to be convincingly native. Further on, we came upon Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), and an extensive patch of Wood Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*). Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*) was naturalised at a number of places along the path. We soon crossed the boundary into the adjacent quadrant to the North (NN 62 NW), and followed a steep-sided stream gorge up through the plantation. This yielded several clumps of Wood Fescue (*Festuca altissima*) as well as Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), and a whole range of ferns, including Brittle Bladder-fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*). Beyond the plantation an area of open moorland allowed us to add a few more entries to the list. Returning to the woods by a different route, we came upon Pirri-pirri-bur (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*), a none too frequent introduction from the southern hemisphere.

Although by now rather late in the day, we made a short diversion on the way back towards the quarry from which stone had been extracted for use in the hydro-electric project, and this provided us with Yellow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*) in abundance. This group recorded 115 species in NN 62 SE and 134 in NN 62 NE.

The other five drove back to the south lochside road, and parked just short of the entrance to the Golf Course. We followed a narrow path through the scrub beside the Earn along to the foot of the loch. There was high forest, scrub and open glades, so we had a mixture of habitats, and recording went well, though some members showed a tendency to look for more examples of *Rubus idaeus* and *Vaccinium myrtillus* even after these had been listed.

Having exhausted the botanical resources of this area, we decided to go along to Ardstrostan Wood. On the way we spotted a miry field, and on impulse hopped over the fence. It gave us a number of additions to our list, and we gradually worked our round it and in towards the centre, where we saw a dirty little pool. In this someone spotted an odd floating plant with greenish flowers. Ros, the only one wearing wellies, obtained a specimen. It proved to be Floating Club-rush (*Schoenus (Eleogiton) fluitans*), a new site for this Perthshire rarity.

After this Ardstrostan Wood was anticlimactic, being poor in species. Nevertheless, in spite of rasp and blaeberry picking, we had done well, recording 162 species in our part of quadrant NN 62 SE.

LES SMITH and BILL GAULD

(10) SOUTH EAST FULLARTON (NO 34 SW)

25 AUGUST 91

Five cars met in the congested car park outside the Kinloch Arms Hotel in Meikle square (NO 287446). Unfortunately Freddie French had only come to say he could not join us. After a recent bad burglary at his home, in which many personal possessions had been stolen, his wife was too nervous to be left on her own, and he had gashed his leg with a hedge trimmer. After expressing condolences, and sending a message to Molly, the rest of us moved on to South East Fullarton, where we found parking by the roadside, and were joined by Joan Thomson.

We had come to list species in NO 34 SW, hitherto unrecorded, although we had done NO 33 SE two years previously. First impressions were discouraging, the raspberry fields were as the farmer had told us, barren of everything but canes, and roadside species looked rather few and uninteresting. But 'Never believe anything until you have rubbed your nose in it'. Closer examination proved that there were a fair number of roadside species, while the adjoining stubble, which the farmer had thoughtfully cleared, contained young specimens of a number of arable weeds, including Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) and Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lycopsoides*), a kind of yellow forget-me-not. Before the day was out we would see rather a lot of this, although it was new to some of us. We plodded along, partly on the roadside, partly in the field, spotting, identifying, and recording. At the end of the road we turned right, beside a shelterbelt which gave us a new habitat, and a new set of species.

At Crossing Cottage we paused to socialise with Richard Brinklow and family, then left again along the old railway track, now becoming overgrown. Hairy Tare (*Vicia hirsuta*) was followed by a pure stand of broom, then the vegetation over the ballast chips began to open out. Good finds were Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), and Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*). Two small ponds marked on the map had disappeared under the plough, so we turned, a little wearily now, to trudge back across the stubble to the cars. We had accumulated a list of 138 species, and a hitherto unrecorded quadrant was firmly on the map.

BILL GAULD

(11) FUNGUS FORAY, HERMITAGE, DUNKELD (NO 04 SW)

7 SEPTEMBER 91

By kind permission of the National Trust for Scotland Ranger/Naturalist Ben Notley fourteen enthusiastic foragers met at 2 pm in the NTS Car Park at the Hermitage. Ben Notley happened to be there at the time, and told us his Assistant had recently been round the estate with a Kindrogan party who had been quite successful in spite of the dry season, so we set off in good spirits.

Most people had one or other of the popular guides and we were soon discussing the various fungi we spotted beside the path. Encouragingly some of last year's confidence in identification appeared to have been retained from our visit to Balrobbie, and the list mounted steadily in spite of the committee type proceedings. Eventually we reached the folly and crossed the bridge to the other side where the steep banks provided a somewhat different range of species.

With the welcome guest appearance of Margaret Duncan, Dundee, we managed to identify 26 species, including Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*), Hedgehog (*Hydnum repandum*) and *Boletus calopus*, though the Old Man of the Woods (*Strobilomyces floccopus*), which the Kindrogan party had been lucky enough to find, successfully avoided us. In addition, Dr Roy Watling kindly identified for us the thing on the very rotten log that looked like a chocolate truffle as the myxomycete *Arcyria cinerea*

var. rosea. A list of our finds is appended to this Bulletin. A copy has been sent to the NTS Ranger.

BILL GAULD

FEATURE - ILLUSTRATED FIELD GUIDES TO THE BRITISH FLORA

I liked John Akeroyd's start - "Illustrated field guides are an indispensable accessory of the modern naturalist and field botanist." In these decadent days we are no longer expected to rely solely on dichotomous ('either/or') keys and verbal descriptions.

Dr Akeroyd has a useful discussion of the relative merits of photographs (immediate appeal) and line drawings (better for detail), and these really ought to be combined with keys for the "serious student". In some respects McClintock & Fitter's *The Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers* (Collins, 1956), is still the best, being as he says, "user-friendly". Keble Martin is still deservedly popular, and the most recent edition, the *New concise British Flora in colour* (1982), brings it up to date, and has more accurately reproduced colour. Francis Rose's *The Wildflower Key* (1981) is "not for the complete novice", but "a most valuable work for the student and the serious field worker". Garrard & Streeter's *Wild Flowers of the British Isles* (Macmillan, 1983) is his favourite, but only as one of a threesome which would combine to make "the perfect field guide".

In all Dr Akeroyd assesses more than thirty works, including the specialised guides and floras, such as the BSBI *Handbook* series, beginning of course with the sedges. If you still have a Christmas book token burning a hole in your pocket, do read the article in full and judge for yourself, what would best suit your standard, your pocket, and your pocket-book.

BILL GAULD

NCCS NEWS

All (or more correctly two-thirds) change for our friends in the Nature Conservancy Council local office. Not only are they now Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, and will next April become part of Scottish Natural Heritage, but they have moved from Cleeve Gardens to 55 York Place, Perth, PH2 8EH. Only their telephone number (39746) has been preserved. If they feel "wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world", as the *Order of Compline* has it, they have our sympathy and good wishes!

ADVERTISEMENT

Our respected senior member, Bob Brien, has produced a most interesting book:- *The SHAPING OF SCOTLAND, Eighteenth Century Patterns of Land Use and Settlement* (Aberdeen University Press, 1989, price £7.50). As you might expect, Bob has his own ideas, and they are worth reading!

YOUR EDITOR

APPENDIXLIST OF FUNGI COLLECTED AT THE HERMITAGE ON 7 SEPTEMBER 91BOLETACEAE

- Boletus calopus*
Xerocomus subtomentosus (B. *xerocomus*)

AMANITACEAE

- Amanita excelsa*
A. muscaria (Fly Agaric)
A. virosa (Destroying Angel)

TRICHOLOMATACEAE

- Armillaria mellea* (Honey Fungus)
Asterophora parasitica (on *Lactarius*, probably *L. piperatus*)
Clitocybe geotropa
Laccaria amethystea (Amethyst Deceiver)
Laccaria laccata (The Deceiver)
Oudemansiella mucida (Porcelain Fungus)
Tricholoma virgatum

RUSSULACEAE

- Lactarius blennius* (Slimy Milk Cap)
L. glycosmus (Coconut-scented Milk Cap)
L. piperatus (Peppery Milk Cap)
Russula cyanoxantha (The Charcoal Burner)
R. ochroleuca
R. nigricans (Blackening *Russula*)

CORTINARIACEAE

- Cortinarius purpurascens* (correction from *Lepista nuda* (Wood Blewit), because it had chocolate brown, not pink, spores)
Gymnopilus penetrans

PAXILLACEAE

- Paxillus atrotomentosus* (plentiful on stumps)

HYDNACEAE

- Hydnum repandum* (Hedgehog Fungus)

HYMENOGYNIACEAE

- Phaeolus schweinitzii* (on root of Douglas Fir)

POLYPORACEAE

- Daedalea quercina* (Maze Gill)
Heterobasidium annosum (on Douglas Fir)
Piptoporus betulinus (Birch Bracket Fungus)

MYXOMYCETES (SLIME MOULDS)

- Arcyria cinerea* var. *rosea* (like a chocolate truffle, on a very rotten log)
 (Identified for us by Dr R. Watling)

* * * * *

(Combined list by Margaret Duncan, Dundee, and W. W. Gauld, Crieff)

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