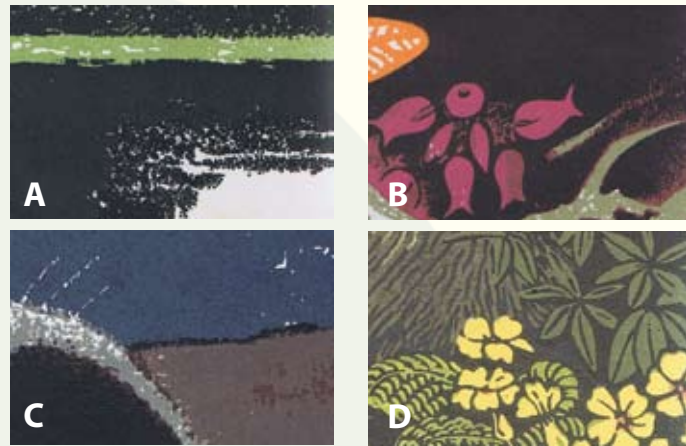


Competition

For a special Christmas competition, all you have to do is identify the four illustrations, each being a small section of a different New Naturalist just jacket design. The prize will be a pair of tickets to the eagerly anticipated 2nd New Naturalist symposium on 6th June 2011.

To enter the competition, send in a list of the four book titles from which these sections are taken and the corresponding letter of each illustration. As usual, entries can be sent by post or e-mail and the winning entry will be pulled out of the hat. **Closing date will be 28th February 2011 and the winner will be announced in the spring newsletter.**



Sales and Wants

FOR SALE

NN 3 **London's Natural History**. Reprint 1946. Very Good in fine but price-clipped d/w. £20

NN 5 **Wild Flowers**. First edition, fine in like d/w (v small piece missing on bottom front edge). £50

NN 7 **Mushrooms and Toadstools**. 2nd impression 1954, fine in like d/w (not price clipped). £25

NN 9 **A Country Parish**. First edition, fine in like d/w. Spine slightly sunned with minor chips at top of spine. £175

NN 14 **The Art of Botanical Illustration**. 3rd ed 1955, fine in like d/w (small piece missing from bottom front right hand corner). £35

NN 25 **The Sea Coast**. First Edition, fine in like d/w (price clipped). £50

NN 26 **The Weald**. 5th impression 1972, fine in like d/w (price clipped). £25

NN 30 **Moths**. First edition, fine in like d/w (laminated). £50

NN 32 **Trees, Woods and Man**. Reprint 1978, fine in like d/w. £25

NN 34 **The Open Sea: World of Plankton**. First edition, fine in like d/w (very small chip in top lh corner of spine). £100

NN 35 **The World of the Soil**. 2nd ed 1959, ex lib with usual library stamps etc. Very good in fine unmarked d/w (price clipped). £15

NN 45 **The Common Lands of England and Wales**. First edition, fine in like d/w, slightly sunned spine and one missing endpaper. £125

NN 62 **British Tits**. First edition, fine in like d/w (unclipped but no price). £25

NN 63 **British Thrushes**. First edition, fine in like d/w, usual faded spine. £25

NN 64 **The Natural History of Shetland**. First edition, fine in like d/w, spine faded and duraseal cover damaged with piece missing from rear, wrapper undamaged and intact but price clipped. £150

M 6 **The Fulmar**. First edition, fine in like d/w, minor chips and insignificant tears. Some spotting on d/w and edges. £150

M8 **Ants**. First edition, fine in like d/w, owners name on front endpaper. £150

M10 **Mumps Measles and Mosaics**. First edition, fine in like d/w, small piece missing at top of spine and top edge of front cover. £150

M19 **The House Sparrow**. First edition, ex lib with usual library stamps, fine in unmarked d/w, spine slightly faded. £50

M20 **The Wood Pigeon**. First edition, fine in d/w, slight sunning to spine and slight spotting on top edges. £75

WANTED

M 7 **Fleas, Flukes and Cuckoos**. First edition, fine in d/w.

Please contact Steve Davies on 07976 664635 or e-mail: steve.davies@mazars.co.uk

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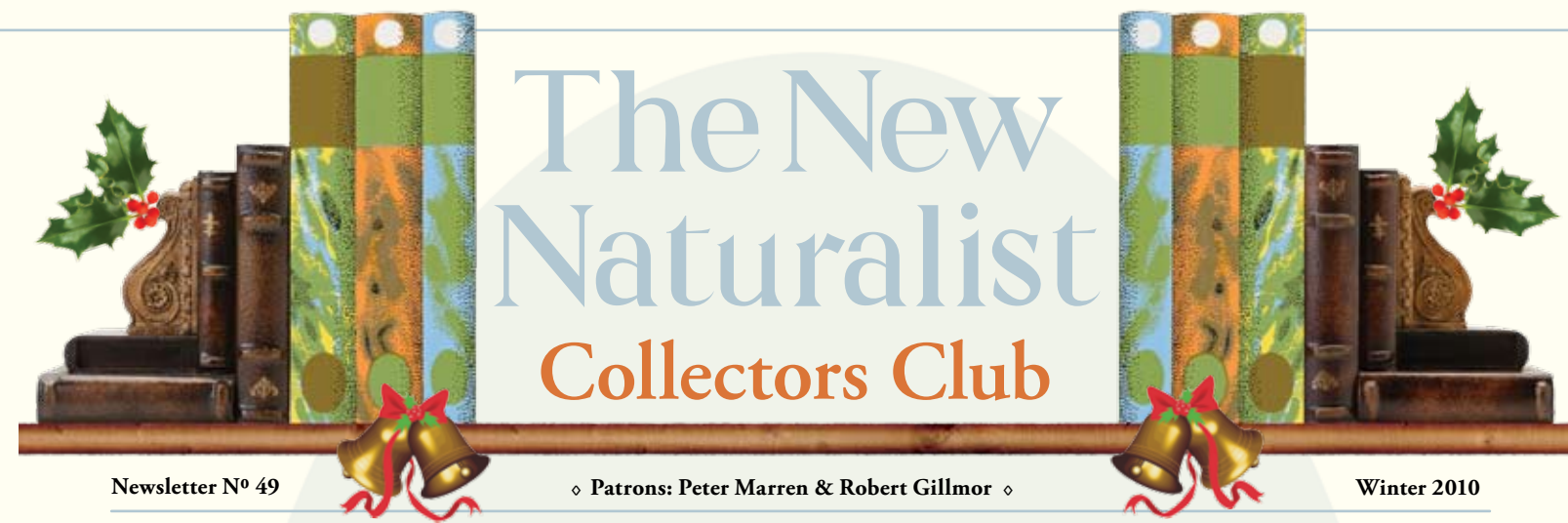
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Newsletter N° 49

Patrons: Peter Marren & Robert Gillmor

Winter 2010

Dear Member,

Autumn seems to have ended with a series of wintry storms and with the arrival of some of our exciting winter visiting birds such as Waxwings. Although, only a few days ago I had the great pleasure of watching a beautiful red admiral butterfly feeding on ivy blossom in the garden. The weather forecasters are predicting a particularly cold winter ahead no doubt giving us all the chance to read, or perhaps re-read, some of this year's crop of New Naturalist titles. And possibly read some of the old inspirational and classic books such as **Wild Orchids of Britain** and **Wild Flowers of Chalk and Limestone**.

Plans for the New Naturalist second symposium are well under way with more than half of the tickets sold within a month of them going on sale. The Club has invited Sir David Attenborough to be a special guest of honour. Sir David has accepted the invitation providing it does not clash with any of his filming commitments. Quite a few New Naturalist authors will be attending the event and we are hopeful that we can top the twenty authors which attended the first symposium in October 2009. The event will be held on Monday 6th June at Nature in Art, Gloucester. Please contact the club if you would like any further information or would like to reserve your tickets.

There are three New Naturalist titles due for publication next year:

NN 116 PLANT PESTS
by David Alford

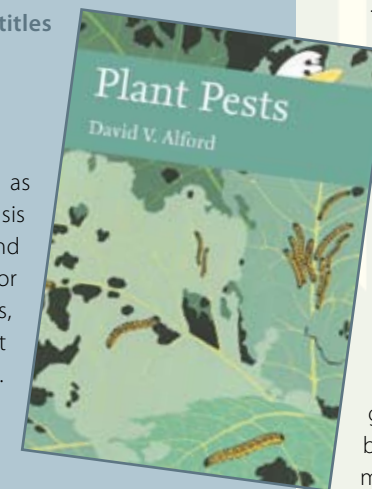
This book will review pests such as insects and mites with an emphasis places mainly on arable and horticultural field crops. The author also examines the impact of pesticides, climate change, crop management practices and the farming landscape.

Publication date: 6th January 2011

NN 117 PLANT GALLS
by Margaret Redfern

Surprisingly little is known about plant galls, the mechanisms that cause gall formation and the life cycles of the organisms that initiate gall growth. Plant galls have been known since ancient times, both the ancient Greeks and Chinese used them in herbal medicine and in later times they had a variety of commercial uses. The author discusses the ecology of galls, their evolution and distribution and human and historical perspectives.

Publication date: 31st March 2011



NN 118 MARCHES by David Allott

The borderland between England and Wales is known as the Welsh Marches and is made up of a mixture of mountains, moorlands, farmland and wooded river valleys. This rural, sparsely-populated area has a unique identity, inextricably linked to the activities of man across many thousands of years. The author presents a complete survey and natural history of the area focusing on man's impact on the region and its changing wildlife.

Publication date: 1st September 2011

As well as the three main titles in the New Naturalist library, there will also be the publication of **COLLECTING THE NEW NATURALISTS**. This book will offer a detailed insight into the fascinating phenomenon that has gripped Britain since just after World War II and which reflects the country's continued enthusiasm for wildlife and nature publishing. With previously unpublished in-depth insight into the workings of the series and its collectors, the book will comprehensively cover every aspect of the New Naturalist series.

Publication date: 9th June 2011

On a recent visit to Robert Gillmor at his home on the north Norfolk coast, I had the opportunity to watch him cutting away sheets of linoleum for the latest New Naturalist jacket, **Plant Pests**. After being shown the rough visual drawn with coloured pencils, I was then treated to observing the master at work. The final artwork is one of Robert's finest New Naturalist jackets which is a subtle and minimalist design using a range of green colours and nuances.



Robert has also recently designed a set of six stamps featuring garden birds. These were issued as the first set of pictorial stamps to be issued from the new self-service terminals in post offices. At the moment only 30 post offices across the country offer this service but it is worth tracking your nearest branch down to buy the stamps. This will actually be the first of four sets of bird stamps. The others, also of six stamps, will be a further set of garden birds, followed by water birds and finally by sea and shore birds later next year.



On 10th November HarperCollins launched their Print on Demand dust jackets. These are apparently identical to those produce for the print on demand books and clearly state that they are POD facsimiles and they are also printed on laminated paper, making them more durable. **These are only available on the HarperCollins website and are priced at £12.50 each.**

Collins have also produced a special New Naturalist calendar featuring jacket artwork by Clifford and Rosemary Ellis. As well as the artwork, this spiral bound calendar has a full page monthly planner which includes details of forthcoming New Naturalist publication dates and the eagerly anticipated 2nd New Naturalist symposium. This is the first New Naturalist calendar and the 12 images were carefully selected by the Collins New Naturalist editor Julia Koppitz. **The calendar is priced at £20.00 and is exclusive to the New Naturalist website.** To order a copy, log onto www.newnaturalists.com

On a recent visit to Cambridge I was delighted to meet the most senior author of the New Naturalist library. Dr Colin Butler, author of *The World of the Honeybee* and co-author with John Free of *Bumblebees*, has now reached the grand age of 98. We enjoyed a conversation about many things including his professional career at Rothamsted Research station as head of bee research and latterly head of entomology, writing the New Naturalist books and his retirement to Cornwall. Colin remains as enthusiastic as ever and it was a great pleasure to meet him.



Please send in any articles or advertisements for the spring newsletter to arrive by the end of March. Enclosed with this newsletter will be an application/renewal form. Please complete this and return it with your subscription. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support during 2010 and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Best wishes and happy collecting

Tim Bernhard

Birds at the Front in France

The most interesting article in Newsletter No. 48 by John Gittins struck an immediate chord with me, recalling a chapter in an evocative and now largely forgotten little book by the splendid Oxford classics scholar and naturalist William Warde Fowler (1847 – 1921). The book is 'Essays in Brief for War-Time, 1916', and the chapter in question is 'Birds at the Front in France'.

Warde Fowler was inspired to write on this topic after reading a piece in 'The Times' on March 2nd 1916, entitled 'Birds at the Front'. 'It is the work of an officer with a true instinct for birds,' he writes, 'and it is one of those precious reminiscences of the war, and indeed of one of the hottest corners of the war, that must not be allowed to disappear.' Warde Fowler then proceeds, in a brief chapter of some six or seven pages, to recall some of the experiences of his correspondents ~ mainly his former undergraduates at Oxford ~ who were now, in 1916, serving in France. One young man had written from Flanders: 'Last night, by the way, I heard a Little Owl, or something jolly like it. Are they supposed to inhabit Flanders?' 'Yes,' he had replied, 'the Little

Owl is common enough in Flanders', but, alas, he heard no more from this young friend, who gave his life for the great cause before he had time to write again.

We hear of the Icterine Warbler identified by a soldier on the ramparts of Ypres, and another officer describes how he and a friend were walking from their billet when they heard a clear whistle which they agreed came from a Golden Oriole. They subsequently discovered a nest, which they observed for the next few days. Behind the front, along the marais of the Somme, the loud voice of the Great Reed Warbler attracted the attention of the same officer. And during the 2nd battle of Ypres, another species ~ unfamiliar to watchers in England ~ 'had the distinction of having had its nest discovered on the field of battle, and even during an interval in the fighting.' This was the Crested Lark.

Warde Fowler tells of Nightingales too. One of his young correspondents writes: 'On May 13th, at 3 a.m., in the garden of my chateau, I heard a Nightingale begin to sing. Half an hour afterwards, German shells were rained upon the garden incessantly throughout the day. The bird sang without a pause where the shells fell thickest until midday, and survived, for next morning he started again as cheerily as ever.' 'Truly a brave bird,' Warde Fowler concludes, '...and a fitting companion for a brave British officer, who of his own peril from those shells says not a word.'

Finally I found the passage which I had recalled after reading John Gittins' article: 'Another brave British officer, my friend Capt. A.W.Boyd, has lately contributed to The Zoologist a most interesting paper on the birds of the Dardanelles.....'

Many, if not all, of Warde Fowler's correspondents did not return to tell him in person of the birds they observed and studied at the Front, so he was left with just their hastily written notes. His poignant conclusion reminds us of the horrors of all conflicts, near and far, long ago and more recent: 'The spring is coming; I picked white violets yesterday, and primroses were brought to us in the evening. Soon the nightingales will be here, to pass the summer safely in quiet coverts; but across the water the relentless, weary war goes on.....'

Warde Fowler wrote several books on birds, in addition to his better known academic books on Greek and Roman history, literature and religion. These are 'A Year with the Birds' (1886) and 'Summer Studies of Birds and Books' (1895). His most important studies were of the Marsh Warbler in Oxfordshire. In addition there are two charming collections of stories for children ~ 'Tales of the Birds' (1888) and 'More Tales of the Birds' (1902). He was the subject of a biography published by Blackwell in 1934, and some of his best known works were assembled into a collection called 'Warde Fowler's Countryside ~ Impressions of a Victorian Naturalist', edited by Gordon Ottewell (Severn House, 1985). Several New Naturalist authors mention his work in their bibliographies, and occasionally in the main text (for example, 'The Redstart', pages 127 and 129).

New Naturalist Spin-Offs: Part II in a Never-Ending Series

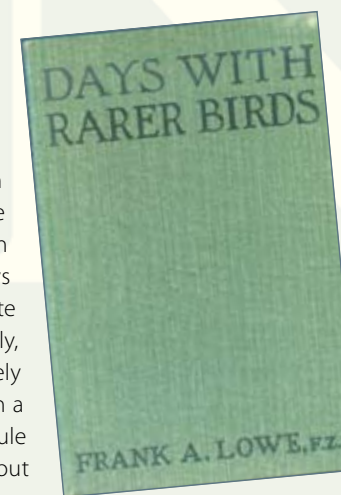
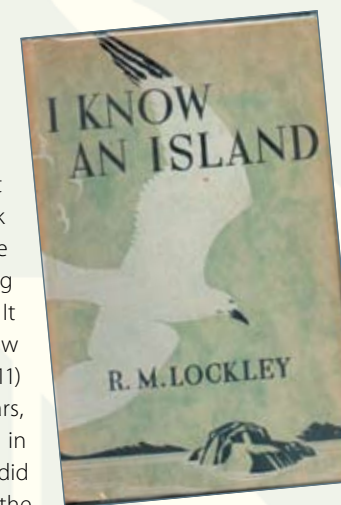
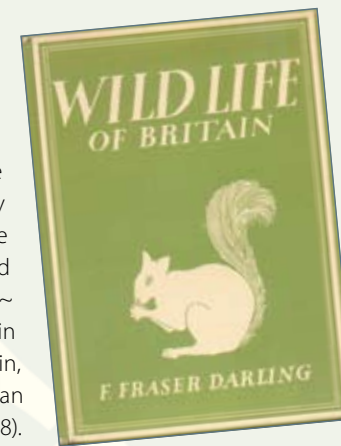
In a previous newsletter (No.42) I wrote about some of the books with a New Naturalist connection which I have discovered and enjoyed over the past few years ~ biographies and autobiographies, collections of papers and letters, and even novels and children's books written by some of the authors of one or more volume in our series. The reaction to this article by fellow enthusiasts has been encouraging, and as a result many more books have come

to light. In particular I must thank Sam Berry for his enormous list of books to join the 'companion' set, which appeared in the next newsletter (No.43), although his suspicion that I may have 'opened a can of worms' has I hope proved unfounded. No 'can of worms', Sam, ~ more a 'box of delights'. And if I have helped to create 'a bonanza for second-hand booksellers', then fine ~ they need all the help they can get!

Sam rightly mentioned several volumes in the 'Britain in Pictures' series written by New Naturalist authors, and they are indeed well worth a good look ~ just one is shown ('Wildlife of Britain', by F.Fraser Darling, Collins, 1943). The large output of works by Ronald Lockley is another challenge ~ but try finding nice first editions in good wrappers! Not so easy. Again, just one is illustrated here ('I Know an Island', by R.M.Lockley, Harrap, 1938).

It is always a thrill to find something unexpected. Recently a small green book attracted my attention on a bookseller's stand at the Rutland Water Bird fair. Closer inspection revealed that it was 'Days with Rarer Birds' by Frank A. Lowe, published in 1934 by the rather obscure 'Trefoil Publishing Company' (see illustration). It predates his well-known New Naturalist Monograph (NNM 11) 'The Heron' by a full twenty years, and, as the series editors stated in their preface to that book, he did not write another book between the two. Instead he was spending hundreds of hours studying the heronry on the Scarisbrick Estate between Ormskirk and Southport, and writing a regular nature column for the Bolton Evening News. My copy of 'The Heron' dates from the 1960's, when I was living in the same area. 'Days with Rarer Birds' was an exquisite find for me, of the sort that, sadly, seldom happens now. Unfortunately it was 'jacketless' as it lay there on a table, but for once I broke my rule about never buying books without their wrappers and brought it home for a very small amount of money.

How strange it is now to read of his encounters with these 'rarer' birds! In order to observe breeding Avocets, he had to travel to the island of Texel, by the Zuider Zee, but he could still, very rarely, find the nests of Kentish Plover on the coasts of Kent and Sussex! Black-tailed Godwits, Black Terns, Merlins and Great Skuas.....just a few of the species described from the author's personal observations at home and abroad, and illustrated with his own photographs. There is even a



chapter on the St. Kilda Wren. Frank Lowe visited St Kilda in June 1929, just a few months before the island was evacuated, and he makes one premonitory reference to a Heron he observed there: 'One morning I was surprised to see an old Heron fishing in Parson's Bay, St. Kilda. When I came to make inquiries from the islanders as to whether the Heron was a usual visitor, I was informed that a bird of this species came to fish, not infrequently, during the breeding time. The nearest heronry being at Dunvegan, on the Isle of Skye, it is thus reasonable to assume that Herons will travel fifty miles to a fishing ground.....'

So yes, a 'box of delights' indeed! And now I just need to find 'Days with Rarer Birds' in a wrapper!

An Important Norfolk Natural History Book Sale

Dr Ted Ellis was a very well-known and respected East Anglian naturalist (1909–1986) as well as the author of 'The Broads' (1965) number 46 of the New Naturalist series. This was one of the few New Naturalist series with a photographic dust jacket. Ted spent the period 1928 to 1956 working in the Natural History Department at Norwich Castle Museum and lived at a cottage at Wheatfen Broad, a few miles to the east of Norwich. This permitted him to record and research the rich wildlife of his home area, later committed into the Broads book, which catalogues the natural history of the area in more intimate detail than any other New Naturalist book before, or since.

Although departed from his daily newspaper column and radio and television programs for some fifteen years now, his memory as 'the people's naturalist' is far from forgotten and The Wheatfen Trust (www.wheatfen.org) looks after his home acres and makes them available to interested visitors.

I had known and admired Ted Ellis since my teenage years, and joined the same Norfolk museum's natural history staff some ten years after he left, to spend forty years working there.

I heard that some of the Ted Ellis book collection was to be auctioned at Keys at Aylsham in north Norfolk, partly to pay for some renovation of the Wheatfen cottage, and partly to fulfil the family's wish to give the chance for many people to share a small piece of their beloved Ted Ellis. I too wanted to own some of Ted's working library – more as a mark of respect, than for any altruistic reason! Not least was the possibility of acquiring a few more towards my incomplete set of New Naturalist.



The Aylsham sale site on 27th May 2010 thronged with people all day, coming and going, bidding for specific lots, some going away empty-handed as lots reached higher than expected prices, due to the provenance, but most local Ted Ellis admirers managed to go away with some small picture or booklet as a memento of the great man from the 200 lots. My prizes included *The Hawfinch* 1957, *Squirrels* 1954, *Ants*, an 18 shilling copy sent to Ted for review in 1953, and *Lords and Ladies*, with letter, sent to Ted from the author's widow.

What great eyes have read these volumes and which clever fingers have turned the pages?

John Goldsmith