

# Malham Tarn

## Wildlife & Weather Report

### 2006



## Brian Shorrock

Weather Report and Photographs by

## Robin Sutton

**FSC**

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## **2006 Wildlife Report – A Summary**

Paul Holmes in his "Birds of Malham Moor", published in 1960, recorded 142 species. Since then 57 more have been added to now total 199 (a Brent Goose in May was the only new species for 2006). Only four of the 142 have become extinct in the area, if we include Barn Owl – a species that would always have been a rarity at this altitude. The other three are Black Grouse, Corncrake and Marsh Tit.

The following 18 have decreased, alarmingly in some cases: Red Grouse, Gray Partridge, Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Woodcock, Stock Dove, Cuckoo, Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Redstart, Song Thrush, Ring Ouzel, Common Whitethroat, Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Redpoll and House Sparrow.

Thankfully 22 have increased or colonised over this 56 year period, some welcome others less so, list as follows: Cormorant, Canada Goose, Shelduck, Mallard, Pintail, Wigeon, Goldeneye, Buzzard, Little Owl, Red-legged Partridge, Pheasant, Coot, Oystercatcher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Stonechat, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Nuthatch, Jackdaw, Goldfinch, Long-tailed Tit and Magpie.

With a glorious sunny, very warm summer, particularly July, the butterfly season was the best since I started taking an interest in them five years ago. Dark Green Fritillaries were seen almost anywhere, in unprecedented numbers and even moving from their Highfolds stronghold to Chapel Fell and over to Thoragill. It is hoped that Speckled Wood will firmly establish itself in Tarn Woods over the next few years as numbers are increasing rapidly on lower ground outside the Tarn recording area.

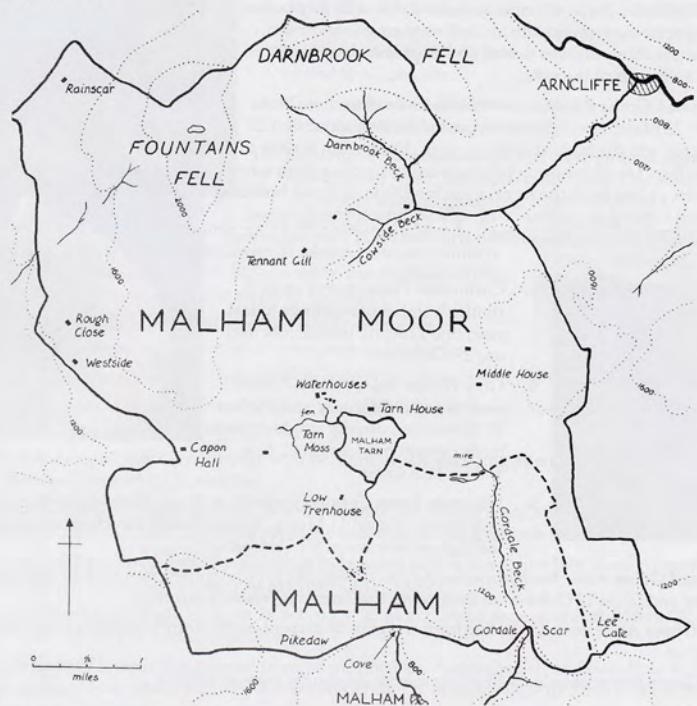
I would like to thank the following who have contributed records over the year, firstly co-editor Robin Sutton, who also provided the photographs, weather report and word processed the report, and also:

Richard Mann, Stuart Ralph, Keith Mudd, Ian Court, Colin Straker, Denis Lord, Gerald Light, Tony Bullough, Martin Davies, Dr. Martin Holmes, Adrian Pickles, Jacqueline Stevens and David Hodgson – apologies for any omissions.

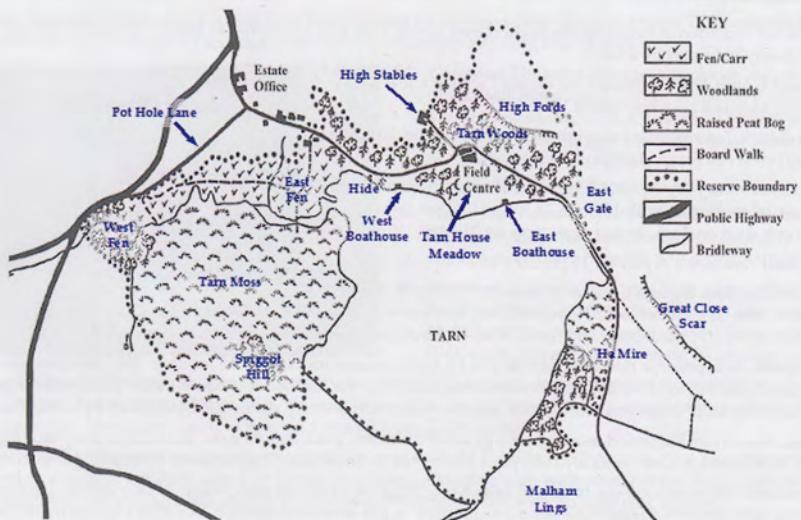
**Brian Shorrock**

January 2007

Area covered by this report

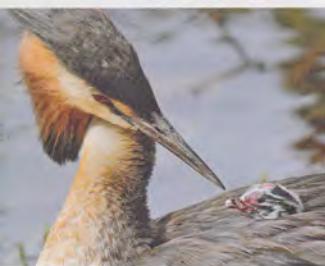


Malham Tarn NNR



## Birds

- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Two pairs bred in the Inflow Bay near the bird hide. Early attempts failed and it was 27 July before any young appeared, eventually at least six young were raised. Maximum count in year was twelve on 7 September, six birds wintered both ends of the year.
- Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* No more than three birds January to 22 March, twelve present on 25 March, eighteen on 25 March which was the highest count in year. Nine nests, mainly in the Inflow Bay. On 20 June one pair hatched two young from a nest only a metre or less from the front of the bird hide. Overall breeding success was better than average with at least fifteen young raised, birds gradually left over the autumn with one on 21 November and two on 8 December.



- Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* A similar number of sightings to last year, one 12 April, two 22 July and one 29 October.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* First of year was on 9 February and the last 29 November, usually single or two birds present but four on 22 July and on 11 August.
- Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* Nine flying West-North-West over the Tarn on 9 March and on 11 March, flying in same direction, an impressive 80, the highest ever count for Tarn area.
- Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* A typical year, 60 on 19th January, skeins of 50 and 126 on 22 January and 50 on 12 October all flying over the Tarn in a Westerly direction.
- Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* Up to five birds irregularly present on the Tarn South Shore field from 15 April to 22 August.
- Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* Monthly maximum counts were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	12	5	6	4	175	140	14	33	47	40	20

The 175 recorded in June was the highest ever count. One pair attempted to breed but failed, the nest probably predated by a fox.

- Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla* One on the Tarn for a few hours on 21 May is a new species for the area.
- Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* Just three records, one on 10 March, two on 30 April and eight on 2 November.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Recorded all months, peak counts as usual in August with 100+ on 22 August. Four or five broods seen on Tarn, first of these was on 21 May.
- Pintail** *Anas acuta* A pair on 14 January was the only record.
- Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* One on 15 August, then up to five birds from 15 October to 12 November; the best showing since 1980 but still far removed from the 1970s when up to five pairs bred and flocks of 50-60 birds occurred in autumn.
- Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Recorded January to 14 April, maximum c100 on 16 January. Two returned on 31 August and by mid October numbers had reached 200+, the highest ever count in the Tarn recording area. Practically all of these were feeding on aquatic plants accidentally discarded by Coot and Canada Geese.
- Teal** *Anas crecca* Recorded most months in small numbers, peak counts were 24 on 26 January and eighteen on 26 November. One, possibly two, pairs attempted to breed near Tarn with no obvious signs of success.
- Pochard** *Aythya ferina*. Peak counts in year were 200 on 20 February and 150 on 29 November. Up to six birds were present during June but no suggestion of any breeding attempt. A rather curious hybrid was on the Tarn from 8-16 April and again on 25 May. Apart from its head, which was chocolate brown, it showed all the characteristics of the American Redhead *Aythya americana*.





17. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Present all months, peak count 130 on 25 July. First brood appeared on 2 July and by 22 July five broods were on the Tarn totalling 36 young – most of which survived. A further late brood, of eight on 22 August, were probably all predated.

18. **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* Two males and one female on 18 September for a few hours only.

19. **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* In early months, maximum count was 23 on 14 April, last seen on 30 April. One returned on 15 October with no more than eight to year end.

20. **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* A pair from 13 February to 11 March, three females on 25 February and one female on 31 March. Similar numbers in autumn with one female on 8 and 29 September, five redheads flying North-East on 1 October and one female on 23 October.

21. **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* One female on 2 April then from 30 August to 2 November up to four birds were present on the Tarn.

22. **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* Single birds on 15 August, Tarn Moss, and on 10 November near Capon Hall.

23. **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Recorded all months, usually single birds but two in April and September. One pair at a site in the breeding season probably failed.



24. **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* A poor year with no signs of any breeding attempt and only twelve records of single birds from February to November.

25. **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Sightings in all months, usually one or two birds but with six on 12 and 20 September. One pair on Great Close Scar probably failed as did another pair near Darnbrook.

26. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* Two sightings in January, two in April, five July, three August and three in November. One pair bred successfully at Malham Cove.

27. **Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Single birds on 24 February, 25 March and 8 August and at Rough Close on 19 December were the only records.

28. **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus* Still present in small numbers on Fountains Fell and near Dale Head. Not seen on Tarn Moss since 1995 where formerly a few pairs bred. There seems little likelihood of recolonisation.

29. **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* Pairs were recorded near Globe Flower Wood, Stangill, Great Close Scar, Chapel Fell and Low Trenhouse. A covey often near Middle House on 29 October suggestive of successful breeding in that vicinity.

30. **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix* A pair near Waterhouses on 29 March was the only record. It is probable that the increasing Red-legged Partridge population is adversely affecting this species.



31. **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* Two records of successful breeding, female with two young at Tarn House Meadow on 4 July and a female with five young near Spiggot Hill on 11 July. Peak counts in Tarn Woods were 14 on 8 April, 21 on 31 October and 18 on 5 December.

32. **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* As last year one heard calling on the Fen in late December, probably present more often than the few records suggest.

33. **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Four pairs located - on the Fen, Street Gate Stream, East Gate and near Bird Hide. Juveniles were later seen at all these localities. Peak count in year was seven on 30 January.

34. **Coot** *Fulica atra* Peak count in early months was c420 on 7 February. A non-breeding flock of 40 was present in June and broods of one, three, two, five and three were on the Tarn on 8 July – most of these fledged successfully. Maximum count to year-end was c800 on 12 December.

35. **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* Recorded in area from 13 February to 7 August. One pair attempted to breed on roadside wall top near Kiln House but failed. One pair seen with young at the Tarn Outflow on 15 June eventually raised one young. At least two other pairs bred with no apparent success.

36. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* At the Tarn Outflow stream one was present on 8 July with two the following day. These constitute the first records for fifty-five years. The only other records are of single birds on Great Close Mire on 12 June 1950 and 2 June 1951.



37. **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* Two in a field near Pot Hole Lane on a foggy morning on 19 April (Martin Davies). The only previous records are one at Fountains Fell on 14 September 1952, two at the same site on 28 May 1955, two on 6 May 1973 and five near the Tarn Outflow on 7 May 1986.

38. **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Four near Street Gate on 12 January was an early record. Near Dale Head were eight on 11 March and eighteen on both 19 and 22 March, c500 near Lea Gate on 13 April, 20 on Fountains Fell on 17 April – four pairs here on 28 April. Only singles later in the year near Darnbrook on 20 July and near the Tarn on 13 September and 1 & 3 October.

39. **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Records in every month of the year. Three pairs near Dale Head, two near Rainscar, three at Tarn Outflow, one pair at Street Gate Pasture and one or two pairs at Great Close Mire. Breeding success appeared to be low as usual. Maximum count in year was 90 on 13 February.

40. **Knot** *Calidris canutus* One near Tarn Outflow on 28 January, only two other records of single birds on 14 November 1949 and 27 April 1993.

41. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* Three on 24 May and four on 25 May on the South Shore of the Tarn, an unusual number of June records near Tarn Outflow stream hinting at possible breeding here with one on 7, five on 10, one on 15, 20, 27 & 30 June. Single bird at same site 8 and 21 July. One seen on Fountains Fell summit plateau on 8 June would relate to a breeding bird. One near Tarn on 12 October was last record for year.

42. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* Two records of single birds, near the Bird Hide on 21 July and at a small pond near Capon Hall on 26 July.



43. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Recorded from 16 April to 29 July, no more than three birds at any one time, only one known pair, near Tarn Outflow, and this was possibly successful.

44. **Redshank** *Tringa totanus* The first sighting was a single bird near Tarn on 22 March and the last on 3 August. One pair at Rough Close Farm on 29 March but not seen later, three pairs below Tarn Outflow and a pair at Middle House Ponds – at least six young fledged from these four pairs.

45. **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* One on South Shore field on 22 August is only the second ever record for the Tarn area, eleven at the same site on 22 April 1993 is the other one.

46. **Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Two on 17 February were the first of the returning birds, flocks on Tarn Moss of c100 on 30 February, 250 on 22 March, 120 on 3 April 3, c250 on 27 June and a similar number on 11 July. Last sighting was rather late on 12 November.



47. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Single birds flighting over Tarn on 11, 20 & 25th May.

48. **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* All records came from Tarn Fen, one on 17 January, two on 2 & 6 March, one on 20 & 26 March. In autumn one on 5 & 9 November with two on 2 December.

49. **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Some birds probably winter on Tarn Moss, one here on 9 January and two on 30 January with one on 29 November. Displaying birds were seen on Malham Lings, Street Gate Pasture, Tarn Moss, Fountains Fell and Great Close Mire. Maximum count in year was ten on 1 October.

50. **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocryptes minimus* One flushed up on Tarn Moss on 14 February.

51. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Two near Tarn Outflow on 21 May fifth record for area.

52. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* No change in status, still a non-breeding visitor throughout the year.

53. **Common Gull** *Larus canus* Present in area January to 30 April, one returned 15 July, abundant in November with 800 on on 17 November and 400 on 29 November.

54. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Small numbers in winter months, common other times of the year. Maximum counts were 40 near Middle House on 4 July, 60 at the South Shore of the Tarn on 7 August and c250 here on 20 September.

55. **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* Single birds on 16 January, 20 March and 28 April.

56. **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* Mainly a winter visitor, rare during summer months. Peak counts were in December with fourteen on 1 December and eleven on 3 December.

57. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* One over Tarn, not specifically identified, on 2 June was probably this species rather than the following.

58. **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* One on 31 August over the Tarn.

59. **Stock Pigeon** *Columba oenas* Two near Capon Hall on 15 February was the only record.
60. **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* Present in Tarn Woods from 13 February to 22 November, again very little beechmast to enable this species to stay in winter. Maximum count was only twelve on 11 August.
61. **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* Only two records for this declining species, one calling on Tarn Fen on 25 April and one calling near Rainscar on 8 June.
62. **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* No sign of any successful breeding attempts in Tarn Woods, apparently the small mammal population was very low in early 2006.
63. **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* One pair raised at least two young at a nest site not far from Waterhouses, possibly other pairs in area with two near Globe Flower Wood on 6 March and one Thoragill on 1 October.
64. **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* One pair probably attempted to breed on Tarn Moss, one seen carrying food to a site near Spiggot Hill in April, but no signs of any success. One or two birds were also seen near Capon Hall and on Chapel Fell during the breeding season. Recorded in the area from 8 February to 16 September.
65. **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* With two roadside breeding sites now unsuitable, sightings were well down on past years. One seen a few times at eastern end of Great Close Scar and one on lower slopes of Chapel Fell but no proven breeding.
66. **Swift** *Apus apus* First record was of 12 over the Tarn on 2nd May, 30+ at same locality on 20 June, last recorded on 2 August.
67. **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* A single bird, probably the same one that appeared on 24 September 2005 was present at the Tarn from January to 15 April. This is the first instance ever of a bird wintering here. One reappeared on 26 August and was seen irregularly until 14 November.
68. **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* One at Highfolds on 11 May was the only record.
69. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Two were heard drumming rather early on 22 January. One, or probably two, pairs attempted to breed. Juveniles were seen late June so at least one pair was successful.
70. **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* First of year was a single bird on 9 February with a flock of 40 near Low Trenhouse 18 February and c100 near Lea Gate 13 April in a cold spell. Bred on Malham Lings and the slopes of Fountains Fell, last record 22 September.
71. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* One on 10 April was the first and five on 31 August were the last. Like 2005 there were no signs of any breeding activity in Tarn Moss peat bank until 26 July, when eight or so birds were seen entering holes. At this late date successful breeding could hardly have taken place.
72. **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* First recorded at Dale Head on 10 April, bred Tarn House, Low Trenhouse, Tennant Ghyll, Keepers Cottage (two broods reared) and Waterhouses. First juveniles were seen 25 June. Last record 21 September.
73. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* recorded from 23 April to 15 September. One pair bred at Tarn House for the first time for many years. Also bred at Waterhouses, Tennant Ghyll and Low Trenhouse.
74. **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* 25 March was a later than normal first sighting, one pair back at a regular breeding site on 3rd April. Bred commonly throughout the area. Flock of 60 on 18 September, with majority departing by the end of October or early November. On Tarn Moss three on 29 November and one on 2 December presumably birds attempting to winter.
75. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* A flock of 20 flying west along the southern edge of Tarn on 29 April was highly unusual considering the present day rarity of this species in area. Only two other records: single birds on Tarn Moss on 30 April and on Tarn Fen on 30 August.
76. **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* An early record of one at Darnbrook on 15 February with no more until 20 March. First juveniles of year on 20 June, last recorded 1 November.
77. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Recorded from 20 April to 22 August. Two, possibly three, pairs bred between Tarn Outflow and Low Trenhouse. At least three pairs Waterhouses to Darnbrook, one pair Newhouse Farm and two males in a meadow near Middle House on 13 June. First juvenile noted near Stangill on 13 July.
78. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* Just the usual passage birds near the Tarn, in spring one on 20 March, one on 25 March and two on 26 March. In autumn two on 9 September and singles on 1 & 8 October with a late bird on 4 November.
79. **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* No more than two birds in Tarn Woods until end of March, seven in song on 3 April with at least ten by 14 April. No more than three birds November/December.
80. **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* Three pairs located on Tarn Estate, one near West Boat House, pair plus three juveniles here 14th June, a pair near Sandhill Cottage and another near Tarn House. The status of this species is unchanged from 1960 when Paul Holmes recorded two to four resident pairs. Away from Tarn Estate bred High and possibly Low Trenhouse and in a conifer copse not far from Capon Hall.



81. **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* One pair again bred in stone cutting near Tarn House, successfully having two broods and fledgling at least six young. Some movement of passage birds through Tarn Woods takes place most years, typically 20+ on 16 September and 10+ on 12 October in 2006.
82. **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Breeding numbers low, similar to last year. One pair near West Boat House bred successfully. One pair between Hide and Sandhill and a singing bird at West Fen. First of year on 20 April, last on 12 August.
83. **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* A male on 24 March was the first record. One on summit plateau of Fountains Fell on 28 April was possibly a Greenland Race bird. Ten adults and juveniles near Great Close Scar on 9 August. Last seen on 9 September.
84. **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* Like 2005 just single passage birds, near Low Trenhouse on 22 August and 16 September.
85. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* In spring single birds on 7 March near Henside, 9 March near Capon Hall and near the Tarn on 25 March. A juvenile near Low Trenhouse on 17 June and 27 July would suggest breeding nearby. From 29 September to 2 December eight sightings, usually single birds but four on 8 October.
86. **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* Two arrived back on 17 February. A slight increase again this year, with seven singing birds on 15 April on Tarn Estate plus one pair at High Trenhouse. Passage in autumn not very obvious, six on 22 September the peak count. Last seen on 1 November.
87. **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Recorded from 7 February to 31 March, no more than twenty at any time, then from 12 October to 29 November, maximum count 80 on 27 October.
88. **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* One or two birds throughout the year. One pair bred successfully near Sandhill Cottage, with possibly other pairs at Waterhouse, and East Gate Tarn Woods. Peak count in year twelve on 22 September.
89. **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Present January to a late bird on 21 May. Peak count 500 on 2 April. First of return was a rather later than normal on 27 October with no more than c150 to year end in spite of an abundance of rowan and hawthorn berries.
90. **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* A few pairs bred in Tarn Woods. Peak counts were in passage periods March/April, twelve on 20 March and October/November, fifteen on 29 October and twenty on 3 November. Practically all these birds were males.
91. **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* First record was a singing bird near Dale Head on 11 March which was the earliest ever record, otherwise, one at Rainscar on 28 March, where one pair bred, one Great Close Scar on 3 April. From 8-14 April, in a cold spell, up to eight birds were regularly seen between East Gate of Tarn Woods and Great Close Scar – a highly unusual event. The last spring record was a male on Chapel Fell on 23 April and there was just one autumn record of a male at East Gate of Tarn Woods on 27 September.
92. **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* One in song Sandhill Cottage area on 30 April was an early record, a bird feeding young seen here on 8 July. One singing near Tarn House on 21 May was presumably a passage bird as it was not heard again.
93. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* Recorded from 29 April to 7 September. Eight singing birds on 6 June: one West Fen, one Sandhill, two near West Boat House, two near Tarn House, one near East Gate and one Highfolds. One male plus two juveniles near Sandhill on 24 July. A bird ringed near Malham Tarn House as a 2nd calendar year male on 13 June 2004 was controlled at Heysham Observatory 17 September 2005.
94. **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Arrived on 27 April on West Fen where two pairs bred. Juveniles seen on 30 June and 21 July, last recorded on 31 August.
95. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Recorded on 16 April, later than usual, to 9 September. Breeding numbers probably lower than last year so continuing a rather worrying decline.
96. **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* In contrast to the above species, has shown a marked increase over the last few years. Whilst breeding has never been proven it must surely be taking place. First of year was much later than normal, not until 28 April. Two or three birds between Sandhill Cottage and Bird Hide throughout summer, last recorded on 29 September.
97. **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* First of year on 3 April and the last on 29 November. No signs of any breeding attempt but a pair could easily be missed.
98. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* First record 15 May. Probably bred High Stables, in the Stone Cutting near Tarn House, near Waterhouses and possibly Spiggot where one bird was on 3 July. First juvenile seen on 27 July, last seen on 25 August.

99. **Great Tit** *Parus major* At least six pairs bred in Tarn Woods. First juveniles seen 20 June. This species would appear to have had a good breeding season.
100. **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* One found dead (possibly the bird depicted in last year's Wildlife Report) had been ringed near Tarn House as a second year bird on 19 June 2002. It was picked up at Waterhouses on 17 January 2006 so would be a six year old. A nest box with camera near Tarn House fledged eight young and overall a good breeding season. Flock of 25 seen on 19 November.
101. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* Much the same as last year with 2-4 breeding pairs in Tarn Woods. One pair bred in Stone Cutting. First juveniles seen on 26 June. Four adults at a bird feeder on 16 September.
102. **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* Ten on 17 & 23 January were probably birds from 2005's October arrival. No more records until the customary October flock first seen on 23 October. Between eight and ten birds were then present until the end of the year.
103. **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* At least 4 pairs bred with an excellent success rate – Tarn Woods was ringing with their calls in late summer.
104. **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* 2 or 3 pairs bred. Possibly some of these birds leave the area in winter as only the odd bird is seen during this period. The only proof of successful breeding was a family party of six down Pot Hole Lane on 15 July.
105. **Maggie** *Pica pica* Just two pairs known, one around Sandhill Cottage and one in a conifer copse near Capon Hall, no sign of any success and no more than five birds seen at any time of year.
106. **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* A single bird near Tarn House on 9 November was the only record.
107. **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* Bred Waterhouses, ruined barn near Kiln House, Tarn House and possibly other sites, birds in late autumn frequented Great Close Scar – a potential nesting locality. Now well established throughout the year with hundreds roosting in Spigget Hill Wood.
108. **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* Bred Spigget Hill and Low Trenhouse. A winter flock of 100+ on 12 January was notable.
109. **Carriion Crow** *Corvus corone* A flock of twenty near Low Trenhouse on 16 October was the only record of note in the year. Bred Tarn Woods.
110. **Raven** *Corvus corax* Monthly sightings as follows: January two, February two, April four, August four, September two, October one, November three. In most instances single, or occasionally two, birds were seen. No known breeding attempts.
111. **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* One or two pairs bred on Tarn Estate. Some birds roosted at Low Trenhouse, a flock of 500+ here on 7 August and 2 December.
112. **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* A few birds winter and late February saw a beginning of a return with twenty on 17 February, thirty on 2 March and forty (in a cold snap) on feeders at Keeper's Cottage in late March and early April. Bred commonly in Tarn Woods. Late summer/autumn flocks of fifty on 27 September and 23 October. No more than ten birds in December.
113. **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* The only first period records were two on 29 March, two on 2 April and one on 16 April all at the bird feeders. Variable numbers in autumn from 23 October to 26 November with a flock of 100+ on 27 October.
114. **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* First of the return was a single bird at Low Trenhouse on 23 April. Five pairs between High and Low Trenhouse on 6 June. A pair near Capon Hall on 20 June, twelve adults and juveniles near Low Trenhouse on 22 July. A flock at Globe Flower Wood of c30 on 13 September with c70 here on 18 September. Last seen on 29 October.
115. **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris* Only a few early records, eight Dale Head on 31 March, ten Silverdale on 3 April and six Rough Close on 5 April. Autumnal flocks appear now to be a thing of the past.
116. **Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Five on 5 May on Tarn Fen where two broods were seen in late June, two here on 3 August and one near Keepers Cottage on 7 August, these constitute the only records for the area.





**117. Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Present throughout the year. Small numbers wintered aided by bird feeders at Waterhouses, Shepherd's and Keeper's Cottages. Bred Waterhouses, near Tarn House and probably at High and Low Trenhouse. First juvenile seen on 25 June. Late summer/autumn flocks were smaller and less frequent than in 2005, the only two of note were c30 at Tarn House Meadow on 8 September and c60 at Globe Flower Wood on 1 October.

**118. Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* A similar showing to Goldfinch. Present throughout the year in small numbers. One pair bred at Pot Hole Lane, one or more in Yews at Tarn House, probably near West Boathouse and at High Trenhouse. Family party of six seen down Pot Hole Lane on 31 July. A flock of eight on Fen 16 September were probably passage birds.

**119. Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* This species is either breeding around Waterhouses, or in nearby conifer plantations, at Darnbrook and near Capon Hall. At the bird feeders two on 20 February, four 15 on March, three on 3 April, two on 12 April and two 16 on April. Two seen down Pot Hole Lane 14 on June. Juveniles on Tarn Fen on 23 June and Pot Hole Lane on 31 July. In autumn ten on 8 October, six on 11 October and twelve on 15 October.

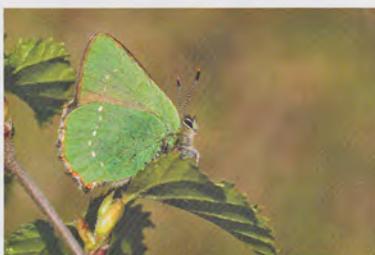
**120. Bullfinch** *Pyrhula pyrrhula* A male near Sandhill Cottage on 8 September was the only record.

**121. Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* One at bird feeder on 20 February was first of year. Two pairs bred on Fen, one pair near Capon Hall and one near Tarn Outflow. A male near Spiggot Hill on 7 June could also have been breeding nearby. A few passage birds in autumn with four on 13 October and ten on 3 November. One or two stayed on Tarn Fen until the year end with five on 23 December.

**122. Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* A flock of ten near Darnbrook late January/early February.

Species	First Seen	Last Seen
Ring Ouzel	11 March	27 September
Wheatear	24 March	9 September
Sand Martin	10 April	31 August
Swallow	10 April	21 September
Common Sandpiper	16 April	29 July
Willow Warbler	16 April	9 September
Redstart	20 April	12 August
Yellow Wagtail	20 April	22 August
House Martin	23 April	15 September
Sedge Warbler	27 April	31 August
Chiffchaff	28 April	29 September
Blackcap	29 April	7 September
Garden Warbler	30 April	-
Swift	2 May	2 August
Spotted flycatcher	15 May	25 August
Redwing	12 October	31 March
Fieldfare	27 October	21 May

*First and last dates of the main summer and winter visitors*



*Green Hairstreak*



*Common Blue*

## Butterflies

1. **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris* The first record was one on Tarn House Meadow 13th July, later sightings came from Highfolds, Chapel Fell, Tarn Moss and Thoragill, highest counts were 8 at Thoragill on 21 July and 17 at Tarn Moss on 24 July, last seen on 7 August.
2. **Large Skipper** *Ochlodes venata* One at Tarn Fen on 20 June was the first sighting, recorded thereafter from Tarn House Meadow, Highfolds, Tarn Moss and Thoragill. At the latter site a peak count of 28 on 17 July, both Skipper species had their best ever year.
3. **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* Singles on Tarn Fen on 8 May and 5 August are only the second and third records ever, both seen by Martin Davies.
4. **Large White** *Pieris brassicae* The only records were on the Fen with one on 7 August and three on 15 August.
5. **Small White** *Pieris rapae* Small numbers recorded from 17 June to 12 September, maximum 5 on 11 August.
6. **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* The commonest butterfly in the area, the main stronghold being Tarn Fen, recorded from 18 May to 15 September, peak counts were 80 on 6 June and 66 on 3 August.
7. **Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* All records came from the Fen and all were males, with one on 6 June, two on 7 June, one on 8 June and one on 17 June.
8. **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi* Seen at two new sites near Spiggot Hill on Tarn Moss, first recorded on Tarn Fen on 10 May, peak count here 25 on 25 May. Last record, rather surprisingly came from Highfolds' limestone slopes; are these on Rock Rose, *Hellianthemum chamaecistus*?
9. **Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* One near High Trenhouse 7 August and two Tarn House Meadow 21 August were the only records.
10. **Northern Brown Argus** *Aricia artaxerxes* First recorded on 4 June on Highfolds when five seen, there is obviously also a colony on Tarn House Meadow with four here on 3 July, last seen 22 July.
11. **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* A glorious sunny July enabled this species to appear in large numbers at many localities, typically after the first record on 17 June on roadside verges near Chapel Fell, 25 on Tarn House Meadow on 3 July, 58 Street Gate Pasture on 4 July, 41 near Tennant Gill Farm on 5 July, 20 Chapel Fell on 18 July, 18 Great Close Mire on 27 July and 39 at Thoragill on 10 August with smaller numbers on Tarn Fen and Highfolds. Last seen on 22 August.
12. **Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus* No records in 2006, only records are one from 1948 and another where the details are not known personally
13. **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* The first was on 13 June and the last on 13 October, recorded from the following sites – Tarn Fen and Moss, Tarn House Meadow, Thoragill, Highfolds and Tennant Gill. Numbers were quite small with a peak of 29 on 3 August
14. **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* Recorded from 13 June to 15 September, maximum 15 on 25 August near Spiggot Hill.
15. **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae* Singles, on 23 April and 10 June, the main emergence was from mid-July onwards with the last on 1 October, peak count 24 on Tarn Moss on 24 July.
16. **Peacock** *Inachis io* First seen on 27 April and the last on 21 September, a good year with high counts at times, typically 114 on 7 August and 64 on 25 August.
17. **Comma** *Polygonia c-album* One record, a single individual on Sedum at Keepers Cottage from 24–26 September.
18. **Dark Green Fritillary** *Argynnis aglaja* A bumper year with unprecedented numbers considering the species was only recorded for the first time in August 2000 and only a singleton at that. The first record of the year was on Highfolds on 30 June where 10 present on 11 July, 30 on lower slopes of Chapel Fell on 18 July, four Thoragill, a new site, on 21 July, 8 on Tarn Moss on 24 July with smaller numbers seen during this period on Tarn Fen, Tarn House Meadow and Ha Mire. Last recorded on 21 August.
19. **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus* No records in 2006. One Tarn House Meadow 14 August 2003 the only record.



Red Admiral



Comma



Dark Green Fritillary



Meadow Brown

20. **Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* Four records of single butterflies on Tarn House Meadow on 11 & 18 July, Pot Hole Lane on 28 July and at Waterhouses on 11 September.
21. **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* An excellent year, probably the best ever, the first was on 2 July and the last on 25 August. Recorded from the following localities, Highfolds, Tarn Moss, Tarn House Meadow, Thorogill, Great Close Mire and roadside verges below Chapel Fell. Peak counts were 37 at Tarn House Meadow on 24 July, 35 in the Fen area on 3 August and 28 on roadside verges on 7 August.

22. **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus* Recorded 17 July, when six on Highfolds, to 7 August. One at Thorogill on 18 July, four Tarn Moss on 24 July with singles on Fen, roadside verges and near Spiggot being the other records.

23. **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus* A good year from 6 June to a late individual in pristine condition on 12 September. Other records came from Highfolds, Malham Lings, Tarn Moss, Street Gate pasture, Tarn House Meadow, Tennant Gill, Chapel Fell and Thorogill. Peak counts were 30 Street Gate pasture on 4 July, 14 near Tennant Gill on 5 July and 20 Chapel Fell on 18 July.

### Dragonflies and damselflies



Large Red Damselfly



Common Hawker



Black Darter



Emerald Damselfly



Azure Damselfly



Common Blue Damselfly

1. **Emerald Damselfly** *Leistes sponsa* No more than six in the period from 21 July to 12 September from the usual pools on Tarn Fen and Moss.
2. **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* Recorded on Tarn Fen and Moss from 6 June to 21 July, peak count 25 on 17 June.
3. **Azurine Damselfly** *Coenagrion puella* Recorded from 8 June to 5 July, no more than six at any time, one on High Trenhouse pools on 20 June was a new site for the species.
4. **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* After the rediscovery of this species by Robin Sutton last year it was found to be flourishing in 2006 but confined to a small area between the Bird Hide and the Fen boardwalk below Sandhill Cottage, first seen 15 June and last on 9 August, peak counts were 10 near the Bird Hide on 22 July and 8 on the boardwalk on 13 August.
5. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* No records in 2006. Previous records, singles on 15 July 2003 and 2 September 2004.
6. **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* One on Tarn Fen on 5 July was an early emergence, peak count 12 on 25 August, last seen on 29 September.
7. **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* No records in 2006.
8. **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* No records in 2006, one July 2001 the only previous record.
9. **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* A single on Tarn Fen on 6 & 8 June is a new species for the Tarn recording area.
10. **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa* No records in 2006.
11. **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* One on 18 July was an early first record, a good year with a count of 20 on Tarn Fen on 12 September, last record on 29 October.
12. **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* In spite of the good summer fewer seen than usual, recorded from 22 July to 13 October, maximum count only 15 on 12 September.

## 2006 Weather Report

**January** - the month started relatively mild with maximum temperatures above the average for the first three weeks apart from a brief cold snap around the 5-9 January. The warmest day (maximum 8.9 °C on the 21st) more or less marked the end of the mild weather and temperatures then dropped rapidly to the coldest day (a minimum of -3.4 °C on 30 January). The month was drier than average with only about half of the normal monthly rainfall and rather fewer than the average number of wet days. Despite being dry there was less sunshine than usual, the first three weeks having very little sunshine at all (about 6 hours in total).

**February** – was another dry month with only three quarters of the usual rainfall though the number of wet days was about the norm. Most of the rain fell over a short period from 11-17 February with a second, more snowy, period of precipitation around the 21-24 February. Total sunshine, minimum temperatures and the number of frost days were all about average. After a cold couple of days to start the month the maximum temperatures recorded were higher than average for the first three weeks with temperatures only really dropping below the average during the last week.

**March** – temperatures fell below average for most of the month. Minimum temperatures barely reached freezing at all until the 26th and maximum temperatures were about 2-3 °C below the average for the same period. There was a period of heavy snow fall from the 13th which lasted through until the 19th. When milder weather arrived in the last week of March it was accompanied by heavy rainfall, 138mm of rain fell in the last eight days. This in itself was greater than the average monthly rainfall and added to some heavy rain around the 7th to give a wet month. Some form of precipitation falling on 21 days of the month. Despite this the sunshine was about average for the month as a whole – most of the sunshine occurring in the first week of the month.

**April** – maximum and minimum temperatures were below average for most of the first two weeks of April. The coldest day of the month being the 5th when the minimum fell to -2.5 °C. By the middle of the month though temperatures had started to pick up and were well above average by the last week of the month. This was another month which was slightly wetter than usual with 21 wet days and 20% more rainfall. Most of the rain fell in the first half of the month. Despite the rain the month also had slightly more sunshine than usual.

January 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (21st Jan)	8.9 °C	
Average Maximum	4.5 °C	3.6 °C
Coldest Day (30th Jan)	-3.4 °C	
Average Minimum	0.6 °C	-0.9 °C
Days with Air Frost	11 days	18 days
Wettest Day (18th Jan)	15.4 mm	
Total Rain for Month	76.05 mm	154 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	15 days	18 days
Sunniest Day (28th Jan)	5.8 hours	
Total Sunshine	21.8 hours	35.3 hours

February 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (4 Feb)	8.0 °C	
Average Maximum	5.0 °C	3.4 °C
Coldest Day (1 Feb)	-6.7 °C	
Average Minimum	-0.9 °C	-1.1 °C
Days with Air Frost	18 days	17.3 days
Wettest Day (14 Feb)	12.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month	74.1 mm	103.6 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	13 days	13 days
Sunniest Day (28 Feb)	9.4 hours	
Total Sunshine	62.2 hours	58.5 hours

March 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (26 Mar)	12.7 °C	
Average Maximum	5.2 °C	5.7 °C
Coldest Day (4 Mar)	-7.4 °C	
Average Minimum	-0.9 °C	0 °C
Days with Air Frost	19 days	15.2 days
Wettest Day (30 Mar)	29.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month	180.6 mm	125.6 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	21 days	15.8 days
Sunniest Day (4 Mar)	9.3 hours	
Total Sunshine	82.5 hours	85.3 hours

April 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (23/4 Apr)	13.5 °C	
Average Maximum	9.5 °C	8.7 °C
Coldest Day (5 Apr)	-2.5 °C	
Average Minimum	2.6 °C	1.8 °C
Days with Air Frost	4 days	7.3 days
Wettest Day (7 Apr)	16.2 mm	
Total Rain for Month	108.95 mm	90.5 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	21 days	13.3 days
Sunniest Day (23 Apr)	13.3 hours	
Total Sunshine	138.5 hours	120.3 hours

May 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (4 May)	20.8 °C	
Average Maximum	14.0 °C	12.3 °C
Coldest Day (30 May)	0.7 °C	
Average Minimum	5.4 °C	4.6 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day (19 May)	32.7 mm	
Total Rain for Month	161.5 mm	92.3 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	22 days	13.5 days
Sunniest Day (10 May)	13.0 hours	
Total Sunshine	159.9 hours	163.4 hours

**May** – was wet. Over 161 mm of rain fell compared to the usual monthly average of 92.3mm. Well over half (99 mm) of this fell during a very wet spell from 17-21 May of the month. In most years this would have been close to the average rainfall for the whole month. After a few warm days in early May (20.8 °C on 4th May was well above average) the later half of the month was cold. There were no true (air) frosts but ground frosts held back growth in the later part of the month and maximum temperatures struggled to reach the monthly average for the last couple of weeks.

June 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (10 June)	23.9 °C	
Average Maximum	17.4 °C	15.1 °C
Coldest Day (2 June)	4.4 °C	
Average Minimum	9.1 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	0.1 days
Wettest Day (11 June)	6.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month	21.78 mm	93.7 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	10 days	13.1 days
Sunniest Day (9 June)	13.6 hours	
Total Sunshine	160.7 hours	151.5 hours

**June** – there were only ten days with any measurable rain and the total rainfall (21.78 mm) for the month was less than a quarter of the usual amount. Most of that rain fell in the latter half of the month so that whilst the first half was very sunny (126 hours of bright sunshine with a daily average of 8.4 hours per day) the second half was much more overcast (only 34 hours of bright sunshine and an average of 4.4).

**July** – was outstanding, the sunniest and warmest month ever recorded at Malham Tarn with nearly 258 hours of sunshine at an average of about 8.5 hours per day. The maximum temperature was above 20 °C for 22 days of the month and gave a monthly average maximum temperature of 21.9 °C. Measurable rain only fell on 8 days with over half of the month's rain falling on one day (25.1 mm on 31st).

**August** – by contrast seemed dull, grey and wet, although it was, on average, a fairly typical August. The temperature was on average slightly warmer, there was slightly less rain in total though this was spread over 21 days of the month rather than the average of 15 days. Not surprisingly, therefore, there was also slightly less sunshine than average. The warmest days were at the beginning of the month with sunny, but cooler, spells around the 8-11 & 21-24 August.

July 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (18 July)	27.0 °C	
Average Maximum	21.9 °C	16.5 °C
Coldest Day (16 July)	7.4 °C	
Average Minimum	12.0 °C	9.2 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	0 days
Wettest Day (31 July)	25.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month	52.6 mm	100.3 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	8 days	13 days
Sunniest Day (13 July)	12.75 hours	
Total Sunshine	257.8 hours	156.4 hours



A frozen Malham Tarn (above & right)  
7 March 2006

August 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (2/3 Aug)	21.4 °C	
Average Maximum	17.3 °C	16.1 °C
Coldest Day (11 Aug)	6.6 °C	
Average Minimum	10.0 °C	9.3 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	0 days
Wettest Day (31 Aug)	17.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month	110.3 mm	130.8 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	21 days	14.7 days
Sunniest Day (24 Aug)	12.5 hours	
Total Sunshine	120.15 hours	142.6 hours

**September** – was the start of quite a mild autumn. The average temperature was nearly four degrees above the norm with the highest temperature, a very pleasant 23.6 °C on the 21st. Sunshine was also above average, most days had some sunshine, but there were also slightly more than average days with measurable rain. Most of the rainfall though was light with the total for the month (104.3 mm) being considerably less than usual (138.8 mm). The wettest day the 15th had 21.3 mm but also had 9.5 hours of sunshine.

**October** – continued the pattern of warmer than average but also slightly wetter than average months. The temperature was about 2.5 degrees above the usual October temperatures, but there were also a lot of wet days. Some rain fell on 24 out of the 31 days the only dry spell being the 12-16 October. Perhaps not surprisingly this was also the sunniest and warmest part of the month. A couple of wet days stand out the 5th with 21mm of rain and the 25th with 31 mm. Two thirds of the month's rainfall came in the last 14 days of the month but temperatures held up well all through October. The daily maximum temperature was in double figures for the whole month apart from the 22nd when it dropped down to 9.6 °C.

**November** – was another similar sort of month, warmer and wetter than usual. There were a couple of cold, bright days at the beginning of the month with the first proper frosts of the autumn but then the weather turned grey and overcast again as the temperatures picked up. Once again the maximum temperatures were about 3.5 degrees above the usual, there were a lot of days with measurable amounts of rain (23 days) giving a total monthly rainfall well above average. The 24th was very wet with 42 mm falling. A dry spell between the 2nd and the 6th had very little sunshine and the month as a whole had below average sunshine.

**December** – another in the sequence of dull, grey months. Temperatures were again above average, a few more days with rain (21 days) instead of the usual (17.5 days), very few frosts and a lot less sunshine – only nineteen hours or so for the whole month. The rainfall was well above average with three very wet spells, 2nd – 7th (113mm), 10th – 13th (91mm) and the 27th – 31st (52.1mm). The other days were just dreary. Between the 17th and the 31st there were only 1.5 hours of sunshine.



September 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (21 Sep)	23.6 °C	
Average Maximum	17.6 °C	13.8 °C
Coldest Day (8 Sep)	5.7 °C	
Average Minimum	10.6 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	0 days
Wettest Day (15 Sep)	21.3 mm	
Total Rain for Month	104.3 mm	138.8 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	17 days	14.5 days
Sunniest Day (7 Sep)	11 hours	
Total Sunshine	121.4 hours	100.8 hours

October 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (13 Oct)	16.1 °C	
Average Maximum	13.2 °C	10.6 °C
Coldest Day (25 Oct)	4.0 °C	
Average Minimum	7.5 °C	5.2 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day (25 Oct)	31.3 mm	
Total Rain for Month	176.5 mm	150.8 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	24 days	16.4 days
Sunniest Day (13 Oct)	8.17 hours	
Total Sunshine	65.52 hours	80.0 hours

November 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (15 Nov)	11.6 °C	
Average Maximum	10.2 °C	6.5 °C
Coldest Day (2 Nov)	-1.3 °C	
Average Minimum	3.2 °C	1.2 °C
Days with Air Frost	3 days	8.8 days
Wettest Day (24 Nov)	42.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month	178.3 mm	149.9 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	23 days	17.1 days
Sunniest Day (2 Nov)	8.4 hours	
Total Sunshine	47.78 hours	54.9 hours

December 2006 summary		Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day (29 Dec)	10.5 °C	
Average Maximum	6.0 °C	4.6 °C
Coldest Day (24 Dec)	-4.0 °C	
Average Minimum	1.9 °C	-0.1 °C
Days with Air Frost	8 days	15 days
Wettest Day (12 Dec)	46.2 mm	
Total Rain for Month	263.5 mm	162.0 mm
Days with > 1 mm Rain	21 days	17.5 days
Sunniest Day (10 Dec)	3.8 hours	
Total Sunshine	18.85 hours	37.5 hours

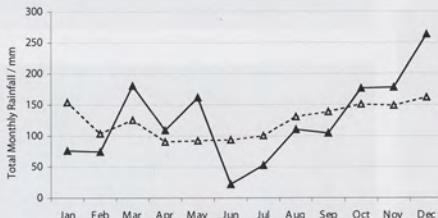
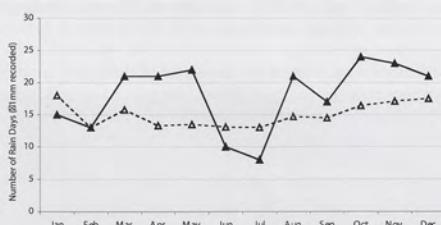
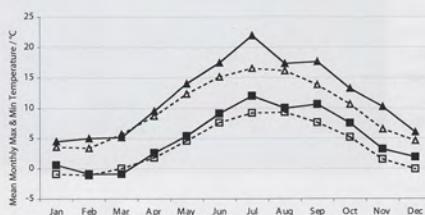
## Records

	2006		Ever (1959-2005)	
	Date	Amount	Date	Amount
Warmest day	18 July	27.0 °C	3 Aug 1990	28.2 °C
Coldest day	4 March	-7.4 °C	5 Mar 2001	-13.5 °C
Warmest month	July	21.9 °C	Aug 1995	20.6 °C
Coldest month	Feb/March	-0.9 °C	Feb 1986	-5.6 °C
Lowest grass temperature	4 March	-11.2 °C	5 Mar 2001	-20.1 °C
Lowest 10 cm temperature	12 March	-1.0 °C	14 Dec 1999	-7.1 °C
Lowest 30 cm temperature	8 March	1.0 °C	28 Feb 1994	0.6 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>				
Wettest day	12 December	46.2 mm (1.8 in)	31 Jan 2002	135.4 mm (5.3 in)
Wettest month	December	263.5 mm (10.4 in)	Feb 2002	364.1 mm (14.3 in)
Driest month	June	21.78 mm (0.9 in)	Jan/Feb 1979	No rain
Highest total rainfall for the year	2005	1508.4 mm (59.4 in)	2000	2097.9 mm (82.6 in)
<b>Sunshine</b>				
Sunniest day	9 June	13.6 hours	7 May 1985	15.7 hours
Sunniest month	July	257.5 hours	Aug 1995	246.2 hours
Least sunny month	January	18.9 hours	Jan 1997	No sun

## 2006 in graphs

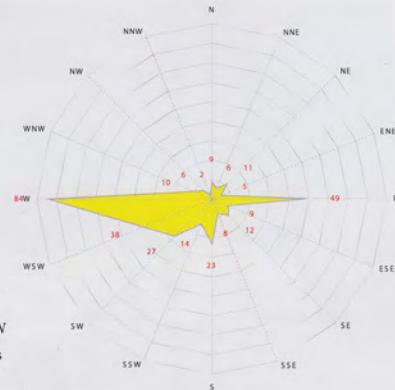
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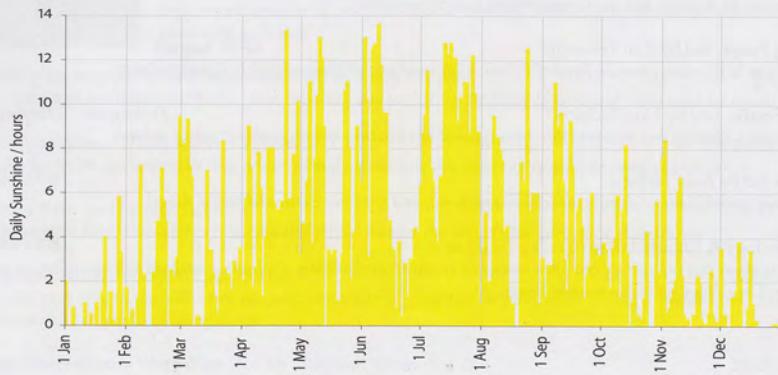
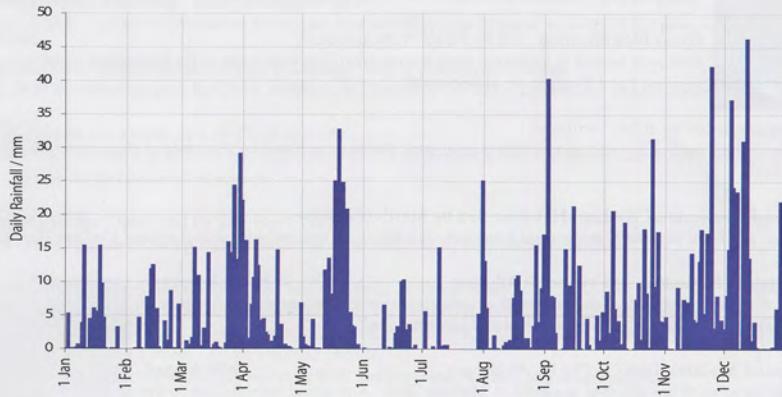
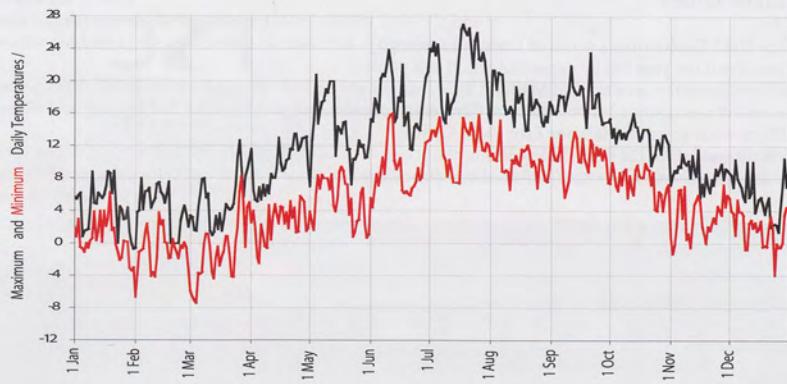
△ Average values 1961-90



## Wind rose for 2006

Winds come from a SW-W direction on c50% of days





## Want to know more?

Malham Tarn Field Centre runs a series of Leisure Learning Courses throughout the year led by expert tutors. If you want to find out more about the area around Malham Tarn then why not book on one of our courses? To contact the Centre: telephone 01729 830331 or write to us at: **Malham Tarn Field Centre**, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9PU. More details about our courses are also on our website [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org).



BRINGING  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

## Programme of Courses for 2007

### The Natural World

**Birdwatching in the Dales** led by Colin Straker

25-28 May

*Visiting different habitats, this is a course for the beginner or anyone who wants to extend their knowledge of birds and identification skills.*



**Wild Flowers for Beginners** led by Judith Allinson

1-4 June

*You may know a buttercup – but which buttercup and why does it grow where you see it? An introduction to wild flowers with an experienced botanist.*

**Limestone Flora** led by Judith Allinson

4-8 June

*Visit a variety of habitats to see and learn about many flowers that are special to the Craven limestone.*

**Grass Identification** led by Sarah Watson-Jones

20-23 July

*Visiting a variety of field sites, learn how to identify grasses - one of the largest and important groups of plant, but difficult to get grips with.*

**Freshwater Algae** led by Allan Pentecost

20-22 July

*Find out about these fascinating microscopic plants in an area that is exceptional for the study of algae under the tuition of a world expert.*

**Mosses and Liverworts of Wetland Habitats** led by Martha Newton

23-27 July

*Look in detail and learn to identify mosses and liverworts at a variety of wetland sites in and around Malham Tarn NNR.*

**Grasses, Sedges & Rushes** led by Judith Allinson

27 July - 3 August

*An introduction to grasses, sedges and rushes in an area where there is an unrivalled diversity of habitats. Emphasis will be placed on recognition and identification.*



**Moths around Malham Tarn** led by David Brown

20-24 August

*Over 80 species of moth are recorded annually at Malham Tarn. A practical introduction to the moths of Yorkshire, including identification and classification skills.*

**Malham Wetlands: Flora and Function** led by Roger Meade

27-31 August

*A specialist course for those who want to gain an understanding of bog and fen habitats, how they work, their value for wildlife, and their management and conservation.*



**Identifying Ferns** led by Ken Trewern

28-31 August

*An introduction to the more common ferns of Britain with emphasis on those special to limestone areas.*

**Slugs and Snails** Led by Noel Jackson

31 August – 3 September

*Learn how to find, identify and interpret this often ignored but exciting and accessible group of animals.*

**Fungal Fun** led by Noel Jackson

5-7 October

*Find out where to look, how to identify, which are safe to eat, and try some exotic recipes for fungi!*

**Spiders: Ecology & Identification** Led by Paul Lee

5-7 October

*Discover more about this interesting but often maligned group of invertebrates. Collecting methods and identification will be covered as well as ecology and conservation issues.*

## **Discover the Dales**

**Historic Landscape of the Yorkshire Dales** led by David Johnson

*Explore the southern Dales and unravel the mysteries of the area's rich past.*

**10-17 August**

## **Exploring the Settle-Carlisle Railway**

led by David Alison

*Explore the history of the line, a marvel of engineering passing through majestic scenery.*

**17-24 August**

## **Geology of the Dales**

led by Adrian Pickles

*A weekend learning about the ancient history revealed by the rocks of the Dales... seas and reefs, plate-tectonic activity and evidence for the last ice age.*

**31 August - 3 September**



## **Art, Craft and Outdoor Skills**

### **Pure Watercolour Painting**

led by Margaret Uttley

**23-27 July**

*Experiment with a range of watercolour techniques that will allow you to create a variety of textures and painterly surfaces.*

### **Interpreting the Landscape in Acrylic & Collage**

led by Katharine Holmes

**10-17 August**

*Using mixed media to interpret the Dales landscape, the emphasis will be on experiment, inventiveness and enjoyment.*

### **Photography in the Dales**

led by Chris Rowley

**10-17 August**

*The distinctive landscape of the Yorkshire Dales provides the inspirational material for the course - this course will teach you how to capture the best scenery on camera.*

### **Fly Fishing in the Dales**

led by Stephen Cheetham

**10-17 August**

*Practise the techniques for successful fly fishing in a fun and relaxed week at Malham Tarn.*

### **Improve your Watercolour Techniques**

led by Linda Hollingshead

**20-24 August**

*Develop your artistic skills whilst drawing and painting the wonderful landscape around Malham Tarn.*

### **Printmaking Without a Press**

led by Pauline Meade

**27-31 August**

*Using simple, traditional techniques, experiment with making beautiful relief and screen prints.*

### **Sculpture: An Exploration**

led by Sarah Smith

**31 August - 3 September**

*Explore different methods of sculpture through the use of clay. Suitable for all abilities including complete beginners.*

### **Writing Poems and Stories from Nature**

led by Wes Magee

**2-4 November**

*Drawing your inspiration from the natural world, try your hand at creating & illustrating poems and stories for children and find out about getting your work published.*

### **Spinning for Beginners and Improvers**

led by Mary Simpson

**2-4 November**

*An introduction to this ancient craft - from choosing and preparing the fleece to spinning 2-ply wool for a new hat.*

### **Rag Rug Making**

led by Karen Griffiths

**23-25 November**

*Recycle old clothes and materials into colourful and inventively designed rag rugs to decorate your home.*

### **Fantastic Felt**

led by Jan Hicks

**23-25 November**

*Transform wool fibres into a strong and durable fabric. Master the basic techniques, then experiment!*

### **Navigation Skills**

led by Adrian Pickles

**23-25 November**

*Can't find your way in the hills when the mist comes down? Practise the basic skills & gain a qualification that will give you the confidence you need out of doors.*

### **Winter Watercolours Workshop**

led by Margaret Uttley

**23-25 November**

*Learn new techniques with watercolours, inspired by the seasonal effects on the rich landscape around Malham Tarn.*



## Malham Tarn Estate and National Nature Reserve

Malham Tarn and much of the neighbouring farmland is owned and managed by the National Trust. There are a series of way-marked walks which provide the best way to appreciate the wildlife, landscape and history of this outstanding area of upland limestone country. The walks start and finish at the car park. Please follow the way-marked routes and keep dogs on a lead at all times.

Malham Tarn is an unusual lime-rich upland lake, set amid a variety of habitats with a range of nationally-scarce species. To the west of the Tarn is an area of fen and raised bog, while the surrounding grassland has areas of limestone pavement and a rich flora. The woodland around Tarn House is also of conservation importance.

The Tarn and its associated wetlands and woodlands form a 136.5 hectare National Nature Reserve, declared by English Nature in 1992. The reserve is part of the much larger Malham - Arncliffe Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – one of the most extensive areas of limestone scenery in England. The area's importance in an international context is recognised by its designation as a RAMSAR site and as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The National Trust manages the reserve in partnership with Natural England and the Field Studies Council.

### What's on in 2007 with the National Trust around Malham Tarn

#### Easter Trail - 8 April 11am - 3pm

Follow a trail of clues and questions in Malham Cove's fields starting at Town Head Barn Malham. Suitable for all ages, £1 per entry. Telephone

#### Feed the Lambs – 9 April 11am - 3pm

Feed the lambs at Town Head Barn Malham. Feeding time every half-hour. Displays and information.

#### NNR Open Day at Malham Tarn – 17 June 12 noon – 4pm

A chance to visit the National Nature Reserve and Tarn House, both normally closed to the public. Meet and park at Waterhouses. SD 886674. £2.50 per adult (free to NT members). Booking essential for Tarn House tours at 12 noon, 2pm and 3pm. No dogs.

#### Wild Flower Meadow Walks – 19 June & 26 June 1pm - 3pm

Join us for this glorious wild flower walk in Malhamdale. Sturdy footwear is necessary as the surfaces are uneven and gradients steep. Booking essential, £2 per adult, No dogs.

#### Meadows of Upper Wharfedale – 24 June 11am - 2pm

Experience the glorious flowers in and around the meadows at Yockenthwaite in Upper Wharfedale with one of our regular volunteers. Moderate walking, with some uneven ground. Bring a packed lunch, and meet at Yockenthwaite SD 904789. Dogs on leads only please.

#### Farm and Countryside Day – 30 June 11am - 3pm.

Come for the day at Yockenthwaite Farm in the Yorkshire Dales. Displays, wildflower walks, farm trail and more. £1 per adult, children free. No dogs. Wear suitable footwear.

#### Guided Bat Walk – 7 & 9 August 8pm - 10pm

View our nocturnal woodlanders. Meet at the Estate Office, Waterhouses, Malham Tarn SD885674. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a torch. Booking essential, £2 per adult, No dogs.

#### Autumn in Wharfedale – 13 October 11.15am - 3pm.

Experience the beautiful colours of autumn on a walk through the woods and limestone pavements of Wharfedale with one of our regular volunteers. Moderate walking with one short steep section. Bring a packed lunch and meet in Buckden Car Park SD 943774. Dogs on leads only please.

For further details ring 01729 830416, or email [malhamtarn@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:malhamtarn@nationaltrust.org.uk)



BRINGING  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

### Malham Tarn Field Centre

The Centre has been helping students of ecology, heritage and landscape explore the environment around the Tarn since 1947. Visitors to the Centre cover the whole range from pre-school day visits to retired adults on leisure learning courses. Malham Tarn Field Centre is one of 17 centres run by the Field Studies Council – the leading provider of environmental education in the country.

#### Malham Tarn Field Centre

Settle, North Yorkshire. BD24 9PU

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Web site: [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)