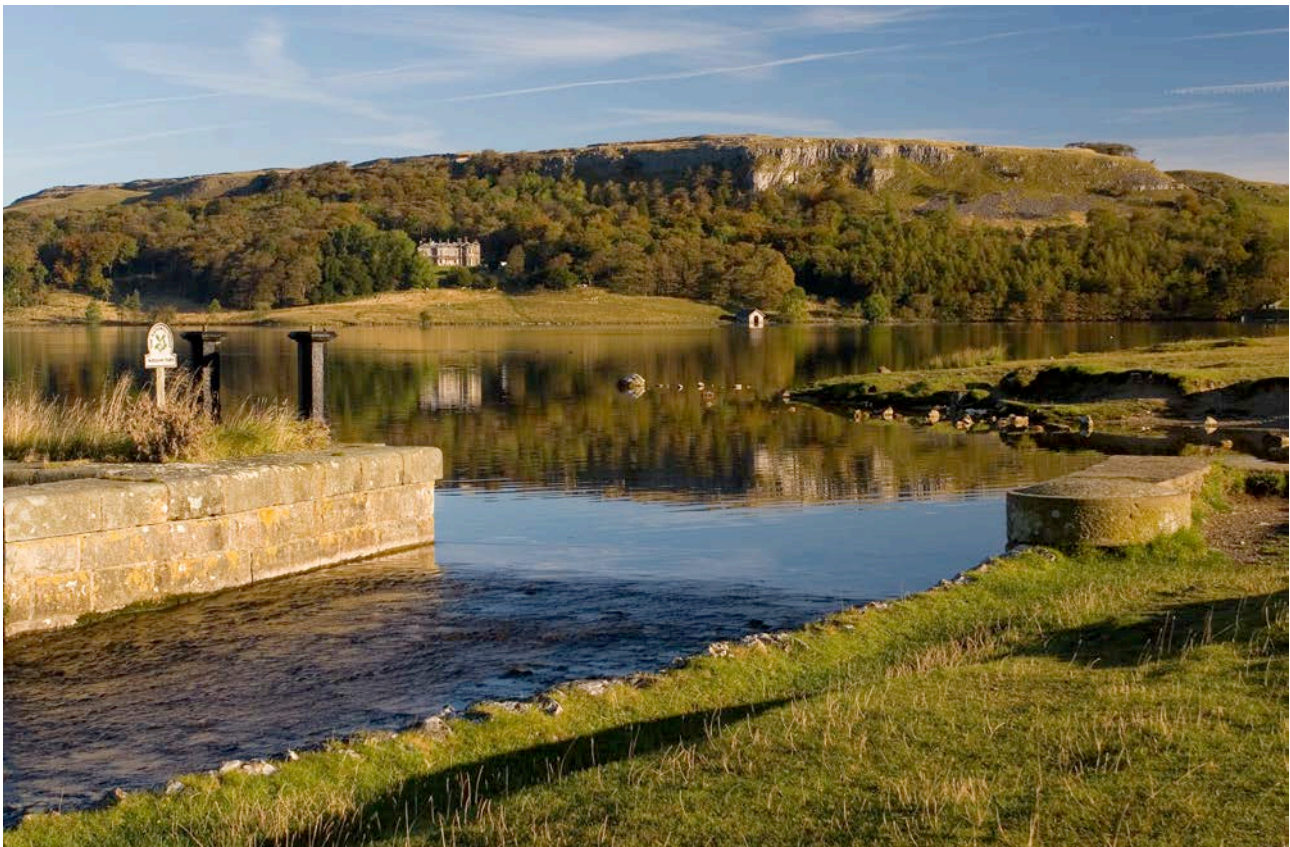


Malham Tarn

Wildlife & Weather Report

2007



Brian Shorrock

Weather Report & Photographs by:

Robin Sutton



Malham Tarn Field Centre
Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9PU
Tel: 01729 830331



2007 Wildlife Report – A Summary

A Little Egret from 5th to 12th October was an exotic if not unexpected new bird for the Tarn recording area and a notable 200th in all. The species has been spreading northwards in recent years and is now breeding at quite a few localities in England.

The breeding season was marked by a truly awful wet, windy and cool June and July with only a slight improvement in August, the best months of the year were April, September and October.

Three species that are usually recorded missed out this year – Ruddy Duck, Grey Partridge and Kingfisher. The former's absence no doubt due to the countrywide culling of the species for fear it will interbreed with the mainly Spanish population of the endangered White-headed Duck, a cull I do not agree with, it is far too late and in the long term will be ineffectual. Grey Partridge is hopefully still present but obviously with a very low population. This year's weather will not have helped but the reasons for decline are not known. There still seems to be plenty of suitable habitat available, in fact probably more than there has been for many years. Kingfisher probably did not put in an appearance due to a poor breeding season on lower ground rivers and streams, these being continuously in flood in June and July with the consequence that any nesting attempts would be bound to fail.

The bad summer weather also affected the butterfly and dragonfly populations with much smaller numbers than normal. Next year's emergence will presumably be also badly affected.

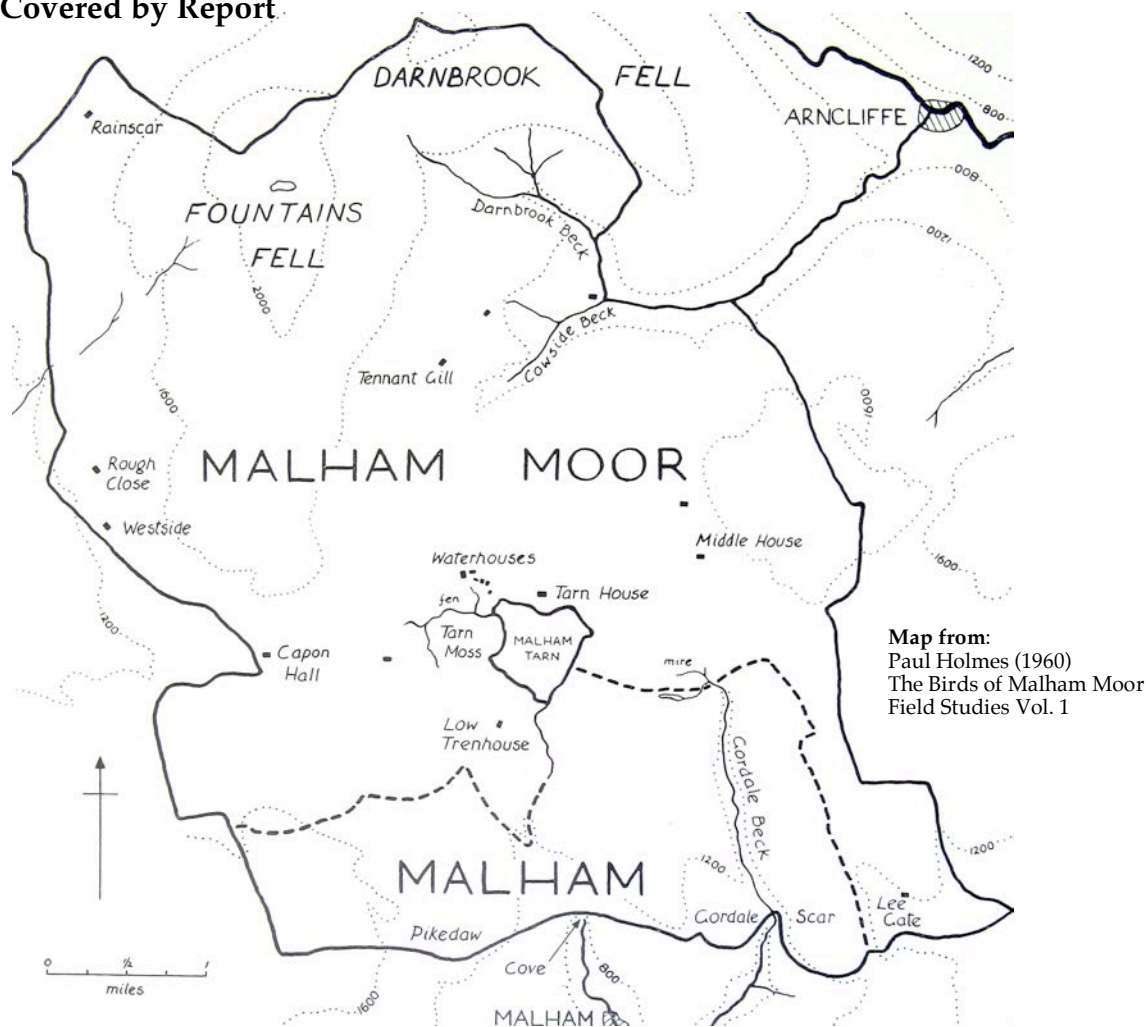
I would like to thank the following who have contributed records primarily co-editor Robin Sutton who not only forwarded bird, butterfly and dragonfly records but also supplied the photos and wrote the weather report, in fact did all the brainwork.

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

Brian Shorrocks

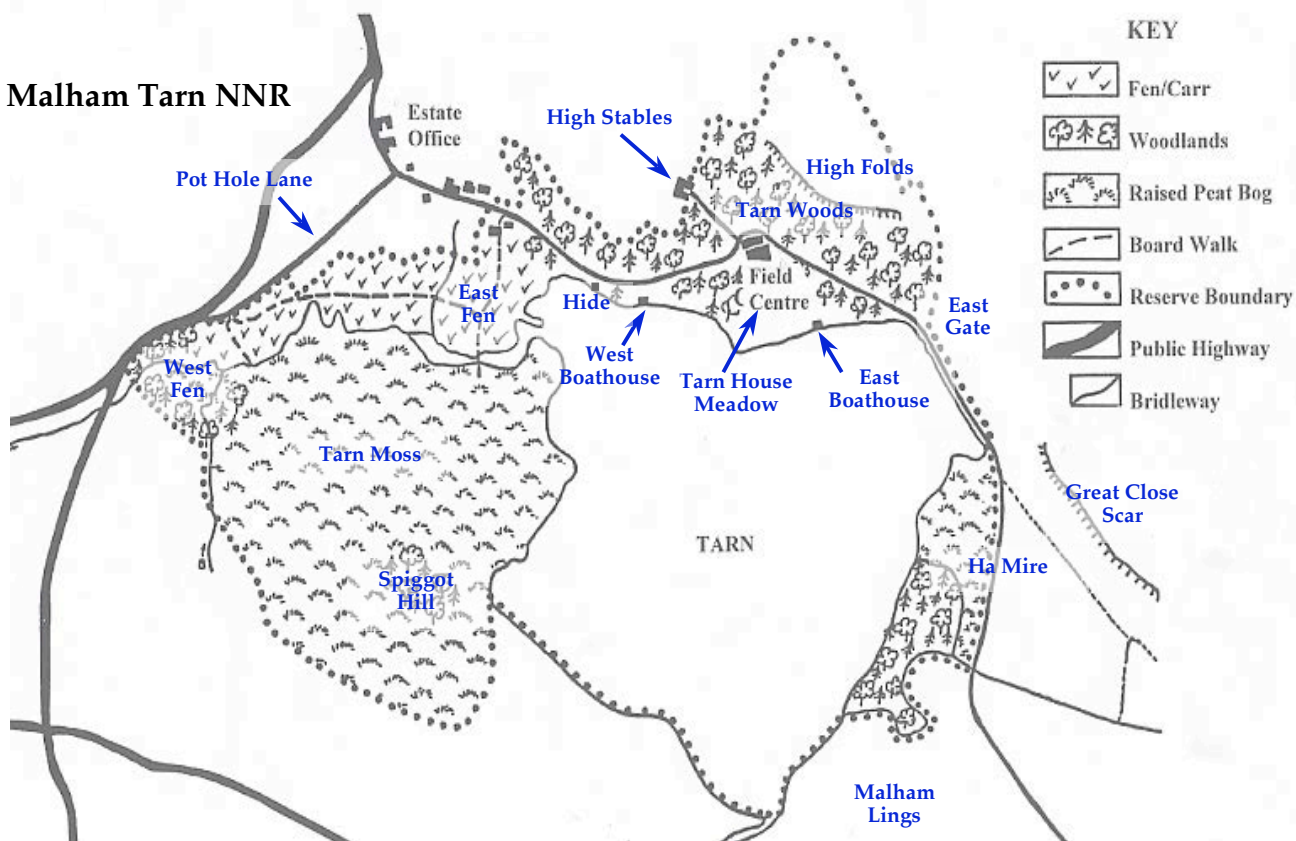
January 2008

Area Covered by Report



Map from:
Paul Holmes (1960)
The Birds of Malham Moor
Field Studies Vol. 1

Malham Tarn NNR



Birds Records 2007

- 1 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* In marked contrast to its larger relative had a good breeding season, one pair in front of the hide hatched four young which probably all fledged, one or two other pairs were also successful. Highest count in year was eighteen on 20th September. Around six birds wintered both ends of the year.



- 2 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* One or two birds on Tarn January to mid-February when breeding birds started to return, by mid-March fifteen were present and on 17th April twenty-four – the peak count in year. A disastrous breeding season, normally at least five pairs breed around the inflow bay, very little attempt was made to even build a nest and at one time it appeared that no young at all would be reared. Belatedly a pair with two small young were seen on the late date of 11th August and these two, thankfully, both fledged. By end of October only one or two birds were left, these staying to year end.

- 3 **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Single birds on the Tarn 7th April. 11th June, 17th and 18th July, 31st October and 25th November.

- 4 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* One frequented the Tarn Outflow Stream and the south shore from 5th to 12th October.



- 5 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Recorded every month of year, usually single birds, occasionally two with three in period 30th August to 4th September.

- 6 **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* The Tarn held five on 14th March for day only with seven unusually staying from 16th to 20th March, in autumn twelve on 18th October and four 6th November.

- 7 **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* In early part of the year single birds on south shore of Tarn 26th to 29th January, eight 9th March, thirty 10th March. Two hundred and seven flew north-west over Tarn 7th April and there was a single late bird on 10th and 11th May. In September flocks of eighty on 13th, sixty on 17th and one hundred on 26th all flying over the Tarn on north-west to south-east direction, presumably Icelandic birds heading for their wintering grounds.

- 8 **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* One on Tarn 22nd January, no more till 22nd March, irregularly present thereon till 7th July, up to four birds at times, and finally three on 17th October. A pair on Tarn Moss showed signs of a nesting attempt 5th May but no eggs were laid.

- 9 **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* Two pairs laid eggs on Tarn Moss, both were controlled. Monthly maximum counts were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	16	4	9	6	170	160	2	35	35	27	7

- 10 **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* One on Tarn 16th January the only record.

- 11 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Three broods appeared on the Tarn of two, five and six in early June with a late brood of six on 13th July, only a few of these survived to adulthood. Peaks counts in year were eighty on 5th July and one hundred 5th August.

- 12 **Shoveler** *Anas chlypeata* Just one record of a single male on the Tarn 14th and 15th April.

- 13 **Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Present on Tarn January to 17th May, peak count two hundred on 2nd February. Four returned on 12th September with numbers then fluctuating, probably due to the presence of a Peregrine which hunted over the area. Peak counts reached one hundred and twenty on some days.

- 14 **Teal** *Anas crecca* Recorded on Tarn January to 14th April, peak count thirty on 10th January, one on 16th July was the only indication of any breeding attempt. From 17th August to year-end recorded almost daily, eighteen on 14th October the highest count.



- 15 **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*. Monthly maximum counts were as follows:

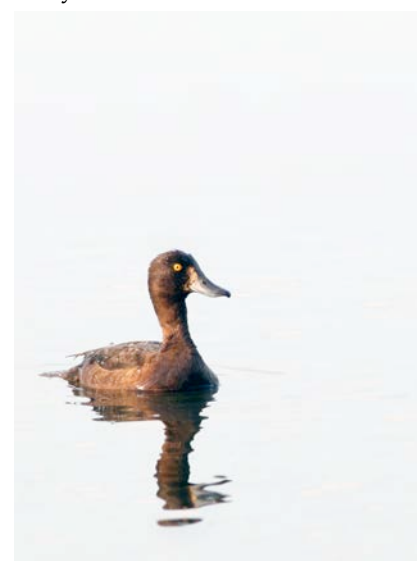
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
220	50	6	0	0	2	20	25	50	100	200	150

- 16 **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Present on Tarn throughout year, peak count one hundred and ten 23rd July. A poor breeding season, a female on the Tarn with seven very small young on the late date of 24th July, all had been predated by the end of the month. Normally six or more broods appear on Tarn in early July.

- 17 **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* One male on the Tarn 18th July for a few hours.

- 18 **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* Recorded on the Tarn January to 18th April, peak count higher than usual of thirty-two on 25th February. Two returned on 15th October, then present to years end with no more than eight at any time.

- 19 **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* Few records, as is the norm nowadays, four 29th January, then a pair 20th February, 14th March and 8th April, three 24th July, two 14th October and single 1st November and 26th December.



- 20 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* At 14:15 hours one flew south-east to north-west over Tarn on 11th April.

- 21 **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* One over Tarn Moss 23rd August, probably a juvenile.

- 22 **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* Five records of single birds, near Darnbrook 23rd March, on Tarn Moss 6th and 12th September, near Capon Hall 17th October and near Tarn 3rd November.

- 23 **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* An increasing number of records throughout year. One pair bred successfully raising two young. Monthly sightings as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	2	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	2	0

- 24 **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Very little was seen of this species in 2007 with, apart from a pair seen in Tarn woods 11th March, no signs of a breeding attempt. The remaining records were of single birds on 24th January, 15th April, 13th May, 7th July, 13th August, 4th September, 13 October and 23rd October, and 6th, 11th and 13th November.

- 25 **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* One near Darnbrook 27th March.

- 26 **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Bred Darnbrook and Great Close Scar, both pairs probably failed in abysmal weather. Most sightings in year were in September with seven and October eleven. The majority of records in these months would have been passage birds.

- 27 **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* One near Capon Hall on 5th August flying south.

- 28 **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* One pair bred successfully at Malham Cove, just outside our area, no doubt where most of our sightings originate from. Monthly records as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	2	2	2	1	0	6	1	4	2	2	0

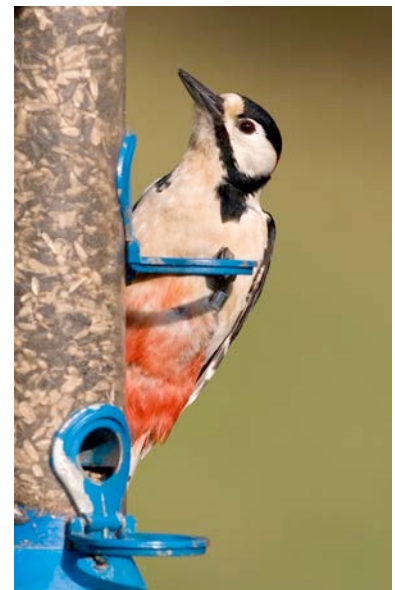
- 29 **Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Four sightings of single birds on 2nd March, 30th March, 15th September and 1st October.
- 30 **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus* All records as usual came from Fountains Fell and near Dalehead with no more than eight birds at any time though total numbers will be much higher than this.
- 31 **Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix* One near Henside 5th August is the first record since 2001 at the same locality.
- 32 **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*. Few records in 2007, without further introductions this species will disappear along with Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) which was not seen in 2007. All records of Red-legged Partridge were: two near Silverdale 14th March, one Henside 15th and 18th April, one Chapel Fell 22nd June and 18th July and finally one Great Close Scar 23rd July.
- 33 **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* At least five pairs bred on Tarn Estate, two females with six and five young were on Tarn House Meadow 18th July, a female with one young Great Close Scar 28th July, a female near Spiggot with four young early August and a very late brood of five small young at Waterhouses on 10th September. Peak counts in year were twenty-four 18th February and nineteen 29th November.
- 34 **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* Two on Tarn Fen 15th January the only record.
- 35 **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* At least three pairs of this resident species bred, one pair East Gate, one pair Fen and one pair in front of hide which raised at least three young. There was also probably a pair at High Trenhouse ponds. Peak counts, six 11th February and five 12th December.
- 36 **Coot** *Fulica atra* Present throughout year, peak counts in winter months were six hundred 29th January and five hundred 29th November. At least eight pairs attempted to breed but only one pair was successful raising two young.
- 37 **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* One on 2nd February was the first sighting, eleven were present near Tarn by 22nd February. One pair possibly bred between Tennant Ghyll and Darnbrook with two here on March 9th, 6th April and an alarming bird on 24th July. A flock of nine at East Bay of Tarn 12th May were probably birds moving further north. One or two pairs, as usual, attempted to breed near Tarn with no signs of any success. Last seen on 24th July.
- 38 **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* One at the Tarn Outflow 17th April with twelve birds here 19th May – the largest number ever recorded in the area.
- 39 **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Two near Dalehead 18th February were first of year, further sightings here of fifty 21st March and, in latter part of year, thirty on 12th November. Other records as follows: six near Darnbrook 20th March, one Tennant Ghyll 24th July, one Great Close Mire 5th August, one 23rd October Malham Lings, twelve near High Trenhouse 18th November and finally five near Low Trenhouse 22nd November. The Fountains Fell breeding localities were not checked in 2007.
- 40 **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Irregularly present in winter months, eg in January eighteen on 10th and nineteen on 16th and in December six on 12th and 21st. Pre-breeding flocks gathered on South shore of Tarn with one hundred 20th February. Of those few pairs that bred near the Tarn most, if not all, failed due to a combination of bad weather and tourist pressure. Three near Dalehead on 12th November was unusual.
- 41 **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* One near Tarn Outflow on 31st May.
- 42 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* One on 14th April Tarn Outflow, one singing here 3rd May suggested breeding nearby, up to seven birds were present here in May, more significantly two were present on 4th June, one 5th June and two 16th July.



- 43 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* One pair possibly bred on North shore of Tarn though only single birds were ever seen. First 12th April and the last 5th August.
- 44 **Redshank** *Tringa totanus* Recorded 8th March to 18th July, breeding was attempted at two localities, Great Close Pools where one pair bred and the Tarn Outflow area where three, possibly four, pairs bred. The only sign of success was a pair with young 24th June at the latter site.
- 45 **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* One flew south-east over Tarn Moss on 9th July, only the second record for the area, previous record a single bird 9th September 2000.
- 46 **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* One near Tarn Outflow on 28th April.
- 47 **Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Recorded 18th February to 20th September on Tarn Moss where one or two pairs bred. Flocks here of thirty 30th March, two hundred 9th March, three hundred 18th April, one hundred and twenty 22nd June and two hundred 8th July. Also bred on Malham Lings, Fountains Fell and other sites where disturbance is not too great.
- 48 **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* One 20th May, two 4th June and one 10th July all near or on Tarn Moss.
- 49 **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* In early part of the year three 20th February and one 10th March. In autumn an early arrival of one on 20th September, during November two on 5th, one 17th, three 19th and one 29th with five on 18th December. Most sightings came from the Fen and on Tarn Moss with just one or two from Tarn Woods.
- 50 **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Single wintering birds on Tarn Moss 16th and 26th January with one 18th December. Bred Malham Lings, four drumming here 27th March, two drumming Great Close Mire 7th May and three Tarn Moss 20th June.
- 51 **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* A very common non-breeding visitor to the Tarn area throughout the year. Largest numbers in passage periods March/April and August/September.
- 52 **Common Gull** *Larus canus* Present January to 5th May, one hundred near Lea Gate 30th January and one hundred near Tarn 9th March. An adult returned on 29th July, few juveniles seen later, probably reflecting a poor breeding season further north.
- 53 **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* One 8th March on south shore of Tarn the second record for the area.
- 54 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Recorded throughout year, notable counts were thirty on south shore of Tarn 11th April and one hundred adults and immatures Great Close Pools on 11th June.
- 55 **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* One adult 11th June the only record.
- 56 **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* Present on or near Tarn January to 16th March, peak count twenty on 20th January. Then seen 11th September to year end with no more than five at any time.
- 57 **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* One on 13th August, three 25th September and two over Highfolds on the rather late date of 13th October.
- 58 **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* A single bird over the Tarn 11th and 12th September.
- 59 **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* (domest.) This species has not been mentioned in previous reports but probably has always been present in the area. Four at Thoragill Barns 19th June and at least eight at Darnbrook 10th July. Presumably this hotchpotch of birds is self supporting, probably a few birds are also present at other farms in the area.
- 60 **Stock Pigeon** *Columba oenas* In line with recent years virtually no records, one at a former breeding site 14th April and two Henside 17th July the only records.



- 61 **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* One or two birds on Tarn Estate in early months with bulk of breeding population arriving back late February, a few pairs bred in Tarn Woods. Ten at High Trenhouse 8th September was unusual as was an unprecedented influx of birds into Tarn Woods on 16th November when over one thousand arrived, eight hundred or so of these left the same day in an easterly direction leaving about two hundred. Numbers gradually dwindled over the next few days and by the end of the month the area was devoid of birds, the origin or destination of these birds is not known.
- 62 **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* Single birds at Waterhouses 3rd August and 8th September the first records since 2003.
- 63 **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* Just three records of single calling birds for day only, Pot Hole Lane 23rd April, Tarn Moss 23rd May and Darnbrook 12th June.
- 64 **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* In spite of the bad weather during the breeding season three pairs raised two young apiece, one pair at Waterhouses and two in Tarn Woods.
- 65 **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* One pair probably bred on the Fen, an adult here January 9th and 16th with a juvenile calling here 20th July. One at High Trenhouse 3rd and 4th September possibly a young bird dispersing.
- 66 **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* One pair probably bred near Rainscar, one here 15th February, two 21st March, two 15th July and one 12th November. Single birds seen on Tarn Fen 20th August and 16th October and at Henside 6th September, 5th November and 13th December.
- 67 **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* Few sightings this year, one at a former breeding site, a disused barn near Kiln House 9th January. This has now been taken over by around twenty five Jackdaws. Singles were also seen on Great Close Scar 19th June and near Middle House 20th June.
- 68 **Swift** *Apus apus* No large numbers at all over Tarn, maximum count twelve on 5th July. First seen 4th May and last seen 7th August.
- 69 **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* One for day only in Tarn Woods 24th April, no more records until the arrival of a noisy individual on the Tarn Estate 28th July which stayed till the year end.
- 70 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* First heard drumming near Sandhill Cottage 23rd January where subsequently bred, with presumably another pair in Tarn Woods. One drumming persistently 4th – 21st May on West Fen was probably an unmated bird. A juvenile was seen 11th June so at least one pair bred successfully.
- 71 **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* One arrived back on 14th February. With plenty of suitable breeding habitat available this species is still thankfully a fairly common bird in the area. Bred Malham Lings, Chapel Fell, Fountains Fell etc. Majority of population had vacated the area by the end of August; two on 11th September was the last record.
- 72 **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* First of year was on 6th April; at least six pairs bred in Tarn Moss peat bank, young were seen being fed in nest holes during June and a juvenile was seen on 6th July. Peak count was fifteen on 5th May, birds stayed longer than longer than normal, last record on 8th September.
- 73 **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* One on 4th April was the earliest ever recorded, bred Waterhouses, Low and High Trenhouse, Dalehead, Rainscar etc. In spite of poor weather good numbers of young were raised, over 100 Waterhouses 11th September was by far the highest count. Last recorded on 8th September.
- 74 **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* First record 4th May and the last 11th September, bred at Waterhouses, Low Trenhouse and Darnbrook, numbers were low at all times, peak count only eight at Waterhouses 1st September.



- 75 **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Two instances of probable wintering birds with singles on Tarn Moss 16th January and at Lea Gate 30th January, birds normally return in March/early April, first record 6th March, increasingly common thereafter with flocks of forty 22nd March on Malham Lings and fifteen above Darnbrook 6th April, post season flocks were of forty 1st September and eighty 3rd September, both near Tarn, last record was of two on 31st October.
- 76 **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* One at Low Trenhouse 16th January is the fourth winter record, previous records of single birds have been 14th November 1975, 10th December 1999 and 22nd November 2001. Birds started to return in March with one at Henside on the 2nd and one at Tennant Ghyll the following day; widespread by end of the month/early April. A flock of forty-five near Ha Mire on 9th April was noteworthy. Bred commonly with first juveniles seen on 12th June, last recorded on 18th October.
- 77 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Arrival back was later than usual, three males at the Tarn Outflow on 4th May. Seven pairs were located, one pair near Stangill, two pairs Tennant Ghyll, one pair near Limestones and three pairs between Low Trenhouse and the Tarn Outflow. First juveniles were seen near Tennant Ghyll on 30th July. Two juveniles near Dalehead 11th August would have been passage birds, last record 1st September.
- 78 **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* First of year were singles at the Tarn 22nd and 24th February with further singles on 4th, 9th and 11th March and at Darnbrook 17th April – where one pair bred successfully, pair plus four juveniles here on 10th July. Single passage birds on Tarn House roof 1st July and near Tarn September 5th and 15th.
- 79 **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Up to three birds on Tarn Estate January and February, a favourite wintering site is under the Fen boardwalk. Birds began to return in March with twelve in song by 30th, fifteen in song Tarn Woods 7th May. By end of September/early October only two or three wintering birds were left.
- 80 **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* Three or four pairs bred on Tarn Estate, one pair by Pot Hole Lane, one pair Waterhouses, one near Tarn House were feeding young 14th May and a pair near Sandhill Cottage. Additional pairs at High and Low Trenhouse and probably at Darnbrook. Present throughout year but in reduced numbers during the winter months.
- 81 **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* Mainly a summer visitor and passage migrant with a few birds wintering. At least six pairs bred on the Tarn Estate with isolated pairs at most farms.
- 82 **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* One near West Boathouse on 19th April was the first arrival. Only three pairs located, one near Bird Hide, one Highfolds and one near West Boathouse. At least one pair bred successfully. Three juveniles and a male on 29th July was the final record for the year.
- 83 **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* One on a wall top near Dalehead on 11th August is only the second record for the area.
- 84 **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* A male at Great Close Scar 28th March was the first with a pair here 1st April. First juveniles seen on 24th June, last recorded on 16th October.
- 85 **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* No spring records but more sightings than usual in period 28th July to 15th September, with three near Low Trenhouse 2nd August, five near Capon Hall and one Great Close Scar 3rd September and singles near Low Trenhouse 28th July, 8th, 12th and 15th September.
- 86 **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* Like the last species all records were from mid-summer onwards. The first a juvenile near Waterhouses 10th July, singles near Low Trenhouse and Dalehead 11th August, up to six near Henside 22nd to 29th September, again at Henside in October, seven on the 2nd with singles here on 3rd, 7th and 10th and three on 28th and, finally, one near Rough Close on 6th November.
- 87 **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* The first of the year was a singing bird near Sandhill Cottage on 12th February. By the end of the month four were singing, one on Fen, one Waterhouse and two



near Tarn House. One was heard singing at High Trenhouse in June and probably bred. Last recorded on 17th October.

- 88 **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* At least twenty in Tarn Woods January to 5th April. A flock of twenty five returned on the earliest ever date of 27th September. These were probably Icelandic birds as the wind at the time was from the north-west. A few birds stayed until 7th December feeding on yew berries. Peak count one hundred on 2nd October.
- 89 **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* Present throughout the year. Two pairs bred on Tarn Estate, one being successful near Sandhill Cottage and one pair probably bred near Capon Hall. Flocks of note were thirty near Henside 13th August and seven in Tarn Woods 1st September.
- 90 **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Recorded January to 15th April, peak count two hundred 16th January. One arrived back on 1st October, present thereon till end of year, no more than two hundred at any time.
- 91 **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* A few birds wintered on Tarn Estate both ends of the year and at least six pairs bred. The highest counts were as usual in October and November when presumably continental birds pass through the area, practically all of these are males. Peak counts were twelve on 25th October and fifteen on 25th November.
- 92 **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* First seen 2nd April near Dalehead where a pair feeding young on 30th May. One lower slopes of Chapel Fell 11th September, one near High Trenhouse 25th October and the latest ever record by far for area was one feeding on yew berries in front of Tarn House on 18th and 19th November.
- 93 **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* All records come from Tarn Fen 30th April to 11th June with one, occasionally two, singing birds.
- 94 **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* One near Tarn House 15th April was the first with six singing birds by 5th June. No signs of any breeding success - not surprising in view of the poor weather during the summer months. No late records, last seen on 5th July.
- 95 **Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* Two records of single birds near Spiggot on 24th August and 4th September.
- 96 **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* One 27th April is the earliest ever record, all sightings came from Tarn Fen where two pairs bred, juveniles seen on 23rd July, last record on 4th September.
- 97 **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Reported 12th April to 28th September, twenty four singing birds recorded on 7th May, two Spiggot, four Fen, fourteen Tarn Woods, two Great Close Wood, one Round Wood and one Ha Mire Wood. Few juveniles were seen in late summer due, do doubt, to the constant rain in June and July.
- 98 **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* One singing near the Bird Hide for day only 22nd April, this was the only record and the earliest ever.
- 99 **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* In spring single singing birds on 29th March, 1st April, 7th April and 2nd May. No more records till the usual late summer passage through Tarn Woods with one, occasionally two, birds in period 12th September to 14th October.
- 100 **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* An exceptionally poor year with no signs of a breeding attempt though the unchecked Darnbrook Plantations will surely have had a few pairs. In Tarn Woods all records as follows: singles 12th February, 15th and 22nd March, two 8th September, two 3rd October, singles 5th and 7th October and finally one on 10th December.
- 101 **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* First of year were two near Tarn House on 21st May where one pair bred successfully, the only other pair located was near Waterhouses. A few birds passed through the area during late summer, up to four birds at times. Last seen on 26th September.
- 102 **Great Tit** *Parus major* Bred Tarn Woods, juveniles first seen on 5th July. All three of the tit species probably suffered losses in the poor weather June/July. Counts of fifteen 10th January and ten 6th March were noteworthy.

- 103 **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* Two notable flocks in year were thirty 10th January and sixteen 7th December. Bred commonly as usual in Tarn Woods.
- 104 **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* Two or three pairs bred in Tarn Woods, success seemed limited with only one juvenile sighting on 22nd July. Four at the bird feeders Keepers Cottage 1st April the most seen together.
- 105 **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* At least four in Tarn Woods till 24th January, presumably the survivors of a flock that arrived 23rd October 2006. No more records until a flock of eight appeared 13th October, these stayed till the end of the year. The origin of these flocks which put in an almost annual appearance in October is not known.
- 106 **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* Four or five pairs in Tarn Woods, nest building observed near Bird Hide, high up in an ash tree, on 7th April. A family party seen near Tarn House on 26th June. One or two birds have been caught, creeping in to feed on the scraps of food, in small mammal traps on the ground. These birds were released unharmed.
- 107 **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* Two or three pairs bred in Tarn Woods. It would appear that the majority of the birds leave during the winter months as sightings November to February are infrequent and usually only single birds.
- 108 **Magpie** *Pica pica* Status unchanged, one or two pairs breed Tarn Woods, one pair near Capon Hall and probably at least one pair Darnbrook area, peak count was seven on 24th February.
- 109 **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* Two arrived in Tarn Woods 24th October staying till 11th November.
- 110 **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* This species continues to increase, now a common resident breeding bird. Bred Waterhouses, attempted to breed in a sycamore opposite Keeper's Cottage, probably bred Great Close Scar (nest building here 2nd March), bred Kiln House, possibly also bred at Darnbrook, Tarn House, Silverdale Barn, near Dalehead and Thoragill.
- 111 **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* No change in status of this common resident breeding bird, at least fifty pairs bred at Spiggot with four or five at Low Trenhouse.
- 112 **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* Bred commonly throughout area, twelve on 30th October Malham Lings is probably a fraction of the number actually resident in the area.
- 113 **Raven** *Corvus corax* Many more sightings than normal, usually one or two birds but three on 14th March, 11th and 18th September. Monthly records:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	5	4	5	1

- 114 **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Present throughout year, most notable flocks were two thousand 8th March near Low Trenhouse, smaller flocks in spring were commonplace. At least six pairs bred on Tarn Estate.
- 115 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* The site at Lea Gate where seen last year was not visited. The only record was a single bird at Waterhouses for a few hours only on 21st October.
- 116 **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Up to ten birds in the early months, breeding birds started to return late February with twenty singing birds 6th March. In a cold snap 18th March eighty birds were at Keeper's Cottage feeding station. Bred commonly in Tarn Woods. Still at least thirty birds present on Tarn Estate during November/December.
- 117 **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* Only the one record in spring, a solitary male at the bird feeders on 5th April. In autumn first one on 18th October with variable numbers on Tarn Estate till year end. Highest count was eighty Pot Hole Lane 16th November.
- 118 **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* Two at Low Trenhouse, where two pairs subsequently bred, 12th April were first of return. Also probably bred near Capon Hall, High Trenhouse and Darnbrook. Notable flocks were forty near Low Trenhouse 11th August, thirty near Capon Hall 3rd September and sixty on the slopes of Great Close Scar 20th September, last recorded on 2nd October.

119 Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Few records, in line with the last few years. Two near Capon Hall 11th April, four near Dalehead 30th May where probably bred, two near High Trenhouse 19th June, one Darnbrook Fell 18th July, five near Dalehead 23rd July and finally two at the same site 22nd September.

120 Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* Four on Tarn Fen 4th April the first of the year, one or two pairs subsequently bred successfully here. All other records come from this locality and the nearby Pot Hole Lane apart from a female at High Trenhouse 24th June, last recorded on 6th October.

121 Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Practically all winter records came from the bird feeding stations where up to six birds at times. Two or three pairs bred Tarn Estate with probable breeding at Darnbrook, Low and High Trenhouse. Success rate was not high; nevertheless September flocks were as normal with flocks of sixty on 12th, ninety on 18th and thirty-five 27th – all on Tarn Estate, a flock of eight near Dalehead on 22nd.

122 Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* An increasing species, bred High Trenhouse, Tarn House yews, Pot Hole Lane and near West Boathouse. Both resident and passage birds were regular visitors to bird feeders. Peak counts were eight 1st January, eight 3rd October and ten 14th October.

123 Siskin *Carduelis spinus* Five 16th January, three 19th January, one or two birds late February at Keeper's Cottage bird feeders. Only one more record in year, a single bird in Globe Flower Wood 5th October.

124 Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Single birds on the Fen 15th April, 2nd and 5th October – a typical showing.

125 Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Two pairs bred Tarn Fen, probably one near Spiggot and a pair reared three young in a small hawthorn at Low Trenhouse. A few elusive birds probably winter most years. Typically one on Tarn Fen 16th January, two at Low Trenhouse 9th December and one near Spiggot 12th December. A marked passage of birds also takes place in February/March and October/November, small numbers usually but on 6th October nine on Tarn Fen and one Ha Mire. Three near Dalehead 11th August were either local breeding birds or early passage birds.

126 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Three 8th February and one 9th February near Dalehead.



First and last dates of main summer and winter visitors

Species	First Seen	Last Seen
Wheatear	28 th March	16 th October
Ring Ouzel	2 nd April	19 th November
Swallow	4 th April	11 th September
Sand Martin	6 th April	8 th September
Common Sandpiper	12 th April	5 th August
Willow Warbler	12 th April	8 th September
Blackcap	15 th April	5 th July
Redstart	19 th April	29 th July
Sedge Warbler	27 th April	4 th September
Chiffchaff	29 th April	14 th October
Garden Warbler	30 th April	11 th June
Yellow Wagtail	4 th May	1 st September
House Martin	4 th May	11 th September
Swift	4 th May	7 th August
Spotted Flycatcher	21 st May	25 th September
Redwing	27 th September	5 th April
Fieldfare	1 st October	15 th April

Butterflies

- 1 **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris* First record, two on Highfolds 8th July with eight here on 18th July the peak count for the year. Also seen in small numbers near Spiggot, Tarn House Meadow, Thoragill, West Fen and near Great Close Scar. Last sighting was near Spiggot on 12th September.
 - 2 **Large Skipper** *Ochlodes venata* Four at Highfolds 10th June were the first, eight near Spiggot 9th the peak count in the year, one to three on West Fen 9th July. Last seen on lower slopes of Chapel Fell 18th July.
 - 3 **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* Single insects near Ha Mire Gate 2nd May and at Waterhouses 24th August.
 - 4 **Large White** *Pieris brassicae* The usual few records in period 4th June to 29th August from Fen, Thoragill and near Spiggot, no more than three at any time.
 - 5 **Small White** *Pieris rapae* A typical showing, two Ha Mire 3rd August with singles on Tarn Fen 4th, 7th and 11th September.
 - 6 **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* Recorded flight period, 17th April to 12th September, as usual Tarn Fen produced most records, peak count here thirty on 21st May and 24th August. Numbers much lower than usual in a cool wet and windy season. Also seen in small numbers at Thoragill, Darnbrook and Spiggot.
 - 7 **Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* Gradually increasing, all records as follows: two males Tarn Close 28th April, three males 30th April Tarn Fen, one here 1st May, 6th June and 8th June with, finally, another male on Highfolds on 11th June.
 - 8 **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi* The Dranbrook site not visited in flight period so all records come from Tarn Fen 18th April to 10th June, maximum count twenty-six on 21st May.
 - 9 **Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* Only two records, singles at Malham Lings 26th May and near Spiggot 12th September.
 - 10 **Northern Brown Argus** *Aricia artaxerxes* With exceptionally bad weather during flight period only one record of a single insect on Highfolds 11th June.
 - 11 **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* Flight period 8th June to 22nd August, new sites were Gordale Beck, ten here on 21st June and Darnbrook Ghyll, twenty on 28th June. Recorded also from usual localities: Spiggot, Fen, Chapel Fell, Thoragill, Tennant Ghyll, Great Close Scar, Highfolds, Tarn House Meadow and Street Gate. Numbers, not surprisingly, were down on last year with bad flight-period weather, peak count thirty below Great Close Scar 16th July.
- Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus* **No records in 2007**, only records are one from 1948 and another where the details are not known personally



Green Hairstreak



Common Blue

- 12 **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* One on 13th May the only spring record. Later sightings stretched from 20th June to 5th October. Peak count only six on 22nd June a testimony to the poor weather.
- 13 **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* All records as follows: one 10^{yh} June Tarn Fen, four Chapel Fell and one Great Close Scar 11th June, three Fen 21st June, two Spiggot 22nd June, one 4th September on Fen where three 7th September was the final sighting.
- 14 **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae* In spring singles 12th, 15th, 17th and 29th April. Numbers low in period 3rd August to 10th October with highest count only eight on 7th September.



Red Admiral

Peacock

- 15 **Peacock** *Inachis io* An unusually good spring emergence with two on 7th April, six on 11th, two 12th, two 14th, twelve on 14th, six on 15th, seven on 17th April and finally one on 3rd May. This was followed by the worst summer numbers since I started recording butterflies in 1995, due no doubt to the poor weather in June/July. Recorded in summer from 24th August to 5th October, peak count only sixteen on the whole of the Malham Tarn Estate on 14th September, normally whole estate counts would exceed sixty.
- 16 **Comma** *Polygonia c-album* The only record for year, and the first ever spring sighting, was one on the Fen 15th April.
- 17 **Dark Green Fritillary** *Argynnis aglaja* Numbers held up well in spite of the weather with a further extension of its range, a new colony in Darnbrook Ghyll found by Martin Davies with seven on 28th June and the peak count in the year here of twenty-three on 10th July. Also seen at the usual localities, first record of year on Highfolds four on 21st June, recorded also in small numbers from Chapel Fell, Street Gate, Thoragill, Great Close Scar, Fen and Tarn House Meadow, last seen 12th September.



Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* **No records in 2007.** One Tarn House Meadow 14th August 2003 the only record

- 18 **Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* One High Stables 3rd August and one near Bird Hide 7th September the only records, the bad weather probably holding back further colonisation.
- 19 **Wall** *Lasiommata megera* One near end of Mastiles Lane 11th June is the first ever record for area and the twenty-fourth species in all.
- 20 **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* Recorded 8th July to 11th September from the following localities, Great Close Scar, Highfolds, Tran Fen, Darnbrook Ghyll, Streetgate Chapel Fell, Thoragill, Tarn House Meadow, and near Spiggot. Numbers down on last year with peak counts only ten Streetgate 19th July, eighteen Great Close Scar 5th August and eleven Tarn Fen 15th August.
- 21 **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus* First sighting was of two on Highfolds 8th July and the last a singleton at Thoragill 29th August where the peak count of year was recorded - ten 19th July. A new site was Darnbrook Ghyll where seven on 10th July, also seen in small numbers at Spiggot and Tarn House Meadow.
- 22 **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus* Recorded from Chapel Fell, Highfolds, Great Close Scar, Spiggot, Darnbrook Ghyll, Thoragill, and Streetgate where maximum count in year of twenty-two 19th July. First seen 4th June and the last 12th September.



Small Heath

Dragonflies & Damselflies

- 1 **Emerald Damselfly** *Lestes sponsa* All records come from West Fen, first seen 22nd July and last 12th September, no more than four at any time.
 - 2 **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* No more than six on the Fen from 25th May to 19th July.
 - 3 **Azure Damselfly** *Coenagrion puella* Up to twenty counted on the Fen 7th June to 3rd August.
 - 4 **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* Apart from two on Tarn House Meadow 16th July all records come from the Boardwalk below Sandhill Cottage in period 4th June to 6th September. Peak counts eleven on 10th June and seven 3rd August. One on 27th July was caught and eaten by a spotted flycatcher.
- Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* **No records in 2007.** Previous records, singles 15th July 2003 and 2nd September 2004.
- 5 **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncae* First seen 15th July and last 25th September, no more than six at any time. All records come from Thoragill, Spiggot, Tarn Woods and Tarn Fen.
- Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* **No records in 2007** One in August 2005 the last record.
- Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* **No records in 2007**, one July 2001 the only previous record.
- Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* **No records in 2007** A single in June 2006 the only previous record.
- Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa* **No records in 2007** One in July 2005 the only previous record.
- 6 **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* No more than six on Tarn Fen 18th July to 5th October.
 - 7 **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* First sighting 3rd August and the last 18th October, peak count on the fen only twelve on 25th September.



Large Red Damselfly



Common Blue Damselfly



Common Hawker



Common Darter



Black Darter



Common Darter

Weather Report – Winter to early Spring

Overall the first three months of the year were warm and wet though the wet weather eased of towards the end of the period. We had relatively few days frost and little snow. The Tarn failed to freeze completely over for only the second winter in recent years. Drier weather took over towards the end of March and April was much warmer, drier and sunnier than usual.

January – a wet and warm month, it started raining on the 1st of the month and carried on every day until the 20th. By the end of the month we had had 100mm more than the average January rainfall and the month turned out to be the wettest of the whole year with nearly 260mm (10in) of rain. Temperatures were well above average as well, about two to three degrees above the norm with a maximum of 10.4°C on the 29th being exceptional. Sunshine was about average for January but most of that was concentrated in the later half of the month when clear skies gave a few days frost.

January 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (29th Jan)	10.4 °C	
Average Maximum	7.0 °C	3.6 °C
Coldest Day (14th Jan)	-3.4 °C	
Average Minimum	1.0 °C	-0.9 °C
Days with Air Frost	10 days	18 days
Wettest Day (10th Jan)	33.0 mm	
Total Rain for Month	257.7 mm	154 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain	22 days	18 days
Sunniest Day (23rd Jan)	7.4 hours	
Total Sunshine	40.4 hours	35.3 hours

February – the sunnier weather from the end of January carried on into the first week or so of February with some nice clear, cold, crisp days. The coldest day of the year (6th Feb -4.6°C) fell in this period. The rest of the month turned grey, mild and damp. The total rainfall for the month was slightly above average but temperatures again were about two to three degrees above the usual February values. Only six days of frost were recorded in the month.

February 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (17th Feb)	9.9 °C	
Average Maximum	6.5 °C	3.4 °C
Coldest Day (6th Feb)	-4.6 °C	
Average Minimum	1.6 °C	-1.1 °C
Days with Air Frost	6 days	17.3 days
Wettest Day (11th Feb)	17.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month	139.3 mm	103.6 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain	16 days	13 days
Sunniest Day (7th Feb)	8.4 hours	
Total Sunshine	65.8 hours	58.5 hours

March – started pretty much as February ended, mild and damp but apart from a couple of wet days around the middle of the month soon dried up with some colder, crisper weather coming in towards the later half of the month. Average temperatures were well above the usual March values and the month was both drier and sunnier than usual.

March 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (28th Mar)	13.3 °C	
Average Maximum	8.0 °C	5.7 °C
Coldest Day (21st Mar)	-4.3 °C	
Average Minimum	1.5 °C	0 °C
Days with Air Frost	8 days	15.2 days
Wettest Day (4th Mar)	20.7 mm	
Total Rain for Month	89.4 mm	125.6 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain	16 days	15.8 days
Sunniest Day (27th Mar)	9.43 hours	
Total Sunshine	97.2 hours	85.3 hours

April – this was perhaps the nicest month of the whole year. We had very little rainfall, about 40mm - less than half of the average for April, the only appreciable rain coming around the 22nd – 24th of the month. Temperatures were well above the norm – reaching 19.8°C on the 14th and 15th and sunshine was in plentiful supply with about 50% more hours of bright sun than is usual for April. On the 24th and 25th of the month the minimum overnight temperatures were above 10°C which is quite remarkable for April.

April 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (14th/15th Apr)	19.8 °C	
Average Maximum	12.8 °C	8.7 °C
Coldest Day (14th Apr)	-1.0 °C	
Average Minimum	4.3 °C	1.8 °C
Days with Air Frost	1 day	7.3 days
Wettest Day (24th Apr)	16.3 mm	
Total Rain for Month	36.9 mm	90.5 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain	5 days	13.3 days
Sunniest Day (12th Apr)	11.6 hours	
Total Sunshine	179.2 hours	120.3 hours

Summer - After a good start to the spring in April the weather deteriorated rather badly over the next couple of months. Though temperatures were average or slightly above average the period was largely dominated by unsettled wet spells. Both May and June were a lot wetter than normal. Early June was the only exception but, sadly, the promising start to what is usually one of the best months at Malham Tarn led to a rather wet and dreary early summer period. August was a much better month with slightly above average sunshine and temperatures and less rain than usual.

May – started as April had finished but after three or four days a series of low-pressure areas dominated the rest of the month. Rainfall was recorded almost every day from the 5th to the 31st of the month. Total rainfall was well above average and there was less than usual sunshine. A third of the total hours of sunshine came in the first four days of the month, the rest mostly towards the end of the month as the weather turned slightly more showery. Temperatures were almost exactly average but even the warmest day only reached a distinctly cool 16.7°C. After such a nice April this was a very disappointing month.

May 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (3rd May)	16.7 °C	12.3 °C
Average Maximum	12.5 °C	
Coldest Day (3rd May)	1.1 °C	4.6 °C
Average Minimum	5.4 °C	
Days with Air Frost	0	1.2 days
Wettest Day (7th May)	22.1 mm	92.3 mm
Total Rain for Month	120.6 mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	19 days	13.5 days
Sunniest Day (26th May)	13.5 hours	163.4 hours
Total Sunshine	142.1 hours	

June – after a dismal May we looked forward to a better June and the first ten days didn't disappoint, temperatures rose to the low twenties, and we had some nice sunny weather (an average of about 9 hours sun per day). On the 11th June the weather broke, over the next five days we had nearly 80mm (3.5inches) of rain – not far of the average for the whole of June and by the end of the month we had had more than twice the average rainfall. Apart from the 17th we recorded some rain on every day from the 1st to the end of the month. Average temperatures for the month were just above normal – but were dragged up by the warm beginning to the month.

June 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (11th June)	22.3 °C	15.1 °C
Average Maximum	15.9 °C	
Coldest Day (6th June)	4.8 °C	7.6°C
Average Minimum	9.1 °C	
Days with Air Frost	0	0.10 days
Wettest Day (14th June)	30.5 mm	93.7 mm
Total Rain for Month	192.2 mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	17 days	13.1
Sunniest Day (6th June)	12.4 hours	151.5 hours
Total Sunshine	137.3 hours	

July – continued where June left off, a real contrast to July 2006 - the sunniest and warmest month ever recorded at Malham Tarn. Rain was recorded on 18 days during the month and total rainfall was once again getting on for twice the monthly average. Temperatures were well below average. In 2006 the average maximum daily temperature had reached 21.9°C, this year we couldn't even reach 16°C and the warmest day of the whole month only got to 20°C as compared to 27°C in 2006. It wasn't until the last four or five days of the months that we started to see some summer sunshine.

July 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (19th July)	20.0 °C	16.5 °C
Average Maximum	15.5 °C	
Coldest Day (31st July)	5.0 °C	9.2 °C
Average Minimum	9.6 °C	
Days with Air Frost	0	0 days
Wettest Day (2nd July)	35.2 mm	100.3 mm
Total Rain for Month	184.8 mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	18 days	13 days
Sunniest Day (30th July)	10.6 hours	136.4 hours
Total Sunshine	106.1 hours	

August – was better, temperatures were about average, there was slightly less rain and slightly more sun than usual. In fact the month could be split into three ten days blocks. The first ten days were reasonably warm with some grey but largely dry days interspersed with some nice sunny days. The middle ten days were cold and wet – almost all of the total rain for the month (93mm out of 107mm) fell in this period. The last ten days then turned slightly warmer, were largely dry and had more sun. Temperatures were disappointing, we only reached 20°C on three days in the month (in 2003 we had stayed above 20°C for nearly half of the month with a maximum of 27.4°C on 10th August 2003).

August 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (5th August)	22.0 °C	16.1 °C
Average Maximum	16.6 °C	
Coldest Day (19th August)	5.0 °C	9.3 °C
Average Minimum	8.7 °C	
Days with Air Frost	0	0 days
Wettest Day (14th August)	33.0 mm	130.8 mm
Total Rain for Month	106.6 mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	11 days	14.7 days
Sunniest Day (23rd August)	13.3 hours	142.6 hours
Total Sunshine	168.5 hours	

Autumn/early Winter – following the pattern for most of the year the Autumn was warmer than average but with less sunshine than we might have expected given the calm settled weather. There were few frosts and it was the middle of December before we saw any really cold weather.

September – we had some rain on the first couple of days but it then stayed largely dry until the 19th. Over the next six days we had 94mm (nearly 4inches) of rain but the rest of the month was dry. Overall the month had slightly less than average rain and slightly more sun than usual. The month didn't feel particularly sunny though as most days had a few hours of sun (19 days had less than 4 hours sun) rather than there being any long settled sunny spells (only 8 had more than 6 hours). The average monthly temperature was above the norm; the first 15 days were in fact well above average (mean of about 16.7°C) whilst the last fifteen were cool (mean of 12.7°C).

September 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (6th Sept)	21.1 °C	13.8 °C
Average Maximum	14.7 °C	
Coldest Day (19th Sept)	0.8 °C	
Average Minimum	7.5 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost	0	0 days
Wettest Day (19th Sept)	28.7 mm	138.8 mm
Total Rain for Month	126.1 mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	11 days	
Sunniest Day (7th Sept)	10.3 hours	100.8 hours
Total Sunshine	117.9 days	

October – a quiet month. Warmer and much drier than usual but that dry weather was associated with settled high pressure systems containing a lot of cloud so sunshine hours were well below average. Most days had a little sun, on twenty-four days we recorded less than two hours of sunshine and only six of these were totally overcast but in contrast few days were really sunny, only two (5th and 6th) had more than six hours of sunshine. The rainfall total for the month was the lowest October value since 1993 and the fourth lowest October total for Malham Tarn ever noted.

October 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (10th Oct)	14.3 °C	10.6 °C
Average Maximum	11.9 °C	
Coldest Day (18th Oct)	0.4 °C	
Average Minimum	6.3 °C	5.2 °C
Days with Air Frost	0 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day (27th Oct)	16.1 mm	150.8 mm
Total Rain for Month	62.5	
Days with > 1mm Rain	12 days	
Sunniest Day (6th Oct)	7.7 hours	80.0 hours
Total Sunshine	52.2 hours	

November – another warmer than average month. The first (air) frost of the autumn was recorded on the 9th when the air temperature got down to -2.9°C (the first ground frost was noted on 4th September). Rain was recorded on most days (23 in total with 18 of them having >1mm) but amounts were generally small apart from two wet spells from the 17th – 21st (44mm) and from 27th – 30th (66mm). Once again the weather seemed to be dominated by “blocking” high-pressure areas associated with lots of cloud so total sunshine was below average with few days having any real sunshine - only the 4th and 24th having more than five hours of sunshine.

November 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (2nd Nov)	13.0 °C	6.5 °C
Average Maximum	8.1 °C	
Coldest Day (9th Nov)	-2.9 °C	
Average Minimum	3.1 °C	1.2 °C
Days with Air Frost	5 days	8.8 days
Wettest Day (30th Nov)	38.4 mm	149.9 mm
Total Rain for Month	145.4mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	18 days	
Sunniest Day (24th Nov)	6.5 hours	54.9 hours
Total Sunshine	48.84 hours	

December – once again slightly warmer than average (max of 10.9 on 6th Dec.) with slightly fewer frost days, the first and last nine days were warm and wet with a cold dry spell in the middle of the month. Minimum temperatures reached minus 5.7°C on the 22nd Dec. and air frosts were recorded on most days between the 11th and 23rd. The grass minimum reached a low of minus 9.2°C, ground frost are recorded when the grass minimum is below 0°C and this happened on 22 days during the month. The Tarn froze completely over for a couple of days around the 22nd of Dec. Rain fell on about half of the days (mostly at the beginning and end of the month) giving a slightly higher than average total of 193.1mm for the month. Sunny days were few and far between with the total for the month being well below average.

December 2007 Summary		Mean (1961 -1990)
Warmest Day (6th Dec)	10.9 °C	4.6 °C
Average Maximum	5.4 °C	
Coldest Day (22nd Dec)	-5.7 °C	
Average Minimum	0.2 °C	-0.1 °C
Days with Air Frost	12 days	15 days
Wettest Day (28th Dec)	36.3 mm	162.0 mm
Total Rain for Month	193.1mm	
Days with > 1mm Rain	15days	
Sunniest Day (20th Dec)	5.0 hours	37.5 hours
Total Sunshine	29.1 hours	

Records

Temperature

Warmest Day
Coldest Day
Warmest Month
Coldest Month
Lowest Grass Temperature
Lowest 10cm Temperature
Lowest 30cm Temperature

Rainfall

Wettest Day
Wettest Month
Driest Month
Total Rainfall for Year

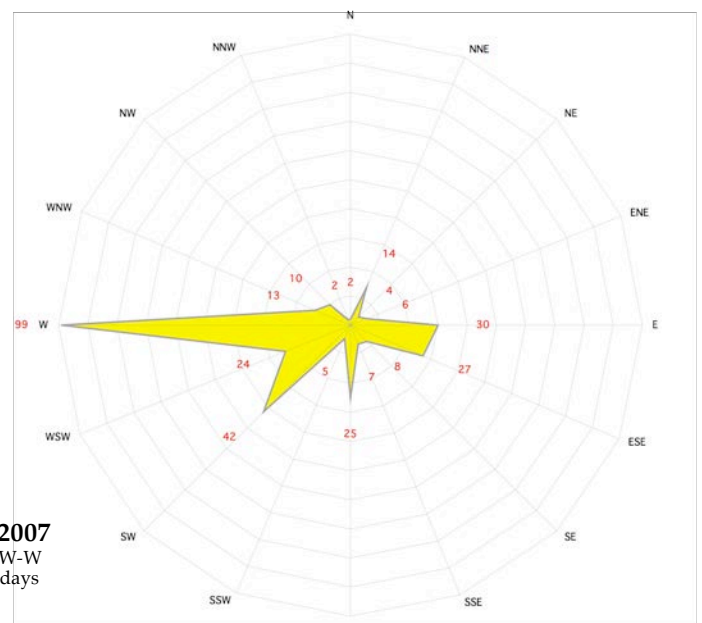
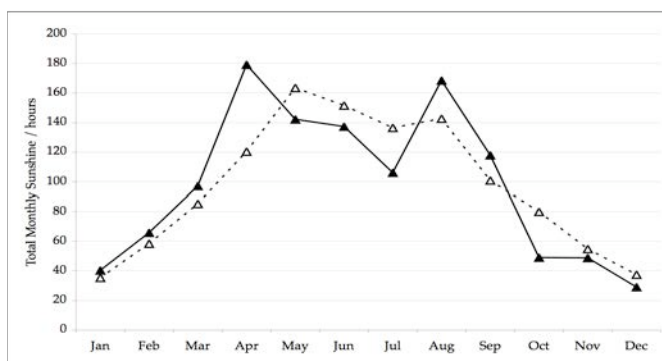
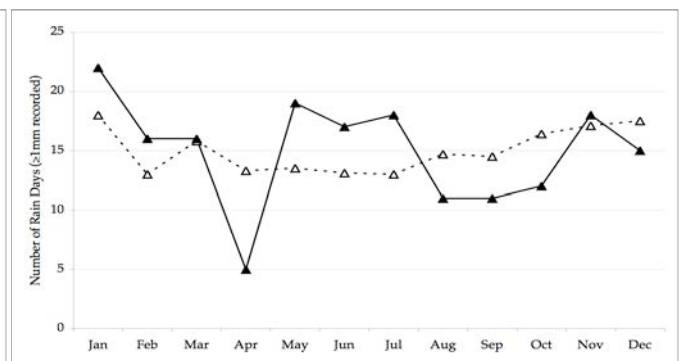
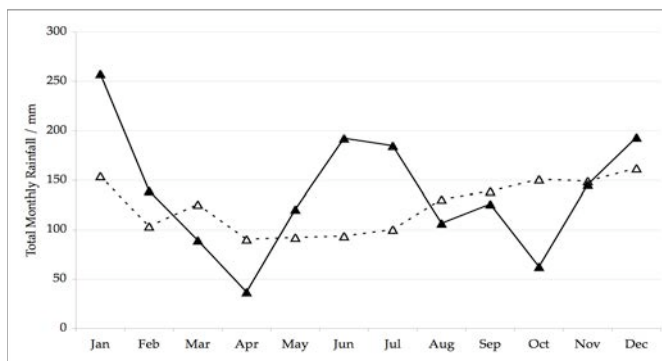
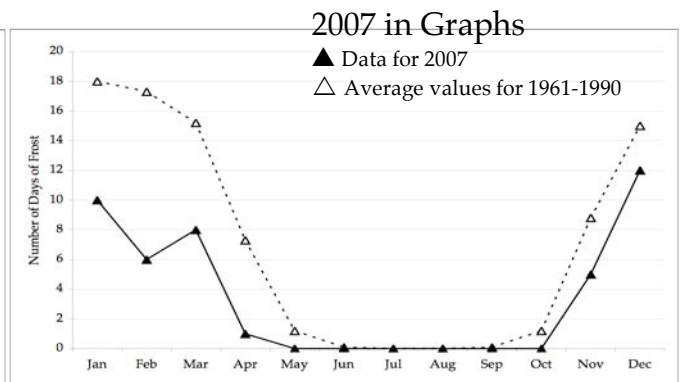
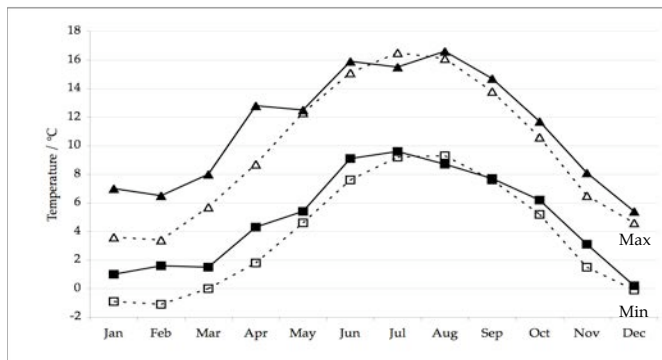
Sunshine

Sunniest Day
Sunniest Month
Least Sunny Month

2007		Ever (1959 - 2006)	
Date	Amount	Date	Amount
11th June	22.3 °C	3rd Aug. 1990	28.2 °C
22nd December	-5.7 °C	5th Mar. 2001	-13.5 °C
August	16.6 °C	Jul. 2006	21.9 °C
December	0.2 °C	Feb. 1986	-5.6 °C
22nd December	-9.2 °C	5th Mar. 2001	-20.1 °C
9th February	-0.6 °C	14th Dec. 1999	-7.1 °C
11th February	2.0 °C	28th Feb. 1994	0.6 °C
30th November	38.4 mm (1.5 in)	31st Jan. 2002	135.4 mm (5.3 in)
January	257.75 mm (10.1 in)	Feb. 2002	364.1 mm (14.3 in)
April	36.9 mm (1.45 in)	Jan/ Feb 1979	No Rain
	1560.8 mm (61.4 in)	2000	2097.9 mm (82.6 in)
26th May	13.5 hours	7th May 1985	15.7 hours
April	179.2 hours	Jul. 2006	257.5 hours
December	29.1 hours	Jan. 1997	No Sun

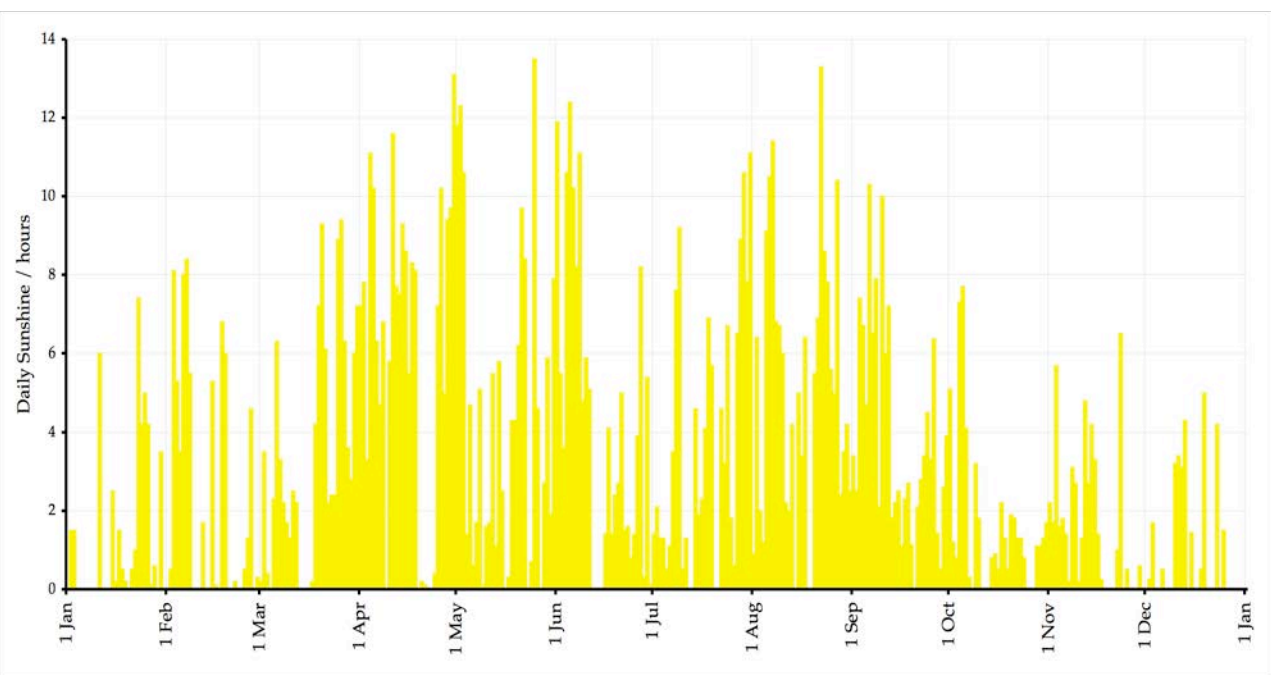
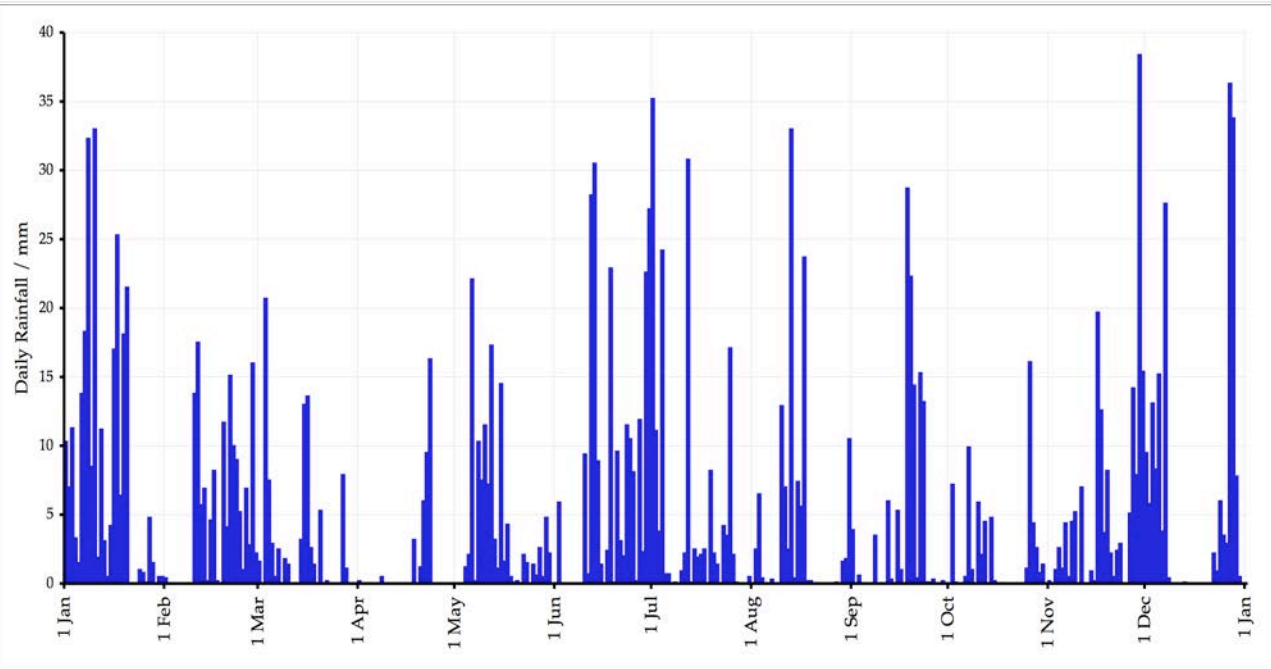
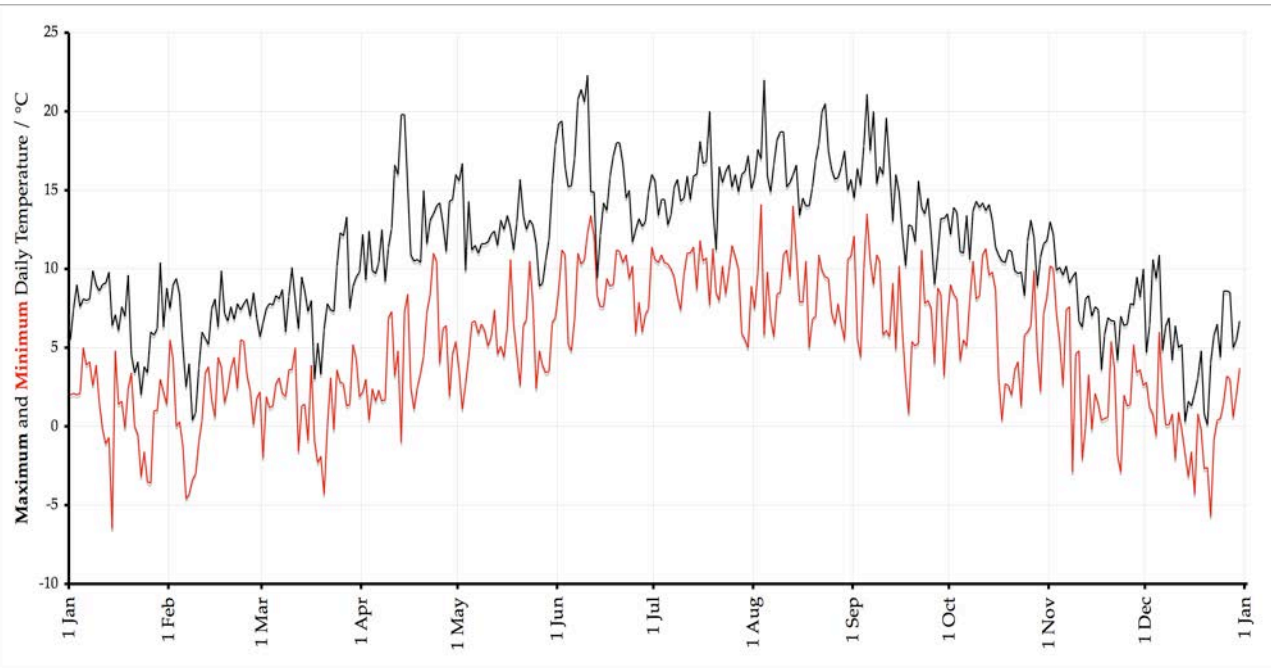
Notes

Highest air temperature recorded
Lowest air temperature recorded
Highest Average Maximum readings
Lowest Average Minimum readings



Wind Rose for 2007

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: Phone **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**.

Programme of Courses for 2008

The Natural World

Birdwatching in the Dales led by Colin Straker **22nd - 26th 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 **26th - 30th May**
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.

Flowers of the Limestone led by Judith Allinson **2nd - 6th June**
Visit a variety of habitats to see and learn about many of the flowers that are special to the Craven limestone

Limestone Flora led by Ian Powell **13th - 16th June**
Explore this specialist flora, concentrating on several important plant families inc ferns, grasses and sedges.

Grass Identification led by Sarah Watson Jones **18th - 21st Jul**
Visiting a variety of field sites, learn how to identify grasses - one of the largest and important groups of plant but difficult to get to grips with.

Mosses and Liverworts led by Martha Newton **21st - 25th Jul**
Look in detail and learn to identify mosses and liverworts at a variety of wetland sites around Malham Tarn NNR.

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes led by Judith Allinson **1st - 8th Aug**
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 **18th - 22nd Aug**
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 **25th - 29th Aug**
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 **26th - 29th Aug**
An introduction to the more common ferns of Britain with emphasis on those special to limestone areas.

Lichens in the Dales led by Allan Pentecost **29th - 31st Aug**
An introductory course to the identification of lichens, their biology and impact on the landscape.

Fungal Fun led by Noel Jackson **3rd - 5th Oct**
Find out where to look, how to identify, which are safe to eat, and try some exotic recipes for fungi!



Discover the Dales

Historic Landscape of the Yorkshire Dales led by David Johnson **10th - 17th August**
Explore the southern Dales and unravel the mysteries of the area's rich past.

Wild Days in the Dales led by Centre Staff **21st - 25th March & 1st - 8th Aug**
A variety of exciting things to do that will engage the family in a mixture of activities in the glorious Dales.

Exploring the Historic Landscape of the Yorkshire Dales led by David Johnson **8th - 14th Aug**
Explore the southern Dales and unravel the mysteries of the area's rich past.



Settle-Carlisle and Steam in the North led by David Alison **17th - 24th Aug**
Explore the history of the line, a marvel of engineering passing through majestic scenery.

Geology of the Dales led by Adrian Pickles **29th Aug - 1st Sept**
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.

Outdoor Skills

Landscape Photography in the Dales led by Chris Rowley **1st - 8th Aug**
If you enjoy photography, improve on your technique and skills base as you capture the beauty of the Dales on camera.

Fly Fishing in the Dales led by Stephen Cheetham **25th Jul - 1st Aug & 8th - 15th Aug**
Practise the techniques for successful fly-fishing in a fun and relaxed week at Malham Tarn.

Navigation Skills led by Adrian Pickles **31st Oct - 2nd Nov**
Can't find your way in the hills when the mist comes down? Practice the basic skills and gain a qualification that will give you the confidence you need out of doors.

Art & Craft

Drawing and Painting the Limestone Landscape led by Katharine Holmes **2nd - 6th Jun**
Further your understanding of the Dales Landscape by drawing and painting this wonderful area (mixed media).

Painting the Flora of Malham Tarn led by Kate Houghton **13th - 16th Jun**
A course for anyone with an interest in native flora. Immerse yourself in a close study of the plant world and learn how to record it in a watercolour drawing.

Pure Watercolour Painting led by Margaret Uttley **21st - 25th Jul**
Be inspired by the landscape and experiment with a range of water colour techniques that will allow you to create a variety of textures and painterly surfaces.

Landscapes in Acrylic & Collage led by Katharine Holmes **8th - 15th Aug**
Using mixed media to interpret the Dales landscape, the emphasis will be on experiment, inventiveness and enjoyment.

Improve your Watercolour Techniques led by Linda Hollingshead **18th - 22nd Aug**
Develop your artistic skills and improve your techniques whilst drawing and painting the wonderful landscape around Malham Tarn.

Printmaking Without a Press led by Pauline Meade **25th - 29th Aug**
Using simple, traditional techniques, experiment with making beautiful relief and screen prints.

Sculpture : an exploration led by Sarah Smith **29th Aug - 1st Sept**
A wonderful opportunity, through the use of clay, to explore different methods of sculpture - for all abilities.

Dyeing Workshop led by Mary Simpson **21st - 23rd Nov**
A taster course using natural dyes to create a range of colours on homespun yarn.

Rag Rug Making led by Karen Griffiths **21st - 23rd Nov**
Recycle old clothes and materials into colourful and inventively designed rag rugs to decorate your home.

Winter Drawing Workshop led by Margaret Uttley **21st - 23rd Nov**
Working in charcoal and pencil, explore and express your moods in conjunction with the seasonal effects on the fantastically rich landscape around Malham Tarn.

Fantastic Felt led by Jan Hicks **31st Oct - 2nd Nov**
Master the basic techniques to transform wool fibres into a strong and durable fabric - then experiment!



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 (SEC). The National Trust manages the reserve in partnership with English Nature and the Field Studies Council.

What's on in 2008 with the National Trust

Feed the Easter Lambs Town Head Barn, Malham 11am - 3pm **Sunday 23rd & Monday 24th March**
Feed the lambs - feeding time every half-hour. Displays and information. Easter Trail - follow a trail of clues and questions around Malham Cove, starting at Town Head Barn. Suitable for all ages. £1 per entry.

Spring in the Fells Meet in Kettlewell Car Park SD968723 11.15am - 3pm **Sunday 18th May**
A moderate/strenuous guided walk over the fells to Starbotton and back along the River Wharfe with one of our volunteers. Bring a packed lunch and. Dogs on leads only please.

Malhamdale Wild Flower Walk 1pm - 3pm **Thursday 5th June**
Join us for a walk around Great Close Mire Field and enjoy the beautiful wild flowers of Malhamdale. Sturdy footwear essential as surfaces are uneven and gradients steep. No dogs. £2. Booking essential.

Tarn House Tours & Guided Walks 11am - 3pm **Saturday 14th June**
A chance to visit Tarn House and the National Nature Reserve, both normally closed to the public. Meet and park at Waterhouses. SD 886674. £2.50 per adult (free to NT members). Booking essential. Tarn House tours at 11am and 2pm, NNR walk at 12.30pm. No dogs.

NNR Guided Walk 11am - 12noon **Wednesday 18th June**
Join us for a guided walk around the National Nature Reserve at Malham Tarn and experience the glorious flowers and insect life abundant on this internationally important wetland site, normally closed to the public. Meet and park at Waterhouses SD 886674. £2 Booking essential.

Wild Flower Meadow Walks 1pm - 3pm **Tuesday 24th June**
Join us for this glorious wild flower walk in Malhamdale. Sturdy footwear essential as surfaces are uneven and gradients steep. No dogs. £2. Booking essential.

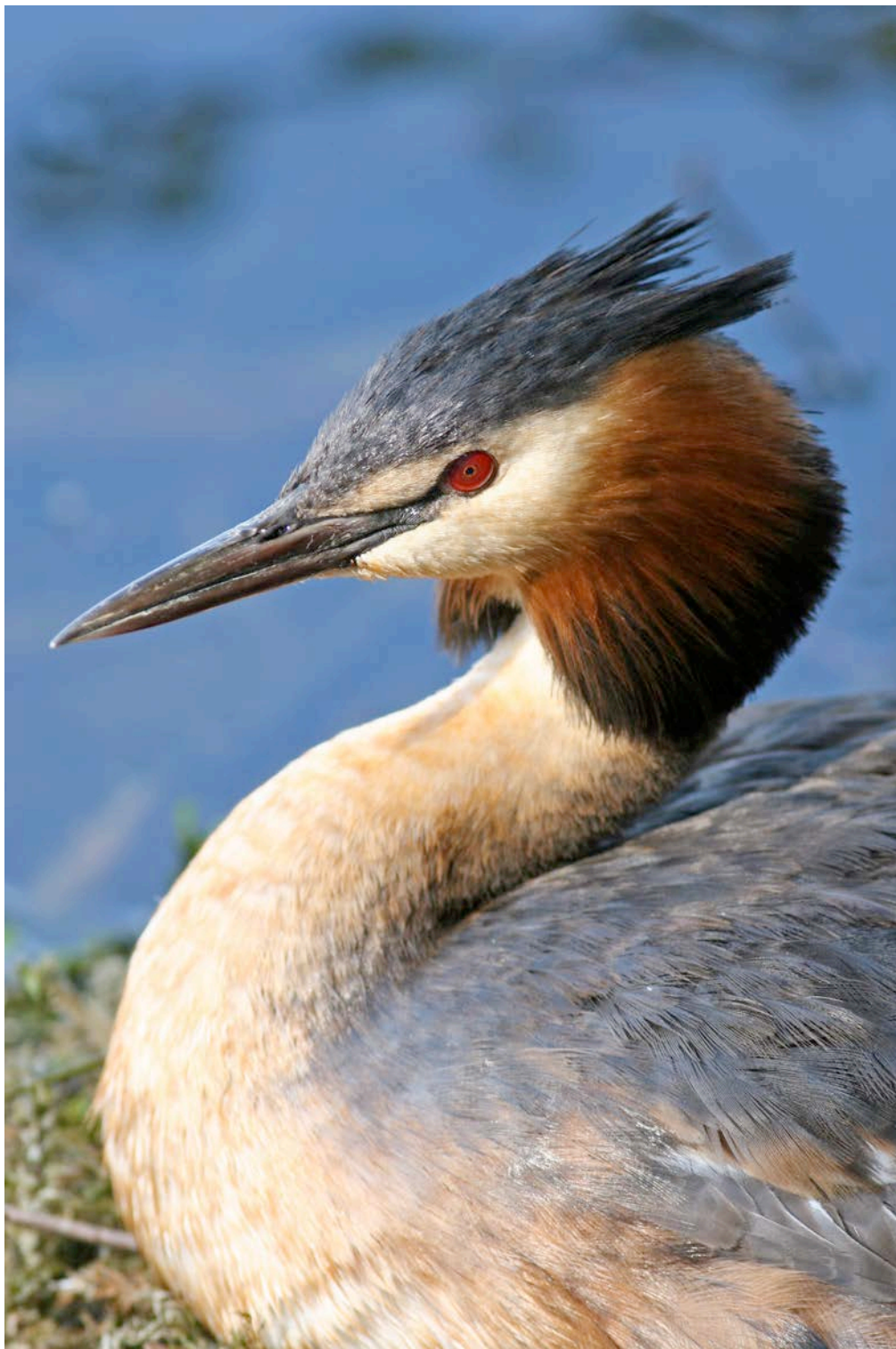
Hay Meadow 11am - 3.30pm **Day Saturday 28th June**
Visit Yockenthwaite Farm for the day. Hay meadow display, meadow walks (11am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm), story telling in Strans Barn (11.30am, 1.30pm), stone painting activity (11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm) and more. Free entry. No dogs. Wear suitable footwear.

Buckden Pike and Buckden Gavel lead mine 10.30am - 3pm **Sunday 20th July**
Enjoy far-reaching views on this strenuous high level walk with one of our volunteers. Bring a packed lunch and meet at Buckden Car Park SD 943774.

Guided Bat Walks at Malham Tarn Tuesday 8pm-10pm **5th August & Tuesday 12th August**
View our nocturnal woodlanders. Meet at Estate Office, Waterhouses, Malham Tarn SD 885674. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a torch. No dogs. £2. Booking essential.

Autumn in Wharfedale 11.15am-3pm **12 October**
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



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
Tel: 01729 830331 Fax: 01729 830658
Email: enquiries.mt@field-studies-council.org Web site:
www.field-studies-council.org