

Malham Tarn

Wildlife & Weather Report

2012



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2012 Wildlife Report – A Summary

The 2012 summer was the worst I have ever experienced. This had a devastating impact on wildlife in the Malham Tarn area. Butterflies and dragonflies suffered particularly badly with ground nesting birds having a hard time. In the case of butterflies some species, such as Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Large White, Orange Tip, Painted Lady and Speckled Wood, were not seen at all. Those that did emerge, apart from Small Tortoiseshell, were down in numbers. Due to the prolonged spells of wet, windy and cool weather some sites were not visited – notably Darnbrook Ghyll, Fountains Fell Plateau and Street Gate Pasture.

The dramatic decline in coot numbers is not fully understood. Even during the 1950's, when Paul Holmes was at Tarn House with the Field Studies Council, flocks of 150+ birds were present during the winter months. Whilst the return of otters may have had a detrimental effect, food, or lack of it, or some other factor must surely be the cause of the decline.

It is to be hoped that 2013 will provide better weather for all, but many thanks to those who contributed to this report in one way or another this year:

Tony Bullough, Roger Clark, Ian Court, Martin Davies, David Hodgson, Jo and Gerald Light, D and E Lord, Stuart Ralph, Mr and Mrs Keith Mudd, Richard Mann and Colin Straker with apologies for any omissions.

Brian Shorrock

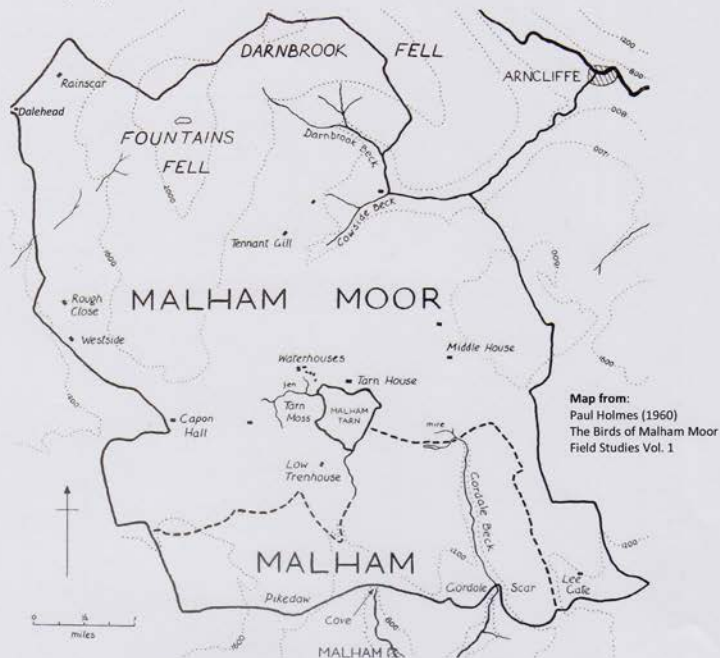
January 2013



Malham Tarn – West Boathouse and view towards Tarn Moss - 28th January 2012

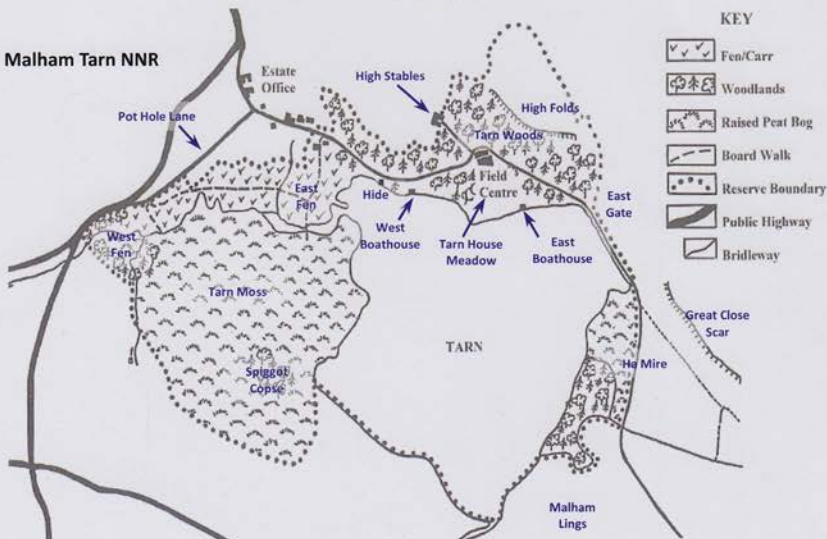
Cover Photograph – East Boathouse and Great Close Scar – Dawn 5th February 2012
All Photographs by Robin Sutton - <http://robsuttonphotography.zenfolio.com/>

Area covered by Report



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

Malham Tarn NNR



Birds Records 2012

- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A similar showing to last year with two birds present on Tarn January to 26th March. Absent then till 17th July when some birds reappeared with up to five birds till the year end.
- Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Two arrived back late on 4th March with no more than three birds till 23rd August. One pair attempted to breed in East Bay with no signs of any success. Only one other record – a winter plumaged bird from 18th to 26th October.
- Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Apart from May and June present on Tarn all other months, usually single birds, occasionally two with four on 21st October. Peak month was in March with ten sightings.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Recorded in all months, usually one bird, occasionally two, around sides of Tarn, on outflow stream or on Fen. Most records in October with five.
- Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* In Spring six stayed on the Tarn 14th to 16th March, thirty five on 22nd March, thirteen 23rd March and fifteen 6th and 7th April. Later in year returning birds were seen in October with two on 21st, nine on 27th and four on the 30th.



Whooper Swan

- Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* The only record was of c120 flying north west over the Tarn on 15th January.
- Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* Apart from a single bird on the 9th October all records came in the period 20th March to 21st May, usually two or three birds, but the highest ever count on 26th March when seventeen on the Tarn.
- Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* One to three pairs attempted to breed. One of these pairs successfully raised three young. Peak monthly counts below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	0	2	4	3	17	150	150	1	10	18	2	13
2011	0	1	2	2	7	110	200	5	17	11	11	1
2010	0	0	4	8	18	120	200	8	15	19	15	0
2009	0	3	8	14	52	200	210	0	28	28	30	2

- Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* Three on the Tarn 20th February.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Present throughout year, presumably attempted to breed but no young were ever seen. Peak monthly counts below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	40	6	6	4	6	31	50	50	18	8	26	6
2011	50	18	14	10	8	40	50	30	10	8	12	12
2010	6	10	12	2	3	50	50	60	115	50	52	10
2009	16	8	8	6	8	16	75	50	50	60	20	20

- 11 **Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Present on Tarn January to 7th April and 9th September to year end.



Wigeon

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	60	40	50	12	0	0	0	0	26	20	45	45
2011	70	45	50	40	0	0	0	0	6	55	80	70
2010	6	40	75	25	0	0	0	0	10	70	60	1
2009	90	70	70	45	0	0	0	1	2	12	40	45

- 12 **Teal** *Anas crecca* The decline continues, probably lost as a breeding species with smaller numbers at other times of the year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	21	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
2011	2	4	7	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	8	6
2010	6	8	3	4	0	0	0	1	30	15	6	2
2009	8	18	8	10	0	0	1	8	20	12	4	10

- 13 **Pochard** *Aythya farina* Peak counts below,

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	40	12	35	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	20	12
2011	4	5	5	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	16	56
2010	0	4	4	0	0	0	1	1	10	40	70	0
2009	50	60	45	1	1	1	4	12	6	10	10	4

- 14 **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Birds were present in the breeding season and there was one record of 5 young on 9th August which were not subsequently seen again – probably having been predated. There was no other indication of any successful breeding attempts.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	60	40	85	60	18	10	30	40	66	55	70	7
2011	9	60	55	40	8	11	40	35	150	100	75	70
2010	0	4	40	35	28	32	45	60	100	140	160	0
2009	40	60	70	70	22	27	80	50	35	30	20	15

- 15 **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* Two on the Tarn for a short period on 28th June.

- 16 **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* Recorded January to 27th April and 13th October to year end.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	9	8	16	11	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	2
2011	5	9	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5
2010	2	4	12	18	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0
2009	21	16	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4

- 17 **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* The only sightings were of a pair on the Tarn 26th March and 19th April.
- 18 **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* One on 13th April was a real surprise bearing in mind a nationwide cull of the species had been carried out in the last few years.
- 19 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* A single bird flying north west over the Tarn on 28th March was the only record.
- 20 **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* One cream crowned bird near the Tarn on 3rd August.
- 21 **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* One pair attempted to breed at the usual site, outcome not known. Monthly totals of sightings below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	0	0	4	2	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	0
2011	2	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	0
2010	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
2009	1	1	2	3	3	1	0	1	4	1	1	0

- 22 **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Nine sightings of single birds during the year. The Darnbrook site was not checked for any breeding attempt. The lack of reports of the species in the year would suggest no breeding took place.
- 23 **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* No sign of any successful breeding in the area probably due to the inclement weather. One pair possibly attempted to breed on Great Close Scar but no flying young were ever seen. Most records were in September with five.
- 24 **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* Only six records in the whole year, identical to 2011. Most records came from Great Close Scar or Highfolds.
- 25 **Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Four records of single birds on 26th March, 18th August, 12th September and 27th October.
- 26 **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus* All records came from the Dalehead area with twenty plus on 20th August and twenty-five 27th September.



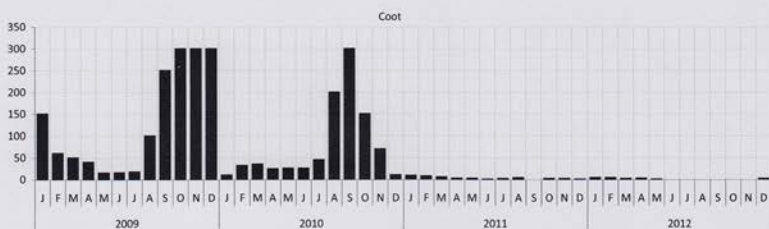
Pheasant

- 27 **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* Now the only species of partridge certain to be seen, though all records probably refer to released birds, for example on 23rd March had one at Henside, two Low Trenhouse, two near Capon Hall and one Waterhouses. Other records came from near Kiln House 30th April with one, two High Trenhouse 26th May and two Dalehead on 1st November.
- 28 **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* The population is still low and the breeding season

in 2012 would have been an almost total failure. No young were ever seen and the peak count in the year was only seven on 16th March.

- 29 **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* A single bird was seen occasionally near the bird hide from 14th January to 13th March. The only other records were one at High Trenhouse on 18th March, where two suitable nesting ponds exist, and one near the inflow stream 15th November.
- 30 **Coot** *Fulica atra* No breeding took place and the population is now very low; best illustrated by the peak monthly counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	4	4	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2011	9	8	6	3	3	1	2	4	0	2	2	1
2010	10	32	35	25	26	26	45	200	300	150	70	10
2009	150	60	50	40	15	16	18	100	250	300	300	300



The change in number of Coot recorded at Malham Tarn 2009 - 2012

- 31 **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* The first of the return was on 24th February at least six pairs subsequently attempted to breed, most if not all failed. Two pairs which had nests on roadside walls near Kiln House and near Thoragill definitely failed, not surprisingly. Last seen on 26th July.
- 32 **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Apart from a single bird near Malham Tarn 20th March all records came from near Dalehead with Northern Race birds here from at least April to 17th May with a peak count of forty-five 13th April. Sixty on 26th August and one on 22nd September were possibly passage birds.
- 33 **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Up to fifty birds, usually in a field on the southern side of the Tarn, from January to 6th March, presumably local breeding birds. Small numbers attempted to breed near Dalehead, on Malham Lings, near Rough Close and Capon Hall area. Absent from the area 11th July to 9th October, presumably going elsewhere to moult, then up to sixty intermittently to year end using the same field as in Spring.
- 34 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* The only record was of two birds on Great Close ponds 30th April.
- 35 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleuco* Only five records of single birds along the Tarn shoreline on 22nd April, 3rd, 4th and 16th May and 18th August.
- 36 **Redshank** *Tringa totanus* The decline continues. No more than two birds on Malham Lings and Outflow Stream 6th March to 1st June.
- 37 **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* One flying west over the Tarn on 12th March is only the third record for the area, the previous two were eleven 22nd April 1993 and one 22nd August 2006.

- 38 **Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Present in area 24th February to 30th August. Bred Ha Mire, near Globe Flower Wood, Dalehead and near Tennant Ghyll. Flock sizes on Tarn Moss were smaller than usual, peak counts sixty on 10th March and seventy 23rd March.
- 39 **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Singles on 22nd March and 3rd May both on Tarn Moss.
- 40 **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* One Tarn Fen 13th March.
- 41 **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Very little was seen of this species in 2012 all records came from Ha Mire, Malham Lings and Tarn Fen no more than two birds seen at any time. Drumming was heard at all three locations so presumably breeding was attempted.
- 42 **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* Records throughout the year in variable numbers, the most favoured location being the south shore of the Tarn.



Lesser Black-backed Gull

- 43 **Common Gull** *Larus canus* Present on or around the Tarn January to 24th April and 14th August to year end. Peak counts eighty 23rd April and one hundred 23rd September.
- 44 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Recorded in area 26th February to 23rd September, maximum count was forty, mainly immatures, near Darnbrook on 23rd May.
- 45 **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* All sightings as follows on the Tarn's south shoreline, three 5th January, one 26th January then up to eight 18th October to year end.
- 46 **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* The resident flock at Darnbrook increased slightly from last year with a peak count of nine on 21st March.
- 47 **Stock Pigeon** *Columba oenas* Only two records of single birds, Great Close Scar 5th May and near Capon Hall 24th August.
- 48 **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* One on 13th January was an unusually early return. Seven were in song in Tarn Woods on 26th March, With no beech mast no more birds were seen after 5th September apart from two on 18th November.
- 49 **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* A single bird calling at Spiggot 16th May and probably the same bird calling from Highfolds the day after presumably a passage bird.
- 50 **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* Calling frequently in Tarn Woods during February, at least three pairs here. The only proof of successful breeding was a juvenile down Pot Hole Lane on 26th May. One calling from Round Wood on 21st October.
- 51 **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* Just two sightings of single birds of this elusive species, on Tarn Fen 29th January and near Capon Hall 10th August.
- 52 **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* Probably bred near Dalehead with a pair displaying on 21st March, one 29th March, four 17th September and one 21st November. Elsewhere on Tarn Fen a single bird on a couple of occasions in August.
- 53 **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* Probably starting to recover from the effects of the 2009/2010 Winter. After last years nil return one at the roadside dropping down into Malham 2nd February and one in vicinity of Pot Hole Lane on a few occasions in Spring.

- 54 **Swift** *Apus apus* Very few records this year probably due to the constant wet and windy conditions. Only records one 3rd May, two 18th May and one 3rd July.
- 55 **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Singles at the Tarn on 13th March, late June, early July and 3rd October.
- 56 **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* In the early months one down Pot Hole Lane on 22nd April, nor more records till 26th July when one at Highfolds, present thereon till year end with one bird possibly two. A potential breeding bird.
- 57 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* At least two pairs bred in Tarn Woods. An adult was seen on 17th June feeding a juvenile down Pot Hole Lane.
- 58 **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* Recorded in the area 24th February to 21st August. Bred widely, Dalehead, Fountains Fell, Malham Lings etc. Two nests were found with dead young no doubt succumbed to the endless rain and cold.
- 59 **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* The first record was very early, a single bird over the Tarn on 24th March. Bred as usual in Tarn Moss peat bank, probably six to eight pairs. Juveniles were seen on 19th June so some success at least. Last recorded on 21st August.
- 60 **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Present in area 13th April to 4th October. Known breeding sites were at Low Trenhouse, Darnbrook, Waterhouse, Dalehead and Tennant Ghyll. After season flocks were, not surprisingly, low with highest count twenty-five at Waterhouses 25th August.
- 61 **House Martin** *Delichon urbica* The first sighting was over the Tarn on 28th April, as usual the few that did arrive to stay came back in May. The only pairs known were at Waterhouses with two and one at Low Trenhouse. Some pairs may have bred at other sites in area but numbers were low throughout. Last seen on 12th September.
- 62 **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Six displaying birds near Dalehead on 18th March were the first record for the year. Bred widely and commonly and, in spite of the weather, appeared to breed successfully at many sites. Flocks of twenty-five and twenty-seven on 27th September were peak counts in year. Last seen at Dalehead on 1st November.
- 63 **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* First record was an early pair at a breeding site near Low Trenhouse on 29th February but it was late March before the bulk of the population arrived back. First juveniles were seen near East Gate of Tarn Woods 17th June. Last record on 4th October.
- 64 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* First record was of one near Low Trenhouse 24th April where one or two pairs attempted to breed later. Five pairs or more in Stangill/Tennant Ghyll area, almost identical to last year, possibly also a pair near Kiln House. No juveniles were seen, not unexpectedly as the weather was dreadful nearly all the breeding season. Last seen on 21st August.



Dunnock

- 65 **Waxwing** *Bombicilla garrulous* One feeding on Yew berries near Tarn House on 14th and 15th November is only the third record for area. Three 13th December 1958 and thirty-five 5th December 2004 are the other two.
- 66 **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Would appear to have quickly recovered from the 2009/2010 hard winter. First of year was one at Low Trenhouse on 29th February, by 22nd April at least twelve birds were in song, Pot Hole Lane to East Gate. Many juveniles were seen in July. Numbers dwindled in October and by November only an odd bird was left on the Fen.
- 67 **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* Present throughout year in small numbers, pairs were located at Waterhouses, feeding young here 15th June, near Tarn House and in Keeper's Cottage

garden where four together on 22nd September and 4th October.

- 68 **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* Only three of four individuals wintered, at least six pairs bred in Tarn Woods. Juveniles, first seen on 17th June, were quite numerous reflecting a successful breeding season.



Robin

- 69 **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* First of year were on 3rd May when one female at Low Trenhouse and two pairs in Tarn Woods. Three or four pairs bred but only the odd juvenile was seen. Last recorded on 21st August.

- 70 **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* First of year was near Great Close Scar on the 22nd March. Appeared to have a good breeding season, particularly numerous near Dalehead on 18th May. First juveniles seen on 19th June. Last record came from Low Trenhouse on 23rd September.

- 71 **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* A single passage bird on 14th August near Dalehead was the first record since 2009.
- 72 **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* First of year was a singing bird near Sandhill Cottage on 21st February. By mid March at least six were in song on Tarn Estate with another bird in song at High Trenhouse. Apart from a late bird on 5th November none were seen after 28th August.
- 73 **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Only two sightings in the early months, two on 29th February and thirty 3rd May which was rather late. First of return was twenty on 14th October, seen on a regular basis thereafter, Birds rarely stayed long most just passing through the area, mainly due to the lack of favoured Yew berries. No records after end of October.
- 74 **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* First record for year was a singing bird near Sandhill Cottage on 13th January. Later on two pairs seen for long periods in Tarn Woods, probably attempted to breed but no juveniles were ever seen. Last seen on 28th November.
- 75 **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Recorded January to 6th May and 13th October to year end. One hundred and fifty near Darnbrook on 21st March was peak count. Favoured wintering sites are near Low Trenhouse, Round Wood area and near Kiln House. Thirty birds or so were seen on a few occasions in Autumn near Dalehead.
- 76 **Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Present throughout the year; bred Tarn Woods. A marked increase in October and November when the population was boosted by passage birds, nearly all males, twelve at Waterhouses on 14th October and 11th November and two at a virtually tree less Dalehead on 10th November.
- 77 **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* Only two records of this now Tarn rarity were of two passage birds near Dalehead on 29th March and one near Langscar Gate on 22nd April..
- 78 **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* One sang for the day only near Sandhill Cottage, where normally breeds, on 6th May.
- 79 **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* First record on 4th May, up to six birds in song Tarn Woods. No sign of any breeding success and not seen after 9th June.
- 80 **Comon Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* One seen down Pot Hole Lane on 21st May was the only record and the first since 2009.

- 81 **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* An elusive pair which rarely sang raised young on the western end of Tarn Fen, present at the site at least 22nd May to 11th July.
- 82 **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* First of the year was, as usual, a singing bird on Tarn Fen 12th April. Bred commonly in Tarn Woods but the breeding season was plagued by heavy rain and at times strong winds, success was very limited and few juveniles were seen with the last record on 9th September.
- 83 **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* At least four single birds in early spring on 26th March, 28th March, 2nd and 8th April. Singles near Bird Hide on 13th and 14th June possibly related to a breeding attempt. In Autumn a single passage bird on 22nd September and two 4th October, both in the very small garden at Low Trenhouse. The final record a bird seen in a small bush on Tarn House lawn 7th October.
- 84 **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* One pair successfully bred in last years nest box. Whether any young survived is unlikely as after emergence there were two days of heavy rain and gale force winds. A male sang for a day or two east of Tarn House but probably failed to attract a mate. Recorded at the sites 22nd April to 25th June.
- 85 **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Recorded 16th May to 9th September. Six or so pairs attempted to breed but only a few juveniles were later seen, probably reflecting a lack of food in a rain sodden season.
- 86 **Great Tit** *Parus major* Whilst bred commonly in area in nest boxes, after season population levels seemed low reflecting a poor breeding year due to the dreadful summer weather.
- 87 **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* Like the previous species bred commonly in area with a low population, no flocks of any size reported.
- 88 **Coal Tit** *Parus ater* Three or four pairs bred in Tarn Woods with no signs of any success. Two at Dalehead, a non breeding location, on 27th September would suggest some kind of local movement through the area.
- 89 **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* At least six birds near High Stables on 15th February was the only early record. One pair probably bred successfully on Tarn Fen, seen nest building on 6th May with a family party here in August. Up to six were seen in the usual October influx, these staying till the year end.
- 90 **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* Possibly bred or attempted to do so in a Yew tree near Tarn House where a pair seen on 28th March and 15th April.
- 91 **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* A similar number of pairs as last year with at least two pairs breeding in nest boxes. Fledged young later in the year appeared markedly less than in 2011 probably due to the poor summer.
- 92 **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* Few records of this elusive species this year. Only singles on 15th January, 16th May and 21st May. It is probable though that one pair attempted to breed near the Bird Hide.
- 93 **Magpie** *Pica pica* Occasionally seen on the Tarn Fen, the bulk of the sightings coming from Capon Hall/Globe Flower Wood area where probably bred, Peak count here three on 24th November. One at Thoragill on 23rd March was well away from its usual haunts.
- 94 **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* One near Globe Flower Wood on 3rd November is the first record since 2009.



Coal Tit

- 95 **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* Present throughout the year in high numbers, typically fifty plus at Great Close Scar on 28th March, where later bred causing problems for the pair of Kestrels. Breeding sites are numerous in the area on cliffs, barns and trees not forgetting those that breed in various buildings at Tarn House and Waterhouses.
- 96 **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* Bred as normal in Spiggot Copse with probably the same number of nests as last year but no detailed count was undertaken. Common throughout the area, typically one hundred plus near Tennat Ghyll on 24th November.
- 97 **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* No change in status, remains common, one pair bred in Globe Flower Wood.
- 98 **Raven** *Corvus corax* One pair bred successfully at usual site raising at least four young. Monthly sightings below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	6	1	0

- 99 **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Bred on Tarn Estate, at least four pairs. Outside breeding season the maximum counts were two hundred 16th March and one hundred and fifty 14th August.
- 100 **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Status much as last year with a very small wintering population. The bulk of the breeding birds arrive back late February/March leaving September/October. Peak counts in the year fifty plus on 16th March. Away from Tarn Woods, where bred commonly, three in song at Thoragill on 21st March.
- 101 **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* One in song at Low Trenhouse on 25th March is the earliest ever return. Later bred there, near Capon Hall and in Darnbrook area. Probably bred at Dalehead, one pair, Tennant Ghyll garden, one pair and High Trenhouse, two pairs. Peak flock was at Low Trenhouse where forty present on 21st August. Last record on 7th October.
- 102 **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris* What few records there were came from near Dalehead, where probably bred, with three on 20th April and one 14th August.



Goldfinch

- 103 **Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* A good year, recorded in area 5th March to 9th October. Seen at Keeper's Cottage bird feeders in Spring. At least three pairs bred on Tarn Fen where juveniles seen in July. Two notable flocks of; fifty Globe Flower Wood and twenty-four Tarn Fen both on 4th October.
- 104 **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* One or two birds in winter months, arrival back of breeding birds in April. Bred Tarn Woods and probably High Trenhouse at least. The more notable flocks, consisting of mainly juveniles, were of fifty Tarn House Meadow 19th September and fifty near Dalehead on 4th October.
- 105 **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* A very poor year, only two records in year both at bird feeders with two 13th January and three 16th March.
- 106 **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* One female near Tarn House on 1st March is the first record since October 2009.
- 107 **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris* Six near Tarn House on 26th July the only record.

- 108 **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* First of the return were single males at Low Trenhouse and Tarn Fen on 18th March. At least three pairs bred on Tarn Fen with further pairs near Tarn Outflow and Ha Mire Wood. First juveniles were seen on Tarn Fen 11th July. Two at Rock Cottage on 4th October were the last for the year.

First and last dates of main summer and winter visitors

Species	First Seen	Last Seen
Wheatear	22 nd March	23 rd September
Sand Martin	24 th March	21 st August
Chiffchaff	26 th March	7 th October
Willow Warbler	12 th April	9 th September
Swallow	13 th April	4 th October
Common Sandpiper	22 nd April	18 th August
Pied Flycatcher	22 nd April	25 th June
Yellow Wagtail	24 th April	21 st August
House Martin	28 th April	12 th September
Swift	3 rd May	3 rd July
Redstart	3 rd May	2 nd August
Blackcap	4 th May	9 th June
Garden Warbler	6 th May	-
Spotted Flycatcher	16 th May	9 th September
Sedge Warbler	22 nd May	11 th July
Fieldfare	13 th October	6 th May
Redwing	14 th October	3 rd May



Malham Tarn – East Boathouse and Great Close Scar - 4th February 2012

Butterflies

- 1 **Small Skipper** *Thymelicus sylvestris* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 2 **Large Skipper** *Ochlodes venata* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 3 **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhamni* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 4 **Large White** *Pieris brassicae* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 5 **Small White** *Pieris rapae* Only two records of single butterflies on the 24th August and 1st September.
- 6 **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* Recorded from 20th May to 5th September. Counts were low at all sites, twenty on Tarn Fen the peak count on 30th May.
- 7 **Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 8 **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi* Seen on Tarn Fen from 12th to 30th May with no more than six at any time.
- 9 **Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 10 **Northern Brown Argus** *Aricia artaxerxes* The only record was of two on 20th June at a new locality on the roadside verge above the old roadside quarry at SD882672.



Red Admiral

- 11 **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* No records till a late 7th July, then present till 28th August with a peak count of twenty two on the roadside verge, Chapel Fell on the 9th August.
- 12 **Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 13 **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* The only record was a single butterfly on the Buddleias near Tarn House on the 4th and 6th August.
- 14 **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 15 **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae* Surprisingly in view of the appalling summer this species had its best year since 2003 with thirty-nine 28th August and thirty-three 3rd September. Flight period stretched from 25th March to 1st October.
- 16 **Peacock** *Inachis io* A very poor showing, recorded 7th July to 6th October with no more than four at any time.
- 17 **Comma** *Polygonia c-album* One on Tarn Fen on 3rd September the only record.
- 18 **Dark Green Fritillary** *Argynnis aglaja* Recorded 7th July to 3rd September, highest count only five on 28th August.
- 19 **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*. **Not recorded in 2012**



Small Tortoiseshell

- 20 **Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 21 **Wall** *Lasiommata megera* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 22 **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* In spite of the bad weather, a reasonable year with records from 9th August to 3rd September. Peak count twenty-eight on Tarn House Meadow 10th August.
- 23 **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus* Recorded from 17th July to a late individual near Dalehead on 8th September, peak count fourteen on roadside verge, Chapel Fell, on the 21st July.
- 24 **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus* Recorded 19th June to 9th August from Stangill, Tarn House Meadow, Highfolds, Malham Lings, roadside verges by Chapel Fell and Great Close Scar slopes where peak count of ten on 2nd August.

Dragonflies & Damselflies

- 1 **Banded Demoiselle** *Calopteryx splendens* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 2 **Emerald Damselfly** *Lestes sponsa* One on Tarn Fen 5th September was the only record.
- 3 **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* Two 28th May and one 20th June on Tarn Fen.
- 4 **Azure Damselfly** *Coenagrion puella* One on Tarn Fen 20th June the only record.
- 5 **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 6 **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 7 **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* Sightings on Tarn Estate from 9th August to 22nd September, with no more than three at any time.
- 8 **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 9 **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 10 **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 11 **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa* **Not recorded in 2012**
- 12 **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* Two 3rd September and one 22nd September, both on Tarn Fen.
- 13 **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae* All records came from Tarn Fen during September with six on the 3rd one 6th, three 9th and four 22nd.



Black Darter

Moths I

I managed to run the trap on 60 occasions between the 10th March and 22nd October. Poor weather limited the number of nights when it was possible to set the trap and also the number of species caught on some occasions. Despite this 133 species were recorded, one more than in 2011. Of that total 23 were species I had not recorded before at Malham Tarn though older historical records for the area exist for most of them. Some of the "new" species were micro-moths and my identification of these was much aided by the publication of a new field guide (Field Guide to the Micro-Moths of Great Britain and Ireland by Phil Sterling, Mark Parsons & Richard Lewington (British Wildlife Publishing Ltd 2012)) and also through help from the members of the Yorkshire Moths group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Yorkshiremoths>).

	No. of Nights Trapped	No. of Species Recorded
March	6	12
April	2	5
May	10	28
June	10	31
July	7	47
August	11	64
September	7	25
October	7	14

Highlights of the year were probably some of the "upland" species such as Golden-rod Brindle, Northern Rustic, Lunar Thorn and Brindled Ochre and "new" species such as Ruby Tiger and Yellow Horned.



Golden-rod Brindle



Yellow Horned



Ruby Tiger

weather 2012 seemed to be a really good year for a number of species. Perhaps most markedly for Glaucous Shears; I had only caught it on three occasions prior to this year (a single specimens in 2010 and two in 2011), there are only 11 previous records for Malham Tarn and indeed for the whole of Vice County 64 there were only 191 individuals recorded. Between 21st and 30th May I caught 99 individuals spread over 8 nights.

As in previous years the most numerous species were those associated with grassland (e.g. Large Yellow Underwing, Antler and *Agriphila tristella*).

Top 20 Most caught species

Large Yellow Underwing	660
Antler	491
<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	297
Dark Arches	195
Shears	162
Dark Brocade	143
Dusky Brocade	135
Flame Shoulder	105
Glaucous Shears	99
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	97
Beautiful Golden Y	95
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	90
Crinan Ear	89
Barred Straw	77
Rustic Shoulder-knot	77
Gold Spangle	64
Mottled Grey	64
Broom Moth	57
Clouded-bordered Brindle	52
Small Wainscot	52



Lunar Thorn

Species	Scientific Name	Approximate Flight Period 2012												Total	Days Caught	Last First	Maximum Catch
		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb				
Clematis Gold Spot	<i>Acronycta pernix</i>														56	20 Aug	1
Common Carpet	<i>Agrotis proboscidea</i>														297	3 Sep	66
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														21	14 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														4	12, 18 Aug	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														156	8 Sep	49
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	12 Jul	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	12 Jul	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														47	22 Aug	12
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														69	15 Sep	12
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														2	19 Aug	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														3	21 Aug	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														64	20 Aug	32
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														20	20 Aug	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														15	3 Sep	5
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														89	8 Sep	23
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														6	12 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														7	12 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														9	12 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														15	15 Aug	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														27	8 Aug	9
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	9 Aug	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														13	20 Aug	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														6	21 Aug	6
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														18	2 Sep	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														3	18 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														5	10 Aug	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														9	18 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														2	12 Aug	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														4	14 Aug	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	12 Aug	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	14 Aug	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														2	12 Aug	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														6	7 Sep	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														23	8 Sep	5
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	18 Aug	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														4	15 Sep	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	2 Aug	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														2	2 Sep	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														4	8 Sep	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														3	15 Sep	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														13	15 Sep	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														17	22 Oct	4
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														3	10 Oct	3
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	10 Oct	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														2	10 Oct	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														5	17 Oct	5
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														8	11 Oct	8
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														2	19 Oct	2
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	20 Oct	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	20 Oct	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Agrotis trivialis</i>														1	22 Oct	1

* Only single specimens caught for the species

Fungi

2012 was a poor year for fungi records at Malham Tarn – wet weather throughout the Summer seemed to have an effect on the Autumn flush of fungi. Many species I usually see as I walk through the area seemed to be missing or suffering from extensive slug damage and I must admit weeks of rains did little for my enthusiasm for going out and lying on the ground photographing fungi.

- 1 *Ascocoryne cylichnium* 7th October, Tarn Woods on fallen Beech (SD 889672).
- 2 *Clavulina cristata* 3rd September, Tarn Woods on soil under Beech/Ash/Sycamore (SD 890672).
- 3 *Galerina marginata* **Funeral Bell** 14th October, Tarn Woods on fallen trunk (prob Larch) (SD 891673).
- 4 *Helvella lacunosa* **Elfin Saddle** 6th October, Tarn Woods in leaf litter under Beech (SD 889672).
- 5 *Humaria hemisphaerica* **Glazed Cup** 4th September, Tarn Woods under Beech on moss covered rock (SD 889672).
- 6 *Hygrocybe miniata* **Vermilion Waxcap** 7th October, Tarn Wood, by drive to High Stables near fallen Larch trunk (SD 892673).
- 7 *Inocybe bongardii* **Fruity Fibrecap** 3rd September, Tarn Woods under Beech (SD 889672).
- 8 *Inocybe mixtilis* 15th September, Tarn Woods under Beech (SD 889672).
- 9 *Inocybe petiginosa* **Scurfy Fibrecap** 7th September, Tarn Woods under Beech (SD 890672).
- 10 *Lepiota cristata* **Stinking Dapperling** 7th October, Tarn Woods under Beech on moss covered rock (SD 889672).
- 11 *Marasmius rotula* **Collared Parachute** 8th September, Tarn Woods on deciduous debris (SD 896672).
- 12 *Mycena galopus* **White Milking Bonnet** 7th October, Tarn Woods under Beech (SD 890672).
- 13 *Oudemansiella mucida* **Porcelain Fungus** 9th September, Tarn Woods on Beech, 7th October Tarn Woods on Beech (SD 890672).
- 14 *Scutellinia acitrina* (*paludicola*) 22nd September, Gordale Beck on calcareous alluvial soil alongside stream (SD911657).
- 15 *Trichia decipiens* **Slimemould** 17th October, Tarn Woods on well rotten fallen branch (SD 890672).



Ascocoryne cylichnium



Humaria hemisphaerica – Glazed Cup



Galerina marginata – Funeral Bell



Trichia decipiens – a Slimemould

2012 Weather Report - January - April

January Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	2 Jan	9.2 °C	
Average Maximum		5.4 °C	3.6 °C
Coldest Day	29 Jan	-4.4 °C	
Average Minimum		0.0 °C	-0.9 °C
Days with Air Frost		11 days	18 days
Wettest Day	4 Jan	29.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month		222.5 mm	154 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		21 days	18 days
Sunniest Day	16 Jan	6.8 hours	
Total Sunshine		40.8 hours	35.3 hours

January – looking at the averages - a mild but wet start to the new-year. There were a few centimetres of snow on the 2nd and again on the 20th but on both occasions the snow quickly turned to rain as the wind backed to a more westerly direction and the temperature rose. There was a cold dry spell from the 13th to the 18th but the first proper snow didn't arrive until the 27th when we had about 7cm of snow. Temperatures were still not really cold though with a minimum of -4.4°C being reached on the 29th and only 11 days with an air frost.

February Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	23 Feb	9.5 °C	
Average Maximum		4.8 °C	3.4 °C
Coldest Day	9 Feb	-7.8 °C	
Average Minimum		0.1 °C	-1.1 °C
Days with Air Frost		14 days	17.3 days
Wettest Day	20 Feb	46.5 mm	
Total Rain for Month		126.6 mm	103.6 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		12 days	13 days
Sunniest Day	19 Feb	7.7 hours	
Total Sunshine		52.1 hours	58.5 hours

February – the cold snowy weather of late January lasted through until mid February with snow depths up to 16cm and minimum temperatures down to -7.8°C by the 9th – this ended up as being the coldest day of the whole year. By the middle of the month it had turned much milder with temperature rising to 9.5°C by 23rd. With the milder weather came more rain with most of the months total falling over the last ten days with an impressive 46.5mm on the 20th.

March Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	27, 28 Mar	19.1 °C	
Average Maximum		10.2 °C	5.7 °C
Coldest Day	6 Mar	-1.9 °C	
Average Minimum		3.2 °C	0 °C
Days with Air Frost		2 days	15.2 days
Wettest Day	9 Mar	11.2 mm	
Total Rain for Month		40.0 mm	125.6 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		6 days	15.8 days
Sunniest Day	26 Mar	11 hours	
Total Sunshine		127.8 hours	85.3 hours

March – the total rainfall for all of March was only 40mm giving the fourth lowest March total ever recorded at Malham Tarn. The month was also warm with the temperature of 19.1°C on the 27th and 28th being the highest March temperature recorded here and the average maximum (10.2°C) and minimum temperatures (3.2°C) for the whole month also being the highest March values ever. The month was not surprisingly also very sunny with the second highest recorded sun hours (128 hours) after 2003 which had 154 hours of sun in March.

April Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	30 Apr	12.5 °C	
Average Maximum		7.8 °C	8.7 °C
Coldest Day	16 Apr	-2.3 °C	
Average Minimum		1.7 °C	1.8 °C
Days with Air Frost		5 days	7.3 days
Wettest Day	25 Apr	28.3 mm	
Total Rain for Month		156.4 mm	90.5 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		18 days	13.3 days
Sunniest Day	14 Apr	9.4 hours	
Total Sunshine		94.6 hours	120.3 hours

rain for April was less than 70mm. April was also cooler than average – a real contrast to 2011 when we had the warmest April ever with an average daily maximum of 13.5°C. In fact April 2012 was the coldest since 1989 and the eighth coldest recorded at Malham Tarn. It was also well below average for the amount of sunshine – coming in sixth lowest ever with just 95 hours of sun, again comparing poorly with 2011 which had 205 hours of sunshine.

April – as the whole country started to talk about droughts things turned wet in April. The total rainfall of 156.4mm was the fifth highest total but still someway behind the 174mm of April 1993. Over the last few years April has been one of our drier months. In each of the years from 2007 to 2011 the monthly total of

May – August

May Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	24 May	24.0 °C	
Average Maximum		13.2 °C	12.3 °C
Coldest Day	5 May	-1.8 °C	
Average Minimum		5.4 °C	4.6 °C
Days with Air Frost		3 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day	9 May	32.4 mm	
Total Rain for Month		84.4 mm	92.3 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		11 days	13.5 days
Sunniest Day	26 May	13.4 hours	
Total Sunshine		171.1 hours	163.4 hours

June Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	28 Jun	20.5 °C	
Average Maximum		13.7 °C	15.1 °C
Coldest Day	5 Jun	3.3 °C	
Average Minimum		7.9 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0.10 days
Wettest Day	22 Jun	64.0 mm	
Total Rain for Month		244.0 mm	93.7 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		17 days	13.1
Sunniest Day	19 Jun	11.1 hours	
Total Sunshine		68.8 hours	151.5 hours

July Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	5 Jul	20.0 °C	
Average Maximum		15.5 °C	16.5 °C
Coldest Day	14 Jul	5.9 °C	
Average Minimum		10.0 °C	9.2 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0 days
Wettest Day	17 Jul	26.3 mm	
Total Rain for Month		152.7 mm	100.3 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		22 days	13 days
Sunniest Day	14 Jul	8 hours	
Total Sunshine		88.4 hours	136.4 hours

August Summary			Mean for period 1961 -1990
Warmest Day	10 Aug	21.0 °C	
Average Maximum		16.4 °C	16.1 °C
Coldest Day	6 Aug	0 °C	
Average Minimum		10.5 °C	9.3 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0 days
Wettest Day	21 Aug	30.7 mm	
Total Rain for Month		193.7 mm	130.8 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		19 days	14.7 days
Sunniest Day	8 Aug	11 hours	
Total Sunshine		108.6 hours	142.6 hours

mean maximum and minimum temperatures were both above the base 1961 – 1990 averages.

All in all the summer of 2012 goes down as the worst ever recorded at Malham Tarn in terms of rainfall. The June – August total was 590mm compared to the previous highest of 585mm in 2008. It also had little sunshine with 266 hours (June – August total), this coming in just above 2008 (261 hours) and 1969 (248 hours).

May – started dry but cold. There were ground frosts well into the third week of the month and temperatures didn't get much above 10°C until the 20th. The only warm dry spell was between the 22nd and 28th when maximum temperatures were above 20°C each day and when we had no rain and over 10 hours of sunshine per day. The maximum temperature (24°C) was recorded on the 24th of the month and this in fact turned out to be the warmest day of the whole year. In the end there were only four other days in the year when the temperature rose above 20°C. Rainfall was slightly less than average with over a third of the total falling on a single day (9th with 32.4mm).

June – turned out to be perhaps the worst ever recorded at Malham Tarn, it had the most rain (244mm), the lowest amount of sunshine (68.8 hours) and the eighth lowest mean maximum temperature (13.7°C). The only year coming close to being so poor was 1991 when there was 230mm of rain - only the second time that rainfall in June has exceeded 180mm, and the mean maximum temperature was even lower at 12.4°C. The 64mm of rain on the 22nd was remarkable – this was only the second occasion when a day in June has had more than 40mm of rain, the other being 3rd June 2000 (with 67.6mm).

July – was not quite as bad as June. The total rainfall for the month was above average and more than 1mm of rain fell on 22 days (there were in fact only four days with no rain at all). There was less sunshine than average – the 88.4 hours being the fourth lowest total. The temperatures only reached 20°C on one day (5th) and the average maximum daily temperature was well below average.

August - was another wet month with well above average rainfall (the seventh wettest August) and below average sunshine (fifth lowest) and there were only three days when the temperature got above 20°C. Despite this the monthly

September – December

September Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	9 Sep	19.8 °C	
Average Maximum		13.3 °C	13.8 °C
Coldest Day	23 Sep	3.4 °C	
Average Minimum		7.7 °C	7.6 °C
Days with Air Frost		0 days	0 days
Wettest Day	24 Sep	72.0 mm	
Total Rain for Month		266.3 mm	138.8 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		20 days	14.5 days
Sunniest Day	8 Sep	9.1 hours	
Total Sunshine		86.6 hours	100.8 hours

October Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	23 Oct	13.9 °C	
Average Maximum		9.9 °C	10.6 °C
Coldest Day	27 Oct	-1.4 °C	
Average Minimum		4.2 °C	5.2 °C
Days with Air Frost		1 days	1.2 days
Wettest Day	2 Oct	27.8 mm	
Total Rain for Month		173.7 mm	150.8 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		17 days	16.4 days
Sunniest Day	21 Oct	7.5 hours	
Total Sunshine		81.2 hours	80.0 hours

November Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	20 Nov	11.3 °C	
Average Maximum		6.9 °C	6.5 °C
Coldest Day	30 Nov	-4.2 °C	
Average Minimum		2.5 °C	1.2 °C
Days with Air Frost		4 days	8.8 days
Wettest Day	25 Nov	22.1 mm	
Total Rain for Month		137.4 mm	149.9 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		18 days	17.1 days
Sunniest Day	5 Nov	6.9 hours	
Total Sunshine		41.6 hours	54.9 hours

December Summary			Mean for period 1961-1990
Warmest Day	24 Dec	13.0 °C	
Average Maximum		5.2 °C	4.6 °C
Coldest Day	12 Dec	-5.4 °C	
Average Minimum		0.3 °C	-0.1 °C
Days with Air Frost		11 days	15 days
Wettest Day	30 Dec	28.4 mm	
Total Rain for Month		265.3 mm	162.0 mm
Days with > 1mm Rain		21 days	17.5 days
Sunniest Day	1 Dec	6.6 hours	
Total Sunshine		48.9 hours	37.5 hours

September – was another month with above average rainfall and below average sunshine. Some rain fell on most days, only two had no rain and on three we recorded trace amounts (0.05mm). The official met office definition of a rain day is one with >1mm of rain – there were twenty of these. Half the rain fell on just three days: 10th (32.4mm), 24th (72mm – the third highest daily rainfall total) and 25th (33.2mm). Another 54mm fell between the 16th and 20th but on the rest of the days there were a few hours of sunshine and a bit of rain. Temperatures were about average compared to the 1961-1990 base line.

October – was an almost average month in terms of rainfall (slightly wetter), temperature (slightly cooler), and sunshine (very slightly higher). Almost all of the rain fell in three blocks; 1st – 5th (66mm), 11th – 18th (59mm) and 27th – 31st (49mm). In between there were two dry spells with some reasonable temperatures (max. 13.9°C on 23rd) but disappointingly little sunshine due to high cloud cover associated with the warm air coming from the SE. There were a few nights with a ground frost between the 26th and 30th but only one night with an air frost on the 27th.

November – was another month with average weather. 22mm of rain fell between 1st and 3rd, and 94mm between the 16th and 26th. The rest of the month was largely dry but rather cloudy with only a few hours of sunshine and temperatures round about average. Temperatures were low enough at night for ground frosts between the 1st and 6th and dropped again for more frosts between the 26th and 30th.

December – the cold weather at the very end of November carried on into the first two weeks of December. There were ground frosts almost every night until the 15th with a low grass temperature of -8.5°C and screen temperature of -5.4°C on the 12th. During the day there was

plenty of sunshine and the first snow of the winter fell on the 3rd. This melted quickly and then more fell on the 7th and 8th which lay for longer. By the 16th we had moved back into milder, wetter, conditions. 207mm of rain fell between the 16th and the end of the year. Rainfall for December was well above average as was the pattern for most months in 2012. Despite the late rush of rain in December the total amount of rain for the year only reached 2062.6mm (81.2 inches) falling just short of the record of 2097.9mm (82.6 inches) of 2000 but way above the average yearly value of about 1500mm (59 inches).

Records

Temperature

Warmest Day	24th May	24°C
Coldest Day	9th February	-7.8 °C
Warmest Month	August	16.4 °C
Coldest Month	January	0.0 °C
Lowest Grass Temperature	9th February	-11.5 °C

Rainfall

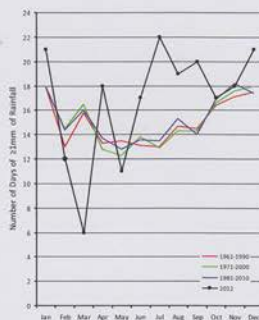
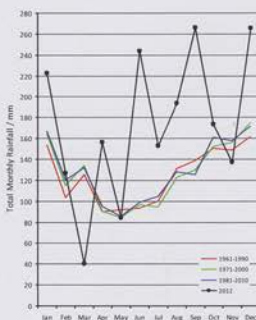
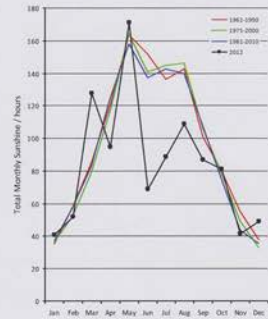
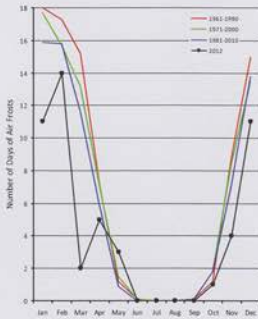
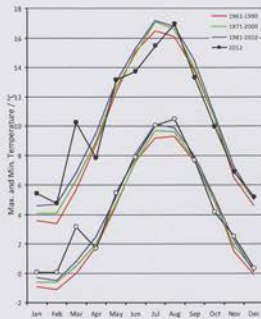
Wettest Day	24th September	72 mm (2.8 in)
Wettest Month	September	266.3 mm (10.5 in)
Driest Month	March	41.0 mm (1.6 in)
Total Rainfall for Year		2062.6 mm (81.2 in)

Sunshine

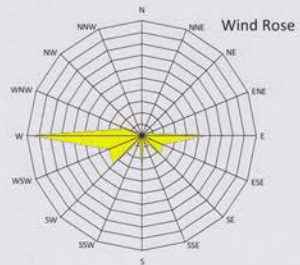
Sunniest Day	26th May	13.4 hours
Sunniest Month	May	171.1 hours
Least Sunny Month	January	40.8 hours

2012		
Date	Amount	
24th May	24°C	
9th February	-7.8 °C	
August	16.4 °C	
January	0.0 °C	
9th February	-11.5 °C	
24th September	72 mm (2.8 in)	
September	266.3 mm (10.5 in)	
March	41.0 mm (1.6 in)	
	2062.6 mm (81.2 in)	
26th May	13.4 hours	
May	171.1 hours	
January	40.8 hours	

Ever (1959 - 2011)		
Date	Amount	
3rd Aug. 1990	28.2 °C	
21st Dec 2010	-17.1 °C	
Jul. 2006	21.9 °C	
Feb. 1986	-5.6 °C	
5th Mar. 2001	-20.1 °C	
31st Jan. 2002	135.4 mm (5.3 in)	
Nov. 2009	378.9 mm (14.9 in)	
Jan/Feb 1979	No Rain	
2000 (Wettest)	2097.9 mm (82.6 in)	
1975 (Driest)	1124.5 mm (44.27 in)	
7th May 1985	15.7 hours	
Jul. 2006	257.5 hours	
Jan. 1997	No Sun	

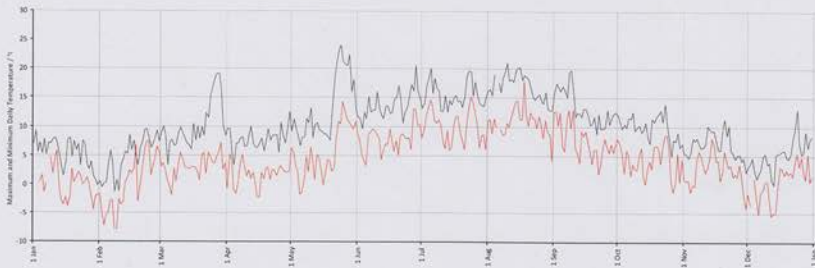


2012 in Graphs

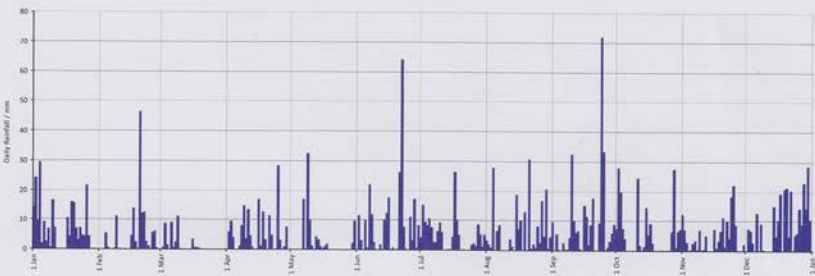


The coloured lines on the graphs above are averages for three thirty year periods 1961-1990, 1971-2000 and 1981-2010. A thirty year average is used by meteorologists to even out the year to year variations in weather so they can start to look at long term changes in climate. There do seem to have been some slight changes if you compare the averages over the three blocks of time. The winter months are warmer with fewer frost days and there is a slight tendency for more rain and less sunshine.

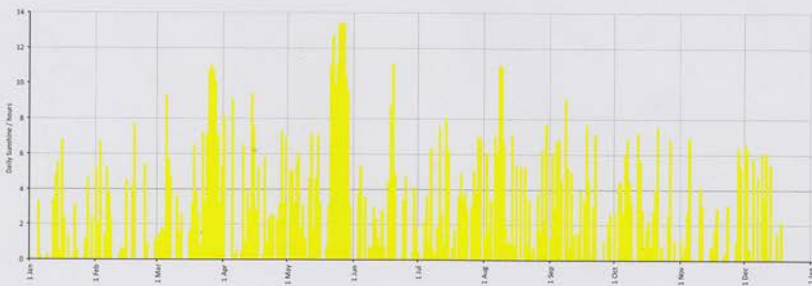
Maximum and Minimum Daily Temperatures



Daily Rainfall



Daily Sunshine



Wind Speeds at 9:00 GMT

