

*THE  
NORTHWESTERN  
NATURALIST*

New series



**Volume 17 No. 1 2015**

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**Contributions for the next issue by November please!**

## NORTH WESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION SAFETY CODE

The N.W.N.U. holds third party public liability insurance, which covers members and visitors attending official meetings of the N.W.N.U. and/or meetings of those Affiliated Societies which subscribe to the insurance scheme. The purpose of this code is to assist everyone in ensuring their own safety as well as that of others during meetings. In addition, leaders will draw the attention of members to known hazards of a site, and to this safety code.

### **Participation in meetings.**

1. Ensure that you are adequately clothed and equipped.
2. Never leave the main party without telling the leader of your plans.
3. Be alert to the hazards of the site and their potential danger, both to yourself and to others. For example, take care not to dislodge loose stones or boulders.
4. Do not rock-climb without experience and proper equipment.
5. Do not damage walls, fences, hedges, gates, *etc.*.
6. Leave gates open/shut as the party finds them.
7. Take care not to start a fire.
8. Familiarize yourself with the procedure to follow in the event of an accident in the field.

(Continued over page)

### **Clothing and equipment.**

Always carry wind-proof and water-proof outer clothing, and wear suitable footwear, *e.g.* walking boots or, in certain circumstances, wellingtons. All clothing should be suitable for the terrain and the worst potential weather. Carry sufficient food and drink for the excursion, with some extra in case of emergency. A first aid kit is also recommended. In exposed and/or high altitude areas, the following are necessary.

1. Spare layers in the form of warm sweaters.
2. Properly fitting walking or climbing boots with stout soles and with good grip, worn over comfortable, warm socks. Footwear should be waterproof, but wellingtons should not be worn in rocky terrain.
3. A small rucksack to carry spare clothing, including waterproofs.
4. A whistle, compass, maps, torch, first-aid kit. A hand-held GPS (global positioning system receiver) can be helpful, but is not a complete substitute for a compass in many types of terrain.
5. A survival bag.

### **Procedure in the event of an accident in the field.**

First aid must be rendered at once, and medical and relief help should be sought if necessary. Prevention of exposure is almost always possible, through adequate clothing, equipment and procedure, but if a case is suspected, the initial treatment is additional warm clothing and a wind-proof and water-proof outer garment, plus ingestion of a source of rapidly absorbed food, such as sugar or glucose in solid or liquid form, but preferably hot liquid.

### **International distress code in mountains.**

SIX long light-flashes/blasts/shouts/waves in succession, repeated at one minute intervals.

## **SOCIETY DIARY**

**Please note that members of the Northwestern Naturalists' Union are welcome to attend the meetings of all the affiliated societies.**

### **ACCRINGTON NATURALISTS' AND ANTIQUARIANS' SOCIETY**

Meetings start at 2.30 pm at Antley Methodists' Church Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington. Enquiries 01254 381236 or 07954 500642. Non-members welcome - £2.00 minimum lecture fee.

**Sunday 27 September : Andes to Amazon, Geology and Flora of Ecuador**  
and afternoon tea - Mike Gosling

**Sunday 11 October : Amazing Wildlife**  
Brian Ashworth

**Sunday 25 October : Cruising the Baltic to St. Petersburg – the Jewel of Russia**  
Malcolm Tranter

**Sunday 8 November : Eagles of Scotland (an update)**  
Alan Fielding

**Sunday 22 November : Artisan Naturalists**

Rob Trueblood

**Sunday 6 December : Animals at War**

and Yuletide Refreshments - Graham Stirrup

**ALTRINCHAM AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The indoor meetings are held at Jubilee Community Centre, The Firs, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2TQ at 7.30pm. Excursions leave from the Jubilee Centre car park at 6.30pm, or meet at the venue itself. Entrance charges: £1.50 members, £3.00 guests. Please contact us at least 3 days in advance if you wish to attend any of the excursions.

[www.altnats.org.uk](http://www.altnats.org.uk), [info@altnats.org.uk](mailto:info@altnats.org.uk), 0161 865 0118

**BLACKBURN & DISTRICT BIRD CLUB**

Indoor meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at St. Silas's Church Hall, Preston New Road, Blackburn at 7.30 pm. Outdoor meetings are held to observe and study birds in the field, and are usually led by a member of the committee.

**CHESHIRE ACTIVE NATURALISTS**

[www.cheshireactivenaturalists.ork.uk](http://www.cheshireactivenaturalists.ork.uk) or email Martyn at [Martyn@czd.org.uk](mailto:Martyn@czd.org.uk)

**CHEADLE HULME & BRAMHALL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Indoor meeting venue: St. Michael's Church Hall, St. Michael's Avenue, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 2PG at 7.30pm

**Thursday 17 September : Dark Peak & White Peak**

David Frith

**Thursday 15 October :AGM (7.15pm) + The High Arctic in Summer**

Heather James

**Thursday 19 November : Amazon Expedition Part One**

Brian White

**Thursday 10 December : Springtime in New England**

Jim Almond

**Thursday 14 January 2016 : Amazon & Andes Expedition Part Two**

Brian White

**Thursday 18 February : The Perils of India in the Monsoon**

Marion Bray

**Thursday 17 March : Wildlife & Wonders of Zimbabwe**

Hugh Jones

**Thursday 21 April : British Herptiles**

Nick Martin

**Thursday 15 September : The Magic of Mushrooms & Other Fungi**

David Winnard

## **CHORLEY AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Meetings September - April St Mary's Parish Centre Chorley.

See [www.chorleynats.org.uk](http://www.chorleynats.org.uk) or telephone Phil Kirk 01257 266783

## **GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL RECORD CENTRE**

Any queries contact: Steve Atkins, Local Record Centre Development Officer

Stephen.atkins@tameside.gov.uk, 0161 342 4121 Mobile 07792 041 528

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Council Offices, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6DL

## **LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Indoor meetings are at 7.30pm, unless indicated and are at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham

## **LIVERPOOL BOTANICAL SOCIETY**

Indoor meetings are held in the Clore Natural History Centre, World Museum, Liverpool, starting at 11.00am. Unless otherwise stated field meetings begin at 10.30am.

### **Saturday 12 September : City Centre Wildflowers**

Meet at entrance to World Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool. Leader : Wendy Atkinson 07808 922363

### **Saturday 26 September: Eastham Fungus Foray**

Meet at Eastham Country Park Visitor Centre. Leader : Steve Cross 07807 341220

### **Saturday 10 October : Marshside (Saltmarsh plants)**

Meet at Southport Station. Leader : Peter Gateley

### **Saturday 31 October : Calderstones Park (Autumnal trees)**

Meet at car park off Calderstones Road, Liverpool (SJ40578783). Leader : Maria Knowles 07826 745756 [dmpknowles@aol.com](mailto:dmpknowles@aol.com)

### **Saturday 14 November : Liverpool Botanic Gardens**

and members' holiday photos - Stephen Lyus

### **Saturday 12 December : Diatoms, a Microscopic World of Wonder**

and Christmas Social - Dr Geraldine Reid

### **Saturday 9th January 2016 : The Flora of Madagascar**

Joan Vincent

### **Saturday 13 February : AGM**

and members' field meeting photos

### **Saturday 12 March : Plant Galls Workshop**

Steve Cross

(Continued on page 8)

# Grass Snakes *Natrix natrix* (L., 1758) in Liverpool 1957-1967

Paul F. Whitehead

Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EH

email:paul@thewhiteheads.eu

The Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* (L.) is most frequently observed south of Lancashire and Yorkshire; further north the frequency and numbers of records tends to reduce. In the Liverpool area the Grass Snake is now either very rare or approaching extinction although in the pre-industrial 18th century it was locally common (Greenhalgh, 2004). The Merseyside BioBank Local Records Centre knows of just three records from two sites (Dr R. Burkmar, *in litt.*, 16 August 2011), namely two at Whiston (SJ49) in 1994 and one at Freshfield (SD292090) in 1998. The purpose of this note is to update that record with observations from the adjacent civil parishes of Wavertree and Childwall.

During the mid-1950s, many pleasant summer evenings were spent at Jackson's Pond, properly known as Childwall Cistern Pit (SJ4289), the 'bottomless pit' in Childwall vale that received the drainage from the sandstone ridges above it. It seems certain that Jackson's Pond was the name applied to it from the existence nearby of Jackson's Farm. This was probably Holt Hall Farm owned by Thomas Jackson whose brother Harrison owned Childwall House Farm nearby. In 1863 the pond claimed the life of a member of the Jackson family which may have strengthened the link.

(<http://gateacre.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=memories&action=display&thread=16&page=4>) [accessed 20 August 2011]

The Cistern Pit, the site of my first Liverpool Grass Snake, was almost certainly a natural water-body significantly extended by man, probably for marling. It was one of many ponds that once marked Childwall vale. Shown on Ordnance Survey maps of 1849, it was an ancient water storage feature and was infilled for built development during 1964. It is unlikely that this would have been permitted now given a biological audit.

To innumerable youngsters the life of this pond was a subject of intense fascination. It was biologically rich, the fauna including the large predatory dytiscid beetle *Dytiscus marginalis* L., the conspicuous dragonflies *Aeshna cyanea* (Müller) and *Libellula depressa* L., numerous notably large leeches (*Haemopis sanguisuga* L.) together a rich fish population including Roach and large Tench. As children we were mystified by Lepidoptera larvae floating inside envelopes of cut lily leaves and it was only much later that they were identified as those of the crambid moth *Elophila nymphaeata* (L.). Just before it was infilled the pond provided research material for studies on a Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus hederaceus* L. (Cook, 1966). The site also accommodated enormous breeding populations of frogs (*Rana temporaria* L.) and toads (*Bufo bufo* L.), especially the latter, which when returning to breed were killed in large numbers all along Childwall Lane. When I observed a mature Grass Snake at the edge of Jackson's Pond during 1957 it was almost certainly these that were an attraction. I also recall hearing of Grass Snakes taking frogs from nearby garden ponds at about this time.

The second observation, made a decade later, was of a juvenile Grass Snake found moribund in a Wavertree garden (SJ3989) on 23 August 1967; it subsequently died, noting that mortality of juvenile Grass Snakes is not unusual. The preserved head of this snake (Fig. 1) is now housed in the World Museum Liverpool collections under accession number LIV.2011.16. There is no doubt that this was a wild snake, although it remains the only one observed during my knowledge of the site during the period 1948 to 1967. The site was a relatively large suburban garden backed by an 18 acre school playing field; Common Newts (*Triturus vulgaris* L.) bred in bomb-pits there and nearby during World War Two (Eric Hardy, pers. comm.) but during my time there no eminently suitable habitat for Grass Snakes existed. A mole *Talpa europaea* L. was observed during 1950.



**Fig. 1.** Head of juvenile Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* (L.), Wavertree, Liverpool, 23 August 1967. The included label is marked 'Childwall' but the find-site is in Wavertree civil parish.

To the east of the site is a significant acreage of Liverpool City Council-owned allotments. The Thingwall Road allotments have been maintained as allotments for many decades and they were active in the early 1940s; unfortunately I have not been able to confirm the date of their inception but it is likely to be during the inter-war years. According to allotment holder Mr J.P. McCormack (pers. comm., 23 October 2011), this site remains a significant wildlife area with a well-known population of frogs which is actively encouraged. Could it be that during the 1960s and earlier there was enough available food and habitat in that area to sustain a population of Grass Snakes and that my juvenile specimen had dispersed into an unfavourable area? There are numerous well-known examples of allotments being favoured by reptiles in Britain, and even in rural areas Grass Snakes habitually seek out compost heaps for egg-laying.

### **Acknowledgements**

I'm grateful to Dr R. Burkmar for providing archival data. Mr Michael Chitty kindly clarified some boundary issues and Mr John McCormack provided information on Liverpool's Thingwall Road allotments. I also acknowledge the observations of the great Lancashire naturalist, the late Mr Eric Hardy.

### **References**

- Cook, C.D.K., 1966. Studies in *Ranunculus* subgenus *Batrachium* (DC.) A. Gray. III. *Ranunculus hederaceus* L. and *R. omiophyllus* Ten. *Watsonia* 6(4):246-259.
- Greenhalgh, M.E., 2004. Early records of Polecat, Red Kites and Grass Snakes from North Merseyside. *Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society General Report 2004*, pp.14-16.



## INTERESTING FINDS



**Hogweed Variety** *Heracleum sphondylium* subsp. *sphondylium* var. *Angustifolium*

There is a variety of Hogweed with narrow leaflets (left.) A single plant was found at High Shores Clough, near Barrow Bridge, Bolton, on 15 July 2015 by Mark Lightowler of Chorley. Common Hogweed *H. sphondylium sphondylium* var. *sphondylium* L. was growing nearby.

**Greater Cuckoo Flower** *Cardamine raphanifolia* Pourr. (Below)

This plant was found locally abundant on 11 May 2014 in a wet ditch at Firwood Fold, Bolton, map reference SD732111, by John Wood of Morecambe. Unable to identify the plant John sent an image to Patricia Francis at Oldham Museum, the identity was subsequently confirmed by David Earl. It was an exciting find as it

was new to SD71 and the Greater Manchester area. This plant is native to the mountains of Southern Europe, Northern Turkey and the Caucasus.





(Continued from page 4)

### **MACCLESFIELD & DISTRICT FIELD CLUB**

Indoor meetings commence at 7.30pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Roe Street, Macclesfield. [www.maccfieldclub.co.uk](http://www.maccfieldclub.co.uk). Starting points for walks are obtainable from the walk leader. Adequate footwear should be worn, no dogs please.

#### **Tuesday 22 September : Rochdale Town Hall and Museum**

£18.50 including tour. Leader : Gill Barber 01625 511862

#### **Monday 28 September : Landscape History of the Wye Valley**

Alan Roberts

#### **Monday 26 October : Capturing the Beauty of the Heavens**

followed by AGM. Prof. Ian Morison

### **MANCHESTER FIELD CLUB**

Indoor Meetings are held at Sale United Reformed Church Hall, Montague Road, Sale, M33 3BU, near Sale Metro station, commencing 7.00pm. Members £1.00, visitors £2.00.

Chair: Alan Hill, 24 Kingsfield Drive, Didsbury, M20 6JA; e-mail: [awhill@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:awhill@globalnet.co.uk) Tel: 0161 215 0971; mobile 07719 659 689.

[www.manchesterfieldclub.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfieldclub.org.uk)

#### **Saturday 12 September : Haughton Dale Gall Gala**

Meet 11.00 at car park at SJ 939 937, between the Peak Forest Canal in Hyde and Haughton Green. Leader : Norman Bamforth 0161 336 3914

#### **Saturday 14 November : AGM**

### **MANCHESTER MICROSCOPICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

All meetings are held in the Stopford Building (Medical School) University of Manchester M13 9PT, corner of Oxford Road and Aker Street (next to the Holy Name Church), Manchester, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **All are welcome** – feel free to bring a friend or two. Non-members and members of other Societies are welcome. The Society's library will be available at all Stopford meetings and includes copies of our Newsletters and literature on microscopic history, as well as many books on microscopy and Natural History. [www.manchestermicroscopical.org.uk](http://www.manchestermicroscopical.org.uk)

### **MARPLE NATURALISTS**

Meetings commence at 8.00 pm at United Reform Church, Hibbert Lane, Marple, SK6 7NN. Visitors welcome: £4 for individual meetings, Children free. For further information contact Lynne Shuttleworth – 0161 427 2346 or Derek Clifford 427 4611 or Marple Naturalists Community page on [www.marple-uk.com](http://www.marple-uk.com)

Outdoor meetings are arranged separately and announced at meetings.

## **MERSEYSIDE NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION**

Full programme listings are on our website [www.mnapage.info](http://www.mnapage.info) and reports of previous trips on our blog at [www.NaturalistsNotebook.mnapage.info](http://www.NaturalistsNotebook.mnapage.info)

## **NELSON NATURALISTS SOCIETY**

All meetings are held at Christ Church, Carr Road, Nelson and start at 7.30pm

Enquiries: David Nelson 01282 863012 [davidnelson@btinternet.com](mailto:davidnelson@btinternet.com)

### **Wednesday 7 October : Reginald Farrer: Plant-hunter**

John Page

### **Wednesday 21 October : Birdlife through 40 Pennine Years**

Gordon Yates

### **Wednesday 4 November : Pennine Adders, Amphibians and Reptiles**

David Alred

### **Wednesday 18 November : Natural History: My Way**

Howard Harrison

### **Wednesday 2 December : Birds around Britain**

Dave Winnard

## **PRESTON BIRD WATCHING AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Meetings at St. Mary's Church Hall, Cop Lane, Penwortham.

Further details from Steve Halliwell 01772 705468, [www.prestonsociety.co.uk](http://www.prestonsociety.co.uk)

## **NORTH WEST FUNGUS GROUP**

Forays start at 10.30am and are planned so that they can continue into the afternoon. Please bring food and drink. Please contact the foray leader to confirm your attendance and for possible last minute details. Beginners always welcome at all forays. Forays are not suitable for small children. No dogs. <http://fungus.org.uk/nwfg.htm>

### **Sunday 6 September : Styal Woods**

Meet National Trust car park SJ836836. Leader : John Taylor 0161 445 3308

### **Sunday 13 September : Roundsea Wood, Cumbria**

Meet by the Anglers Arms, Haverthwaite. Leader : Helen Speed 01539 733959

### **Sunday 27 September : Rostherne Mere**

Meet car park at SJ743833. Leader : Tim Rogers 07890949997

### **Friday 2 October-Monday 5 October : Keswick Convention Centre**

Residential Foray. Contact Irene Ridge 01254 247274

### **Sunday 4 October : Beginners Foray, Moore Nature Reserve, Warrington**

Meet car park SJ578855. Leader : Paul Hamlyn 0161 434 1401

### **Saturday 10 October – Sunday 11 October : National Fungus Day**

See website for events

(North West Fungus Group - continued)

**Sunday 18 October : Raven Meols Hills, Formby**

Meet at car park at Bay One. Leader Tony Carter 0151 724 4600

**Sunday 1 November : Turn Slack Clough, Littleborough**

Meet at the clough SD935173. Leader : Norman Bamforth 0161 336 3914

**OLDHAM MICROSCOPICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Meetings at Werneth Centre, Oldham, at 7.30 pm for more information call Jack Slater 0161 626 9311

**Monday 14 September : Winter Programme Planning Meeting**

**Monday 21 September : Indoor Meeting**

**Monday 28 September : Indoor Meeting**

**WILMSLOW GUILD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Indoor meetings held at Wilmslow Guild, 1 Brown Street at 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome to indoor meetings (£3.00) & field-trips (free). Contact Roy Beacham (secretary) for further information on 01606 891957 rybeacham@aol.com

**Saturday 17 October : Marbury Country Park Field Trip**

David Warner

**ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**

[www.rochdalefieldnaturalistsociety.co.uk](http://www.rochdalefieldnaturalistsociety.co.uk)

Indoor Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, September to April, at Cutgate Baptist Church, Edenfield Road, Rochdale.

Enquiries: 01706 630707 and 814884. Charges: Members £2.00, Non-members £3.00.

All Excursions depart from the cul-de-sac at Manchester Road, Rochdale. Time: Coaches 0900hrs, Cars 1000hrs. Coaches return at 1700hrs except during the months of November, December, January and February when return is at 1600hrs

Queries: excursions – Secretary 01706 843685 secretary@rochdalefieldnaturalists.co.uk

Coach bookings – contact Fred Royle on 01706 644394 Coach Price: £14.

**Saturday 26 September : Todmorden area, West Yorks – Car Trip**

Derek Clutterbuck

**Saturday 10 October : South Lakes – Coach Trip**

Pamela Jackson and Sheila Simpson

**Saturday 24 October : Phillip's Park, Prestwich – Car Trip**

Alan Flavell

**Saturday 14 November : Knott End to Preesall, Morecambe Bay – Coach Trip**

Pat and Maggie Culkin

**Saturday 28 November : Lyme Park - Car Trip\***

Rick and Karen Cowley

**Saturday 5 December : Carsington Water, near Ashbourne – Coach Trip**  
Sheila Simpson

**Saturday 19 December : Towneley Park, Burnley – Car Trip**  
Derek Clutterbuck

\* Please note there may be an entrance fee or parking charge at these venues

### **WEST LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE**

Meetings are held in Room B003 in the Business School Building, Edge Hill University, St Helen's Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP. Please note that you can park in the car parks A & B in front of the main university buildings, and walk to the Business School Building. Please arrive by 19.15 for a prompt 19.30 start. Admission charge (including refreshments): £1.50 members, £2.50 non-members. More details at [www.westlancswildlife.org.uk](http://www.westlancswildlife.org.uk) or contact 01704 83538.

**Wednesday 16 September : To be Confirmed**

**Wednesday 7 October : 27 Years of Managing the Sefton Coast**  
Dave McAleavy

**Wednesday 18 November : Eastern Mediterranean Spring (video talk)**  
Ron Jackson

**Wednesday 9 December : Members Evening**  
followed by a pint and a chat in a local pub

### **NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - BRYOPHYTE & LICHEN SECTION**

All meetings on Saturdays, starting at 10.30 am and will commence whatever the weather. Bring food and clothing adequate for a full day in rough country and bad weather. Please check with section secretary a day or so before the meeting, in case of cancellation or changes.

“Beginners” are welcome any ANY meeting and there will always be a more experienced field bryologist present who will be more than happy to name and talk through the identification features of species encountered.

Section Secretary: Norman Bamforth 1 Corporation Road, Audenshaw, Manchester. M34 5LY (0161 336 3914)

**Saturday 12 September : Poynton Coppice, Poynton**

Meet car park beside Shrigley Road at SJ94268265, marked on the OS 1:25,000 map  
Leader : Des Callaghan

**Saturday 10 October : Taddington and / or Great Shacklow Woods**

Meet at Taddington Dale car park. (SK170706) Fee. Leader : Martha Newton

**Saturday 7 November : Middleton Woods, Ilkley**

Meet at free parking at Ilkley Lido (SE 11820 48486). This is an ancient woodland on north side of Ilkley. It should be an interesting site to explore with perhaps some Atlantic species. Leader : Gordon Haycock

(NWNNU Bryophyte & Lichen Group - continued)

**Saturday 5 December : Tegg's Nose and Tegg's Nose Reservoir, near Macclesfield**  
Meet at the carpark at the north end of the reservoir dam wall (marked on the OS 1:25,000 map) at SJ94567183. NOTE: this is NOT the carpark for Tegg's Nose Country Park. Leader : Des Callaghan

**NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION - MANCHESTER & NORTH  
MIDLANDS FERN GROUP**

Contact: Secretary@eBPS.org.uk

**NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION – VASCULAR PLANT SECTION**

Contact: David Earl - david.earl@talktalk.net

**NORTHWESTERN NATURALISTS' UNION  
Reconvened Annual General Meeting**

**3 p.m. Saturday 17 October 2015**

**Bolton Library Meeting Room, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton**

**DORMITORY FOR SWALLOWS**

This article was spotted by Norman Bamforth and originally appeared in the Cowdroy's Manchester Gazette dated 23rd July 1796

The following particulars were related by the late Mr. John Hunter, relative to an experiment he once made to ascertain whether Swallows shewed any disposition to sleep, or to retire into water, or caverns etc., at the time of their disappearance.

One year in the month of September, he prepared a room with every accommodation and convenience which he could contrive, to serve as a dormitory for Swallows, if they were disposed to sleep in Winter. He placed in the centre a large tub of water with twigs and reeds, etc., which reached to the bottom. In the corners of the room he contrived artificial caverns and holes, into which they might retire; and he laid on the floor, or suspended in the air, different lengths of old wooden pipes, which had formerly been employed in conveying water through the streets etc.

When the receptacle was rendered complete as possible, he then engaged some watermen to take by night a large quantity of Swallows that hang upon the reeds in the Thames, about the time of their departure. They brought him, in a hamper, a considerable number; and had so nicely nicked the time of their departure, that on that very day following there were none to be seen.

He put the Swallows into the room so prepared, where they continued to fly about and occasionally perch on the twigs, etc. But not one retired into the water, the caverns, holes, or wooden pipes; or shewed the least disposition to grow torpid etc. In this situation he let them remain until they all died but one. This appearing to retain some vigour, was set at liberty; when it mounted out of sight, and flew away. All the birds lay dead scattered about the room.