British Arachnological Society

NEWSLETTER NO 3



DECEMBER 1988

CLIFFORD J. SMITH 7, MALTON WAY CLIFTON YORK YO3 6SG YORK (0904)(25928

SPIDER RECORDING SCHEME

Since you received newsletter no 2 in March, many of us met at the SRS weekend meeting at Monks Wood in May. This occasion was such a success that we hope to arrange another meeting on similar lines during May or June 1989. Steve Rushton has already started to investigate the possibility of booking suitable accommodation in Northumberland, and there is no reason why we should not arrange something similar in the south of England if someone were to come forward to organize it. Full details will appear in the March 1989 newsletter. I look forward to the possibility of hearing from anyone who is prepared to organize a 'southern' meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHEME

We are sad to report the sudden death of Dr Doug Cowden in October. He was the energetic Area Organizer for Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester where he had initiated meetings of local SRS members, and he had sent in over 100 completed record cards for the area. We will miss his enthusiasm and active participation in the Scheme, and we must now look for a successor to take over as Area Organizer.

New members since newsletter no 2 are:

- 82 Dr R G Loxton, Department of Pure and Applied Biology, Baines Wing, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT
- 83 Mr S J Moore, 36 Chelwood Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4RJ
- 84 Mr M B Davidson, 'Averans', Whiteford, Pitcaple, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB5 9EB
- 85 Mrs D M Evans, Bwthyn-y-Mor, Wern-y-Wylan, Llanddona, Anglesey, Gwynedd LL58 8TR
- 86 Mr D T Richardson, 5 Calton Terrace, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2AY
- 87 Mr D Cuthbertson, 50 Balsdean Road, Brighton, Sussex BN2 6PE
- 88 Mr G C Slawson, 20 Queens Road, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7LT
- 89 Mr D Powell, (MAFF), ADAS Harpenden Laboratories, Hatching Green, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2BD
- 90 Mr D Carr, 40 The Marples, Harlow, Essex CM19 4QZ
- 91 Mrs S Copper, 60 Addison Street, Nottingham NG1 4HA
- 92 Mr P McCormick, 253 Denman Street Central, Radford, Notts
- 93 Mr E G Philp, Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH
- 94 Miss S I Baldwin, 2 Howdenhall Park, Edinburgh EH16 6UU
- 95 Ms H Corrigan, Biology Department, Paisley College, High Street, Paisley PA1 2BE

Change of address since newsletter no 2:

Mr E E Emmett, Alasdair, Farnham Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1HD

Changes and additions to the list of Area Organizers since newsletter no 1 are:

Staffordshire: G Craig Slawson (address as above)

Lincolnshire: Mr Roy Kent, 'Stonehaven', Station Road, Sturton, Brigg, South

Humberside

South-west Scotland: Mr D Beaumont, Flat 8, 9 Lorraine Road, Dowanhill,

Glasgow G12 9NZ

South-east Scotland: Mr C Topping, Department of Agricultural Biology, The

University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU

COMPLETED SPIDER RECORD CARDS

The number of completed SRS cards that have been returned to me has doubled during the past 7 months, and I am most grateful to all the recorders and Area Organizers who have been so active. In particular I would like to thank Peter Harvey (Essex), Chris Felton (Cheshire and North Wales), Stan Dobson (Derby), Steve Rushton (Durham and Northumberland), John Parker (Cumbria, etc) and Jim Stewart (Central Scotland) for the hard work they are putting in to the areas they are responsible for.

It is noticeable that the number of completed cards from the southern half of England is comparatively small, and I like to think that the winter weather in that part of Britain is so good that fieldwork is equally attractive throughout the year, and there is correspondingly less time for completing cards during the cold, dark winter evenings! At present, most of the completed cards from southern England have been produced by recorders holidaying there, and they have sent the cards directly to me.

However, I hope that before long I will be receiving a steady stream of completed cards from all those areas that are under-represented at the present tim. I hope too that recorders will deluge their Area Organizers with completed cards. I will be making a report on the progress of the Scheme at the next BAS Annual General Meeting, and it will be most encouraging to mention that the Scheme is being enthusiastically supported throughout Great Britain.

THE USE OF SINGLE-SPECIES CARDS

Single-species cards are obtainable from Brian Eversham at Monks Wood, but recorders should be clear as to the correct occasions on which to use this type of recording in preference to the site recording cards (RA65). As the name implies, each card deals with a single species from a variety of sites and times and is of particular use when dealing with a collection of specimens (museum or personal), or a set of records from many sites in an area such as a county or vice-county.

Two rather similar single-species cards are available. GEN7 has spaces for source (collection/literature reference), grid reference, vice-county, collector/recorder, determiner, locality and date; GEN13 deals with all the items on GEN7, but also includes a space for notes (habitat, etc).

To increase the reliability and usefulness of this method of record, please note the following points:

- a. include as much information as you have time for
- b. give full details of collectors/recorders if these are available
- c. indicate separate records from different sources clearly
- d. give full details of literature references and collection sources.

Before embarking on the abstraction of records of this kind, it is wise to check that this work has not already been undertaken by someone else. This is best done by writing to me. I will try to keep a record of all literature abstracting and work on museum collections being undertaken. I myself am abstracting species records from the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union spider records; in the first instance, I am limiting myself to those species that are rare (omitted from RA65), and uncommon (marked with an * on RA65). It is doubtful if I will ever get round to recording the common species in this way because some species such as Lepthyphantes tenuis have literally hundreds of site records in the county.

If you would like to have further clarification on any of these points, please write to me.

ORDER ARANEAE	GENUS & S		1	SUB-SPECIES		
6708		0040	DIZ DICTYNA	LATENS (Fabr.)		
COMPILER CONNIT		-	/Reference)			
	Fld	Mus un Youkshu	re Northealists' U	mon Spider Records		
Grid Reference	v-c	Collector/ Recorder	Determiner	Locality	Date	
5663	61	(W. Falc	mer)	Skipwith Common		
NZ71	62			Statitico (Fact Row Bell	2	
NZ8:]	62			Runowick Bay	between 1890	
<u>558.8</u>	62			Thornton Dale	y and	
N .	62			Levisham	1920	
NZ 7.1	62			Kitton Woods		
4D 9.6	64		J	Linton Common	J 1993	
SK 5.8	63	W.A. Ely	USmith	Lindrick Common	July 1981	
TAIJ	ы	A. Ezard	11	Filey	May 1961	
5K5.8	63	W.A. Ely	lı	Lindrick Quarry	June 1985	
"	63	11	"	Anoton Stone Wood	May 1982	
					P.T.O.	

COMPUTER RECORDS

A small number of individual recorders are developing their own systems for home computer recording, and as time goes by more and more are likely to adopt this method of recording. At the moment, neither I nor the staff at Monks Wood are readily able to receive records in this form; but it is likely that something will be developed in the not-so-distant future. Computer buffs may like to be thinking through the problems, particularly relating to the vetting of records, and to the ease of interchange between recorders. Transfer to a central computer at Monks Wood will be tackled when the SRS data as a whole are about to be processed.

A number of local biological records centres in local authorities, museums and similar collecting centres are becoming computerized. BRC at Monks Wood will be ready to process data that is received in 'machine-readable form' such as a floppy disk, but computer technology is changing so rapidly and the range of systems already in use is so great that no definite instructions can be given at present: problems are at present handled ad hoc when they arise.

I will be getting in touch individually with Area Organizers early in the New Year, and with all recorders when the March 1989 newsletter (no 4) is sent out. Letters from recorders at any time are most welcome, particularly with items of news concerning spider recording in their areas.

NUMBER OF COMPLETED SPIDER RECORDING CARDS RECEIVED BY 1 NOVEMBER 1988

1.	West Cornwall	6	26.	West Suffolk	7	51.	Flint	26
2.	East Cornwall	_		East Norfolk	20	52.	Anglesey	11
3.	South Devon	21		West Norfolk	21	53.	South Lincolnshire	<i>.</i>
4.	North Devon	- -		Cambridgeshire	12	54.	North Lincolnshire	3
5.	South Somerset	9		Bedfordshire	6	55.	Leicestershire	1
6.	North Somerset	_		Huntingdonshire	11	56.	Nottinghamshire	2
7.	North Wiltshire	6		Northamptonshire	6	57.	Derbyshire	64
8.	South Wiltshire	4		E. Gloucestershire	1	58.	Cheshire	31
9.	Dorset	7		W. Gloucestershire	2	59.	South Lancashire	107
	Isle of Wight	_		Monmouth	_	60.	West Lancashire	107
	South Hampshire	24		Herefordshire	5	61.	South-east Yorks	247
	North Hampshire	2		Worcestershire	2	62.	North-east Yorks	324
	West Sussex	1		Warwickshire	1 4	63.	South-west Yorks	303
	East Sussex	-		Staffordshire	5	64.	Mid-west Yorks	322
	East Kent	11			16	65.	North-west Yorks	322 77
	West Kent	5		Shropshire Glamorgan	26	66.	Durham	52
	Surrey	3 0		Breconshire	20 1	67.	S. Northumberland	175
	South Essex	56		Radnorshire	4	68.	N. Northumberland	7
	North Essex				7	69.	Westmorland &	,
	Hertfordshire	19 1		Carmarthenshire Pembrokeshire	26	69.	N. Lancashire	69
	Middlesex	_			18	70.		62 17
	Berkshire			Cardiganshire	4	71.	Cumberland Isle of Man	13 1
	Oxfordshire	7		Montgomeryshire Merionethshire	12			'
		3 11		Caernarvonshire	38	113.	Channel Isles	_
	Buckinghamshire East Suffolk							
25.	Fast Suiioik	17	50.	Denbighshire	23			
72.	Dumfries	_	93.	North Aberdeen	_			
73.	Kirkcudbright	4	94.	Banff	_			
	Wigton	18	95.	Moray (Elgin)	2			
	Ayrshire	-	96.	East Inverness	1			
	Renfrew	_	97.	West Inverness	_			
77.	Lanarkshire	_	98.	Argyll Main	-			
78.	Peeblesshire	_	99.	Dunbartonshire	_			
	Selkirkshire	_		Clyde Isles	2		Total number for	
80.	Roxburghshire	2		Kintyre	1		England, Scotlan	d
	Berwickshire	_		South Ebudes	_		and Wales 2541	
	East Lothian	11		Mid Ebudes	1			
	Midlothian	51		North Ebudes	1			
	West Lothian	9		West Ross	_			
	Fife/Kinross	6		East Ross	1			
	Sterlingshire	_		East Sutherland	_			
	West Perth	_		West Sutherland	_			
	Mid Perth	3		Caithness	_			
	East Perth	7		Outer Hebrides	1			
		_						
	Angus (Forfar)	1	777.	Orkney Islands	-			
97.	Angus (Forfar) Kincardine	1 -		Shetland Islands	_			