

GB 1418 RSPB

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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A list of the historical records
of the
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Compiled by Philippa Bassett as part
of a research project funded by the
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A brief history of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Examples of isolated attempts by individuals to protect wild birdlife can be found as early as the beginning of the last century. In 1813 Charles Waterton turned his Yorkshire estate into a sanctuary for wild birds; and other landed gentry with interests in natural history are known to have restricted shooting on their estates and put up artificial nesting places. According to D E Allen, an upsurge of interest in wild bird protection dates from the 1860s when the latest fashion of wearing plumage in women's hats involved their substantial destruction (especially gulls) - an outrage which caused much protest. As a result of pressure in which the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) played a large part, the first ever piece of legislation for the protection of wild birds was passed in 1869 (Sea Birds Protection Act). But it was virtually impossible to enforce and all species, not just sea birds, required some form of protection. The Wild Bird Protection Act (1880), although extending the law to most birds, was almost as ineffective and it failed, for example, to stop the collection of eggs which was becoming highly organised. Yet these were important as precedents for later legislation and drew the attention of the public not only to the destruction of birds for their plumage, but also to the increasing incidence of other forms of cruelty to bird life and to overcollecting of birds and their eggs.

It was during the 1880s that the cause gathered further momentum with the creation of a number of societies to campaign exclusively for the preservation of wildlife. In 1885 the Selbourne Society for the Protection of Birds, Plants and Pleasant Places was set up (the first such national organisation), and in the same year the Plumage League was also founded (which demanded from its members a pledge not to wear feathers). The following year these two bodies merged. Yet because the Selbourne Society had a wider range of objectives than bird protection alone, a new Society for the Protection of Birds was founded in 1889 by a Mrs Robert Williamson of Didsbury, Manchester. Also in 1889 a 'Fur, Fin and Feather Club' was formed by Mrs Edward Phillips who held meetings at her house in Croydon which were attended by such distinguished persons as William H Hudson. It was from these two bodies that the present Society emerged. Both groups aimed to stop birds being slaughtered for plumage, although without any obvious success as the trade in feathers continued to rise dramatically. In 1891 the Manchester Society was transferred to London, where it was made a more formal body and gained the support of those attending the 'Fur, Fin and Feather' afternoons. From this date the Society rapidly expanded and within its first year of existence its members exceeded 5000 (virtually all of whom were women). By 1898 it had 20,000 members, with 152 branches, including one in Washington, U S A and another in Germany. It was already employing staff in London by 1897, and published its first Christmas card in 1898. It also produced its own magazine, Bird Notes and News (forerunner of Birds, the present quarterly magazine) from 1903.

The Society attracted much influential and expert patronage from its earliest days. The Duchess of Portland was President of the Society from 1891 up until 1954. Members included Sir Edward Grey, Lord Lilford (President of the British Ornithological Union), Alfred Austin (Poet Laureate), William H Hudson (ornithologist and writer, and also Chairman of the Society from 1892 to 1895) and J A Harvie-Brown (the Scottish naturalist). This support was of critical importance both in attracting

new members and in bringing prestige to the Society. Moreover the published work of naturalists such as Hudson influenced the public's attitude towards the preservation of wildlife, and Hudson himself wrote a number of pamphlets for the Society, including Osprey, or Egrets or Aigrettes (1891), Feathered Women (1893), Lost British Birds (1894) and The Trade in Bird Feathers (1898).

Although initially the Society's chief objective was to end the plumage trade by securing as many members as possible (who signed a pledge to refrain from wearing plumes), the Rules of 1891 also stated that its members should 'discourage the wanton destruction of birds, and interest themselves generally in their protection'. Most of its earliest efforts were certainly directed towards promoting a Plumage Bill to destroy the traffic in plumage, although it was not until 1921 - after several earlier attempts - that an Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act was finally passed banning imports of all plumage into Britain (except for the feathers of the African ostrich and the eider duck). Yet by the turn of the century, the Society had already broadened the scope of its work and emerged from a mere anti-plumage movement into a popularly based organisation working for the general protection of birds. It must, however, be emphasised that it was this very fight against the plumage trade which aroused such widespread interest in bird protection.

The increasing public interest in the Society's work was acknowledged by the granting of a Royal Charter in 1904. The objects of the Society as summarised from that Charter bear witness to the extension of its interests:

- "i) to encourage the better conservation and protection of wild birds, more particularly of rare and interesting species, by developing public interest in their place in nature, as well as in their beauty of plumage and note;
- ii) in the furtherance of the above to promote interest, research or study in all matters concerned with birds by such means and in such a manner as may seem advisable to the Society;
- iii) to protect or assist in protecting wild birds and their nests and eggs;
- iv) to hold land for the purpose of sanctuaries or reserves;
- v) to provide or subscribe to or assist other persons or societies in providing watchers for the better preservation of wild birds;
- vi) to discourage the wanton destruction of any bird not killed for the purpose of food but to take no part in the question of killing game birds and legitimate sport of that character;
- vii) to work in conjunction with other bodies, societies or corporations having similar objects in the United Kingdom or anywhere else in the world."

Since the 1890s the Society has played an important part in the fight for a comprehensive measure of legislation for the general protection of birds. A number of measures designed to improve law enforcement and to protect species and specific areas were introduced in the years after the 1880

Wild Bird Protection Act, and these did check some of the worst abuses. They included the 1896 Wild Birds Protection Act which gave county councils the right to apply for orders to protect particular areas or species of birds; an Act of 1902 which allowed birds or eggs taken illegally to be confiscated; Acts of 1904 and 1908 banning the use of the pole trap and the beagle; and finally the Protection of Birds Act of 1925 which banned the use of bird lime and the practice of using birds as decoys. Many of these and other unsuccessful bills were drafted and introduced or directly instigated by the RSPB, which had considerable support amongst MPs. Yet despite this wide range of legislation, the RSPB still considered it inadequate because there was no element of compulsion for councils to provide for the protection of birds, and because it considered the 'White List' principle as introduced by the 1880 Act to be a very negative way of approaching bird protection. The Society favoured a 'Black List' system, whereby all birds were to be protected automatically and councils given the right to apply for orders to remove birds from this general protection and to put them on a 'Black List'; whereas, by the 1880 Act, councils applied for orders to protect species by placing them on a 'White List'. The RSPB had backed two bills introduced in 1899 and 1900 to reverse the White List principles and, in an attempt to provide for a more comprehensive measure, had pressed for an official enquiry from as early as 1903. The Home Office finally granted a departmental committee of inquiry in 1913 on which the RSPB was represented by E G B Meade-Waldo. It finally reported in 1919 and although favouring the Black List concept decided that the improvement and extension of existing legislation was the better policy (due to difficulty of distinguishing between harmful and beneficial birds for lack of knowledge about their habits). The report recommended a further committee to draw up a new bill. This resulted in the setting up of a Wild Birds Advisory Committee for England and Wales and another for Scotland. Montagu Sharp represented the RSPB on this committee. Three attempts to introduce a new bill failed through lack of parliamentary time. The fourth attempt in 1927 was dropped after too many amendments were tabled in the House by advocates of the 'Black List' principle. It was not until 1954 that a comprehensive measure was finally passed. The Protection of Birds Act of this date simplified procedure by repealing most of the previous acts, and attempted to protect every wild bird, egg and nest by incorporating 'Black' and 'White Lists'.

But not only has the RSPB lobbied the Government for the introduction of legislation for the protection of wild birds, it has also played a major role in publicising and enforcing these acts. Failure on the side of the authorities to enforce legislation and loop holes in the acts themselves resulted in large numbers of birds becoming increasingly scarce by the early twentieth century. As early as 1902 the Society appointed a Watchers' Committee designed to provide the organisation for general protection of birds and preservation of those areas designated as bird sanctuaries. In 1905 the appointment and supervision of authorised watchers became a distinct department of the Society, and the committee was given power to engage paid watchers, raise and administer funds and issue reports. By 1914 there were 10 districts under the care of the Watchers' Committee, and 22 men employed to guard them. By 1937 the number of paid and voluntary watchers had risen to 68. In the past the Society has also employed a number of ex-police inspectors to track bird catchers and since the 1940s has made payments to farmers, gamekeepers and others who assisted in the protection of rare species.

It was soon realised that in addition to maintaining watchers it would be advantageous, indeed necessary, to establish bird sanctuaries to provide for the more adequate protection of wildlife. This became especially clear during the 1920s and 1930s when land use changes and building developments were beginning to threaten natural habitats. As early as 1912 the Society bought the shooting lease of Brean Down (Somerset), and acquired land there in the 1930s. In 1928 it designated a reserve in Romney Marsh, and acquired land at Dungeness in Kent in the 1930s. The RSPB also played a part in publicising the need for a rational preservation policy in post-war planning. It appointed a committee to carry out a survey to discover which species and areas required special protection. It held discussions with the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves which resulted in the latter organising a conference (known as the Conference on Nature Preservation in Post-War Reconstruction) to which all interested societies were invited to send representatives. A report was drawn up for presentation to the Government which set out the case for the urgent need to preserve wildlife by establishing nature reserves. Deputations were also sent to Lord Reith (with members of the Standing Committee on National Parks) and later to Sir William Jowitt and Lord Portal on the subject of National Parks and National Nature Reserves in post war reconstruction. As a result Jowitt suggested to the conference that it should carry out an inquiry into the need for nature preservation. In consequence the Nature Reserves Investigation Committee was set up to 'examine proposals for the establishment of nature reserves as part of any general scheme of national planning'. The RSPB submitted evidence to the NRIC and the reports of the latter had a profound influence on post-war policy. The establishment of the Nature Conservancy in 1949 - a National Nature Reserves authority as recommended by the NRIC - had as one of its objectives 'to establish, maintain and manage nature reserves in Great Britain'. Since this date the responsibility of the RSPB, the SPNR and other voluntary bodies together with local authorities, has been to provide local reserves to supplement the National Nature Reserves administered by the Nature Conservancy.

Today the RSPB owns or manages more than 70 reserves covering as much as 78,000 acres of varied habitat. In a few cases, reserves exist specifically for the protection of rare birds - for example, for ospreys at Loch Garten and avocets at Havergate - but, in the main, the object of the Society is to have a holding of reserves with a countrywide spread of examples of all listed habitats. Most reserves are open to visitors on a controlled permit basis, where it does not adversely affect the wildlife and habitat.

The Society has always considered it important to create a favourable climate of public opinion and to educate the public. In its earliest days, it produced a large number of pamphlets and leaflets with this purpose in mind. It has also maintained close cooperation with schools and education authorities. For example, from 1903 it arranged an annual Bird and Tree Challenge Shield competition for schools. The Society has also made considerable use of posters, lectures, exhibitions, the press and even broadcasting to publicise its work.

The RSPB has been responsible on a number of occasions for drawing the attention of the public to dangers faced by wildlife. In the 1920s, for instance, the Society warned the public that oil pollution was becoming a major problem affecting sea birds and it was as a direct result of the Society's persuasion that the 1922 Oil in Navigable Waters Act was passed.

The Society also tried to encourage the use of separators in ships and made an appeal to every navy in the world and all known shipping companies and ship owners. But the problem remained serious, because without international action little could be achieved. The Society therefore tried to achieve world wide cooperation and in 1925 it circularised the House of Commons and the House of Lords in the hope of convening an international conference to discuss ways of controlling oil pollution. This aroused widespread support but although an international conference was held on the subject in Washington in 1926, it proved abortive through lack of agreement amongst the powers. The RSPB continued to exert pressure on the Government to secure international cooperation by circularising more leaflets and in 1934 the Government placed the issue on the agenda of the League of Nations. However, this failed to achieve anything more than the 1926 conference. Further efforts to control pollution were thwarted by war. Although the RSPB was unsuccessful in this problem, the support it aroused and the influence it had on the British Government clearly indicates its importance as a pressure group.

The problem of oil pollution encouraged the establishment of an international organisation for the protection of birds, which would strengthen cooperation between the various voluntary bodies. In 1922 the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) was formed. Each country was to create a national section which would act as a focus for exchange of information and opinion, and would provide for international cooperation. The RSPB has since played a major role in the British Section of the ICBP. It is interesting to note that in most other fields of wildlife preservation international liaison rarely developed before the late 1940s.

By 1928 the Society was already advising people against the unwise use of toxic chemicals in their gardens. In more recent years, the RSPB has been conducting investigations, for example, into the effects of organo-chlorine pesticides, and the Society's reports have influenced decisions to impose voluntary bans on the uses of certain chemicals. The Society has also provided funds in the past for the erection of perches at lighthouses in order to prevent the death of large numbers of birds.

The RSPB is today Europe's largest wildlife conservation body. Most of its expansion is the product of the last 10 to 15 years, arising from the upsurge of mass interest in natural history. Membership has grown more than tenfold as the following figures show:-

Date	Membership figures
Jan 1940	4852
Jan 1950	6265
Jan 1955	7000
Jan 1968	35,000
Jan 1973	117,950
Jan 1978	250,550

In addition, the Young Ornithologists Club (founded in 1965 to replace the Junior Bird Recorders Club) today has a membership of over 75,000. In 1965 there were only 18,500 members.

In consequence, the Society's administrative system has had to be dramatically extended to meet the demands of such a fast growing membership. Regional offices have recently been established in Northern Ireland (1967);

Scotland (1954) and Wales (1971); and a further five covering England: North England (1973), South East England (1974) and South West England (1975) and one each for the Midlands and East Anglia (1978). An office in North West England is to be opened in 1979. Similarly the Society's educational programmes, development of research, investigations and publications departments have all greatly expanded. The Society also has a growing sales department which produces a wide and varied range of goods designed to promote public interest in wild birds. The profits are used to support the Society's objectives. Net profits in 1977/78 were £130,800. The Society has also a large income from grants, donations, legacies, appeals and membership subscriptions.

The policies, general management and conduct of the Society are the responsibility of the Society's elected Council which comprises the officers - President, Chairman, Hon Treasurers and Chairmen of Regional Committees - and 24 other members. The Council meets quarterly. There are three Committees - Information and Education, Conservation, and Finance and General Purposes. In addition there are three Regional Committees for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and various specialist advisory Groups.

The Director is the Society's chief executive officer responsible to the Council for the work of the Society. He heads a directorate of four Functional Directors. Each of these Directors are responsible for one of the following areas of activity: for the Society's work in Scotland and three Divisions, for Conservation, for Information, and for Sales and Funding. These Divisions are divided into various departments. The Conservation Division, for instance, is divided into departments for Reserves and Species Protection, and Research and Conservation Planning; and the Information Division is divided into departments for Education, Publications, Films and Photography, Development (ie membership promotion and involvement) and Administration. The Chief Finance Officer is also responsible to the Director for financial planning and control. Press relations and international affairs are dealt with by the Director himself through a specialist staff. In total, the Society has a permanent staff of about 300.

Bibliography

Publications of the RSPB

F E Lemon, 'The Story of the RSPB', Bird Notes and News, vol 20, 1943, 67-68, 84-87, 100-102, 116-118

J Sheail, Nature in Trust : the history of nature conservation in Britain, 1976

D E Allen, The Naturalist in Britain : a social history, 1976

Notes on the historical records

The RSPB has retained a relatively substantial archive covering many aspects of its activities although much of the material dates only from the 1940s. Unfortunately, however, some of the more formal administrative records have suffered from damp.

The Society has few surviving financial records: annual account sheets from 1945 (although not continuously), and a cash book (1896-1923). Of the formal administrative records, the minute books are almost complete in their survival; (although as noted above, some are rather badly damaged.

The amount of damage to each individual book has been indicated in the following list.) Council minutes survive from 1898, Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes from 1904, Watchers' Committee minutes from 1905 and Publications/Publicity Committee minutes from 1896. In the last 15 to 20 years, however, most of these committees have undergone some changes of name and some extension of the scope of their business (mirroring the extension of the Society's activities as a whole). The Watchers' Committee became the Conservation Committee in 1966; and the original Publications Committee has been known at various times during the last 20 years as the Education, Publications and General Purposes, Education and General Purposes, Education and Publicity, and Conservation and Education Committee.

Other formal administrative records comprise Annual General Meeting minutes surviving from 1955; three Membership Registers (1890s) and 19 Registers of Associates (c 1893-1924, some of which are quite badly damaged).

The remaining historical records of the Society are varied both in form and content. They comprise (as divided into sections by the RSPB):

- i) material relating to the Charter and Statutes of the RSPB and its earlier organisation (including an internal investigation in 1936) and papers relating to staff, office accommodation, and legal matters;
- ii) a large collection of ephemeral material including press cuttings, membership certificates and cards, medals, badges and photographs;
- iii) the Society's publications including Bird Notes and News from 1903 (although the set is not complete), bound volumes of leaflets (1890s and 1900s) and annual reports. There is also some correspondence and press cuttings relating to RSPB publications;
- iv) publicity material including Christmas cards and posters;
- v) material relating to the RSPB reserves, including correspondence on the day to day running of the reserves, correspondence on proposed reserves, watchers reports, diaries and log books. Records survive in quantity for a number of reserves including Minsmere, Havergate Island and Dungeness;
- vi) files on RSPB research, including material on the provision of perches at lighthouses, 1927-1958, and on oil pollution and toxic chemicals;
- vii) material on conservation, including a general file on threatened areas (1950s) and material on the Third London Airport (1970s);
- viii) details of investigations and prosecutions;
- ix) educational work which includes material on exhibitions, competitions and courses; and publications such as the Junior Bird Recorders Club Bulletin and Junior Bird Watcher;
- x) general regional files. These contain general correspondence with representatives and clubs about visits, lectures, etc, and also general enquiries. They also contain some correspondence with watchers, including reports, etc (1940s and 1950s);

- xi) correspondence files with associated bodies including the Nature Reserves Investigation Committee, Nature Conservancy and International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and local committees and bird watching societies (1940s and 1950s);
- xii) miscellaneous material which includes material on different species of birds, egg cuttings, reports, etc;
- xiii) material relating to legislation. This includes correspondence, reports, printed material etc relating to the drafting of wild bird protection and plumage trade legislation. There is also some material relating to the RSPB's part in the drafting of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949), and correspondence with county councils about the preparation of a schedule of areas considered worthy of preservation as bird sanctuaries.

Although much material has clearly been lost, there is enough surviving to provide some indication of the Society's development from a small group of people in the late nineteenth century dedicated to fighting the plumage trade into the colossus that the RSPB has become today. There are records relating to most aspects of the Society's work. But, apart from the formal minute books which survive almost in toto, the RSPB's historical records are not consistent in their survival. Many records in fact date only from the 1940s and 1950s and where they do survive from before this date, they are often only isolated files or groups of files. But the Society does still possess most annual reports and copies of its journal which will provide a more substantial basis for research. (A number of libraries, including the British Library hold complete sets of the Society's journal.)

However, in addition to its own records the RSPB also holds papers of a number of individuals, which may on closer examination supplement its own records. Of particular interest are the papers of William H Hudson (the novelist and eminent natural historian) who was associated with the Society from its earliest days. They include private correspondence (some of it photocopied from the Manchester Central Library collection) with his wife, officials of the RSPB including Mrs Lemon and Linda Gardiner and a number of other individuals such as Miss Phillips, Mrs Hubbard, Galsworthy and Masefield. Other interesting correspondence includes a bundle relating to a proposed amendment of the 1880 Wild Birds Protection Act and another resulting from an inquiry by Hudson into the nesting of the Great Crested Glebe in Richmond Park. The collection also includes manuscripts and reviews of Hudson's work, some bird watching records and a number of records relating to his will and estate and to his memorial, as well as a number of magazine articles about him (presumably collected by the RSPB).

The Society also holds some private papers and records of a number of other individuals, including those of Mrs Lemon, Mrs Rait Kerr, (which include a very interesting series of 14 nature diaries), Sir Frederick Wise, A H Dolley (which include a series of bird watching records), a diary of William Fisher (1840-1844) and a log book of G T Phillips (1880s and 1890s).

Archival note

The aim of this list has been to provide a general guide to the RSPB records which is in sufficient detail and explanation to indicate to researchers their content and potential. Therefore items have been described in a summary fashion and not in great depth or completely.

The RSPB has already produced a very brief list of most of its archives. In consequence it has been necessary to keep the Society's numbering of its records in the present list. These are prefixed by the reference number 01; and the records are then mainly divided into subject categories from 01.01 to 01.23. These categories are further divided by the addition of extra numbers. There are, however, a series of RSPB records relating to legislation which are prefixed by the reference number 04. The papers of those individuals which the Society possesses are prefixed by the reference code 02, and a further number to distinguish those of each individual. Consequently the private papers of William Hudson are identified by the code 02.01, Mrs Lemon's by 02.02, Mrs Rait Kerr's by 02.03, Sir Frederick Wise's by 02.04, A H Dolley's by 02.05, those of Sir Kenneth Swan, QC by 02.07, and so on.

However, financial records and formal administrative records - including the minute books - have not been included in the Society's own list, and are therefore listed separately. They have been given a running number for retrieval and information purposes.

The following list, which provides more explanatory detail than the Society's list, is therefore divided into three major sections: financial records, formal records, and all other RSPB archives as numbered by the Society.

Location and access

The surviving records of the RSPB are retained at its national offices at The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL. The Society is willing in principle to make its archives available for academic research. Applications for access should be made in writing to the Librarian.

ERRATUM, pages 6 and 7

We now understand that the Society holds a complete set of both its Journal, Bird Notes and News, and its Annual Reports. The lists given under those headings are therefore incomplete.

A FINANCIAL RECORDS

I Cash Book

1 Cash Book, 1896-1923

II Annual Accounts Sheets

1 Annual Accounts Sheets for the years, 1945-1948, 1950-1951, 1953-1955, 1957-1969 and 1970-

B FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

Some of the following records have been damaged by damp. Details of the extent of the damage is given where relevant.

I Council Minute Books

- 1 Minute Book, Council, 1898-1902
Handwritten. Two-thirds readable
- 2 Minute Book, Council, 1903-1907
Handwritten and typed. Mostly readable
- 3 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1908-Dec 1909
Top corner damaged but mostly readable
- 4 Minute Book, Council, Jan 1910-Oct 1911
- 5 Minute Book, Council, Jan-Dec 1912
- 6 Minute Book, Council, Jan-Dec 1913
- 7 Minute Book, Council, Apr 1916-Nov 1917
Two-thirds readable
- 8 Minute Book, Council, Dec 1917-Dec 1919
Top corner damaged but mostly readable
- 9 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1920-Jul 1921
Mostly readable, only top corner damaged
- 10 Minute Book, Council, Oct 1921-Dec 1922
- 11 Minute Book, Council, Feb-Dec 1923
- 12 Minute Book, Council, Apr 1924-Dec 1925
- 13 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1926-Dec 1927
- 14 Minute Book, Council, Feb-Dec 1928
- 15 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1929-Dec 1930
- 16 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1931-Feb 1933
- 17 Minute Book, Council, Apr 1933-Dec 1934
- 18 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1935-Feb 1937
This is a loose leaf book and also includes minutes of the
Publicity and Watchers Committees, and of the 1936 General
Meetings
- 19 Minute Book, Council, Feb 1937-Dec 1948
- 20 Minute Book, Council, Apr 1949-Feb 1960
- 21 Minute Book, Council, May 1960-Mar 1967
- 22 Minute Book, Council, Jun 1967-Jun 1971
- 23 Minute Book, Council, Sep 1971-Feb 1975
- 24 Minute Book, Council, Mar 1975-Dec 1978

II Finance and General Purposes Committee/Finance Committee Minute Books

- 1 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jan 1904-
Apr 1907
Mostly readable
- 2 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jun 1907-
Dec 1909
- 3 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jan 1910-
Jul 1912
- 4 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Oct 1912-
Apr 1915
- 5 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jul 1915-
Dec 1918
Bottom corner damaged but mostly readable

- 6 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jan 1919-
Dec 1922
Mostly readable
- 7 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Feb 1923-
Apr 1926
Practically all readable
- 8 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jul 1926-
? Dec 1928
Very poor condition; only about one-third readable
- 9 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Feb 1929-
Dec 1931
About two-thirds readable
- 10 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Feb 1932-
Dec 1934
About two thirds readable
- 11 Minute Book, Finance Committee, Feb 1935-Sep 1938
- 12 Minute Book, Finance Committee, Nov 1938-Sep 1949
- 13 Minute Book, Finance Committee, Nov 1949-Nov 1965
- 14 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Feb 1966-
Dec 1970
- 15 Minute Book, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Jun 1971-
Nov 1978

III Watchers Committee/Conservation Committee/Reserves and Research Committee Minute Books

- 1 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Dec 1905-Oct 1910
Bottom corner damaged but nearly all readable
- 2 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Oct 1910-Jul 1912
Bottom corner damaged but nearly all readable
- 3 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Feb 1913-Nov 1920
- 4 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Feb 1921-Dec 1924
- 5 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Jan 1924-Dec 1929
Very poor condition; only one quarter readable
- 6 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Jan 1929-Oct 1930
Almost all readable
- 7 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Apr 1931-Feb 1934
Bottom corner damaged but about three-quarters readable
- 8 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Apr 1934-Nov 1937
- 9 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Jan 1938-Apr 1954
- 10 Minute Book, Watchers Committee, Jul 1954-Nov 1970
This Committee was renamed the Conservation Committee in Oct 1966
- 11 Minute Book, Conservation Committee, Mar 1971-Mar 1978
Between Dec 1973 and Mar 1970, however, this Committee was
known as the Reserves and Research Committee
- 12 Minute Book, Conservation Committee, Jun 1978-

IV Publications Committee/Publicity Committee/Education Committee Minute Books

- 1 Minute Book, Publications Committee, Jul 1896-Jan 1905
- 2 Minute Book, Publications Committee, Sep 1905-Oct 1913
- 3 Minute Book, Publications Committee, Feb 1914-Oct 1926
- 4 Minute Book, Publicity Committee, Jan 1927-Dec 1930
- 5 Minute Book, Publicity Committee, Feb 1931-Jun 1938
- 6 Minute Book, Publicity Committee, Sep 1938-Nov 1948

- 7 Minute Book, Publicity Committee, Feb 1949-Sep 1964
This Committee was also known as the Education, Publications and General Purposes Committee, and Education and General Purposes Committee (1953-1960); and Education and Publicity Committee (1961-1964)
- 8 Minute Book, Education and Publicity Committee, Nov 1964-Dec 1973
This Committee was known as the Education Committee, Nov 1965-Sep 1973 and thereafter as the Conservation and Education Committee
- 9 Minute Book, Conservation and Education Committee, Feb 1974-Nov 1978

V Annual General Meeting Minute Book

- 1 Minute Book, Annual General Meeting, Mar 1955-Oct 1977

VI Membership Registers

- 1 Membership Register, 1893-1894
- 2 Membership Register, 1894-1898
Damaged
- 3 Membership Register, c 1899
Damaged

VII Registers of Associates

- 1-19 Registers of Associates, c 1893-1924.
These provide names and addresses of Associates and amount and date of subscription paid.
Some are very badly damaged

C ALL OTHER RSPB RECORDS AND PAPERS OF, OR RELATING TO, INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RSPB (as listed by the RSPB)

This section comprises a wide variety of financial, administrative and legal records and also publications, publicity material and material of a more ephemeral nature. These records have already been listed by the Society and the numbering of them has therefore been retained in this listing. However, the present list contains more detailed information about the records than that produced by the RSPB.

01 RSPB

01.01 Organisation, etc

01.01.00 Charter

Envelope containing Charter of Incorporation (3 Nov 1904); 3 copies of the petition of the Society for the Protection of Birds for the grant of a Charter (1 annotated); printed charter and statutes and constitution of the Society. Correspondence including a letter from the Secretary of State (Oct 1904) asking for expenses in issuing of Letters Patent; and letters from keepers of the Privy Purse relating to royal patronage, 1934-1936
Boxfile containing material relating to the charter and statute amendments, 1952-1957
Supplemental Charter 19 Eliz II

01.01.01 Investigation Committee (formed in Mar 1936 following the AGM to investigate into the organisation of the RSPB)

Boxfile containing file of papers relating to the setting up of a committee to investigate into the organisation of the RSPB, including the replacement of the Honorary Secretary with a salaried Secretary, Feb-Dec 1936; file of Council nominations, Jan-Feb 1937; file of requisitions and signatories, Feb 1934-Nov 1936; file of replies and answers to the Investigation Committee, Nov-Dec 1936; file of reports of investigation, replies, etc, Jan-Feb 1937
Boxfile containing file of papers relating to the position of staff in respect of the resignation of the assistant secretaries, Sep 1935-Feb 1936; file of correspondence with the committee of inquiry; file of papers relating to the appointment of Mr Donaldson as RSPB Secretary, Nov 1935-Feb 1936; file of correspondence with The Field (Editorial Replacement), Feb-Mar 1936

01.01.02 Staff and office records

Staff salaries book, 1938-1953
Inventory and valuation of office and furniture, etc at 82 Victoria Street, London SW1 (former offices of the RSPB), 23 Feb 1943
Collection of old rubber stamps used in Eccleston Square

01.01.03 Legal file containing correspondence, etc with solicitors on such matters as conveyances, bequests, agreements, prosecutions, etc, Aug 1955-Feb 1958

- 01.01.04 File of papers concerning bird introduction, and especially the importation of the nightingale, Dec 1927-Feb 1928
- 01.02 Items of historical interest
- 01.02.00 Press cuttings, etc
 Newscuttings volume, 1892-1910
 Book of press cuttings, 1912-1918
 Volume containing prints of blocks in the custody of the RSPB, Jun 1937
- 01.02.01 Photographs
 These include photographs of the Lodge (c 1920s and presented by Miss Purley whose family lived there for a while); and photographs of ornithological celebrities, c 1950s-1970s
- 01.02.02 Miscellaneous, including certificates, badges, medals, etc
 RSPB membership certificates/cards (various, 1909-1938); George Waterston's first RSPB tie; forestry, horticultural and agricultural medals won by the RSPB, 1910s-1930s; envelope containing Bird and Tree Medals, badges, cap badges, buttons and RSPB seal; envelope containing old RSPB stationery; Operation Osprey tape, 1960
- 01.03 Publications
- 01.03.01 Leaflets
 Bound volumes of general leaflets published by the RSPB, nos 1-62, c 1897-1918. These are written on topical subjects such as the plumage trade and the protection of birds, and on RSPB activities including the County Challenge Shield Competitions, and Bird and Tree Day.
 Bound volumes of educational leaflets, nos 1-24, c 1898. Each leaflet is written about a different species of bird.
 Collection of reprinted articles from Bird Notes and News
- 01.03.02 Bird Notes and News : the Journal of the RSPB (published quarterly until 1947, after which it was published three times a year)
 The following bound volumes have been retained:
Bird Notes and News, Vol II, 1906-1907
Bird Notes and News, Vol III, 1908-1909
Bird Notes and News, Vol V, 1912-1913
Bird Notes and News, Vol VIII, 1918-1919
Bird Notes and News, Vol XI, 1924-1925
Bird Notes and News, Vol XII, 1926-1927
Bird Notes and News, Vol XIII, 1928-1929
Bird Notes and News, Vol XIV, 1930-1931
Bird Notes and News, Vol XV, 1932-1933
Bird Notes and News, Vol XVI, 1934-1935
Bird Notes and News, Vol XVII, 1936-1937
Bird Notes and News, Vol XVIII, 1938-1939
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXI, 1944-1945
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXIV, 1949-1951

Bird Notes and News, Vol XXVII, 1955-1957
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXIX, 1959-1961
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXX, 1961-1963
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXXI, 1964-1965

In addition to the bound volumes, there are large numbers of unbound issues. The following is a list of those issues which supplement the bound volumes of the journal:

Bird Notes and News, Vol I, nos 1 and 3-12, Apr 1903 and Oct 1903-Dec 1905
Bird Notes and News, Vol IV, nos 1-8, 1910-1911
Bird Notes and News, Vol VI, nos 1-8, 1914-1915
Bird Notes and News, Vol VII, nos 3, 4, 6-8, 1916-1917
Bird Notes and News, Vol IX, nos 1-8, 1920-1921
Bird Notes and News, Vol X, nos 1, 4-8, 1922-1923
Bird Notes and News, Vol XIX, nos 1-8, 1940-1941
Bird Notes and News, Vol XX, nos 1-5 and 8, 1942-1943
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXII, nos 1-6, 1946-1947
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXIII, no 9, Autumn 1949
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXV, nos 1-8, Winter 1951-Autumn 1953
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXVI, nos 1-8, Winter 1953-Autumn 1955
Bird Notes and News, Vol XXVIII, nos 1-8, Winter 1957-Autumn 1959

01.03.03 Annual Reports

Bound volume of Annual Reports, 1891-1899
Bound volume of Annual Reports, 1915-1922
Bound volume of Annual Reports, 1923-1926
Bound volume of Annual Reports, 1933-1937
Bound volume of Annual Reports, 1937-1941
Bound volume of Annual Reports, 1954-1965
There are also a number of unbound copies of Annual Reports, 1942-1953

01.03.04 File of correspondence with printers, Mar 1955-Sep 1957

01.03.04 File of correspondence, cuttings, etc relating to Bird Notes and News, 1907-1922

01.03.05 File of press cuttings relating to early publications, 1905-1919

01.03.06 File of correspondence, etc relating to the illustration of publications, 1906-1919

01.03.06 File correspondence with artists relating to the illustration of publications, Jun 1937-Apr 1967. This includes letters from Winifred Austen, John Clegg, Roland Green and Talbot Kelly

01.04 Picture Collection

01.04.01 Catalogue, nd

01.04.02 Collection of Christmas Cards printed annually by the RSPB, from 1898/9 up to present date

01.04.03 Large collection of posters published by the RSPB. These mainly feature such subjects as oil pollution, nest robbing plume trading; but some also advertise RSPB reserves, film shows and exhibitions, nd

01.04.04 Book of postcards, greeting cards, etc, nd

01.05 Reserves

01.05.01 Watchers Committee Reports

Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1911
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, Feb-Oct 1913
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1914
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1916
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1917 and 1918
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1919 and 1920
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1921 and 1922
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1925 and 1926
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1927 and 1928
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1929 and 1930
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1931 and 1932
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1933 and 1934
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1935 and 1936
Bound volume of Watchers Committee Reports, 1937, 1938 and 1939

01.05.01 Files of reports from Watchers at RSPB sanctuaries and correspondence relating to visits by RSPB officials, etc. The files are divided in the main according to counties:

File: Anglesey (including Llanddwyn), 1939
File: Cheshire (including Stalybridge, Eastwood and Mersey Dock Canal), 1938
File: Cornwall (including St Kew Highway), 1938-1939
File: Dorset (including Abbotsbury), 1938
File: Durham (including Teesmouth), 1938
File: Isle of Wight, 1937
File: Kent, 1937-1939
File: Lake District, 1937-1939
File: Lancashire (including Ainsdale), 1939
File: Norfolk, 1939
File: Pembroke, 1937-1938
File: Somerset (including Brean Down), 1939
File: Wales (including Llangorse), 1937-1939
File: Wales; the Kite, 1939

01.05.01 Watchers Bulletins, nos 1-5, Aug 1954-Jul 1955

01.05.02 Former, proposed and rejected reserves

Boxfile of papers relating to Selsdon Wood (Surrey), 1925-1938
Boxfile of papers relating to Ramsey Island (Pemb), 1934-1937
This includes general correspondence with Mr W R Lewis (watcher from 1928), 1929-1937; correspondence relating to the sighting of eagles, 1929-1934; and correspondence between members of the Council relating to the purchase of the Island, 1932-1934

File of papers relating to Llanddwyn Island (Anglesey), 1940
File of papers relating to Horn and Heather Heaths, Breckland (Norfolk), 1949-1952
File of papers relating to Horn and Heather Heaths, Breckland (Norfolk), 1952-1958
File of papers relating to Brean Down (Somerset), 1937-1952
File of papers relating to Sydney Bird Sanctuary (Sussex), 1952-1953

- File of papers relating to the Spurn proposed sanctuary (Yorks), 1955-1958
- File of papers relating to Bowling Alley Wood (Kent), 1935-1957
- Watchers diary for Noss (Shetland), Apr-Sep 1955
- Watchers diary for Noss (Shetland), Apr-Aug 1956
- Watchers diary for Noss (Shetland), Nov 1955-Aug 1956
- Watchers diary for Noss and Bressay (Shetland), Mar-Oct 1954
- Watchers diary for Brecks, Mar-Dec 1954
- Watchers diary for Brecks, Feb-Dec 1955
- 01.05.04 Barfold Copse
- File of reports and correspondence, 1955-1958
- 01.05.07 Chapel Wood, Spreacombe
- File of reports and correspondence, 1950-1951
- File of reports and correspondence, 1951-1952
- File of reports and correspondence, 1956-1958
- 01.05.08 Church Wood, Hedgerley
- File of reports and correspondence, 1957-1958
- 01.05.11 Cowpen Marsh (Durham)
- Report : 'The Use of the Places of Scientific Interest in the Teesmouth area; some recommendations by the RSPB and the Teesmouth Bird Club with the support of the Nature Conservancy', 1967
- 01.05.12 Dungeness Bird Reserve (Kent)
- Boxfile containing general correspondence and Wardens' reports, May 1954-Dec 1956
- Boxfile containing general correspondence and Wardens' reports, Jan 1957-Feb 1958
- Boxfile containing correspondence relating to the purchase of Dengemarsh, Aug 1936-Jan 1957; general material, plans, etc relating to the Encyclopedia of British Birds entry, Jun 1935-Aug 1954; papers relating to Dungeness preservation and other general material concerning threats to Dungeness, Sep 1933-Dec 1938
- Boxfile containing correspondence relating to the foreshore rights at Dengemarsh, 1938-1939; 5 diaries of J R Tart (RSPB Watcher), 1927, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937; 4 diaries of George Tart (RSPB Watcher), 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939; copy letters to W G Alexander mainly from J R Tart, 1922-1932; maps
- 01.05.13 Eastwood, Stalybridge (Cheshire)
- File of papers relating to the bequest of the property to the RSPB, Jul 1931-Feb 1934
- File of correspondence relating to the proposed bird sanctuary, 1931-1932
- File of papers relating to the proposed drainage works of Stalybridge Town Council, Aug 1933-Oct 1939
- File of Watchers' reports written by R Wolfendale, 1937-1939
- File of Watchers' reports and correspondence, 1940-1947
- File of general correspondence, Jan 1953-Feb 1958
- Maps and plans

01.05.16 Havergate Island Bird Reserve

General Log Book, Apr-Jul 1948
General Log Book, Apr-Aug 1949
General Log Book, Apr-Sep 1950
General Log Book, Apr-Sep 1951
General Log Book, Apr-Dec 1952
General Log Book, Jan-Dec 1953
General Log Book, Apr 1954-Dec 1955
General Log Book, Jan-Dec 1956
General Log Book, Jan 1957-Dec 1958
General Log Book, Jan-Dec 1959
General Log Book, Jan-Dec 1960

The above log books contain a daily record of the weather, general details about the reserves, visitors, etc, rather than specific bird observations

Species Book, 1950
Species Book, 1951
Species Book, 1952
Species Book, 1953
Species Book, 1954

The above species books record species of birds and when and where seen

Meadow Pipet Log Book, Apr-Sep 1951
Avocet Log Book, Apr-Sep 1951
Avocet Log Book, Apr-Dec 1952
Avocet Log Book, Jan-Oct 1953
Bird Numbers Log Book, Apr-Dec 1952
Bird Numbers Log Book, Jun-Dec 1956
Bird Numbers Log Book, Jan-Dec 1957
Annual summaries of birds seen, 1948-1963
Boxfile containing general correspondence, 1949-1952;
a number of second edition 6" to 1 mile OS maps;
papers relating to damage caused by storms; rough draft of works to be executed and installation of new sluice;
printed conditions of contracts and tender for storm damage repairs (Dec 1954) and for construction of a new pipe sluice, (1958)
Boxfile of general correspondence, 1954-1955
Boxfile of general correspondence, 1956-1958
Correspondence from Partridge relating to all types of species of birds, etc, Jan 1955-Jan 1956
Havergate Herbarium: a collection of dried plants to serve as an aid to help identification, nd

01.05.20 Minsmere

General Log Book, Apr-Sep 1956
Species Book, 1950
Species Book, 1951
Species Book, 1952
Species Book, 1953
Boxfile containing files of general correspondence, reports, etc, 1948-1953
File containing correspondence, plans and drafts relating to the agreement for a proposed Minsmere Nature Reserve, 1953-1957

- Text of the guide to the reserve
Loose maps, printed matter and slides of the reserve
- 01.05.21 Morton Valence and Northward Hill (Glos)
File of general correspondence, 1954-1955
File of general correspondence, 1957-1958
- 01.05.24 Northwood Hill (Glos)
Log Book, Mar-Aug 1957
Log Book, Mar-Sep 1958
Boxfile of general correspondence, Nov 1955-Feb 1958
This includes an account of the reserve, with a reference to an attempt to introduce the White Stork in 1936
- 01.05.25 North Warren (Suffolk)
Boxfile of general correspondence, May 1954-Jan 1958,
This includes an account of nesting of Montagu's Harrier in 1955
- 01.05.50 Grassholm
Boxfile containing papers relating to a fire in 1930, and general correspondence, 1930-1947 relating to the taking over of the property
- 01.05.65 Fetlar, Shetlands
Diary of Ian Petrie, Watcher at Fetlar, 1955
Monthly bird notes, 1956
Monthly call lists of birds, 1955-1957
- 01.05.66 Handa Island
Watcher's file (D Macleod), 1949
- 01.05.71 Operation Osprey
File containing RSPB amendments to the Protection of Birds Act and reports
- 01.05.99 Rewards Scheme : Golden Eagles and Harriers
Boxfile containing files of correspondence relating to the protection of golden eagles and harriers and to the rewards offered to ensure their safety, 1948-1959
- 01.06 Research
- 01.06.03 Surveys, tests, experiments, etc for improved bird protection
Boxfile containing papers on the subject of lighthouses and the provision and use of perches. It comprises files relating to the following lighthouses: Spurn Head, 1927-1936; Coquet, 1931-1935; S Bishop, 1928-1952; St Catherine's, 1927-1949; Skerries, 1928-1952; Bardsey, Holyhead, 1928-1952
File of papers relating to the use of birds in mines for the testing of poisonous gases, 1925-1927
File of papers relating to the use of birds in mines for the testing of poisonous gases, 1927-1930

- File containing general correspondence and papers, including material relating to the use of narcotic baits, broadcasts, oil pollution, etc, 1931-1958
- File of papers of the RSPB committee on toxic chemicals, including correspondence and details of birds sent for analysis, 1961-1963
- File of papers of the RSPB committee on toxic chemicals, including the result of laboratory testing, 1961-1962
- File containing petition and signatures sent to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Secretary of State for Wales against the shooting of oyster catchers in Burry Inlet, South Wales
- File of correspondence relating to the above petition, 1974-1975
- Boxfile of papers relating to an oil pollution survey
These include the returns of the Watchers regarding areas affected by oil pollution and birds oiled. Returns are filed according to county
- 01.06.04 File of RSPB Research Subcommittee Reports, 1975
- 01.06.06 Old library list
- 01.07 Conservation Planning
- 01.07.01 Threatened Areas
- File of papers relating to various threatened areas, 1952-1956
- File of papers relating to the guided missile range, South Uist, 1955
- 01.07.02 The Third London Airport
- File entitled the future of Foulness, 1973-1975
- File entitled Maplin : access and new town, 1973
- File of correspondence from members regarding the third London Airport, and statements, printed material, etc, 1971-1972
- Collection of printed material, reports, papers and proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry into the need for a third London Airport and the various alternative sites
- 01.07.03 'Countryside in 1970' Conferences
- Folder containing a set of reports relating to the 'Countryside in 1970' Conferences
- 01.08 Investigations
- 01.08.01 File of correspondence with Mr Allen Bell and Lord Cawdor's Keeper relating to the condition of Lord Cawdor's estate, 1933-1934
- 01.08.02 Birds Eggs
- File of papers relating to egg collectors, 1948-1954
- File containing lists of eggs, species, date taken, number and when

File of correspondence relating to the possession by Nottingham police of a search warrant leading to the recovery of a hoard of eggs, 1956-1957

01.08.03 Prosecutions, inquiries, etc

Boxfile of general correspondence relating to prosecutions with regard to threatened birds, Sep 1955-Nov 1957

File of correspondence, etc with Mrs N Gifford-Ambler, relating to an inquiry over some stuffed birds, 1956

Boxfile containing correspondence, reports, etc relating to particular prosecutions, 1955-1958

Boxfile of papers relating to breaches of the Wild Bird Protection Act, Jul 1954-Feb 1958

File of papers relating to the use of birds in theatrical performances, 1904-1911

File of papers on the subject of wild birds as food, 1900-1924
This includes details of some individual inquiries

01.08.04 Boxfile of correspondence with the police authorities relating to prosecutions under the Wild Bird Protection Acts, May 1955-Dec 1957

01.08.05 Caged birds

File of papers relating to caged birds, 1910-1917

File of papers relating to caged birds, 1927

01.08.06 File of press cuttings relating to bird protection, 1919-1920

01.09 Education

01.09.01 Junior Bird Recorders' Club Bulletin

Bulletin, Vol I, nos 1-3, 1952 (Jan, May and Nov)

Bulletin, Vol II, nos 1-3, 1953 (Jan, Apr and Sep)

Bulletin, Vol III, nos 1-3, 1954 (Jan, Jun and Dec)

01.09.01 Junior Bird Watcher

Junior Bird Watcher, Vol I, nos 1-5, Jul 1955-Feb 1957

Junior Bird Watcher, Vol II, nos 2 and 3, Aug and Dec 1959

Junior Bird Watcher, Vol III, no 1, Jul 1960

Junior Bird Watcher, Vol V, nos 3 and 4, Aug and Nov 1965

Junior Bird Watcher, Vol VI, nos 1-3, Feb, May and Aug 1964

Leaflets etc relating to the Junior Bird Recorders' Club

01.09.02 Certificates, etc

Copy of the certificate and medal for the Junior Bird Recorders' Club Rainald Salzman Prize

Bird and Tree, and County Challenge Shield Competition for schools certificates; and photographs of winners, nd

01.09.03 Boxfile containing correspondence, posters, etc relating to the Royal Festival Hall film show, 1957-1958

01.09.06 File of papers relating to the essay competition for Boy Scouts, 1918

01.09.07 File of correspondence, details of arrangements, etc relating to the Spurn Head Courses at the Bird Observatory, 1952-1954

- 01.09.09 Boxfile of correspondence, etc relating to the National Nature Week Exhibition, 1963
- 01.09.11 File of cuttings and some correspondence relating to the attracting of birds into the garden, 1910-1918
- 01.10 Films
- 01.11 Exhibitions
- 01.11.01 Small collection of material for an exhibition of RSPB history, nd
- 01.11.02 Literature relating to Members' Weekends, 1972-1973
- 01.13 Regional : Scotland
- 01.13.01 Spey Valley
- File containing Watchers' reports and correspondence from Nethersole-Thompson relating to Spey Valley, 1940-1949
- File containing Watchers' reports and correspondence from Nethersole-Thompson, and correspondence from members of the Council (including Julian Huxley, Nat Tracey, J B Watson and Carmichael Low), 1947-1952
- Boxfile containing correspondence and reports relating to the Spey Valley Survey, 1952-1953
- Boxfile containing correspondence and reports relating to the Spey Valley Survey, 1953-1954
- Two maps compiled by D N Thompson : 'Rothiemurchus Forest Bird Habitat' to accompany report dated Jan 1953;
- 'Rothiemurches Forest Predator Survey' to accompany report on predators, 1953
- 01.13.02 General
- Boxfile containing general correspondence with Scottish clubs and with the Scottish representative; and including papers relating to advertising lectures, details of rewards, films, etc, Dec 1954-Dec 1956
- Boxfile containing general correspondence with Scottish clubs and with the Scottish representative; and including papers relating to advertising lectures, details of rewards, films, etc, Jan 1957-Feb 1958
- 01.13.03 Shetlands
- Boxfile of general correspondence relating to the Shetlands, Apr 1954-Jan 1957
- File containing correspondence and reports of Charles Inkster (Watcher of Mid Yell), 1947-1952
- File containing correspondence and reports of G L Sutherland (Watcher of Noss), 1947-1952
- File containing correspondence and reports of Laurence Bruce (Watcher of Hermaness), 1946-1952
- File containing correspondence, reports and bird notes book of L Jamies (Watcher of Hascosay), 1949-1951 and 1953
- File containing correspondence and reports of Ian Petrie (Watcher of Fetlar), 1949-1951
- File of general correspondence relating to the Shetlands, 1950-1952

File of general correspondence relating to the Shetlands, 1952-1954
Bird diary of Yell and Hascosay, kept by J G Jamieson, RSPB Watcher, 1954
Bird notes, Hascosay, 1955
Monthly call book of birds seen at Mid Yell, 1955-1958
General diary/log, 1955
General diary/log, 1958

01.13.04 Orkneys

Boxfile of general correspondence relating to the Orkneys, 1954-1958
File of general correspondence relating to the Orkneys, 1948-1951
File of general correspondence relating to the Orkneys, 1952-1954
Bird and general log, Aug-Sep 1955
Guide Book to Orkney Islands, nd

01.15 Regional : Wales and Ireland

01.15.01 General

Boxfile of general correspondence relating to Ireland and Wales, 1948-1957

01.15.02 Skokholm, Pembrokeshire

Boxfile containing Pembrokeshire general correspondence, 1929-1937; correspondence relating to the appointment of the Pembrokeshire Watchers, 1934-1936; Pembrokeshire general correspondence, including correspondence with the Pembrokeshire Bird Protection Society, 1936-1938; and Particulars and Plans and Conditions of Sale of valuable Government property : Forts Hubberston, Chapel Bury, Popton and Scoveston and the fortified islands of Thorn and Stack Rock and buildings, 1937

01.16 Regional : North England

01.16.01 General

Boxfile of general correspondence relating to the North England, 1954-1958
File of correspondence regarding the preservation of bird life in Oldham, 1906-1914

01.17 Regional : South-East England

01.17.01 General

File of general correspondence relating to South-East England, 1903-1910
File of correspondence with the Popular Nature Study Union regarding their lecture programme, 1910-1911
File of correspondence regarding the preservation of bird life, etc at Letchworth, 1905-1920

01.17.02 Boxfile containing papers relating to Rye Harbour, Sussex, 1950-1952, and to bee eaters, 1955

- 01.17.03 File containing Mr Brown's personal correspondence, and correspondence relating to Hampshire, 1957-1959
- 01.18 Regional : South-West England
- 01.18.01 General
Boxfile of general correspondence relating to South-West England, 1954-1958
- 01.19 Regional : East Anglia
- 01.19.01 General
Boxfile of general correspondence relating to East Anglia (ie Cambridgeshire, Essex, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk), 1954-1958
- 01.20 Regional : Midlands
- 01.20.01 General
Boxfile of general correspondence relating to the Midlands (ie Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Staffordshire and Warwickshire), 1954-1957
- 01.22 Other organisations, etc
- 01.22.00 General
Boxfile containing general correspondence with other societies and associated bodies, especially ornithological clubs, field clubs, natural history clubs, 1954-1955
- 01.22.01 Nature Reserves Investigation Committee
Boxfile containing correspondence, printed reports, memoranda and cuttings relating to the Nature Reserves Investigation Committee 1940-1945
Boxfile containing report and correspondence of the Suffolk and Essex NRIC subcommittees, 1943
- 01.22.02 Boxfile containing minutes, reports of conferences and correspondence of the International Committee for Bird Preservation (British Section), 1954-1957
- 01.22.03 West Wales Field Society
File of correspondence, etc of the West Wales Field Society, 1947-1952
File of correspondence, etc of the West Wales Field Society, 1952-1955
- 01.22.04 Nature Conservancy
File of correspondence, etc of the Nature Conservancy, 1952-1954
Boxfile of correspondence, etc of the Nature Conservancy, 1954-1957

- 01.22.05 File of correspondence, etc of the Scottish Ornithologists Club, 1951-1952
- 01.22.06 File of correspondence, etc of the Anglesey Committee, 1949-1951
- 01.22.07 File of correspondence, etc of the East Kent Committee, 1949-1956
- 01.22.08 Boxfile of correspondence, etc of foreign societies, 1955-1958
- 01.22.10 Boxfile of correspondence, etc of the British Trust for Ornithology, 1954-1957
- 01.22.11 File of correspondence, etc of Norfolk Naturalists Trust, 1954-1957
- 01.22.12 Boxfile containing British Birds (monthly magazine), 1955-1957
- 01.22.13 File of correspondence, etc of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1963
- 01.22.14 File of miscellaneous correspondence, 1906 and 1975-1976
- 01.22.15 File of correspondence, etc of the Devon Birdwatching Preservation Society, 1947-1949
- 01.22.16 File of correspondence, etc of Suffolk Committee, 1948-1950
- 01.22.17 File of correspondence, minutes, reports, etc of the Central Council of Physical Recreation and the Eastern Sports Council, 1965-1970

01.23 Miscellaneous

01.23.01 Bird species

File of papers relating to the Barn Owl, 1910
 File of papers relating to the Eagle, 1926
 Boxfile containing files of cuttings, reports, correspondence, etc relating to the following bird species: Avocets, 1947-1948; Birds of Paradise, 1929-1932; Bittern, 1928-1932; Black Redstart, 1940-1943; Bonelli's Warbler, 1949-1950; Bramblings, Red-flanked Bluetail, Bullfinch, 1935-1957; Common Sandpiper, Choughs, Corncrakes, 1912-1955; Cormorants, 1925-1939; Dotterel, 1947 and 1951; Ducks, 1947-1951; Gannets, 1934-1945 (and a file of letters to the press, 1938)
 Boxfile containing files of cuttings, reports, correspondence, etc relating to the following bird species: Goldfinch, Oriole and Goose, 1934-1954; Gulls and Grebes, 1931-1957; Grebes, 1904-1922; Harriers, 1932-1955; Herons, 1925-1957; Hobbies, 1932-1933; Honey Buzzard, 1936-1938; Hoopoe, 1930-1953; Kingfisher, 1925; Lapwing, 1919-1933; Nightingales, 1901-1924; Owls, 1938-1954; Peregrines, 1947; Peregrine Falcon, 1923-1940; Phalaropes, 1929; Red-necked Phalaropes, 1949-1951; Pintail, 1937; Kentish Plovers, 1943-1954
 Boxfile containing cuttings, reports and correspondence, etc relating to the following bird species: Quail, 1932-1933; Moccas Ravens, 1924-1928; Ravens, 1927-1943; Robin, 1939; Rook, nd; Ruffs and Reeves, 1929-1935; Scamp, 1941;

Shearwater, 1920s and 1930s; Spoonbill, 1929-1931; Sparrows, 1928-1933; Stilt, 1945-1949; Storks, 1941; Swallows and Sandmartins, (Romsey 1914); Swallows and Sandmartins : decrease of, 1898-1904; Swans, 1935-1957; Swan Whooper, 1924-1951; Teras, 1928; Tits, 1931-1951; Wildfowl, 1939-1951; Woodpecker, 1943-1950

01.23.02 Raptorial birds

File of general papers relating to birds of prey, 1954-1957
File containing the Watchers Committee proposals for preservation of birds of prey, 1935-1937
File containing G Dent's proposals for nest adoption of raptorial birds, 1937

01.23.03 File of papers relating to a Bahamas expedition, 1930-1931

01.23.04 File of papers relating to rare birds, 1947-1951

01.23.05 File of papers relating to Goshawks in Sussex, 1949-1951

01.23.06 Other

File containing Dr W Sharpe's bird song, and correspondence, 1906

Tapes including one of sparrow song

Leibig series of bird cards, donated by T E Kempshall, issued in 1897

Cartophilic Notes and News, vol 5, nos 52, 53 and 57, 1933-1934

Scottish Ornithological Club literature for annual dinners, 1970s

Price list of birds eggs : Robert Dunn and Son, Naturalists, Stormess, Orkney, Scotland. Prices : Apr 15, 1861

Obituary of Archibald Thorburn (d 1935)

Original prints, taken by Edgar Pickard, inventor of the focal plane shutter, 1896

Bird egg prices, John Eggleston, 8 Park Place Nest, Sunderland, c 1900

Lord Hurcomb's 90th birthday party Dinner Menu, 19 Feb 1973

Printed material relating to demonstration in S W France, 1973

Christmas card from G B Shaw and wife to Dame Knight

02 PAPERS OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

02.01 Papers of William H Hudson

02.01.02 Correspondence

Bundle of letters to his wife Emily, 1890s
Bundle of letters to Mrs Lemon, c 1900-1922
Correspondence 1900-1901 resulting from an inquiry by Hudson as to the nesting of the Great Crested Glebe in the Pen Ponds, Richmond Park
Bundle of correspondence with Mrs Hubbard, 1895-1907
Correspondence, cuttings and petition, 1891-1892 on the subject of a bill to amend the 1880 Wild Birds Protection Act
Letter from W L Slater to Mrs Lemon regarding 'Argentine Ornithology' and 'The Purple Land', 1928
Photocopies of letters to Linda Gardiner (Hon Secretary of RSPB), 1902-1910
Letters to Mrs Phillips, 1892-1901
Letters to Hudson from George Gissing, 1892-1903 and a copy of Gissing's MS
Bundle of correspondence : recipients unknown, 1890s-1920s
Bundle of miscellaneous correspondence, 1877-1921
Letter to J M Dent from Morley Roberts, 1937, about Hudson (sent by Dent Publishers to RSPB 1952)
Letter from Edward Garnett to Linda Gardiner on 'A Hudson Anthology', 1924
Correspondence between Ruth Tomalin and a representative of relatives of Linda Gardiner regarding letters to her from Hudson, 1950s and 1960s
Photocopies of letters to Emily Hudson (from Manchester Central Library Collection), 1900-1905
Photocopies of letters to Linda Gardiner (from Manchester Central Library Collection), 1900-1922
Photocopies of letters to Mrs Phillips (from Manchester Central Library Collection), 1892-1906
Photocopies of letters to recipients unknown (from Manchester Central Library Collection), 1904
Photocopies of letters to various people, including Galsworthy, Garnett, Masefield, Morley Roberts (from Manchester Central Library Collection), 1900s
Photocopies of letters to Mrs Hubbard (from Manchester Central Library Collection), 1890s-1900s

02.01.03 Printed material etc

Articles about or connected with Hudson
The Little Review, vol VII, no 1 May-Jun 1920, containing an article about W H Hudson
Magazine articles about Hudson, 1910s and 1920s
Recollection of Hudson by Miss E Williams, 1967
Correspondence regarding the bequest of Hudson mementoes by Mrs E Naylor
Christmas card from Alicia Jurado, author of 'Vida y olia de Hudson' and photograph of Hudson's birthplace
Hudson's own copy of select poems on insects

- 02.01.04 Photographs of Hudson
- 02.01.05 Leaflets about Hudson
- 02.01.06 Papers of Hudson
 - Book on Argentine Birds : a list known to him from personal observation up to Apr 1874
 - Hudson's MS of 'Far and Away'
 - Lost British Birds List
 - Typescript of 3 articles
- 02.01.07 Memorials, etc
 - Correspondence, etc relating to Hudson Portrait Fund, 1927-1928
 - Correspondence relating to the grave
 - Correspondence and press cuttings relating to the Hudson memorial in Hyde Park, 1922-1925
 - Correspondence and cuttings relating to memorial stone on Zenmor, 1920s
 - Specification of Works for the W H Hudson Bird Sanctuary, Hyde Park, 1924
- 02.01.08 Letters from executors of will of Hudson, with interpretations, legal opinions, etc, 1922
- 02.01.09 Miscellaneous
 - Correspondence relating to Hudson estate and printed material relating to selling of his books for the RSPB, 1920s
 - Miscellaneous cuttings of Hudson
- 02.01.10 Reviews of Hudson's work, c 1900-1920
- 02.01.11 Correspondence with Dent and Sons relating to Hudson royalties, 1953-1957
 - Weeds from RSPB file 460 (W H Hudson) to 1969; 1966-1969
- 02.02 Papers of Mrs Lemon
- 02.02.01 Letters from Roland Green, 1943
- 02.02.02 Photographs of Hudson, Cunningham and Graham
- 02.02.03 Hudson leaflets and photographs
- 02.02.04 Bundle of correspondence from the Duchess of Portland and the Duchess of Bedford, 1895-1924
- 02.02.05 Letter from Queen Alexandra's secretary on the plumage trade
- 02.02.06 Letter from George V's secretary acknowledging the gift of the Thuribun painting
- 02.02.07 Frank E Lemon's RSPB membership card
- 02.02.08 Letters and papers relating to Hudson
- 02.03 Papers of Mrs Rait Kerr
 - File containing drafts of numerous articles written on species of birds as part of a series of 'What to look for when on the Rock' (ie Gibraltar). Also some cuttings and notes

Card index of birds sighted in London, and when and where,
c 1935-1938

A series of nature diaries kept by Mrs Rait Kerr for the
following years: 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937,
1939, 1940, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1958

Most of the diaries record material relating to the British
Isles as a whole, although the diary for 1933 includes
material relating to both England and Gibraltar; and that
for 1946 just London

02.04 Papers of Sir Frederick Wise

Notes on the Wild Birds Protection Bill, 1927

Collection of pamphlets relating to bird protection

Printed Parliamentary proceedings for the Wild Birds

Protection Bill, 1933-1937

MS of Abel Chapman's 'The Protection of Wild Birds', Jul 1927

Correspondence relating to the Wild Bird Protection Bill,
1923-1927

02.05 Papers of A H Dolley

A H Dolley's bird watching records : log books for the
following years : 1943-1945, 1946-1948, 1950-1953, 1953-1955,
1955-1958, 1958-1960, 1960-1965

Diary of an egg-collecting expedition to Jutland by R H Reed,
May 1901 (found in papers of A H Dolley)

MS of A H Dolley : The Garden Hours of Song

02.07 Papers of Sir Kenneth Swan QC (Hon Treasurer)

These comprise chiefly minutes and memoranda of the RSPB
Council and reports, etc, 1945-1957

02.09 J H Owen, The Hollies, Hanymynech. Nature notes for 1958

02.11 Collection of Mrs Lemon's watercolours of birds

02.12 Diary of William Fisher, Nov 1840-Jun 1844
(Donated in memory of Miss Mary Woodhouse Fisher)

02.13 G T Phillips' Diary/Logbook

This records a holiday in Altnacharra in 1888; and contains
details of migrants at Wokingham, 1880s and 1890s

- 04 LEGISLATION
- 04.00 Boxfile containing general correspondence from societies, members, etc relating to legislation, 1954-1957
- 04.00 Boxfile containing papers relating to the Wild Birds Protection Bill (drafted by Sir Montague Sharp), 1939-1940; proofs of the bill, and correspondence, 1942-1948
- 04.01 Boxfile containing the printed Parliamentary proceedings of the Protection of Birds Bill, 1954-1955
- 04.01 Boxfile containing papers in connection with the presentation of the Protection of Birds Bill in Parliament in 1958. It includes correspondence, 1931-1936 from Watcher (J H Eldridge) of Portland Island and Chesil Beach, Dorset; minutes of the Wild Birds Protection Committee, 1939 relating to the existing position and reform proposals for the protection of birds; Wild Bird Protection Orders, 1948-1952; minutes and memoranda of the Home Office Wild Birds Advisory Committee, 1948-1951; the Home Office Wild Birds Advisory Committee proposals for revised legislation for the protection of wild birds, 1951
- 04.01.01 File of correspondence relating to a Birds of Prey Conference, 1963 (arranged jointly by RSPB and BTO), 1962-1963
- 04.01.02 File containing a petition, letters of support, etc regarding the withdrawal of protection from 13 garden birds, May 1954-Mar 1955
- 04.01.02 File of correspondence relating to the Schoolboy Birdnesting Order, 1955-1956
- 04.01.03 File of minutes, reports, memoranda and correspondence of Home Office Advisory Committee's subcommittee on egg licences, 1954-1957
- 04.01.04 Early legislation
- File containing cuttings and correspondence relating to early legislation, 1914-1921
- File containing printed material, cuttings and correspondence relating to early legislation including the Captive Birds Shooting (Prohibition) Bill and Act, 1921-1928
- 04.02.01 File containing copies of bills, acts and associated printed material:
- Protection of Birds Act, 1933
- Wild Birds (Duck and Geese) Protection Act, 1939
- Wild Birds Protection Act, 1931
- Quail Protection Bill, 1937
- Cinematograph Films (Animals) Bill, 1937
- Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act, 1921 and Amendment 1938
- Agriculture Bill, 1947 and official reports
- Protection of Animals Act, 1911
- Wild Birds Protection Act, 1904
- Statutory Regulations and Orders Emergency Powers (Defence). Peregrine Falcons, 1946
- RSPB : Law Concerning Wild Birds, 1910
- RSPB : Comparative Legislation for the Protection of Birds (The Gold Medal Essay of the Society by the Rt Hon Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart FRS, 1909)

04.02.02 Plumage trade

File containing cuttings and correspondence relating to plumage and the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act and amendments, 1937-1951

File on the subject of the plumage trade. This includes correspondence (1904) and a memorandum of RSPB, 1937 regarding the proposals to exclude the Australian Shearwater from the provisions of the Act

File containing Rosemary Russell's report on plumage, and correspondence, 1954-1955

File containing cuttings and correspondence on the plumage trade, 1910

File containing a Plumage Bill memoranda : addressed to Lloyd George PM and Sir Auckland Geddes (president of the Board of Trade) on behalf of RSPB and signatories, and printed material and correspondence, 1919-1920

04.02.03 File on the subject of caging. This includes the Protection of Birds Bill and correspondence, 1933, and earlier printed material of RSPB about captive birds

04.02.04 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949)

File of papers relating to the National Parks Bill. This includes official reports and copies of the bill, minutes of the Standing Committee on National Parks, memoranda and correspondence, 1949-1952; and correspondence relating to the RSPB amendments to the Act, and details of a special meeting of the General Purposes Committee to discuss the Act and its effects, 1949

File of correspondence with County Councils regarding the preparation of a schedule of areas of importance within the county which are considered worthy of preservation as bird sanctuaries under the 1949 Act, 1950-1951

04.02.06 File on the subject of overseas legislation. This includes a copy of the 1909 Wild Birds Proclamation enacted by the Governor of North Nigeria

04.02.07 File of correspondence and cuttings relating to the law concerning the shooting of birds, 1914-1921