

## P A R T II

### ORNITHOLOGY

#### HABITATS AND BIRD ADAPTIONS TO THEM, ON SOUTH UIST.

There is a great variety of habitats on S. Uist, but unfortunately there are no trees. So it is that would-be woodland birds must adapt to alternative breeding sites. The landscape on either side of Bienn Mhor differs greatly for on the North side it is very mountainous and rocky, while on the South side there are many lochs, lochans, and small streams. One face of the mountain is a sheer cliff broken up by many grassy ledges.

The area around Glen Usinish is one of thick heather and tall eared dallow, ideal for the short eared owl or hen-harrier. Elsewhere the many inland lochs provide excellent shelter and feeding for some waders.

The West of the island is called the machair, and is flat with richer vegetation and sand patches. Directly contrasting this are the boulder fields around Hecla that yield yet another habitat for breeding birds. The above are just a few of the habitats on the island and provide a background for a look at the adaptions birds have made here in order to live and breed.

The song thrush has chosen to live in the boulder fields as a substitute for the cover it normally seeks in woodlands. The small lochans attract the red throated divers as being close in nature to their marine feeding grounds. The few greenshanks living inland aim for the standing pools as their food is found in still water. The oystercatchers and lapwings are well distributed across the machair, a typical grassland plain.

I suspect that the cliff face on Bienn Mhor is attractive to the peregrine as in the many small caverns the rock dove

can be found affording a tasty diet, whereas the wood pidgeon would normally fulfill this role. This particular cliff face is also a raven roost and some of their display flights are truly incredible. One other interesting point is that the fulmars and terns on the island have become above average<sup>ly</sup> aggressive due to the intensified disturbance.

It seems that in general the birds of the island can adapt to strange habitats as long as the required food is there. The conclusions are my own, therefore some of them must be highly unlikely.

BRUIN THOMPSON

#### THE SOUTH HIST ORNITHOLOGICAL TRANSECT

On South Uist this year we attempted to supplement our general observation of bird life with a closer look at the relative frequency of those species found in the major habitat types. To this end we devised a transect in the Loch Eynort area, the purpose of which was to calculate an index which would describe the frequency of each species relative to a standard in each habitat type.

The technique used was to plot a circular walk (the transect) starting and finishing at the campsite and passing through sections of the major habitat types. The route decided on was 3 1/2 miles long, and was divided into four sections each of which was equated to a particular type of habitat. During the expedition the transect was walked three times, and on each occasion the numbers of each species seen in the different sections were recorded. The time taken to cover each section was also noted. Each time the transect was walked at the same time of day. With the taking of compass bearings along the route we were able to plot the transect on the map and work out the actual length of each section. But what of the nature of each habitat I hear the YOG members among you mumble I Fear not for the important features of each section were observed and a resume of them is produced below.

SECTION I (0.9375 mis)

Climbing from the campsite at sealevel to a height of 550' this section passed over heather and wet grass along the bank of a substantial stream. This stream had cut down steeply into the underlying rock to form a gorge 20-30" deep. Stunted birch and aspen huddled in the lee of the east bank.

\*

SECTION 2 (0.8750 mis)

This part was an open slope of moorland shrouded in wet grass, heather and marsh. It fell in height from 550" to a small loch at 350'.

SECTION 3 (0.8125 mis)

From the loch the ground fell away to sea level over a mass of grass and heather with patches of braken, but no trees.

SECTION 4 (0.6250 mis)

This final part was sea shore. At low tide the first reaches were mud, sand, and small islands, seaweeds and rocks. The last stages passed along the top of a low cliff (20') with stunted trees clinging to the seaward crevasses, and heather on the landward side.

The index was calculated in the following way: The numbers of each species observed in the four sections and over-all were averaged over the three occasions that the transect was covered. This mean value was then divided by the length of the section and multiplied by the average length of time taken to cover it. The objective was to produce a 'birds per hour per mile' rating for each section and for the transect **overall**. This shown in Table I below:

Length miles		Av. time taken hrs	Dividing factor
Section I	0.9375	0.6112	0.573000
Section 2	0.8750	0.2667	0.233363
Section 3	0.8125	0.2945	0.239281
Section 4	0.6250	0.3612	0.225750
Overall	3.2500	1-5353	4-983225

Then as the meadow pipit was the only species seen in all the sections it was chosen as the standard, and the bhm ratings for each species were expressed as a percentage of that of the meadow pipit, (ie the bhm of the meadow pipit was 100) The results obtained are shown in Tables 2-4. Table 2 shows the average number of birds seen in each section, Table 3 the bhm rating of each species, and Table four the final frequency index of the different species.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS: With only three transects walked any conclusions must be somewhat tentative. But, having thus covered myself, they do show in numerical terms that from the angle of species diversity and numbers of birds observed that Section 4> the shoreline, had the highest ratings, with Section I, along the stream, next with the remaining sections a long way behind. Overall the most common bird was the starling (215 Pi) especially along the shore. Next was the meadow pipit (100 Pi) and the stonechat (75 Pi). Just within Section I the stonechat was the most common (118 Pi) but this fell to an PI of 40 in Section 4« This could have been due to competition from the meadow pipit and the rock pipit. As is to be expected the sea birds, mostly waders and gulls were restricted to Section 4> whilst the birds of prey were only to be seen in the upper reaches of Section I. In conclusion the meadow pipit must be regarded as the most adaptable species as it was the only bird to be observed in all four habitat types.

The use of this project is seen as the quantification of the relative frequency of different species in the vicinity of the campsite. Whilst the figures themselves are not significant in the statistical sense they do add some perspective to the usual but more subjective comments to be found in SHS ornithological reports on bird frequency.

JOHN ROUND

#### HARRIS BIRD REPORT

Harris proved to be very exciting for birds, with no less than 56 species being seen, mostly near the sea. Yet some, like the buzzard, golden eagle, and red grouse were seen in a variety of locations on the mountain summits. There were three pairs of golden eagles close to the campsite. One of these



pairs had a young bird which showed the distinctive white tail markings. Ravens were seen rolling above Toddun, and a merlin near the campsite. There were also many sea birds, common and arctic terns, herring and greater black-backed gulls, and one great skua being among them. A good variety of waders, curlews, and sandpipers were seen and also a few snipe. The most common wader was the oystercatcher which was seen and heard all along the coast. At night the wailing of red-throated divers could be heard, and in the morning they flew over as if they were the camp's alarm clock. One thing is certain, many people will go to Harris and come back happy with what they have seen.

PATRICK THOMPSON



## RAASAY BIBD REPORT 1974

Although our expedition did not arrive until the middle of August, a good many species were still about. There were seven people, including myself in the Bird Club, but, unfortunately, no ornithology officer was with the party, so we had to arrange things ourselves as best we could.

There was certainly no shortage of gulls around the camp; common gulls, black-headed gulls, herring gulls were always to be found, as were also meadow pipits and shags. While out on biwies we noted woodcock, greenshank, common sandpiper, tree-creeper and many other species; up in the more mountainous areas we were lucky enough to see the odd golden eagle.

We took several trips into Inverarish and spotted quite a few species. We also went along the coast and up into the hills, but there we were not so lucky, for we found only three bird plucked sparrow-hawks and two common gulls. One of the strangest things that we saw was on our way back from Inverarish; a meadow pipit flashed out in front of us and flew straight into a telegraph wire and dropped like a stone. We went over to see if it was dead; it must have died immediately, for it had broken its neck.

All in all, I thought we saw a great many birds, considering that it was not the nesting season, although not, admittedly, as many as were seen by the expedition in 1972. We did receive a great deal of help from Peter Carlile, who took us into Inverarish several times, and to him we are very grateful; however, I feel that we might well have seen more if we had had an ornithology officer to lead the party.

RICHARD THOMPSON

### ORNITHOLOGY - NORTH UIST

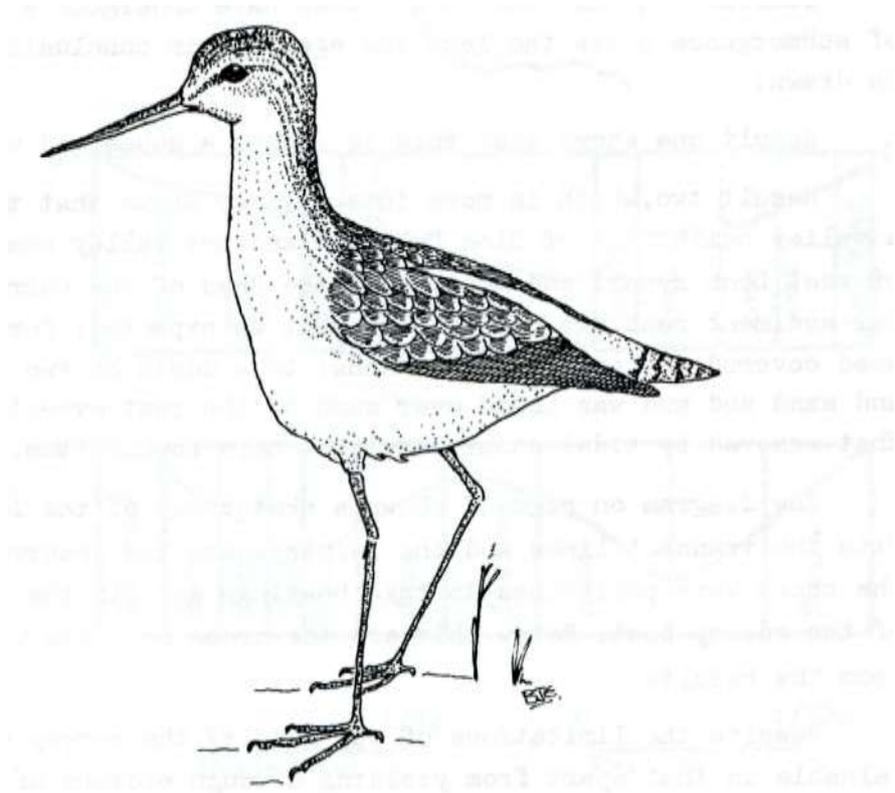
Ornithological interest began on the boat from Oban to Lochboisdale. Those who kept the vigil were rewarded with some exciting views of Manx and Sooty shearwaters, arctic and great

skuas, auks and terns. On N. Uist itself golden eagles were seen from the camp, and the neighbouring lochs were visited by numbers of herons, a common sandpiper, and a greenshank. Also all three species of diver were seen flying over.

During our stay a bird bivvy camped at the RSPB reserve of Balrnald on the West coast of the island. We also went to the island of Kirkibost and it was here that we heard then saw a corncrake. The stay at Balranald finished with us spotting a female hen harrier, a juvenile merlin and an arctic skua. The B.T.O. register was carried out around the camp and at Kirkibost.

Finally our thanks go to John Cullingford who arranged the visit to the RSPB reserve.

ANDREW IVY



## HYDROGRAPHY

### A SURVEY OF LOCH EYNORT

Our objective was to sound the depth of the loch along sample transect lines, and also to investigate the nature of the bottom of the loch. Two transect lines were chosen one of which was across the top of the loch and the other across the narrows at the entrance, (see diagram)

For depth we used a plumb line marked off into fathoms and for testing the bottom a plumb bob covered in grease. The readings were taken every 75 yards. There were, however, problems in maintaining accuracy. The tidal pull dragged on the line and when the bob came up with nothing on it one had to assume bare rock.

Considering that the Outer Isles have undergone a degree of submergence since the last ice age certain conclusions can be drawn:

Result one shows that this is indeed a submerged valley.

Result two, which is more interesting, shows that there was a valley coming out of Sloe Dubh and another valley coming out of west Loch Eynort and meeting at the head of the narrows. Our sediment readings concur with what we expected, for sea weed covered the edge of the channel to a depth of two fathoms, and sand and mud was found over much of the rest except for that removed by tidal scour leaving a bare rock bottom.

The diagram on page 41 shows a sketch map of the loch with the transect lines and the points where the observers on the shore were positioned to take bearings and fix the position of the survey boat. Below this are the cross sections built up from the results.

Despite the limitations of our results the survey was valuable in that apart from yielding a rough picture of the nature of the loch it also illustrated to us the difficulties

involved in early surveys of this type using primitive tools.

JOHNATHAN LORD

ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGY ON NORTH UIST

We were lucky in having a copy of Erskine Beveridges' classic work on North Uist archaeology and topography. He made quite an extensive study of the duns (small forts and dwelling places on islets in the lochs) on the island. Our initial intention was to make a close survey of these duns in the vicinity of Eaval, but time limited the extent of our work.

Our local dun, on Loch Dun an t' Siamain, was accessible from the eastern shore by a causeway which stands well above the present water level. Exploring its stone strewn environs we noted the main features. There were large sections of dry stone walling to a width of some 3 "to 4 feet and two likely cells in the HE and SE corners. There was also a possible boat entrance in the middle of the south side. According to the notes of Beveridge the causeway was 2' above the loch, and it is still about this height showing little change since the early part of this century at least.

On the initial walk over to the croft at Eaval from Claddach Carinish we were excited by the distinctive features of a dun some 30 .yards out into loch Gealag. The causeway was visible in some places, but the core was covered in shrubs and the outer walls were vague in shape. Again while on a climbing bivvy we spotted a dun from a distance. This was the dun on Loch Gheadis on the east side of Ben Eaval. The causeway stretched from a promontory on the east shore and the walls were in fairly good shape. The name Loch Gheadis means the 'Loch of the pike<sup>1</sup> but the fishermen amongst us were unable to verify this point.

On another occasion three of us took the opportunity to nose out in canoes to the partially submerged dun in the SE section of Loch Obisary. There is no trace of a causeway to this dun, and two boat entrances in the east side suggest

that the prehistoric dwellers must have made their approach by boat. To our surprise and delight Nigel found a broken stone lying in the most northerly boat entrance which appeared to be hollowed and rubbed smooth on one side. We took this to be part of a saddle-quern (grinding stone). On further searching Will found the missing piece of the quern to our absolute astonishment. We hoped at last that we had found something that had eluded the diligent Beveridge....but no for he mentions in his book seeing a saddle-quern lying in the water in this very boat entrance. Maybe he didn't see all of it!

While on the weaving visit to Lochport four of us went to the round chambered cairn of Loch Glen na Feannag. The entrance stones, passage supports, and collapsed chamber can still be distinguished. We also visited the location of a stone circle (according to the O.S. map) on the western side of the island, but the site was very vague. Another party visited the stone cairn on Ben Langass. As recorded elsewhere this chambered cairn remains in a remarkable state of preservation and can still be entered.

As mentioned in other SHS reports there is considerable evidence of settlement in the immediate vicinity of the croft at Eaval for there are many lazy beds and on a slight ridge next to one tent we noted six circular stone formations within an earth wall due north of the croft. An old shepherd told us that these were used as hay bases until early this century. So another of our galloping illusions was brought down to the knitty-gritty.

JOHN BROMLEY

#### MOLINGINISH - A RUINED CROFTING VILLAGE

The village of Molinginish is situated due east of Tarbert with a grid reference of NB 219008 (OS sheet 18 I") Our objective was to take a close look at the remains and carry out a detailed survey in order to draw up a scaled diagram, and to make a study of the village.

The conditions for surveying this site were ideal. The

Leader was an engineer and had borrowed a theodolite as well as staff, pegs, tape, and ranging rods. It took some time to complete the survey from the field work ie plotting the plan, drawing the individual house plans, and writing the report.

The fourteen houses were surveyed from four stations on a straight line down the middle of the village, obtained by placing the ranging rod at the upper end and lining in the stations with the aid of the theodolite. The instrument could be used as a tachometer with the aid of a staff and straight line distances of the various points were obtained. The position of the high tide mark, cliffs, the burn, and the corners of each house were surveyed in starting from the shore. A sight was taken to the south end of a distant island so that the plan could be referred to North. In all the field work took a day.

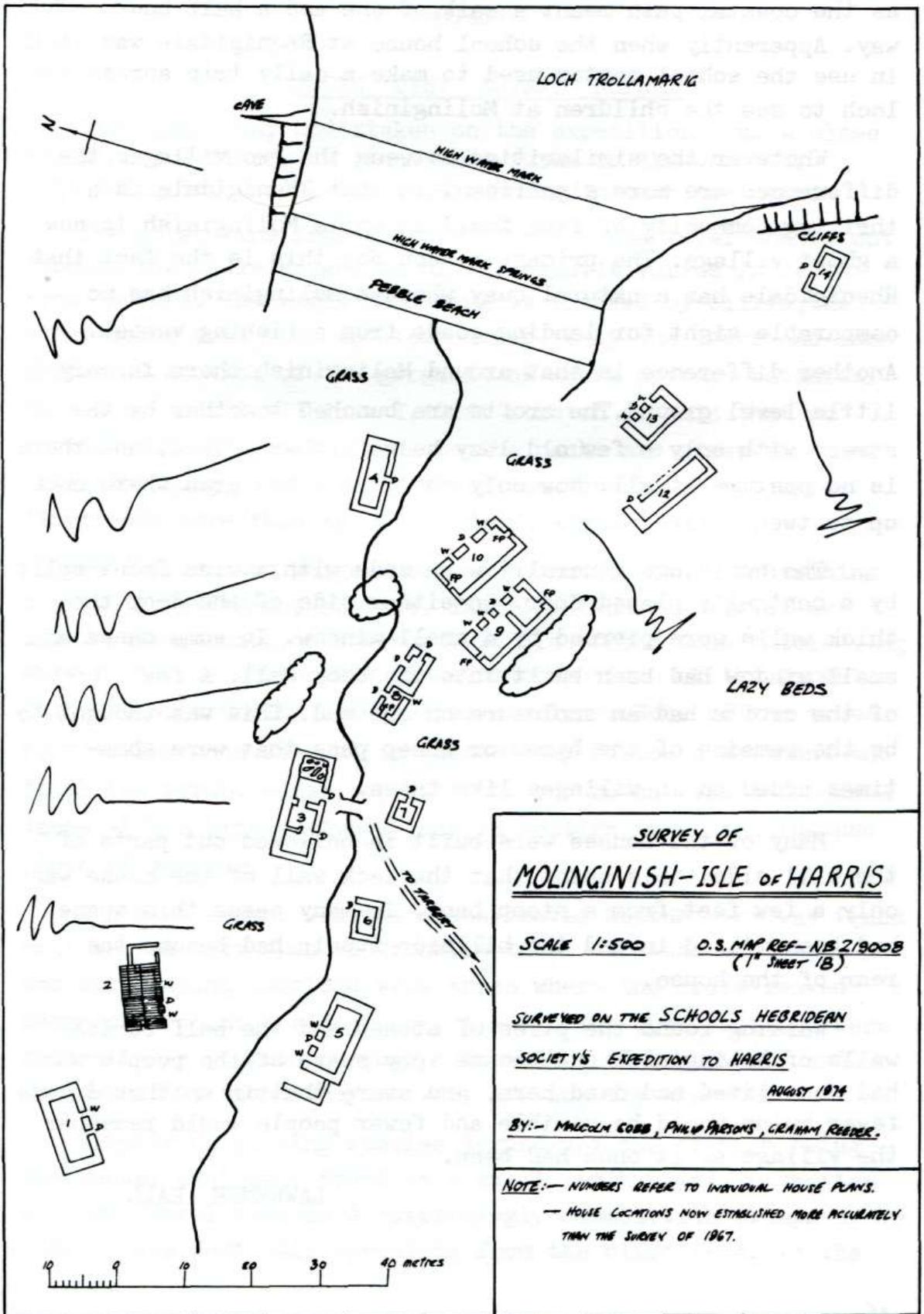
While we were surveying the village Lawrence had gone round measuring all the houses. The straight line distances had to be reduced to the horizontal in order that they might be plotted on the plan. John had a graph for doing this which made it much easier.

All was now ready for drawing the map, and we decided on a scale of 1:500. We first drew the base line on a large sheet of paper and marked on the stations, and from then on we simply measured off the angle from the base line and plotted the points at the appropriate distance. Having surveyed the front corners of all the houses we used the dimensions that Lawrence had obtained to draw in their shape. Then adding the details of the burn we had an accurate map of the village.

MALCOLM COBB PIP PARSONS GRAHAM REEDER

#### MOLINGINISH - SETTLEMENT

When Molinginish was inhabited it must have had much in common with Rhenigidale. Neither has road access and they occupy opposite ends of Loch Trollamarig. Also each has a small beach with a headland providing a sheltered bay. No doubt when supplies were brought in by boat around the coast the boat would stop at one settlement and then the other. The villagers



SURVEY OF  
MOLINGINISH- ISLE OF HARRIS

SCALE 1:500      O.S. MAP REF- NB 21900B  
 (1" SHEET 18)

SURVEYED ON THE SCHOOLS HEBRIDEAN

SOCIETY'S EXPEDITION TO HARRIS

AUGUST 1974

BY:- MALCOLM COBB, PHILIP PARSONS, GRAMMY REIDER.

NOTE:- NUMBERS REFER TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSE PLANS.  
 — HOUSE LOCATIONS NOW ESTABLISHED MORE ACCURATELY  
 THAN THE SURVEY OF 1967.

would have communicated with each other by boat across the loch as the coastal path meant a walk of one and a half hours each way. Apparently when the school house at Rhenigidale was still in use the school master used to make a daily trip across the loch to see the children at Molinginish.

Whatever the similarities between the two villages the differences are more significant in that Rhenigidale is a thriving community of five families while Molinginish is now a ghost village. The primary reason for this is the fact that Rhenigidale has a natural quay whereas Molinginish has no comparable sight for landing goods from a fishing vessel. Another difference is that around Molinginish there is very little level ground. The crofts are bunched together by the stream with only a few old lazy beds further inland, and there is no pasture at all. Now only sheep roam the area where once up to twenty five people lived.

The buildings generally were made with a wide front split by a centrally placed door. On either side of the door the thick walls were pierced by a small window. In some cases a small window had been built into the back wall. A few of the crofts had an enclosure on one end. This was thought to be the remains of the byres or sheep pens that were sometimes added on in villages like these.

Many of the houses were built in hollowed out parts of the hill side, this meant that the back wall of the house was only a few feet from a steep bank. In many cases this space had been filled in and the hillside itself had become the rear of the house.

Walking round the piles of stones and the half buried walls of Molinginish one became very aware of the people who had once lived and died here, and aware that in another decade fewer ruins would be visible and fewer people would remember the village as it once had been.

LAWRENCE HALL

## BOTANY

### SOUTH UIST BOTANY REPORT

The main study undertaken on the expedition was a close study of the flowering plants and ferns in the gorge of Allt Volagair, and by the burn running through the camp.

The gorge runs from about 40ft above sea level and is cut through the Lewisian gneiss of the area. It varies in depth from 15-30ft. The right hand bank is flanked by cliffs, the other being more open and less steep. Only the lower and more sheltered section of the gorge is of above average botanical interest, and it within a 1,100ft stretch of this that we carried out the survey. Because the banks are steep no sheep enter the gorge at this point and consequently plant life flourishes more than in more exposed areas.

We divided the gorge into eight sections each containing a slightly different habitat. The flora was classified as rare, medium, common, or dominant. We also found some interesting marker species which gave a useful comparison of the gorge with the surrounding acid-soiled moorland. None of the trees were taller than 15' but in places they formed a dominant and thick low scrub. Hazel, aspen, birch, and rowan were the common trees with a single stunted ash in section three and the odd piece of juniper.

The best marker was the cross-leaved heather and was found only in the very open sections; ie those sections most like the surrounding moorland were those where the cross-leaved heather is common or dominant. Also in the open sections were rotundifolis (common sundew), a typical acid bog plant, and bog asphodel, found only in very low numbers elsewhere.

Several surprising species turned up; one of them being the lesser skullcap, found on a small earth slide in the top section. Royal fern were surprisingly common, with clumps up to five or six feet tall sprouting from the cliff face. In the

most sheltered section (3) there were a few fronds of spleen wort and a liberal spread of flowering honeysuckle, while in the more exposed section eight a few plants of wild strawberry were located on the same piece of ground as the lesser skullcap.

The only truly puzzling finds were the leaves of several orchids which were not in flower. As the flowers are virtually impossible to tell apart from the leaves we only listed heads spotted as a part-shed flower head was found.

From the survey it is clear that the gorge should be preserved as a botanical site and left as undisturbed as possible. The Nature Conservancy Warden of Druidibeg occasionally looks over it, but one wonders if some more definite arrangement might be made.

Apart from the sheltered nature of the gorge it owes its abundance to the flush of nutrients draining out of the peat above, which is caught in the soil of the gorge before being carried away down stream. This flow seems to be down the slope above the cliff on the right hand bank, and this idea is supported by the fact that the trees only grow on this bank.

The other piece of botany work that was done on the camp was during the Bradshaw Usinish bivvy. At Usinish we found many of the typical heath/moor species such as pennywort and marsh thistle. The flora was much the same as on any wet and sheltered part of the island. But it was here that the real rarity of the expedition was found, for lancelet spleenwort (a fern) occurred in two of the caves in the Iron Age settlement near the croft. It is mentioned in R.S.R Fitter as being local and rare in caves and mineshafts though it is not supposed to be found nearer the Outer Isles than the SW of Scotland. One theory is that someone carried the spores here on some sleeping rug from another cave and then slept in one of the dwellings here at Usinish....fanciful, but good imagination.

(Unfortunately there is not the space here to show the detailed tables of the species found and their location and frequency, but these will be on display at the conference - Ed.)

CALUM MACKENZIE, STEVE SOUTHWORTH, JOHN ADAMS, RICHARD LE SUEUR.

#### FERTILISATION AND FLOWERS AT RHENIGIDALE

##### NORTH UIST

This project was carried out after I heard that Roddy Mac Innes was fertilising his land, and I wanted to find out the effect that this had had on the quality of the grazing and flowers on this land. Roddy had been treating his land since about 1961 with lime, basic slag, fertilisers and seeds. It has been a steady process and it is possible to compare earlier and more recently treated land. The purpose of these materials was to lighten and neutralise the soil in order that new grass seeds could grow.

The survey was carried out by observing the thickness of the grass, moss, and flowers that were growing on the three types of land; viz grazed treated land, grazed untreated land, and heathland. The books used to identify the flowers were - "The Concise British Flora in Colour" by W. Keble Martin (1972) and the "Collins Guide to Wild Flowers".

On the treated land the grass was very soft and thick, and there was little moss. There were more acid loving moss and flowers in the more recently treated areas so it was clear that the materials took some time to take effect.

The grazed untreated land was barer and more mossy. The grass was not so soft and green but it was spiky and there were more flowers growing.

On the heathland the ground was very bare, mostly covered

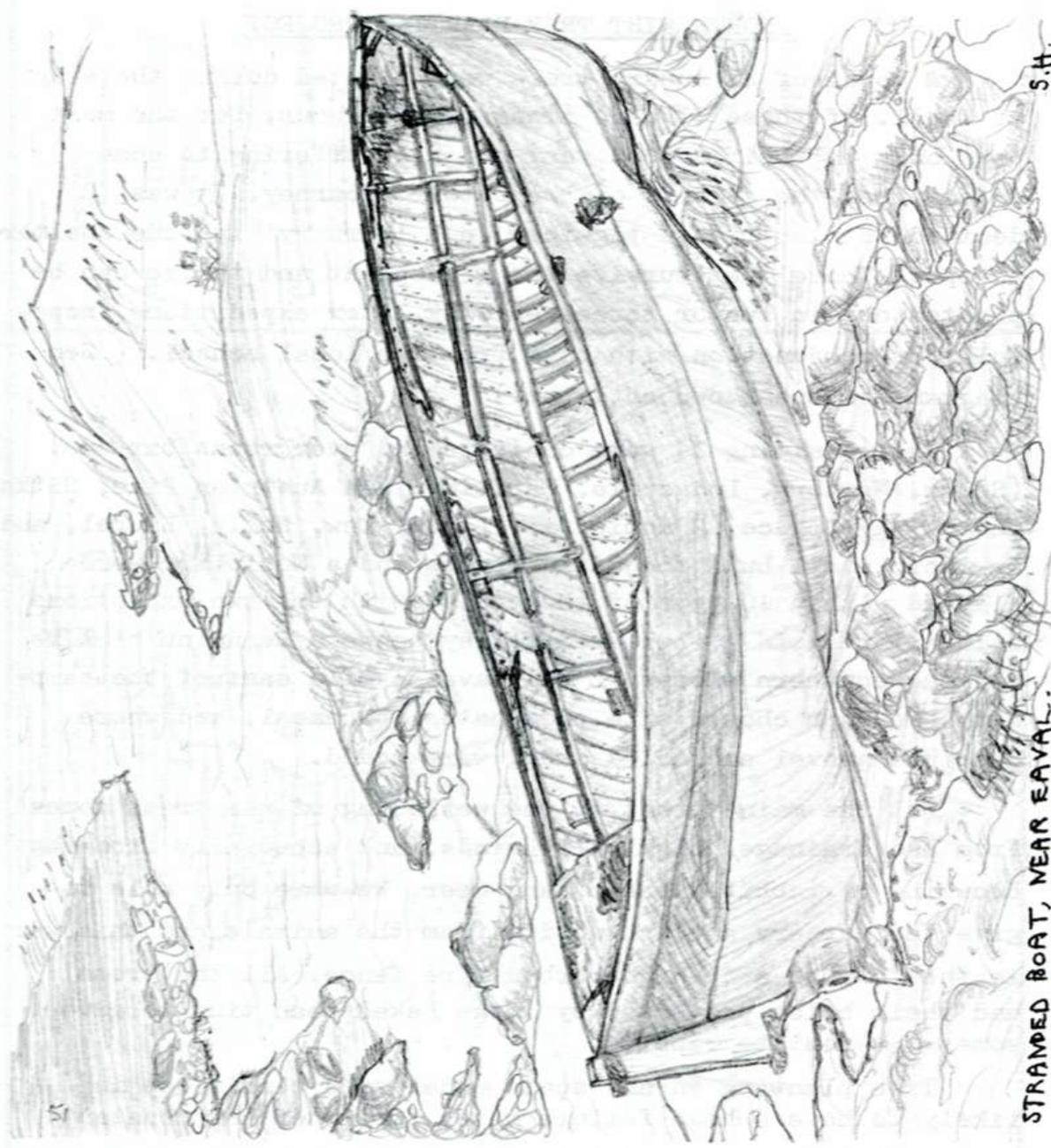
with heather and moss. The grass there was very hard and spiky. There was also a smaller selection of flowers to be found.

In conclusion it seems that Roddy's work has had a very good effect in producing better grazing by making the soil less acidic. It has meant that more of the very common flowers and less heath flowers are seen in these areas.

<u>FLOWER</u>	<u>GRAZED TREATED</u>	<u>GRAZED UNTREATED</u>	<u>HEATH</u>
Daises	X		
Thistles	X		
Buttercups	X	X	
Clover	X	X	
Rushes	X	X	
Lesser Dandelions	X	X	
Chickweed	X		
Self-heal	X	X	
Tormentil	X	X	X
Woundwort	X		
Sorrel	X		
Bog Ashphondel		X	X
Red Rattle		X	
Yellow Rattle		X	
Ferns		X	
Short haired Eyebright		X	
Heath Milkwort		X	X
Cotton Grass			X

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EDWARD ROSE



S.H.

STRAPPED BOAT, NEAR KAYAL.

## SILVICULTURE

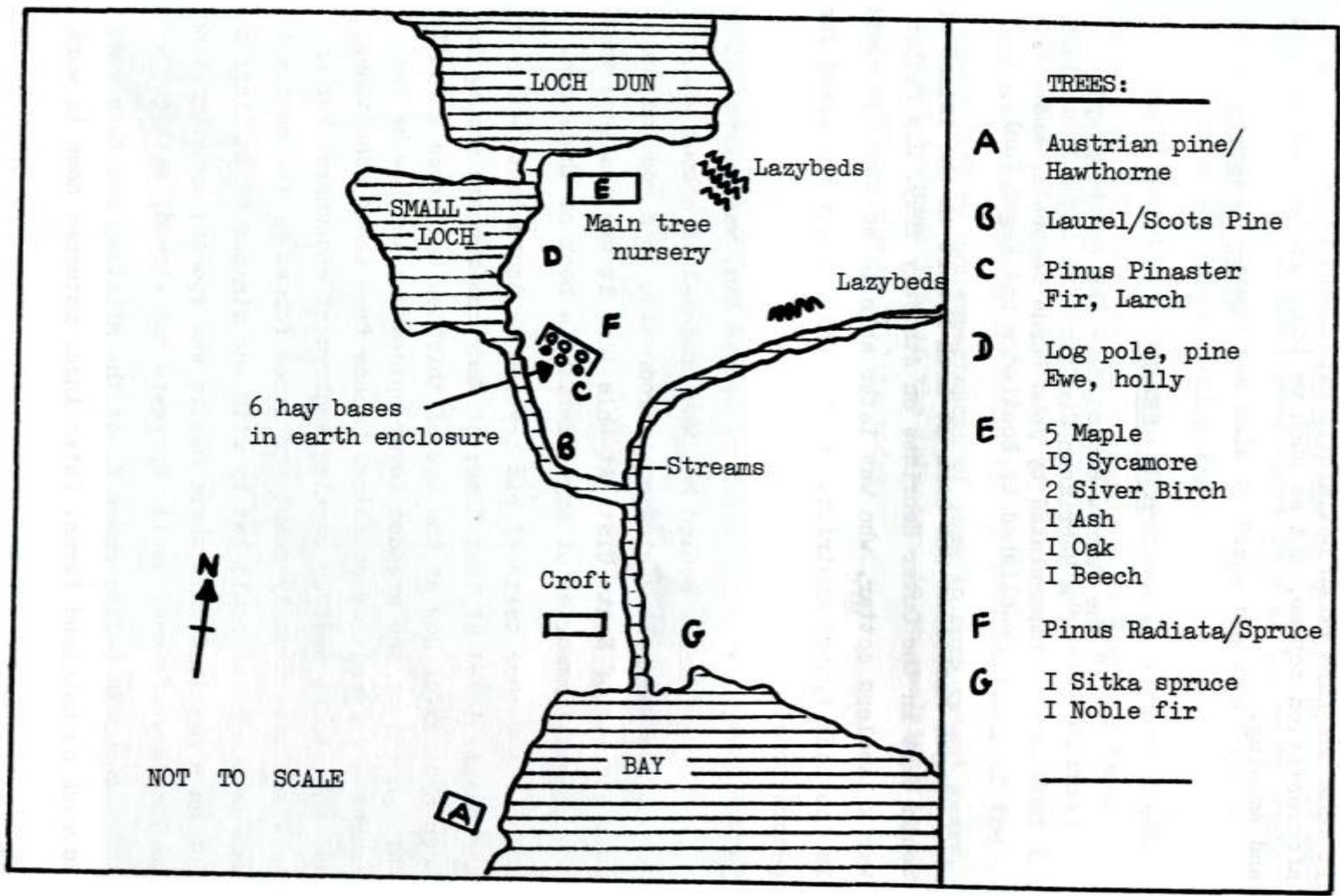
### NORTH UIST TREE PLANTING PROJECT

A total of 47 sundry trees were planted during the stay at Eaval. Of these 33 were immature deciduous, for the most part only in their second year and all suffering to some extent from the effects of the outward journey. It was decided to plant these together in a 'Nursery' in some sheltered spot. Those that survive the transplant and thrive can be planted out in two or three years by later expeditions, hopefully in conjunction with boys from the local school. (See diagram for breakdown of types.)

The remaining 14 were conifers and evergreens bar one. (Scots, Monterey, Lodgepole, Maritime, and Austrian Pine, Sitka and Norway Spruce, 2 Noble fir, Larch, Yew, Holly, Laurel, and Hawthorn.) All but the Sitka Spruce and a Noble Fir were planted within 100yds of the croft, with the two exceptions being planted in a sheltered valley between Beinn na h' Aire and the southern slopes of Ben Eaval a mile east of the camp-site. To each chosen site phosphates, bone meal, and where possible gravel and dried dung, were added.

But the main threat to the wellbeing of the trees comes from bad drainage, high salty winds, and especially from the browsing of rabbits, sheep, and deer. We were only able to give the nursery any protection from the animals and this was in the form of a 4' high barbed wire fence. All the trees had their boles protected by large baked bean tins to give some deterrent to rabbits.

Tree planting on any scale under such conditions is likely to have a high failure rate, for money and constant human attention are needed to ensure success. Even so I would not like to underrate the Heath Robinson attempt we made as



it took the form of an optimistic experiment rather than an afforestation scheme, and as such we found it both educational and amusing.

HIGEL DE BERKER

BOOK REVIEW

" The Furrow Behind Me - The Autobiography of a Hebridean Crofter." by Angus MacLellan, translated by John Lome Campbell, and published by Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Angus MacLellan was born at Loch Eynort in the island of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1869. His father was a landless cottar, who was later able to acquire his croft in the Loch Eynort district, in which his family had lived for generations.

Angus, like many islanders before him, was a great story teller. The "Furrow Behind Me" was produced as a book when John Lome Campbell wanted an introduction to a book on the folk stories of South Uist. At this time it was realised that the personal memories of Angus merited a book of their own.

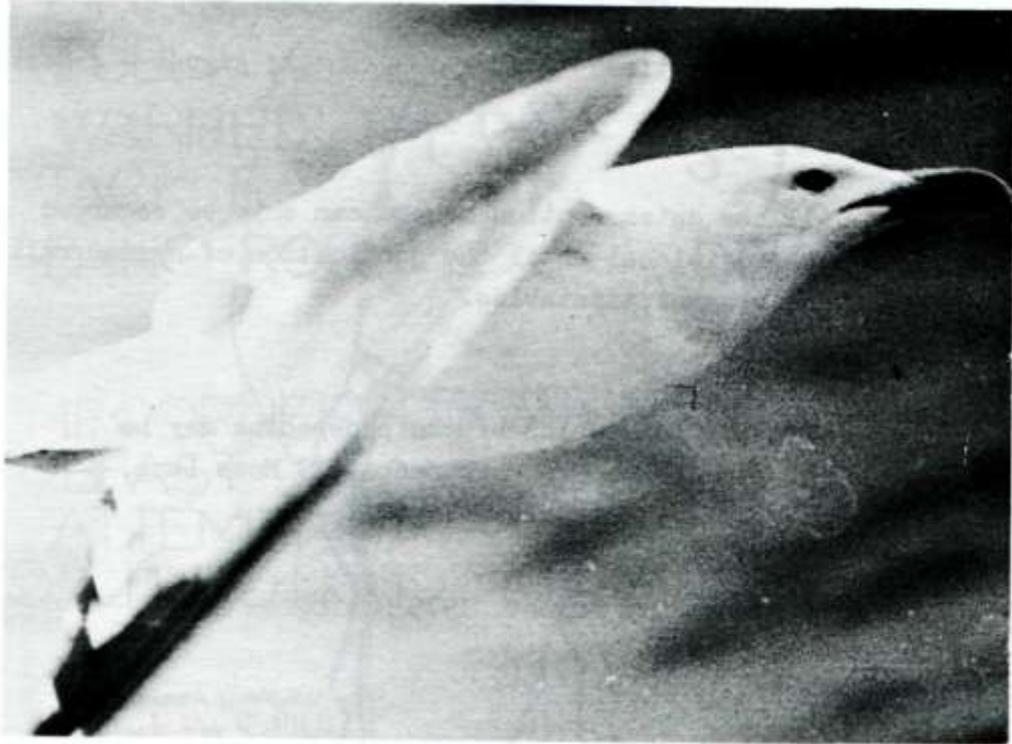
The author tells of his boyhood on South Uist, and how the people lived at that time; of Manx rum-runners coming to Loch Eynort; of how at the age of thirteen he nursed a family through one of the dreaded fever epidemics; and how he was caught and fined for poaching. Escape from these conditions was only to be made by seeking employment elsewhere. For an islander this usually meant the armed forces or the merchant marine where one could get by with the minimum of English; a job on a mainland farm where Gaelic was spoken; or emigration to Canada where many Gaelic speakers had already settled.

Angus MacLellan chose first the Militia, and then went to work on mainland farms. Later Angus returned home to work

at inshore fishing and crofting, and to act as one of the Loch Eynort delegates at the famous court case at Lochmaddy where an unsuccessful attempt was made to force the crofters to buy licences for their working dogs.

Angus MacLellan's vivid recollections of life on South Uist in the old days and as a ploughman on Highland farms are of particular interest to everyone interested in rural life and traditions, especially in the Western Isles. What I find most interesting in comparing the recollections of the islands with my own experiences of them in more recent years, is how the social life of the islanders is so resilient to the technological change of life today.

JIM TURNER



## PLANTS FOR 1975

### COLONSAY EXPEDITION

Group N I2f - 14 \* 12-27 August

### JURA EXPEDITION

Group M 14-15 22 July - 7 August

### RAASAY EXPEDITION

Group L 15-16 12-29 August

### EHDM EXPEDITION

Group K 16-17 22 July - 9 August

### MINGULAY EXPEDITION

Over 17 Projects 23 July-13 August

### WEST LEWIS EXPEDITION

Over 17 Activities 14 August - 4 Sept

KB All the dates mentioned here can only be regarded as provisional until the publication of summer rail and steamer timetables.

Details and copies of the prospectus may be obtained from Mrs Mary Jones, 19 Moss Lane, Timperley, Cheshire WAI5 6TA.

\* Age on 1st August, 1975

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# WANTED

REPORTS ARE CONFIRMED OF THIS STRANGE AND VERY HAIRY CREATURE, ONCE MORE RAMPAGING THROUGH THE WESTERN ISLES ON ITS UNUSUAL MIGRATORY ROMP.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO TACKLE THIS DANGEROUS INTRUDER

IF CORNERED BY THE BEAST DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STROKE IT. DO NOT PANIC

For reward please contact the RSPA.

Outer Isles Press  
  
T.C.



NK

PAST EXPEDITIONS OF THE S.H.S.

Gometra Expedition	1962	Leader:	John Abbott
Rhum	"	"	John Abbott
Gometra	"	"	Tim Willcocks
Mingulay	"	"	Martin Child
South Rona	"	"	John Abbott
Raasay	"	"	Richard Fountaine
Gometra	"	"	James Emerson
Harris	"	"	John Abbott
Jura	"	"	Jonny Ker
Raasay	"	"	Clifford Fountaine
Morvern	"	"	Jim Hardy
Lewis	"	"	Roger Dennien
Harris	"	"	Alan Bateman
Jura	"	"	Andrew Wilson
Colonsay	"	"	Chria Dawson
Dingle	"	"	John Houghton
Mingulay	"	"	Kenneth Huxham
Rhum	"	"	John Dobinson
Harris	"	"	Andrew Wilson
Lewis	"	"	John Abbott
Colonsay	"	"	John Jackson
Vatersay	"	"	Philip Renold
Lewis	"	"	David Cullingford
South Rona	"	"	Chris Gascoine Hart
South Uist	"	"	John Cullingford
Colonsay	"	"	Alan Bateman
Shetlands	"	"	Chris Dawson
South Uist	"	"	John Cullingford
Lewis	"	"	John Hutchison
Rhum	"	"	Chris Gascoine Hart
Colonsay	"	"	Roger Trafford
South Uist	"	"	Geoffrey David

Shetlands Expedition	1970	Leader:	David Vigar
Fladday	"	1970	" Mike Baker
Lewis	"	1970	" Alan Howard
North Uist	"	1970	" Philip Renold
Ulva	"	1970	" Alan Fowler
South Rona	"	1971	" Roger Weatherly
Rhum	"	1971	" Philip Renold
Jura	"	1971	" Charles Hooper
Colonsay	"	1971	" Alan Howard
Mingulay	"	1971	" Hugh Williams
Muckle Roe	"	1972	" Ray Winter
South Uist	"	1972	" Alan Fowler
Lewis	"	1972	" Gavin Macpherson
Raasay	"	1972	" Paul Caffrey
North Uist	"	1972	" Roger Weatherly
Harris	"	1973	" Philip Renold
South Uist	"	1973	" Alan Fowler
South Rona	"	1973	" Jim Turner
Rhum	"	1973	" Mark Rayne
Jura	"	1973	" David Bradshaw
Colonsay	"	1973	" Alan Howard
South Uist	"	1974	" Jim Turner
Raasay	"	1974	" Peter Carlile
Harris	"	1974	" John Hutchison
North Uist	"	1974	" John Cullingford
Outer Isles	"	1974	" Paul Caffery

\* \* \*

COVENANTS

A covenant is a most effective way of benefiting the Society. If you wish to make a donation to the Society this way can be to its advantage, for by making a series of payments out of ones regular income the Society will receive in addition to your donation an amount equivalent to the basic rate of tax that one has already paid on earning that sum.

If you wish to have more details of this method of aiding the Society the man to contact is:

JOHN ROUND  
BACK LODGE  
SPELLOW HILL  
STAVELY  
KNARESBOROUGH YORKS      TEL:    COPGROVE 396

THE SOCIETY'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL

C O N F E R E N C E

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