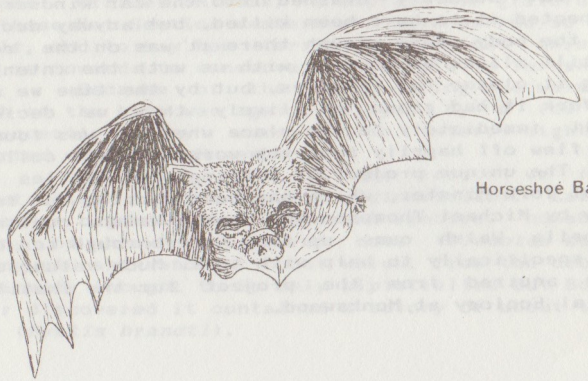
On two occasions this year members of the Bat Section have been involved in television programmes. In August, Michael Clegg devoted an episode of his series "Clegg's People" on Yorkshire Television to bats. Michael Thompson and Leslie Helliwell figured in this and it proved to be quite a delightful and informative little programme. Then, throughout the summer months, Bob Stebbings and some members of the Bat Section were involved in the making of a 50 minute bat film by the BBC2 Natural History team from Bristol. The film is sheduled to be shown in the "Natural World" series in January 1987. Much of it was shot in and around York. It turned out to be an interesting and enjoyable experience and we are now waiting to see the finished results.

So, all in all, there has been plenty to keep us occupied and, of course, the roof surveys continue to a lesser extent during the winter months too. The fact is that although we have a good number of members on paper interested in bat work, all these people are not available all of the time, so that the bulk of the work falls to relatively few members most of the time. Bat work does need dedication, particularly in June, July and August, when problems are urgent ones, and the policy is for roof surveys to be carried out within 10 days of notification. It is time-consuming, but it is rewarding.

I would like to give special thanks to Lesley Helliwell, not only for caring for all the injured and captive bats, but also for being such a ready and willing helper in her busy life and for doing so very many visits and surveys.

We hope, next year, to be able to devise a project of our own though, as things stand at present, we shall probably find little time in which to carry it out! So I would urge Bat Section members to please keep in contact in the winter as well as during the summer months. Your help is needed throughout the year.

Edna Shann
Bat Section Co-ordinator



Horseshoe Bat

BRIDGE BATS

Dave Roberts, Harrogate Bat Group.

Tony Hutson, Bat Conservation Officer of Bat Groups of Britain, recently posed the question "Where do Daubenton's bats (*Myotis daubentoni*) go in the summer?" Well in the Harrogate area we have begun to answer that question.

It had crossed our minds that a bat so dependant on water for feeding, might well use bridges for roosting. The scattering of reports throughout the county, of Daubenton's in bridges, had reinforced this idea. Suggestions that such sites would not be warm enough for nursery roosts, were contradicted by two other Daubenton's roosts in our area. One is a pedestrian tunnel under a road and the other in the cellarium in Fountains Abbey. So we decided to survey the road bridges in our area, looking for gaps.

In 1986 we increased the number of known Daubenton's summer roosts from five to thirteen and the newly discovered roosts were found in road bridges over rivers. Four were over the River Ure, two over the River Nidd, , one over the River Laver and one over the River Wharfe. The roosts were in the gaps between different stages of bridge construction. In the past bridges were widened by building a new arch alongside the existing arch. The gap between the two arches was filled with mortar. Over the years, this mortar has crumbled and fallen out leaving crevices one to four inches wide, up to two feet deep and varying in length depending on how much mortar has dropped out.

In total we counted 282 Daubenton's bats but were amazed to find, at Boroughbridge, Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*) emerging from the same crevice as Daubenton's. We believe that this mixed Daubenton's/Natterer's colony is the first in the country. Later we discovered another mixed colony at Killing Hall. We found a separate Natterer's colony in Bridge Hewick near Ripon and a temporary noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) roost in Killinghall Bridge.

All the bridges with bats in were over shallow, unpolluted rivers where the banks were tree or shrub lined. We surveyed 46 bridges in all, but most of them were one stage and many were newly repointed. This latter finding was somewhat disturbing. Could bats have inadvertently been entombed during maintenance? We have also found hibernating bats in bridges, so no time of year is safe for the gaps to be filled. Fortunately the North Yorkshire Highways Department has been very sympathetic and are consulting us before work is carried out.

North Yorkshire has 2,000 bridges and Yorkshire as a whole has many more. It seems unlikely that the Harrogate area is unique in having widened road bridges, that are only sporadically maintained, providing habitats for bats. We suggest that in 1987 bridge surveys should become a priority for anyone with wellies and a powerful torch.