3. Willow Garth Trap, 24th, 25th and 26th April.

This was the first of what I hope to be a long term series of traps on the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, Willow Garth, which is just east of Knottingley.

That part of the Reserve which the Management Committee hope to maintain roughly along the lines of a working willow garth or osier bed, is now fully planted up with willows. We have not decided yet how the willow stands in this area will be cropped, but they will not be all cut annually as a commercial willow grower would do. The volunteer labour for such an undertaking would be hard to find and we should be left with thousands of unwanted willow wands. It seems likely that the area will be divided into sections which will be cropped in rotation. We hope to monitor the impact of such management on small mammal populations with the future trapping sessions. We also hope to monitor the impact of this type of management on other forms of wildlife.

Although this trap was mainly to see what small mammals are on the Reserve, the procedures of the Yorkshire Mammal Group were closely followed.

The whole trapping session was blessed with glorious weather, the wind being easterly and light, the days sunny, bright and warm.

On the evening of the 20th April, three lines of traps were laid, two lines of 24 and one of 25, a total of 73, locked open and pre-baited, each line in a different habitat.

The traps were again baited and unlocked on the evening of the 24th April.

Trap line A - in the form of a rectangle roughly 60m by 10m, 10m between the 12 trap points of 2 traps each. Set in an area densely covered by what I think is the reed grass, (*Phalaris*), dead now of course, but much of it still upright. This area much loved by harvest mice (*Micromys minutus*) for the building of summer breeding nests, was for the most part covered by several inches of standing water. The traps were placed on a layer of fallen vegetation.

The weekend results for this line are as follows.

Saturday 0800hrs lift.

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
Sorex araneus	10	?	7-9g	6 dead in traps
Clethrionomys glareolus	1	1M	?	tick on shoulder
Apodemus sylvaticus	1	1M	26g	

Saturday 2000hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
S. araneus	2	?	8-10g	
C. glareolus	1	1M	19g	tick on shoulder possible recapture

Sunday 0800hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
S.araneus	2	?	10-11	
C. glareolus	2	1M,1F	19g	

Trap line B - set in the pattern of trap line A but in an area which is planted up with willow trees which are four feet apart, their leafless upright branches providing little in the way of a canopy. Beneath the trees were small areas of *Phalaris* and coverless areas where control of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) had taken place.

The weekend results for this line are as follows.

Saturday 0800hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
S.araneus	4	?	7-9g	3 dead in traps
C. glareolus	5	3M,2F	17-19g	
A. sylvaticus	1	1F	21g	

Saturday 2000hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
C. glareolus	2	1F	18-20g	

Sunday 0800hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
C. glareolus	5	2M2F	17-22g	3 recapt. 1 escaped
A. sylvaticus	1	1F	21g	

Trap line C - 25 traps, 11 pairs and a 3, set roughly 10m apart on the top of a ditch bank. The openest aspect of the 3 trap lines, with short, thick grass, some bushy, unmamaged osiers and piles of brush wood, the latter being left to encourage insects and promote the growth of fungi.

Saturday 0800hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
C. glareolus	5	3M,2F	16-22g	1 had tick on shoulder
A. sylvaticus	7	4M,3F	21-26g	

Saturday 2000hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
C. glareolus	6	1M,5F	16-20g	

Sunday 0800hrs lift

Species	Total	Sex	Weight	Notes
C. glareolus	4	1M,3F	16-21g	Recaps
A. sylvaticus	9	5M,4F	19-27	6 recaps