

Compared with the High Batts trap a month earlier, there were much reduced trap rates at Hopewell House Farm. Seventy-two traps were employed on a grid of 36 points, and laid at 10am on 26.3.88. Again, as on the previous autumn trap, it was noted that there were no woodmice *A. sylvaticus* present, nor harvest mice *M. minutus*. Although the *S. araneus* were not marked, there appeared to be a large number on this grid. There were no fatalities amongst the shrews, and looking at the September 1987 trap results it would seem that this area is a good one for studying the common shrew.

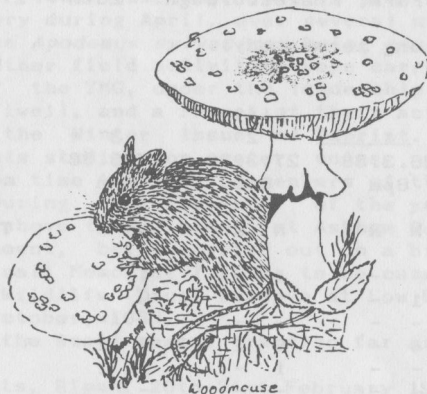
3. Askham Bog, Y.W.T. Reserve. 16th April 1988.

On this training trap, three trap lines, comprising of 73 traps, were laid in the morning and lifted later in the day. Each line originated from a glade and went into a woodland. In the field/glade habitats no mammals were caught. Few mammals were trapped in total, but sufficient to demonstrate to the four novices present, the differences between the three species caught and handling techniques.

Results:-

Trap line	A	B	C
<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	1	2	-
<i>Cleth. glareolus</i>	1	1	-
<i>Sorex araneus</i>	-	-	1

The results of the Willow Garth trap will appear in the next issue of Imprint.



Dormouse Project : the next thrilling instalment!

Further progress has been made on the Dormouse Project since Michael Thompson's report (Imprint, Winter 1988). Paul Bright, research assistant to the National Dormouse Project, visited Rievaulx Terraces on 10th-11th April and brought 52 'dormouse boxes'. With the help of Lesley Helliwell and Bev Greenwood these were placed in 2 blocks. The first consisting of 8 rows of 4 and the second 5 rows of 4.

Both grids are well inside National Trust property in an area which is not open to the public. They should, therefore, be completely free from disturbance. Graham Toase, the National Trust warden has been most cooperative and is very interested in the whole scheme.

It is hoped to make the first inspection in July or August when Paul will again be visiting the area. In all there are now 59 boxes in position. Members wishing to visit the site should first contact the undersigned so that arrangements can be made with Graham Toase.

Gordon L. Woodroffe

Trawling after dark

Many people standing on the bridge at Kirkham watching Daubenton's bats *Myotis daubentoni* skimming over the tranquil River Derwent may have wondered if the bats are simply drinking or are able to take insects from the surface of the water as well as those flying above the surface. This problem has been answered recently by Gareth Jones and Jeremy Raynor of Bristol University (Journal of Zoology. 215 (1)). Using multiple-flash photography and a bait of mealworms on a pond surface they have caught the bats in the act of trawling. It seems that they decelerate before plucking the bait from the surface and then either scoop the mealworms up into the interfemoral membrane or eat them straight from their feet. The continuous echolocation calls of Daubenton's bats may be able to detect irregularities on the water surface indicating the presence of a tasty morsel.

Ed.