fatalities have not been observed despite having been rumoured.) This may seem a flippant point but it could easily lead to hedgehog fatalities being over-recorded and rabbits and pheasants under-recorded. Bats and rats also tended to remain recognisable on the road surface for a long time, and the badger, although transferred to the verge, could still be seen, and smelled, months later.

There is very little I can say to conclude this study except that 106 fatalities on a two mile stretch of lane over a two year period seems an excessive and sad demise for our wildlife. Although many collisions will have been unavoidable I do feel dangerous driving is very much to blame, I often felt at risk from cars and lorries travelling too fast. It is impossible to know the impact of these deaths on populations without conducting comprehensive monitoring.

Footnotes

Since conducting this study two more badger deaths have occurred, one in the same place and one about a mile away.

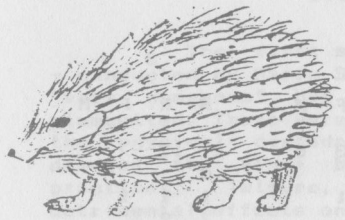
Some mammals known to occur in the area were not recorded as road kills; these are fox *Vulpes vulpes*, mole *Talpa europaea*, stoat *Mustela erminea*, common shrew *Sorex araneus*, field vole *Microtus agrestis* and roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*.

Nicola Wise

Fox teased by magpies

Whenever I stay with my mother-in-law in the noisy town of Bexleyheath, part of the London conurbation, I enjoy watching the foxes *Vulpes vulpes* in her garden while doing the washing up! The foxes have made their home in her garden shed and can often be seen playing on the grass in broad daylight or scavenging on the streets at night. On my last visit I was indulging in the luxury of armchair ecology, watching a large mottled fox soaking up the winter sunshine, when a magpie *Pica pica* landed about a metre in front of him. As the fox got up the magpie flew low over his head and landed just behind him. Then another magpie flew low over the fox and landed beside him. Each time the fox turned to one of the birds they flew low over him and landed just out of reach. The magpies continued to tease the fox for about ten minutes making him twist and turn and jump in the air. It culminated in the fox slinking away to the peace and quiet of his den in the shed.

Dean Wise



Hedgehog
Caroline Hamby

Field studies report 1988 (Part Two)

Continuing from the first report for 1988 (Imprint No 11, pp14-16), the amount of field study activity carried out by the Yorkshire Mammal Group, in the second half of the year, has been considerably less. Due to lack of leadership, especially on my part, and poor response to the traps arranged, a number of them had to be cancelled. Namely the second yearly traps at Hopewell House Farm and Willow Garth, and the Dennis Aspinall Memorial Trap at Low Wood, Skipton. However, some field activity was carried out, with a second trap at High Batts on 30/31.7.88, and the first Willow Garth trap of the year on 21/22.5.88. Gordon Woodroffe organised two more field trips to Filey Dams in September and October, to continue the water shrew *Neomys fodiens* survey. With the help of several members of the Group, he laid traps on two marked out grids on the Reserve. Although the number of water shrews caught was not large, the number of other small mammals present was of considerable interest. A report of his findings, along with those of Roger Smith, who launched the project, will be found in a future edition of Imprint.

A report on the bat work carried out in 1988 by the Bat Section of the Y.M.G. can be found on page 5 . Results of the tetrad mammal survey around York are not yet available as they are still coming in.

Details of the small mammal traps are as follows:-

1) Willow Garth, Knottingley. 21st - 22nd May 1988.

Ken Burden, who wrote the report, writes "For this trap we broke from the usual practice of the Mammal Group, inasmuch that the traps were placed singly about 5 yards apart, on a grid some 45 yards by 35 yards, using 72 traps.

The traps were placed in position, pre-baited and locked open on the evening of Sunday 15th May 1988. The ground cover in the area to be trapped was dense and consisted mainly of stinging nettles and lush grass, growing under willow trees which are 4 feet apart and several feet high. As in past traps in the same area, there was no appreciable canopy. On the evening of Friday 20th May, the traps were unlocked."