

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
 OF
 NORTHUMBERLAND, DURHAM, AND NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

THE COMMITTEE HAVE ARRANGED A SERIES OF

SIX Popular LECTURES

On subjects connected with Natural History,

MUSEUM, BARRAS BRIDGE,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

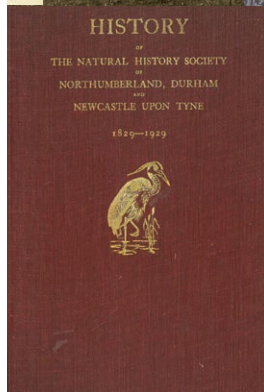
At 7.30 p.m.

ON ALTERNATE SATURDAY EVENINGS,
 Commencing **JANUARY 20th, 1894.**

Jan. 20.—On the Moas, extinct Giant Birds of New Zealand, illustrated, Dr. EMBLETON.
 Feb. 3.—A Month in Norway, with Notes on its Natural History, illustrated, Dr. G. S. BRADY.
 Feb. 17.—Tropical Vegetation in Ceylon, illustrated, Prof. M. C. POTTER.
 March 3.—On Forest Insects, illustrated, Dr. W. SOMERVILLE.
 " 17.—On the Ancestry of the Horse, illustrated, F. W. WILSON, M.R.C.V.S.
 " 31.—The History of Photography, illustrated, E. T. GARWOOD, Esq., M.A.

ADMISSION: Members and their Families Free. Non-Members Three-pence each.

A. H. DICKINSON, Hon. Sec.



Happy 190th Birthday NHSN!



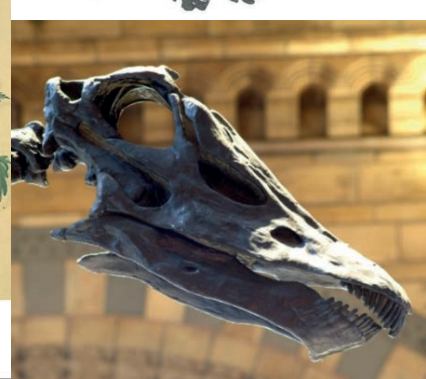
a bird in the bush is worth a brace in the hand

The Wharfedale Goldfinch (Carduelis arvensis) is a common bird in the Wharfedale region. It is a small, plump bird with a distinctive black and white pattern on its wings and tail. It is often seen feeding on the seeds of the golden-robin plant (Centaurea jacea) in the Wharfedale region.

Too many of our rare and beautiful birds are actually shot on sight. We invite you to help us to prevent this sad destruction and preserve a heritage which belongs to us all.



Women Naturalists of North East England



Happy 190th Birthday NHSN!

What an extraordinary achievement, one hundred and ninety years of inspiring wonder in the natural world! So, what are the attributes that have ensured our survival and growth?

Firstly, we were pioneers! Creating NHSN was in itself a challenge back in 1829, breaking away from the established Literary and Philosophical Society, creating our first and subsequent Museums and taking the bold step to publish discoveries in a new journal – the *Transactions* – now *Northumbrian Naturalist*. The longevity of this publication provides a remarkable reference, not only to the historical discovery of our regional natural history, but also charts the individuals who did such remarkable research and enriched our museum collections. It featured research by figures such as Joshua Alder, Albany Hancock, George Brady, Henry Bowman Brady and Thomas Atthey, among many others. The extraordinary figure of John Hancock stands supreme in our history for the way he met the challenge when the decision was taken to create a new museum. Thanks to his skills, connections and energy it opened to the public in 1884, remaining an icon to all Northumbrians and much loved by generations of Tynesiders.

Secondly, evening lectures brought people together and field meetings cemented close relationships. In 1846, the formation of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club (TNFC) as an offshoot of NHSN, marked a key shift in the study of natural history in the region; natural history became a social pursuit as naturalists enjoyed field outings, observing, collecting and studying in each other's company, learning from one another. Bringing people together as a forum and community has led to many collaborations with wildlife, civic and scientific organisations; Newcastle University has been our closest and longest friend and partner throughout that history.

Thirdly, we widened access to natural history early on, by giving free access to our first museum in 1835. This was ground-breaking at that time, when most museums were available only to the elite of society. In 1836, we invited disabled children and charity schools to experience natural history and also encouraged public attendance to our lectures from the 1850s; these are all indicators of our early desire to welcome anyone with an interest in natural history. We fostered 'outreach' – long before that term was coined.

Finally, we have adapted to changing times. Following the lease of our Museum and collections in 1960, we continued as an orthodox natural history society with indoor and outdoor programmes. Our overall approach was again reviewed in the 1970s and late 2000's.



"Many congratulations on reaching your 190th anniversary and for all that your members have achieved in advancing our knowledge of the world around us. Such an understanding has never been more valuable if we are to solve the problems that the natural world is facing today."

Best wishes

David Attenborough

Leading and implementing these changes have been a long and prestigious cast of Trustees, Section leads, staff and volunteers, all vital to the planning and delivery of our programme.

Bringing our story up to date, we continue to evolve with Towards 2029, which provides our road map to our 200th anniversary. Through this project we visited our past to shape the future. For example, we will reconnect with early support of young people through the 1829 talks and the Lantern Fund. We will strengthen our focus on the social and cultural history of natural history in North East England. This builds on our historic and recent work on Thomas Bewick, Albany Hancock, Margaret R Dickinson and the 'Women Naturalists of North East England' initiative. We aim to increase our contribution to regional nature conservation by building up the skills of new and existing naturalists throughout the region. We are ensuring that Gosforth Park Nature Reserve is not only protected, but also is a vital field station for urban ecological research, and a learning centre for naturalists.

We are looking outward to the region and beyond and how we respond to major global problems, not least the Climate Emergency. A wide range of environmental/wildlife organisations have already made commitments to action – will NHSN take some bold steps too?

Our long and distinguished history indicates we have been extraordinarily creative, and that despite our age, we can continue to be so!

Happy Birthday NHSN!



Peter Davis, Trustee

NHSN Timeline

Below are a selection of moments from our 190 year history. We hope it stimulates your memories, curiosity and fondness for our rich and studious past.

1829 The Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle Upon Tyne is born from the Lit and Phil Society.

First talk held on the Bewick Swan by R. R. Wingate.

An account read at a meeting 'On a Honey Buzzard shot in the Parish of Whittingham'.

1830 Meeting presenting 'A Catalogue of the Land and Freshwater Mollusca' by Joshua Alder.

Meeting to discuss a Whin Dyke lately discovered in the Fenham Division of Benwell Colliery.

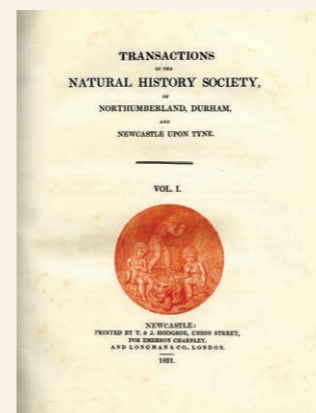
Meeting to discuss 'Remarks on the geology of the Banks of the Tweed from Carham, in Northumberland to the sea coast at Berwick, by N.J. Winch.

Meeting to read 'Sketch of the Life and Works of the late Thomas Bewick' by George C. Atkinson.

1831 First Society Transaction published Paper read 'On A Few Observations On The Curious Mechanical Feats Of A Small Species Of Spider'.

Paper read on 'Some account of a whale stranded near Berwick upon Tweed'.

Paper read on 'A Catalogue of The Birds Hitherto Met Within the Counties of Northumberland and Durham'.



1834 First Museum opens (now part of the Railway Station).

1835 Free of charge monthly public access to the Museum.

1836 Children's charity schools welcomed to the Museum.

1838 Paper on 'the Flora of Northumberland and Durham' by Nathaniel John Winch.

Paper on 'Observations on the young of Salmon and some remarks on the migration of eels' by H.T. Liddell.

1845-1855 Monograph of the Nudibranchiate Mollusca by Albany Hancock and Joshua Alder published.



1846 Formation of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club promoting protection of local flora, positive influencing of landowners and protecting birds of prey.



1851 First public evening lectures to enable 'working classes to attend'. A poster from 1894.

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1860s Our first Newcastle Museum.



1865 Field meetings included Hartford Bridge, Naworth, Wark, Deepdale, Marsden and Snowhope Burn.

Paper 'On Human and other remains found in a cavern near Ryhope Colliery'.

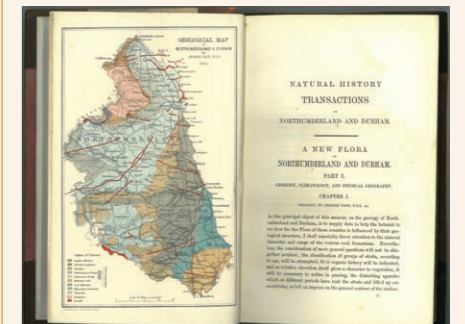
1866 Paper 'On Salmon in the Tyne from Superintendent Geo Harkus'

John Hancock notes a considerable abundance of Waxwing in the winter with shot specimens supplied by Sir WG Armstrong, some unfortunately destroyed by a cat.

1867 The Herbarium received Sir W C. Trevelyan's large collection of British Plants.

Paper 'On the observation of early spring Humming-bird Hawk Moth'.

1868 Publication of A New Flora of Northumberland and Durham by J G Baker and G. R. Tate.



1873-76. George Clayton Atkinson's 'Catalogue of the More Remarkable Trees of Northumberland and Durham'. First report of tree damage chemical pollution.



No. 15. Dead Trees at Washington, destroyed by fumes of Chemical Works.

1874 Publication of 'A Catalogue of the Birds of Northumberland and Durham' by John Hancock.

1876 Evening talks on the attempt to reintroduce Capercaillie to Northumberland.

1877 Paper and talk on 'A Naturalists view of the Extension of the Close Time of the Sea Birds Preservation Act in Northumberland'.

The Presidential address provides full accounts of field meetings to Gosforth Lake, Farne Islands, Staward Peel, Stanhope and Leyburn.

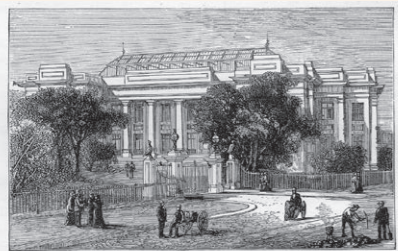
Paper on the 'So called Sculptured Rocks of North Northumberland'.

1878 The Presidential address provides full account of field meetings to Middleton-one-Row, Castle Eden Dene, Brampton, Newbiggin and Bishop Auckland.

Paper on the effects of severe winter on the birds and plants at Dunston Hill
Paper on the breeding of the Stock Dove.

1879 The Presidential address provides full account of field meetings to Axwell Park, High Force, Ripon and Studley Royal, Whittingham, Crag Lough and Prudhoe, Ovingham and Whittle Dene.

1884 Our new Natural History Museum opens at its present location.



Local children's charities welcomed to the new Museum free of charge.

1887 Transactions paper on 'A Catalogue of Place-names of Teesdale' by D. Embleton

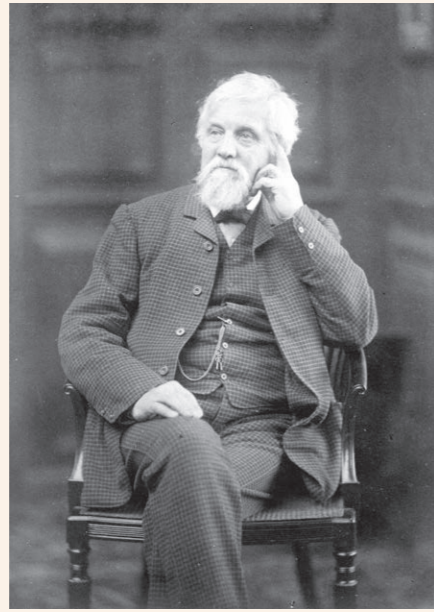
Paper 'On the History of the Early Life of a Hedgehog'.

1888 Young people's Saturday talks (900 attend the first talk!)

Paper 'On a curious proceeding of a bullfinch killing a chaffinch' by John Hancock.

Paper 'On hybrid of Yellow bunting and reed bunting captured in Northumberland' by John Hancock.

1891 The Museum renamed the Hancock Museum after John Hancock (below) and his brother Albany.



1896 Launch of natural history Hancock Essay Competition.

1897 Museum collections are loaned to schools.

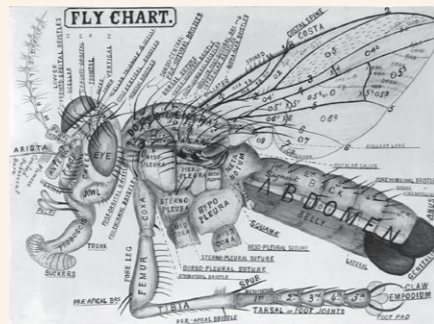
Youth Membership begins.

Blind groups invited to the Museum to handle collections.

1899 Publication of 'The Catalogue of the Birds of the Hancock Collection' by curator Richard Howse.

1902 Two young people's Christmas lectures delivered by lantern light
Seven winter lectures to widen public interest.

1906 Publishing of 'A Preliminary List of Durham Diptera' by Rev Wingate.



Field meetings to Derwent Valley, Devil's Water, Naworth, Castle Eden Dene, Middleton-one-Row and Alnmouth.

Paper on 'The Northumberland Coast in September, an ornithological ramble by George W. Temperley.

Winning essay on 'A Day with the Birds on the Northumberland Coast' Mr GW Temperley.

1907 Chairman of the Field Meetings reports full accounts of visits to Gibside, Cauldron Snout, Bellingham, Howens Gill, Budle Bay and Bamburgh
Transaction paper, 'The Glacial Phenomena of the Country between the Tyne and the Wansbeck' by J.A. Smyth.

1908 Children's lectures attract a maximum of 140 children.

Transactions paper on 'The Crustacea of Northumberland and Durham' by Canon AM Norman.

Winning Hancock Essay was by Mr Charles Robson titled, 'A Naturalist Ramble in Mid-July'.

Member, Frederick Raine and some of his friends before a botanical field outing.

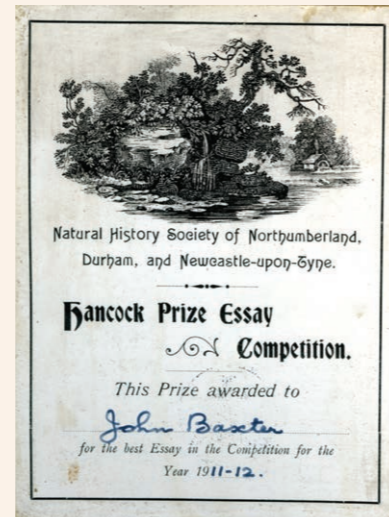


Museum Curator's notes: 'After completion of her duties Miss Welford was allowed to relax and set a large number of Lepidoptera'.

1909 Curator Museum Talks on whales, bird nests, English song birds and The Sportsmans Birds.

Evening meetings held on the topics of Movement in Plants by Jos Angus and 'The Ice Age in South East Northumberland' by Ernest Scott.

1911 Example of a Prize Bookplate from the Hancock Essay Competition.



Field meetings to meet the Derwent Naturalists' Field Club and Gateshead Teachers Natural History Society.

1912 Around 4,000 school children are visiting the Museum each year and a further 15,000 adults.

Winter talks on orchids, the North Sea, Plant Life of Woodlands.

Transactions paper on 'Two newly-discovered Whin-Dykes on the Coast of Northumberland' by J. A. Smythe.

1913 The Museum sees a fall in visits from local schools, but a rise in visits from Grammar schools.

Evening meetings led on topics of 'Micro-Organisms of the North Sea', 'Colours of Flowers', and 'The Pollination of Flowers'.

1914 Young Peoples afternoon lectures on 'Shore Life' and 'A Thimbleful of Pond Water'.

Evening meetings on 'Crystals' and 'Some Parasites of Man and the Natural History of Disease'.

Funding appeal launched for an endowment fund for the Museum.

Reports of field meetings to Mitford, Rothley, Upper Teasdale, Edlingham, Howick and Marsden.

The Museum hosts academics from Armstrong College whose premises are being used as a Military Hospital.

Soldiers and sailors in uniform granted free admission to the Museum.

Exhibits of wildflowers displayed in the Museum and used by visitors to identify what they find in the field.

1915 Chairman of Field Meetings full reports to Barrasford, Aycliffe and Bradbury, Howens Gill and Bamburgh.

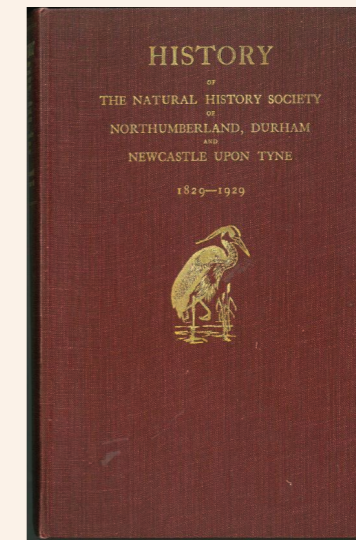
Evening lectures cease in the winter due to risk of lights attracting foreign aircraft.

1917 Museum attendance reached 31,640, a rise from 22,242 the previous year. A large proportion are convalescing armed forces personnel and are welcomed free of charge.

1918 The end of the War sees staff from Armstrong College leave the Museum as their temporary home.

1926 Pilot of winter lectures to popularise our work.

1929 First Society biography written by T. Russell Goddard.



1929 W. E. Beck passed the shooting rights at Gosforth Park to the Society, enabling management of the reserve.

1929 100th birthday of the Natural History Society.



1935 Colin S. Pittendrigh's entry to Hancock Essay 'Gosforth Park: A Naturalist's Guide'.



1937 Catharine Hodgkin is the first woman elected to Society Council.

1946 Catharine Hodgkin bird ringing on the Farne Islands.



1951 The Society begin tagging grey seals on the Farne Islands.

1954 Seal weighing on the Farne Islands.



1959 Transactions publication on 'The Grey Seals of Farne Islands' by Grace Hickling.

Public lectures for young people prove increasingly popular.

Widespread public protest at killing of ten grey seal calves supervised by the Government.

The 'Earth as a Planet' Museum exhibition helps fill a unique role in the North East, 'providing laymen pleasurable instruction and lucid replies to his queries...'

1960 Kings College (Newcastle University) agreement of 99-year lease of Hancock Museum

Transactions paper on 'Marine algae of the Inner Farne' by Betty Moss

Opening of the Museum Percy Hedley Lecture Theatre. increased seating is still not sufficient for the number of young people attending lectures

1961 Bird ringing totalled 7,801 birds (6,354 on Farne Islands).

'Bird in the Bush' poster was made to reduce the number of birds shot. 1000 posters distributed to licenced houses.



1962 Increasing concern about trespass and egg stealing at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

The Society recognise the 'important step in the cause of Conservation' in wishing well the formation of Northumberland and Durham Naturalists' Trust (the local wildlife trusts).

1963 Junior Natural History film club runs at the Museum.

The Society wish to develop its 'Gosforth Park Bird Sanctuary' from an 'educational point of view'.

Dr Francis Rose attends the Botany Section with 'A comparison of the flora on each side of the straits of Dover'.

1964 Members offer volunteer patrols of Gosforth Park Bird Sanctuary to reduce trespass.

Seal culling on Farnes caused unexpected outcry with many naturalists expressing disapproval.

Transactions paper on 'The birds of Tees-side' by P. J. Stead.

1965 *Bulletin* magazine first published (now *North East Nature*)

Young people's lectures cannot meet the demand! Most are attentive and well-behaved... a small minority can readily cause a disturbance...'

Transactions paper on Roe deer in Northumberland.

1966 Publication of Guide to the geology of Northumberland and the Borders' by Dr D. A. Robson.

1967 The local wildlife trust hold nature trails for schools at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

1968 Youth clubs, wildlife trusts and the Regiment of Royal Engineers helped at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve building hides, clearing footpaths and ditches.

1969 Compulsory Purchase Order of part of the Museum grounds, and loss of trees for the creation of a new road. Original heron logo in use.



1970 Lake Lodge purchased at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve for Volunteer Reserve Warden.



1971 First record of nesting Great Crested Grebes at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

1973 Following the previous years survey, new sections and practical training and visits overseas were introduced as new activities.

1974 Society amends name to be the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN).

1975 Grace Hickling donates a fairly complete set of the late Professor H. G. A. Hickling's geological papers to the archive.

1976 Yellow colour ringing of Sandwich Terns and Puffins on the Farne Islands.

1977 Publication of Dr D. A. Robson's 'A Guide to the Geology of the Cheviot Hills'.

1978 The Society lend 200 drawings to an exhibition marking the 150th anniversary since the death of Thomas Bewick.

1979 Society's 150th birthday celebrations held in the Hancock Museum.



1980 Grace Hickling writes the second biography of the Society for the period 1929 to 1979.

1981 Publication of 'The Geology of North East England' by D. A. Robson.

1982 Lowered water level and hot weather created problems for Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

1983 The Society purchased 'The Fables of Aesop and Others' and 'A New Family Herbal', featuring works by Thomas Bewick at a cost of £388.

1984 A membership drive led to hand delivery of promotional leaflets to households in Tyne and Wear, and a travelling exhibition produced by Sunderland Polytechnic.

1985 Transaction paper on 'Early bird records for Northumberland and Durham' by Dr D. Gardner-Medwin.

1986 North Tyneside Council buy St Mary's Lighthouse for use as a natural history study centre, and it is hoped the Society will be involved.

1987 More than half of Gosforth Park Nature Reserve is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



A. M. Tynan in Gosforth Park Nature Reserve, April 1980

1988 Tony Tynan awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

1991 Nuthatches and Green Woodpecker are present at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve, but neither yet confirmed as a breeding bird.

1993 Talk at the AGM by Tony Tynan, 'Gosforth Park Bird Sanctuary' an Oologist's paradise'.

1994 'Flora of Northumberland' published.



1996 Camberwell Beauty butterfly observed near entrance to Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

1997 Increased threat to Gosforth Park Nature Reserve from the Development Plan by North Tyneside Council.

1998 Midweek Botany Group formed.

1999 Documenting and protecting the wildlife corridor north of Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

2000 Otter seen at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve, a first for many years. Major lake improvements at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

2001 Protecting wildlife corridors by lobbying the local Public Inquiry for the Urban Development plan. Ornithology Section hold a talk on 'Wildlife and the Law' given by Local Wildlife Liaison Officer.

2002 Membership is surveyed for ideas for improving the Society.

2003 Exhibition of Thomas Bewick's portraits for 250th anniversary of his birth.

2004 NHSN 175th anniversary event at Blagdon Hall.



Purchase of *New Illustrations of Zoology* by Peter Brown (1774).

2005 NHSN sign new lease agreement with Newcastle University for the Hancock Museum.



2006 Exhibition of Nudibranch watercolours by Albany Hancock.

2007 The Watercolour Collection of British wildflowers by Margaret R. Dickinson goes online.

2008 Fish stock released into Gosforth Park Nature Reserve lake.



2009 Launch of our adult education classes.

Conference on North East naturalists including William Turner and John Hancock.

New Museum facilities for the NHSN archive and library collection.

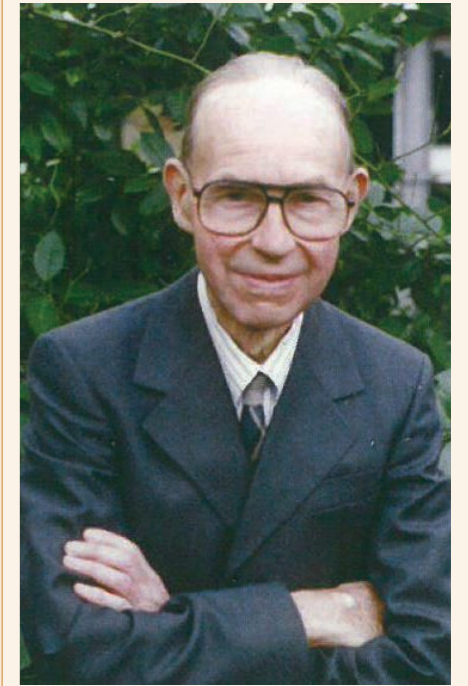
New logo for NHSN created by NHSN member, Joan Holding and Marketing Manager, Jane Brown.

2010 *Transactions* Journal renamed *Northumbrian Naturalist*.

2011 New NHSN website goes live!



2012 Professor George A. Swan legacy of his herbarium, books and archives donated to NHSN.



Save Gosforth Wildlife Campaign. Newcastle City Council dropped plans to build 600 houses on fields surrounding Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.



2013 New tern platform installed at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.



Gosforth Park Nature Reserve – the Movie! Young film-maker and member Cain Scrimgeour made a film of GPNR through the seasons.

2014 Campaign against planning application for housing adjacent to Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.
Gift of seven Thomas Bewick woodblocks.



2015 Eco loo installed at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.



Ridley Hide and boardwalk opened at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.



2016 Art in Wilderness project with Knop Law School and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums.



2017 Arctic Tern geolocators research by Dr Chris Redfern.



Winter talks move to the Ridley Building, Newcastle University

2018 Heritage Lottery Funded 'Towards 2029' project begins
Launch of 1829 talks by early career university scientists



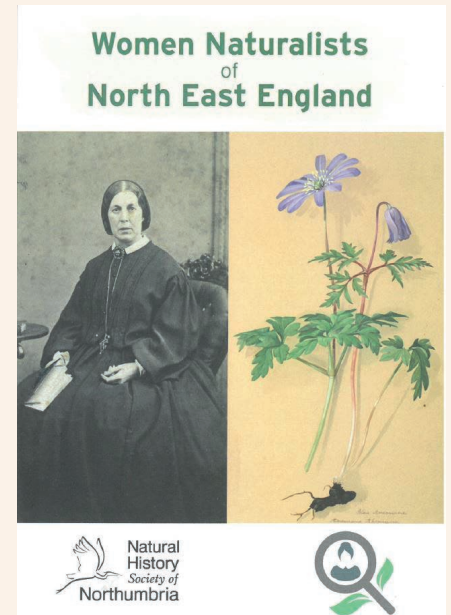
Twenty years of Mid-week botany group celebrated.



Lantern Fund group visit the Farnes with Children North East.



'Women Naturalists of North East England' exhibition.



Student Naturalist Award Scheme launched to recognise experience gained by volunteering.



2019 Record number of people visit Gosforth Park Nature Reserve at two open days and a bioblitz as part of global City Nature Challenge.

190th anniversary event in the Museum with Dippy the Diplodocus from the Natural History Museum.

