

THE FAUNA OF SCOTLAND SERIES

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INTRODUCTION

Just over a quarter of a century after its establishment in 1851 the Natural History Society of Glasgow launched an ambitious project, called the Fauna of Scotland series. This may be little known to many of the Society's members nowadays, but although the series did not actually succeed in its primary aim, in retrospect it can be seen to have laid the foundation for a great deal of pioneer research on the natural history of the Clyde area. In this 150th anniversary year, therefore, it seems desirable to draw attention to this early work of our Society.

THE 1876 B.A. HANDBOOK

In September 1876 the British Association held its Annual Meeting in Glasgow, and a Handbook on many aspects of local natural history was published to accompany the meeting. The production of this Handbook was largely undertaken by the Glasgow Society of Field Naturalists (established 1871, and apparently particularly active in botany) a society which later, in April 1879, amalgamated with the Natural History Society of Glasgow.

The format of this Handbook was slightly unusual. On the front cover, under the British Association heading, it was called 'On the Fauna and Flora of the West of Scotland', but the contents were divided into two distinct parts, each part with its own title-page. The first of these was entitled 'Notes on the Fauna and Flora of the West of Scotland' and contained accounts, in narrative form, of the mammals, birds, insects, vascular flora and cryptogamic flora. The second, and main, part was entitled 'A Contribution towards a Complete List of the Fauna and Flora of Clydesdale and the West of Scotland. Compiled under the auspices of the Society of Field Naturalists, Glasgow', and this contained Clyde locality lists, sometimes extensive, on a great many subjects. Several members of the Natural History Society of Glasgow, although not personally members of the Field Naturalists, made significant contributions, and this assistance was acknowledged in the Preface and in the text.

For its time, this Handbook was an important publication, which produced pioneer accounts of many aspects of Clyde fauna and flora.

CATALOGUES OF THE FAUNA OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

Clearly stimulated by this 1876 publication, one year later the Natural History Society of Glasgow embarked on a much more ambitious project, the aim of which was "the preparation of Catalogues of the Fauna of the West of Scotland". This was first advertised in a separate leaflet (now rare), dated September 1877, enclosed with (but not part of) Volume 3, part 2 of the N.H.S.G. *Proceedings*, and the project was reported to the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Society on 25th September 1877 (*Proceedings*, Vol. 3, part 3, page 222).

At this Annual General Meeting it was announced that "the compilation of lists of the Fauna of the Clyde valley should be taken up without further delay, the Flora of the district having been efficiently catalogued by Mr. R. Henedy and other botanists", and (later) at the time of the amalgamation of the Glasgow Society of Field Naturalists, "the Field Naturalists having given considerable attention to the study of Botany, a department of Natural History which has not for some time been so prominent at the meetings of this Society as it deserves" (*Proceedings*, 4: 116).

The original 1877 leaflet (Figure 1) contained no less than 48 sections of vertebrate and invertebrate zoology which the Society eventually expected to publish, and prospective authors were announced for 25 of these sections. The authors were well-established authorities, who usually had already published, sometimes extensively, on their subjects, and originally included Francis G. Binnie, Peter Cameron, James Lumsden, David Robertson, and Henry C. Young; David Robertson was announced as prospective author for no less than eleven subjects. Later E.R. Alston was added to the list of authors, and later still J.M. Campbell and J.J. King. There were also some changes in authors and subjects; for example, E.R. Alston taking over mammals from James Lumsden, and later J.M. Campbell (after Alston's permanent removal to London) taking over reptiles and amphibians from Alston.

THE FAUNA OF SCOTLAND

As can be seen from the original 1877 leaflet, the project was first called 'Catalogues of the Fauna of the West of Scotland', and the lists were

CATALOGUES OF THE FAUNA OF THE
WEST OF SCOTLAND.

THE Natural History Society of Glasgow has undertaken the preparation of Catalogues of the Fauna of the West of Scotland, and in this work requests the co-operation of all interested in Scottish Zoology. The following Zoologists have agreed to draw up lists of the species in the various groups to which their names are appended; and any Naturalists who can furnish information regarding the distribution of species, the variations which they undergo in particular localities, the altitudes which they reach, and generally any notes bearing on the subject, will greatly oblige by communicating with these gentlemen. Although the lists are primarily intended for the West of Scotland, and more particularly for the Clyde Valley, yet it is optional with the individual compilers to include the whole of Scotland, should their information be extensive enough.

The Council would also be glad to hear from any Zoologists (whether members of the Society or not) who would undertake to prepare Catalogues of these classes for which no compilers have as yet been obtained.

As far as possible, the Catalogues will be drawn up on a uniform plan. They will be printed to range with the Proceedings of the Society, and will be issued to members along with them, although paged apart for future collection. Copies will also be issued for sale separately.

The first Part will probably appear in the course of this year.

GLASGOW, September, 1877.

<i>Monera</i> ,	-	-	-
<i>Labyrinthulera</i> ,	-	-	-
<i>Rhizopoda</i> ,	-	-	-
<i>Flagellata</i> ,	-	-	-
<i>Protozoa</i> ,	-	-	-
<i>Radolaria</i> ,	-	-	-
<i>Gregarina</i> ,	-	-	-

Any further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Natural History Society of Glasgow, Mr ROBERT MASON, 29 West George Street, Glasgow.

[illegible]

Fig. 1 The original 1877 leaflet outlining the plan for the *Fauna of Scotland* series.

THE FAUNA OF SCOTLAND;

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CLYDESDALE AND THE
WESTERN DISTRICT.

THE Natural History Society of Glasgow, having resolved to publish Catalogues of the Fauna of Scotland, with special reference to Clydesdale and the Western District, requests the co-operation of all interested in Scottish Zoology. The following zoologists have agreed to draw up lists of the species in the various groups to which their names are appended. Any observers who can furnish information regarding the distribution of species, the variations which they undergo in particular localities, the altitudes which they reach, and generally any notes bearing on the subject, will further the object in view by communicating with these gentlemen, the lists being now in preparation.

The Council will also be glad to hear from any zoologists (whether members of the Society or not) who would undertake to prepare Catalogues of those classes for which no compilers have as yet been obtained.

As far as possible, the Catalogues will be drawn up on one uniform plan, and of the same size as the *Proceedings* of the Society, with which they will be issued to the members, although paged apart for future collection. A limited number of copies will also be printed for separate sale.

<i>Rhizopoda</i> ,	David Robertson, F.L.S., F.G.S. (42 Kelvingrove Street, Glasgow.)
<i>Actinozoa</i> ,	Do.
<i>Echinoidea</i> ,	Do.
<i>Stellerida</i> ,	Do.
<i>Mollusca</i> ,	Do.
<i>Crustacea</i> (Part I., Ostracoda, issued),	Do.
<i>Acartina</i> ,	Peter Cameron.
<i>Araneina</i> ,	Henry C. Young, (23 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow.)
<i>Arthrogastra</i> ,	Do.
<i>Myriopoda</i> ,	Do.
<i>Thysanoptera</i> ,	Peter Cameron.
<i>Mallophaga</i> ,	Do.
<i>Thansoptera</i> ,	Do.
<i>Orthoptera</i> ,	Do.
<i>Trichoptera</i> ,	Do.
<i>Diptera</i> (in part),	Francis G. Binnie, (33 Bath Street.)
<i>Hymenoptera</i> (Part I. issued),	Do.
<i>Pisces</i> ,	Peter Cameron.
<i>Reptilia</i> ,	David Robertson, F.L.S., F.G.S.
<i>Amphibia</i> ,	E. R. Alston, (14 Maldox Street, London, W.)
<i>Mammalia</i> (issued),	Do.
<i>Aves</i> ,	James Lumsden, F.Z.S. (Arden, Dumbartonshire.)

Fig. 2 The revised (1880) plan for the *Fauna of Scotland* series.

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<i>Echinoidea</i> ,	Do.
<i>Stellerida</i> ,	Do.
<i>Mollusca</i> ,	Do.
<i>Crustacea</i> (Part I., Ostracoda, issued),	Do.
<i>Acartina</i> ,	Peter Cameron.
<i>Araneina</i> ,	Henry C. Young, (23 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow.)
<i>Arthrogastra</i> ,	Do.
<i>Myriopoda</i> ,	Do.
<i>Thysanoptera</i> ,	Peter Cameron.
<i>Mallophaga</i> ,	Do.
<i>Thansoptera</i> ,	Do.
<i>Orthoptera</i> ,	Do.
<i>Trichoptera</i> ,	Do.
<i>Planipennia</i> ,	Francis G. Binnie, (124 Bath Street, Glasgow.)
<i>Pseudo-Neuroptera</i> ,	J. J. King, (207 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.)
<i>Diptera</i> (in part),	Do.
<i>Hymenoptera</i> (Part I. issued),	Francis G. Binnie.
<i>Pisces</i> ,	Peter Cameron.
<i>Reptilia</i> ,	David Robertson, F.L.S., F.G.S.
<i>Amphibia</i> ,	J. M. Campbell, (Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow.)
<i>Mammalia</i> (issued),	Do.
<i>Aves</i> ,	E. R. Alston. James Lumsden, F.Z.S. (Arden, Dumbartonshire.)

Fig. 3 The further (1881) plan for the *Fauna of Scotland* series.

"primarily intended for the West of Scotland, and more particularly the Clyde Valley, yet it is optional with the individual compilers to include the whole of Scotland, should their information be extensive enough". One year later, however, the project had been somewhat ambitiously renamed 'The Fauna of Scotland; with special reference to Clydesdale and the Western District'. Nevertheless, by far the greatest part of the information, contained in the four parts eventually published, concerns status and distribution within the Clyde area, which is perfectly understandable, and since then these Fauna of Scotland publications have usually, and correctly, been regarded as important primary contributions to Clyde natural history.

Like so many similar ideas, however, the original ambitious and laudable project eventually ground to a halt, and, in the event, only four parts of the Fauna of Scotland series were ever published. It is difficult to understand why no others were completed; the chosen authors were prominent and well-qualified naturalists of their day, who knew their subjects well and already had sound records of publication, sometimes extensively so, and the facilities for ready publication were in place and easily available. Clearly there was considerable initial enthusiasm, and the project got off to a flying start, but as is so often the case, the initial impetus was lost and ultimately simply petered out.

The slackening of momentum was obvious. In the original 1877 leaflet announcing the project, 48 subjects were listed, but by the time of the advertisements which appeared in the *Proceedings* of 1880 (Vol. 4, part 1) and 1881 (Vol. 4, part 2), the number of proposed subjects had been reduced to just over 20 (Figures 2 and 3). The comments on the development of the project are also illuminating; in 1877 some of the lists were "already in a state of forwardness", in 1878 and 1880 various other lists were "nearly ready for publication", but by 1881 they were merely "preparing for publication", and this continued to be the description printed until 1889, after which no more was heard about other parts being forthcoming.

With regard to the four parts which did actually appear, these were all first published as separately-paged supplements to the Natural History Society of Glasgow's *Proceedings* (but not always listed in the Tables of Contents) and were later issued for sale separately, although unfortunately these parts for re-sale gave no indication that they had originally been published as part of the *Proceedings*, an omission which has sometimes caused confusion in subsequent lists of references. The Scottish Natural History Library possesses both original and re-sale forms, and the full publication details are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Published parts of the Fauna of Scotland series

All parts were issued with the preliminary title of

The Fauna of Scotland
with special reference to
Clydesdale
and the
Western District

Peter Cameron (1878). Hymenoptera. Part 1. *Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Glasgow*, **3** (Part 3, supplement): 1-52. Issued for re-sale in the same year (1878) at 1/6d.

Edward R. Alston (1880). Mammalia. *Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Glasgow*, **4** (Part 1, supplement): 1-39. Issued for re-sale in the same year (1880) at 1/6d.

David Robertson (1880). Fresh and Brackish-water Ostracoda. *Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Glasgow*, **4** (Part 1, supplement): 1-35. Issued for re-sale in the same year (1880) at 1/6d. This part was advertised as 'Crustacea Part 1 - Ostracoda', but the actual title on the title-page is as given above.

Peter Cameron (1886). Hymenoptera. Part 2. *Proceedings and Transactions of the Natural History Society of Glasgow*, **1(NS)** (Part 2, supplement): 1-95. Issued for re-sale in the same year (1886) at 1/6d.

THE 1901 B.A. HANDBOOK

Although the original Fauna of Scotland series ultimately ceased almost before it had got properly started, the actual parts which were, in fact, eventually published are very useful pioneer accounts of Clyde natural history, and should be respected as such. In addition, much of the basic work done for the unpublished subjects in the series was certainly later used, or acted as the springboard for, the truly remarkable Handbook issued for the 1901 Glasgow meeting of the British Association. There is no doubt that, had it not been for the pioneer work undertaken for the old Fauna of Scotland series, the 1901 British Association Handbook on the 'Fauna, Flora and Geology of the Clyde Area', which formed such a sound and excellent platform for future research, would either not have appeared, or would have been infinitely less comprehensive.

The efforts of the Natural History Society of Glasgow in the late 1870s and early 1880s, even although they were only partly successful in their original aim, should therefore be given proper acknowledgement and acclaim.



Gibson, J A. 2001. "The Fauna of Scotland series." *The Glasgow naturalist* 23(6), 100–103.

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