

HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

1950

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

Chairman:

C. F. TEBBUTT.

Hon. Secretary:

J. E. H. BLACKIE, F.R.E.S., The Bell House, Alconbury.
Tel: Woolley 270.

Hon. Treasurer:

D. A. DAVIES, Darholm, Perry Road, Buckden.

Committee:

J. L. GILBERT, MRS. J. E. H. BLACKIE, R. V. KEYWORTH,
R. CONNAN, W. PRATT ANDERSON (Social Secretary).

Referees:

Flora - - - - J. L. GILBERT, Riverside, Wansford.

Birds - - - - C. F. TEBBUTT, The Ferns, Eynesbury, St. Neots.

Macro-lepidoptera - J. E. H. BLACKIE.

Aphides - - - - MISS B. HAMLYN, Everton Vicarage, Sandy.

Coleoptera - - - - REV. C. F. TOTTENHAM, Zoology School, Cambridge.

Annual Report for 1950

No. 3

The Annual General Meeting was held at Huntingdon on Saturday, February 25th, and the officers named above were elected for 1950-51. The following events took place during the year :

June 3rd.—Expedition to Monks Wood with the Cambridge Natural History Society.

June 17th.—Expedition to Wood Walton Fen.

Oct. 27th.—Conversazione at Huntingdon Grammar School, with Exhibition, Films and Records.

Membership is now 77, two more than our aim for 1950.

MAMMALS

Deer : A large deer (?Fallow) was again seen in Midloe Wood. Hounds put it up on December 27th. The same, or another, has been seen in Paxton and Brampton Woods in which latter marks of antler rubbing on tree trunks have been noticed. (C.F.T.)

Otter : Tracks and marks in the snow at Little Paxton, December, 1950 (C.F.T.) Young heard on Nene at Stibbington 11.3 and 28.8. (J.L.G.)

Shrew : Mr. J. L. Gilbert writes : " I notice in V.C.H. that the Pigmy Shrew is said to be rare in Huntingdonshire. Our cat has caught a few of these (4.10.48 and 1.6) and the one caught in June I sent along to Mr. H. J. Wain for verification. He replied : ' I am of the opinion that it is a Lesser or Pigmy Shrew. The line of demarcation between the two species is not always easy to define, but from the measurements I made, I believe it to be the Lesser Shrew.' " Mr. Gilbert also records Water Shrews and Common Shrews from Wansford.

LEPIDOPTERA

There is an almost complete absence of reports on this order. A few notes from Mr. Leeds and one or two from other sources are all the material that I have to add to my own observations.

Many normally common species were scarce or absent, owing no doubt to the mild winter and wet summer, but a few were more numerous than usual, notably the Black Hairstreak and the Marbled White. The latter extended its range southwards to Papworth

and Fenstanton (but stopped abruptly just north of these two villages) and north-eastwards to Ramsey Heights.

The following notes, read in conjunction with the V.C.H. list should be of interest :

Lysandra coridon. (*Chalkhill Blue*). A single example was seen at Wood Walton in August by Mr. M. Poore, of Cambridge. **This is an addition to the County List.** This chalk-loving butterfly occasionally wanders from its haunts and, more rarely, establishes itself in noncalcareous districts. The nearest known localities are the Devil's Dyke at Newmarket and Therfield Heath, Royston.

Caterocephalus palaemon (*Chequered Skipper*). A diligent search in the locality discovered in 1948 failed to discover any specimens.

Acherontia atropos (*Death's Head*). Several pupae came to hand from St. Ives, Buckworth, Sawtry and elsewhere.

Eremobia ochroleuca (*Dusky Sallow*). Alconbury, at light. 9.8.

Plusia gamma (*Silver Y*). Incredibly abundant throughout the summer. It swarmed every evening at Spur Valerian whatever the weather conditions.

Abrostola tripartita (*Spectacle*). Alconbury, 9.8. V.C.H. gives only St. Ives, Somersham, Old Fletton.

Catocalo nupta (*Red Underwing*). Taken Hartford 3.9 by Mr. D. Kime. Although V.C.H. gives "common," this is the first I have heard of it lately in the county.

Lampropteryx suffumata (*Water Carpet*). I saw two and took one in Monks Wood 17.6. V.C.H. gives it without locality on the authority of Captain J. A. Vipan. Such vague information is of little value, and the insect must be claimed as **an addition to the county list**, though doubtless Capt. Vipan, who was an accurate but secretive entomologist, recorded it correctly.

Publications

H. A. Leeds, British Aberrations of the Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Small Heath (3 coloured plates). (Proceedings of S. London Entomological and Natural History Society, 1948-49).

J. E. H. Blackie. Range and Distribution of *Strymonidia pruni*. L. (Entomologist, November, 1950). A few copies available free of charge.

J. E. H. BLACKIE, F.R.E.S.

ARACHNIDA AND MYRIAPODA

In the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* (85. March 49) appeared some notes by Dr. J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson, of Cambridge, on the Arachnida and Myriapoda of Holme Fen. With the exception of a preliminary list in V.C.H. nothing is known of the Arachnida and Myriapoda of the county and the following additions to the list were made by Dr. Cloudsley-Thompson at Holme on the single afternoon of June 6th, 1948:

MYRIAPODA: *Scutigera immaculata*, *Lithobius forficatus*, *Cryptops hortensis*, *Brachygeophilus truncorum*, *Polymicrodon polydesmoides*, *Brachydesmus superus mosellanus*, *Proteroiulus fuscus*, *Cylindroiulus punctatus*, *Schyzophyllum sabulosum*.

ARACHNIDA: *Belaustium quisquiliarum*, *Trombidium scharlathinum*, *Platybunus triangularis*, *Oligolophus tridens*, *Ciniflo forox*, *Clubiona corticalis*, *Zora spinimana*, *Lycosa nigriceps*, *Tetrax denticulata*, *Aranea sexpunctata*, *Stearodea bipunctata*, *Bathypantes concolor*, *Linyphia resupina domestica*.

MOLLUSCA

Mr. J. L. Gilbert records the following:—

Pyramidula rupestris. V. common at Stibbington.

An addition to the county list.

Planorbis nautilus. New Close Coves, Elton.

Hyalina draparnaldi. Stibbington.

Helix aspersa conoidea and *H.a. cornucopia*. Stibbington.

In a letter to Mr. C. F. Tebbutt, Mr. P. J. Manning draws attention to a list of freshwater mollusca found during the excavations of the bath at St. Ives and published in the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association for 1922. The deposit was of no great age and contained mediaeval glass so that it may be conjectured that the 59 species recorded are representative of the present-day fauna of the river.

The list includes the following rare or very rare species: *Limax arborum*, *Agriolimax agrestis*, *Vitrea crystallina*, *Polita nidula*, *P. radiatula*, *Zonitoides nitidus*, *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia costata*, *Arianta arbustorum*, *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Ancylus fluviatilis*, *Acroloxus lacustris*, *Planorbis crista*, *P. laucostoma*, *Physa fontinalis*, *Bythinella* sp. (previously unrecorded for Great Britain), *Anodota* sp., *Pisidium casertanum*, *P. pusillum*, *P. henslowanum*.

There is obviously a piece of extremely interesting research awaiting a conchologist at St. Ives.

BIRDS

I am glad to report that more records are being sent in by more of our own members as well as by members of Cambridge Bird Club, for which I am grateful. We now have a member (G. Alcock) living near Butler's Pit, Fletton, and able to visit it regularly. As Cambridge Bird Club are watching Peterborough Sewage Farm, future collaboration is very desirable on these complimentary sites.

A Bird Club formed at Gaynes Hall Borstal Institution has made some useful observations and done some ringing.

Following a visit by some members to a bird conference organised by Bedfordshire Natural History Society, R. D. Kime and R. Connan have started a study of winter rook roosts, a valuable piece of research, the results of which we shall hope to publish in the future.

In response to my appeal much information has come in regarding the status of the Tree Sparrow. I should like this year to definitely establish the presence or otherwise of the Willow Tit in the county.

Outstanding among the records given below is the first identification of the Spotted Redshank in Hunts. The Pied Flycatcher has not been reported for many years; the probable nesting of the Nightjar in one locality is of interest, as is the wintering of a flock of Shorteared Owls for the second year in succession.

Tufted Duck nested in new places, had a particularly successful breeding season and a nest was found and photographed for the first time. Butler's Pit, Fletton, continues to be one of the few inland waters where Pintail can be seen in quantity in the winter. The reporting of three Bitterns is unusual.

It is now known that wind and weather conditions greatly influence the routes of waders, terns, gulls and other passage migrants. Observers should therefore note wind force and direction and other weather conditions when making records.

Mr. D. W. Elliott, of Stagsden, Beds., has kindly sent me particulars of stuffed birds from Brampton Wood in his collection. They are: Hen Harrier (male), 1840. Common Buzzard, April 25th, 1840. Kite (female), April 14th, 1841.

In the last report a number of errors and omissions were not corrected in proof. The more obvious were: Page 7, para. 4, the total of Great Crested Grebes for 1949 should be 17 not 28. Page 9, para. 4. American Black and White Warbler should have been

in square brackets. To the end of the paragraph should be added "thought to be escapes."

I am grateful to all those who have sent in reports. All are valuable although only a selected portion can be published. Status reports of quite common birds will be of great interest in the future.

For the sake of economy only English names (as in the Handbook) have been used and contributors are distinguished by initials: John Gibbert (J.G.), E. T. Lees (E.L.), Cambridge Bird Club (C.B.C.), Mr. and Mrs. Blackie (B.), Roger Connan (R.C.), Mrs. Bevington (D.B.), R. D. Kime (R.K.), G. Alcock (G.A.), William Garnett (W.G.), C. Burge (C.B.), P. J. Measures (P.M.), L. A. C. Macnab (L.M.), J. S. Morton (J.M.), Recorder (Rec.)

Hooded Crow. 1950. Jan. 21st, one Buckden. March 5th, five Hamerton (R.K.) Nov. 7th, one Gt. Gransden. Dec. 3rd, three Eynesbury in snow storm (Rec.)

Rook. 1950. Continues generally to increase in spite of much shooting of young. Sample nest counts compared with 1949: St. Neots 339 (+ 19). Lt. Paxton 42 (- 7). (Rec.) John Bagley has counted a number of rookeries which are compared with the 1944 census: Huntingdon (4) 196 (+ 89). Brampton (2), 64 (+ 20). Buckden (2), 81 (- 82). Offord Cluny (2) 104 (- 28). Godmanchester (4), 83 (+ 21).

Magpie. 1950. Dec. 29th, Weald, one perched on back of pig rooting in a field waiting for grubs to be turned up.

Bullfinch. 1950. Still uncommon, but possibly increasing slightly. One pair all winter 1949/50 Hartford. Six St. Ives Thicket, young at Hartford (R.K.) Present Houghton (L.M.). Dec. 28th several near St. Ives Meadow (W.G.) Nest Gaynes Hall. (Rec.)

Brambling. 1950. Aug. 30th, one Great Paxton (L.A.)

Corn Bunting. 1950. Additions to list of breeding sites: Royston Road, Godmanchester; Hartford to Old Hurst; Buckden to Perry; Alconbury to Winwick; Tick Fen, Warboys (R.K.)

Tree Sparrow. 1950. Much useful information has come in, and it probably breeds over most of the county where there are nesting holes. Summer reports from St. Ives, Needingworth, Fenstanton, Hilton, Houghton Hill, Hartford and Farcet. (R.K., W.G., L.M., G.A.) Almost colony nesting takes place at Holywell (J.M.) Two nests in dead elm near Huntingdon; May 19th, three nests in pollard willows and two in thatch of cart shed, Buckden; May 23rd, one nest (seven eggs) in coach-house, Sawtrv; May 24th, one nest in haystack, Offord; May 25th, two nests in old woodpecker holes, Ellington (E.L.) In autumn they would seem to leave breeding sites. Farcet, none seen after end of October (G.A.) Hilton, last seen Oct. 14th (W.G.) In the south of the county many sparrow flocks in St. Neots area were examined up to the end of the year but no Tree Sparrows seen. Similar flocks early in the year contained many. Jan. 27th, Gt. Paxton, 15. Feb. 14th, Hail Weston, 15. April 2nd, Lt. Paxton, 10. (Rec.)

Yellow Wagtail. 1950. May 21st. Tick Fen, Warboys, two pairs and two single birds (R.K.) Family parties common at Lt. Paxton and Fenstanton pits in Sept., where they use communal roosts with Pied. Depart regularly first week October. (Rec.)

Grey Wagtail. 1950. Feb. one Houghton Hill (L.M.)

Pied Wagtail. 1950. Large numbers (50 +), young and adult, frequented Fenstanton and Lt. Paxton pits in Sept., roosting communally in willows and reeds. Flocks left early Oct., leaving odd birds that remained till end of year.

Nuthatch. 1950. Either increasing or perhaps commoner than supposed. New sites Huntingdon (W.G., Rec.) June 25th, pair Gaynes Hall (Rec.)

[*Willow Tit.*] 1950. April 4th. A pair almost certainly identified in Salome Wood (B.)

Longtailed Tit. 1950. Still increasing.

Spotted Flycatcher. 1950. Probably increasing. 10 nests found in vicinity Gaynes Hall, one brood of five did not fly until Aug. 29th (Rec.)

Pied Flycatcher. 1950. Oct. 24th, one Butler's Pit, Fletton (C.B.C.)

Goldcrest. 1950. April 13th, one Hartford. Oct. 25th, one Glatton (L.M.) Dec. 26th, one Hilton (W.G.)

Sedge Warbler. 1950. Further breeding sites, near Five Arch Bridge and Fenstanton Road, Hilton (W.G.)

Garden Warbler. 1950. Little known of status. May 17th, one Diddington Wood. Sept. 19th, one Hartford pit (R.K.)

Blackcap. Little known of status. 1949, present from 18th April, Hartford. 1950, May 17th, Diddington Wood. Present Hartford and St. Ives Thicket (R.K.) Nesting near Hilton (W.G.) May 7th, nest Eynesbury (C.B.)

Lesser Whitethroat. Status uncertain. 1950. Gt. Paxton, arrived April 26th, nest with one egg May 9th (L.A.) May 19th, nest St. Ives Thicket. May 24th, nest near Offord Mills (E.L.) Sept. 2nd, two Hartford (R.K.)

Wheatear. 1950. April 5th, small flock between Offord and Godmanchester (E.L.) May 7th, several Woodhurst, probably Greenland (R.K.) May 10th, one Houghton Hill (L.M.) Sept. 11th, one Gt. Paxton (L.A.)

Winchat. 1950. Early May, pair Wyton. May 10th, Diddington, one nest (E.L.)

Stonechat. 1950. March 5th, one Gt. Gidding (R.K.) March 6th, one St. Neots (Rec.)

Common Redstart. 1950. Pair seen near Brampton Hut, April 26th and May 3rd, probably nesting (E.L.) Pair Kimbolton seen during nesting season (Rec.)

Swallow. 1950. Oct. 14th. Gt. Staughton, a small passage flying W., wind S.W. Oct. 15th and 18th, all birds seen flying S. (Rec.)

Housemartin. 1950. Sept. 21st, St. Neots, pair still feeding young in nest (Rec.)

Sandmartin. 1949. July, Earith pits. 500 nesting holes and flying birds estimated 700. Fenstanton pits, 70 nesting holes (C.B.C.) 1950. Sept., several perching on iron chimney stay with other martins. (W.G.)

Nightjar. 1950. May 23rd, pair seen Archer's Wood, probably nested. (E.L.) Early Sept., one Perry. Head keeper Kimbolton says they ceased to nest there about 1939. (Rec.)

Kingfisher. 1950. Appears to be increasing, commonly seen on nearly all gravel pits and often far up the brooks, as at Alconbury, November. (B.), Gt. Staughton, Dec. 17th (Rec.), and Keyston (J.M.)

Woodpeckers. 1950. All three species have now recovered, and the two smaller probably surpassed their 1946 numbers. They are reported from nearly all over the county.

Wryneck. 1950. April 30th, one pair Hemingford Park (E.L.)

Shorteared Owl. 1949 and 1950. About 12 seen frequently from Oct. to end of year on rough grass field part of Kimbolton aerodrome. (Rec.) 1950, Dec., Brampton, one seen several times. (R.C.)

Kestrel. 1950. One of five ringed as nestlings at Goldington, Beds., 25/5/49, was recovered at Upton 14/5/50. (Rec.)

Harrier. 1950. A large grey hawk was seen several times near Hilton in Nov. and early Dec.

Common Buzzard. 1949. Pair seen near Keyston during summer. (P.M.) 1950. One seen frequently near Staughton Moor and over Beds. border during Dec.

Common Heron. 1950. The annual national census revealed a notable increase in Hunts. of over 40%, bringing the number of nests to nearly the 1946 total, i.e. 28/30.

St. Neots 11 (+ 6). Hinchingsbrooke 5 (as before).

Hemingford 11 (+ 3). Needingworth Fen 0 (— 1).

Bittern. 1950. A remarkable year for this rare bird. August, one seen several times Holywell (J.M.) Dec. 18th - 31st between Gt. Paxton and Offord one seen several times. (L.A.) Dec. 31st (and frequently in following two weeks) one seen Eynesbury during hard weather. (C.B.)

Grey Geese. 1950. Flocks over St. Neots January 2nd and May 21st, flying N.E. (Rec.) October 15th, Gt. Paxton, 30—40, and on Dec. 20th 200—300 flying S. (L.A.) Probably same skein flying W. over Hail Weston on this day. Many seen near Earith during Christmas cold spell. (Rec.)

Mallard. 1950. The build-up of numbers on the pits from locally hatched birds reached its peak Sept.—Oct., thereafter decreased. An increase in Nov.—Dec. was probably due to migrants.

Teal. 1950. Nov. 7th, a drake shot at Butler's Pit, Fletton, had been ringed at Borough Fen Decoy on previous Sept. 15th. (Rec.)

Pintail. 1950. Butler's Pit, Fletton, is now becoming well known as an inland resort of these ducks. The first to appear this autumn were 10/12 on Oct. 28th. Thereafter, Nov. 4th 8/12, Nov. 7th 16, Nov. 9th 10; Nov. 16th 10, Nov. 30th 15/20, Dec. 3rd 80, Dec. 10th 80, Dec. 11th 65, Dec. 16th and 25th 50, Dec. 26th 60+ (G.A.) Dec. 16th, Fenstanton pits, a pair. (R.K.)

Shoveller. 1950. The usual odd pairs were seen on the pits in Spring, but none were known to have bred. Autumn and Winter records are more unusual. Butler's Pit, Fletton, Nov. 30th, 2 dr., 1 d.; Dec. 3rd, 3 dr.; Dec. 11th, 15; Dec. 14th, 8 dr. 1 d. (G.A.)

Common Pochard. 1950. A disappointing year for breeding records. The only nest recorded was at Hemingford Grey and from it five young were hatched under a hen and successfully reared. The nest was in a rather exposed position on a gravel pit island a few feet across. (Rec.) The main increase in numbers on Butler's Pit, Fletton, was in Dec. Nov. average was 30, by mid-Dec. this had risen to over 100. (G.A.)

Tufted Duck. 1950 was a most successful breeding year and a large number of young reached flying stage. A nest containing a full clutch of eight was found on July 17th in dense vegetation on a gravel pit island in the St. Ives area, and photographed. At least two more broods were hatched in this area, another of five or six near Huntingdon. A brood of seven hatched near St. Neots in late July; all reached flying stage and remained until October 30th. (Rec.) One or more broods were seen on Butler's Pit, Fletton. (G.A.)

Goosander. 1950. Jan. 26th, three Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)

Merganser. 1950. Jan. 23rd, one Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)

Smew. 1950. March 5th, one Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)

Cormorant. 1950. Oct. 20th to Dec. 26th, a single bird was seen frequently between Offord and St. Neots. (L.A. and Rec.)

Gt. Crested Grebe. The annual national census revealed a total of 34 adults present at eight localities in the county during the breeding season, an increase of five. One or two wintered on Butler's Pit, Fletton, 1950-51. (Rec.)

Little Grebe. 1950. Nested Fenstanton Pits but still absent from other pits where it was common a few years ago. Perhaps the presence now of large pike may be a reason. (Rec.)

Wood Pigeon. 1950. Aug. 19th, Fenstanton Pits, a nest containing one young in willow only 4 feet from ground at the foot of a bank higher than the nest. (Rec.)

Stockdove. 1950. April 8th, Buckden. Flock estimated 2,000 flying S. (L.A.)

Turtle Dove. 1950. A pair arriving Gt. Paxton May 11th, had nest with two eggs, May 21st. (L.A.)

Curlew. 1950. April 2nd, Eynesbury. Some heard calling and flying N., 8.30 p.m. May 12th, Brampton, one flying N. (Rec.) July 5th, Gt. Paxton, one heard calling at night. (D.B.)

Woodcock. 1949. About six pairs said to be nesting, Bevills Wood and some Monks Wood. (C.B.C.) 1950. One with brood of four seen on county boundary between Tilbrook Bushes and Spanoak Wood. (Rec.)

Snipe. 1950. May. Apparently breeding, Stibbington. (J.G.)

Common Sandpiper. 1950. Lt. Paxton pits. A few always present May 1st to 22nd, and from July 10th to Oct. 13th, a later date than usual. (Rec.)

Green Sandpiper. 1950. Hartford Pit. April 29th, one. (R.C.) Sept. 9th, one. Sept. 18th, one. (R.K.) Fenstanton Pits, Sept. 1st, one. (Rec.)

British Redshank. 1950. Still scarcer. Lt. Paxton pits, June 19th, several. A pair bred Brampton. Dec. 28th, Earith, one heard at night. (Rec.)

Spotted Redshank. 1950. Sept. 17th. During strong S.W. gale, a single bird was watched at close quarters with binoculars at Lt. Paxton pits, and identified there and then by reference to "Bird Recognition." Believed to be first Hunts. record. (Rec.)

Greenshank. 1950. July 30th. Two flying S. over Eynesbury. (Rec.)

Ringed Plover. 1950. July 30th. One Lt. Paxton pits. (Rec.)

Golden Plover. 1950. Usual winter flocks returned in Nov. to Port-holme, Buckden and Eynesbury. (R.K., Rec.)

Lapwing. 1950. Some indication that more young are being hatched locally. July 16th, Hail Weston, flock 86 included many young. (Rec.) Aug. 23rd, Gt. Paxton, 250 - 300. (L.A.) Sept. 9th, Hartford, 50. (R.K.)

Oyster Catcher. 1950. July 19th and 20th. One on ploughed land at Houghton Hill. (L.M.)

Black Tern. 1950. May 12th, Little Paxton pits, three flying N.E. (Rec.)

Tern. 1950. Hartford Pit, April 29th, one [Arctic]. May 3rd, 12. May 8th, five. May 9th, two (R.K.) St. Neots, May 7th, one. Gaynes Hall, May 12th, 20 flying N., wind N.E. (Rec.) For the first time an autumn migration was recorded at Lt. Paxton pits. Sept. 22nd, one flying N. Sept. 23rd, one dead male Arctic found. York Museum pronounced death due to starvation. Oct. 1st, one Arctic, very tame and hungry, fishing within a few yards, chivvied by Jackdaws, strong S.W. wind. (Rec.)

Herringull. 1950. March 1st, one St. Ives. March 8th, one Godmanchester. March 10th, one Earith. Sept. 8th, two Gt. Staughton, flying S.E. (Rec.) Butler's Pit, Fletton, Dec. 9th, one. Dec. 23rd, four. Dec. 25th, five. (G.A.)

Lesser Blackbacked Gull. 1949. Aug. 12th, two Wyton Aerodrome. (C.B.C.) 1950. July 27th, Yaxley. One second summer bird flying S. (Rec.)

Greater Blackbacked Gull. 1950. Dec. 14th, two Butler's Pit, Fletton, on ice. (G.A.)

Corncrake. 1949. Sept. 21st, one shot Holywell. (J.M.)

Water Rail. 1950. Penetrates far up brooks. Feb. 1st, one Keyston. (P.M.) Dec. 17th, one Gt. Staughton. (Rec.)

Coot. 1950. Breeding population again slowly increasing. The greatest winter flocks are on Butler's Pit, Fletton, where in Nov. and Dec. there were 100/200. (G.A.)

Migrant Dates, 1950

<i>Chiffchaff</i> .	March 5th, Lt. Paxton. (R.C.)	March 24th, Houghton, Eynesbury, Alconbury, Hartford. (B., R.K., Rec.)
<i>Willow Warbler</i> .	March 24th, Alconbury. (B.)	
<i>Swallow</i> .	April 2nd, St. Neots. (Rec.)	
<i>Cuckoo</i> .	April 17th, Hartford. (R.C.)	August 31st, Houghton. (L.M.)
<i>Whitethroat</i> .	April 17th, Hartford. (R.C.)	
<i>Nightingale</i> .	April 20th, Hartford. (R.C.)	
<i>Sand Martin</i> .	April 21st, St. Neots. (Rec.)	
<i>Sedge Warbler</i> .	April 25th, Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)	
<i>Lesser Whitethroat</i> .	April 26th, Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)	
<i>Blackcap</i> .	April 28th. (R.K.)	
<i>Yellow Wagtail</i> .	May 1st, Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)	
<i>Swift</i> .	May 1st, Lt. Paxton. (Rec.)	Sept. 13th, Fenstanton. (B.)
<i>Turtle Dove</i> .	May 7th, Eynesbury. (Rec.)	
<i>Spotted Flycatcher</i> .	May 8th, Hartford. (R.C.)	

C. F. TEBBUTT.

Publications referring to Hunts. :—

British Birds. August, 1949. "Mute Swan's method of breaking ice."—C. F. Tebbutt.

British Birds. October, 1950. "Birds becoming caught in flocks of other species."—C. F. Tebbutt.

FLORA

Botanically 1950 has been a good year and a large number of records have been received. Once again many interesting records have had to be omitted owing to shortage of space.

The contributors are indicated as follows: L. W. Angell (plants collected by his daughter Hilary) (A.), W. Pratt Anderson (W.P.A.), Mr. and Mrs. J. E. H. Blackie (B.), Miss E. G. M. Coles (C.), Cambridge Nat. Hist. Soc. (C.N.S.), D. A. Davies (D.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.), Huntingdon Grammar School (H.G.S.), P. D. Sell (P.D.S.), H. B. Souter (H.B.S.), C. F. Tebbutt (T.) In addition single records have been included from several other members; the remainder are those of the writer. Our two excursions during June to Monks Wood and Wood Walton Fen also produced a number of uncommon species which have been included among the records.

Some measurements of large specimen Huntingdonshire trees have also been received from Mr. Tebbutt. Other records of this nature would be most welcome.

I must take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr. S. M. Walters, Dr. Dony and other experts for their assistance in naming the plants. They have examined all those which I was unable to name or which seemed to require confirmation.

Mr. P. D. Sell, of the Botany School, Cambridge, who is studying our hawkweeds, comments that he would be only too glad to examine any specimens that members care to send him.

All records which are new to the County are indicated thus *.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

Jan., 1951.

- 1/1 *Clematis Vitalba* L. Offord D'Arcy, 5—7 (A.) Conington (J.G.D.)
- *4/1 *Adonis annua* L. Persists as garden weed, Alconbury (B).
- 6/9 *Ranunculus arvensis* L. Fields, Ramsey Heights, 17—6 (Exc.) Alconbury (B). Monks Wood (J. E. Lousley).
- 13/3 *Delphinium Gayanum* Wilmott. Fields, Ramsey Heights, 17—6 (Exc.) St. Ives (J.G.D.)
- *17/2 *Berberis Aquifolium* Pursh. Spinney, Huntingdon (H.G.S.) Hedgerows, Holme; Alconbury Hill. Naturalised.
- 21/3 *Papaver dubium* L. Fields, Ramsey Heights, 17—6 (Exc.) Between Kisby's Hut and Hilton, 15—6 (P.D.S.) Conington (J.G.D.)
- 31/4 *Corydalis lutea* (L.) DC. Godmanchester (J.G.D.) Bridge wall near Wansford Station, 10—9.
- 35/1(2) *Nasturtium microphyllum* Boenningh. ex Reichb. Spinney pond, Huntingdon (H.G.S.) Pond, Stibbington, 18—7.
- 36/2 *Barbarea verna* (Mill.) Aschers. (det. A. J. Wilmott). Garden weed, Stibbington, 29—10—39.
- 45/1 *Armoracia lapathifolia* Gilib. Roadside near Fenstanton, 15—6 (P.D.S.) Alconbury (B.) Conington (J.G.D.) Roadside, Woodston, 17—6.
- *49/5 *Sisymbrium Irio* L. Railway sidings, Huntingdon, 14—8 (J.G.D.); railway sidings, St. Neots, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- 49/6b *Sisymbrium officinale* (L.) Scop. var. *leiocarpum* DC. Railway sidings, Huntingdon, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.); Conington (J.G.D.)
- 64/1 *Thlaspi arvense* L. Fields, Ramsey Heights, 17—6 (Exc.) Roadside, Offord D'Arcy, 19—5 (A.) Conington (J.G.D.)
- 80/1b *Raphanus Raphanistrum* L. Two forms have been recorded: forma *ochrocyanea* F. Ger. (yellow with purple veins). Fields, etc., Upwood, 17—6 (Exc.) Brickyards, Fletton; cornfields, etc., Stibbington. Forma *alba* F. Ger. (white). Brickyards, Fletton; cornfields, Stibbington.
- 85/2 *Reseda lutea* L. Roadsides and fields, Stibbington. Conington (J.G.D.) Wood Walton railway dump (B.)
- 88/22 *Viola arvensis* Murr. Offord D'Arcy (A.) Conington (J.G.D.) Fields, Stibbington.
- 96/4 *Melandrium noctiflorum* (L.) Fr. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Cornfields, Waternewton, 10—9.

- 98/4 *Melandrium dioicum* (L.) Coss and Germ. Roadside, Stibbington, 1949.
- 100/8 *Cerastium semidecandrum* L. Nene side, Stibbington, 16—4.
- 100/9 *Cerastium tetrandrum* Curt. Connington dump, 4—6 (J.G.D.)
- 101/1 *Stellaria aquatica* Scop. Nene side, etc., Stibbington.
- 103/8 *Sagina apetala* Ard. Connington dump, 4—6 (J.G.D. and D.) Holme Fen, (C.N.S.)
- 104/2 *Spergula sativa* Boenn. Railway sidings, Huntingdon, 14—8 (J.G.D.)
- 125/4 *Linum usitatissimum* L. Brickyards, Fletton, 1—7.
- 127/4 *Geranium pratense* L. Common roadsides between Kisby's Hut and Fenstanton, 15—6 (P.D.S.) Gt. Stukeley; Woolley; Barham; Buckworth; Ellington; Grafham (B.) Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
- 127/7 *Geranium pyrenaicum* Burm. f. Earith (C. D. Pigott).
- 128/5 *Erodium Botrys* (Cav.) Bert. Railway sidings, Offord, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- *132/3 *Oxalis stricta* L. Persists as garden weed, Stibbington (origin unknown).
- 137/1 *Evonymus europaeus* L. Salome Wood (B.) Offord D'Arcy, 3—6 (A.) Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
- 138/2 *Rhamnus catharticus* L. Huntingdon (J.G.D.) Hermitage Wood; Salome Wood; Upton Wood; Alconbury (B.) Hedgerows, Stibbington.
- 149/1 *Ulex europaeus* L. Stangate Hill (B.) Woodston, 29—4.
- 153/6 *Medicago minima* (L.) Bartal. Railway sidings, Offord, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- 153/26 *Medicago praecox* DC. Railway sidings, Offord, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- *153/27 *Medicago laciniata* Mill. Railway sidings, Huntingdon, 14—8 (J.G.D.)
- 154/2 *Melilotus alba* Desr. Hartford gravel pits, 15—7 (H.G.S.) Connington (J.G.D.)
- 155/12 *Trifolium subterraneum* L. Railway sidings, St. Neots, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- 155/13 *Trifolium fragiferum* L. Alconbury Green; nr. Wood Walton Church (B.) Church End (J.G.D.)

- *155/38 *Trifolium tomentosum* L. Station yard, St. Neots, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- 183/7b *Prunus spinosa* L. var. *macrocarpa* Wallr. (det. E. F. Warburg) Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington, 28—5.
- *190(2)/1 *Aphanes arvensis* L. Field near Bevill's Wood, 3—6 (Exc.) Gardens, fields, meadows, Stibbington, 9—4. Holme Fen (J.G.D.)
- 193/4 *Sanguisorba officinalis* L. Near Woolley Gorse, July (B.) St. Ives; Hartford (J.G.D.)
- 214/1 *Hippuris vulgaris* L. Knot Holes, brickyards, Fletton, 13—6. St. Neots (J.G.D.)
- *220/6 *Epilobium Lamyi* F. Sch. Wood Walton Fen (C.N.S.)
- 225/1 *Circaea lutetiana* L. Garden weed, Offord D'Arcy, 27—6 (A.) Garden weed, Stibbington.
- 269/1 *Silau silaus* (L.) Schinz and Thell. Offord D'Arcy, 9—8 (A.) Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
- 283/5 *Caucalis nodosa* Scop. Wansford Quarries, Stibbington, 27—7. Old bridle path between Gt. Stukeley and Alconbury (B.) Offord D'Arcy, 21—7 (A.)
- 287/2e *Sambucus nigra* L. var. *viridis* Ait. Roadside, Gt. Gidding, 1948 (C. Beardmore).
- 288/1 *Viburnum Opulus* L. Connington (J.G.D.) Hartford (J. S. Morton); Hermitage Wood; Salome Wood (B.)
- 291/2 *Lonicera Periclymenum* L. Hermitage Wood; Salome Wood; Upton Wood; Brampton Wood (B.) In pollarded willows, Nene side, Stibbington, associated with elder, hawthorn and dogrose, 18—7.
- 296/10 *Galium tricornis* Stokes. Railway sidings, Huntingdon, 4—6 (J.G.D. and H.B.S.)
- 320/3 *Erigeron canadensis* L. Hartford, 15—7 (H.G.S.) Ermine St., nr. Alconbury; Wood Walton railway dump (B); Connington (J.G.D.); Gravel pits, Stibbington.
- 353/2 *Bidens tripartita* L. Gravel pits, Stibbington, 19—8—48. Silver Street, Godmanchester (Miss E. Tillard). Offord D'Arcy 9—9 (A.)
- 365/2 *Achillea Ptarmica* L. Nr. the Ouse, Offord D'Arcy (A.)
- 370/13 *Chrysanthemum Parthenium* (L.) Bernh. Alconbury; Huntingdon (B.) Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Waste places, Stibbington.

- 378/3 *Artemisia vulgaris* L. Between Wheatsheaf and School Lane, Alconbury (B.) Waresley, 12—6 (P.D.S.) Offord D'Arcy (A.) Connington (J.G.D.) Very common, brickyards, Fletton.
- 383/7 *Senecio squalidus* L. Wood Walton railway dump (B.) Railway sidings, Huntingdon, 14—8 (J.G.D.) Gravel pits and waste places, Stibbington.
- 383/10e *Senecio vulgaris* L. var. *radiatus* Koch. Railway siding, Huntingdon, 4—6 (J.G.D. and H.G.S.)
- 393/1 *Arctium Lappa* L. Salome Wood; Upton Wood; Rust Lane, Alconbury (B.) Offord D'Arcy, 30—6 (A.) Warboys Wood (J.G.D.) Nr. Tollbar Spinney, etc., Stibbington, 30—7.
- 393/2 *Arctium vulgare* (Hill) Evans. One large plant, "Wansford Quarries," Stibbington, 27—7 (det. W. A. Sledge). Connington (J.G.D.)
- 393/3 *Arctium minus* (Hill) Bernh. Spinney, Huntingdon, 15—7. (H.G.S.)
- 396/8 *Cirsium arvense* Scop. var. *mite* Wimmer and Grabowski. (det. W. A. Sledge) Nene side and fields, Stibbington.
- 397/1 *Onopordon Acanthium* L. Buckden (D.) Sawtry (J. E. Lousley). Stukeley (B.) Roadside, Woodston.
- 409/1 *Cichorium Intybus* L. Ermine St. Lane to Hermitage Wood abundant; a few plants on Abbots Ripton road near Wheat-sheaf; on old R.A.F. site, Alconbury; between Alconbury and Woolley; abundant on old trackway between Upton and Coppingford (B.) Brickyards, Fletton.
- 415/1 *Picris Echioides* L. Hartford (H.G.S.) Wood Hurst (W.P.A.) Offord D'Arcy (A.) Alconbury, Woolley, Barham (B.) Brickyards and roadsides, Fletton and Woodston, 29—6; roadsides and waste places, Stibbington.
- 416/10 *Crepis taraxacifolia* Thuill. Waresley, 12—6; Fenstanton (P.D.S.)
- 419/241 *Hieracium umbellatum* L. Wood Walton Fen (C. E. Moss, 1912, S. M. Walters, 1945, and P.D.S., 1950). var. *commune* Fr. Wood Walton Fen (C. E. Moss 1912). Also recorded for Holme Fen (Ley).
- 425/2 *Lactuca Serriola* L. Connington (J.G.D.) Alconbury; Wood Walton (B.) Roadside, Stibbington; Waternewton gravel pit, 10—9.
- 428/2 *Tragopogon pratensis* L. Waresley 12—6; Hilton (P.D.S.); Alconbury (B.); Offord D'Arcy (A.)
- 435/1 *Campanula glomerata* L. Single plant, Alconbury aerodrome, July (Miss K. Jackson). Offord D'Arcy, 18—7 (A.)

- 435/3 *Campanula Trachelium* L. Railway bank, Offord D'Arcy with comfrey and strawberry, 18—6 (A.)
- 435/5 *Campanula rotundifolia* L. Hemingford, 1949. (J.G.D.)
- 459/1 *Hottonia palustris* L. St. Ives (Mrs. B. Hudson). Holme Fen (C.N.S.) Defunct clay pits Offord D'Arcy, 19—5 (A.)
- 463/4 *Lysimachia Nummularia* L. Offord D'Arcy, 9—7 (A.) Monks Wood (B.)
- 472/1 *Ligustrum vulgare* L. Offord D'Arcy, 28—6 (A.) Alconbury (B.) Waternewton; Stibbington.
- 473/1 *Vinca major* L. Offord D'Arcy, 5—3 (A.) Alconbury Hill (B.) Brickyards, Fletton, 24—5; nr. Wansford Quarries, Stibbington.
- 491/1 *Cynoglossum officinale* L. Houghton Thicket (C). Connington Dump, 4—6 (J.G.D. and D.)
- 497/1 *Symphytum officinale* L. Fenstanton, 15—6 (P.D.S.)
- *497/2 *Symphytum tuberosum* L. Spinney, Huntingdon, 15—7 (H.G.S.)
- *500/1 *Anchusa sempervirens* L. Roadside, Stibbington, 30—5.
- *506/7 *Myosotis sylvatica* (Ehrh.) Hoffm. (det. A. E. Wade). Gravel pits, Stibbington, 23—5. (Recorded in THE FLORA OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE for Elton Lynch).
- 506/7 *Myosotis versicolor* Sm. Monks Wood (Joint Exc.) Hartford (J.G.D.)
- 517/2 *Solanum nigrum* L. Garden weed, etc., Stibbington; Elton. Garden weed, Offord D'Arcy (A.) Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
- 520/1 *Lycium rhombifolium* Dippel. Connington (J.G.D.) Old walls, Stibbington, 29—7; Waternewton. Alconbury; Ellington (B.) Naturalised.
- 532/7 *Linaria minor* (L.) Desf. In railway track, Offord D'Arcy, 2—7 (A.) Connington (J.G.D.)
- 532/24 *Linaria spuria* (L.) Normal and peloric flowers on same plant, cornfield, Stibbington, 30—7. Connington; Buckden, 1949 (J.G.D.)
- 532/25 *Linaria Elatine* (L.) Mill. Cornfield, Stibbington, 30—7. Monks Wood, Buckden, 1949 (J.G.D.)
- 550/4 *Orobanchè elatior* Sutton. Parasitic on *Centaurea Scabiosa*. Waternewton gravel pits, 10—9. Known there since 1937. Local name: "Blood Elder."

- 558/13j *Mentha arvensis* L. var. *densifoliata* Briquet (det. R. A. Graham). Nr. Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington, 28—5.
- 559/1 *Lycopus europaeus* L. Ouse bank, Offord D'Arcy, 7—8 (A.) Hartford (J.G.D.) Nene side and gravel pits, Stibbington.
- 566/2 *Salvia Verbenaca* L. Near Hinchingsbrooke Hall (D. & W.P.A.) Hartford (C.)
- *566/17 *Salvia verticillata* L. Connington dump, July (H.B.S.)
- 578/4 *Galeopsis angustifolia* Pers. Broughton T.) Nr. Hermitage Wood (B).
- 587/16 *Ajuga reptans* L. var. *albiflora* Zersl. Monks Wood, 3—6 (Joint Exc.)
- 581/10 *Lamium Galeobdolon* (L). Cr. One in Monks Wood, 3—6. (B).
- *596/6 *Amaranthus retroflexus*. L. Arable field, Holme, 15—8. (J.G.D.)
- 600/8 *Chenopodium album* L. forma *cymigerum* (Koch) Schinz & Thell. (det. J.P.M. Brenan) Brickyards, Fletton, 1949; Nene side, Stibbington, 18—7.
- *600/8x8(2) *Chenopodium album* L. x *reticulatum* Aellen (det. J. P. M. Brenan) Roadside, Stibbington, 1949.
- 600/12 *Chenopodium ficifolium* Sm. Garden, Huntingdon (H.G.S.) Holme Fen; Connington (J.G.D.)
- *600/34(4) *Chenopodium Probstii* Aellen. Railway Sidings, St. Neots, 30—9 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
- 606/3d *Atriplex patula* L. var. *erecta* Lange. Pea field, Stibbington, 24—7—49. Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
- *613/3 *Salsola pestifer* Nelson. Railway sidings, St. Neots, 30—9. (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
- 616/1 *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench. Roadside, Stibbington, 10—9.
- 638/1 *Parietaria diffusa* M. & K. Old walls, etc., Stibbington. Wistow (J.G.D.)
- 643/1 *Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn. One or two, Alconbury brook (B.) Holme Fen (J.G.D.) One tree, dyke side, Stibbington, 4—3. Known there since 1934.
- 647/1 *Castanea sativa* Mill. Stibbington. (Planted trees).
- 651/1 *Populus canescens* Sm. Spinney, Huntingdon (H.G.S.)

- 653/2 *Ceratophyllum demersum* L. Wood Walton Fen, 17—6 (Exc.) Hartford (H.G.S.) St. Neots (J.G.D.)
- 654/1 *Hydrocharis Morsus-ranae* L. New Dyke, Ramsey St. Mary's; Wood Walton Fen, 17—6 (Exc.) Ouse bank and defunct clay pits, Offord D'Arcy (A.)
- *689/1 *Ruscus aculeatus* L. Common at Lower Wintringham (Mrs. G. R. F. Rowley). Male plant only; hedgerow, Daintree Farm, Ramsey St. Mary's (Miss D. Peacock).
- 702/4 *Allium vineale* L. Roadside, Hartford, 15—7 (H.G.S.) Between Hamerton and Buckworth; between Alconbury and Barham, roadside (B.) Reported to be a pest in cornfields.
- 702/6 *Allium ursinum* L. Common in Overton Dole Wood (F. A. Gray).
- *707/2 *Ornithogalum umbellatum* L. S.E. corner of Monks Wood, 28—5 (Carolyn Blackie). ?Planted. (Recorded in THE FLORA OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE for "Stibbington Wood.") A doubtful native.
- 718/17 *Juncus bufonius* L. Hartford gravel pits, 15—7 (H.G.S. & J.G.D.)
- 737/13 *Potamogeton lucens* L. (det. J. E. Dandy). Between St. Ives and Huntingdon, 14—8; Ramsey (J.G.D.)
- 753/9 *Carex hirta* L. Fenstanton Pits, 15—6 (P.D.S.) Hartford (J.G.D.)
- 753/60 *Carex contigua* Hoppe (det. C. D. Pigott). Marsh near Bevill's Wood, 3—6 (Joint Exc.) Roadsides, Waresley, 12—6 (P.D.S.)
- *753/63 *Carex paniculata* L. (det. E. C. Wallace). Nene side, Stibbington, 28—5.
- 753/66 *Carex disticha* Huds. (det. E. C. Wallace). Nene side, Stibbington, 28—5.
- *762/2 *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) Richt. Railway sidings, Offord, 16—8 (J.G.D.)
- 856/1 *Dryopteris Filix-mas* (L.) Schott. Kimbolton Park (T.) Holme Fen (C.N.S.) Walls, Stibbington and Fletton.
- 856/4 *Dryopteris dilatata* (Hoffm.) A. Gray. Hail Weston Wood (T.) Holme Fen (C.N.S.)

Bryophyta.

- Orthotrichum anomalum* Hedw. Walls, Stibbington, 5—3.
- Conocephalum conicum* (L.) Dum. Monks Wood, 3—6. (Joint Exc.)

Fungi

Aecidium crassum Pers. On *Rhamnus catharticus*, Wood Walton Fen, 17—6 (Exc.)

Melampsora Symphyti (Fckl.) (det. N. Robertson). On *Symphytum officinale*, Wood Walton Fen, 7—8 (P.D.S.)

Russula venosa Vel. (det. E. J. Corner). Wood Walton Fen, 7—8 (P.D.S.)

Lycoperdon Bovista L. (*Calvatia gigantea*). Farcet Fen (R. Ellis) (29 ins. in circumference). Also recorded from Fletton.

Polyporus betulinus Fr. On birch trees, Denton Fen, 15—4.

Calocera cornea Fr. (det. E. J. Corner). On a horsechestnut plank, Stibington.

All Dr. Dony's undated records refer to 1948. Since our last Report, Dr. Dony's paper, "A Contribution to the Flora of Huntingdonshire," has been published in *Watsonia*, Vol. I, Part V. Besides the large number of New County Records, etc., the paper records *Luzula pallescens* from Holme and Denton Fens. This plant was previously only known to occur at Wood Walton Fen and whether it was a native of Britain was somewhat in doubt, but now there is apparently no reason why it should not be considered an ancient member of the British flora.

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