

HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

4th
ANNUAL
REPORT
1951

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

Chairman:

C. F. TEBBUTT.

Hon. Secretary:

PROF. ALASTAIR N. WORDEN, Cromwell House, Huntingdon.

Tel: Huntingdon 612.

Hon. Treasurer:

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

Committee:

L. W. ANGELL.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

MRS. J. E. H. BLACKIE.

R. CONNAN (Social Secretary).

W. J. GARNETT.

J. L. GILBERT.

R. V. KEYWORTH.

Referees:

- Coleoptera* - REV. C. F. TOTTENHAM, Zoology School, Cambridge.
Flora - - J. L. GILBERT, Riverside, Wansford.
Mammals - - ALASTAIR N. WORDEN, Cromwell House, Huntingdon.
Birds - - C. F. TEBBUTT, The Ferns, Eynesbury, St. Neots.
Macro-lepidoptera J. E. H. BLACKIE, The Bell House, Alconbury.
Aphides - - MISS B. HAMLYN, Everton Vicarage, Sandy.

Annual Report for 1951

(No. 4)

INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting was held at Huntingdon on 3rd March, 1951, when the officers named above were elected (with the exception of the Hon. Secretary, who took over from Mr. J. E. H. Blackie in July).

The following other events took place during the year:—

- 10th June : Expedition to Fenstanton, Hartford, Monks Wood and Connington, with the Bedfordshire Natural History Society.
- 14th July : Expedition to Barnack led by Mr. Gilbert.
- 26th October : *Conversazione* at Huntingdon Grammar School, with a lecture on the International Wild Fowl Enquiry by Mr. G. Atkinson Willes (British Trust for Ornithology) and two relevant films.

Membership is now 94, an increase of 17. The following have joined the Society since preparation of the report for 1950: Dr. G. F. Barnes, Miss M. Burfoot, Miss D. Clarke, Dr. A. Connan, D. E. P. Davies (Gaynes Hall), Dr. A. A. Lisney, Miss S. Lucy, Dr. A. Paterson, K. Piercy, K. Smith, Miss E. Thackray, Prof. A. N. Worden.

Every effort should be made to recruit members, and all those who have not yet paid their annual subscription for 1952 (five shillings) should please do so, remitting the sum to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. A. Davies, Darholm, Perry Road, Buckden.

Owing to the increase in printing costs it has been necessary to curtail the report, and certain records (including those relating to mammals) have been held over.

BIRDS

Our report is again a good one. Although slightly fewer members have sent in material, I am grateful to those who have, including members of the Cambridge Bird Club. A great deal of material relating to the status of the commoner birds cannot be printed but is being filed for reference. This includes voluminous notes by G. Alcock on movements of swallows, martins, swifts, lapwings, rooks and fieldfares. He also counted the wildfowl on Butler's Pit, Fletton, over 80 times in 1951. These counts have been condensed to show, so far as possible, the trends of increases and decreases and are printed in tabular form. The complete accuracy of these counts in summer is limited by the thick reedbeds and heavily vegetated islands.

Once again the census of Herons and Great Crested Grebes for the B.T.O. has been undertaken by myself, while a number of members are covering the whole of the county on appointed days to take counts for the International Wildfowl Inquiry.

Low water levels in Marsh Lane pit, Hemingford, made it especially attractive to waders, among which were our first live Wood Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover. These latter, a new record for the county, were also seen at Little Paxton and Houghton. They attempted to nest in a neighbouring county and may well do so here in 1952. If nesting is suspected, I shall be glad to be informed so that any protective measures possible may be taken.

The Ferruginous Duck is new to the county, as is the Great Skua, now reported happily thriving at the London Zoo under the pseudonym of "Lefty." Pied Flycatchers have appeared again on passage and an identification of a Black Redstart has been accepted by B.T.O., a first certain record for the county. An immature Corncrake at Hilton makes one suspect local breeding. All the Shorteared Owls seem to have deserted us this winter.

We are grateful to our friends the Bedfordshire Natural History Society for inviting us to their Winter Conference, which was much appreciated by all those able to attend.

For the sake of economy only English names of birds and the initials of contributors are used.

John Gilbert (J.G.); Roger Connan (R.C.); Cambridge Bird Club (C.B.C.); Mr. and Mrs. Blackie (B.); Mrs. Bevington (D.B.); William Garnett (W.G.); Colin Burge (C.B.); G. Alcock (G.A.); R. D. Kime (R.K.); L. Angell (L.A.); J. S. Morton (J.M.); H. Vawser (H.V.); Recorder (Rec.)

Hooded Crow. 1951. The three 1950 birds remained at Eynesbury until January 17th (Rec.) Late February, one killed Monks Wood (B.) Dec. 8th, one Highfield Farm, Waresley, flying W. in strong S.W. wind (Rec.)

Rook. 1951. Still increasing generally. A summer roost at Little Paxton of approx. 700 Rooks and 1,400 Jackdaws was abandoned about Oct. 1st. After late winter floods rooks were catching and eating small fish stranded on St. Neots Common. Sample nest counts compared with 1950: St. Neots, 379 (plus 40); Little Paxton 70 (plus 28); Diddington 119 (plus 34). (Rec.)

Bullfinch. 1951. Reports from many districts seem to show an increase. (W.G., R.K., B., D.B., C.B.C., Rec.)

Reed Bunting. 1951. A winter roost in reed and sedge between Gt. Paxton and Offord contained 50/100 in Nov. and Dec. (L.A.)

Grey Wagtail. 1951. Sept. 23rd. One St. Ives. (Rec.) Dec. 21st, pair Gt. Paxton. (L.A.)

Pied Wagtail. 1951. A summer roost of 20/30 at Lt. Paxton pits was deserted in Sept., but a large roost of 50/100 in reeds between Offord and Paxton was used in Nov. and Dec. (Rec. and L.A.)

Nuthatch. 1951. April 8th. One calling Priory Park, St. Neots. (Rec.)

Pied Flycatcher. 1951. April 8th. A pair at St. Neots (C.B.)

Wheatear. 1951. May 1st, one [Greenland type] Hilton (W.G.) Sept. 1st, one Bluntisham (Rec.)

Winchat. 1951. Nov. 4th. One Alconbury. (B.)

Stonechat. 1951. March 3rd. One hen Lt. Paxton. Aug. 15th, several Ramsey Fen. (Rec.) Oct. 28th, one cock Lt. Paxton. (C.B.)

Common Redstart. 1951. Only one pair seen at Kimbolton this year. (Rec.)

Black Redstart. 1951. April 12th. A hen with rather light plumage stayed three days in garden of Hilton Hall and was definitely identified. First certain Hunts. record. (W.G.)

Robin. 1951. In April and May at Huntingdon a pair had two clutches each of three eggs and reared two broods of three successively in the same nest. (R.C.)

Nightjar. 1951. June 22nd, one Eynesbury (C.B.) Sept. 30th, one Hilton. Oct. 1st, one Godmanchester (W.G.)

Kingfisher. 1951. Probably reaching its peak in numbers, and often seen far away from the river. March 29th, one Kimbolton (Rec.) Aug. 5th, Oct. 10th, one Hilton village pond. (W.G.) Dec. 31st, one Alconbury (B.)

Green Woodpecker. 1951. Jan. 4th, 10th, 29th, attacks made on bee-hives at Gt. Paxton when ground was frost-bound. (L.A.)

Shorteared Owl. 1951. Brampton bird last seen Jan. 21st. On May 22nd the area previously frequented on Kimbolton airfield was carefully searched for nesting birds without result. None has appeared there again up to the end of the year. (Rec.)

Common Buzzard. 1951. Sept. 17th, one Kimbolton (Rec.)

Common Heron. 1951. The annual census of nests showed a smaller increase than last year. St. Neots 10/11 (as before). Hemingford, 9 (minus 2). Hinchingsbrooke, 10 (plus 5). (Rec.) Sept. 7th, 10.00 hours at Fletton a flock of 30 was seen flying S. at 800 feet just under cloud ceiling, wind N. (G.A.)

Bittern. 1951. Those reported near St. Neots in December, 1950, remained until the end of January, 1951, being seen several times at Eynesbury and Paxton. (C.B., L.A., Rec.) Dec. 25th, one Eynesbury (Rec.)

Mute Swan. 1951. June 1st, 102 immature birds on flooded Bury Fen, Bluntisham. (Rec.)

Grey Geese. 1951. Jan. 13th, about 50 Portholme, Huntingdon (R.C.) 17th, about 50 Farcet, flying W. or S.W. (W.G.) Late Dec., several Portholme. (Rec.)

Shelduck. 1950. Dec. 25th—30th. One Butler's Pit, Fletton. 1951. Above bird remained all Jan. and seen again March 3rd, 20th, May 6th. (G.A.)

Mallard. 1951. Jan. 21st, near St. Ives a flock seen at 900 feet from an Auster. Larger numbers than usual congregated in the pits in late August, 200/300 being usual. (Rec.)

Teal. 1951. Jan. 20th. 200 Fenstanton Pit. (R.K.)

Wigeon. 1951. Jan. 20th. 200+ Fenstanton Pit. (R.K.)

Pintail. 1951. Jan., several shot Holywell (J.M.) Jan. 13th, 50 Portholme (R.C.) Jan. 23rd, one Fenstanton Pit (C.B.C.) April 6th, pair Bluntisham Fen (H.V.) Oct. 20th, one Butler's Pit (C.B.C.)

Common Pochard. 1951. None known to have bred successfully except possibly at Butler's Pit, Fletton, where two young seen Aug. 26th. Fenstanton Pit, Feb. 2nd, remarkable pack of 750 (10 — 1 drakes), which may have gone to Butler's Pit where 500 were seen on Feb. 4th. Nov. 1st, 22. Dec. 1st, 90. (C.B.C.)

Ferruginous Duck. 1950. In spite of difficulties of identification in poor light, and its similarity to some plumage phases of Tufted, it seems fairly certain that some were present in the county, and so constitute a new record. At Butler's Pit, Fletton, three probables were seen, Oct. 24th, and three Nov. 12th, also at Fenstanton Pit two on Dec. 2nd and 6th. (C.B.C.) These records were published in "British Birds," Oct., 1951. 1951. Oct. 25th, Fenstanton Pit, 6—9, among which two drakes were considered unmistakable. (C.B.C.)

Tufted Duck. 1951. Resident population remains constant. Aug. 3rd, Marsh Lane Pit, Hemingford, broods of 7, 3, 9 and 5 seen, and on July 7th broods of 4 and 8 at Hemingford Mill Pit. Fenstanton Pit, Jan. 23rd, 30; Feb. 2nd, 50; 23rd, 24; Oct. 25th, 20; Nov. 1st, 30; Dec. 1st, 45. (C.B.C. and Rec.)

Goldeneye. 1951. Butler's Pit, Fletton. Dec. 15th—22nd, three drakes and one duck. 26th—28th, one drake. (G.A.)

Cormorant. 1951. Gt. Paxton. One Sept. 2nd, and Nov. 30th. (L.A.)

Great Crested Grebe. 1951. Probably reaching its peak numbers on existing waters. Small pits and some consisting only of long narrow lanes of water, hitherto ignored, are now being colonized. A nest in such a pit was on a gravel heap 1' above water level. In the annual census 54/55 were counted on 13 sites, an increase of 20/21 birds and five sites. A few seen in winter. Paxton, Feb. 25th, one. Butler's Pit, Feb. 10th, two; 26th, eight. Fenstanton, Nov. 1st, three. (Rec. and G.A.)

Little Grebe. 1951. Still absent from most pits except Fenstanton, where several pairs nested. (Rec.)

Curlew. 1951. Gt. Paxton, March 2nd, one flying N. at night. (D.B.) 3rd, one. 18th, one flying N. (L.A.)

Whimbrel. 1950. May 1st, Hilton. One seen and heard flying N. ((W.G.))

Woodcock. 1951. Kimbolton, two broods of four seen. Sept. 1st, one Little Paxton Pit. (Rec.)

Jack Snipe. 1950. Oct. 23rd, one Fenstanton Pit (C.B.C.) 1951. Oct. 28th, one Fenstanton Pit (C.B.C.), six, sugar beet pans, Woodston. (G.A.)

Dunlin. 1951. Aug. 17th. Marsh Lane Pit, Hemingford, three flew away N.W. Aug. 19th, one. Sept. 23rd, one. (Rec.)

Common Sandpiper. 1951. Lt. Paxton Pit, 1/3 present April 22nd—May 14th, and July 15th—Sept. 30th. Marsh Lane, Hemingford, Aug. 17th, five; 19th, twelve; 24th, six. (Rec.)

Wood Sandpiper. 1951. Aug. 24th and 25th, Marsh Lane Pit, Hemingford, one bird certainly identified at close range through binoculars, fresh S.W. wind. First live Hunts. record. (See 1949 Report). (Rec.)

Green Sandpiper. 1951. Marsh Lane, Hemingford. Aug. 17th, four/five. 19th, one. Lt. Paxton, Aug. 30th, one. Meadow Lane, St. Ives, Aug. 24th, one. (Rec.)

British Redshank. 1951. Not a single record.

Ringed Plover. 1951. Lt. Paxton Pit. Aug. 25th, two. 26th, one. (Rec.)

Lt. Ringed Plover. 1951. Lt. Paxton Pit. June 22nd, one seen through binoculars feeding and flying at close range and certainly identified. Another, July 29th. (Rec.) One Houghton, July 24th (R.K.) Marsh Lane, Hemingford, Aug. 17th, one flew away W. 19th, one with Dunlin. The first county records. (Rec.)

Lapwing. 1951. Again one has the impression that breeding pairs are increasing. Many more nested on and around Kimbolton airfield. Early flocks, containing many young, at Hail Weston. Aug. 1st, 108. St. Ives, Aug. 24th, 75. Bluntisham, Sept. 9th, 100. (Rec.)

Terns. 1951. April 1st—4th. Bluntisham, several (H.V.) St. Neots, June 2nd, one. 3rd, two (C.B.) Paxton, June 13th, one [possibly Sandwich]. (L.A.) Butler's Pit, Fletton, Aug. 20th, two (G.A.) Paxton, Sept. 29th, one. (Rec.)

Gannet. 1934. A 2—3 year bird killed at Top Farm, Holme.

Blackheaded Gull. 1951. The inland movements of gulls are little understood. In winter when the Ouse is in flood, large numbers roost on the Great Washes and flight up the valley daily, some reaching Bedfordshire. They greatly outnumber the Common Gulls that accompany them. In March, if floods persist, they gradually diminish in numbers, leaving flocks of Common only. In the north flocks sometimes roost on Butler's Pit (Jan.), or settle there during the day. (450 Dec. 12th). In summer, odd gulls pass along the Ouse valley, as at Lt. Paxton, June 15th, 17th, Aug. 4th, 6th, and Sept. 21st, all flying S. Sept. 30th, five flying N.E. On Jan. 15th one with injured wing carrying ring 350647 was caught at Ramsey and sent to the London Zoo. It had been ringed at Swillington, Leeds, as young, 14/7/50. (G.A. and Rec.)

Common Gull. 1951. See above for winter fighting. Flocks of this species only were seen at Portholme, April 11th. Fenstanton, 14th. Earith, 24th. Odd birds at Paxton on May 26th, June 1st, 11th, 22nd, and Aug. 16th, all flying N., and on Aug. 4th, Sept. 21st, October 30th, flying S. (Rec.)

Herring Gull. 1951. Feb. 6th, St. Neots, two flying S. 28th, Portholme, two. (Rec.) Butler's Pit, Fletton, Feb. 23rd, two; 27th, four; May 31st, five; Sept. 10th, two; Oct. 23rd, four; Dec. 11th, three; 12th, ten; 22nd, six; 29th, six. (G.A. and C.B.C.)

Gt. Skua. 1951. Oct. 24th, a 2nd year (?) bird was caught at Gaynes Park, Great Staughton, having perhaps hit the H.T. wires. It had lost one foot previously and walked easily on the healed stump. It was kept by Mr. Foulds, the Estate Manager, for a week, was very tame and readily ate dogs meat, rabbit, herrings and bread, and repeatedly bathed in fresh water. Mr. Foulds, on hearing its cry, is confident he has heard this before from birds passing over at night when he was a keeper. Weather reports for the previous two weeks revealed no abnormal gales on any coast to account for its presence, and the possibility of a cross country migration route should not be overlooked. It was sent to the London Zoo, where it is thriving. A new county record. (Rec.)

Gt. Blackbacked Gull. 1951. Butler's Pit, Fletton. Jan. 1st, four; 6th, eight. (G.A.)

Kittiwake. 1951. March 25th. Great Paxton, one flying S. with other gulls. (L.A.) An unusual record, but Mr. Angell bases his identification on the bird's repeated cry with which he is familiar.

Corncrake. 1951. Sept. 1st, an immature bird caught and ringed at Hilton may well have been bred locally. (W.G.) Sept. 25th, one put up in barley, Lymage Farm, Grafham. (Rec.)

Moorhen. 1951. Winter flock behaviour might be studied with advantage. Dec. 5th, 30 feeding on stubble at Grafham. (Rec.)

Coot. 1951. Besides breeding on all our pits, there is now undoubtedly an influx of winter visitors as at Fenstanton Pit. Nov. 1st, 80. Dec. 1st, 70. (C.B.C.), and at Butler's Pit (see chart.)

MIGRATION DATES

<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 21st, Hilton. (W.G.)	Oct. 10th, Paxton. (L.A.)
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	May 12th, Huntingdon. (R.C.)	
<i>Chiffchaff.</i>	March 31st, Hartford. (R.K.)	
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	April 5th, St. Neots. (Rec.)	
<i>Reed Warbler.</i>	May 1st, Paxton. (L.A.)	
<i>Sedge Warbler.</i>	April 10th, Fenstanton. (B.)	
<i>Blackcap.</i>	April 23rd, Brampton Wood. (R.C.)	
<i>Whitethroat.</i>	April 5th, St. Neots. (C.B.)	
<i>Leser Whitethroat.</i>	April 25th, Paxton. (L.A.)	
<i>Fieldfare.</i>	May 6th, Large flock flying N. (Rec.)	
<i>Nightingale.</i>	April 21st, Brampton Wood., Houghton. (R.C. and R.K.)	
<i>Swallow.</i>	April 6th, Bluntisham. (H.V.)	Oct. 28th, Farcet. (G.A.)
<i>House Martin.</i>	April 8th, St. Neots. (C.B.)	Oct. 21st, Farcet. (G.A.)
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	April 7th, St. Neots. (Rec.)	Oct. 7th, Paxton. (L.A.)
<i>Swift.</i>	May 2nd, Hartford, St. Neots. (R.K. and Rec.)	
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 16th, Hilton, Hartford. (W.G. and R.C.)	
<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 23rd, Paxton. (L.A.) Oct. 6th, Yaxley. (Rec.)	

C. F. TEBBUTT.

BUTLERS PIT, FLETTON

1951	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pin Tail	Shoveler	Pochard	Tufted Duck	Coot	
Jan. 7	130			50	12	110	20	320	1 Shelduck
" 13	200	10	1	110	8	280	20	200	1 Shelduck
" 20	300	40		60	8	200	30	200	
Feb. 27	25	5		10		40	30	100	
Mar. 1	90	40		15	3	90	15	100	
" 10	46			50		20	57	74	
" 13	10			10		85	25	N.C.	
" 20	30	5		20		50	85	30	
" 27	10	5+		5+		20	30	Few	
Apr. 7	7			1		Few	Few	5	
May 6	7					3	15	8	
" 23	3						Few		
June 16	40						2		
July 29	70								
Aug. 15	50+								
" 20	280								
" 22	300								
" 23	300++								
" 26	350+								
Sept. 10	24								
" 15	105								
" 23	70								
Oct. 23	10								
" 27	80								
" 28	75								
Nov. 5	160								
" 10	50								
" 22	100								
Dec. 1	100								
" 6	80								
" 15	130								
" 25	80	70	20	40		100	25	100	3 Golden-eye drakes.
" 28	120	110	6	34	2	60	25	200	1 Golden-eye drake (G.A.)

Note: Severe disturbance by shooting occurred in February and early September. N.C.: Not counted.

SALMON AND SEA TROUT IN THE GREAT OUSE.

As it would appear that Salmon and Sea Trout (called Salmon Trout in the Wash) are either becoming more common or are usually unnoticed in the Great Ouse, a note on their appearances may be of interest.

Sea Trout are well known in the Wash and I remember seeing them being caught in nets operated from the shore in summer at Hunstanton 40 years ago. They are known to run up the tidal Ouse, and were regularly caught below Denver Sluice before 1939 by Mr. Beesley, the late lock keeper, and a few others. There is of course no barrier to prevent the fish coming up the Hundred Foot river to Earith, and an occasional one has been caught there in recent years. Mr. Beesley, however, used to catch many of his fish in March and April, and the largest was said to have been about 7lbs. While this is not an impossible weight for a Sea Trout, a run at such an early date is I think very unlikely, and I consider it probable that these early fish were salmon.

The earliest record I know of Salmon in the Huntingdonshire Ouse, is of one that actually ascended Alconbury Brook as far as Hamerton, and is entered in the Parish Register of that village, as follows:—

“On Good Friday, the 8th day of April, 1757 was taken alive out of ye shallow water on ye Ford in ye highway leading from this Town to Mr. Newton (and on to Oundle) a Salmon one yard in length, weighing nineteen pound and a half. He was a Male Fish wasted, with a large head and ye lower jaw much hooked

Witness, W. ROBINSON,
Rector.

More recent records have been kindly given me by Mr. Kausman, of Huntingdon. About 15 years ago Mr. Wallis, a St. Ives angler, found, following a flood, a salmon estimated to weigh 20lbs., stranded near the Waits, St. Ives. In 1947, Mr. J. F. Morris of St. Ives, while spinning caught a 3lb. grilse near Hemingford. Again in March, 1951, following floods, the partly decomposed body of a salmon was found near St. Ives. Scales from this fish were submitted to an expert who pronounced it a 2 year old fish making its first freshwater run in 1950, and furthermore, a kelt that had spawned. Other salmon that must have passed through Denver Sluice have been found in the Little Ouse recently.

There seems little doubt, therefore, that there is an occasional, if not a regular, autumn and perhaps spring run of salmon up the Ouse, both of mature fish and grilse. So far as Huntingdonshire is concerned this may be dependant on floods enabling the fish to pass the locks and weirs.

C. F. TEBBUTT.

LEPIDOPTERA

1951 was not, on the whole, a good year for Lepidoptera. I have received only one record from anyone else and I was myself obliged to be away from the county much more than in previous years and had very few chances of field work. It is most desirable that all who are interested in butterflies and moths should make a habit of sending me their records every Christmas. They will be used with the utmost discretion.

Orange-Tip. Very late to appear. Was still about on June 24th, a most unusual date.

Dark Green Fritillery. Some at Wood Walton.

High Brown Fritillery. Common at Wood Walton.

Pearl bordered Fritillery. Unusually scarce in Monks Wood.

Comma. Not seen in the spring. Several autumn up to Oct. 14th.

Peacock. Scarcer than usual.

Painted Lady. Not recorded. Specially bad year for migrants.

Red Admiral. In small numbers, Oct.

Marbled White. Abundant. Extends all along railway to a point west of Thrapston where the ground rises. Further details of range still needed.

Speckled Wood. Not recorded.

Wall. Rare.

Black Hairstreak. Plentiful in its particular haunts.

Small Copper. Seems to be passing through one of its recurrent periods of scarcity.

Brown Argus. Not recorded. Details of this species in Hunts. urgently needed.

Common Blue. Not recorded.

Holly Blue. Several Aug. and Sept.

Grizzled Skipper. Scarce.

Dingy Skipper. Scarce.

Small Skipper. Much less common than usual.

Macroglossum stellatarum. Not recorded.

Cybosia Mesomella. One at Wood Walton, 7th July.

Apatele rumicis. One was bred from a larva found in Monks Wood. In view of the lack of detail in the records published in V.C.H. this must be claimed as an addition to the county list.

Bombycia viminalis. One at light, Alconbury. 24th June.

Plusia gamma. Scarce.

Catocala nupta. Ramsey, 7th and 22nd, Sept. (N. L. Perry). Alconbury, 5th Oct.

Larentia clavaria (cervinata). Schiff). Alconbury, 30th Sept.

Eupithecia albipunctata. Alconbury, 9th and 30th June.

Ligdia adustata. One Monks Wood, 8th July. V.C.H. gives it as "common," but this is the first time I have met with it.

Ennomos quercinaria. Alconbury, 14th Sept.

Zygaena trifolii. Woolley, 15th July.

All the above records should be read in relation to: (1) The list in the Victoria County History; (2) The lists in earlier reports of the Hunts. F. & F. Society.

Publication

The range and distribution of *Agapetes galathea* L. (the Marbled White.) J. E. H. Blackie. *Entomologist* (June, 1951.)

A few reprints are available free of charge on request.

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

HEMIPTERA—HETEROPTERA

Acanthosoma haemorroidale L. Stibbington, 12/10/40.

The following are not included in the V.C.H. list:—

Troilus luridus F. Stibbington, 15/4/49.

Pentatoma rufipes L. Stibbington, 20/7/50.

Reduvius personatus L. In a shed, Stibbington, 6/6/50.

Camptobrochis lutescens Schill. Pale blue nymph found on *Antirrhinum majus*, 2/8/48. By 22/8/48 the imago had emerged.

All the above species were determined by the Rev. C. E. Tottenham.

Pilophorus perplexus D. & S. (probably correct—C. E. Tottenham). Found caught in a garden-spider's web near nest of small black ant, 20/8/47, Stibbington. As this bug was probably caught when leaving the ant's nest and is well-known as an ant guest I think there is little doubt that it is of this species.

Deraecoris ruber L. Stibbington. Very common on *Mentha spicata* and *Antirrhinum majus*, 1947-1950. Found a prickly black nymph, 27/6/47, from which the imago emerged 5/7/47.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

FLORA

In the following plant list only records not previously published in the V.C.H., Dr. Dony's paper and the Society's Reports have been included. Flowering plants which are apparently new to the County are indicated thus*.

Records have been received from the following: L. W. Angell (A.), Mr. and Mrs. Blackie (B.), R. Connan (R.C.), Cambridge Nat. Hist. Soc. (C.N.S.), Colne school children (C.C.), D. A. Davies (D.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.), Huntingdon Grammar School (H.G.S.), J. E. Lousley (J.E.L.), M. E. D. Poore (M.E.D.P.), C. D. Pigott (C.D.P.), P. D. Sell (P.D.S.), H. B. Souter (H.B.S.), C. F. Tebbutt (T.), and E. C. Wallace (E.C.W.) Where no initials are given the records are my own. All Dr. Dony's undated records refer to 1948. The Colne records were kindly forwarded by Mr. Sell, who named the specimens for the schoolmistress (Miss O. Chambers), and who also sent along the old records of pondweeds and mints in the Cambridge Herbarium. These were collected by: A. Fryer (F.), E. W. Hunnybun (E.W.H.), C.E. Moss (M.), and W. W. Newbould (N.) A few records of uncommon bryophytes and fungi have again been included. More records of these plants, together with those of lichens and algae, would be most welcome.

Our excursion to Barnack, etc., Northants. on July 14th produced a number of uncommon species. Among those seen at Barnack Drift were: *Carex hostiana* and a hybrid between it and *C. lepidiocarpa*, *Epipactis palustris* (Marsh Helleborine), *Schoenus nigricans* (Bog Rush), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean), *Listera ovata* (Twayblade), *Habenaria Gymnadenia* (Fragrant Orchis)

and the hybrid *Orchis Mortonii*. Several plants of the Shade Hawkweed, *Hieracium Lachenalii* (det. P.D.S.) were seen at the "Hills and Holes," Barnack.

Lastly, may I again remind members to save a single dried specimen of each plant they record so that if necessary it can be checked by an expert, also it may be required for the county collection. Specimens of "critical plants" are always required; these include hawkweeds, brambles, eyebrights, thymes, docks, mints, willows, pondweeds, sedges and stoneworts.

- 1/1 *Clematis Vitalba* L. Old Man's Beard. Near Buckden (T.)
 2/1 *Thalictrum flavum* L. Meadow Rue. Nene side, Alwalton Lynch, 2—6. Holme Fen (C.N.S., J.G.D.)
 6/7 *Ranunculus Flammula* L. Lesser Spearwort. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) forma *radicans*. Submerged in gravel pits, Stibbington.
 6/11 *Ranunculus sceleratus* L. Celery-leaved Crowfoot. Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
 6/21 *Ranunculus circinatus* Sibth. Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot. Knot Holes, Fletton, 10—7.
 7/1 *Caltha palustris* L. Marsh Marigold. St. Neots (J.G.D.) Stibbington.
 20/1 *Nymphaea alba* L. White Water-lily. St. Neots (J.G.D.)
 21/1 *Papaver somniferum* L. Opium Poppy. Abundant, Stibbington rubbish dump, 29—7.
 *21 *Papaver atlanticum* Ball. (Orange Poppy). Naturalised in waste places, Stibbington. (det. S. M. Walters and J.E.L.)
 25/1 *Chelidonium majus* L. Greater Celandine. Stibbington, 6—5.
 34/1 *Cheiranthus cheiri* L. Wallflower. Wall, Godmanchester (J.G.D.)
 35/3 *Rorippa amphibia* (L.) Besser. Amphibious Yellow Watercress. St. Ives (C.D.P.)
 35/4 *Rorippa islandica* (Oeder). Marsh Yellow Watercress. St. Ives (J.G.D.) Gravel pits and Nene side, Stibbington.
 49/2 *Descurainia Sophia* (L.) Prantl. Flixweed. Connington (J.G.D.)
 49/7 *Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Heynh. Thale-cress. Railway embankment near Wansford Quarries, 20—5.
 50/1 *Erysimum cheiranthoides* L. Treakle Mustard. Huntingdon railway sidings, 14/8/50; Connington (J.G.D.), rubbish dump and roadsides, Stibbington, 29—7; brickyards and garden weed, Fletton; Bury near Ramsey.
 60/2 *Coronopus squamatus* (Forsk.) Aschers. Swines Cress. Connington. (J.G.D.)
 61/3 *Cardaria Draba* L. Desv. Hoary Cress. Connington. (J.G.D.)

- 61/5 *Lepidium campestre* L. R.Br. Field Pepperwort. Connington; Holme Fen. (J.G.D.)
 64/1 *Thlaspi arvense* L. Penny Cress. Roadsides, Elton village, 21-7.
 76/3 *Rapistrum rugosum* L. All Connington Dump, 4—6—50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
 85/3 *Reseda Luteola* L. Weld. Alconbury (B.) Connington. (J.G.D.)
 88/8 *Viola odorata* L. Sweet Violet. Stukely (B.) Stibbington.
 88/8x8d *Viola odorata* L. x *odorata* L. var. *dumetorum* (Jord) a pale purple violet (det. S.M. Walters) Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington.
 88/8d *Viola odorata* L. var. *dumetorum* (Jord) a white violet (det. S. M. Walters) Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington.
 88/9 *Viola hirta* L. Hairy Violet. Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
 95/1 *Saponaria officinalis* L. Soapwort. Hartford. (J.G.D.) Abundant rubbish dump, Stibbington, 29—7.
 101/1 *Myosoton aquaticum* L. Moench. Great Water Chickweed. Offord Darcy (A.) Connington (J.G.D.)
 101/7 *Stellaria graminea* L. Lesser Stichwort. Hartford (J.G.D.) Offord Darcy (A.) Abundant Nene side, etc., Stibbington.
 102/6 *Arenaria leptoclados* Guss. Slender Sandwort. Fields, Stibbington.
 *115/3 *Althaea rosea* L. Hollyhock. Connington (J.G.D.) Rubbish dump, Stibbington, 29—7.
 117/1 *Malva moschata* L. Musk Mallow. Monks Wood (J.G.D.)
 *117/4 *Malva pusilla* Sm. forma *albiflora*. A white-flowered Dwarf Mallow. Persists along a clinker path, Offord Darcy (A.)
 *128/2 *Erodium moschatum* L'Herit. Musk Storksbill. St. Neots railway sidings 30/9/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.) Previously rec. without locality.
 128/3 *Erodium cicutarium* L'Herit. Hemlock Storksbill. Connington (J.G.D.)
 128/5 *Erodium Botrys* (Cav.) Bert. St. Neots railway sidings, 22/8/50 (J.G.D.)
 *131/1 *Limnanthes Douglasii* Br. A fine specimen said to have been found in a potato field at Colne, 18—6. (C.C.)
 132/2 *Oxalis corniculata* L. Creeping Yellow Wood-sorrel. (det. S. M. Walters & D. P. Young) roadside, Elton village, 21—7.
 133/2 *Impatiens capensis* Meerburgh. Orange Balsam. Offord Darcy (A.) Hartford (J.G.D.) St. Neots (T.)
 136/1 *Ilex Aquifolium* L. Holly. Planted, Alwalton Lynch, Fletton, etc.

- 149/1 *Ulex europaeus* L. Gorse. Near Wansford Station, 21—4; Elton; Waternewton.
- 150/1 *Sarothamnus scoparius* Wimm. Broom. Connington Dump, 4/6/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
- 153/3 *Medicago sativa* L. Lucerne. Connington (J.G.D.) Roadsides, Elton and Stibbington, 21—7.
- *153/4b *Medicago hispida* Gaertn. var. *denticulata* (Willd.) Toothed Medick. Offord Sidings, 16/8/50 (J.G.D.)
- 153/5 *Medicago arabica* (L.) Huds. Spotted Medick. St. Neots railway sidings, 22/8/50 (J.G.D.)
- 153/6 *Medicago minima* (L.) Bartsch var. *recta* (Desf.) Burnat. St. Neots railway sidings, 22/8/50; Huntingdon railway sidings, 14/8/50; Offord railway sidings, 16/9/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- 153/27 *Medicago laciniata* Mill. Yaxley and Huntingdon railway sidings, 14/8/50; Offord and St. Neots railway sidings, 1950. (J.G.D.)
- 154/3 *Melilotus arvensis* Wallr. Field Melilot. Connington (J.G.D.)
- 154/4 *Melilotus indica* (L.) All. Small-flowered Melilot. Yaxley railway sidings, 14/8/50. (J.G.D.)
- 155/12 *Trifolium subterraneum* L. var. *oxaloides* (Bunge) Rouy. St. Neots railway sidings, 30/9/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
- *170/1 *Coronilla varia* L. Crown Vetch. Connington Dump, 4/6/50. (H.B.S.)
- 176/12b *Vicia sativa* L. ssp. *obovata* (Ser.) Gaud. var. *vulgaris*, Gren. & Gadr. (Common Vetch) Elton roadside, Stibbington. A relic of cultivation.
- 176/13c *Vicia sativa* L. ssp. *angustifolia* (L.) Gaud. var. *segetalis* (Thuill.) Ser. (Corn Vetch) roadsides, etc., Stibbington, 20—5.
- 176/35 *Vicia tetrasperma* Moench. Smooth Tare. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Brickyards, Fletton.
- 184/12 *Filipendula hexapetala* Gilib. Dropwort. Railway embankment, Abbots Ripton, 14/6/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.) Woolley (B). Roadside, Alwalton, 2—6.
- 189/8 *Potentilla procumbens* Sibth. Trailing Tormentil. Denton Fen (J.E.L.)
- 193/1 *Poterium Sanguisorba* L. Salad Burnet. Colne (C.) Stibbington.
- 199/17 *Saxifraga granulata* L. Meadow Saxifrage. Meadows, Stibbington.
- 211/6 *Sedum acre* L. Biting Yellow Stonecrop. Connington (J.G.D.) Railway embankment, Offord Darcy (A.) Walls, Alwalton, 2—6.

- *220/6 *Epilobium Lamyi* F. Sch. Glaucous Willowherb. This plant (Vide Rep. 3) was first found by Dr. Walters at Woodwalton Fen, 7/8/50, and confirmed by Mr. Ash.
- 220/7 *Epilobium obscurum* Schreber. Dull-leaved Willowherb. Denton Fen, 1949 (J.G.D.)
- 223/2 *Oenothera erythrosepalas* Borbas. Common Evening Primrose. Rubbish dump, Elton Road, Stibbington, 29—7.
- 251/1 *Sison Anomum* L. Stone-parsley. St. Ives (J.G.D.) Roadsides, Elton and Stibbington.
- 253/1 *Sium latifolium* L. Broad-leaved Water-parsnip. Nene side and gravel pits, Stibbington.
- 269/1 *Silaum Silaus* (L.) Schinz and Thell. Pepper Saxifrage. Hartford (Joint Exc. per B.)
- 274/1 *Angelica sylvestris* L. Wild Angelica. Monks Wood (J.G.D.), Nene side, Stibbington.
- 283/5 *Caucalis nodosa* Scop. Knotted Hedge Parsley. Cornfield, Alconbury, 1938.
- 300/1 *Sherardia arvensis* L. Field Madder. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Fields, etc., Stibbington.
- *312/6 *Solidago Canadensis* L. Canadian Goldenrod. Naturalised Elton roadside, Stibbington.
- 333/1 *Inula Helenium* L. Elecampane. Connington (J.G.D.)
- *341/3 *Xanthium spinosum* L. Spiny Burweed. St. Neots railway sidings, 22/8/50 (J.G.D.)
- 371/1 *Matricaria inodora* L. *flore pleno*. A double-flowered Scentless Mayweed (resembling Chamomile). Stibbington, 28—5.
- 377/1 *Tanacetum vulgare* L. Tansey. Brickyards, Fletton, 1—8.
- 380/3 *Petasites fragrans* Presl. Winter Heliotrope. Roadside, Abbots Ripton, February (H.B.S.)
- 422/3 *Leontodon nudicaulis* Banks. Hairy Hawkbit. Godmanchester, 1949 (J.G.D.) Gravel pits, Stibbington, 25—8.
- 423 *Taraxacum laevigatum* (Willd.) D.C. (det. W. B. Turrill). Near a farmyard, Alwalton Lynch, 2—6.
- 423 *Taraxacum officinale* Weber. Dandelion. A slightly abnormal plant having leaves on the peduncle. Dr. Turrill states that this occurs occasionally, especially in well-grown plants. Meadow near Alwalton Lynch, 2—6.
- 425/2 *Lactuca Serriola* L. Prickley Lettuce. Connington (J.G.D.)
- 425/3 *Lactuca saligna* L. Willow-leaved Lettuce. By the 100 ft. Drain near Earith, 1951. (J.G.D.)
- 435/4 *Campanula Rapunculoides* L. Creeping Bellflower. Offord Darcy (A.)

- 491/1 *Cynoglossum officinale* L. Common Houndstongue. Colne, June (C.C.)
- 497/1 *Symphytum officinale* L. Common Comfrey. Offord Darcy (A.) Colne, June (C.C.)
- 497/2 *Symphytum tuberosum* L. Recorded in error in Rep. 3, page 19. Vide 497/3.
- *497/3 *Symphytum orientale* L. Eastern Comfrey. (det. A. E. Wade) H.G.S. Spinney. Naturalised.
- 527/3 *Verbascum Thapsus* L. Great Mullein. Connington (J.G.D.) Holme Fen; rubbish dump, Stibbington, 29—7.
- 558 *Mentha* spp. Det. R. Graham.
- 558/6d *Mentha piperata* L. var. *subcordata* Fraser. Peppermint. Orig? Huntingdon and cult. Lidbury, 1908 (E.W.H.)
- 558/7b *Mentha aquatica* L. verging to var. *subglabra* Baker. Smooth Water-mint. River by Overcote, Needingworth, St. Ives, August, 1912 (A. Shrubbs).
- 558/7j *Mentha aquatica* L. ad. var. *denticulatum* vergens. Woodwalton Fen, 5/8/12 (M.)
- 558/13 *Mentha arvensis* L. Corn Mint. Woodwalton Fen 5/8/12 (M.)
- 558/14 *Mentha pulegium* L. Pennyroyal. Old Bedford River, Earith, 1844 (N.)
- *561/8 *Thymus drucei* Ronn. em Jalas. Druce's Thyme. (det. C.D.P.) Wansford Quarries, Stibbington, 27/7/50. Mr. Pigott remarks: "One of the specimens has almost holotrichous internodes, although the hairs are more plentiful on two sides than on the alternate sides."
- 566/2 *Salvia horminoides* Pourr. Clary. Connington (J.G.D.)
- 596/6 *Amaranthus retroflexus* L. Upright Amaranth. St. Neots railway sidings, 30/9/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S., & D.)
- 600/1 *Chenopodium rubrum* L. Red Goosefoot. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Brickyards, Fletton; fields, Stibbington and Elton.
- 600/12 *Chenopodium ficifolium* Sm. Fig-leaved Goosefoot. Holme Fen; Connington (J.G.D.) Elton roadsides, Stibbington, 29—7
- 606/3c *Atriplex patula* L. var. *linearis* (Gaud.) Moss & Wilmott. (det. J. P. M. Brenan). Spreading Orache. Fields, Stibbington.
- 616/1 *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench. Buckwheat. Huntingdon railway sidings 14/8/50 (J.G.D.)
- 618/11 *Rumex pulcher* L. Fiddle Dock. St. Neots (J.G.D.) Roadside, Elton village, 21—7.
- 623/1 *Daphne Laureola* L. Spurge Laurel. Ramsey (B.)
- 628/15 *Euphorbia exigua* L. Dwarf Spurge. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Gardens and fields, Stibbington.

- 651/1 *Populus canescens* Sm. Grey Poplar. Waresley, 12/6/50. (P.D.S.)
- 651/5x3 *Populus serotina* (Hartig). Hilton, 15/6/50 (P.D.S.)
- 663/1 *Listera ovata* (L.) Br. Twayblade. Weavely Wood (C.D.P.) New Close Cover, Elton.
- 669/14 *Orchis mascula* L. Early Purple Orchid. Naturalised at Offord Darcy since 1934 (A.) New Close Cover, Elton, 20—5.
- 672/3 *Ophrys apifera* Huds. Bee Orchid. Meadow, Huntingdon, 1950.
- 735/2 *Potamogeton* spp. Det. J. E. Dandy & G. Taylor. Cf. V.C.H. list.
- *737 *Potamogeton* Friesii Rufr. Woodwalton Fen, 14/7/13 (J. E. Little).
- 737/9 *Potamogeton* gramineus L. Various-leaved Pondweed. Somersham, August, 1844 (N.) Cross Drove, Pidley Fen, 21/6/1888; Warners Drove, 17/8/1888 (F.) Stocking Fen, Ramsey, Aug., 1907 (E.W.H.)
- 737/13 *Potamogeton lucens* L. Shining Pondweed. Whittlesea Fens, 1829 (C. C. Babington). Woodwalton Fen, 5/8/09 (E.W.H.)
- 737/16 *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L. Perfoliate Pondweed. River Ouse, Bluntisham, June, 1846 (N.)
- 737/28 *Potamogeton pectinatus* L. Fennel-leaved Pondweed. River Ouse, Bluntisham, June, 1846 (N.)
- 739/1 *Zannichellia palustris* L. Horned Pondweed. Holme (J.G.D.) Pond near Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington, 25—8.
- 753/9 *Carex hirta* L. Hairy Sedge. Colne, June (C.C.)
- 753/22 *Carex serotina* Mér. Woodwaltn Fen, 1949 (J.G.D.)
- 753/46 *Carex gracilis* Curt. Acute Sedge. Houghton, July (R.C.)
- *753/55 *Carex stellulata* Good. Star-headed Sedge. The Heath, Woodwalton Fen (one plant only) July (M.E.D.P.)
- 753/57 *Carex remota* L. Remote-spiked Sedge. Spinney, H.G.S., Hartford; Warboys Wood (J.G.D.); Monks Wood (J.E.L.)
- 753/60 *Carex contigua* Hoppe. Prickly Sedge. Ex-wooded area, Grafham, July (R.C.) Holme Fen (C.D.P.)
- 753/74 *Carex pulicaris* L. Flea Sedge. Woodwalton Fen (J.G.D.)
- *754/8 *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv. var. *aristata* (Pursh). Barnyard-grass. Huntingdon railway sidings, 14/8/50 (J.G.D.)
- *756/4 *Setaria verticillata* (L.) Beauv. Rough Brittle-grass. St. Neots railway sidings, 30/9/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
- *760/1 *Tragus racemosus* (L.) Scop. St. Neots railway sidings, 22/8/50 (J.G.D.)

- 765/5 *Phalaris canariensis* L. Canary Grass. Huntingdon railway sidings; Hartford (J.G.D.); St. Neots (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.); Stibbington, 29—7.
- 770/3 *Alopecurus agrestis* L. Slender Foxtail. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Alwalton, 2—6.
- 794/2 *Helictichon pubescens* (Huds.) Pilger. Railway embankment, Abbots Ripton, 4/6/50 (J.G.D., H.B.S. & D.)
- *824/5 *Poa palustris* L. Marsh Meadow-grass. Common at Woodwalton Fen, 1951 (M.E.D.P.)
- *824/7 *Poa nemoralis* L. Wood Meadow-grass. Monks Wood (J.G.D.) Bluntisham Heath, June (C.C.) Previously recorded for the county without locality.
- 824/10 *Poa compressa* L. Flat-stemmed Meadow-grass. Old walls, Stibbington, 25—6.
- 835/1 *Hordeum nodosum* L. Meadow Barley. St. Ives (J.G.D.) Elton Park, 21—7.
- 831/7 *Asplenium Ruta-muraria* L. Wall-rue. Huntingdon (J.G.D.) Platform wall, Wansford Station, etc.

Charophyta

- *876/1c *Chara vulgaris* L. var. *papillata* Wallr. (det. G. O. Allen). Pond near Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington, 25—8.

Bryophyta

Lunularia cruciata (L.) Dum. (Common Liverwort). Base of walls, Huntingdon.

Dicranum undulatum Ehrh. (det. E. C. W.) Woodwalton Fen, July, (M.E.D.P.)

Leptodictyum riparium (Hedw.) Warnst. (det. H. L. K. Whitehouse). Abundant, gravel pits, Stibbington.

The above two mosses are apparently new to the county.

Fungi

Lycoperdon Bovista L. Giant Puffball. Hilton (W. T. K. Garnett).

Trichia decipiens (Persoon) Macbride (det. J. Ross). On decayed wood, New Close Cover, Elton, 23—12.

Mucilago spongiosa (Levss.) Morgan (det. J. Ross). On the stem of a dead herb, Hodgington Hill, Stibbington, 13/12/45.

Mr. Tebbutt has kindly pointed out to me the correct way of spelling Offord Darcy; it is not Offord D'Arcy, as recorded in the Annual Report for 1950.

JOHN L. GILBERT.