

HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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**6<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
**1953**

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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**Chairman:**

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

**Hon. Secretary:**

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

Tel: Huntingdon 612.

**Hon. Treasurer:**

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

**Hon. Social Secretary:**

MISS O. D. CLARKE, 10, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

Tel.: Huntingdon 213.

**Committee:**

G. E. D. ALCOCK.

L. W. ANGELL.

MRS. J. E. H. BLACKIE.

W. J. GARNETT.

J. L. GILBERT.

C. F. TEBBUTT.

R. V. KEYWORTH.

**Referees:**

*Coleoptera* - - - REV. C. E. TOTTENHAM, Department of Zoology,  
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 1953

(No. 6)

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### INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting was held at Huntingdon Grammar School, by kind permission of the Headmaster, on Saturday, 28th February, 1953, when the officers named above were elected. A motion proposed by Mr. C. F. Tebbutt, "That the Home Secretary be urged to give Parliamentary time for a bird protection Bill on the lines of a general protection for all birds with agreed exceptions," was duly carried, and the thanks of the Society are due to the Member for Huntingdonshire, Mr. David Renton, for his subsequent help in bringing this matter forward. A further motion, sponsored by the Committee, "That the annual subscription be raised forthwith to 7s. 6d. for ordinary members, but should remain at 5s. 0d. in the case of individual members in receipt of full-time education," was carried, and various means of augmenting the Society's very limited financial resources were discussed. It may be emphasised here that the prompt payment of subscriptions, and the nomination of new members, are most helpful to the successful continuation of the Society, and that members who are in arrears with their subscriptions should please pay them without delay to the Hon. Treasurer at the address given above.

Following the Annual General Meeting, Dr. G. V. T. Matthews, of the Department of Zoology, Cambridge, gave an address on "Bird Navigation," with accompanying slides, which dealt in particular detail with his own research on the Manx Shearwater.

The following have joined the Society since the publication of the previous report: Mrs. C. A. Hancock, Miss J. Kettlewell, Mr. A. J. Moore, Mr. C. Pentelow, Mr. L. A. Richardson and Mrs. Vawser.

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### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Three Excursions have been held during 1953:—

May 10th.—Expedition to Brampton Wood by kind permission of Mr. Leeds. This was attended by approximately 30 members.

May 16th.—Joint Excursion with Peterborough Museum Society to Holme. Some 12 members explored the railway embankment and later the wood under the leadership of Mr. J. L. Gilbert.

July 25th.—Joint Excursion with Cambridgeshire National History Society to Holywell, St. Ives. Nine members led by Mr. J. L. Gilbert met Dr. Walters and other members of the Cambs. Society. Tea was served at the Ferry Boat Inn at the end of the afternoon.

It was decided not to hold the usual autumn meeting or conversazione but instead to arrange for exhibits to be shown at the Annual General Meeting on 27th Feb., 1954.

## BIRDS

The sixth bird report contains some full and interesting records in spite of the few observers contributing. Noteworthy are the first recorded breeding of the Garganey, a months stay of a flock of Berwick's Swans, and the appearance of a pair of Puffins unheralded by storms, all at Bluntisham. Once again Corncrakes seem to have nested near Grafham. It is some time since a Hawfinch has been seen in the county, and members should look out for others.

Willow Tits have at last been certainly identified and a few reports of Cole and Marsh Tits have come in; I should like many more from all parts of the county, even if negative ones. The habits of gulls all over the country seem to be changing, and former sea-going species are now coming regularly inland—particularly Herring Gulls—to visit rubbish dumps, etc. All reports concerning them are therefore valuable.

The census of Heron's nests, and Great Crested Grebes have been taken as usual and wildfowl counts made.

It will be noted that the former order of birds has been changed to conform with the new 1952 Check List.

Contributors to the report are: W. Garnett (W.G.), C. Burge (C.B.), G. Alcock (G.A.), R. D. Kime (R.K.), L. Angell (L.A.), J. E. Archer (J.A.), L.A.C. MacNab (L.A.C.M.), E. T. Lees (E.L.), J. Measures (J.M.), Miss Kettlewell (J.K.), Kimbolton School (K.S.), Cambridge Bird Club (C.B.A.), Gaynes Hall Bird Club (G.H.B.C.), and the Recorder (Rec.)

*Gt. Crested Grebe.* 1953. Census of birds in breeding season 47 (+4).

*Little Grebe.* 1953. April 12th. Marsh Lane, Hemingford. 2 young, 7/10 days old. (Rec.)

*Cormorant.* 1953. April 16th. Meadow Lane pit, St. Ives. 4 adults, with breeding patches, arrived flying high from S.E. and settled. (Rec.) April 15th. Bluntisham Staunch, one flying N.E. (J.A.)

*Heron.* 1953. Nest census. Hemingford 13 (— 2). Hinchingsbrooke 6 (— 1). St. Neots 7 (— 1). Rec.

*Mallard.* 1953. Dec. 26th. Shot at Lt. Paxton, a female with exceptionally dark plumage and white chin and neck front. Identified by Peter Scott as showing characteristics developed normally in a melanistic mutation sometimes known as Black East Indian Duck. This specimen may be this form crossed back with wild Mallard. A brood thought to be wild Mallard female and Aylesbury cross at Hilton produced young something like this. (Rec. and W.G.)

*Garganey.* 1953. May 21st. Bluntisham Fen, a nest with 11 eggs hatched successfully. (J.A.)

*Pintail.* 1953. Fenstanton Pit, Feb. 1st, 2. Feb. 15th, 2. (Rec.)

*Shoveler.* 1953. May 3rd, Marsh Lane, Hemingford, a pair. May 20th, Meadow Lane, St. Ives, 1 drake. (Rec.)

*Tufted Duck.* 1953. Nested in usual sites. (Rec.)

*Pochard.* 1953. June 12th. Huntingdon area, duck with 2 young. June 25th, St. Ives area, duck with 5 young. (Rec.)

*Grey Geese.* 1953. Bluntisham Staunch. Jan. 7th, 32 flying S.W.; Jan. 23rd, 34 flying S.W.; Feb. 3rd, 24 flying N.E. (J.A.) Dec. 19th, single juv., Pinkfoot shot Great Staughton (Rec.) Dec. 27th, small skein flying high N. (C.B.)

*Canada Goose.* 1953. Jan. 21st, St. Neots, 1 flying W. (Rec.)

*Bewick's Swan.* 1953. After the gale and phenomenal tides of Jan. 30/31, a large flock appeared on the Gt. Washes and varying numbers fed with Mutes on Bury Fen, Bluntisham. Feb. 1st, 29 adults and 4 cygnets; Feb. 15th, 40. Feb. 28th, 55 (J.K., W.G., Rec.)

*Buzzard.* 1953. Bluntisham Staunch, one flying S. March 2nd and May 21st. (J.A.) May 24th, one St. Neots Common (Rec.)

*Quail.* 1953. June 8th, Hilton. 1 heard. (C.B.C.)

*Water-rail.* 1953. Oct. 30th. Kym Brook, Hail Weston, one seen. (Rec.)

*Corncrake.* 1953. Again it seems likely that some bred. One was heard calling between Dillington and Perry Ash Wood in June and July. Another on Red Hill Farm, Perry, and another July 7th - 10th, between Perry and Grafham. (G.H.B.C., Rec.)

*Lapwing.* 1953. Feb. 15th, Gt. Washes, Earith, an albino with pink feet, black tipped yellow bill and two black bars across back, tried to associate with other Lapwings but each time driven off, perhaps in mistake for a gull. Seen again Bury Fen, Bluntisham, March 20th. (Rec.)

*Lt. Ringed Plover.* 1953. No evidence of nesting. One seen in St. Ives area April 17th, and a pair displaying May 3rd. (Rec.)

*Golden Plover.* 1953. Flock of about 200 remained near Buckden Station until 3rd March. On March 22nd, about 25 left, some with the strongly contrasting plumage of the northern race. (Rec.) Oct. 30th to end year, about 25 near Offord Hill. (C.B., Rec.)

*Jack Snipe.* 1953. Dec. 26th. Lt. Paxton pit, one. (Rec.)

*Woodcock.* 1953. A nest found in Kimbolton woods and another brood seen. Some present in Perry Woods during summer. (Rec.)

*Curlew.* 1953. Gt. Paxton, Jan. 20th, one flying N. (L.A.) Hilton, Jan. 29th, one, Feb. 28th, one flying E. (W.G.), March 9th, 3 flying N. (L.A.), March 13th, one Bluntisham Fen (J.A.) Aug. 2nd, St. Neots, one flying E., Dec. 6th, Lt. Paxton, 1 flying N., another S. (Rec.)

*Green Sandpiper.* 1953. March 24th, and June 25th, one Marsh Lane, Hemingford (R.K., Rec.) Sept. 20th, Lt. Paxton pit, 2 (Rec.)

*Redshank.* 1953. Had arrived breeding area Bluntisham Fen, March 2nd (J.A.) Heard passing over St. Neots at night, Sept. 10th, 15th. (C.B.)

*Greater Black-backed Gull.* 1953. Feb. 26th, one, Bluntisham Stauch, flew off S.W. (J.A.)

*Lesser Black-backed Gull.* 1953. Lt. Paxton rubbish pit. May 24th, one 2nd year (or Herring-Gull). June 7th, one 3 year old. (Rec.)

*Herring-Gull.* 1953. During January for first time started fighting up river each day as far as St. Neots, arriving late morning or mid-day, many feeding on Lt. Paxton rubbish pit (Jan. 18th, 16th, 25th, 40). After floods of Jan. 30/31st, number dropped. (Feb. 1st, one, 8th, one, 14th, 12, 22nd, 2/3). March 8th, St. Neots, one flying N.E. Nov. 28th, Yaxley, 2 small parties flying S.W. at mid-day. Dec. 5th, daily flights by small numbers up river to St. Neots area resumed, arriving 11.30 — 12 noon, and continued to end of year. (Rec.)

*Common Gull.* 1953. Fewer than usual and no increase in relation to B.H. Gulls in March. Very few seen among the B.H. Gull flock in autumn and winter. (Rec.)

*Black-headed Gull.* 1953. Numbers fighting up river daily dropped drastically after great flood of Jan. 30/31st, but gradually recovered and did not diminish as usual in March. A few were still passing down at dusk at Bluntisham on April 10th. Rather smaller numbers fighting in autumn and winter, possibly due to dry conditions. (Rec.)

*Arctic/Common Tern.* 1953. April 18th, Lt. Paxton pit, one Arctic. Aug. 26th, Lt. Paxton pit, one flew away W. by S., wind W. A pair of Common remained at Fenstanton pit June 14th to July 1st, but no nest could be found. (Rec.) Oct. 16th, 2 fishing near Bluntisham Stauch. (J.A.)

*Little Tern.* 1953. Bluntisham Stauch, June 13th, one flying N.E. June 19th, 2 fishing. (J.A.)

*Puffin.* 1953. Bluntisham Stauch, 2 in river Nov. 28th. One shot Nov. 29th, and other died 30th, probably from starvation as shot bird was sent to Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, and found to have nothing in its stomach. (J.A. and Rec.)

*Short-eared Owl.* 1953. Jan. 5th—10th, one Kimbolton Airfield. (Rec.)

*Swift.* 1953. July 16th. Lt. Paxton. Large numbers could be heard screaming, too high to see; with binoculars they could be seen drifting N.E., wind S.W.

*Kingfisher.* 1953. Continued at high level of numbers, and often seen up Kym Brook to Kimbolton. (K.S.)

*Hooded Crow.* 1952. Dec. 13th, 1 Kimbolton (K.S.), 1953; one of those at Lt. Paxton (see last report) stayed until mid-March. (Rec.)

*Rook.* 1953. Numbers of nests maintained in spite of persecution. St. Neots 402 (+ 34). Lt. Paxton, 84 (+ 23), Diddington 134 (— 75), but a new nest site discovered later and not counted. (Rec.)

*Magpie.* 1953. May 5th. Easton. Brooding bird killed when ash tree containing nest was felled. Oct. 23rd. Communal roost in old nurseries near Brampton Hut. (Rec.)

*Titmice.* 1953. Cole Tits have been seen at Gt. Paxton in Jan. (L.A.), Kimbolton Woods, April (Rec.) Glatton (L.A.C.M.) and Stonely, Dec., 1952 (K.S.) Marsh Tits in spring, 1952 and 1953 at Glatton (L.A.C.M.), and Stonely, Nov., 1952. (K.S.) In March, 1953, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), April, Kimbolton Woods and May, Perry West Wood. (Rec.) A family party of Willow Tits was seen in Woodwalton Fen, Aug. 29th. (Rec.) Long-tailed Tits are commoner than any of the above.

*Nuthatch.* 1953. Seen April, Kimbolton Woods (Rec.) May, nesting Buckworth and Hemingford Park (E.T.L.) Woodwalton Fen (Rec.)

*Wheatear.* 1953. March 30th. 5 Bluntisham Fen (J.A.), April 3rd, one Oldhurst (E.T.L.), April 5th, one Lt. Paxton (Rec.), April 21st, 4 Hilton (W.G.), May 1st, one Bluntisham Fen (J.A.), July 14th, one juv. Hail Weston, July 16th, one juv. Lt. Paxton (Rec.)

*Stonechat.* 1953. One stayed near Lt. Paxton gravel pit, Jan. 18th — Feb. 14th; another seen there May 23rd. (Rec.)

*Whinchat.* 1953. June 1st, nest 5 young near Buckden Station (E.T.L.) Aug. 15th, one Offord Hill (C.B. and Rec.)

*Grasshopper Warbler.* 1953. Heard singing May 13th, Brampton (E.T.L.) and May 31st, St. Neots Common (C.B.) but probably did not stay. May 27th at least 6 pairs, Woodwalton Fen (Rec.)

*Reed Warbler.* 1953. May 24th. Singing Staughton Moor reservoir field (Rec.)

*Sedge Warbler.* 1953. May 24th. Singing Staughton Moor reservoir field. (Rec.)

*Blackcap.* 1953. An above average year, nests Offord, Hartford, St. Ives Thicket and Sawtry. (E.T.L.)

*Lesser Whitethroat.* 1953. May 2nd, Stonely (K.S.), April 26th, Hartford, May 14th, nest Houghton (E.T.L.)

*Tree Pipit.* 1953. May 27th, singing just outside Woodwalton Fen Reserve. (Rec.)



*Pied Wagtail.* 1953. In Dec. flocks again roosting in reeds at Gt. Paxton with Reed Buntings. (L.A.)

*Grey Wagtail.* 1952. Dec. 8th, one Kimbolton (K.S.) 1953. Jan. 22nd, one St. Ives (W.G.)

*Starling.* 1953. Jan. 7th one killed by cat at Keyston had been ringed at Halland Eket near Vessigebro, Sweden, 4/6/50. Large roost in Raunds Old Meadow Wood, near Keyston. (J.M.)

*Hawfinch.* 1953. May 14th. One Hemingford (E.T.L.)

*Brambling.* 1953. Feb. 15th. Lt. Paxton, 12 with hen Chaffinches (Rec.) Oct 18th, 16/18 hanging upside down on willows Gt. Paxton (L.A.) Dec. 1st and 14th, one Paxton Hill. Dec. 14th, one Huntingdon (C.B.)

*Reed Bunting.* 1953. Dec. occupied old roost at Gt. Paxton with Pied Wagtails, but roost lower in sedge. (L.A.)

*Tree Sparrow.* 1953. Breeding Stonley, Hail Weston (Rec.), Ellington (E.T.L.) Nov. 29th, Lt. Paxton unmixed flock of about 50 (Rec.)

#### MIGRATION DATES, 1953

<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 23rd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.) Sept. 22nd, Gt. Paxton (Rec.)
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 15th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), Hartford (R.K.)
<i>Swift.</i>	April 25th, Buckden (L.A.), Bluntisham Staunch (J.A.)
<i>Swallow.</i>	April 7th, St. Neots (Rec.) Nov. 2nd, Huntingdon (J.K.)
<i>House Martin.</i>	March 26th, St. Neots (Rec.) Oct. 20th, St. Neots (C.B.)
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	April 12th, Bluntisham (J.A.), Hilton (W.G.), St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Fieldfare.</i>	May 15th, Gt. Gidding (Rec.) Sept. 30th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Redwing.</i>	March 23rd, Salome Wood (R.K.) Oct. 7th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Nightingale.</i>	April 24th, Houghton (R.K.)
<i>Reed Warbler.</i>	April 13th, Bluntisham (J.A.)
<i>Sedge Warbler.</i>	April 26th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Blackcap.</i>	April 27th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Whitethroat.</i>	April 24th, Houghton (R.K.)
<i>Lesser Whitethroat.</i>	April 26th, Hartford (E.T.L.)
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	April 3rd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Chiffchaff.</i>	April 2nd, Kimbolton (K.S.) Sept. 17th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	May 4th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 10th, Bluntisham (J.A.)

#### BUTLER'S PIT, FLETTON

Owing to great disturbance, due to shooting in the autumn, I decided to summarize Mr. Alcock's usual comprehensive report on Butler's Pit.

Malard were unusually scarce in August even before the shooting season, only 24 being counted on August 29th, compared with 580 last year. Numbers rose to 90 on November 7th, falling soon to as few as 6. They increased again to 150 by November 28th.

Pintail stayed longer than in 1952, 15 were present on April 3rd, and the last seen were 6 on April 12th. The first seen in the autumn were 5 on November 3rd, and numbers had reached 25 by the end of the month.

No Teal appeared until 22nd November, and they rapidly increased from 10 to 60 by the end of the month.

Pochard and Shoveler were entirely absent from April 3rd to Nov. 29th, and very few Tufted Duck were seen. 2/3 Golden Eye were present, Nov. 28/29th. 8 Great Crested Grebes were counted on Butler's and adjoining pits during the breeding season, showing a continuing decline from the peak of 16 in 1951.

In view of the changing habits of gulls it is interesting that on Nov. 11th there were 4 Lesser Black-Backed, Nov. 13th 13 L. B.-b., and 60 Herring-Gulls, Nov. 14th 3 L. B.-b. and 20 H.G., Nov. 18th 21 H.G., Nov. 25th 5 H.G., Nov. 29th one L. B.-b. Few Common Gulls were seen with the exception of about 50 on Nov. 18th. On May 25th 4 Common/Arctic Terns were fishing in the pit.

#### WOODWALTON FEN

During the year 1953 Woodwalton Fen, the property of the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves, was leased to Nature Conservancy and officially scheduled as a nature reserve.

Although well known to botanists and entomologists, its bird life has, as far as I am aware, never been properly surveyed. The British Trust for Ornithology has now been asked to do this, and at their request I made a number of visits there during the year, accompanied on May 27th/28th by Mr. Alexander and Dr. Bruce Campbell. The birds listed below were either seen or heard in the Fen and presumed to be breeding.

Mallard	Wren
Sparrow-Hawk	Mistle Thrush
Kestrel	Song Thrush
Pheasant	Blackbird
Water-Rail	Nightingale (about 6 pairs)
Moorhen	Robin
Stock Dove	Grasshopper Warbler (about 6 pairs)
Wood Pigeon (commonest bird)	Reed Warbler (about 3 pairs)
Turtle Dove	

Cuckoo (about 4)	Sedge Warbler (about 6 pairs)
Barn Owl	Blackcap (about 4 pairs)
Tawny Owl	Garden Warbler (about 2 pairs)
Green Woodpecker	Whitethroat (about 12 pairs)
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	Lesser Whitethroat (about 2 pairs)
Carrion Crow (about 6 pairs)	Willow Warbler (about 12 pairs)
Jackdaw (probably breeding)	Chiffchaff (about 12 pairs)
Magpie (about 2 pairs)	Hedge Sparrow
Jay	Goldfinch
Great Titmouse	Bullfinch (about 5 pairs)
Blue Titmouse	Chaffinch
Willow Titmouse	Yellow Hammer
Long-tailed Titmouse	Reed Bunting
Nuthatch	

Besides the breeding species there were seen 3 juvenile Mute Swans, Black-headed Gulls, Swifts and Swallows. During the winter Herons were common and 2 Bitterns were seen on November 28th. Glimpses of a large brown bird were had on two occasions on May 27th, which may or may not have been a harrier. The last certain presence of one in the Fen was in 1949. The above list is obviously not exhaustive and it is hoped to add to it in the future.

C. F. TEBBUTT.

## LEPIDOPTERA

- White Admiral*. Orton Lodge, 3/8/53 (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Purple Hairstreak*. Abundant at Orton Lodge (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Black Hairstreak*. Several at Orton Lodge (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Green Hairstreak*. Farcet and Yaxley (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Brown Argus*. Orton Longueville, 9/6/52 (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Essex Skipper*. Orton Lodge and Woodstone (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Deilephela porcellus*. Alconbury, 13/6/53.  
*Pheosia tremula*. Clerck. Woodston, 1952. Mr. Tebbs found a larva and the imago emerged 14/6/53. This is an addition to the County List.  
*Clostera pigra*. Hufn. Woodston and Fletton (H. F. Tebbs).  
*Zanclognatha nemoralis*. Fab. Alconbury, 30/5/53.  
*Hypopygia costalis*. Fab. Appeared in some abundance in the Bell House garden at Alconbury during July. Only previous record for county from Somersham (V.C.H.)  
*Zygaena trifolii*. Esp. Expert examination has revealed that all of the specimens recorded recently under this name are referable to *lonicera*.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

## THE LEPIDOPTERA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE—contd.

### 2. Nymphalidæ

#### A. ARGYNNINAE

*Argynnis paphia*, L. (Silver-Washed Fritillary). There are recent records from Monks Wood, Bevill's Wood, Hill's Wood, Alconbury (single), Winwick (B. B. West) and Orton Lodge (H. F. Tebbs). In the Norris Museum at St. Ives there is a specimen marked "Wistow Wd. 1941" and in V.C.H. Warboys Wood (now cut down) is given on the authority of Mr. J. C. F. Fryer. Archdeacon Jones saw it in Salome Wood in 1947, but there was no sign of it in 1948 and the wood has now been destroyed. Not in Hermitage Wood. Probably in most of the larger woods, but perhaps decreasing.

*Fabriciana cydippe*, L. (= *adippe*. auctt.) (High Brown Fritillary). Mr. H. A. Leeds says that it was usually found in fair quantity in Monks Wood and in 1947 was plentiful. None seen there since. In V.C.H. Brampton Wood and Holme Fen are given and it may well occur there still. The only certain locality in the County is Woodwalton Fen and the adjoining rough ground, where I found it abundantly in 1951 and 1953.

*Mesoacidalia charlotta*. Hemming (= *aglaja*, L.) (Dark Green Fritillary). This butterfly is not often found in company with the last, but it was common up to 1943 on the rough ground between Bevill's Wood and Monks Wood (H. A. Leeds). The ground is now cultivated and the butterfly is gone. V.C.H. gives Brampton Wood, Holme Fen and Woodwalton. It is still to be found in fair numbers at Woodwalton Fen.

*Issoria lathonia*, L. (Queen of Spain Fritillary). One was taken many years ago in a field south of Bevill's Wood and is now in Dr. J. Newton's collection (H. A. Leeds). There are some old records in V.C.H.

*Clossiana euphrosyne*, L. (Pearl-bordered Fritillary). This generally common fritillary is not found in many apparently suitable localities and is at present decreasing in some others. In Monks Wood it was common in 1948, rare in 1949, common in some parts in 1950 and absent in 1951 — 52 — 53 so far as I know. There are recent records from Molesworth and Bythorn (B. B. West) and Stangate Hill (Dr. J. Newton). V.C.H. gives Warboys Wood and Holme Fen.

*C. selene*. Schiff. (Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary). This occurred regularly in a field near Bevill's Wood many years ago (Leeds) and in Monks Wood and at Holme Fen until fairly recently. In V.C.H. (1926) it was said to be disappearing. Now its only known locality is in the Woodwalton reserve, where it is not common. It likes damper conditions than the last, and improved drainage may have destroyed it.

#### B. MELITAEINAE.

*Euphydryas aurinia*. Rott (= *artemis*). (Marsh Fritillary). Taken at Yaxley by F. Bond before the draining of the mere, and there are old records from Monks Wood (now most unlikely), Holme Fen and Woodwalton. No specimens reported within living memory. The food plant, *Scabiosa succisa*, is uncommon in Hunts.

### C. NYMPHALINAE.

*Polygonia c-album*, L. (Comma). In 1832, J. F. Stephens took it in Monks Wood and at this time it may have been common in the County. Soon after 1850 it receded westward, and for many years was practically confined to Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. It began to spread eastwards again in 1916 and re-appeared in Hunts. in 1934 (Leeds). It was common in 1947 and 1948 and is still seen quite frequently, though it may have passed its peak.

*Aglais urticae*, L. (Small Tortoiseshell). Abundant.

*Nymphalis polychloros*, L. (Large Tortoiseshell). Was found commonly in many localities in the 19th Century (F. Bond). These included Woodwalton, Yaxley and Holme (V.C.H.) In 1903 it suddenly became rare everywhere and has only recently begun to recover ground, mainly in Essex and Suffolk. Dr. Newton saw a few during the war. Mr. Leeds observed one in Monks Wood in 1946 and two others were reported.

*N. io*, L. (Peacock). Varies in abundance.

*N. antiopa*, L. (Camberwell Beauty). One taken circa 1919 at Abbots Ripton by Miss Woodcock (H. A. Leeds).

*Vanessa cardui*, L. (Painted Lady). Migrant. The usual fluctuations between abundance and total absence.

*V. atalanta*, L. (Red Admiral). Migrant. Varies in abundance.

*Limnitis camilla*, L. (= *sibilla auctt.*) (White Admiral). Probably not recorded before 1941, when it was taken in Wistow Wood (specimens in Norris Museum). In 1943 it appeared in Monks Wood and Aversley Wood (Dr. J. Newton) and about this time at Molesworth (P. E. Dickinson). In 1945 Col. F. A. Labouchere saw it in Wennington Wood. It was seen singly in 1948 and 1949 in Monks Wood and in 1953 at Orton Lodge (H. F. Tebbs). It hardly seems to be safely established and should be carefully recorded and preserved.

### D. APATURINAE.

*Apatura iris*, L. (Purple Emperor). Recorded for Monks Wood, Beville's Wood and Brampton Wood before 1860 by J. H. White. Mr. Wm. Farren saw 50 in Monks Wood in a single day in 1887 (V.C.H.) and it persisted there until 1914. The felling of the great oaks and the reduction of the Sallow perhaps combined to destroy it, and Mr. Leeds has not seen it since that year. Dr. Newton has seen one quite recently. It has been lately recorded from Barnwell Wold and Ashton Wold just over the County border (Oundle School N.H.S., 1947), and it should be carefully looked for.

### 3. Satyridæ

*Agapetes galathe*, L. (Marbled White). Widespread. Newman (1871) gave "Monks Wood in profusion and near Sawtry," Barrett (1893) "form-

erly in abundance at Monks Wood, Warboys Wood and other places in Hunts., in some of which it is probably still to be found." No doubt there has been, and still is, some fluctuation. Since 1948 it has been recorded by various observers at Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Woolley, Monks Wood, Woodwalton, Hill's Wood, Little Stukeley, Wistow, Godmanchester to Papworth Everard, Ramsey St. Mary, Ramsey Heights, Eynesbury, Woodston, Fletton, Glatton, Yaxley, Orton, Brampton to Spaldwick. It is a species that might well be affected by spraying.

*Pararge egeia egerides*. Staud. (Northern Speckled Wood.) V.C.H. (1926) gives "local in woods." Mr. William Farren told me that it was very rare half a century ago. In 1948 it was to be found in all the woods that I visited. By 1950 it was scarce. I have only one recorded for 1950 and none since. Mr. Tebbs reports it from Orton Lodge and Yaxley in 1953. More information needed.

*Pararge megera*, L. (The Wall). Varying in abundance. Common 1948, 1949, less so 1950, rare 1951, commoner 1952 and 1953. All available records are from north of Stukeley. Information needed from south and west.

*Eumenis semele*, L. (Grayling). V.C.H. (1926) gives "nr. Abbots Ripton and Holme Fen." Mr. H. A. Leeds writes: "Prior to 1940 was fairly plentiful in the railway cuttings between Abbots Ripton Station and Woodwalton. After the war finished for two or three seasons I made consistent search for the imagines but saw none on either side of the cuttings." Searches at Holme have been equally unsuccessful. There are one or two other unconfirmed reports. There are no typical habitats in the County.

*Maniola jurtina*, L. (= *janira*, L.) (Meadow Brown). Common.

*M. tithonus*, L. (Gate Keeper). Usually common. Less so 1949, 1953.

*Aphantopus hyperanthus*, L. (Ringlet). V.C.H. (1926) gives "common in woods." I would add "and on many waysides." I have examined hundreds and have found no striking aberrations.

*Coenonympha pamphilus*, L. (Small Heath). Much less common recently, in my experience, than one might expect. The last year in which I saw it in abundance was 1947. Information needed.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

### HYMENOPTERA

Sawflies found at Holme Fen, 1953.

*Arge papani Stephensii*; *Arge ustulata*; *Amber femorata*; *Selandria serva*; *Athalici bicolor*; *Athalici cordata*; *Eriacampa ovata*; *Aglastigira aucupariæ*; *Tenthredo scrophulariæ*; *Tenthredo arcuata*; *Pachypotasis rapæ*.

H. F. TEBBS.

## FLORA

More records have been received this year of uncommon species than previously, hence I have been obliged to omit many from the list owing to shortage of space. The extensive lists submitted included one from Kimbolton School Natural History Society (K.N.S.), compiled by Mr. Bishop (O.N.B.), with many rarities recorded by C. R. B. Royall (R.) A list of fungi was received from Gaynes Hall, compiled by Mr. Fraser (R.F.), who comments that due to weather conditions a remarkable number of the larger fungi occurred there during the autumn, over 70 being identified.

Other contributors are indicated as follows: L. W. Angell (A.), Mr. and Mrs. Blackie (B.), D. A. Davies (D.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.), G. R. Fenton (G.R.F.), Huntingdon Grammar School (H.G.S.), R. D. Kime (R.D.K.), J. Newton (J.N.), P. D. Sell (P.D.S.), H. B. Souter (H.B.S.), H. F. Tebbs (H.F.T.), C. F. Tebbutt (T.), and S. M. Walters (S.M.W.) As usual where no name or initials are given the records are my own. Records known to be new to the County are indicated thus \*.

During November Luton Museum published the "Flora of Bedfordshire," written by our member Dr. Dony, which is a model of perfection in its own sphere. Members who bought a copy of the "Flora of the British Isles" will be interested to hear that a sheet of errata can be obtained from the publishers on receipt of a s.a.e. Reprints of Druce's Huntingdonshire plant list reproduced from the V.C.H. can now be obtained from the publishers for 13/6. Their address is: Victoria History of the Counties of England, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, London, W.C.1.

On 26th September the Botanical Society of the British Isles visited Huntingdonshire to search for pondweeds and a number of uncommon species were recorded.

- 1/1 *Clematis vitalba* L. Old Man's Beard. Hedge, St. Ives (R.D.K.) L.B.4 brickyard, Woodston, 16/8 (H.F.T.)
- \*3/3 *Anemone ranunculoides* L. Yellow Wood Anemone. Baker's Mead, 22/3 (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- \*4/2 *Adonis aestivalis* L. Weed in vegetable garden, Hartford (R.D.K.)
- 6/9 *Ranunculus arvensis* L. Corn Crowfoot. Nr. railway, Holme (Exc.)
- 6/22 *R. trichophyllus* Chaix Ssp. *trichophyllus*. St. Neots Common (T.) Stream in meadow nr. Fenstanton; ditch by track to Woodwalton Fen, 15/6/52 (P.D.S.)
- 6/24 *R. aquatilis* L. emend Clapham Ssp. *heterophyllus* (Weber) Syme emend Clapham (det. P.D.S.) Pond, Sawtry, 1948 (F. Huetson).

- 6/25 *R. aquatilis* L. Ssp. *peltatus* (Schrank) Syme. Ploughman's Pit, Fletton (T.)
- \*10/1 *Eranthis hyemalis* Salisb. Winter Aconite. Naturalised, Baker's Mead, 25/1. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 13/3 *Delphinium ajacis* L. sec. J. Gay. Larkspur. Roadside, Wyton (R.D.K.)
- 17/1 *Berberis vulgaris* L. Barberry. Kimbolton Castle grounds, 16/3. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 25/1 *Chelidonium majus* L. Greater Celandine. Wornditch S., 3/5. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Waste by wall, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- \*28/1 *Eschscholtzia californica* Cham. Californian Poppy. Escape nr. a garden, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- 39/5 *Cardamine hirsuta* L. Hairy Bittercress. On ashes, Holme railway bank (Exc.)
- 50/1 *Erysimum cheiranthoides* L. Treacle Mustard. Roadside, Needingworth. Nr. railway, Holme (Exc.)
- 54/1 *Brassica oleracea* L. Kale. Roadside, Stibbington, 24/5.
- 54/2 *Brassica napus* L. Rape. On ashes, Holme railway bank. (Exc.)
- 54/15 *Sinapis alba* L. White Mustard. L.B.2 brickyard, Fletton, 11/11. Nene side, fields, etc., Stibbington.
- 61/3 *Cardaria draba* L. Desv. Hoary Cress. Railway, Holme. (Exc.) Gravel pits and Nene side, Stibbington.
- 61/5 *Lepidium campestre* L. R. Br. Field Pepperworth. On ashes, Holme railway bank. (Exc.)
- \*80/4 *Raphanus sativus* L. (det. S.M.W.) Garden Radish. L.B.3 brickyard, Woodston, 26/5.
- 85/3 *Reseda luteola* L. Weld. On ashes, Holme railway bank (Exc.)
- 101/1 *Myosoton aquaticum* L. Moench. Water Chickweed. Stream side, Houghton (R.D.K.) Holme Fen, 12/9. (H.F.T.)
- 108/2 *Claytonia perfoliata* Donn. Garden weed, Huntingdon, 28/5 (H.G.S.)
- \*112/1 *Hypericum androsaemum* L. Tutsan. Coppice, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- \*112/5 *H. calycinum* L. Rose of Sharon. Naturalised, L.B.4 brickyard, Woodston, 1/9. (D. Cluer).
- 115/3 *Althaea rosea* L. Hollyhock. Roadside, Fenstanton (B.)
- \*127/1 *Geranium sanguineum* L. Bloody Cranesbill. One plant under a yew tree, Hartford, 18/7. (R.D.K.) First recorded for the County by John Ray about 1690 in Camden's "Britannia" and Dugdales' "New British Traveller." (1819). Also recorded by Thomas Cox in "A Topographical, Ecclesiastical and Natural History of Huntingdonshire." (1700).
- 127/7 *G. pyrenaicum* Burm. f. Mountain Cranesbill. Nr. railway, Holme (Exc.) Abundant Woodston cemetery.
- 127/12 *G. pusillum* Burm. f. Small-flowered Cranesbill. Offord Darcy (A.)
- \*127/13 *G. lucidum* L. Shining Cranesbill. Stonely, 11/5. (K.N.S., I. F. Russell).



- 128/3 *Erodium cicutarium* L. Ssp. *circutarium*. Common Storksbill. Nr. railway, Holme (Exc.)
- \*129/2 *Monsonia biflora* DC. Railway sidings, Offord, 30/9/50. (J.G.D., H.B.S. and D.)
- 136/1 *Ilex aquifolium* L. Holly. Planted, Baker's Mead, 7/5. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Hartford (R.D.K.)
- 138/2 *Rhamnus catharticus* L. Purging Buckthorn. Hedgerow, Holywell. (Exc.) Offord Darcy (A.)
- \*146/1 *Laburnum anagyroides* Medic. Golden rain. Naturalised, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 18/5. (K.N.S., R.)
- 151/3 *Ononis spinosa* L. Spiny Restharrow. Monks Wood, 1948. (J.G.D.) Wornditch S., 31/7 (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 154/2 *Melilotus alba* Desr. White Melilot. Brickyard, Farcet, 31/8. (H.F.T.)
- 155/13 *Trifolium fragiferum* L. Strawberry Clover. Meadow, Holywell (Exc.) Roadside, Elton & Stibbington. Nene side, Stibbington.
- 160/4 *Lotus uliginosus* Schkuhr. Large Birdsfoot-trefoil. One semi-glabrous plant, bank of Holme Lode, 7/8. (G.R.F. and Rec.)
- \*176/26 *Vicia pannonica* Jacq. var. *purpurescens* Boiss. Field at Ramsey Heights, 29/5/30. (H. Gilbert-Carter). In Herb. Cantab.
- 176/34 *Vicia hirsuta* L. S. F. Gray. Hairy Tare. Nr. railway Holme. (Exc.)
- \*183/2 *Prunus padus* L. Bird-cherry. Planted, Spinney, H.G.S. (D.)
- 183/3 *Prunus avium* L. Gean. One tree, Sutton Ford, Stibbington, 19/4/52.
- \*183/8 *Prunus cerasifera* Enrh. Cherry-plum. Naturalised, hedgerow, Baker's Mead, 28/3. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 184/12 *Filipendula vulgaris* Moench. Dropwort. Baker's Mead, 21/6. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- \*206/1 *Philadelphus coronarius* L. Syringa. Mock Orange. Probably planted, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 10/6. (K.N.S., R.)
- 283/4 *Torilis japonica* (Houtt) DC. Upright Hedge Parsley. Cart-track, Holywell. (Exc.) Wornditch S., 31/7. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Roadside, Hartford (R.D.K.)
- 285/1 *Cornus sanguinea* L. Dogwood. Abbots Ripton (R.D.K.)
- 287/3 *Sambucus ebulus* L. Danewort. Nr. Moyne Hall, etc., Holywell (J. S. Morton).
- 288/2 *Viburnum lantana* L. Wayfaring Tree. Wornditch S., 4/5. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Hartford; Perry Wood (R.D.K.)
- 289/1 *Symphoricarpos rivularis* Suksdorf. Snowberry. Planted, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 12/6. (K.N.S., R.) Also at Elton.
- 308/4 *Succisa pratensis* Moench. Devil's-bit Scabious. Kimbolton Castle grounds, 26/8. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- \*312 *Solidago gigantea* Ait var. *leiophylla* Fern. (det. A. Melders). Naturalised around Hick's Pit, Woodston, 25/8. (H.F.T.) In Herb. B.M.
- \*318/4 *Aster novi-belgii* L. New York Aster. L.B.2 brickyard, Fletton.

- 377/1 *Tanacetum vulgare* L. Tansy. Nr. Hick's Pit, Woodston, 25/8. (H.F.T.)
- 365/11 *Achillea ptarmica* L. Sneezewort. River bank, St. Ives (R.D.K.) River side, Holywell. (Exc.)
- \*368/1 *Anthemis tinctoria* L. Yellow Chamomile. Cart-track, Holywell. (J. S. Morton). Origin unknown.
- \*381/1 *Doronicum parodalianches* L. Great Leopard's Bane. Naturalised. Baker's Mead, 16/5 (K.N.S., O.N.B.) and in a copse at Hartford (R.D.K.)
- 383/7 *Senecio squalidus* L. Oxford Ragwort. Wornditch S., 6/6. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Offord Darcy (A.) Railway, Holme (Exc.) Ramsey Heights.
- 396/1 *Cirsium eriophorum* L. Scop. Ssp. *britannicum* Petrak. Woolly Thistle. Between Grange Farm and Clapton on rough ride, 16/7/45 (J.N.)
- 397/1 *Onoropordon acanthium* L. Scotch Thistle. Waste, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- 405/12 *Centaurea cyanus* L. Bluebottle. L.B.2 brickyard, Fletton, 8/6.
- 425/1 *Lactuca virosa* L. Wild Lettuce. Little Paxton Pits, 20/8/51. (J.G.D.)
- 425/2 *L. serriola* L. Prickly Lettuce. Cart-track, Holywell (Exc.) Roadside waste, Wyton; gravel-pits, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- \*470/1 *Syringa vulgaris* L. Lilac. Probably planted, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 7/5. (K.N.S., R.)
- 473/1 *Vinca major* L. Greater Periwinkle. Naturalised. Baker's Mead, 18/4 (K.N.S., O.N.B.) and in a copse, Hartford (R.D.K.)
- 473/2 *V. minor* L. Lesser Periwinkle. Naturalised. Kimbolton Castle grounds, 9/5 (K.N.S., O.N.B.) and Sawtry (J. Harrison Smith).
- 478/1 *Centaureum minus* Moench. Common Centaury. L.B.4 brickyard, Woodston, 16/8 (H.F.T.)
- 503/1 *Pulmonaria officinalis* L. Lungwort. Naturalised, Baker's Mead, 19/3 (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 506/4 *Myosotis caespitosa* K.F. Schultz. Abundant, old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8. (G.R.F. and Rec.)
- 524/1 *Hyoscyamus niger* L. Henbane. Hedgerow in meadow, Holywell. (Exc.)
- 527/3 *Verbascum thapsus* L. Aaron's Rod. Baker's Mead, 14/9. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Waste, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- \*543/41 *Veronica filiformis* Smith. Naturalised in a vegetable garden, Baker's Mead (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 559/1 *Lycopus europaeus* L. Gipsywort. Kimbolton Castle grounds, 26/8. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/6. (G.R.F. and Rec.) Ouse side, Holywell (Exc.)
- 581/3 *Lamium purpureum* L. Red Deadnettle. White-flowered form. Garden weed, Stibbington, 25/4/40. Persisted for several years.
- 581/4 *L. hybridum* Vill. Cut-leaved Deadnettle. Nr. railway, Holme (Exc.)
- 581/6 *L. amplexicaule* L. Henbit. Nr. railway, Holme (Exc.)

- \*606/10 *Atriplex hortensis* L. (conf. A. Melderis) Orache. About a dozen plants on the footpath half-way between Alconbury and Alconbury Weston, 7/6 (B.) In Herb. B.M.
- 615/6 *Polygonum lapathifolium* L. Pale Persicaria. (det. S.M.W.) L.B.2 brickyard, Fletton, 24/8.
- 615/8 *P. nodosum* Pers (det. S.M.W.) L.B.2 brickyard, Fletton, 24/8.
- 615/9 *P. hydropiper* L. Water-pepper. Old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8 (G.R.F. and Rec.) River side, St. Ives (R.D.K.)
- 618/12 *Rumex palustris* Sm. Marsh Dock. Ouse side, Holywell (Exc.) Woodwalton Fen, 1949 (J.G.D.)
- 628/16 *Euphorbia lathyris* L. Caper Spurge. On ashes, Holme railway bank. (Exc.)
- 631/1 *Buxus sempervirens* L. Box. Planted, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 20/2 (K.N.S., J. Childs).
- 634/1 *Humulus lupulus* L. Hop. Baker's Mead, 31/7. (K.N.S., O.N.B.) Hedge, St. Ives; telegraph pole, Wyton (R.D.K.)
- 638/1 *Parietaria diffusa* M. & K. Wall Pellitory. Growing on an old grass covered wall, Holywell (Exc.)
- 643/1 *Alnus glutinosa* L. Gaertn. Alder. River side, Hartford. (R.D.K.)
- \*648/1 *Juglans regia* L. Walnut. Planted, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 20/2 (K.N.S., A. Pilling).
- 650/5 *Salix purpurea* L. Purple Willow. Hartford, 1948. (J.G.D.)
- 669/17 *Anacamptis pyramidalis* L. L.C. Rich. Pyramidal Orchid. Langlands Spinney, Waresley, 6/7/44 (T.) Rectory meadow, Southoe, June, 1950 (T.) Partly wooded bank, St. Ives, 30/7. (R.D.K.)
- 674/4 *Coeloglossum viride* L. Hartm. Frog Orchid. Shooters Green nr. Maggots Gap, Alconbury, 2/6/36 (J.N.) In Herb. B.M. A very rare species.
- \*684/1 *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* L. Daffodil. Naturalised, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 9/3 (K.N.S., R. F. Pickard).
- \*686/2 *Leucojum aestivum* L. Summer Snowflake. Flower of St. Agnes. Mrs. Dawson Rowley found this species in the "3rd Mill field by the river," St. Neots, 11/5/1875 (MSS. notes in an old scrapbook) ? Now extinct.
- 691/2 *Polygonatum multiflorum* L. All. Solomon's Seal. Naturalised, Baker's Mead, 15/5. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 707/2 *Ornithogalum umbellatum* L. Star-of-Bethlehem. Naturalised, Baker's Mead, 6/4. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- \*707/3 *O. nutans* L. Drooping Star-of-Bethlehem. Naturalised, Baker's Mead, 30/4. (K.N.S., O.N.B.)

- \*710/1 *Tulipa sylvestris* L. Wild Tulip. Naturalised, Baker's Mead, 30/4 (K.N.S., O.N.B.)
- 716/1 *Paris quadrifolia* L. Herb Paris. Lady Grove Wood, Kimbolton. (T.)
- 719/2 *Luzula pilosa* L. Willd. Hairy Woodrush. Arable land, Wyton. (R.D.K.)
- 729/lb *Alisma lanceolatum* With. Monks Wood, 1948 (J.G.D.) Ouse, Holywell (Exc.)
- 734/1 *Butomus umbellatus* L. Flowering Rush. St. Ives, 1948 (C. D. Pigott). Large pond, Duchess's Walk, 30/6. (K.N.S., M. J. Foskett). Ouse side, Holywell (Exc.) Orton Staunth (Brian Smith).
- 737/16 *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L. Hartford, 1949 (J.G.D.)
- \*756/2 *Setaria viridis* L. Beauv. Green Bottle-grass. St. Neots railway sidings, 3/9/52. (J.G.D.)
- 785/1 *Apera spica-venti* L. Beauv. Loose Silky Bent-grass. Arable land, Wyton (R.D.K.)
- \*827/19(2) *Bromus lepidus* Holmberg. (det. S.M.W. and T. G. Tutin). Nene side, etc., Stibbington, 25/5/52.

### Bryophyta

- \**Aulacomnium androgynum* (Hedw.) Schwaegr. (det. R. E. Parker). Abundant Holme Lode Covert (Exc.)  
*Mnium affine* Bland (det. R. E. Parker). Abundant, Holme Lode Covert (Exc.)
- Marchantia polymorpha* L. Old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8. (G.R.F. and Rec.)

### Fungi

- Physarum nutans* Pers. (det. R. W. G. Dennis). On a moss, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 12/11 (K.N.S., R.)
- Mucilago spongiosa* (Leyss) Morgan. On dead reeds, old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8. (G.R.F. and Rec.)
- Aleuria repanda* (Karst.) Boud. (*Peziza repanda* Karst.) (det. E. J. H. Corner). On a damp wall and sacking, L.B.2 brickyard, Fletton.
- Humaria convexula* (Fr.) (det. R. W. G. Dennis). On a moss, Wornditch S., 13/3 (K.N.S., Ellin).
- Helvella crispa* Scop. ex. Fr. Common Helvel. Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- Trametes gibbosa* (Pers.) Fr. Kimbolton Castle grounds, 6/2. (K.N.S., N.B.)

*Lepiota badhamii* Berk. & Broome. (det. J. Ramsbottom). Badham's Parasol. Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

*Crinipellis stipitarius* (Fr.) On dead grass stems, river side, Stibbington, 13/6.

*Marasmius urens* Fr. The Burning Toadstool. Wornditch S., 16/10. (K.N.S., Bath).

*Omphalia fibula* (Bull.) Fr. (det. E. J. H. Corner). Old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8 (G.R.F. and Rec.)

Var. *swartzii* Fr. ditto.

*Tricholoma personatum* Fr. Blewit. Hilton (W. T. K. Garnett). Kimbolton Castle grounds, 12/11 (K.N.S., R.)

*Volvaria gloiocephala* Fr. Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

*Calvatia gigantea* (Pers.) Lloyd. Giant Puffball. Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

*Geastrum fimbriatum* (Fr.) (Earth-star). Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

*Pleurotus corticatus* Fr. On old elm wood, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

*P. subpalmatus* (Bull.) Fr. Veal Toadstool. Ditto.

*P. ulmarius* (Bull.) Fr. Elm-sprout. Ditto.

*P. ostreatus* (Jacq.) Fr. The Oyster. Ditto.

Dr. J. G. Dony has kindly written the following note for us on *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* L.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

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#### *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* L. in Huntingdonshire.

The Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* L.) has been known to be abundant in a limited area in North Bedfordshire since 1795. In the parish of Eaton Socon it is plentiful to within a few yards of the Huntingdonshire border. On 5 June, 1952, Mr. E. Milne-Redhead and I explored thoroughly the adjoining portions of Hail Weston parish in Huntingdonshire and eventually found the species growing sparingly by the side of a ditch marking the county boundary but on the Huntingdonshire side. It has since (1953) been found in a wood at Staughton Moor by Mrs. K. Walter.

Its status is uncertain. The species grows also in a limited area near Bath where the young shoots were sold as "Bath Asparagus." It was sold similarly 150 years ago at St. Neots and Eaton Socon. This may account for its origin with us. If so it is at least a well-established colonist.

J. G. DONY.