

HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

7th
ANNUAL
REPORT
1954

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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(to 26th February, 1955)

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Mammals - - - ALASTAIR N. WORDEN, Cromwell House, Huntingdon
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Macro-Lepidoptera J. E. H. BLACKIE, The Bell House, Alconbury

Annual Report for 1954

(No. 7)

INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting was held at Huntingdon Grammar School, by kind permission of the Headmaster, on Saturday, 27th February, 1954, when the officers named in this Report were elected.

Dr. S. M. Walters of the School of Botany, University of Cambridge, gave a short address concerning a scheme which the Botanical Society had just launched whereby it was proposed over the next five years to accumulate a very large body of data, and to publish at the end of that time a book on the distribution of the more common plants, ferns, etc., over the whole country. He urged members to co-operate in this tremendous undertaking, and to send all relevant information concerning the County of Huntingdonshire to Mr. J. L. Gilbert.

Opportunity was then provided for members to study an exhibition of specimens. These included a selection of cacti and other succulents brought by Mr. John Measures, F.R.H.S., a biology section, a survey of the geology of Huntingdonshire by Mr. P. Manning, B.Sc., F.G.S., and specimens of fauna and flora collected by school-age members of the Society.

An address, illustrated by lantern slides, was then given by Mr. H. A. S. Kay, Hon. General Secretary of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and Field Club, entitled, "Some Wanderings in Britain and Iceland."

The experiment of combining in this way the annual conversation with the business meeting proved most successful. The generosity of members in contributing refreshments both helped the finances of the Society and made the evening a very pleasant social occasion.

The following have joined the Society since publication of the previous report: D. C. Waddilove, Esq., Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton; J. A. Brown, Esq., The Gardens, Hall Lane, Abbots Ripton; L. King, Esq., The Green, Hilton; P. Manning, Esq., 8, Bridge Street, St. Ives; Miss J. A. Cooper, 68, High Street, Huntingdon. The need to recruit new members remains, and it is to be hoped that all those who at present belong will do their best to help in this respect.

The newly-formed Mammal Society of the British Isles has bestowed upon me the honour of electing me as its first Chairman.

It may be mentioned here that reports on mammals continue to be sparse, but that we are glad to learn of the reported presence of the Red Squirrel as near to the County as Bedford Purlieu (J. L. Gilbert).

A.N.W.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

During the summer, four excursions were organised, three of them being arranged jointly with neighbouring societies.

16th May: Bluntisham Stauch and Bury Fen.

Special Interest: Fen and water-side birds.

13th June: Tilbrook Bushes and Kimbolton Park (with Bedfordshire Natural History Society).

26th June: Upton Wood (with Peterborough Museum Society).

10th July: Holme Fen (with Peterborough Museum Society).

Bedfordshire Natural History Society sent a cordial invitation to their Sixth Ornithological Conference which was held in Bedford on the 14th November. Some sixteen members of the Society were able to attend and much enjoyed hearing James Fisher lecture on the Fulmar, and discussing current ornithological problems. The second lecture, illustrated by colour films, on birds of the Scottish Highlands, was given by Walter Higham.

O.D.C.

BIRDS

Our seventh report is again full of interest although the number of observers is still too few. The north of the county is at last being better covered by Mr. Alcock and the keen young helpers he has trained. Thanks to them I have been able to resume printing the valuable duck counts from Butler's Pit, as well as a new feature, a wader count covering two months at Orton Sugar Beet Factory ponds. David Scholes and his friends are to be congratulated on discovering there our first county record of a nesting Common Tern, and the first Ruffs noted in the county for many years. Mr. Alcock has also sent me many observations of visible migrations during May, June and October, which unfortunately we cannot print but value for our M.S. records.

It is nearly 40 years since the Marsh Warbler was recognised in the county, and Mr. Angel is to be congratulated on finding it again. Mr. Archer, as usual, in his advantageous position at Bluntisham Stauch, produces some surprises: this time it is Snow Buntings and a Merlin.

While Terns have been plentiful, it has been a poor year for waders at the gravel pits, owing I think, to the terrain happening to be unattractive.

Members have undertaken the usual census of Gt. Crested Grebes and Herons and the monthly Wildfowl Counts.

One ornithology excursion was held on May 16th. After tea at the "Pike and Eel," Overcote, members walked along the river bank to Bluntisham Stauch and Bury Fen. Unfortunately rain partly spoilt the evening, but many breeding birds, typical of the area, were seen. They included Snipe, Redshank, Lapwing, Mallard, Reed Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, Winchat, with the addition of a Wigeon, possibly breeding, and a Greenland Wheatear on passage.

I am hoping to make a count of all Mute Swans in the county during the summer months, and should be glad to have, by Sept. 1st particulars of breeding or non-breeding birds, with, if possible, size of clutch, number of cygnets, and site of nest.

Contributors to this report are: G. Alcock (G.A.); L. Angel (L.A.); J. E. Archer (J.A.); C. Burge (C.B.); W. Garnett (W.G.); Gaynes Hall Bird Club (G.H.B.C.); Kimbolton School N.H.S. (K.S.); L. King (L.K.); E. T. Lees (E.L.); D. Scholes (D.S.); A. E. Vine (A.E.V.); I. C. Nisbet (I.N.); and your Recorder (Rec.)

Gt. Crested Grebe. Census at breeding season at 14 sites. 44 (— 3). (Rec.)

Cormorant. Jan. 1st, Gt. Paxton, 1. (L.A.) A single bird at Lt. Paxton Pits April 18th, July 21st, and at frequent intervals Aug. 22nd to Nov. 17th. (Rec.)

Heron. Census showed another decrease. Hemingford Park 9 (— 4), Hinchingsbrooke 7 (+ 1), St. Neots 6 (— 1). (Rec.)

Bittern. 1 Marsh Lane, Hemingford, end June (A.E.V.)

Garganey. Orton, July 15th, 4; July 16th/18th, 2 (D.S.)

Gadwall. April 11th, a pair Bluntisham Stauch (Rec.)

Wigeon. May 16th, a drake near Bluntisham Stauch and nesting suspected (Rec.)

Pintail. Bluntisham, several Feb. 2nd, Nov. 24th, Dec. 4th and 14th. (J.A.)

Shoveler. Fenstanton Pit, Jan. 27th, 5 pairs (Rec.) Bluntisham, Dec. 10th, 3; 12th, 1 (J.A.)

Scaup. Gt. Paxton, Jan. 30th. Several diving for mussels (L.A.)

Tufted Duck. Nested successfully near Bluntisham (9 eggs). St. Ives brood of 8), and Huntingdon (J.A., A.E.V., Rec.)

Pochard. Brood of 8 seen near St. Ives (A.E.V.)

Smew. A number remained near Gt. Paxton, Jan. 20th to Feb. 14th. (L.A., Rec.) At Bluntisham there was 1 on Feb. 6th and others Nov. 23rd and Dec. 26th (J.A.)

Shelduck. Gt. Paxton, Jan. 1st, 2 (L.A.) Bluntisham, Oct. 22nd, 2 (J.A.)

Grey Geese. Unusual number of reports at both beginning and end of year. Flocks of from 2 to 34 seen at Bluntisham, Upwood and Offord Jan. 2nd to Feb. 3rd, many flying S. or S.W. After cold spell which started Jan. 23rd a W. and N.E. movement noted. From Nov. 19th to Dec. 31st flocks reported from Conington, Fletton, Huntingdon, Farcet Fen, Stanground, Stibbington and Buckden. (D.S., C.B., J.A., J.G., Rec.)

Canada Goose. 1 Hartford Pit c. June 12th (Rec.)

Mute Swan. A nest at Lt. Paxton Pit contained 9 eggs of which 7 hatched. When the cygnets were a few days old (May 3rd) it was seen that 2 were light coloured. This difference continued to be apparent, and as the feathers developed they assumed white adult plumage. Other differences were light grey, as against dark grey legs and feet, and flesh pink as against grey bills. They appear to be examples of the mutant Polish Swan strain about the rarity or frequency of which nothing appears to be known. (Rec.)

Bewick Swan. Stragglers, up to 21, from a flock on the Gt. Washes were seen on Bury Fen, Bluntisham, Feb. 6th to March 15th (J.A., L.N.)

Merlin. I seen near Bluntisham Stauch, Oct. 18th and Dec. 28th (J.A.) The latter date suggests a wintering bird. Last records were in 1922 and 1924, both in October.

Corncrake. I heard calling near Dillington in June (Rec.)

Oyster Catcher. 2 remained near Bluntisham Stauch, July 9th—12th (J.A.) Our last record, in 1950, was also in July.

Little Ringed Plover. No direct evidence of breeding but a pair seen near St. Ives, May 9th, and one May 19th (Rec.)

Jack Snipe. Jan. 30th, Hail Weston, 1 found dead under telephone wires (Rec.)

Woodcock. Present during breeding season in woods at Kimbolton, Perry and Holme Fen (Rec., A.E.V.)

Curlew. Jan. 31st, Lt. Paxton, 2 flying W. Feb. 20th, Bluntisham, 2. Heard flying W. and calling at night, March 25th (St. Neots) and 31st (Bluntisham). Oct. 9th, Bluntisham, 2. Nov. 6th, St. Neots, heard at night flying E. Dec. 5th, Bluntisham, 1. (J.A., Rec.)

Green Sandpiper. A wintering bird at Stanground, Jan. 27th (D.S.)

Redshank. At least 2 broods at Orton and several Bluntisham Fen (D.S., Rec.)

Dunlin. A small flock remained in St. Neots area Jan. 27th—29th during the cold spell, feeding very tamely in open water (Rec.)

Gulls. The larger gulls seem to be following the Common and Black-headed inland with increasing frequency, feeding on the pits and rubbish tips. Small number of *Gt. Black-backs* were seen at Lt. Paxton, Fenstanton and Butler's Pit, Fletton, between Jan. 24th and March 21st, and at Bluntisham, Dec. 12th and 14th. *Lesser Black-backs* were at Butler's Pit and Bluntisham between Nov. 14th and Dec. 28th. *Herring Gulls* in numbers up to 40 flighted daily to St. Neots during Jan., Feb. and early March, and odd ones were seen to the end of May. Up to 25 visited Butler's Pit in Jan. and again in Oct. and Dec. 2 arriving at Lt. Paxton at 7 a.m. Nov. 6th could not have flown from the Wash in daylight. *Black-headed* and *Common Gulls* continued their usual daily fighting and up to 150 roosted temporarily on the ice at Lt. Paxton in early Feb. Besides the daily flights a large up-stream passage was noticed at Bluntisham Stauch in Nov./Dec. (J.A., G.A., D.S., Rec.)

Black Tern. Bluntisham Stauch, May 4th, 3; 7th, 2. Lt. Paxton, May 8th, 6/8; Butler's Pit, May 10th, 5; 15th, 1 (flew off N.E.); Aug. 31st, 3 (J.A., G.A., Rec.)

Arctic/Common Tern. Small numbers on passage near St. Neots, May 6th, 10th, 11th, June 19th, 23rd, and 30th. St. Ives, May 9th. Return single birds on Nene, Sept. 23rd, and Lt. Paxton Sept. 26th. On June 26th three Fletton schoolboy observers, D. Scholes, K. Meanwell and R. Peake, saw at a distance a pair of Common Terns apparently nesting on an inaccessible site near Orton. On July 2nd your recorder with G. Alcock found that the pair were undoubtedly incubating eggs. On July 8th a chick could be seen. By July 18th the site dried out and allowed approach and 3 young were found. This is the first breeding record for the county and reflects great credit on the young observers.

Sandwich Tern. Mr. H. F. Tebbs sends a detailed description of a large tern seen at Woodston Stauch on June 3rd which can only be this species, the first record for the county.

Wood Pigeon. The N.F.U. claims that 31,000 were shot in the county between Oct. 1st, 1953, and June 30th, 1954. This may account for the prolific and prolonged breeding season. Woods were full of nests with eggs and young well into November. (Rec.)

Cuckoo. Full call heard until June 30th, an unusually late date. (G.A., Rec.)

Long-eared Owl. c. June 30th. 1 caught in tennis net at Stibbington and released. (J. Gilbert).

Nighthawk. In June a pair seen in Ash Wood, Perry, the first for many years. (Rec.)

Hooded Crow. 1 Great Paxton, Jan. 28th—Feb. 23rd. (L.K.)

Titmice. Cole Tits were seen at St. Neots and Fletton, Marsh Tits at Old Weston and Waresley Wood. (Rec.)

Nuthatch. A pair were at Gaynes Hall in the Spring, and another nested at Buckworth. (G.H.B.C., E.L.)

Blackbird. Feb. 16th, in a field of c. 5 acres at Old Weston were 30, all cocks except 5. (Rec.)

Wheatear. The usual spring records, the later ones being presumably "Greenland." Bluntnisham, March 26th, April 2nd, May 16th, June 16th, July 12th; Wyton, April 3rd; Easton, April 25th; Toseland, May 13th; Fenstanton, Aug. 21st. (J.A., L.K., E.L., Rec.)

Stonechat. 2 Bluntnisham, Oct. 3rd and Dec. 12th (J.A.)

Whinchat. May 12th, 1 seen at former nest site, Houghton. May 16th, pair near Overcote. (E.L., Rec.)

Common Redstart. May 6th, pair Hemmingford Park (E.L.) July 12th, a cock Kimbolton Park (Rec.)

Grashopper Warbler. May 8th, 1 singing Holme Fen (A.E.V.) Present Woodwalton Fen (Rec.)

Marsh Warblers. Mr. Angel has sent a full description of a pair of warblers and nest with one egg, found July 3rd. The nest, which was in a river meadow in Hemp Agrimony, with typical basket handles, has been preserved. Eggs and song correspond to Marsh Warbler, and Mr. Angel particularly noted the difference in behaviour from both Reed and Sedge Warblers with which he is extremely familiar. 3 eggs were laid, 1 every other day, and hatched on July 21st. The young fledged on Aug. 3rd.

Lesser Whitethroat. Nests at Brampton, Hartford, St. Ives Thicket and Alconbury. (E.L.)

Goldcrest. 1 in late summer Gaynes Hall (G.H.B.C.) 1 Kimbolton Park, Oct. 10th (K.S.)

White Wagtail. March 12th, 1 Farret (G.A.) March 31st, 1 St. Neots (Rec.) Although not recorded before probably occurs regularly on passage.

Yellow Wagtail. June 30th, nest at Warboys in a potato field, an unusual site (E.L.) Oct. 15th, flocks of 40/50 at Hilton and 20/30 at St. Neots (L.K.)

Brambling. Feb. 27th, 3 St. Neots (L.K.) March 8th, small flock Kimbolton airfield (Rec.)

Snow Bunting. Feb. 5th, 5 near Bluntnisham Staunuch during hard weather (J.A.)

BUTLER'S PIT, FLETTON SELECTED DUCK COUNTS

1954	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pintail	Shoveler	Pochard	Tufted Duck	Goldeneye	Coot
Jan. 4	100	150	—	—	—	—	20	4	10
" 5	80	100	—	10	—	—	6	3	10
" 17	70	200	50	65	—	5	—	4	10
" 24	40	120	2	60	—	—	28	4	50
" 30	120	100	140	75	—	—	35	5	80
Feb. 6	120	—	—	—	—	10	35	—	70
" 24	90	40	2	60	—	8	25	—	75
" 27	90	40	2	180	—	8	25	—	75
Mar. 1	70	50	—	90	—	25	15	2	70
" 8	20	40	—	70	—	30	25	—	70
" 13	20	10	—	—	—	30	60	5	30
" 21	15	25	—	18	—	26	40	7	40
" 31	10	6	4	—	—	5	25	—	25
April 7	10	—	4	—	—	6	30	2	10
" 13	3	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—
" 20	4	4	—	—	—	—	18	—	2
" 27	2	—	—	—	—	4	19	—	2
May 7	5	—	—	—	2	3	10	—	—
" 12	—	—	—	—	—	4	Shelduck	—	—
* Oct. 13	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 23	40	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Nov. 13	15	—	—	—	—	10	20	—	—
" 14	29	2	—	—	—	3	38	—	6
" 20	31	25	—	—	—	—	26	—	6
" 27	10	45	—	—	3	55	18	—	6
Dec. 11	70	30	—	—	—	—	6	3	14
" 18	40	50	—	—	2	10	15	—	18
" 26	20	60	—	4	—	—	10	5	20
" 28	20	45	—	—	—	—	20	2	25
" 30	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	2	15

* Practically no waterfowl on the Pit May 12th to October 12th.

(G.A., D.S.)

WADER COUNTS, ORTON. 1954.

Days of Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
Green Sandpiper	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ruff	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
JULY																											
AUGUST																											
Ringed Plover	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	20	8	5	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Snipe	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Green Sandpiper	2	3	2	1	...	5	2	5	9	4	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wood Sandpiper	4	2	5	5	12	8	8	1	4	4	1	...	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...
Common Sandpiper	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	10	...	4	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greenshank	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	4	...
Little Stint	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dunlin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ruff	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No Counts on August 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24

(G.A., D.S.)

MIGRANT DATES, 1954

<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 17th, Bluntisham (J.A.), May 3rd, Hilton W.G.), Sept. 25th, Bluntisham (Rec.)
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 15th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), April 23rd, Hilton W.G.)
<i>Swift.</i>	April 28th, St. Neots (Rec.), May 2nd, Farcet (G.A.), Aug. 24th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Swallow.</i>	March 28th, Farcet (G.A.), March 31st, Bluntisham (J.A.), Nov. 7th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>House Martin.</i>	March 30th, Bluntisham (J.A.), Residents May 9th, St. Neots (Rec.), Oct. 5th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	April 15th, Bluntisham (J.A.), Residents May 9th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Fieldfare.</i>	May 5th, Oct. 2nd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Redwing.</i>	April 23rd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Nightingale.</i>	May 8th, Stonely (Rec.)
<i>Reed Warbler.</i>	April 23rd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), May 3rd, Bluntisham (J.A.)
<i>Sedge Warbler.</i>	April 15th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Garden Warbler.</i>	May 11th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Whitethroat.</i>	May 1st, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Lesser Whitethroat.</i>	April 25th, Hilton (W.G.), April 27th, Bluntisham (J.A.)
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	April 1st, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), April 4th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Chiffchaff.</i>	April 3rd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), April 9th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	May 14th, residents St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 24th, St. Neots (Rec.), April 25th, Bluntisham (J.A.), Oct. 15th, St. Neots, Hilton (L.K.)

WOODWALTON FEN

Owing to bad weather I made few visits, the only addition to the list of birds in the 1953 Report being Tree Creeper.

HOLME FEN

Holme Fen has now been added to the property of Nature Conservancy in the county. During the spring a careful and thorough survey of its bird life was made by Mr. A. E. Vine, to whom I am indebted for a copy of his report for our records. Unfortunately it is too lengthy for us to publish, but the following is a list of birds seen and thought to be breeding, in approximate order of commonness:—

Wood Pigeon	75 - 100 pairs	Great Tit	5 - 7 pairs
Chaffinch	85 - 90 "	Song Thrush	c. 5 "
Willow Warbler	50 "	Long-tailed Tit	c. 5 "
Blackbird	45 - 50 "	Great Spotted	
Wren	40 - 45 "	Woodpecker	4 - 5 "
Whitethroat	40 "	Redstart	3 "
Pheasant	20 - 30 "	Tawny Owl	3 "
Robin	25 "	Green Woodpecker	2 - 3 "
Nightingale	22 "	Lesser Whitethroat	2 "
Blackcap	17 "	Reed Bunting	2 "
Cuckoo	c. 12 "	Moorhen	2 "
Blue Tit	c. 12 "	Starling	1 - 2 "
Jackdaw	10 - 12 "	Mallard	1 "
Woodcock	10 "	Red-Legged Partridge	1 "
Chiffchaff	9 "	*Stock Dove	1 "
Garden Warbler	9 "	Willow Tit	1 "
Carriion Crow	7 - 9 "	Tree Creeper	1 "
Hedge Sparrow	8 "	Grasshopper Warbler	1 "
Tree Pipit	8 "	*Goldfinch	1 "
Mistle Thrush	7 - 8 "	Yellowhammer	1 "
Marsh Tit	7 - 8 "		

* Some doubt of actually nesting in the Reserve.

Other species seen: Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Rook.

C. F. TEBBUTT, Recorder.

THE UPPER LIAS AT FLAXEN FORD, N.G.R. 085996

Between 1936 and 1939 the River Nene was dredged by the Nene Catchment Board at Stibbington to a depth of six feet, which enabled me to make a comprehensive study of the Upper Lias in this locality.

At two places—Flaxen Ford and near the Staunch Pit—where the Nene was very shallow, pink weathering to grey limestone of the Upper Lias was present. This limestone was similar to that described from near Stibbington Hall (Ann. Rep. H.F.F.S., 5, pp. 20—21) and, together with the adjoining beds of soft rocks, was very fossiliferous. Sands and clay of the Lower Estuarine series of the Inferior Oolite, apparently absent from the Stibbington Hall section, were present in both these localities. Although occurring near Stibbington Hall no Lower Lincolnshire Limestone was present at Flaxen Ford.

Judging by the fossil evidence these liassic beds belong to the Jurensis Zone and by the presence of certain ammonites (*Haugia* spp. and *Denckmannia* sp.) probably belong to the Variabilis Subzone. An unusual feature is the strongly oolitic character of the rock; similar beds have, however, been reported by Beeby Thompson for Northamptonshire in the Journals of the Northamptonshire Natural History Society.

Fossils collected from the limestone of the Variabilis Subzone include the following:—

- ‡*Protocardia ferruginea* Rollier. (B.M.)
- Pronoella* sp. (Only in soft rock) (B.M.)
- P.* sp.
- Lima* (*Plagiostoma*) sp.
- L.* spp. Two spp. indet.
- Myoconcha* sp. indet.
- ‡*Ceratomya concentrica* (J. de C. Sow.) (Only in soft rock).
- †**Gresslya donaciformis* (Phillips).
- ‡**Eopecten abjectus* (Phillips).
- ‡*Modiolus* (*Inoperna*) *plicatus* J. Sow.
- ‡*M. anatinus* Wm. Smith.
- ‡†**Astarte lurida* J. Sow.
- ?*Isocyprina* sp.
- I.* sp. probably nov. sp. (B.M.) Two spp.
- †**Nuculana ovum* (J. de C. Sow.)
- ‡*Pleuromya costata* (Young & Bird) (Only in soft rock).
- ‡*Camptonectes rigidus* (J. Sow.)
- †**Inoceramus dubius* J. de C. Sow.
- ‡*Pholadomya* sp. cf. *fidicula* (J. Sow.) = *P. lirata* J. Sow. (B.M.)
- P.* sp. indet.
- ‡*Mactromya subglobosa* (Tate) (B.M.)
- ‡*Pseudotrachezium cordiforme* (Deshayes).
- ‡*Myophorella* (*Vaugonia*) *literata* (Young & Bird).
- Goniomya* sp. indet. (Only in soft rock).
- ‡*Trigonia denticulata* Agassiz (B.M.)
- T.* spp. Two spp. indet.
- Pleurotomaria* sp. indet.
- Pseudomelania* sp.
- ‡" *Natica* " sp. cf. *adducta* (Phillips).
- ‡†*Trochotoma* sp. cf. *calix* (Phillips).
- Nerineid gastropod* indet.
- †*Lytoceras* sp. indet.
- †*Denckmannia* sp.
- †*Haugia* spp. Two spp. (G.S.M.)
- †*Lobothyrus* sp. probably *haresfieldensis* (Dav.) (G.S.M., B.M.)
- ?*Tetrahynchia* sp. (G.S.M., B.M.)
- ?*Gibbirhynchia* sp. (B.M.)
- Montlivaltia* sp. indet. (on a fragment of a septarium).
- Serpula* spp. Two spp. on nodules.
- Rhizocorallium* sp.

The minerals in these variable beds included limonite and cubic and fibrous crystals of pyrite. Phosphatic nodules were quite common in these beds; some were bored by marine borers, some pitted by (and with) oolitic grains, some were scratched—presumably by oysters (e.g. *Lopha* sp.), some were smooth and some were bleached.

A junction bed of grey clay yielded a single dorsal vertebra of a plesiosaur—†*Cryptocleidus* sp. [= *Thaumatosaurus propinquus* (Blake.)] Part of this vertebra was discoloured orange through being in contact with the soft, clayey limestone lying above the grey clay. (B.M.) The hind portion of ramus of lower jaw of †*Steneosaurus* sp. (B.M.) was also discovered in this bed.

Beneath these beds were blue clays of the Bifrons Zone, characterized by the abundance of the ammonite *Hildoceras bifrons*. No definite evidence was present of the Lilli Subzone and as fossiliferous nodules were scarce all these clays are assigned to the Braunianus Subzone.

Fossils collected from the blue clay of the Braunianus Subzone included the following:—

- †**Gresslya donaciformis* (Phillips).
- †**Nuculana ovum* (J. de C. Sow).
- †**Acrocoelites* spp. Both stout and slender forms present (B.M.)
- †**Hildoceras bifrons* (Bruguieue).
- †**Porpoceras "subarmatum"* (Young & Bird).
- †*Polyplictus subplanatus* (Oppel).

Petrified coniferous wood, with the original wood substance still partly present but the cells filled with calcium carbonate and iron compounds, was abundant in the clay. Limestone nodules, a few of them fossiliferous, were also abundant in the clay, including several septarian nodules.

For the identification of the fossils in the above lists I gratefully acknowledge the assistance I have received from Dr. W. E. Swinton (with the reptiles), Dr. L. F. Spath (with the ammonites), Dr. L. R. Cox (with the lamellibranchs and gastropods), Dr. Helen M. Muir-Wood (with the brachiopods) and Mr. R. V. Melville (generally). I would also like to thank Mr. C. P. Castell who largely made this possible. Thanks are also due to Dr. W. Hantzschel, who has been kind enough to give advice regarding the *Rhizocorallium* sp., Dr. T. M. Harris regarding the fossil plants and Mr. L. Bairstow regarding the *Acrocoelites* spp.

Abbreviations and symbols used in this paper: B.M.—specimens presented to the British Museum (Natural History); G.S.M.—specimens presented to the Geological Survey Museum; *—species recorded by Beeby Thompson from similar zones in Northants; †—typical oolitic species; †—typical liassic species.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

FLORA

Fewer records have been received this year; consequently I have included a number of old records of species having a local distribution throughout the county. These were made by Mr. Herbert Mace, of Harlow, Essex (H.M.), between 1913 and 1915, and Mr. L. J. Tremayne (L.J.T.), who made visits between 1910 and 1936 and noted all he saw in a *London Catalogue* kindly forwarded by Dr. Dony. I shall be pleased to hear from anyone confirming the existence of these species. An extensive list of flowering plants was received from Mr. R. Fraser (R.F.), of Gaynes Hall.

Other contributors are indicated thus: Mr. and Mrs. Blackie (B.), O. N. Bishop (O.N.B.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.), R. D. Kime (R.D.K.), F. Perring (F.P.), 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 of Elton Furze were made jointly with Mr. T. Patston. Those known to be new to the County are indicated thus *.

- 1/1 *Clematis vitalba* L. Old Man's Beard. Huntingdon Wood, Hail Weston (T). Stow Longa (H.M.) Great Paxton, 14/9/36 (L.J.T.) 220/7(2)
- 4/1 *Adonis annua* L. Pheasant's Eye. Stow Longa (H.M.)
- 9/1 *Helleborus viridis* L. Green Hellebore. Naturalized around gardens, Gaynes Hall. Probably originally planted (R.F.) Tilbrook, some years ago (Miss G. H. Day).
- 10/1 *Eranthis hyemalis* (L.) Salisb. Winter Aconite. Naturalized in gardens, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 11/1 *Aquilegia vulgaris* L. Columbine. Established on bank of moat, Gaynes Hall. Probably garden escape (R.F.)
- 13/3 *Delphinium ajacis* L. sec. J. Gray. Larkspur. One plant in oat field circa 300 yards from nearest house, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 21/1 *Papaver somniferum* L. Ssp. *hortense*. Opium Poppy. Waste, Hartford (R.D.K.) In gardens and waste places, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) Wheat fields, Yaxley Fen, 30/7 (Exc.) Specimens with red flowers also seen there.
- *22/1 *Mecconopsis cambrica* (L.) Vig. Welsh Poppy. Naturalized, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 22/5/53, and High Street, Kimbolton (in yard of Clancarty House) 15/6 (O.N.B.)
- 31/3 *Corydalis solida* (L.) Sw. Naturalized, Baker's Mead, Tilbrook (O.N.B.)
- *37/12 *Arabis caucasica* Willd. Garden Arabis. Naturalized around gardens, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- *41/1 *Aubretia deltoidea* (L.) DC. Aubretia. Naturalized on old walls, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

- 49/7 *Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Heynh. Thale Cress. Railway bank, Buckden, April (T. G. Tutin). Walls and flower beds, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 54/4 *Brassica rapa* L. var. *briggsii* Watson. Wild Turnip. Connington, 1948 (J.C.D.)
- *61/2 *Lepidium latifolium* L. Broad-leaved Pepperwort. Nene back-water dredgings near Yarwell Mill, Elton, 25/8 (T. Patston).
- 62/2 *Iberis umbellata* L. Candytuft. Occurred as a garden weed, Stibbington, 7/8/48.
- 88 *Viola tricolor* L. Ssp. *tricolor*. Wild Pansy. Brickyard, Woodston, 7/8/52. Waste, Hartford, 1953 (R.D.K.)
- 89/2 *Polygala vulgaris* L. Common Milkwort. Stow Longa (H.M.)
- 98/4 *Melandrium rubrum* (Weig.) Garcke. Red Champion. Perry road, Buckden (D. A. Davies). More records of this rare Huntingdonshire plant are urgently required.
- 98/9 *Agrostemma githago* Linn. Corn Cockle. About the farmyard, Gaynes Hall. Apparently decreasing. Not seen 1953/54 (R.F.)
- 101/4 *Stellaria neglecta* Weihe. Greater Chickweed. Holme Lode Covert (Exc.) Only one previous record.
- 103/7 *Sagina ciliata* Fries. Ciliate Pearlwort. Holme Lode Covert (Exc.)
- 112/15 *Hypericum humifusum* L. Trailing St. John's Wort. Open woodland, West Perry wood. Not common (R.F.)
- 115/3 *Althaea rosea* (L.) Cav. Hollyhock. An escape which has maintained itself for at least 5 years on field margins in two localities, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) Bks. of L.B.3 knot hole, Woodston.
- 117/1 *Malva moschata* L. Musk Mallow. Churchyard, Leighton Bromswold, 29/7/52. Common, bkt. and roadsides, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) White var. ditto (R.F.) Orton Hall, 30/8/52.
- *127/2 *Geranium versicolor* L. Streaked Cranesbill. Naturalized in orchard, Gaynes Hall. This has doubtless been a denizen here for many years (R.F.)
- *127/6 *G. endressii* J. Gay. Naturalized, orchard, Baker's Mead, Tilbrook, 11/7 (O.N.B.)
- 127/8 *G. columbinum* L. Long-stalked Cranesbill. Not uncommon in orchard, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 132/1 *Oxalis acetosella* L. Wood-sorrel. Graham (H.M.) Only two other records.
- 132/2 *Oxalis corniculata* L. Procumbent Yellow Sorrel. Frequent garden weed, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 149/1 *Ulex europaeus* L. Gorse. Abbots Ripton railway bank, 3/4.
- 154/1 *Melilotus altissima* Thuill. Tall Melilot. Stow Longa (H.M.) Norman Cross, 16/9/36 (L.J.T.)
- 154/3 *Melilotus arvensis* Wallr. Common Melilot. Still flowering 3/12/53 brickyards, Farcet (H.F.T.) Very unusual for this species.
- 155/3 *Trifolium ochroleucon* Huds. Sulphur Clover. Frequent in rough grassland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- *155/4 *T. incarnatum* L. Crimson Clover. Roadsides, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)

- 155/13 *T. fragiferum* L. Strawberry Clover. Frequent, pastures and roadsides, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 160/6 *Lotus tenuis* Kit. Slender Birdsfoot-trefoil. Stow Longa (H.M.)
- *163/1 *Galega officinalis* L. Goat's Rue. Well established in orchard and in waste places around Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 170/1 *Coronilla varia* L. Crown Vetch. Stony soil, roadside, Huntingdon, 17/8 (R. A. Booker).
- 178/1 *Lathyrus latifolius* L. Everlasting Pea. Naturalized on roadside by Gaynes Farm (R. F.)
- 178/8 *L. nissolia* L. Grass Vetchling. Roadside, Cage Lane, Gt. Staughton, with *Vicia tetrasperma* and *Agropyron repens* (R.F.) Staughton Moor, 1953 (Mrs. K. Walter). Belton's Hill, Spaldwick (F.P.)
- *183/9 *Prunus serotina* Ehrh. Naturalized, Kimbolton Castle grounds, July (O.N.B.)
- *184/10 *Spiraea salicifolia* L. Willow Spiraea. Naturalized, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 9/7 (O.N.B.)
- 185/1 *Rubus idaeus* L. Wild Raspberry. Centre wood, Elton Furze. Only three previous records.
- *211/1 *Sedum telephium* L. Orpine. Livelong. Stow Longa (H.M.) Margin of Perry Wood, at one point only (R.F.)
- 211/7 *S. album* L. White Stonecrop. Naturalized around the gardens, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 220/1 *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (L.) Scop. Rosebay Willow-herb. White var. Holme Lode Covert, August (H.F.T.)
- 220/7(2) *Epilobium adenocaulon* Hausskn. Disturbed woodland, Kimbolton Park, 8/7/53 (S.M.W.) In Herb. Univ. Cantab.
- 265/5 *Oenanthe silaifolia* Bieb. Sulphurwort. Meadow between Houghton Mill and railway, 1940 (E. A. George). Still there, 30/5/53 (S.M.W. and Rec.) Bluntisham, 24/8/1846 (W. W. Newbold). Port Holme meadow, Brampton, 13/6/1911 (E. W. Hunnybun). All in Herb. Univ. Cantab.
- 291/2 *Lonicera periclymenum* L. Honeysuckle. Common in woodland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) Upton Wood (Exc.) Woods, Elton Furze.
- 302/1 *Kentranthus ruber* (L.) DC. Red Valerian. Naturalized on walls, Gaynes Hall (R.F.) Bk. of L.B. 3 knot hole, Woodston. Roadside, Stoneley, July (O.N.B.)
- 324/3 *Filago germanica* L. Upright Cudweed. Roadside, Hartford (R.D.K.) Stow Longa (H.M.) Only two previous records.
- 328/2 *Gnaphalium uliginosum* L. Marsh Cudweed. Large wood, Elton Furze.
- 333/1 *Inula helenium* L. Elecampane. Several clumps on Gt. Staughton—Gaynes Hall road (R.F.) Roadside between Ellington and Grafham, 2/8 (B.)
- 377/1 *Tanacetum vulgare* L. Tansy. Not common, roadside, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 380/3 *Petasites fragrans* (Vill.) C. Presl. Winter Heliotrope. Around gardens, especially on disturbed ground, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)

- 409/1 *Cichorium intybus* L. Chicory. Succory. Stow Longa (H.M.) Great Gransden, 8/6/30 (L.J.T.)
- 425/1 *Lactuca virosa* L. Wild Lettuce. Waste land and waysides, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 463/4 *Lysimachia nummularia* L. Creeping Jenny. Around moats and fish pond, Gaynes Hall (R.F.) Upton Wood (Exc.) Known at Stanground as "Stinking Betty."
- 506/4 *Myosotis caespitosa* K. F. Schultz. Tufted Forget-me-not. Around fishpond, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 507/1 *Lithospermum officinale* L. Cromwell. Diddington Wood, 1938 (T.) Warboys Wood, 1949 (J.G.D.) Upton Wood (Exc.)
- 507/3 *L. arvense* L. Corn Gromwell. Arable land and waysides, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) L.B. 3 brickyard, Woodston, 24/6.
- 524/1 *Hyoscyamus niger* L. Henbane. Stow Longa (H.M.)
- 527/3 *Verbascum thapsus* L. Aaron's Rod. Great Mullein. Bks. and waste places, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) Monk's Wood, 10/7 (B.)
- 532/24 *Kickxia spuria* (L.) Dumfl Round-leaved Toadflax. Alconbury Sept., 1951 (B.) Arable weed, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 543/3 *Veronica officinalis* L. Common Speedwell. On walls and in waste places, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 543/6 *V. scutellata* L. Marsh Speedwell. Backwater of river Nene, Elton, opposite Yarwell Mill. Still flowering 19/9/1910 (L.J.T.) Pond on E. side of road leading to Easton from Huntingdon—Thrapston road, 9/6/43 (J. Newton). Woodwalton Fen, 17/7/52 (S.M.W.)
- 550/4 *Orobanche elatior* Sutton. Tall Broomrape. Stow Longa (H.M.) Only two other records for the County.
- 577/6 *Stachys arvensis* L. Corn Woundwort. Cornfield weed, Earith, August, 1952 (D. E. Coombe). In Herb. Univ. Cantab. Only one previous record in the V.C.H.
- 578/1 *Galeopsis speciosa* Mill. Large-flowered Hempnettle. One plant in rough grass, Stibbington, 7/8 (Jos. Gilbert).
- 578/2 *G. tetrahit* L. Common Hempnettle. Flowering Stibbington, 19/9/1910 (L.J.T.) Still occurs there. (Specimen seen with white flowers and purple markings, 25/8.)
- 615/9 *Polygonum hydropiper* L. Water-pepper. Large wood, Elton Furze.
- 622/1 *Aristolochia clematitis* L. Birthwort. Alien. Probably originally introduced and now naturalized. Dense grass, Kimbolton Castle grounds, 11/7 (O.N.B.) This is the second record for the County.
- 628/8 *Euphorbia amygaloides* L. Wood Spurge. Grafham (H.M.)
- 639/1 *Helxine soleirollii* Req. Mind-Your-Own-Business. Naturalized in sheltered places around the gardens, Gaynes Hall (R.F.) Has spread from gardens to waste places, Stibbington, where it survived the winter between paving stones.
- 643/1 *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn. Alder. Around fishpond, Gaynes Hall (R.F.) Roadside, etc., nr. Huntingdon (T. G. Tutin).
- 668/2 *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz. Broad Helleborine. Upton Wood (Exc.)

- 669/5 *Orchis morio* L. Green-winged Orchid. Grassland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 669/11 *O. fuchsii* Druce. Spotted Orchid (Woodland form). Langlands Spinney, Waresley, 1944 (T.) North Road gravel pit, Little Paxton, 15/6/52 (T.) Frequent in grassland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 669/14 *O. mascula* L. Early Purple Orchid. Frequent in woodland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 669/17 *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (L.) L. C. Rich. Pyramidal Orchid. Stow Longa (H.M.) Grassland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 672/3 *Ophrys apifera* Huds. Bee Orchid. Grassland, Gt. Staughton (Mrs. D. A. Davies and R.F.) Stow Longa (H.M.) Grafham (Mrs. Davies). Abbots Ripton (Huntingdon Grammar School).
- 674/6 *Platanthera chlorantha* (Cust.) Rchb. Greater Butterfly Orchid. Woodland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 674/7 *P. bifolia* (L.) L. C. Rich. Lesser Butterfly Orchid. Stow Longa (H.M.)
- 685/1 *Galanthus nivalis* L. Snowdrop. Naturalized around gardens, Gaynes Hall (R.F.) and Baker's Mead, Tilbrook (O.N.B.) Not recorded in V.C.H., though included in "The Comital Flora" for Hunts.
- 686/2 *Leucojum aestivum* L. Summer Snowflake. Naturalized, Baker's Mead, Tilbrook (O.N.B.)
- 702/4 *Allium vineale* L. Crow Garlic. Weed of arable and grassland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) Weed of arable land, Yaxley (H. Toynton).
- *703/1 *Muscari racemosum* Lam. & DC. Grape-Hyacinth. Naturalized, Baker's Mead, Tilbrook, 29/3 (O.N.B.)
- 709/1 *Fritillaria meleagris* L. Fritillary. Naturalized, Baker's Mead, Tilbrook, 20/5 (O.N.B.)
- 727/4 *Lemna gibba* L. Gibbous Duckweed. In a ditch, Earith, 21/10 (S.M.W.)
- 753/10 *Carex pendula* L. Pendulous Sedge. The dominant plant on the ground layer in the wetter parts of Perry Woods (R.F.)
- 753/11 *C. sylvatica* Huds. Wood Sedge. Waresley, 3/6/30 (L.J.T.) In woodland, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 753/60 *C. contigua* Hoppe. Prickly Sedge. Norman Cross, 16/9/36 (L.J.T.) Bks of L.B. 2 knot hole, Fletton 2/7.
- 765/6 *Phalaris canariensis* L. Canary Grass. Casual, around filter beds, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 791/1f *Deschampsia caespitosa* (L.) Beauv. var. *parviflora* (Thuill.) C. E. Hubbard. Upton Wood (Exc.) This woodland variety has not previously been recorded for the County.
- 794/1 *Avena fatua* L. var. *glabrata* Peterm. (= var. *intermedia*) railway track nr. L.B.2 knot hole, 21—7. Elton Furze, 2—10.
- 824/7 *Poa nemoralis* L. Wood Poa. In Perry Woods. Not common (R.F.) Upton Wood (Exc.) Large wood, Elton Furze.
- 827 *Bromus* spp. Det. or conf. T. G. Tutin. Cf. V.C.H. list.
- 827/17 *Bromus commutatus* Schrad. Meadow Brome. Meadow nr. Houghton Mill, 30/5/53 (S.M.W. and Rec.)

- 827/18 *B. racemosus* L. Smooth Brome. Meadow nr. Houghton Mill, 30/5/53 (S.M.W. and Rec.)
- 827/19 *B. mollis* L. Sec. Holmb. Soft Brome or Lop Grass. Common waste places and meadows, Stibbington.
- 827/19c *B. mollis* L. sec. Holmb. var. *leiostachys* Hartm. (probably) Meadow, Holywell, 30/5/53 (S.M.W. and Rec.)
- 827/19i *B. thominii* Hard. (Soft Brome) Bks of L.B. 2 knot hole, Fletton, 2/7.
- 840/1 *Taxus baccata* L. Yew. Self sown seedlings occur originating from planted trees (R.F.) Bird sown young plant in a garden, Stibbington.
- 851/2 *Asplenium trichomanes* L. Maidenhair Spleenwort. Waresley, 6/6/30 (L.J.T.) One plant, side of drain by Gaynes Hall (R.F.) Not recorded in V.C.H., though included in "The Comital Flora" for Hunts.
- 856/1 *Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott. Male Fern. Woods, Elton Furze. Woods, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 856/4 *D. austriaca* (Jacq.) Woyнар. Broad Buckler-fern. Woodwalton Fen, 15/5/52 (P. D. Sell). Large wood, Elton Furze.

Fungi

- Cyathus vernicosus* (Bull.) DC. (Waxy Bird's-nest). On soil in seed boxes, Aug. 1951 (R.F.)
- Hypoxylon fuscum* Fr. (Brown Hypoxylon). Common on hazel branches, Perry Woods (R.F.)
- Xylaria polymorpha* (Pers. ex Fr.) Grev. (Many-shaped Xylaria). On rotten wood, Holme Lode Covert (Exc.)

JOHN L. GILBERT.

LEPIDOPTERA

Some exceedingly interesting occurrences have been recorded chiefly at Holme Fen, which has been systematically worked by Messrs. Gardiner and Rivers for the Nature Conservancy. The following are among the most interesting:—

- Deilephila porcellus*, L. Alconbury (Blackie).
- Acherontia atropos*, L. Larva at Farcet (Tebbs).
- Cerura furcula*, L. Larva at Stibbington (Gilbert).
- Pheosia gnoma*, Fab. Fletton 2/6/54 (Tebbs).
- Lophopteryx capucina*, L. Common at light, Fletton (Tebbs).
- Gastropacha quercifolia*, L. Wood Walton Fen, 22/6/54 (de Worms); Stanground, 9/8/54 (Tebbs).
- Drepana falcataria*, L. Holme Fen (Gardiner and Rivers, *Ent. Rec.*, 66, 275). Larva at Holme Fen, 4/6/54 (Tebbs).
- Spaelotis ravida*, Hb. (= *obscura* Br.) Holme Fen (Gardiner and Rivers, *loc. cit.*)

- Polia nebulosa*. Hufn. Many at Woodwalton Fen (de Worms, *Entom.* 86, 143).
- Arenostola extrema*, Hb. (= *concolor* Gmu). Quite numerous at Woodwalton Fen 22/6/52 (de Worms, *loc. cit.*)
- A. fluxa*, Hb. Holme Fen (Gardiner and Rivers, *loc. cit.*) No record in V.C.H.
- Hydrillula palustris*, Hb. Holme Fen (Gardiner and Rivers, *loc. cit.*) Woodwalton Fen (Classey, *Entom.* 87, 56). No record in V.C.H.
- Polychrisia moneta*, Fab. Alconbury (Blackie).
- Orthonama lignata*, Hb. (= *vittata*, Hb.) Fletton (Tebbs). No record in V.C.H.
- Aspilates ochrearia*, Ross. Stibbington (Gilbert). No record in V.C.H.
- Campaea margaritata*, L. Holme Fen (Tebbs).
- Lycia hirtaria*, Chrck. Holme Fen (Gardiner and Rivers, *loc. cit.*)
- Biston strataria*, Hufn. Monks Wood (Blackie). No record in V.C.H.
- Hepialus hecta*, L. Bevills Wood (Blackie).

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE—contd.

With this issue the notes on the butterflies (*Papilionoidea* and *Hesperioidea*) are concluded and a number of additional notes, which have come to hand since the appearance of the previous sections are printed. The picture never remains fixed, and much more information is needed before we can give anything like an accurate account of the distribution of the easiest section of the Lepidoptera of our County. Next year I hope to tackle the *Lasiocampidae* and possibly the *Sphingidae*.

4. Riodinidae

Hamearis lucina, L. (Duke of Burgundy). Status uncertain. V.C.H. gives "Monks Wd., Bevill's Wd, rare; not unc. nr. Peterborough." Mr. Leeds writes: "Once common locally. Wartime cultivation of borders of woods has destroyed it." Dr. Newton saw "3 or 4 in 1943 or 1944." Dr. Dickinson saw some in Monks Wood in the '40's. The most recent records are from an unspecified locality in 1951 by Mr. H. M. Edelsten (*Entom.*, 84, 204), and from Orton Lodge by Mr. H. F. Tebbs in 1952. The food plant (*Primula veris*, L.) is exceedingly abundant and it is probable that the insect occurs locally and in small numbers.

5. Pieridae

A. PIERINAE

Aporia crataegi, L. (Black-veined White). Extinct in England since about 1925, but once widespread in the South. Prof. Babington recorded it for Monks Wood in 1829. Barrett (*Brit. Lep.*, I, 20) says that it was "apparently abundant in Hunts. in 1857." Newman (*Brit. Butts.*, 168) gives a record from Monks Wood by Mr. Doubleday, but with no data. He also gives "very rarely met with at Kimbolton" (*teste* Mrs. Hutchinson) under the Herefordshire entries. Dr. Lissarnt Cox tells me that the Monks Wood locality was the track running south from the wood to Bevill's Wood. There was also a locality somewhere between Great Gidding and Thurning (V.C.H.) There is no record of less than 80 years antiquity.

Pieris brassicae, L. (Large White). Common.

P. rapae, L. (Small White). Common.

P. napi, L. (Green-veined White). Common.

Pontia daphidice, L. (Bath White). V.C.H. records a capture by Mr. E. C. Buxton in 1852 at Whittlesey.

Euchloe cardamines, L. (Orange tip). Usually common.

B. DISMORPHINAE

Leptidia sinapis, L. (Wood White). Prof. Babington found it in Monks Wood in 1829 and Newman records it as having been taken there by Mr. F. Bond. When it disappeared is not known. Mr. Leeds, who has known the wood for sixty years, has never seen it. In V.C.H. it is recorded that in 1923 Mr. C. Mellows caught one and released it. Possibly an attempt at re-introduction had been made. It is to be found not very far away in Northants, and although its favourite foodplant, *Lathyrus tuberosus*, L., is not found in the county its other foodplants occur and it might reappear or be discovered in some unexplored wood.

C. COLIADINAE

Colias hyale, L. (Pale Clouded Yellow). Mr. Leeds records the capture of nine some years ago. None was recorded in 1947, the year of the great Clouded Yellow invasion.

C. crocea, Fourc. (= *edusa*, Fab.) (Clouded Yellow). Abundant in 1947 and no doubt in earlier *edusa* years. Hunts. is too far north for the regular appearance of this Mediterranean migrant. A few in 1948.

D. GONEPTERYGINAE

Gonepteryx rhamni (Brimstone). No doubt found throughout the county, but all my records come from north of Huntingdon.

6. Papilionidae

Papilio machaon, L. (Swallowtail). There are very old records from Yaxley and Holme. No doubt the British subspecies *britannicus* occurred in the Huntingdonshire fens before they were drained, but it is now confined to Norfolk and Wicken Fen. Any specimen seen now would probably be the North European subspecies *bigenerata* (= *garganus*) which sometime visits England and which I have seen as close as Linton, Cambs.

II HESPERIOIDEA

Hesperiidae

A. PYRGINAE

Pyrgus malvae, L. (Grizzled Skipper). There are recent records from Orton Longueville, Monks Wood, Hermitage Wood, Salome Wood, Brookland Wood and Somersham. Probably occurs in suitable localities all over the county.

Erynnis tages, L. (Dingy Skipper). Usually common and more widely distributed than *malvae*, but in Hunts. apparently much scarcer. Monks Wood and Hermitage Wood only in my experience. Old records for St. Ives. Information needed.

B. HESPERIINAE

Thymelicus sylvestris, Poda (= *Linea*, Mull., = *thaumas*, Hufn., = *flava*, Brunn) (Small Skipper). Probably found in suitable places throughout the county. I have recent records from Monks Wood, Spaldwick, Alconbury, Woodwalton Fen, Woodwalton Village, Coppington, Hill's Wood, Woolley Gorse, Orton Lodge and Woodston.

T. lineola, Ochs. (Essex Skipper). The comparative distribution of this and the previous closely similar species needs working out. Hunts. is one of the few inland areas in which it occurs. V.C.H. gives "fen district, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Somersham district, Old Fletton." I have recent records from Barham, Alconbury, Hermitage Wood, Woodwalton Fen, Monks Wood, Godmanchester, Graveley Roughs, Alconbury Weston, Coppington, Orton Lodge and Woodston.

Ochlodes venata septentrionalis, Br. & Grey (= *sylvanus*, Esp.) (Large Skipper). Usually common and widely distributed.

Hesperia comma, L. (Silver-spotted Skipper). In V.C.H. this is recorded from Monks Wood on the authority of the late Mr. E. H. Thornhill. Its occurrence anywhere in Hunts. would be exceedingly surprising, and confirmation of this record is required.

Carterocephalus palaemon, Pall. (Chequered Skipper). Undoubtedly found in Monks Wood and elsewhere in the county long ago. It is often said to be extinct now, though it is common just across the Nene at Castor Hanglands. There is a number of recent records, mostly of single specimens: Buckworth, 1947 (Dickinson); two at Salome Wood, 1948 (Blackie); one in an unspecified locality, 1915 (Edelsten, *Entom.*, 84, 204); Orton Lodge, 1951 (Tebbs); Woodwalton Fen (Gardiner and Rivers, *Ent. Rec.*, 66, 275).

Addenda to Butterflies

*Aricia agestis*², Schiff. Orton Longueville (Tebbs).

Callophrys rubi, L. Orton Lodge, Farcet, Yaxley (Tebbs).

Strymonia pruni, L. Orton Lodge (Tebbs).

S. W-album, Knoch. Woodwalton Fen, 1953 (Leeds), Alconbury, 1954 (Blackie).

Thecla quercus, L. Orton Lodge freely, 1951; abundant in north of county 1953; none 1954 (Tebbs).

Pararge aegeria egerides, St. Orton, Yaxley (Tebbs), Bluntisham (Tebbutt).

Agapetes galathea, L. Between Brampton Hut and Spaldwick (Tebbutt); Glatton (F. Anthony); Orton, Yaxley, Hicks Pit, Woodston, Fletton (Tebbs).

Limenitis camilla, L. Orton Lodge, 1953, 1954 (Tebbs). Two reported at Holme Fen, 1954—requires confirmation.

Fabriciana cydippe, L. Several seen and two taken at Holme Fen, 1954 (Blackie).

J. E. H. BLACKIE.