

HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

8th
ANNUAL
REPORT
1955

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

Chairman:

J. E. H. BLACKIE, Esq., The Bell House, Alconbury, Hunts.
Tel: Woolley 270.

Hon. Secretary:

PROFESSOR ALASTAIR N. WORDEN, Cromwell House, Huntingdon.
Tel: Huntingdon 612.

Hon. Treasurer:

D. A. DAVIES, Esq., Darholm, 26, Perry Road, Buckden.
Tel.: Buckden 371.

Hon. Social Secretary:

MISS M. J. KETTLEWELL, Y.F.C. Office, 112, High Street, Huntingdon.
Tel: Huntingdon 111.

Committee:

MRS. J. E. H. BLACKIE.
C. F. TEBBUTT.
J. L. GILBERT.
W. T. K. GARNETT.
L. W. ANGELL.
MISS E. M. THACKRAY.
MISS O. D. CLARKE.
G. E. D. ALCOCK.
R. FRASER.

Referees:

Flora - - - J. L. Gilbert, 157, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.
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.

Annual Report for 1955

(No. 8)

INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting and Conversazione was again held at Huntingdon Grammar School, by kind permission of the Headmaster, on Saturday, 26th February, 1955, when the officers and committee named in this Report were elected. The successful experiment of combining the conversazione with a business meeting was repeated, and the Society is grateful to those who so kindly provided refreshments.

Following the business proceedings, which included discussion of the revised Constitution and Rules, and an opportunity for studying the exhibition of specimens, three short papers on "Present Trends of Fauna and Flora in the County," by Messrs. J. E. M. Blackie, C. F. Tebbutt and J. L. Gilbert, were presented. In Mr. Tebbutt's absence his contribution was read by Mr. Blackie.

The following have joined the Society since publication of the previous report :—Mr. H. A. Hyde, Warboys C.P. School; Mrs. M. Sisson, Hall Farm, Godmanchester; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Shelley, Glebe Farm, Grafham; Mrs. D. K. Atkinson, Brook House, St. Neots (one of our founder members rejoined).

It must again be emphasized that every effort should be made to increase membership.

A.N.W.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

There have been four excursions during the last twelve months, of which three were arranged by the Peterborough Museum Society, the members of which very kindly extended an invitation to our Society to join with them.

On April 2nd, Mr. J. L. Gilbert led a party on a Fossil Hunt on the Nene Banks at Wansford, and on June 5th about eight members, led by Mr. Gilbert, explored the Holland and Wennington Woods at Abbots Ripton. It was a little disappointing that more members did not take advantage of this outing, which was on a Sunday afternoon, because the weather was good and a large number of interesting botanical specimens was found.

Mr. H. F. Tebbs was the leader for the other two excursions, to Monks Wood on June 11th and to Jones Covert at Orton Lodge on July 23rd. On both occasions the interest was mainly entomological and members had the opportunity of improving their knowledge and at the same time enjoying the good weather and lovely surroundings.

M. JILL KETTLEWELL,
Social Secretary.

BIRDS

As usual I must complain that this report is the work of so few members. This makes their work even more devoted and spectacular.

The weather in 1955 was abnormally cold, with night frosts nearly up to June, and abnormally dry for the remainder of the year. Perhaps because of the cold and lack of insect food breeding ducks did badly. This may account for the great drop in Mallard numbers at Butler's Pit, but the attractiveness or otherwise of the nearby Peterborough sewage farm must greatly affect the quantity of waterfowl there. The dryness and lack of mud at Orton and at many gravel pits made no attraction for passing waders.

The number of buzzards remaining over long periods in the Kimbolton and Great Staughton districts is noteworthy, as is also the return of the Marsh Warbler (unfortunately breeding was unsuccessful), and the possible breeding of the Wood Warbler. It now seems certain that Redpoles are nesting in Holme Fen.

Members have undertaken the monthly counts for the Wildfowl Trust, and Gt. Crested Grebe and herons' nests census and their part in the National Mute Swan Census.

Contributors to the report are: G. Alcock (G.A.), L. Angel (L.A.), J. E. Archer (J.A.), W. Garnett (W.G.), Gaynes Hall Bird Club (G.H.B.C.), L. King (L.K.), E. T. Lees (E.L.), D. Scholes (D.S.), A. E. Vine (A.E.V.), and your Recorder (Rec.)

Black-throated Diver. Feb. 26th, Butler's Pit, 1 seen diving and catching fish. (G.A., D.S.)

Gt. Crested Grebe. Census at 15 breeding sites, 60 (+16). At Lt. Paxton there was colony nesting by 4 pairs (Rec.)

Cormorant. Hartford G.P. 1 arrived about Dec. 1st, and stayed until about Dec. 20th (Rec.)

Heron. Census showed same total of nests as last year. Hemingford Park 8 (— 1), Hinchingsbrooke 9 (+2), St. Neots 5 (— 1) (Rec.)

Bittern. Gt. Paxton 1, Feb. 8th—18. 2 Feb., 22nd. 1 March 28th—30th, and April 8th. 1 Dec. 19th (L.A.)

Teal. A pair Hemingford Grey June 28th. Unusually large numbers arrived mid-Nov. and stayed to end of year. 1 shot Gt. Staughton Dec. 5th had been ringed as adult as Piam decoy near Makkum, Friesland, Holland 29/9/54. (Rec.)

Wigeon. Jan. 15th—mid-Feb. Unusually large numbers flying nightly up Ouse valley from Earith. (Rec.)

Shoveler. March 20th. Fenstanton G.P. 5 drakes displaying to 1 duck. (W.G.)

Tufted Duck. Only broods seen, were 1 each of 3 and 4 near Huntingdon. (Rec.)

Common Pochard. April 2nd large numbers in St. Ives area (Rec.) 1 brood of 8 near St. Ives, June 26th. (A.E.V.)

Goldeneye. Feb. 20th. Fenstanton G.P. 1 duck. (W.G.)

Goosander. Jan. 22nd, Gt. Paxton 2. (L.A.)

Grey Geese. Jan. 8th, Fletton, 6 flying N.E. (G.A.) Jan. 15th, 25 Gt. Paxton (L.A.)

Canada Geese. A tame goose on Mr. Copley's G.P., Hemingford Mill, was joined by and mated with, a wild gander and nested. (Rec.)

Mute Swan. The census showed 36 pairs nesting, 14 on the Ouse or tributaries, and the remainder on ponds and pits. There were also present at the same time 200 — 217 non-breeders. (Rec.)

Bewick Swans. Large numbers were on the Gt. Washes below Earith in Jan. and Feb. and visited the Bury Fen area. Jan. 8th, 7; 16th, 4; Feb. 10th, 17. A single adult St. Neots, Feb. 17th to 18th. (J.A., Rec.)

Common Buzzard. 1 came to Gt. Staughton woods in June and was still there in Dec. 3/4 were in Kimbolton area last 3 months of year. 3 seen in air at one time. (Rec.)

Rough-legged Buzzard. Oct. 5th, Fletton. A large buzzard-like bird with rounded wings, light underparts, especially tail, which had broad terminal band. Flying N.E. at 100 ft. (G.A.)

Quail. Oct. 8th. 1 shot Buckden. (Rec.)

Corncrake. During June 2 heard calling near Perry. Sept. 19th, 1 seen Bluntisham. (Rec.)

Ringed Plover. Orton, July 22nd, 1. Aug. 4th, 2. (D.S.)

Jack Snipe. Orton, Jan. 7th, 1. (D.S.)

Woodcock. April 2nd, 1 Woodwalton Fen. May 6th, 1 Monks Wood. Several bred Kimbolton Woods. At least 4 pairs hatched broods Gt. Staughton Woods, and here H. Sygrove, keeper, saw an adult carrying a chick and set it down; at the spot were 3 young. (Rec.)

Curlew. Feb. 16th, St. Neots, 20/30 flying W. or S.W. Sept. 23rd, 2 Buckden. (Rec.)

Whimbrel. April 29th, 2 Brownhill Staunch, Bluntisham (J.A.) May 8th, 9 Lt. Paxton flying E. (Rec.)

Green Sandpiper. April 19th, Lt. Paxton, 1 (Rec.) July 30th/31st, Orton, 1. (D.S.)

Wood Sandpiper. Orton, July 22nd, 1; 30th, 1; 31st, 2. (D.S.)

Greenshank. Lt. Paxton, G.P. Aug. 20th, 1. (Rec.)

Knot. Jan. 22nd, Lt. Paxton G.P., 1. Flew off S. or S.W. (Rec.)

Gulls. Fewer Herring and Gt. Black-backed at end of year than in previous winter. Regular flighting of Black-headed up to Beds. did not start until latter half Jan., and continued during Feb. On March 11th there was an independent movement to N. on broad front of B.H. and Commons. On March 16th in evening flight proportion of Common was $\frac{1}{2}$, and it increased to $\frac{1}{3}$ by March 27th. Flight ceased April 6th. Odd B.H. with a few Common were present along Ouse valley all summer. (Rec.)

Terns. Very few Com./Arctic seen. Lt. Paxton 3, June 30th; 1, July 26th. (Rec.) Butler's Pit, Fletton, June 17th, 2, and 1 each on June 18th, 20th, 21st. (G.A.)

Wood Pigeon. Pest Officer claims 43,361 shot in county Sept. 1954 to March, 1955. No apparent diminution in numbers. (Rec.)

Long-eared Owl. Gt. Paxton, 1. April 6th—Nov. 30th. (L.A.)

Short-eared Owl. Kimbolton airfield, 1 seen in Spring and 2/3 in Autumn. (Rec.)

Nightjar. Gt. Staughton woods, 1, a partial albino, seen several times. (Rec.)

Carrion Crow. Pest Officer claims 761 killed in county, Sept., 1954 to March, 1955. One wonders how many were correctly distinguished from young rooks. (Rec.)

Rook. In spite of heavy persecution only small change in numbers of nests in control rookeries. St. Neots 387 (—32), Lt. Paxton 106 (+1), Diddington 210 (—6). Pest Officer claims 912 killed Sept., 1954, to March 1955. This cannot include fledglings shot. (Rec.)

Jackdaw. Pest Officer claims 1,350 killed Sept., 1954, to March, 1955. (Rec.)

Magpie. Pest Officer claims 679 killed Sept., 1954, to March, 1955. Number would seem to be greatly reduced from war-time level. One in captivity at St. Neots was taken as a fledgling in 1938. (Rec.)

Jay. Pest Officer claims 216 killed Sept., 1954, to March, 1955. Numbers obviously reduced. (Rec.)

Blackbird. Both on Jan. 20th, and Nov. 14th, hedgerows near Perry were full of blackbirds, 90% being cocks (Rec.)

Wheatear. Both an early and late migration and return seems to be indicated in this and former years. March 30th, 5/6 Oldhurst. April 2nd, 1, Monks Wood. April 29th, 1, Lt. Paxton. April 30th—May 6th, 12 Fenstanton. May 8th and Aug. 7th, 1 Lt. Paxton. Aug. 2nd and Sept. 10th, 1 Hilton. Sept. 16th, 3 Fenstanton. (E.L., L.K., Rec.)

Winchat. April 23rd, a pair Diddington. (E.L.)

Common Redstart. Several vicinity Kimbolton Park. (E.L., Rec.)

Reed Warbler. 3 pairs nested beside moat Gaynes Hall. (G.H.B.C.)

Grasshopper Warbler. May 28th, 1 singing near Buckden Station (E.L.)

Marsh Warbler. A pair returned to 1954 site and a destroyed nest found June 10th. 1 heard singing June 25th and 28th. Another deserted nest with one egg found July 10th. (L.A., E.L., Rec.)

Wood Warbler. May 29th, 1 heard singing near Huntingdon (Rec.)

Redpole. Holme Fen Reserve. April 8th, flock 40. June 5th, family party of newly fledged young. (A.E.V.)

Brambling. Gt. Paxton, Oct. 11th, several. (L.A.)

White Wagtail. Lt. Paxton, 1 Sept. 16th, and pair Oct. 23rd (Rec.) Fletton 3, Oct. 13th. (G.A.)

Grey Wagtail. 1 Fletton, Jan. 8th. (G.A.)

Reed Bunting. Pair nested beside moat Gaynes Hall. (G.H.B.C.)

MIGRANT DATES

<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 30th, Hilton (W.G.) May 1st, St. Neots (Rec.) Oct. 8th, Waresley (Rec.)
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 14th, Farcet (G.A.), April 25th, St. Neots (Rec.) July 18th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.), Sept. 2nd (young) Hilton (L.K.)
<i>Swift.</i>	May 2nd, Farcet, Gt. Paxton, Hilton (G.A., L.A., W.G.) May 8th, residents St. Neots (Rec.) Aug. 14th, residents left St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Swallow.</i>	April 2nd, Residents April 21st, St. Neots (Rec.) Nov. 7th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>House Martin.</i>	April 11th, Farcet (G.A.) Oct. 25th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	March 26th, Residents April 17th, Lt. Paxton (Rec.) April 21st, Kimbolton (Rec.) Oct. 18th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Redwing.</i>	Oct. 13th, Fletton (G.A.)
<i>Nightingale.</i>	May 1st, Monks Wood (Rec.)
<i>Reed Warbler.</i>	May 1st and Sept. 22nd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Garden Warbler.</i>	April 21st, Hilton (L.K.)
<i>Lesser Whitethroat.</i>	April 25th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	April 11th, Farcet (G.A.) Oct. 25th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Chiffchaff.</i>	March 27th, Lt. Paxton (Rec.), April 3rd, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	May 19th, Gt. Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 21st, Gt. Paxton (L.A.) April 24th, St. Neots (Rec.)

Besides the birds named in the text or tables the following, with numbers from the B.O.U. Check List (1952) are believed to have bred in the county:—

- 9 Lt. Grebe, 93 Sparrow Hawk, 110 Kestrel, 115 Red-legged Partridge, 116 Partridge, 118 Pheasant, 120 Water-Rail, 126 Moorhen, 133 Lapwing, 145 Snipe, 161 Redshank, 232 Stock Dove, 241 Barn Owl, 246 Lt. Owl, 247 Tawny Owl, 258 Kingfisher, 262 Green Woodpecker, 263 Gt. Spotted Woodpecker, 264 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, 272 Skylark, 288 Gt. Tit, 289 Blue Tit, 290 Coal Tit, 292 Marsh Tit, 293 Willow Tit, 294 Long-tailed Tit, 296 Nuthatch, 298 Tree-Creeper, 299 Wren, 301 Mistle Thrush, 303 Song Thrush, 308 Blackbird, 325 Robin, 337 Sedge Warbler, 343 Blackcap, 347 Whitethroat, 364 Goldcrest, 371 Hedge Sparrow, 373 Meadow Pipit, 376 Tree Pipit, 380 Pied Wagtail, 389 Starling, 392 Greenfinch, 393 Goldfinch, 395 Linnet, 401 Bullfinch, 407 Chaffinch, 409 Yellow Hammer, 410 Corn Bunting, 424 House Sparrow, 425 Tree Sparrow.

Migrants and winter visitors are: 140 Golden Plover and 159 Common Sandpiper.

Publication

C. F. Tebbutt (1955) *Common Tern Nesting in Huntingdonshire.*
British Birds Vol. XLVIII p. 89.

C. F. Tebbutt,
Recorder.

BUTLER'S PIT, FLETON SELECTED DUCK COUNTS

1955	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pintail	Shoveler	Pochard	Tufted Duck	Goldeneye	Coot
Jan. 2	4	3	—	2	—	—	14	2	15
" 7	4	—	—	—	—	—	10	6	40
" 12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	50
" 14-23	Cold spell, almost no waterfowl.								
" 26	100	100	—	20	—	—	50	3	—
" 29	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	130
" 30	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	5	100
Feb. 1-25	Almost no waterfowl.								
" 26	50	—	30	20	—	—	60	3	150
" 27	75	90	—	100	—	2	60	3	80
Mar. 3	50	90	—	30	—	10	45	8	110
" 15	10	—	6	—	—	3	70	4	60
April 4	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	—
" 10	4	—	3	—	—	—	8	—	—
" 13	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	—
" 30 - Nov. 18.	Almost no waterfowl except 1 Shelduck July 29, and 1 Gadwall July 30.								
Nov. 19	5	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 22	3	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 29	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
" 6	—	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
" 14	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
" 17	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
" 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
" 23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
" 31	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	—	15

MAMMALS

Mammalian records continue to be very sparse, but it is felt to be worth-while putting on record some of the known details of the spread of myxomatosis within the county. Myxoma infection was first confirmed, 18th September, 1954, at Brampton, and at the 30th November, 1955, it was officially computed that infection covered approximately 80% of the county. The parishes free from infection at that date were as follows: Holywell-cum-Needingworth, Bluntisham-cum-Earith, Colne, Woodhurst, Old Hurst, Broughton, Pidley-cum-Fenton, Bury, Ramsey, Farcet, Yaxley, Stilton, Denton and Caldecot, Stanground South, Fletton, Woodston, Orton Longueville, Alwalton, Chesterton, Haddon, Morborne.

This information has been kindly supplied by Mr. Harry V. Thompson, Infestation Control Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

A.N.W.

Publication

Davies, A. W., & Worden, A. N. (1954). The liver vitamin A reserves of some British wild animals. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, Vol. 123, pp. 739 - 746. (Includes records of mammals and birds in the County).

FLORA

Botanically, 1955 has been a good year. Due to the set-back during the winter months many plants flowered later than usual, hence there was an abundance of flowers during the summer.

Since the last report the Distribution Maps Scheme has produced two additional types of record cards; one with the plants arranged according to Bentham and Hooker, and the other consisting of some well known common species giving both English and scientific names. Members wishing to use these cards should apply for them.

Contributors to this report are indicated thus: L. W. Angell (A.), Mr. and Mrs. Blackie (B.), O. N. Bishop (O.N.B.), D. A. Davies (D.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.), R. Fraser (R.F.), R. D. Kime (R.D.K.), 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 those of your recorder, also indicated by Rec. The Old Weston, Elton Furze and Wennington Wood (moss) records were made jointly with Mr. T. Patston. Records made by H. Mace (H.M.), between 1913 and 1915 and L. J. Tremayne (L.J.T.) have again been included. All those known to be new to the County are indicated thus*. Among the wild flowers still unrecorded for the county are: Toothwort, Sessile Oak, Fly Orchid, Lily-of-the-Valley, Mistletoe, Wall Pennywort and Chamomile. Some, if not all of these plants, must occur in Huntingdonshire and any records would be much appreciated—no matter how ancient.

- 6/9 *Ranunculus arvensis* L. Corn Crowfood. Offord Darcy, 1950 (A.)
- 21/3 *Papaver dubium* L. Long-head Poppy. Cornfield, Old Weston 7/8.
- 21/5 *P. argemone* L. Long Prickley-headed Poppy. Offord Darcy, 1950 (A.)
- 31/4 *Corydalis lutea* (L.) DC. Yellow Fumitory. On walls, Hartford, 1953 (R.D.K.)
- 39/5 *Cardamine hirsuta* L. Hairy Bitter-cress. Common weed, paths, waste and arable ground, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- 54/2 *Brassica napus* L. Ouse bank, Holywell, 30/5/53 (S.M.W. & Rec.) In Herb. Cantab.
- 95/1 *Saponaria officinalis* L. Soapwort. Along Gt. North Road nr. Brampton Hut, Brampton, 10/8. (Mrs. D. A. Davies).
- 96/4 *Melandrium noctiflorum* (L.) Fr. Night-flowering Campion. Fields between Bigram's Farm and Lake, east of Kimbolton, Sept., 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)
- 100/12 *Cerastium tomentosum* L. Snow-in-Summer. Roadside, Alconbury Weston, 29/6.
- 133/3 *Impatiens parviflora* DC. Small Balsam. Frequent around St. Neots, Sept., 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)
- 147/3 *Genista tinctoria* L. Dyer's Greenweed. Grass fields, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 153/3 *Medicago sativa* L. Lucerne. Along Gt. North Road nr. Brampton Hut, Brampton, 10/8. (Mrs. D. A. Davies).
- 176/34 *Vicia hirsuta* (L.) S. F. Gray Hairy Tare. Bks., L.B.C. clay pit, Warboys.

- 176/35 *Vicia tetrasperma* (L.) Schreb. Smooth Tare. Margins of woods and roadsides, Gt. Staughton (R.F.)
- *185/60 *Rubus sprengelii* Weihe. Sprengel's Bramble. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville (Exc.)
- *190(2)/2 *Aphanes microcarpa* (Boiss. & Reut.) Rothm. (conf. S. M. Walters). Holme Lodge Covert, 10/7/54.
- 193/4 *Sanguisorba officinalis* L. Great Burnet. Roadside, east of St. Neots, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)
- 214/1 *Hippuris vulgaris* L. Marestalk. Offord Darcy, 1950 (A.)
- 220/5 *Epilobium adnatum* Gris. Square-stemmed Willowherb. Holywell, 25/7/53 (Exc.) Large wood, Elton Furze.
- 220/7x4 *E. obscurum* Schreb. x *E. parviflorum* Schreb. (det. G. M. Ash). Old Duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8/53 (G. R. Fenton & Rec.)
- 220/7(2)x7 *E. adenocaulon* Haussk. x *E. obscurum* Schreb. (det. G. M. Ash). Old duck decoy, Denton Fen, 7/8/53 (G. R. Fenton & Rec.)
- 247/1 *Apium graveolens* L. Wild Celery. St. Neots, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)
- 251/1 *Sison amomum* L. Stone Parsley. Buckden reservoir, 8/8. (D. & Rec.) Roadway nr. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville, 23/7 (Exc.) Belton's Hill, Spaldwick, 1954 (F. H. Perring). Along rough ride, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 255/1 *Pimpinella major* Huds. Greater Burnet Saxifrage. Roadside, Buckden, 8/8. (D. & Rec.)
- 269/1 *Silaum silaus* (L.) Schinz & Thell. Pepper Saxifrage. Grafham roadside and Ellington Hill, 8/8 (D. & Rec.) Belton's Hill, Spaldwick, 1954 (F. H. Perring). Grass field, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 289/1 *Symphoricarpos rivularis* Suksdorf. Snowberry. One small plant, Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville (Exc.) APPARENTLY BIRD SOWN.
- 291/2 *Lonicera periclymenum* L. Honeysuckle. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville (Exc.)
- 288/1 *Viburnum opulus* L. Guelder Rose. Wennington Wood, 21/10/54. (S.M.W.)
- 288/2 *V. lantana* L. Wayfaring Tree. Hedgerows, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 312/5 *Solidago gigantea* Ait var. *leiophylla* Fern. (conf. D. H. Kent). Along rough ride, Old Weston, 7/8. Elton roadside, Stibbington, 1951.
- 312/6 *S. canadensis* L. Recorded in error in Rep. 4, page 19 for *S. gigantea* Ait var. *leiophylla* Fern.
- 328/2 *Gnaphalium uliginosum* L. Marsh Cudweed. Buckden reservoir, 8/8. (D. & Rec.)

- 370/13 *Chrysanthemum parthenium* (L.) Bernh. Feverfew. Arable land, Hartford, 1953 (R.D.K.)
- 371/2 *Matricaria chamomilla* L. Wild Chamomile. Stow Longa (H.M.). Connington, 1948 (J.G.D.) MORE RECORDS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED OF THIS RARE HUNTS. PLANT.
- 383/7 *Senecio squalidus* L. Oxford Ragwort. Along Bullock Road, Elton (Mrs. T. Patston).
- 396/1 *Cirsium eriophorum* (L.) Scop. ssp. *britannicum* Petrak. Woolly Thistle. Wennington Wood (Exc.) Along rough ride, Winwick and Old Weston, 7/8.
- 396/4 *C. acaule* (L.) Scop. forma *caulescens* Rehb. Stemless Thistle. Ellington Hill, 8/8 (D. & Rec.)
- 396/8 *C. arvense* (L.) Scop. Creeping Thistle. White flowered form, Ellington Hill, 8/8 (D. & Rec.)
- 409/1 *Cichorium intybus* L. Succory. Grass field, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 415/2 *Picris hieracioides* L. Hawkweed Ox-Tongue. Stow Longa (H.M.)
- 425/2 *Lactuca serriola* L. Prickly Lettuce. Great Paxton to Offord roadside, 1951; Warboys airfield and adjacent roadsides, 1951. (A.)
- 435/3 *Campanula trachelium* L. Bats-in-the-Belfry. Diddington Wood, Aug. (D.) ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS. (V.C.H.)
- 435/4 *C. rapunculoides* L. Creeping Bellflower. Hedgerow, Perry Road, Buckden, Aug. (Mrs. D. A. Davies).
- 436/1 *Specularia hybrida* (L.) A. DC. Venus's Looking-glass. Kimbolton, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)
- 467/2f *Anagallis arvensis* L. ssp. *arvensis* var. *azurea* Wilmott. Blue flowered form of Field Pimpernell. Arable land, Hill Farm, Chesterton, July (J. H. Houghton).
- 477/1 *Blackstonia perfoliata* (L.) Huds. Yellow-wort. Abundant on rough ground, edge of wood nr. rly. Brampton, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)
- 478/1 *Centaureum minus* Moench. Common Centaury. White flowered form recorded from the following localities: Great Staughton (R.F.), Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville (Exc.), Bridle path between Easton and Grafham on heavy clay (R. A. Booker).
- 478/4 *C. pulchellum* (Sw.) E.H.L. Krause. Abundant on rough ground, edge of wood nr. rly, Brampton, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.) ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS.
- *480/4 *Gentianella amarella* (L.) H. Sm. (Felwort). Rough land between Grafham and Ellington, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. of Ellington Thorpe Farm, Sept. 1954 (R.F.)
- 532/24 *Kickxia spuria* (L.) Dum. Fields between Bigram's Farm and Lake, east of Kimbolton, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.)

- 532/25 *K. elatine* (L.) Dum. Fields between Bigram's Farm and Lake, east of Kimbolton, Sept. 1954. (D. & J.G.D.) Cornfield, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 534/1 *Antirrhinum majus* L. Snapdragon. Buckden reservoir, 8/8. (D. & Rec.)
- 535/4 *Scrophularia nodosa* L. Wood Figwort. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville (Exc.)
- 541/1 *Digitalis purpurea* L. Foxglove. Wood, Hartford, 1953. Introduced. (R.D.K.)
- 543/9 *Veronica catenata* Pennell. Water Speedwell (pink flowered). Around fishpond, Gaynes Hall (R.F.) Views Common, Huntingdon, June (D.)
- 543/20 *V. polita* Fries. Grey Speedwell. Flowering nr. Stibbington, 19/9/10; Waresley, 6/6/30 (L.J.T.)
- 545/5 *Euphrasia nemorosa* Pers. (conf. E. F. Warburg) (Eyebright). Ellington Hill, 8/8 (D. & Rec.) Grass field, Old Weston, 7/8 (Dr. Warburg considers that it may perhaps be put under the var. *transiens* Pugsl.)
- 548/5 *Rhinanthus stenophyllus* (Schur) Druce (Yellow-rattle). Grass field, Old Weston, 7/8. ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS (V.C.H.)
- 549/1 *Melampyrum cristatum* L. Crested Cowwheat. Nr. Kimbolton, June (Huntingdon Grammar School).
- *554/1 *Acanthus mollis* L. Bear's Breech. Waste ground by allotments, Hemingford Grey, 5/9/54 (M. J. Canny).
- 562/5 *Calamintha ascendens* Jord. Common Calamint. In hedge by farm nr. St. Neots Holts, Sept. 1954 (D. & J.G.D.) ONLY ONE PREVIOUS RECORD.
- 563/1 *Clinopodium vulgare* L. Wild Basil. Roadside, Buckden, 8/8 (D. & Rec.) Hedgerows, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 577/13 *Stachys officinalis* (L.) Trev. Betony. Diddington Wood, Aug. (D.) Along rough ride, Old Weston (and grass fields) 7/8. Ellington, 8/8 (D. & Rec.)
- 578/2b *Galeopsis bifida* Boenn. Arable weed, Gt. Staughton (R.F.) Near a fowl run, Stibbington, 23/7 (conf. P. D. Sell).
- 578/2bx2 *G. Bifida* Boenn. x *G. tetrahit* L. (conf. P. D. Sell). Edge of wood, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 600/1 *Chenopodium rubrum* L. Red Goosefoot. Buckden reservoir, 8/8 (D. & Rec.)
- 600/3 *C. bonus-henricus* L. Good King Henry. Waste, Hartford, 1953 (R.D.K.) Rubbish dump on roadside, Grafham, Sept., 1954 (D. & J.G.D.)
- 600/15 *C. Polyspermum* L. All-seed. Diddington Wood, Aug. (D.)

- 606/10b *Atriplex hortensis* L. var. *rubra* (Gr.) Roth. Garden Orache. One plant occurred on Wansford Old Bridge, 16/8/52, which had escaped from a near by garden.
- 615/9 *Polygonum hydropiper* L. Water Pepper. Kimbolton, Sept. 1954 (D. & J.G.D.) Offord Darcy, 1950 (A.)
- 628/15 *Euphorbia exigua* L. Dwarf Spurge. Cornfield, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 633/1 *Ulmus glabra* Huds. x *U. coritana* Melville (det. R. Melville) Wych Elm x. Coritanian Elm. Gravel pits, Stibbington, 17/7.
- 669/14 *Orchis mascula* L. Early Purple Orchid. Jones's Coppice, Orton Longueville, June, 1954 (H.F.T.)
- 674/6 *Platanthera chlorantha* (Cust.) Rchb. Greater Butterfly Orchid. Bevill's Wood, June (Huntingdon Grammar School).
- 727/2 *Lemna polyrrhiza* L. Great Duckweed. In river at end of St. Neots Common, Sept. 1954 (D. & J.G.D.)
- 727/4 *L. gibba* L. Gibbous Duckweed. Ditto.
- 735/2 *Triglochin palustris* L. Marsh Arrow-grass. Marshes, Stibbington.
- 735/60 *Carex contigua* Hoppe. Prickly Sedge. Buckden reservoir, 8/8 (D. & Rec.)
- *762 *Dactyloctenium radulans* (R. Br.) Beauv. Railway sidings, Offord, 16/8 (J.G.D.)
- 762/2 *D. aegyptium* (L.) Richt. Recorded in error in Rep. 3, page 21 for *D. radulans* (R. Br.) Beauv.
- 822/1 *Briza media* L. Common Quaking-grass. Ellington Hill, 8/8 (D. & Rec.) Grass field, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 826/3 *Festuca arundinacea* Schreb. Reed Fescue. In orchard, Gaynes Hall (R.F.)
- 826/7 *F. rubra* L. ssp. *duriuscula* (Syme) var. *vulgaris* Gaud. (conf. W. O. Howarth). Roadside near Holywell church, 30/5/53 (S.M.W. and Rec.) Wall top, Nene banks and lawn, Stibbington. Wennington Wood (Exc.)
- 826/7b *F. rubra* L. var. *commutata* Gaud. Recorded in error in Rep. 2, page 18 for *F. rubra* L. ssp. *duriuscula* (Syme).
- 826/9b *F. ovina* L. var. *hispidula* (Hack) Richt. (det. W. O. Howarth). Lawn, Stibbington, May.
- 827 *Bromus* spp. Det. or conf. T. G. Tutin.
- 827/17 *Bromus commutatus* Schrad. Meadow Brome. Along rough ride, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 827/18 *B. racemosus* L. Smooth Brome. Grassland, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 827/19i *B. thominii* Hard. Soft Brome. Nene banks, Stibbington, 16/7.

- 830/4 *Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv. var. *aristatum* Baumg. Awned var. of Couch or Twitch. Edge of spinney, Old Weston, 7/8.
- 830/6 *A. caninum* (L.) Beauv. Bearded Couch. Connington Castle grounds (T. Patston). Edge of spinney, Old Weston, 7/8. ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS. (V.C.H.)
- 844/1 *Equisetum telmateia* Ehrh. Great Horsetail. Staughton Moor, 23/8 (T.) ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS.
- 850/1 *Phyllitis scolopendrium* (L.) Newm. Hart's-tongue Fern. On bridge over backwater near timber yards, Eynesbury, Sept., 1954 (D. & J.G.D.)
- 851/2 *Asplenium trichomanes* L. Maidenhair Spleenwort. Railway bridge over Nene, Elton, 25/6.
- 856/1 *Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott. Male Fern. Waresley Wood, May, 1953 (T.)
- 856/4 *D. austriaca* (Jacq.) Wovnar. Broad Buckler-fern. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville, 23/7 (Exc.)

Bryophyta

- *82 *Dicranella heteromalla* (Hedw.) Schp. Silky Fork-moss. Wennington Wood. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville (Exc.) Monks Wood (Exc.)
- *134 *Fissidens bryoides* Hedw. Common Flat Fork-moss. Elton Furze, 27/12/54; Wennington Wood, 7/4.
- 310 *Orthotrichum anomalum* Hedw. Vide Rep. 3, page 21. This is the common variety *saxatile* (Wood) Milde.
- *479 *Anomodon viticulosus* (Hedw.) Hook. & Tayl. Monks Wood (Exc.)
- *528 *Rhynchostegiella pallidirostra* (A. Br.) Loeske. Wennington Wood.
- *566 *Cratoneuron filicinum* (Hedw.) Roth. (det. E. C. Wallace). Gravel pits, Stibbington.
- 568 *Leptodictyum riparium* (Hedw.) Warnst. Recorded in error in Rep. 4, page 22 for *Drepanocladus aduncus* (Hedw.) Warnst.
- 575 *Drepanocladus aduncus* (Hedw.) Warnst. (det. E. F. Warburg). Submerged in gravel pits, Stibbington, 1951.

Algae

- * *Trentepohlia aurea* Mart. (det. E. A. George). Conspicuously covering Stibbington church wall, 19/4/52. IT IS UNUSUAL FOR THIS SPECIES TO GROW AS FAR SOUTH AS HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

THE UPPER LIAS NEAR THE STAUNCH PIT, STIBBINGTON, N.G.R. 077994

Near the Staunch Pit the Nene dredgings consisted of sands and clay of the Lower Estuarine series (Inferior Oolite) and similar liassic beds to those described for Flaxen Ford (Ann. Rep. H.F.F.S. 7, pp. 12—14).

The Lower Estuarine sands contained a charophyte and concretions of pyrite coated with limonite with calcite or chalybite in the centre. An analysis of the clay for its plant remains by Dr. T. M. Harris (*Geo. Mag.* 90, iii, p. 219) yielded great numbers of minute fragments of leaves, of which the commonest belonged to a species of *Ginkgo* (maidenhair tree). Others belonged to a species of *Otozamites*. Lycopod (clubmoss) megaspores included *Triletes polysceles*, *T. sparassis* and *T. phyllicus*, as well as a number of species new to science.

The discovery of a root bed penetrating into the limestone of the Upper Lias (Jurense Zone) beneath indicates that this area was colonised by land plants very possibly during the time of deposition of the Lower Estuarine rocks, as very similar roots to those found are borne by *Equisetum columnare* Brong. in the Yorkshire Estuarine series.

This pink and grey limestone of the Jurense Zone, together with the softer rocks beneath, probably belongs to the Variabilis Subzone. Over 40 spp. of fossils were present in these beds. They included the following:—

Protocardia sp. (Only in soft rock).

?*Lima* (*Regalilima*) *oolitica* Lycett. (G.S.M.)

L. (Plagiostoma) sp. nov.? (G.S.M.)

L. (P.) sp. indet.

‡**Eopecten abjectus* (Phillips).

‡*Modiolus (Inoperna) plicatus* J. Sow.

‡*M. anatinus* Wm. Smith.

†*Isocyprina* sp. cf. *paupertina* (Fox-Strangways). (Only in soft rock). (B.M.)

‡*Camptonectes rigidus* (J. Sow).

†*Pholadomya voltzi* Agassiz (B.M.)

P. spp. Two spp. indet.

†*Mactromya subglobosa* (Tate). (B.M.)

Pleurotomaria sp. indet.

‡*Ctenostreon* sp. cf. *pectiniformis* (Schloth). (Only in soft rock). (B.M.)

‡†*Chlamys textoria* (Schloth). (B.M.)

†*Pseudolimea pectinoides* (J. Sow). (Only in soft rock).

‡*Quenstedtia oblita* (Phillips). (Only in soft rock). (B.M.)

‡*Osteomya dilata* (Phillips). (Only in soft rock).

?*Ceratomya* sp. (Specimen distorted). (B.M.)

Lopha sp. indet.

Pseudomelania sp.

?*Cylindrites* sp. indet. (Only in soft rock).

Lobothyris sp. probably *haresfieldensis* (Dav.) (G.S.M., B.M.)

?*Homoeorhynchia* sp. (Probably a new genus). (B.M.)

?*Tetrarhynchia* sp. (G.S.M., B.M.)

Serpula spp. Two spp. on nodules. (B.M.)

Spirorbis sp. (B.M.)

Rhizocorallium sp. (= *Arenicoloides* sp.)

Acrosalenia sp. of the *hemicidaroides* group (G.S.M.)

Galeropygus sp. juv. aff. *agariciformis* (Forbes). (G.S.M.)

Eryma sp. of *birdi* (Bean).

Crustacean claw. (Only in soft rock).

Crinoid ossicle. (Only in soft rock).

Coniferous wood converted into lignite.

The minerals in these beds included calcite crystals, aragonite and blende, of which a single crystal was attached to a rhychonellid. The Min. Dept., B.M. (N.H.), state that this is a very interesting find, as blende has not been recorded as a detrital or as an authigenous mineral in sediments, except as replacing limestone in mineralised areas. Phosphatic nodules and tubular concretions were very common in the limestone.

(To be continued)

JOHN L. GILBERT.

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE—contd.

3. Bombycoidea

1. LASIOCAMPIDAE.

Malacosoma neustria L. (Common Lackey). V.C.H. gives "common." I have beaten the larva at Alconbury and in Upton Wood. Varies in numbers. Information lacking but probably spread throughout the country.

Trichiura crataegi L. (Pale Eggar). V.C.H. gives "general." I have only found the larva once at Alconbury in 1948. The complete absence of records suggests that its status should be investigated. Hunts. is towards the northern edge of its range. Night-beating for larvae would probably reveal its presence.

Pocilocampa populi L. (December Eggar). V.C.H. gives "general." I took a male at light at Alconbury in 1948 and Mr. Tebbs has found the larva at Holme. It is almost certainly less common here than in the southern counties. A light-trap in November should be operated.

Eriogaster lanestris L. (Small Eggar). V.C.H. gives "general, sometimes common." I found larvae in abundance at one spot near Buckworth in 1948. No other records. The webs on sloe and hawthorn are quite conspicuous in May, and the absence of records probably indicates rarity in recent years.

Lasiocampa quercus L. (Oak Eggar). V.C.H. gives "common." In 1948 this was certainly so, both larvae and perfect insect being about in lanes and gardens. I saw it at Holme in 1954, a year in which it swarmed in Cornwall. Probably common generally in certain years.

Macrothylacia rubi L. (Fox Moth). V.C.H. gives "Abbots Ripton, Little Stukeley, Old Fletton and near Peterborough." I have only seen it myself at Wood Walton where it was abundant in June, 1952. Its favourite food plant *Calluna vulgaris* is not found in Hunts. and there is a lack of typical habitats.

Philudoria potatoaria L. (Drinker). V.C.H. gives "common." I found this larva at Alconbury in 1948, but have not seen it since. No other record.

Gastropacha quercifolia L. (Lappet). V.C.H. gives "Somersham, Conington, Brampton, Abbots Ripton, Holme and near Peterborough." It was recorded from Wood Walton by Baron de Worms in 1954 (86 Entom. 143) and from Stanground where one flew into an omnibus in daylight on 9/8/54, by Mr. Tebbs.

NOTE.—It will be clear from the above that our knowledge of the *Lasiocampidae* in Huntingdonshire is fragmentary and conjectural. They are not in any way a difficult group for beginners and schools could probably add substantially to our information.

2. SATURNIIDAE

Saturnia pavonia L. (*carpini* Schiff.) (Emperor Moth). V.C.H. gives "general," a most surprising statement, since the usual habitats, heaths, moorland and mosses are, and have long been, almost non-existent in Hunts. I found the larva on *Centaurea nigra* at Woolley in September, 1948, and that is my only record. Since the foodplants (*calluna* excepted) are common and the larva gaudy and conspicuous one would expect to have heard more of it if it is really at all frequent in this county.

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

LEPIDOPTERA, 1955

A number of interesting records, far too many from one observer! The reference numbers are to Heslop's Check List.

11. *Colias crocea*. Fourc. One at Eynesbury Aug. (C.F.T.), the only Clouded Yellow record this year.
32. *Limenitis camilla*. L. Several White Admirals were seen at Orton Lodge during the Society's expedition in July.
34. *Melanargia galathea*. L. Old Weston (J.L.G.). A new locality.
35. *Pararge aegeria egerides*. St. Norman Cross (H.F.T.). A new locality.
69. *Thymelicus lineola*. Ochs. Stilton (H.F.T.). A new locality.
88. *Deilephila elpenor*. L. Orton Lodge (H.F.T.). This species is rarely recorded but the foodplant (*Epilobium*) is abundant.
90. *Macroglossum stellatarum*. L. Gt. Staughton (D. Waddilove). There was considerable migration this year but I saw none at Alconbury and this was the only county record.
91. *Hemaris fuciformis* L. Monk's Wood 11/6/55 (W. E. Russell). This is a most welcome record, the first since 1948. *Ajuga* is plentiful in the rides but I have seen no sign of Bee-hawks since then despite yearly searches.
101. *Pheosia tremula*. Clark. Larva, Fletton (H.F.T.).
120. *Tethea ocularis* L. (*octogesima* Hb.). Yaxley 8/8 (H.F.T.).
215. *Craniophora ligustri* Fab. Fletton 29/7 (H.F.T.).
217. *Cryphia perla* Fab. Fletton 6/7 (H.F.T.).
288. *Hadena thalassina*. Rott. Fletton 21/7 (H.F.T.).
381. *Hydraecia micacea* Esp. Alconbury 25/9 (J.E.H.B.).
464. *Anchoscelis litura* L. Alconbury 16/9 (J.E.H.B.).
516. *Jaspidia pygarga* Hufn. Orton Lodge 18/6 (H.F.T.).
532. *Abrostola triplasia* L. Stibbington (J.L.G.). This migrant is rarely recorded in this county.
548. *Catocala nupta* L. Fletton 22/8 (H.F.T.). The Red Underwing, so common further south, is not common in Hunts.
619. *Cosymbia linearis* Hb. Fletton 19/8 (H.F.T.).
665. *Xanthorhoe designata* Rott. Fletton 2/6 (H.F.T.).
840. *Epione repandaria* Hufn. Hartford 5/9 (D. Kieme).
2297. *Hepialus sylvina* L. Alconbury 1/8 (J.E.H.B.).

(C.F.T. = C. F. Tebbutt, H.F.T. = H. F. Tebbs,
J.L.G. = J. L. Gilbert).

N.B.—I have just received through the kindness of Mrs. Connan a list of captures by Mr. F. Stanley-Smith who operated a light-trap at Brampton from 1933 to 1937. This is a valuable addition to our records.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.