

HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

10th
ANNUAL
REPORT
1957

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

Chairman:

J. E. H. BLACKIE, Esq., The Bell House, Alconbury, Hunts.
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Hon. Secretary:

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

Hon. Treasurer:

D. A. DAVIES, Esq., Darholm, 26, Perry Road, Buckden.
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Hon. Social Secretary:

MISS E. M. THACKRAY, 7, The Walks East, Huntingdon.
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Committee:

1956 (amended)	1957
G. E. D. ALCOCK	G. E. D. ALCOCK
L. W. ANGELL	W. T. K. GARNETT
MISS O. D. CLARKE	J. L. GILBERT
W. T. K. GARNETT	MRS. M. HUDSON
J. L. GILBERT	E. T. LEES
H. F. TEBBS	W. R. PATERSON
C. F. TEBBUTT	H. F. TEBBS
MISS E. M. THACKRAY	C. F. TEBBUTT

Referees:

<i>Flora</i>	- - -	J. L. Gilbert, 157, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.
<i>Mammals</i>	- - -	Alastair N. Worden, Cromwell House, Huntingdon.
<i>Birds</i>	- - -	C. F. Tebbutt, The Ferns, Eynesbury, St. Neots.
<i>Macro-Lepidoptera</i>		J. E. H. Blackie, The Bell House, Alconbury, Hunts.

Annual Report for 1957

(No. 10)

INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 23rd March, at Huntingdon Grammar School, again by kind permission of the Headmaster, and again combined with a conversazione arranged by Mr. D. A. Davis. Following the business meeting, and the election of officers and committee, as indicated on the previous page, Mr. J. E. H. Blackie and Prof. A. N. Worden spoke on "Monks Wood Survey" and on "Myxomatosis and the future of the Rabbit," respectively.

Following the successful holding of a public lecture during the previous year, another was arranged for 9th November, when an open meeting in the Council Chamber, Huntingdon, listened to an illustrated lecture kindly given by Dr. E. Duffey, Regional Officer for East Anglia, on the work of the Nature Conservancy. Dr. Duffey answered many questions, and thoroughly endorsed the view that members of the Society should assist actively in the compilation of records of value to the Conservancy, and as a result of this discussion the request dealt with elsewhere in the report has been made to members of the Society.

The remaining activities of the Society have been summarized by Miss E. M. Thackray as follows:—

An invitation to take part in their Centenary Conversazione on 8th May, was received from the Cambridge Natural History Society. Members visited the Exhibition in the Department of Zoology, and heard Canon Raven's talk on "A Hundred Years of Cambridge Natural History."

Twenty members and friends joined the excursion to Monks Wood, led by Mr. Blackie. The Glade, specially selected for observation by the Society, was visited, and one of the large clearings mentioned in the 1956 Report.

On 2nd June, members met at The Pike and Eel for tea, and afterwards walked along the river bank to Bluntisham Staunch and Bury Fen, led by Mr. Tebbutt. Reed Bunting, Plover, Red Shank, Heron, Snipe and Yellow Wagtails were seen, and the Water Violet was found.

The Waterfowl Gardens at Peakirk were visited on 13th July, by about twenty members — Black Swans, Barheaded Geese, Chstnut-Breasted Teal, Mandarin Duck and many other waterfowl from distant parts of the world were on the ponds. The party afterwards visited the Borough Fen Decoy.

The Peterborough Museum Society invited members to join their excursions to Southorpe and Barnack (Leader, Mr. Tebbs), to Jones' Covert (Leader, Mr. Gilbert), to Holme Fen (Leader, Mr. Gilbert), and to Bedford Purlicus (Leader, Mr. Tebbs).

At Southorpe on 15th June, the Bog Bean was in flower, and in the hills and hollows the Man Orchid and the Fragrant Orchid were found.

A.N.W.

MAMMALS

Mammal records continue to be disappointingly few, but C. R. B. Royall, then at Kimbolton School, has contributed interesting observations related to the breeding of long-tailed field mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus* L.) and bank voles (*Clethrionomys*). This information, which is adapted from the Annual Report for 1957 of the Kimbolton School Natural History Society, indicates the seasonal changes in testis weight in animals trapped locally as follows:—

Apodemus sylvaticus L.

No. of animals trapped	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	5	2	6	2	10	0	2
Average weight (mg.)	129	110	153	638	769	—	985

Clethrionomys

No. of animals trapped	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	1	4	3	0	10
Average weight (mg.)	10	70	260	—	6772

As Mr. Royall points out in his report, the breeding season in the locality is clearly over by November and there is a decrease to a minimum weight in December, while between January and February there is a rapid increase which indicates the development of fertile breeding conditions in the male. No pregnant females were trapped during March, a fact which agrees with the general opinion that males come into fertile condition before the females. It seems probable that in this area mating first occurs towards the end of March, with the birth of the first litters in April.

The figures of *Clethrionomys* suggests a steadier growth of the testes during Spring than in *Apodemus*, and it seems probable that in this species the males become fertile during April and that breeding begins during May. Pregnant females were trapped in late May while a single pregnant specimen was trapped during the last week of November. In this case the family of four was born in captivity within 12 hours of trapping, and was successfully reared in the laboratory.

ALASTAIR N. WORDEN.

BIRDS

In this report we have records from more observers than ever before, chiefly due to the help from members of Cambridge Bird Club. A number of these refer, as will be seen, to 1956 but were not received in time to go in the report of that year. Two, those relating to Red-necked Grebe and Common Scoter are new county records. We are very grateful for their help.

The weather of 1957 was so abnormal that it was decided to devote a special heading to it and its effects. Among points of interest in the report are the great numbers of Pintail in the Earith area in the early months of 1956, the first county record of Eider Duck; the now regular visits of Bewick Swans in large numbers, the reappearance of the Corncrake on Portholme, Huntingdon, and the winter visit of a Gt. Grey Shrike.

Mr. A. R. Jennings of Dept. Animal Pathology, School of Veterinary Medicine, Madingley Road, Cambridge, is very anxious to receive bodies of any dead birds found in reasonable condition, to aid in valuable research he is doing. He will refund postage and send a report on the cause of death to the sender. Please help if you can.

Contributors to this report are: G. Alcock (G.A.), L. Angel (L.A.), D. Ballance (D.B.), P. Banks (P.B.), J. Clark (J.C.), R. Connon (R.C.), W. Garnett (W.G.), H. B. Ginn (H.G.), D. James (D.J.), C. Kirkland (C.K.), E. Lees (E.L.), D. Wallace (D.W.), P. Wright (P.W.), your Recorder (Rec.), and others whose full names are given in the text.

Red-necked Grebe. 1956. Bluntisham 1, March 4th, 10th (H.G.) A first county record.

Gannet. A bird seen near Ramsey on Jan. 30th was later found injured near Benwick, and although cared for by R.S.P.C.A. died (E.L.)

Cormorant. One was seen for several weeks in the Huntingdon area in September and perhaps the same bird at Lt. Paxton G.P. in early Oct. (Rec.) 1 at Fletton on Oct. 15th (G.A.)

Heron. Nest increased by 3. Hemingford Park 6 (—1), St. Neots 7 (—1), Hinchingsbrooke 12 (+5). The Dept. Animal Pathology Cambridge reported on a nestling found dead below the net at Hinchingsbrooke. It died of impaction of the gizzard caused by a large eel and roach (Rec.)

Bittern. 1 seen Hartford G.P. June 30th and Dec. 8th (P.B.)

Garganey. 1956. 2 m. and 3 f. on river Bluntisham April 4th, and 2 pairs July 21st (D. A. James). 1957. 1 pair Hartford G.P. April 23rd (P.B.)

Gadwall. Pair Fenstanton G.P. March 31st (Rec.)

Pintail. 1956. Great numbers appeared in Bluntisham areas in Feb. and until mid-March; largest counts Feb. 4th, 420; March 13th, 800 (H.G., D.W.) 1957. See counts Butlers Pit, Fletton. Fenstanton G.P. Feb. 2nd, 4 (D.W.) Dec. 31st, 1 (C.K.)

Shoveller. Bury Fen, Bluntisham, March 12th, 5 pairs (Rec.) Fenstanton G.P. Feb. 10th, 4; 18th, 5 (J.C.); 19th, 2 (D.W.) Dec. 30th, 2 (C.K.)

Tufted Duck. No record of successful breeding. See counts Butler's Pit, Fletton.

Pochard. See counts Butler's Pit, Fletton. Fenstanton G.P. had flock of 90 — 147 in Dec. (Rec., J.C., C.K.)

Goldeneye. See counts Butler's Pit, Fletton. Fenstanton G.P., 1 m. Feb. 18th, 19th, April 6th (associating with f. Tufted), April 10th (J.C., C.K., D.W., Rec.)

Eider Duck. Hartford G.P. Dec. 6th, 1 f. shot from party of several believed to be of same species. Extremely unlikely to be an escape as few kept in captivity. A first county record (Rec.)

Common Scoter. Bury Fen, Bluntisham, 1 Feb. 19th (D.W., D.B.) Found dead Feb. 27th (P.W.) A first county record.

Merganser. 1956. River Bluntisham, Feb. 19th, 10; 26th, 3; March 3rd, 2; 4th, 1 (H.G.)

Goosander. 1956. Bluntisham, Feb. 14th, 4; March 4th, 2 (H.G., D.J.)

Smew. 1956. Besides those in 1956 Report 1 f. was seen at Bluntisham on Jan. 21st and March 17th H.G., D.J.)

Shelduck. 1956. Bluntisham 1, Jan. 28th, and March 5th (H.G.)

Grey Geese. Jan. 16th, Paxton 16 flying S.W. (Rec.) Jan. 17th, flock flying S.W. in moonlight Fletton (G.A.) June 1st, flock flying N.W. in starlight Hilton (W.G.) Dec. 12th, Paxton 18 flying S. (L.A.)

Canada Geese. April 6th, flock 5 on Meadow Lane G.P., St. Ives, and later same day on Fenstanton G.P. finally flew away S. (Rec.) See counts Butler's Pit, Fletton.

Hooper Swan. Becoming more common as usually some with flocks of Bewicks. Jan. 19th, 22 flying S.S.W. at 600 ft. and calling, Fletton (G.A.) Earith, Feb. 18th, 2 with Bewicks; Dec. 26th, 2 with Bewicks (Rec.)

Bewick Swan. This is now the 7th winter that they have been coming regularly to the Earith area where Bury Fen usually remains flooded for several winter months. Numbers on Bury Fen vary according to whether the Gt. Washes are flooded or not. First recorded on Bury Fen Feb. 2nd when there were 225 (J. Ferguson Lees). At end of year 37 had arrived on December 26th, for the first time before the New Year (Rec.)

Common Buzzard. Again present in Kimbolton — Gt. Staughton areas. 2 seen together June 6th and again 2 about Oct. 20th (Rec.) 1 at Hilton Oct. 14th (W.G.)

Harrier. About mid-April a m. Harrier was trapped and killed near Kimbolton. From the description it might have been either Hen or Montagu but not the Hen described in 1956 Report (Rec.)

Partridges and Redlegs. Signs of a further recovery in numbers, particularly in west of county.

Water Rail. Sept. 28th, 1 Farcet brick pits (Rec.)

Corncrake. Returned to Portholme in June, 1956, where it has not been heard for over 30 years, and again in 1957. Heard June 4th—13th (Misses Thackray, Goodliff and T. Vine). Not heard in Perry area (Rec.)

Oyster Catcher. Lt. Paxton, June 3rd, 1, flew away N. (Rec.)

Ringed Plover. 1956. Bluntisham, March 7th, 1; Sept. 8th, 1 (H.G.) 1957. June 1st, Meadow Lane G.P., St. Ives, flock 5; Sept. 12th, Lt. Paxton G.P., 1 (Rec.) Dec. 1st, Fenstanton G.P., 1 (P.B.)

Lt. Ringed Plover. First appeared St. Ives areas Apl. 19th and in S. of county Apl. 24th. In latter probably two attempts were made to nest and eggs laid but all taken by Carrion Crows. Pair last seen July 20th. Near St. Ives probably 2 pairs nested and on Aug. 1st 5/6 young, at flying stage, were seen: Last seen Aug. 4th (Rec.)

Golden Plover. Usual flock seen in winter on Portholme, at Brampton and Eynesbury (Rec.)

Jack Snipe. 1956. Fenstanton G.P., Jan. 28th, 5 (J.C., C.K.) 1957, Lt. Paxton G.P., Jan. 5th, 1; March 21st, 2; 24th, 1; April 22nd, 1 (Rec.)

Woodcock. Again an increase in Gt. Staughton woods, where it is estimated that 10/12 pairs nested, and the carrying of young was again seen. Some were present at Woodwalton Fen during the summer (Rec.)

Curlew. June 29th, 3, Paxton flying W.N.W. June 30th, 1, St. Neots flying W. July 8th, heard at night, St. Neots. Aug. 18th, 2, Paxton, flying W. 2 Hemingford flying S.W. (Rec.) Nov. 8th, 1 Paxton, flying N. (L.A.)

Green Sandpiper. Lt. Paxton, March 8th, 1. April 24th, 2. Aug. 19th and 20th, 1 (Rec.)

Wood Sandpiper. Fenstanton G.P., May 28th, 1 (Morris and Jenkins.)

Green Shank. Lt. Paxton G.P., May 28th, 1, after strong N.N.E. wind (Rec.)

Dunlin. 1956. Bluntisham, Jan. 31st, 2; Feb. 4th, 2; 5th, 4; 11th, 1; 12th, 7; 13th, 35; March 4th, 1; 7th, 1; 14th, 1; 18th, 11 (H.G.) 1957, Meadow Lane, St. Ives, May 3rd, 1, associating with Lt. Ringed Plover (Rec.)

Sanderling. Oct. 10th, 1 found dead Warboys (E.L.)

Ruff. Aug. 1st, 2, Meadow Lane G.P., St. Ives (Rec.)

Gt. Black Backed Gull. Jan. 24th, Fletton pits, 1, only record for year (G.A.)

Herring Gull. Very few seen winter 1956/57 and to end of 1957. (Rec.)

Black Tern. Fenstanton G.P., May 8th, 2 (E.L.) 28th, 5 (Morris and Jenkins.)

Com./Arctic Tern. Birds in Spring passage seen on May 8th (Paxton), 28th and June 3rd (near Fletton). Return passage Aug. 4th (St. Ives) and many dates in Aug. to Sept. 11th (Fletton). Records during July and Aug. from Fletton may be from a local breeding colony (G.A. and Rec.)

Little Auk. Nov. 9th, 1 found alive by Mr. Boyd at Stonely was ringed and released on the coast by Bedford N.H.S.

Puffin. Dec. 7th, a juvenile found alive at Ellington was fed for a week and sent to the coast for release but did not survive (Rec.)

Short-eared Owl. 1956. 1, Bluntisham area March 17th (D.J.) 1957, 1 seen in April in rough grass field near Kimbolton (Rec.)

Nightjar. I heard St. Ives Thicket May 29th (E.L.)

Kingfisher. In last week December one again visited the garden in Huntingdon High Street (see 1956 Report) and took fish there (Rec.)

Rook. No overall increase in the control rookeries. St. Neots 371 (—19), Lt. Paxton 102 (—12), Diddington 258 (+32) (Rec.)

Wheatear. Perhaps the mild winter accounted for one seen at Brampton on Jan. 11th, an exceptional date (Mrs. Atkinson). Others in Spring passage seen on March 28th (Upton), April 29th and May 10th (Paxton) and mid-May (Fenstanton) (E.L., L.K., Rec.) Return passage 1 juv. Hail Weston, July 26th (Rec.)

Winchat. May 1st, pair Diddington, and 1 May 19th near Buckden Station (E.L.)

Redstart. Pair seen several times in May near St. Ives, and another pair seen entering old Woodpecker's hole near Brampton Hut, May 15th (E.L.)

Nightingale. E.L. reports marked decrease and several regular breeding sites deserted. In contrast 4 were singing in a wood of 10 acres near St. Neots (Rec.)

Meadow Pipit. In June near St. Neots Paper Mill a pair seen collecting food for young (L.K.) Large influx of migrants at Lt. Paxton on Sept. 15th had all left by 22nd (Rec.)

White Wagtail. Lt. Paxton G.P. Sept. 22nd, 12; Oct. 6th, 2 (Rec.)

Grey Wagtail. Jan. 5th, 1 riverside Eynesbury (Rec.) Nov./Dec., 1 in garden at Huntingdon dipping during flight into pool and apparently attempting to take small fish (R.C.) Pair remained throughout year near St. Neots Paper Mill (L.K.)

Gt. Grey Shrike. Dec. 8th, 1 seen Hartford G.P. (P.B.) The first for many years.

Red Backed Shrike. One seen a number of times on hedge top at Southoe during Spring and early Summer (Rec.)

Redpole. Sept. 28th. 4 Hartford G.P. (P.B.)

Goldfinch. Continues to increase, flocks of 50 not uncommon (G.A.)

Bullfinch. Continues to increase.

Besides the birds named in the text or tables the following are believed to have bred in the county:—

Gt. Crested Grebe, Lt. Grebe, Sparrow Hawk, Kestrel, Pheasant, Lapwing, Snipe, Redshank, Stock Dove, Wood Pigeon, Barn Owl, Tawney Owl, Little Owl, Long-eared Owl, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Skylark, Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay, Gt. Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Wren, Mistle-Thrush, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Grasshopper Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Goldcrest, Hedge Sparrow, Tree-pipit, Pied Wagtail, Starling, Greenfinch, Linnet, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Corn Bunting, Reed Bunting, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow.

A passage migrant was the Common Sandpiper and winter visitors Common and Black-headed Gulls.

MIGRANT DATES, 1957

<i>Golden Plover.</i>	Nov. 6th, Brampton (Rec.)
<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 28th, Stanground (G.A.)
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 22nd, Hilton (W.G.) St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Swift.</i>	May 5th, Yaxley (G.A.) May 15th, residents in St. Neots (Rec.) Oct. 6th, Farcet (G.A.)
<i>Swallow.</i>	March 24th, St. Neots (Rec.) April 26th, residents. Sept. 17th, residents left Paxton (L.A.)
<i>House Martin.</i>	April 22nd, Paxton (L.A.) Nov. 19th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	March 31st, April 21st, residents, Paxton (Rec.)
<i>Fieldfare.</i>	March 17th, Oct. 8th, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Redwing.</i>	March 28th, Sept. 30th, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Nightingale.</i>	April 22nd, St. Neots (L.K.)
<i>Reed Warbler.</i>	May 22nd, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Sedge Warbler.</i>	April 18th, Paxton (L.A.) Oct. 6th, Hartford (P.B.)
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	March 27th, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Chiffchaff.</i>	March 23rd, Oct. 12th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	May 21st, Kimbolton (Rec.)
<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 4th, Buckden (L.A.)

WEATHER NOTES FOR 1957

The early part of 1957 was one of the most remarkable for weather that many of us can remember. The mildness of the first three months was almost unprecedented. January 4/5 was the highest January night temperature ever recorded at Kew, while February 1st had the highest day temperature for February for the last 87 years. These abnormal conditions held on until the end of March. The effect on wild life was noteworthy. Almost no Fieldfares or Redwings were seen all winter until a few appeared about February 20th, a date when Robins were already building nests. A Mute Swan had eggs in the middle of March and many Brimstone butterflies were on the wing on March 12th. Moorhens and Gt. Crested Grebes had nests by April 7th. May was out in flower on April 7th, a full month early, and moreover on branches still heavy with last year's record crop of berries, still largely uneaten by birds. The chart of Butler's Pit Wildfowl Counts shows how few waterfowl were present in these conditions. It is however interesting to note that with the exception of an early Wheatear the migrant arrival dates were normal.

The persistent night frosts of April and May brought many early nests to naught and on one gravel pit at least all nests found of G. C. Grebe, Coot and Moorhen were destroyed by Carrion Crows.

Perhaps because of the late frosts and exhaustion from the previous heavy crop the autumn of 1957 saw the hedges barer of berries than I can ever remember. Should 1957/58 prove a hard winter birds depending on this crop will suffer badly.

The occurrence of Little Auk, Puffin and Eider Duck in the county in November/December may be part of a wider movement of sea birds inland, already noted in other counties, the cause of which has not yet been ascertained.

Invasion of Tits and Other Species

Most members will have read in the Press of the 1957 Autumn invasion of tits and other species from the Continent. This followed a summer when the reproduction rate here seemed to be high. In Woodwalton Fen 28 nestboxes, containing nests of Great and Blue Tits, fledged 237 young. From all over the county I have had reports of increased numbers of tits seen in hedgerows or appearing at bird tables. At my own, Marsh and Cole Tits have reappeared after many years absence. These reports also include accounts of attacks on milk bottles (lapsed for the last year or so), wallpaper inside rooms and window putty. Included in the autumn invasion were Jays. Of these also I have reports of increased numbers, particularly in the north where in late November and early December they could be found in every wood, spinney and copse (G.A.) Even in Bluntisham Fen (a most unusual habitat) a number were seen (J.A.)

C. F. TEBBUTT,

Recorder.

FLORA

Fewer records have been received this year, though a great deal still remains to be done within the county for the Distribution Maps Scheme.

At the beginning of the year a number of "London Catalogues" annotated by Alfred Fryer were "discovered" at the Botany School, Cambridge, and those dealing with Huntingdonshire kindly lent to me (for extracting the records) by Dr. S. M. Walters. These are valuable additions to our county collection.

"The Supplement" by David McClintock foreshadowed on page XII of "The Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers" has now been published and can be obtained from Miss C. M. Rob on receipt of 6/-.

We were sorry to lose Messrs. O. N. Bishop and R. Fraser (R.F.), who have now left the county, but are pleased to welcome support from Messrs. E. V. Rogers (R.) and J. A. Vaughan (V.) Other contributors of several records are: Miss M. C. Anderson (M.C.A.), L. W. Angell (A.), Miss F. M. Blackhurst (F.M.B.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.), 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.

All the records from Great Raveley Fen and Conington Dump were made in company with Mr. N. Y. Sandwith of Kew, and those from the old Duck Decoy, Holme Fen, with Mr. T. Patston. All those plants known to be new to the County are indicated thus *.

- 6/24 *Ranunculus aquatilis* L. emend. ssp. *heterophyllus* (Weber) Syme emend. Various-leaved Water Crowfoot (det. R. D. Meikle) St. Ives, June (V.) ONLY THREE OTHER RECORDS (V.C.H.)
- 21/5 *Papaver argemone* L. Long Prickly-headed Poppy. Sand pits near Needingworth High Street, June (V.)
- 35/1(2) *Nasturtium microphyllum* (Berm.) Rehb. St. Ives, June (V.)
- *47/2 *Hesperis matronalis* L. Dame's Violet. Horsey Toll, Stanground South, 29/5 (S.M.W.)
- 49/2 *Descurainia sophia* (L.) Prantl Flixweed. Cattle Market, St. Ives; sand pits nr. Needingworth High Street, June (V.)
- 96/4 *Melandrium noctiflorum* (L.) Fr. Night-flowering Catchfly. Gt. Raveley Fen (nr. Woodwalton Fen), 21/9.
- *133/4 *Impatiens glandulifera* Royle Himalayan Balsam. Banks of River Ouse, Offord Cluny, 2/9 (M.C.A.)
- 153/5 *Medicago arabica* (L.) Huds. Spotted Medick. Common on embankment, "Pike and Eel" to Bluntisham; Needingworth to Holywell footpath, June (V.) Herb. Kew. ONLY TWO OTHER RECORDS.
- 154/2 *Melilotus alba* Desr. White Melilot. Rubbish dump nr. Needingworth Road, July (V.)
- 155/11 *Trifolium striatum* L. Soft Clover. Sand pits nr. Needingworth High Street, June (V.) Herb. Kew. ONLY ONE PREVIOUS RECORD.

BUTLER'S PIT, FLETTON — SELECTED WILDFOWL COUNTS

1957	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pintail	Pochard	Tufted Duck	Goldeneye	Coot	Grebes
Jan. 3	—	30/40	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
" 18	—	50	2	—	—	1	—	7	—
" 22	—	11	—	—	—	7	—	8	1 G.C. 1 Little
Feb. 6	1	—	—	—	—	4	2	8	—
" 12	—	10	—	—	—	4	1	8	—
" 23	—	—	—	—	2	6	2	8	—
" 28	—	—	—	—	6	4	1	8	—
Mar. 12	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	10	1 G.C.
" 22	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2 G.C.
" 31	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	2 G.C.
April 5/6	—	—	4 Canada Geese only			—	—	—	—
" 12	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2 G.C.
April 20th - Oct. 31st	Almost no fowl in pit								
Nov. 2	20	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 15	20	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 G.C.
" 19	15	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 26	25	50	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Dec 20	30	95	2	1	—	—	1	7	—
" 28	25	60	—	—	—	5	1	12	—

(G.A.)

- 155/13 *T. fragiferum* L. Strawberry Clover. Roadside, Sawtry, 21/8; roadside, Morborne, 6/9.
- 176/34 *Vicia hirsuta* (L.) S. F. Gray Hairy Tare. Sand pits nr. Needingworth High Street, June (V.) Herb. Kew.
- 176/35 *V. tetrasperma* (L.) Moench Smooth Tare. Ditto.
- 178/8 *Lathyrus nissolia* L. Grass Vetchling. Nr. Warboys, June, 1956; Whyton, June (V.)
- 189/8 *Potentilla anglica* Laicharding Trailing Tormentil. Ride leading to old Duck Decoy, Holme Fen, 8/6. Middle Covert, Holme Fen, 27/7 (Exc.) ONLY THREE PREVIOUS RECORDS.
- 190(2)/2 *Aphanes microcarpa* (Boiss. & Reut.) Rothm. (conf. S.M.W.) Rough ride, Winwick, 16/6/56 (Exc.) ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS.
- 194/6p *Rosa canina* L. var. *spuria* (Pug.) Wolley-Dod forma *syntrichostyla* (Rip.) Rouy (det. R. Melville). Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville, 29/6 (Exc.)
- 195/5 *Sorbus aucuparia* L. Mountain Ash. Epiphytic on *Salix alba* var. *coerulea*, Nene banks, Stibbington. Bird sown. Previously known in Hunts. as a "probably planted tree" (V.C.H.)
- 244/1 *Smyrnium olusatrum* L. Alexanders. Spreading along roadside nr. Graveley (M.C.A.) ONLY THREE OTHER RECORDS (V.C.H.)
- 255/1 *Pimpinella major* (L.) Huds. Greater Burnet Saxifrage. Monks' Wood, 1948 (J.G.D.) Gravel-pits, Hartford, 1953 (R. D. Kime). Aversley Wood, Sawtry, 21/8.
- 283/5 *Torilis nodosa* (L.) Gaertn. Knotted Hedge-parsley. Fields between Needingworth and level crossing, June (V.)
- 306/2 *Dipsacus pilosus* L. Small Teasel. Aversley Wood, Sawtry, 21/8.
- 333/1 *Inula helenium* L. Elecampane. Grafham to Easton bridle road, August (Mrs. D. K. Atkinson).
- 381/1 *Doronicum pardalianches* L. Great Leopard's-bane. Naturalised W. bank of Alconbury Brook, just N. of Nun's Bridge, Hinchingsbrooke, 15/5. Known here for several years (C. F. Tebbutt). Herb. Kew.
- 409/1 *Cichorium intybus* L. Succory. On the roadside from Toseland to Gt. Paxton (M.C.A.)
- 435/3 *Campanula trachelium* L. Nettle-leaved Bellflower. Brampton Wood, July (R.) Wood, Folksworth, 6/9.
- *452/1 *Rhododendron ponticum* L. Holme Fen, 1948 (Cambridge Natural History Society). A single tree, old Duck Decoy, Denton Fen, 8/6. Herb. Kew.
- 478/4 *Centaurium pulchellum* (Sw.) E. H. L. Krause Slender Centaury. Aversley Wood, Sawtry, 21/8. Herb. Kew. V.H.C. SAYS "VERY RARE."
- 491/1 *Cynoglossum officinale* L. Hound's Tongue. Stream side, Ellington, Aug., 1954 (R.F.) Conington Dump, 21/9.
- 500/1 *Pentaglottis sempervirens* (L.) Tausch Green Alkanet. By an old wall, Alconbury village, April. Garden "escape," but origin not traced (J. E. H. Blackie).
- 506/4 *Myosotis caespitosa* K. F. Schultz Tufted Water Forget-me-not. Great Raveley Fen (nr. Woodwalton Fen), 21/9.
- 524/1 *Hyoscyamus niger* L. Henbane. Gt. Paxton, 1955 (A.); has occurred at Offord Darcy. Never grows on the same site from seed (A.) Nr. old lime kiln, Sibson rly. tunnel (Miss L. G. Gilbert). Herb. Kew. V.C.H. SAYS "RARE."

- 532/2 *Linaria purpurea* (L.) Mill. Purple Toadflax. Rubbish dump nr. sand pits, Needingworth, June (V.)
- 532/7 *Chaenorhynchus minus* (L.) Lange Small Toadflax. Cornfield, Old Weston, 3/8/56. Barley field, Water Newton, 20/8. Herb. Kew. V.C.H. SAYS "RARE."
- 556/1 *Verbena officinalis* L. Vervain. Nene banks, Stibbington, 24/8. Herb. Kew. ONLY THREE OTHER RECORDS (V.C.H.)
- *558/3 *Mentha longifolia* (L.) Huds. forma ad var. *horridulam* Briq. vergens (det. R. A. Graham). Horse Mint. Overgrown portion of rubbish dump, Elton, 19/8. Herb. Kew.
- 562/8 *Acinos arvensis* (Lam.) Dandy Boundary of Graveley aerodrome (A.) V.C.H. SAYS "RARE."
- 576/1 *Marrubium vulgare* L. White Horehound. Conington Dump, 21/9. THE ONLY CURRENT RECORD FOR THIS RARE ADVENTIVE. Herb. Kew.
- 577/6 *Stachys arvensis* L. Field Woundwort. Barley field, Water Newton, 20/8. Herb. Kew. ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS.
- 578/4c *Galeopsis angustifolia* Hoffm. Red Hemp-nettle. Ley by Wistow Brook, Aug.; only two plants seen (F.M.B.) Gravel pit, Water Newton, 21/9 (H. F. Tebbis).
- 581/4 *Lamium hybridum* Vill. Cut-leaved Dead-nettle. Great Raveley Fen (nr. Woodwalton Fen), 21/9.
- 600/15 *Chenopodium polyspermum* L. Many-seeded Goosefoot. Monks' Wood, Sawtry, 1948 (J.G.D.) Great Raveley Fen (nr. Woodwalton Fen), 21/9.
- 615/8 *Polygonum nodosum* Pers. Knotted Persicaria. Conington Dump, 21/9. Herb. Kew.
- 615/32 *P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. Japanese Knotweed. Little Catworth, 29/5 (S.M.W.) ONLY ONE OTHER RECORD.
- 628/16 *Euphorbia lathyris* L. Caper Spurge. Needingworth, June (V.) V.C.H. SAYS "RARE."
- 650/2b *Salix fragilis* L. var. *decipiens* (Hoffm.) Koch (det. R. D. Meikle). Gravel pits, Stibbington, 23/4. Not a planted tree. ONLY ONE OTHER RECORD (V.C.H.)
- 780/6 *Agrostis canina* L. ssp. *canina* (det. C. E. Hubbard). Velvet Bent. Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville, 29/6 (Exc.) Herb. Kew. STATUS IN HUNTS. NOT KNOWN.
- 822/1 *Briza media* L. Totter Grass. Conington, 1948 (J.G.D.) Meadow by Wistow Brook, August (F.M.B.) Wansford Quarries, Sibson; pasture, Water Newton; pasture, Folksworth.
- *826/12 *Festuca tenuifolia* Sibth. (conf. C. E. Hubbard). Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue. Middle Covert, Holme Fen, 27/7 (Exc.) Herb. Kew.
- 826/17 *Vulpia bromoides* (L.) S. F. Gray Squirrel-tail Fescue. Buckden; Holme Fen, 1948 (J.G.D.) Recently seen in latter locality, 8/6. Herb. Kew.
- 828/2b *Brachypodium pinnatum* (L.) Beauv. var. *pubescens* S. F. Gray A variety of Chalk False-brome. Middle Covert, Holme Fen, 27/7 (Exc.) Herb. Kew. USUALLY FOUND ON CALCAREOUS SOILS.
- 830/6 *Agropyron caninum* (L.) Beauv. Bearded Couch, Warboys Wood, 1948 (J.G.D.) Two Pond Coppice, Orton Waterville, 29/6 (Exc.) Herb. Kew.

Charophyta

876/3c *Chara vulgaris* L. var. *papillata* Wallr. (det. G. O. Allen) Pond, Alconbury Weston, nr. Monks' Wood, 23/3 (T. Patston & Rec.) ONLY ONE OTHER RECORD

*876/11c *C. aculeolata* Kuetz. (det. G. O. Allen). London Brick Company's Pits, Fletton, 26/9/53, C. C. Townsend (Proc. B.S.B.I., 1, p.185).

Fungi

The following two Discomycetes were discovered by Mr. E. A. Ellis at Woodwalton Fen on 7/5/57. Mr. Ellis has promised to send a more detailed list of Woodwalton fungi.

**Symphysirinia gali* E. A. Ellis: primary synnemata on fallen fruits of *Galium palustre*. UNKNOWN PREVIOUSLY OUTSIDE NORFOLK.

**S. angelicae* E. A. Ellis: primary synnemata on fallen fruits of *Angelica sylvestris*. ONLY OTHER KNOWN LOCALITIES: GREENLAND, SCOTLAND AND NORFOLK.

Mr. J. R. Laundon, of the British Museum (Natural History) has been studying our lichens and kindly written the following report, the first list of Huntingdonshire lichens to be published. A few specimens collected by members are awaiting determination. It is hoped to include these in the next Report.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LICHENS

Huntingdonshire may be divided into two distinct regions: the undulating clay uplands to the west and the flat peat fenlands in the east. The fen country is poor in lichens for here the land is highly cultivated and even trees are scarce and often confined to the vicinity of buildings. The scattered farmhouses are chiefly Victorian brick structures with few lichens upon their walls, although their roofs are frequently ablaze with large patches of golden *Xanthoria parietina*. Remains of fen and raised-bog vegetation survive at Holme and Woodwalton and these two areas are of some interest to the lichenologist, especially the north part of Holme Fen which is a most interesting area for *Cladonia* spp. The latter occur in an open community situated on acid peat along the margins of the birch woodland, the lichens growing together with such relicts as *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *L. pallescens*, *Dicranum scoparium* and *Polytrichum* spp. It appears possible, however, that several terricolous lichens were exterminated by the draining of the bog, for lichens characteristic of damp acid peat (e.g. *Coriscium viride*, *Cladonia coccifera*, *C. floerkeana*) are absent from Holme Fen at the present time.

Oak-ash woodland remains in some parts of the uplands but the N.W. portion of Bevill's Wood is the only such area I have studied in detail. This wood has a very rich lichen flora which includes *Usnea comosa*, a rare species in Midland England at the

present time. In the open country the roadside and hedgerow trees provide a habitat for corticolous species. The federation *Conizaeoidion* (*Lecanora conizaeoides* and *L. expallens* characteristic) is abundant on these trees while *Physodion* (*Parmelia physodes*, *P. sulcata* and *Evernia* characteristic) is very scarce being largely confined to the shelter of the woods. Although the hedgerow trees are poor in nitrophobous species, they are often rich in nitrophilous lichens, for the federation *Xanthorion* (*Xanthoria* spp., *Physcia* spp., *Buellia* spp. characteristic) is common and many interesting species belonging to this community occur in the county. Indeed the *Cladonia* flora at Holme Fen and the nitrophilous lichens on the trees bordering the upland by-ways are the county's richest possessions as far as lichens are concerned.

Village churchyards are rich in saxicolous species, the limestone church walls and gravestones being often covered with lichens. *Caloplaca heppiana*, *Lecanora campestris*, *L. dispersa* and *Verrucaria nigrescens* are generally the most abundant species in this habitat.

Species list:—

- Usnea comosa* (Ach.) Röhl—Rare. Scarce on ash, Bevill's Wood (1953 & 1954).
- Evernia prunastri* (L.) Ach.—Not common. Scarce on alder, birch and willow, Woodwalton Fen (1953). Frequent on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). On ash, Weaveley Wood (1954).
- Parmelia caperata* (L.) Ach.—Local. Occasional at the base of ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). Scarce on oak, Weaveley Wood (1954). Scarce at base of birch, Holme Fen (1957).
- P. subaurifera* Nyl.—Occasional on willow, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- P. fuliginosa* Nyl. var. *laetevirens* (Flot.) Kichz.—On ash, Alconbury Hill (1953). Scarce on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). Scarce on elder, Holme Fen (1956).
- P. sulcata* Tayl.—Frequent. Frequent on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). On gate, Stonely (1954). On ash, Weaveley Wood (1954). Locally frequent at base of birch, Holme Fen (1957). Occasional on willow, etc., Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- P. dubia* (Wulf.) Schaer.—Rare. Rare on alder, Woodwalton Fen (1953).
- P. physodes* (L.) Ach.—Frequent. Abundant on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). On ash, Weaveley Wood (1954). Occasional at base of birch, Holme Fen (1956). Occasional, on willow, etc., Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- P. tubulosa* (Schaer.) Bitt.—Scarce. On ash, Bevill's Wood (1953). Rare on willow, Woodwalton Fen (1956).
- Cetraria glauca* (L.) Ach.—Rare. Occasional on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954).
- C. chlorophylla* (Willd.) Wain.—Rare. Rare on ash, Bevill's Wood (1953).
- Squamaria muralis* (Schreb.) Elenk.—Local. One plant on plank across dyke, Holme Fen (1956). Scarce on granite, Gt. Gidding churchyard (1957).
- Lecanora dispersa* (Pers.) Röhl (*L. galactina* Ach.)—Common. Abundant on calcareous stone throughout the county. Occurs at Woodwalton Fen on the piles of the bungalow.
- L. umbrina* (Ach.) Röhl (*L. hageni* auct. angl.)—Local. Scarce on elder, Holme Fen (1956).
- L. crenulata* (Dicks.) Hook.—Local. Abundant on north wall of Keyston church (1957). On concrete piles of bungalow, Woodwalton Fen (1957).

- L. chlarotera* Nyl. f. *chlarotera*.—Occasional on roadside ash at Bythorn; on roadside ash between Bythorn and Molesworth; on ash by side of drove, Ramsey Heights (all 1957). The Bythorn specimen has been confirmed by Dr. J. Poelt.
- L. campestris* (Schaer.) Hue.—Frequent. Abundant, Barham and Keyston churchyards (1957). Frequent, Gt. Gidding churchyard (1957).
- L. polytrōpa* (Ehrh.) Schaer.—Local. Abundant on granite, Gt. Gidding churchyard (1957).
- L. expallens* (Pers.) Ach.—Common. On ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). Scarce on elder and on stumps, Holme Fen (1956). Locally abundant on sallow, etc., Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- L. varia* (Ehrh.) Ach.—Local. Abundant on plank across a dyke, Holme Fen (1956). On old gate, Catworth (1957). Confined to old rails and planks of the wooden bridges where abundant, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- L. conizaeoides* Nyl. ex Cromb. (*L. conizaea* auct. angl.)—Abundant on trees everywhere, including Holme and Woodwalton Fens. The most common lichen in the county.
- Ochrolechia subviridis* (Hoeg) Erichs.—Rare. Scarce on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957). NEW TO BRITAIN.
- Aspicilia calcarea* (L.) Koerb.—Rare. Scarce, Gt. Gidding churchyard (1957).
- Lecidea lucida* Ach.—Possibly frequent. Scarce on acid stone, Keyston churchyard (1957). On wall of house, Leighton Bromswold (1957).
- L. flexuosa* (Fr.) Nyl.—Local. On heather stems on heath and on decayed wood near the bungalow, Woodwalton Fen (1956). On a dead birch trunk, Holme Fen (1957).
- L. uliginosa* (Schrad.) Ach.—Local. Frequent on *Molinia* stools on heath, Woodwalton Fen (1953-1957). Occasional on peat, Holme Fen (1956). On old gate, Catworth (1957).
- Pertusaria amara* (Ach.) Nyl.—Frequent. Abundant on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). On ash, Weaveley Wood (1954). Occasional on roadside trees near Hamerton (1953).
- P. pertusa* (L.) Tuck.—Occasional on ash, Bevill's Wood (1954). On ash, Weaveley Wood (1954).
- P. globulifera* (Turn.) Mass. var. *globulifera*.—Local. Abundant on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957).
- P. globulifera* var. *corallina* Zahlbr. (*P. henrici* Erichs.)—On roadside ash, Belton's Hill, Spaldwick (1957).
- Ramalina farinacea* (L.) Ach.—Local. Scarce on elder, Holme Fen (1956). Scarce on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957).
- Xanthoria parietina* (L.) Th. Fr.—Common. Abundant on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957). Frequent, Keyston churchyard (1957). Common on roofs of farmhouses, Ramsey Heights (1957). On piles of bungalow, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- X. candelaria* (L.) Arn. (*X. lychnea* Th. Fr. p.p.)—Local. One plant on plank across dyke, Holme Fen (1956). On gate post, Bythorn (1957).
- Caloplaca aurantia* (Pers.) Hellb. (*C. callospisma* (Ach.) Th. Fr.)—Frequent in churchyard at Barham (1957).
- C. heppiana* (Mull. Arg.) Zahlbr. (*Placodium callospismum* {Ach.} Mer. var. *plicatum* (Wedd.) Leight.)—Common. Abundant in the churchyards at Barham, Gt. Gidding and Keyston (1957). On piles of bungalow, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- C. teicholyta* (Ach.) Strn.—Sterile forms resembling this species are abundant in the churchyards at Barham, Gt. Gidding and Keyston (1957).

- C. citrina* (Hoffm.) Th. Fr.—Local. Scarce, Gt. Gidding churchyard (1957).
- Candelariella vitellina* (Ehrh.) Müll. Arg.—Common. On gate, Stonely (1954). Scarce, Keyston churchyard (1957). Common on old timber about farmhouses, Ramsey Heights (1957).
- Physcia grisea* (Lamarck) Zahlbr.—Frequent. Roadside elm, Glatton (1956). Rare on old poplar at north end of Woodwalton Fen (1956). Occasional on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957).
- P. adscendens* (Th. Fr.) Oliv. sensu Bitt. (*P. tenella* auct. angl. p.p.)—Frequent. On roadside ash, Alconbury Hill (1953). Roadside elm, Glatton (1956). One plant on plank across dyke, Holme Fen (1956). Frequent on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957).
- P. orbicularis* (Neck.) Poetsch.—On ash between Bythorn and Molesworth (1957).
- Rinodina demissa* (Koerb.) Arn.—Local. On piles of bungalow, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- Buellia canescens* (Dicks.) De Not.—Probably frequent. Occasional on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957). Abundant, Keyston churchyard (1957).
- B. myriocarpa* (DC.) De Not.—Frequent. Frequent on elder, Holme Fen (1956). Rare on young sallow, Woodwalton Fen (1956). Frequent on roadside ash, Bythorn (1957). On ash by drove, Ramsey Heights (1957).
- Phlyctis argena* (Ach.) Koerb.—Oak, Bevill's Wood (1953). Rare on old poplar at north end of Woodwalton Fen (1956).
- Cladonia pyxidata* (L.) Hoffm. var. *chlorophaea* Flk.—Local. Frequent on peat, Holme Fen (1957). Scarce, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- C. fimbriata* (L.) Fr.—Frequent. Occasional on peat and stumps, Holme Fen (1957). Frequent on birch, rotting trunks and on *Molinia* tussocks, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- C. ochrochlora* Flk.—Rare. Scarce on peat, Holme Fen (1957).
- C. coniocraea* (Flk.) Spreng. (*C. ochrochlora* var. *ceratodes* Flk.)—Frequent. Bevill's Wood (1954). Occasional on peat, stumps and birch, Holme Fen (1957). Frequent at base of birch and on rotting trunks, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- C. pityrea* (Flk.) Fr.—Rare. On peat, Holme Fen (1954). Specimen determined by Dr. R. A. Maas Geesteranus.
- C. squamosa* (Scop.) Hoffm. var. *phyllocoma* Rabh. f. *mysuroides* (Wallr.) Sandst. Local. On stumps and peat, Holme Fen (1956). On decayed wood near bungalow, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- C. furcata* (Huds.) Schrad.—Local. On decayed stump, Ramsey Heights (1956). Occasional on peat, Holme Fen (1957).
- C. scabriuscula* (Del.) Leight.—Rare. Locally abundant on peat, Holme Fen (1957).
- C. rangiformis* Hoffm.—Rare. Common on peat in a few small areas only, Holme Fen (1957).
- C. macilentata* Hoffm.—Rare. Scarce on peat, stumps and birch, Holme Fen (1956).
- Peltigera canina* (L.) Willd.—Local. Very local on peat, Holme Fen (1956).
- Cyphelium inquinans* (Sm.) Trev.—Local. On old gate at Catworth (1957).
- Verrucaria nigrescens* Pers.—Common. Frequent, Barham churchyard (1957). Abundant, Gt. Gidding churchyard (1957). Occasional, Keyston churchyard (1957).
- Lepraria aeruginosa* (Wigg.) Sm.—Common. Occasional at base of birch, Holme Fen (1957). On moss on stone, Keyston churchyard (1957). Frequent in cracks of rough bark and abundant on old hawthorn trees, Woodwalton Fen (1957).
- L. candelaris* (L.) Fr.—Rare. On roadside ash, Woodwalton village (1954).

J. R. LAUNDON.

LEPIDOPTERA

1957 must have been one of the worst years on record. Butterflies were scarce, the most interesting records being: Marbled White (*Agapetes galathea* L.) on Easton Common, a new locality (C. F. Tebbutt) and Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi* L.) from Norman Cross (H. F. Tebbs). Red Admiral were fairly common towards the end of September. Moths were almost equally scarce. Mr. Tebbutt recorded one *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. from Houghton. I found a larva of *Philudoria potatoria* L. at Leighton Bromswold, and several *Xanthorhoë designata* Rott in the birch glade in Monk's Wood and there are two records of *Saturnia pavonia* L., a female from Little Raveley (J. K. Peacock) and a male from Woodston (H. F. Tebbs).

The County Collection has now been completely labelled and there are many gaps that need filling.

Mr. B. O. C. Gardiner, of Cambridge, has been working on the Pyraloidea of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire and has added a large number of species to the county list. The results of his researches are to be published shortly in *The Entomologist's Gazette* and will be a most valuable addition to our knowledge of the county fauna. This interesting and largely diurnal group of moths has been much neglected and the publication in 1954 of Professor Beirne's *British Pyralid and Plume Moths* (Warne) with its admirable coloured plates should make their study easier and more popular.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE—contd.

5. Notodontoidea

1. Notodontidae

The Prominents are essentially a collector's group. Very few come to the notice of the ordinary observer and collectors obtain them most frequently as larvae. Records thus tend to show the distribution of collectors rather than of moths and a few favoured localities—Monk's Wood, Holme Fen—recur frequently. Systematic search would probably reveal a much more frequent distribution for several of the species. The numbers are those in Heslop's *Check list*.

94. *Cerura hermelinea* Goetz (— *bifida* Hb.) Poplar Kitten. Somersham, Brampton Wood, Monk's Wood (V.C.H.) No recent records.

95. *C. furcula* L. Sallow Kitten. Yaxley, Somersham, Monk's Wood (V.C.H.) Larva on *Salix babylonica* at Stibbington 10/7/53 (J. L. Gilbert). Two in Monk's Wood 1/8/56 (B. O. C. Gardiner).
96. *C. vinula* L. Puss Moth. Common (V.C.H.) This may be so but recent records are surprisingly few and come only from Alconbury, Fletton and Woodston.
97. *Stauropus fagi* L. Lobster. V.C.H. gives an unspecified record by Capt. J. A. Vipan who would never disclose his localities. Mr. S. W. P. Pooles records it from Holme, where it presumably feeds on *Betula*. As a typical beech-wood moth it is unlikely to turn up often in Hunts. but Mr. B. O. C. Gardiner took several in Monk's Wood in 1955.
101. *Phcosia tremula* Clerck. Gt. Swallow Prominent. No record in V.C.H. First recorded by Mr. H. F. Tebbs who took the larva at Fletton in 1954 and Mr. Pooles records it from Holme Fen in 1956. Mr. Gardiner found it common at light in Monk's Wood in 1953. Further search is desirable.
102. *P. gnoma* Fab (— *dictaeoides* Esp.) Lesser Swallow Prominent. Stilton, Yaxley, Monk's Wood, Holme (V.C.H.) Fletton, 1954 (H.F.T.) Holme, 1956, on *Betula* (Pooles). Common in Monk's Wood 1953 (Gardiner).
103. *Notodonta ziczac* L. Pebble Prominent. Yaxley*, Somersham, Brampton Wood, Monk's Wood, Holme Fen (V.C.H.) Holme Fen (Pooles). Monk's Wood, Holme Fen, common on Woodwalton Fen (Gardiner).
104. *N. dromedarius* L. Iron Prominent. Yaxley, Stilton Fen, Holme Fen (V.C.H.) Again, the only recent records are Mr. Pooles' from Holme and Mr. Gardiner's from Monk's Wood and Woodwalton Fen.
- * Old records from Yaxley may indicate Yaxley Mere (drained 1850) or Holme Fen which is now a wood.
109. *Lophopteryx cucullina* Schiff (— *cuculla* Esp.) Maple Prominent. V.C.H. records one from Monk's Wood in 1924. In July, 1956, Mr. L. G. Warren took one freshly emerged in the same wood, and Mr. Gardiner took two or three there in 1955 and 1956. *Acer campestre*, the food plant, is common in the county but the moth is said by South (*Moths of the British Isles Series 1*) to be almost confined to woods on chalky soil. A thorough search might be rewarding.
110. *L. capucina* L. (— *camelina* L.) Coxcomb Prominent. General (V.C.H.) Common at light at Fletton 1945 (H.F.T.) Larva on elm suckers Old Weston, 1955 (Gilbert). Holme Fen, 1956 (Pooles).
113. *Pterostoma palpina* L. Pale Prominent. General (V.C.H.) Larvae at Fletton and Yaxley (H.F.T.) Holme, 1956 (Pooles). Not uncommon in Monk's Wood and on Woodwalton Fen (Gardiner).
114. *Phalera bucephala* L. Buff Tip. Common (V.C.H.) In my experience fluctuatingly so. I saw one in 1948, none in 1949 and 1950, two in 1951 and in 1953 hundreds. Fletton (H.F.T.) Brampton (F. Stanley-Smith). Holme (Pooles). Probably generally distributed but the larva is easily spotted and more records would be useful.
115. *Clostera curtula* L. Large Chocolate Tip. Holme Fen, Yaxley Fen, Monk's Wood (V.C.H.)
117. *C. pigra* Huf. Small Chocolate Tip. Yaxley, Monk's Wood, Holme Fen (V.C.H.) Recent records from Woodston (H.F.T.), Fletton (H.F.T.), Holme (Pooles), Lt. Stukeley (J.E.H.B.)

2. Sphingidae

The Hawk-moths include several migrants, some of which have appeared in Huntingdonshire. For these exact localities have little interest and are not given. The residents are as often found in the larval as in the imaginal state.

74. *Mimas tiliae* L. Lime Hawk. Common (V.C.H.) I much doubt this. Mr. Stanley-Smith found it at Brampton from 1933 to 1937 and I saw one freshly emerged in Huntingdon in 1949. No other records and frequent searches for the larva have been unavailing.
75. *Laöthoë populi* L. Poplar Hawk. Common (V.C.H.) Recent records from Fletton, Woodston, Holme Fen, Monks Wood, Woodwalton and Alconbury. Probably well distributed but the evidence available suggests that it is less common than formerly.
76. *Smerinthus ocellata* L. Eyed Hawk. Common (V.C.H.) Recent records from Fletton, Woodston, Holme Fen, Stilton, Monks Wood, Woodwalton and Alconbury. Probably the commonest of the group.
77. *Acherontia atropos* L. Death's-head Hawk. The larva turns up from time to time in potato fields. Recently recorded at Farcet, Buckworth and St. Ives.
81. *Sphinx ligustri* L. Privet Hawk. Common (V.C.H.) Considering the abundance of Privet in Hunts. it is surprising that this insect is not more often reported. I have recent records only from Old Fletton, Woodston, Holme Fen, Monks Wood, Woodwalton Fen and Alconbury.
88. *Deilephila porcellus* L. Small Elephant. St. Ives, Somersham, Old Fletton (V.C.H.) Brampton, 1933-37 (F. Stanley-Smith). Several times seen in 1948, 1953 and 1954 on the same clump of *Kentranthus ruber* in my garden at Alconbury. The foodplant is common.
89. *Deilephila elpenor* L. Elephant. St. Ives, Somersham, Old Fletton (V.C.H.) The only recent records are from Orton Lodge where the larvae were abundant in 1951 (H.F.T.) and from Holme in 1956 (Pooles).
90. *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. Humming-bird Hawk. Reported most years and sometimes abundant.
91. *Hemaris fuciformis* L. Brd.-bordered Bee Hawk. Monks Wood, St. Ives, Yaxley (V.C.H.) It was fairly common in Monks Wood in May, 1948, since when I have not seen it. Mr. Gardiner saw it there in 1949 and Mr. W. E. Russell one in 1955. It flies most readily after 4.0 p.m. G.M.T. and may easily be overlooked.
92. *H. tityus* L. (*-bombylifformis* Esp.) Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk. Holme Fen (V.C.H.) Mr. Pooles took it there in 1956. The foodplant *Scabiosa succisa* is not common in Hunts., but occurs in a few places at Holme.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Following the address by Dr. Duffey, to which reference is made in the Introduction to this Report, correspondence passed between the Nature Conservancy and the Society's officers upon the work that members might usefully undertake. On 18th November, 1957, Mr. B. F. T. Ducker, Assistant Regional Officer, wrote to Mr. Blackie to enclose an annotated copy of a schedule describing Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Importance and other sites of biological interest in Huntingdonshire which might be scheduled in the future. This schedule is appended, and we quote from Mr. Ducker's covering letter as follows:—

"You will see that reference has been made under the different site headings to cases where only the sketchiest information about the flora, fauna and general ecological interest is at present available. The services of the Hunts. Flora and Fauna Society would be invaluable here, and in general, the sort of information required is accounts of the different habitats within the site, supplemented by lists and observations of the animals and plant life, with notes on the soil and general life of the land. If this information can be correlated with a map, so much the better, and a set of be 'characterised' and a record is available describing its condition. 2½" maps of the sites will shortly follow. In this way the site can tion and interest at a particular time.

"With reference to any proposed field studies on Nature Reserves, it is most important that besides giving the exact locality within the Reserve and the date, type of vegetation in which a particular species was taken or observed should be described in general terms, e.g., sallow carr, alder woodland, road, ride or clearing, dykeside, and so on. This sort of information, multiplied many times for a particular species will enable a picture of the habitat and niche occupied by it on the Reserve to be built up. No distinction is made between common and rare animals; information is required for all.

"Finally, a word about new sites which may be known to members of the Society but not to the Nature Conservancy. We are in the process of bringing our lists of Sites of Special Scientific Importance up-to-date, so that they may be included upon the County Development Plan which is also undergoing revision. Information about sites not included on the enclosed list, giving a Grid Reference and details of natural historic interest will be very welcome. The sooner such information is forthcoming the better, so that the prospect of including new sites in the pending revision is enhanced."

<i>2 1/2" sheets</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>G.R.</i>	<i>1" sheet</i>	<i>Description</i>
52/16, 52/17	Brampton Wood	52/1670	134	The value of this wood, according to Dr. Dony, is partly scenic, partly as an oak-ash coppice with birch, beech, cherry and possibly whitebeam, with an abundance of primroses. The wood is now in the hands of the Forestry Commission, and in order to take steps to reconcile the interests of the naturalist with those of the forester, an up-to-date account of the wood's condition is badly required.
52/17	Upton Wood	52/1879	134	Is described as the best of several oak-ash woodlands in the district. A B.S.B.I. report for the site exists.
52/25	Waresley Wood	52/2654	134	This is one of the woodlands in the south of the county of special interest because the Oxlip occurs there. Waresley and Gransden woods adjoin and there is an Oxlip colony in each separated by a stretch which supports primroses but no oxlips. Hybrids appear on the edge of each oxlip colony. A more general assessment of this site as a woodland would be a most useful supplement.
52/25	Leycourt	52/2758	134	Another oxlip area with two spinneys and adjacent meadows and hedgerows, affording conditions which have allowed oxlip and cowslip to grow cheek-by-jowl, so that hybridisation between the two species has been facilitated.
52/27	Wenington Wood	52/2479	134	Oak-ash wood, but one in which the usual coppice of hazel is largely replaced by dogwood and maple. There is a considerable amount of spindle, and some interesting roses. More recent reports with fauna and flora lists would be most welcome.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES

<i>2 1/2" sheets</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>G.R.</i>	<i>1" sheet</i>	<i>Description</i>
52/17, 52/18 52/26, 52/27	Monks' Wood and West Wood	52/21.79 20.80	134	Reference to these Nature Reserves will be found in the enclosed copies of the Nature Conservancy's Annual Reports.
52/28	Woodwalton Fen	52/2385	134	
52/18, 52/19 52/28, 52/29	Holme Fen	52/2089	134	

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE

52/16, 52/17	Calpher Wood	52/1470	134	Although this wood was cleared not long ago, the main tree species are growing again and the characteristic ground flora has survived, including several species uncommon in the County. Recent reports of the state of this woodland are urgently required and flora and fauna records and any other data enabling an up-to-date assessment of the biological interest of this site to be made would be most welcome. Information about the adjoining West Wood would also be most useful.
52/16	St. Neots Common	52/1661		Mainly gravel soil with natural drainage. The north end of St. Neots Common with islands in the river is of some interest as a bird haunt but the public has easy access to the meadowland. These riverside water-meadows still retain some characteristic marsh plants but again, recent reports are lacking, and information relating to this site is urgently needed.

ADDITIONAL SITES OF BIOLOGICAL INTEREST: No decision about scheduling has yet been made.

With the exception of Coppingford and Archer's Wood, nothing is known of the remaining sites. In view of the demands made by forestry on certain Huntingdonshire woodland S.S.S.I.s, it is desirable that information about these sites should be forthcoming so that some may be considered for elevation to S.S.S.I. status during the forthcoming revisions for the County Development Plan.

<i>2½ sheets</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>G.R.</i>	<i>1" sheet</i>	<i>Description</i>
52/16	Perry Woods	52/1466	134	
52/16	Little Paxton Wood	52/1663	134	
52/17, 52/18	Coppingford and Archer's Woods	52/1780	134	Oak-ash woodland with a rather dense coppice growth tending to reduce the interest of the woodland herb flora, but rich in woodland bryophytes. The ride flora is restricted but interesting and includes <i>Dipsacus pilosus</i> .
52/18	Aversley Wood	52/1682	134	Some felling has taken place here recently.
52/25	Weaveley and Sand Woods	52/2254	147	
52/27	Port Holme	52/2370	134	A useful area for the observation of a varied bird life. (It would be interesting to know what features of the area are so attractive to the birds).