

HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

---

**12th**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
**1959**

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

---

**Chairman:**

C. F. TEBBUTT, Esq., The Ferns, Eynesbury, St. Neots.  
(Tel.: St. Neots 110)

**Hon. Secretary:**

PROFESSOR ALASTAIR N. WORDEN, Cromwell House, Huntingdon.  
(Tel.: Huntingdon 1122)

**Hon. Treasurer:**

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

**Hon. Social Secretary:**

MISS E. M. THACKRAY, 7, The Walks East, Huntingdon.  
(Tel.: Huntingdon 368)

**Committee:**

1959

MRS. ATKINSON

MRS. M. HUDSON

J. E. H. BLACKIE

E. T. LEES

MISS O. D. CLARKE

H. F. TEBBS

W. O. COPLAND

J. A. VAUGHAN

**Referees:**

*Flora* - - - J. L. Gilbert, c/o The Herbarium, The Royal Botanic  
Gardens, Kew, 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, Hunts.

# Annual Report for 1959

(No. 12)

## INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 14th March, 1959, at Huntingdon Grammar School, by kind permission of the Headmaster. Mr. C. F. Tebbutt took the Chair, and approximately 40 members attended. Following the business meeting and the election of Officers of the Committee, as indicated on the previous page, a lecture was given by Mrs. Thelma Frazer-Rowell of the Department of Physiology, Cambridge, on the Maternal Behaviour of Mammals, following which there was a lively discussion.

Following the first Committee meeting to be held after the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman proposed that Forester E. V. Rogers be co-opted and, following a postal vote, Mr. Rogers was in fact co-opted unanimously.

The following persons have joined the Society during 1959:—  
Air Marshal McDonald, Watermeadows, Brampton; Miss Hilary Angell, Bankside, Gt. Paxton.

The Society has received a request from Dr. W. D. Williams of the Department of Zoology, Liverpool University (Liverpool Royal 6022), who writes to say that he is at present engaged in research on the genus *Asellus*, the only genus of the Crustacean sub-order *Isopoda* to inhabit the fresh waters of the British Isles. Dr. Williams is particularly interested in the geographical distribution of the two sorts of this genus that live in surface waters, and is plotting this on a vice-county basis, but unfortunately has so far been unable to obtain any specimens from Huntingdon. He has asked that we should bring this matter to the notice of members, in the hope that they may be able to produce specimens. He believes that both species are likely to be available in this area, and states that they are likely to be found in ponds, lakes and slowly-flowing waters among plant detritus and weeds, and are likely to be quite abundant when present. In appearance they are not unlike the common terrestrial woodlouse, but are somewhat smaller. They may be preserved in methylated spirits, formalin or 70% alcohol. Dr. Williams would be pleased to answer queries, and if necessary to supply typed specimens.

The remainder of the Society's activities during 1959 have been summarized as follows:—

Invitations were received from the Cambridge Natural History Society to attend their Consersazione on 6th May, and from the Peterborough Museum Society to join their excursions to Elton Furze and Castor Hanglands.

Ten members of the Botanical Section of the Cotteswold Field Club stayed in Huntingdon from 22nd to 26th June, and Mrs. Atkinson, a former member of the Club, made arrangements for them to visit Wicken Fen, the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, Abbots Ripton with Miss P. E. Goodliff, and Monks' Wood with Mr. H. F. Tebbs.

All the excursions arranged by the Society were well supported. Mr. J. E. H. Blackie was the leader at Grafham on 30th May, when Twayblade, Adders Tongue and Pepper Saxifrage were among the plants found.

On 21st June, after tea at Riverview Guest House, Earith, Mr. C. F. Tebbutt led a party of 24 members and friends along the river bank. Heron, Plovers, Redshank and Reed Warblers were seen. Mr. J. L. Gilbert led excursions to Abbots Ripton on 27th June, and to Bevil's Wood on 18th July. The Tufted Forget-me-not, Hairy St. John's Wort and Musk Mallow were found in the Wood.

At Woodwalton Fen on 12th July, a female Large Copper was seen near the bridge. Among the plants found were Elecampane, Fringed Water Lily, Bog Myrtle, Yellow Loosestrife and Fen Violet. Mr. J. E. H. Blackie led this excursion. Dr. R. W. G. Dennis and Mr. J. L. Gilbert recorded 35 different species of Fungi found in Monks' Wood on 26th September, but the Foray was remarkable for the fact that not a single living Agaric was seen.

## MAMMALS

There have been many reported losses among foxes and these are, of course, to be taken into consideration with similar reports in from neighbouring counties. Despite a widespread belief to the effect that some form of poisoning may have been responsible, those specimens from the county examined, appear to be cases of fox encephalitis, the virus responsible for which is closely related to, if not identical with, canine virus hepatitis, or so-called Rubarth's disease. A letter drawing attention to cases of this type was in fact

published by S. F. J. Hodgman and R. S. T. Bowden of the Animal Health Trust's Canine Health Centre in the *Veterinary Record* for 16th January, 1960, Vol 72, pp. 54-55. In view of the widespread nature of the recent outbreaks, it may be of interest to recall that a similar case was identified at the Nutritional Research Unit, Huntingdon, some years ago, from a fox recovered just over the Cambridgeshire border.

The only other records that have been handed in have been those from Forester E. V. Rogers. In the areas under his observation there has been during the year a decided increase in the numbers of grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*, Gmelin), which may, of course, be attributable to the fact that there is no longer a bonus payable upon tails.

During the summer months moles (*Talpa europaea*, L.) were observed to be dying in numbers, due presumably to the drought conditions, and in one instance a mole was observed to be eating the abdomen of a bumblebee, and it is suggested that the drought conditions may have forced moles to become surface scavengers instead of burrowing normally.

Muntjac deer (*Muntiacus muntjac*) were resident in Brampton Wood throughout the year. This is believed to be the first time that they have been recorded as resident in this county.

The rabbit population appears to have remained at a fairly steady level throughout the year, but isolated outbreaks of myxomatosis have been recorded.

Despite specific trapping in Brampton Wood, Bevill's Wood, Salome Wood and West Wood, no specimens of the Yellow-necked Field Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*, L.) have yet been recorded within the county.

A.N.W.

## BIRDS

1959 will long be remembered as providing one of the driest and sunniest summers many of us can remember. This had a number of direct results on bird life. Chief of these was that it gave good nesting conditions, particularly for ground nesting birds; partridges for example benefited greatly. At Lt. Paxton G.P. water levels dropped steadily exposing new bare mud banks quicker than they could be vegetated. These conditions attracted passing waders to an extent never known before and made worth-while the publication of a Wader Table from which, because of lack of space, Redshank and Common Sandpiper have had to be omitted. An indirect effect of the good weather was that it made bird watching possible on more days than usual.

The cutting down, and indeed uprooting, of hedges must be greatly restricting nesting sites for the diminishing Magpie and many other species. One probable effect, in an area where this has taken place, was noted in early May near Gt. Staughton. Pickers in a broccoli field noted numerous nests built in the broccoli heads. These proved to be Blackbirds, Linnets and Hedge Sparrows and many were destroyed when the plants were ploughed in.

Turtle Doves seen on April 9th, 13th and 24th denote an unusually early passage, as do records of Bewick Swans on October 29th and 31st.

It is unfortunate that we cannot prove that Buzzards nested although it seems very probable. There is, however, no doubt about the persistent return of these fine birds to the county after over a century of absence.

Of extreme rarities and new county records the transatlantic Killdeer Plover and the Glaucous Gull hold first place, while the unusual Waxwings and Crossbills always give pleasure because of their lack of shyness.

In common with other districts the gales of mid-December brought inland a few Merganzers and many Goosanders. The latter found Lt. Paxton G.P. full of fish food and so much to their liking that they have remained and are still there at the time of going to press. (Jan. 31st)

The list of breeding birds, passage migrants and winter visitors given in page 7 of 1958 Report is the same this year.

The all too few contributors to this report are G. Alcock (G.A.), L. Angel (L.A.), P. Banks (P.B.), E. Blackie (E.B.), Colin Drage

(C.D.), W. Garnett (W.G.), D. Garner (D.G.), Kimbolton School N.H.S. (K.S.), H. Layton-Blunt (H.L.B.), E. Rogers (E.R.), Your Recorder (Rec.).

*Cormorant*. March 26th, Fletton pits 1 juv. (G.A.)

*Heron*. Spectacular increase of nests by 12. Hemingford Park 13 (+7), St. Neots 7 (+2), Hinchingsbrooke 11 (+3), (Rec.)

*Garganey Teal*. More seen than usual. A pair was at Lt. Paxton G.P. on March 21st, April 17th, May 19th, 24th. Breeding suspected here as of 3 seen on July 29th 2 were juv. (Rec.) Pair Bury Fen April 19th. (D.G.)

*Gadwall*. March 15th, Lt. Paxton G.P. a pair, (Rec.)

*Wigeon*. A pair remained at Lt. Paxton G.P. March 29th—April 20th and were seen displaying. (Rec.) Some present Hartford G.P. September 10th, (C.D.)

*Shoveller*. Pair at Lt. Paxton G.P. March 9th—May 1st and display seen. On July 28th a brood of 6/7 seen just able to fly. (Rec.) Pair Meadow Lane, St. Ives, June 7th, (D.G.)

*Scaup*. 3, January 18th, Lt. Paxton G.P., (Rec.)

*Tufted Duck*. Only 2 broods seen, (D.G., C.D.)

*Common Pochard*. No breeding recorded.

*Merganser*. Lt. Paxton G.P., Dec. 13th, 9, (Rec.)

*Goosander*. Hartford G.P., Feb. 14th a drake. (P.B.). Lt. Paxton G.P., Dec. 26th, 9, remained to end of year. (Rec.)

*Shelduck*. Dec. 2nd, St. Ives, 1, (C.D.)

*Grey Geese*. Jan. 21st, Abbots Ripton, flock of several 100 Pinkfeet including 2 Whitefronts. (C.D.). Jan. 28th—31st, flocks reported from Brampton, Eynesbury, Offord, Gt. Paxton. (L.A., E.R., Rec.)

*Canada Goose*. 14, Hartford, Sept. 17th, (C.D.)

*Mute Swan*. Sept. 1st, 1958. A white cygnet seen among a brood of 5 near Hartford. Eyes noticed as pale blue and iris darker blue in contrast to normal black. (C.D.)

*Whooper Swan*. A juv. seen Lt. Paxton G.P., Nov. 28th, remained to end of year. Bury Fen, Dec. 18th, 1 ad., 2 juv. (D.G.); Dec. 24th, 2 ad. (P.B.)

*Bewick Swan*. Lt. Paxton G.P., Jan. 11th, 1 ad., 31st, 9, Feb. 3rd, Port Holme, 9, Bury Fen, Feb. 4th, 1, (Rec.), Oct. 29th, 3 flying W.S.W. Huntingdon, 31st, 5 flying E. Hilton, an unusually early date, (W.G.)

*Common Buzzard*. In greater numbers than before. Birds seen throughout the year in both Great Staughton and Kimbolton areas. In Sept. as many as 4 seen together at Kimbolton. In Great Staughton area a pair was present in Spring, later they were seen carrying away young Wood Pigeons and subsequently 5 were together, 3 obviously juveniles. It therefore seems likely that successful nesting took place in this area and possibly also near Kimbolton. Some present in both areas up to end year, (Rec.)

*Peregrine Falcon*. March, Kimbolton, 1 seen at freshly killed wood-pigeon. Another there in Summer. (Rec.)

*Partridges*. This year first signs of a real recovery in numbers. Most marked in French Partridges. At Gt. Staughton and elsewhere shooting bags contained 80% French, (Rec.)

*Moorhen*. Jan. 27th, during hard weather when all water frozen many were perched high in woodland trees, (Rec.)

*Coot*. At Lt. Paxton G.P. in June as water level dropped breeding birds rejected usual nest sites in cover at edge of water and built up, with weeds, small islands as nest sites in open shallow water. Great increase in nesting pairs here, (Rec.)

*Lapwing*. Lt. Paxton G.P. Summer flocks began with 30 on June 3rd and soon increased to c.1000. Noticeable decrease on Sept. 13th and on 14th all had gone. Sept. 19th, small numbers again appeared and built up to c.100 by Sept. 30th, (Rec.)

*Lt. Ringed Plover*. First pair arrived in one area April 5th and by 18th a second pair was present. By May 8th 4 eggs were being incubated but by 17th nest had been robbed. Nesting took place again, and on July 20th 3 flying young were seen. Nest of second pair with unusual number of 5 eggs seen June 28th, but this was robbed, (Rec.) In another area a nest was seen on June 13th, 3 chicks on 16th, and a flying juv., July 4th, (D.G.)

*Killdeer Plover*. Lt. Paxton G.P. March 7th, 8th. An unusual wader was seen among Lapwings and remained when they flew off. Somewhat like large Ringed Plover but with double black bands on chest, the lowest being noticeably the thicker. Orange-red wing coverts and white wing stripes. Seen by J. Ferguson-Lees and G. Poulsen-Ellis. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee. There are less than 20 British records. First county record (Rec.)

*Woodcock*. Nests reported in usual numbers at Kimbolton and Gt. Staughton. Breeding also Woodwalton and Holme Fens (Rec.)

*Curlew*. Jan. 11th, Hilton 7 (W.G.) May 24th, Meadow Lane, St. Ives, 1 flying S. (D.G.) Aug. 10th, Yelling, 1 flying S.E. (E.R.) Sept. 5th, Lt. Paxton 1 (Rec.), 6th, Abbots Ripton 1 (C.D.), 15th, St. Neots 1 (Rec.)

*Stone Curlew*. Apl. 12th, Woodwalton 2 (C.D.) Has not been reported in county since 1858.

For other Waders see Wader Table.

*Greater B.B. Gull*. Jan. 11th, Lt. Paxton 1 (Rec.)

*Lesser B.B. Gull*. June 30th, Lt. Paxton 1 Scandinavian type (Rec.) Fenstanton G.P. last week December several (W.G.)

*Glaucous Gull*. May 24th, Fenstanton G.P. a very large white gull seen (full description supplied) following easterly gales. New county record (D.G.)

*Black Tern*. An outstanding spring passage. At Lt. Paxton it started with 6 on May 21st increasing to 18 on 22nd; 15 on 23rd; last seen being 2 on 26th (Rec.) Return passage only 1 seen at Hartford Aug. 13th (E.R.)

*Com/Arctic Tern*. Main passage was May 10th—21st, also 2 June 28th. 1 July 20th, 1 Aug. 12th, all Lt. Paxton (Rec.) Fletton some June 27th, 2 July 2nd (G.A.)

*Lt. Tern*. Lt. Paxton G.P. 1 May 8th, 1 Aug. 15th (Rec.)

*Wood Pigeon*. From mid-Nov. to end of year large numbers found, all over county, dead from poison or epidemic (Rec.)

*Long-eared Owl.* June 23rd, 1 near Swineshead Wood (Rec.)

*Short-eared Owl.* Jan. 15th, Ramsey St. Mary's, 1. Nov. 2nd, Kimbolton airfield, 2 (Rec.)

*Wryneck.* Sept. 27th, 29th, 1 remained in Fenstanton garden (Ian Richards).

*Rook.* The decline in nests at the sample rookeries, started in 1957, continues. St. Neots 310 (— 50), Lt. Paxton 65 (+14), Diddington 152 (— 63) (Rec.)

*Magpie.* A very great reduction in numbers in last 10 years now apparent. Probable cause (outside persecution) is the cutting down of almost all high hedges.

*Wheatear.* Few seen. 1 each on Apl. 26th, 29th, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 15th (Rec., C.D.)

*Winchat.* Getting scarcer. 1 seen at Abbots Ripton (C.D.) and a dead juv. Offord Aug. 11th (L.A.)

*Com. Redstart.* 1 Holme Fen May 18th. A fledged brood Kimbolton Park June 23rd (Rec.)

*Reed Warbler.* Found breeding in 2 large ponds Kimbolton Park (Rec.)

*White Wagtail.* May 3rd, 1 Lt. Paxton, 4th, 1 Gt. Staughton, Sept. 9th 2 Lt. Paxton (Rec.)

*Grey Wagtail.* Nov. 24th, 1 Stonely (Rec.) Dec. 23rd, pair Offord (L.A.)

*Waxwing.* Jan. 14th, 2 Gt. Paxton (L.A.) Dec. 9th - 13th, up to 3 in garden St. Ives (D.G.)

*Crossbill.* Flock 20 - 30 first seen in July in Dudneys Wood, Kimbolton, and stayed to end of year. Others seen in Kimbolton Park woods. Only 1 former county record (Rec.)

*Brambling.* Dec. 13th, 1 Meadow Lane, St. Ives (D.G.)

*Reed Bunting.* Breeding in 2 large ponds, Kimbolton Park (Rec.)

*Tree Sparrow.* Yaxley, Feb. 5th, large numbers (G.A.) Flock of 9 remained at Lt. Paxton G.P. March 2nd - June 3rd (Rec.) See Woodwalton Fen report.

## WOODWALTON FEN

I visited the Fen on May 11th and 21st when the 44 nest boxes were visited. It was found that this year there had been an invasion of Tree Sparrows and 17 boxes were occupied by them, presumably in competition with Blue and Great Tits. These species built in the remaining 16 boxes used, together with one Stock Dove. Only one box (containing a Tree Sparrow's nest) was this year successfully attacked by a woodpecker, but no nest was found in any box with an enlarged hole from previous years attacks.

## MIGRANT DATES, 1959

<i>Lt. Ringed Plover.</i>	April 5th (Rec.)
<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 9th, Alconbury (E.B.) April 13th, Farcet (G.A.) April 24th, Hilton (W.G.)
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 13th, Buckden (L.A.) April 15th, Brampton (E.R.)
<i>Swift.</i>	April 26th, Hemingford (D.G.) Aug. 12th, residents left Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Swallow.</i>	April 4th, Paxton. April 24th, residents arr. Paxton (L.A.) April 26th, residents arr. Kimbolton (K.S.) Sept. 23rd, residents left Paxton (L.A.)
<i>House Martin.</i>	April 15th, Paxton (L.A.) May 5th, residents arr. Kimbolton (K.S.) Oct. 2nd, Salome Wood (E.R.)
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	March 27th, Paxton (Rec.) March 29th, St. Ives (D.G.) April 26th, residents arr. Paxton (Rec.) Sept. 14th, Paxton (E.R.)
<i>Fieldfare.</i>	Oct. 4th, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Redwing.</i>	Sept. 20th, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Nightingale.</i>	April 14th, Bevills Wood (E.R.)
<i>Grasshopper Warbler.</i>	April 13th, Brampton Wood (E.R.)
<i>Sedge Warbler.</i>	April 17th, Paxton (L.A.) Sept. 11th, Brampton (E.R.)
<i>Whitethroat.</i>	April 22nd, Bevills, Salome Woods (E.R.)
<i>Blackcap.</i>	April 28th, Bevills Wood (E.R.)
<i>Lesser Whitethroat.</i>	April 21st, Paxton (L.A.)
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	April 4th, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Chiff Chaff.</i>	March 26th, Bevills Wood. Oct. 6th, Bevills Wood (E.R.)
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	June 1st, St. Neots (Rec.)
<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 11th, Brampton (H.L.B.)

C. F. TEBBUTT.

WADER TABLE. LT. PAXTON G.P.

	R. Plover	Thurnstone	Green Sandpiper	Wid. Sandpiper	Spt. Redshank	Green-shank	Knot	Lt. Stint	Dunlin	Sanderling	J. Snipe
Apl. 17									1		
May 2									12		
12		1							1		
July 22			1								
28			1						1		
29			1						2		
Aug. 2			1			1					
3			3			1					
5			1			1					
7			1			1					
9			1			1					
11			1			1					
12				1		1					
14				1		1					
15						2					
16						3					
17						3					
Sept. 3	2				2	3			3		
4	2				1	3			2		
5					1	3					
8						3					
10						1					
13						1					
14						1		1			
15	1										
25											1
26											5
29										1	1
Oct. 2	1										3
4											
15											
17	1										
24											

Recorder was away July 4 — 15th; Aug. 22 — 31st.

FLORA

Despite the very dry summer just as many interesting records as usual have been received, especially from Miss P. E. Goodliff (P.E.G.) and Mr. J. A. Vaughan (V.) whom we are sorry to lose after his most helpful collaboration during his short stay in the county.

Several records have also been received from Mr. E. V. Rogers (R.) and from Mr. J. E. H. Blackie (B.) of plants seen on the Grafham outing. As usual where no name or initials are given, the records are those of your recorder also indicated by Rec.

Four flowering plants recorded in this report are apparently new to the county. They are: *Geranium lucidum*, *Juglans regia*, *Trifolium micranthum* and *Salix fragilis* var. *basfordiana*. Many of the fungi seen on our Fungus Foray are probably also new county records. Several specimens of an uncommon earthstar fungus, *Geastrum bryantii* Berk., were found by Mr. L. W. Angell in his farmyard at Offord Darcy during 1958 (Herb. Kew).

A "London Catalogue" annotated by the late Mr. E. W. Hunnybun containing many Huntingdonshire records was kindly lent to me (for extracting records) by Dr. S. M. Walters. Many of these records are additional to those given in the "Victoria County History" and were made by Mr. A. Fryer and the Rev. W. R. Linton.

- 6/22 *Ranunculus trichophyllus* Chaix Fennel-leaved Water Crowfoot. Many small plants covering the dried up mud of pond in "The Glade," Monks' Wood, 26/9 (Exc.) Only 2 plants seen flowering there (Herb. Kew). Ramsey Hollow, 24/5/58 (Exc.) Farcet Fen, 28/5/58.
- 101/6 *Stellaria palustris* Retz. Marsh Stichwort. By the "Pike and Eel," Holywell, June (V.) Herb. Kew. ONLY ONE OTHER CURRENT RECORD.
- 112/15 *Hypericum humifusum* L. Trailing St. John's Wort. Felled area in S.W. part of Monks' Wood, 18/7 (Exc.: Miss D. M. Peacock). Herb. Kew.
- 127/13 *Geranium lucidum* L. Shining Cranesbill. Old rly. track between Bluntisham and Earith 21/6 (Exc. per P.E.G.) Herb. Kew. ONLY ONE OTHER RECORD: Stonely, 11/5/53 (I. F. Russell) in Kimbolton School N.H.S. Journ., Vol. 1, No. 3.
- 133/4 *Impatiens glandulifera* Royle Himalayan Balsam. Along the Thrapston road near Spaldwick (Mrs. D. K. Atkinson). THE SECOND RECORD FOR THE COUNTY.
- 151/2 *Ononis repens* L. Rest-Harrow. By roadside and in sand pit, Needingworth, June (V.)

- 155/3 *Trifolium ochroleucon* Huds. Sulphur Clover. Rly bank between Sapley and Abbots Ripton 30/7/58 (P.E.G.); old roadway, Abbots Ripton, 27/6 (Exc.) Herb. Kew.
- 155/13 *T. fragiferum* L. Strawberry Clover. Port Holme, 11/8 (P.E.G.) Roadsides Stilton and Haddon and meadow, Orton Longueville, 5/8 (H. F. Tebbs).
- 155/22 *T. micranthum* V iv. Slender Trefoil. Gravel pit, Needingworth, June (V.) Herb. Kew. FIRST CERTAIN RECORD FOR THE COUNTY.
- 220/7(2) *Epilobium adenocaulon* Hausskn. (det. T. D. Pennington). Disused rly track, Abbots Ripton, 27/6 (Exc.) Herb. Kew.
- 220/7(2)x10 *E. adenocaulon* Hausskn. x *E. montanum* L. (det. T.D.P.) Garden weed, Stibbington, August. Herb. Kew.
- 283/5 *Torilis nodosa* (L.) Gaertn Knotted Hedge-parsley. Field between lane and rly, Grafham, 30/9 (Exc. per B.)
- 371/2 *Matricaria chamomilla* L. Wild Chamomile. Waste land by Hill Farm, Wistow, 1957 and along a fen road, Ramsey, July (Miss F. M. Blackhurst). STATUS IN THE COUNTY UNCERTAIN.
- 409/1 *Cichorium intybus* L. Succory. Roadside near Grafham and roadside, Buckworth (R.)
- 543/6 *Veronica scutellata* L. Marsh Speedwell. By the "Pike and Eel," Holywell, June (V.) Herb. Kew. ONLY ONE OTHER CURRENT RECORD. A VERY RARE HUNTINGDONSHIRE PLANT.
- 588/10 *Plantago major* L. Great Plantain. One plant found exhibiting great proliferation of the bracts forming leaf-like appendages. Along the roadside at Holme Fen, 15/8 (T. Patston and Rec.)
- 626/1 *Viscum album* L. Mistletoe. On poplar near The Edward Home, Huntingdon (P.E.G.) On apple in orchard, Brampton. Planted. (Miss H. G. Layton-Blunt).
- 648/1 *Juglans regia* L. Walnut. L.B.4 pit, Woodston, 28/8 (H. F. Tebbs). Tree 12-15 feet high. Presumably bird sown. OUR FIRST RECORD OF A TRULY WILD WALNUT IN THE COUNTY.
- 650/2 *Salix fragilis* L. var. *basfordiana* (Scaling ex Salt.) Bean (det. R. D. Meikle) "The Glade," Monks' Wood, 26/9 (Exc.) Only one tree seen. NEW TO THE COUNTY.
- 662/1 *Neottia nidus-avis* (L.) Rich. Birds Nest Orchid. Gransden Wood, June and West Wood, near Grafham, July (R.) The latter record was misquoted in our last Report.
- 668/2 *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz Broad Helleborine. West Wood near Grafham, 9/8/58 (R.) Like the *Neottia* this occurred again there during 1959. Herb. Kew.
- 669/5 *Orchis morio* L. Green-winged Orchid. Needingworth, May, 1958 (V.) Herb. Kew.
- 669/10 *O. mascula* L. Early Purple Orchid. Bevill's Wood, Alconbury Weston, 13/5 (P.E.G.)
- 669/11 *O. fuchsii* Druce Spotted Orchid. Rly bk, Sapley, June (P.E.G.)
- 702/4 *Allium vineale* L. Crow Garlic. Brampton, July, 1957 (Mrs. D. K. Atkinson). Great Gransden Common, 19/8/58 (T. Patston and Rec.)

- 707/3 *Ornithogalum nutans* L. Drooping Star-of-Bethlehem. Mill Common, Huntingdon 28/4 (P.E.G.) Known here for several years and believed to be a garden throw-out
- 716/1 *Paris quadrifolia* L. Herb Paris. In Perry Wood, 1954 (R. Fraser & P.E. G.) v.g.h. SAYS "RARE."
- 729/1b *Alisma lanceolatum* With. Around ponds, Glatton, June (J. H. Chandler). Gravel pits, Stibbington, August. Herb. Kew.
- 753/10 *Carex pendula* Huds. Pendulous Sedge. Wood, Abbots Ripton, 27/6 (Exc.)
- 753/34 *C. pallescens* L. Woodwalton Fen (B. F. T. Ducker in *Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves Handbook*, 1959).
- 753/46 *C. acuta* L. Tufted Sedge. Port Holme, 28/4 (P.E.G.)
- 753/53 *C. ovalis* Good Oval Sedge. Disused rly track, Abbots Ripton, 27/6 (Exc.) Herb. Kew. THE ONLY CURRENT RECORD FOR THE COUNTY.
- 753/66 *C. disticha* Huds. Brown Sedge. Stream near Ramsey Abbey, 24/5/58 (Exc.) Port Holme, 28/4 (P.E.G.)
- 753/67 *C. arenaria* L. Sand Sedge Disused rly track, Abbots Ripton, 27/6 (Exc.) Herb. Kew. ONLY ONE OTHER RECORD (UNLOCALISED) FOR THE COUNTY IN "THE COMITAL FLORA."
- 822/1 *Briza media* L. Totter Grass Rly bank between Sapley and Abbots Ripton, 30/7/58 (P.E.G.) Rly cutting, Grafham, 30/9 (Exc. per B.)
- 826/1 *Catapodium rigidum* (L.) C. E. Hubbard Hard Meadow-grass. Old rly track between Bluntisham and Earith, 21/6 (Exc. per T. Patston). Main ride, Monks' Wood, 18/6 (Exc.)
- 866/1 *Ophioglossum vulgatum* L. Adder's Tongue Rly bk, Sapley, 6/5 (P.E.G.) Herb. Kew. Rly cutting, Grafham, 30/9 (Exc. per B.)

### THE FUNGUS FORAY

On 26/9/59 the Society had its first Fungus Foray when members explored the S.W. portion of Monks' Wood—especially the part known as "The Glade." The outing was led by Dr. R. W. G. Dennis of Kew and, during the morning of the same day, Dr. Dennis, in company with Mr. N. Y. Sandwith and myself, visited Woodwalton Fen and a spinney and adjoining roadsides at Sapley. Grateful thanks are due to Dr. Dennis for kindly supplying the following list of identifications of fungi seen on our outing (M.W.), Woodwalton Fen (W.F.) and Sapley (S.) During the whole of the day not a single living agaric was seen.

*Paxillus involutus* (Batsch ex Fr.)Fr.—W.F.

*Acia uda* (Fr.) Bourd. & Galz.—On wood, M.W.

*Grandinia granulosa* (Pers.) Bourd. & Galz. (det. D. A. Reid)—On dead branch, M.W.



*Polyporus betulinus* Fr.—On *Betula* sp., W.F. & M.W.  
*P. squamosus* (Huds.) Fr.—On stump, S.  
*Ganoderma applanatum* (Pers. ex Wahl.) Pat.—On stump, W.F. & S.  
*G. lucidum* (Leys ex Fr.) Karst.—On stump, S.  
*Polystictus versicolor* (L.) Sacc.—On rotten wood, M.W.  
*Poria metamorphosa* (Fuckel) Sacc.—On rotten wood, S.  
*Trametes rubescens* (A. & S. ex Fr.) Fr.—on *Salix* sp., W.F.  
*Clavaria cinerea* Fr.—M.W.  
*Stereum purpureum* (Fr.) Fr. (Silver Leaf)—Leaves of *Prunus insititia* affected by this fungus, W.F.  
*Hymenochaete corrugata* (Fr.) Lév.—On *Corylus avellana*, M.W.  
*H. rubiginosa* (Fr.) Lév.—M.W.  
*Peniophora pubera* (Fr.) Sacc.—On rotten log of *Betula* sp., M.W.  
*Chromocrea gelatinosa* (Tode ex Fr.) Seaver—On rotten wood, M.W.  
*Chlorociboria aeruginosa* (Oeder ex Fr.) Seaver—M.W.  
*Fabraea ranunculi* (Fr.) Karsten—On *Ranunculus repens*, M.W.  
*Orbilbia sarraziniana* Boud.—On wet stick under *Lycopus europaeus*, M.W.  
*Mollisia ligni* (Desm.) Karst.—On decorticated wood of *Quercus robur*, M.W.  
*Thaxteria phaeostroma* (Dur. & Mont.) Booth.—On log, S. (Conidial state).  
*Eutypa* sp.—On decorticated branches, W.F.  
*Diatrype stigma* (Hoffm. ex Fr.) Fr.—M.W.  
*Ceratocystis ambrosia* Bakshi (det. C. Booth)—on *Betula* sp., W.F.  
*Lasiosphaeria hirsuta* (Fr.) Ces. & de Not.—On rotten wood, W.F. & M.W.  
*Hypoxylon rubiginosum* (Pers.) Fr.—On wood, M.W.  
*H. fuscum* (Pers. ex Fr.) Fr.—On *Corylus avellana*, M.W.  
*Coleosporium sonchi* (Str.) Lév.—On *Sonchus asper*, S. & on *Sonchus arvensis*, M.W.  
*C. tussilaginis* (Pers.) Lév.—On *Tussilago farfara*, W.F.  
*Puccinia caricina* DC.—On *Carex pendula*, M.W. Also recorded on our previous outing, 18/6/59 on *C. pseudocyperus*.  
*P. cirsii* Lasch—I & III on *Cirsium palustre*, W.F.  
*P. coronata* Corda—II & III on *Arrhenatherum elatius*, S., ditto on *Holcus* sp., W.F., and ditto on *Agrostis tenuis*, W.F.  
*P. gelchomatis* DC.—On *Glechoma hederacea*, W.F. Also recorded from near by Riddy Wood, 7/9/58 by Mr. N. Y. Sandwith and Rec.  
*P. hieracii* H. Mart.—On *Taraxacum officinale* leaves, S. Also recorded from Stibbington, 29/6/1957.  
*P. lemonnieriana* Maire—On *Cirsium palustre*, W.F.  
*P. menthae* Pers.—On *Mentha arvensis*, M.W.  
*P. polygoni-convolvuli* DC.—On *Polygonum convolvulus*, field by M.W.  
*P. pygmaea* Erikss.—On *Calamagrostis epigeios*, W.F.  
*P. violae* DC.—On *Viola riviniana*, M.W.  
*Pucciniastrum circaeae* (Wint.) Spig.—On *Circaea lutetiana*, M.W.

*Uromyces dactylidis* Otth—II & III on *Dactylis glomerata*, S.  
*U. poae* Rabh.—II & II on *Poa nemoralis*, W.F.  
*U. polygoni-aviculariae* (Pers.) Karst.—On *Polygonum aviculare*, S.  
*Melampsorium betulinum* (Fr.) Kleb.—II on *Betula* seedlings, M.W.  
*Melampsora epitea* Thüm.—II & III on *Salix cinerea*, especially suckers, M.W.  
*Doassansia sagittariae* (Westend.) C. Fisch.—On *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, W.F.  
*Actinonema rosae* Fr.—On *Rosa* sp., M.W.  
*Marssonina potentillae* (Desm.) P. Magn.—On *Potentilla* sp., M.W.  
*Vermicularia lineola* (Corda) Grove—On *Dactylis glomerata*, S.  
*Septoria hydrocotyles* Desm.—On *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, W.F.  
*Epicoccum nigrum* Link.—On *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, W.F.  
*Helminthosporium longipilum* Corda—On *Betula* log, M.W.  
*Botryosporium pulchrum* Corda—On dead stem of *Mentha arvensis*, M.W.  
*Penisillium brevicompactum* Dierckx—On *Paxillus involutus*, W.F., and *Clavaria cinerea*, M.W.  
*Oidium aureum* Link—On wood, M.W.  
*Sphaerotheca humuli* (DC.) Burr var. *fuliginea* (Schlecht.) Salmon—On *Senecio fluviatilis*, W.F., and on *Taraxacum officinale*, S.  
*Erysiphe cichoracearum* DC.—On *Sonchus asper*, S., on *Plantago major*, S., on *Symphytum officinale*, W.F., and on *Sonchus arvensis*, M.W. Also recorded on *Artemisia vulgaris*, Connington Dump, 21/9/57 by Mr. N. Y. Sandwith and Rec., and on *Arctium minus*, Stibbington, 24/8/57.  
*E. polygoni* DC.—On *Heracleum sphondylium* and *Polygonum aviculare*, S., and on *Circaea lutetiana*, M.W. Also recorded on *Ranunculus acris*, Elton meadows, 19/8/57 and on *Angelica sylvestris*, Stibbington, 24/8/57.  
*E. tortilis* (Wallr.) Fr.—On *Cornus sanguinea*, M.W.  
*Hemirichia vesparium* (Batsch) Macbride—On wood, M.W.

### Fungi of Holme Fen—continued.

In our last Report the following spp. were accidentally omitted from page 13 :—

*Paxillus involutus* (Batsch. ex Fr.) Fr., and *Psilocybe atrorufa* (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Quéf.—Denton Fen, 13/8/56.  
*Mycena galericulata* (Scop. ex Fr.) Kummer—On birch stumps, Holme Lode Covert, 7/9/56.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

## ARACHNIDA AND MYRIAPODA II

In the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* (87, September, 51) appeared some notes by Dr. J. L. Cloudeley-Thompson on the Arachnida and Myriapoda of Monks' Wood. With the exception of a preliminary list in V.C.H. and additions made by Dr. Cloudeley-Thompson during 1948 at Holme Fen (Ann. Rep. H.F.F.S., 3) nothing is known about these arthropods in Huntingdonshire. The following additions were made by him and his elder son in Monks' Wood on 3/6/1950, on the occasion of our joint outing with members of the Cambridge Natural History Society :—

Centipedes—*Lithobius crassipes* L. Koch & *Geophilus carpophagus* Leach

Millipedes—*Glomeris marginata* (Villers) & *Ophiulus pilosus* (Newport)

Harvest Spiders—*Megabunus diadema* (F.) & *Opilio parientinus* (Deg.)

Spiders—*Ciniflo fenestralis* Stroem, *Anyphaena accentuata* Walck., *Oxyptila trux* Bl., *Ballus depressus* Walck., *Meta merinae* Scop., *Cyclosa conica* Pallas, *Cercidia promineus* Westr., *Theridion vittatum* C.L.K., *Enoplognatha thoracica* Hahn, *Gonatum rubellum* Bl., *Linyphia peltata* Wid., *Leptyphantes zimmermanni* Bertk., and *L. tenebricola* Wid.

The following millipedes collected by me and most of them kindly determined by Mr. J. Gordon Blower are also new to the county :—

*Iulus scandinavicus* Latzel (female)—Wood S. of inn, Folksworth, 12/4/1952

*Cylindroiulus britannicus* (Verh.) (male and female) ditto.

*Polydesmus gallicus* Latzel (female)—Under bark of oak, Ramsey Hollow, 24/5/1958 (Exc.)

*Polyxenus lagurus* (L.) (det. K. H. Hyatt)—Monks' Wood, 18/7 (Exc.)

JOHN L. GILBERT.

## THE LEPIDOPTERA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE

(Continued)

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

Since these contributions began in 1952 the following super-families have been, however inadequately, covered : Papilionoidea, Hesperioidea, Bombycoidea, Caradrinoidea (=Noctuoidea) (families Sphingidae, Notodontidae, Saturniidae). Of the "Macro-Lepidoptera" there still remain for treatment a few small groups and the big groups Caradrinidae and Geometridae, the latter now subdivided into the four families, Sterrhidae, Geometridae, Hydrimoridae and Selidosemidae. In addition the Pyraloidea ought certainly to be included. The great majority of the insects in these groups only come to the notice of those who are sufficiently interested to look for them and to attract them by light and sugar. They are, in short, collectors' insects and our knowledge of their present status depends almost wholly on the number of collectors working in the county and on their willingness to make their records available. To this may be added what is already published in the *Victoria County History* and the records published in the various entomological journals. I have not at present the leisure to undertake the very laborious task of extracting and collating all this and, even if it were done, it would probably add comparatively little to the story. Visiting collectors go to Monks' Wood, Woodwalton and Holme and almost nowhere else and resident collectors number, at most, four, one of whom refuses to publish his records. A decent knowledge of the county's moths could only be obtained by concerting the observations of a fair number of collectors who would explore their own districts thoroughly and systematically. Schools are admirably suited to this kind of work, and it is disappointing that so little information has come from them.

It is difficult to foresee any likelihood of a change in the situation and the series is continued on the understanding that it is no more than a sketch and in the hope that others may be encouraged to fill in some of the gaps.

I proceed therefore to :—

### 5. Notodontoidea (continued)

#### 3. STERRRHIDAE.

584. *Sterrrha muricata* Hfn. V.C.H. gives "Monks' Wood," and Mr. Pooler records it more recently from Holme. It was probably confined to

these localities which are the kind of territory that it likes, and may still be there. Its habit of flying just before sunrise makes it a little-known species.

592. *S. fuscovenosa* Goetz. Not recorded in V.C.H. Records for Monks' Wood 1953 and Holme Fen 1954 and 1956. It may be near its northern limit of "commonness" here and more information is needed.
588. *S. seriata* Schr. (= *virgularia* Hb). V.C.H. gives "common." Mr. Stanley-Smith took it in Bevill's Wood before the war and Mr. Tebbs at Fletton in 1954. Another species which, common in the south, may be on the borderline here.
594. *S. dilutaria* Hub. V.C.H. gives "Somersham and St. Ives districts." No recent records and one must feel some doubt about the old ones. Its food-plant *Helianthum* is almost unknown in Hunts.
604. *S. emarginata* L. V.C.H. gives Brampton, Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen. Mr. Tebbs found it at Fletton in 1954 and Mr. Pooles at Holme in 1956. Messrs. Gardner and Rivers recorded it as "common in Hunts." in 1954 (*Ent. Rec.*, 15.10.54). Perhaps another "borderline" moth, the border shifting north or south according to climatic and other changes.
597. *S. inornata* Haw. V.C.H. gives an old record from Holme Fen. Nothing recent except one from Mr. Pooles who found it at Holme before the war. A vestigial species.
598. *S. aversata* L. V.C.H. gives "Common." There are recent records from Alconbury (1950), Woodwalton, Holme (1952 and 1956) and Fletton (1953 and 1954), but nothing to suggest that the moth is really common.
599. *S. bisetata* Hfn. Very similar story to *aversata's*. V.C.H. gives "common" and there are recent records from Monks' Wood and Holme Fen but no evidence of wide distribution or commonness.
600. *S. dimidiata* Hfn. V.C.H. gives "common" but pre-war records from Bevill's Wood and one from Alconbury in 1949 are the only recent ones. A thorough search might reveal its presence but it is certainly no longer common.
614. *Scopula rubiginata* Hfn. Dr. G. L. Cox found it at Holme Fen in 1905. No other record but a search at Holme would be worth making.
606. *S. floslactata* Haw. (= *remutaria*, Hb). V.C.H. gives "Bevill's Wood and Monks' Wood." My only record is from Alconbury in 1952.
607. *S. immutata* L. Woodwalton Fen. V.C.H. Holme Fen, 1956 (S. W. P. Pooles). I have not found it nearer than Wicken.
612. *S. emutaria* Hb. ssp. *subroseata*, Haw. "Somersham district" V.C.H. Not a very likely species to turn up now in Hunts. No recent record.
613. *S. imitaria*, Hb. This seems to have been no more successful than its relations in holding its own. V.C.H. gives "Brampton, Conington, Monks' Wood." Mr. Stanley-Smith found it at Brampton in 1933-37. I found it at Alconbury in 1948 and Mr. Tebbs at Fletton in 1950. No more recent record.
616. *Calothysanis amata* L. Fairly common but less so than ten years ago. Recent records from Little Stukeley, Monks' Wood, Alconbury, Ramsey Heights, Holme and Fletton.

618. *Cosymbia punctaria* L. "Monks' Wood and several unspecified records." V.C.H. No recent records. Another "borderline" moth perhaps, common in the south though extending into Scotland. A good many such insects become local and unstable in the Midlands.
619. *C. linearia*, Hb. (*trilinearia*, Borkh) Monks' Wood, V.C.H. The only recent record is for Fletton, 1955 (H. F. Tebbs). It is a beechwood species and never likely to be found regularly in Hunts.
620. *C. annulata* Schulze. The food plant (*Acer campestre*) is a feature of Hunts. woods and hedges but the moth is not common, and perhaps never was. It is essentially a southerner. V.C.H. gives "Warboys and Monks' Wood." I took it in Monks' Wood in 1948 and at Abbots Ripton in 1952. Probably it is still to be found sparingly, but the family as a whole is not prospering.
622. *C. albipunctata*, Hfn. (= *pendularia* auctt.) Holme Fen V.C.H. and S. W. P. Pooles. This very local birch-feeder would be well worth while still looking for at Holme.

N.B.—The numbers are those in Heslop's Check List, 1947; the order that in the County collection.