

HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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**14<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
**1961**

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

# Annual Report for 1961

(No. 14)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting for 1961 was held on 25 March in the Library of Cromwell House, Huntingdon. During the meeting Mr. J. Gilbert was elected as Chairman due to the retirement of Mr. Tebbutt. Major Lynton and Miss P. Goodliff were elected as members of the committee and Mr. Brinkworth was elected as Hon. Social Secretary.

Doctor J. Dony gave a very interesting lecture entitled 'Problems of a Railway Flora'.

Excursions during 1961 were well attended. They were to Diddington Park and woods, Coppingford woods, Blackeney Point and Little Paxton Gravel pits. On each occasion there were not fewer than twenty members present.

The Autumn meeting was held at Huntingdon Grammar School on 10 November. There were two very informative lectures by Dr. Norman W. Moore and Mr. B. S. Milne. Dr. Moore spoke of the work of the Nature Conservancy and Toxic chemicals used in modern agriculture and Mr. Milne of the activities at the Scilly Isles' Bird Observatory. Both lectures were illustrated with coloured slides. After a short break for refreshments the film, 'The Great Adventure', was shown. Thanks are due to Mr. Rowntree, for the use of the hall and equipment, Mr. Fawkes for operating the cinema projector and to the lecturers. The Social Secretary would also thank all other members of the Society who have given him advice and support during the year.

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## MAMMALS

Stoats have become exceedingly scarce in the county. Keepers in Great Staughton Estate have informed me that they know of only one female with a litter this year and they have killed only one. Formerly, as many as 60 were killed in a year.

A recent badger's earth in Savidges Spinney, Easton, was reported in December, 1961. On December 16, 1961, I saw a white hare at Hail Weston, and I am informed that there are several white hares at Great Staughton, on ground where one first appeared about 2 years ago.

C. F. TEBBUTT.

## BIRDS

1961 was remarkable for its mild and frostless early months followed by a sunny Spring. The breeding season was therefore a favourable one, particularly for such ground nesting birds as the Partridge, which completed a recovery of numbers to the level of 12 years ago. However, except for Carrion Crows, all predators are probably lesser in numbers that at any time this century and with no sign of recovery. On the contrary, Bullfinches have never been so common within living memory and Wood-pigeons are as numerous as ever, in spite of their extensive losses by seed poisoning in 1960/61.

Of outstanding interest is the probable breeding of the Golden Oriel, the addition of the Rock Pipit to the county list and the first record of a Ring Ousel for 60 years. Hawfinches have been seen recently near Peterborough and have now crossed our border. In common with neighbouring counties we have had Snow Buntings during the late Winter.

Contributors who are identified by their initials are:—

G. Alcock (G.A.), L. Angel (L.A.), P. Banks (P.B.), R. Conan (R.C.), C. Drage (C.D.), R. Forster (R.F.), W. Garnett (W.G.), D. Garner (D.G.), J. Gilbert (J.G.), Kimbolton School N.H.S. (K.S.N.H.S.), A. Linton (A.L.), A. Kutland (A.K.), Gordon Mason (G.M.), G. Maule (Geo.M.), G. Rivers (G.R.), E. Rogers (E.R.), Your Recorder (Rec.).

*Little Grebe.* June 17th, ad. with 5 young Kimbolton Castle ponds. (K.S.N.H.S.). Lt. Paxton G.P. post breeding flock. (F. of 17). Aug./Sept. (Rec.).

*Cormorant.* Apl. 12th. St. Ives. 2. (GR., D.G.). Oct. 14th, Dec. 6th. Lt. Paxton 1. (Rec.). Nov. 12th, Nene 2. (J.G.).

*Heron.* An increase of 3 nests over 1960. Hemingford Park 18 (+6). St. Neots 6 (+1). Hinchingsbrooke 3 (-4). (Rec.).

*Bittern.* Feb. 4th, 16th, 24th. Paxton 1 (L.A.).

*Garganey.* Apl. 10th, 20th. Lt. Paxton G.P. 1. (Rec.).

*Gadwell.* Lt. Paxton G.P. 1. June 15th, pair Dec. 12th (Rec.). St. Ives G.P. 1. Nov. 25th. (D.G.).

*Shoveller.* Probably bred Lt. Paxton G.P. (Rec.).

*Scaup.* Earith Washes March 5th. 2 m. 4 f. (A.K.).

*Tufted Duck.* Broods of 6, 9, 5, 7 and 5, hatched at Lt. Paxton G.P. and nearly all reached flying stage. (Rec.). Pair attempted breeding Stibbington. Winter flocks; St. Ives G.P. Jan. 8th, 15th, c.100. Nov. 11th. 209 (D.G.) Hartford G.P. Jan. 22nd, c.115 (P.B.).

*Common Pochard.* St. Ives G.P. brood 6 July 29th. Build up of winter flocks at St. Ives; Sept. 30th. 40, Nov. 6th. 60, Nov. 11th. 190 (D.G.).

*Goldeneye.* St. Ives G.P. May 28th. 1, Nov. 5th. 11th, 4. (D.G.).

*Long-tailed Duck.* St. Ives. Nov. 11th, 2. (B. S. Milne).

*Merganser.* Paxton, Dec. 18th, 1. (L.A.).

*Goosander.* Lt. Paxton G.P. Jan. 8th, 1 ad. (Rec.). St. Ives, Feb. 5th, 1. (D.G.).

*Shelduck.* Lt. Paxton, Jan. 15th, 2 (1 f. 1 juv.), Apl. 3rd, 1 (f. or juv.). (Rec.).

*Grey Geese.* Fewer reports than usual. Feb. 2nd, 2 Pink Foot on Bury Fen (D.G.). Nov. 18th, c.30 flying S. over Fletton. (G.A.).

*Canada Goose.* Lt. Paxton, 2 ad. with last years brood of 6 returned Feb. 12th. On March 12th, adults were repelling young from nesting area. By March 20th separation was complete, but the 6 remained as a flock in the vicinity. Goose was sitting on 7 eggs on Apl. 23rd and 2 newly hatched young were seen May 1st. A Mute Swan nesting nearby continually attacked and only 1 young survived to flying stage. (Rec.). At Fletton a pair nested and reared 2 young. (G.A.). At Stibbington 3 pairs attempted to breed, but only one was successful and only 1 young was reared. Later autumn flock of up to 80 seen. (R.F.).

*Whooper Swan.* Bury Fen, Jan. 6th, 3. (D.G.). Paxton, Jan. 1st, 14th, 15th, 1. (L.A.).

*Bewick Swan.* Bury Fen, Jan. 8th, 42. Feb. 2nd, 24. 16th, 5. 28th, 16. (P.B., D.G., Rec.). March 26th, 1. (A.K.). Lt. Paxton G.P. Jan. 31st, 5 displaying (Rec.). St. Ives, Nov. 5th, 10. Earith, Nov. 24th, 10. Dec. 26th, 12. (D.G., Rec.). Nene near Ailsworth, Dec. 26th, 20 flying S. (R. Collier).

*Common Buzzard.* 1 and probably 2 were present Perry and Lady Grove Woods, Jan. and Feb. March 6th, pair seen in display flights, Tilbrook Bushes. Late Oct., 1 found dead near Lady Grove and another seen flying there early Nov. Possibly same bird seen occasionally Kimbolton Park area Nov./Dec. (Rec.).

*Sparrow Hawk.* Almost extinct except as migrant. A pair nested successfully Hinchingsbrooke. Southoe, Oct. 25th, 1 flying W. (Rec.). Sept. 7th, 1 shot Bevills Wood. (E.R.).

*Marsh Harrier.* Elton, Oct. 28th, good view and sketch made of f. (G.A.).

*Montague or Hen Harrier.* Holme Fen, May 25th. A harrier with white rump and grey plumage. (R.F.).

*Merlin.* St. Ives, Oct. 18th, 1. (D.G.).

*Hobby.* Lt. Paxton, July 1st, 1 flying W. (Rec.).

*Kestrel.* Now very rare as a breeder. Of 15 sightings in the year none have been in June or July and only 1 in Aug. (Rec.).

*Peregrine Falcon.* Lady Grove Wood, Stonely. 1 seen several times in late Jan. (Rec.).

*Partridges.* The remarkable recovery in numbers continues, but is rather more marked in the French species. Bags of 100 brace were made in Kimbolton and Gt. Staughton areas. Numbers are now probably what they were 12 years ago. (Rec.).

*Quail.* Washingley, Aug. 7th. Brood 8 seen crossing road. (G.A.).

*Water Rail.* Stibbington G.P. Dec. 26th-28th, 2 (1 ad. 1 juv.). (R.F.). See also Woodwalton Fen.

*Corn Crane.* Gt. Staughton, May, 1 heard. (Rec.).



*Moorhen*. Lt. Paxton G.P., May 7th, nest with 6 eggs in willow, 8ft. above ground. (Rec.).

*Ringed Plover*. Lt. Paxton G.P., Aug. 13th, 1. Sept. 6th, 7th, 2. Sept. 8th, 13th, 16th, 1. (Rec.).

*Lt. Ringed Plover*. Single bird arrived in one area March 31st. April 4th, 3 seen. April 21st display flights. May 22nd one hen sitting on unusual number of 5 eggs. May 31st another hen sitting on 4 eggs only 30 yards away. Only 1 cock seemed to be present. First nest hatched June 14th and other June 22nd. By June 25th the broods had been reduced to 2 and 3 and on June 28th a flock of 6 were seen flying. (Rec.). In another area birds were first seen April 12th and 2 chicks on July 29th. (D.G.).

*Golden Plover*. Portholme, Jan. 18th, 26th, flock c.1000. Eynesbury, March 29th, c.50. Offord, Oct. 12th, c.50. (Rec.).

*Jack Snipe*. St. Ives, 1 May 11th. (D.G.). Lt. Paxton G.P., several Oct. 22nd. (Rec.).

*Woodcock*. Usual numbers breeding. Larger than usual winter population 1960/61, and smaller 1961/62. (Rec.).

*Curlew*. St. Ives, Feb. 22nd, 1 flying N. (D.G.). Lt. Paxton, July 11th, 1 flying W. July 12th, 2. (Rec.). Abbots Ripton, June 25th, passage Aug. 8th, 14.

*Whimbrel*. Lt. Paxton, March 31st, 1 flying N.E. April 10th, 1. (Rec.).

*Green Sandpiper*. Lt. Paxton G.P. First seen May 20th. Numbers from 1—6 present July 4th—Sept. 17th. (Rec.). St. Ives G.P., ditto July 14th—Sept. 7th. Nov. 28th—Dec. 23rd, 2 apparently wintering there. (D.G.).

*Common Sandpiper*. Spring migration April 12th—May 19th. Return July 9th—Oct. 14th. (D.G., Rec.).

*Redshank*. Several (apparently non-breeders) present during Spring and Summer at Lt. Paxton G.P., Stibbington G.P., Connington Fen peat diggings. 1 Lt. Paxton, Dec. 30th, during hard weather. (R.F., Rec.).

*Spotted Redshank*. Lt. Paxton G.P. April 14th, 1. (Rec.).

*Greenshank*. Lt. Paxton. Spring migration May 18th, 20th. 1/2 almost always present July 30th—Sept. 22nd. Last seen Oct. 14th. (Rec.).

*Dunlin*. Lt. Paxton G.P. Spring migration April 10th—May 11th. (Rec.).

*Ruff*. Lt. Paxton G.P. Sept. 6th, 4. (Rec.).

*Gt. Black-backed Gull*. Hartford G.P., March 29th, 1. (G.R.). Lt. Paxton, several throughout Dec. (Rec.).

*Lesser Black-backed Gull*. Stibbington, March 3rd, 1 flying N.E. (R.F.). Lt. Paxton, March 31st, 3. Sept. 2nd, 3 ad. and 4 juv. stayed 15 minutes bathing, then 1 ad. rose flying S. and all followed. Single birds throughout Sept., early Oct. and Nov. 5th (Rec.). St. Ives, Dec. 10th, 1. (D.G.). Fletton, Dec. 16th, 1. (G.A.).

*Herring Gull*. Lt. Paxton, March 26th, 1. (Rec.). St. Ives, April 23rd, 23 flying N.E. (G.R.). Throughout late Oct., Nov., Dec., small numbers fighting into county each day. (G.A., Rec.).

*Black-headed and Common Gulls*. The usual Autumn and Winter daily flights into the county, previously always up the Ouse valley in the morning, have been replaced in the upper reaches of the river by flights down in the

morning from roosts in Bedfordshire. Late in the year in the St. Neots area there was, each evening, some movement in each direction, but with the greater numbers going towards Bedford. (Rec.).

*Black Tern*. Fenstanton, April 29th, 1/2 (P.B., D. Cox). Lt. Paxton, May 19th, 1. (Rec.).

*Com./Arctic Tern*. First migrants Stibbington, April 16th. (R.F.). Many records Fletton and elsewhere, April 29th—Aug. 7th. (G.A., D.G.).

*Little Tern*. Stibbington, several during July and Aug. (R.F.).

*Wood Pigeon*. Very numerous in spite of heavy poisoning in 1960/61. Nest with young, Stirtloe, Feb. 15th. (A.L.), and another with newly hatched young Bevills Wood, Nov. 14th. (E.R.).

*Long-eared Owl*. See Woodwalton Fen.

*Short-eared Owl*. Widespread records in early months. Connington Fen peat diggings, Jan. 26th, 6; March 12th, 12. (J. Thompson, G.M.). Salome Wood, Jan. 20th, 4; March 15th, 1. Brampton Wood, March 8th, 1. (E.R.). Littlers Wood, Perry, Feb. 21st, 1. (Rec.). End Dec., Connington Fen, 5/6. (G.M.).

*Golden Oriel*. A pair were first seen in Brampton Wood, May 22nd, and on several occasions up to about July 10th. The unusual song first attracted attention and then the cock birds was seen and later the hen. No nest was found, but they remained in the same area of woodland and are believed to have nested. (Mark Abraham). The only county record in last 50 years.

*Hooded Crow*. St. Ives, March 19th, 1. (G.R., D.G.).

*Rook*. In the sample rookeries the decline still continues. St. Neots 61 (-111). Lt. Paxton 79 (-9). Diddington 164 (-34). (Rec.).

*Magpie*. A further decline. Now a rare breeding bird. Of 13 records sent in only 2 were within the breeding season. (G.A., E.R., Rec.).

*Ring Ousel*. Stibbington, April 17th, 1, on ploughed field. (R.F.). Only county record this century.

*Wheatear*. Few records for Spring passage. Return Aug. 9th—Sept. 5th. A juv. in Connington Fen July 11th. (G.R., L.A., R.C., Rec.). Late passage Oct. 4th—12th. (C.D., Geo. M.).

*Winchat*. March 28th, 1, Farcet Fen. (G.A.). Apl. 11th, 1, Stibbington. (R.F.). Aug. 27th, 1, Abbotsley. (R.C.).

*Com. Redstart*. Sept. 10th, 1, Houghton. (G.R.). See also Woodwalton Fen.

*Wood Warbler*. April 26th, 1, Stibbington. (R.F.).

*Goldcrest*. May 15th, 2 nests, Kimbolton Park. (K.S.N.H.S.). Several near Wyton Camp, March 19th and Sept. 18th—25th. (G.R.). Dec. 10th, 5/6, Brampton Park. (L.A.).

*Pied Flycatcher*. Sept. 9th, 1, Wyton Camp. (G.R.).

*Rock Pipit*. Apl. 9th, 1, St. Ives Meadow Lane, G.P. (G.R.). A first county record.

*White Wagtail*. March 17th, 26th, 1, Wyton. (G.R.).

*Grey Wagtail*. Oct. 28th, 2, Stanground. (G.A.). Nov. 11th, Dec. 12th, 1, St. Ives. (D.G.). Dec. 23rd, 2, Offord. (L.A.). Dec. 31st, 1, Wansford. (J.G.).

*Gt. Grey Shrike*. May 11th, 1, near Grafham. (K.S.N.H.S.).

*Hawfinch.* April 1st, 4, Fletton pits. (G.A.). The first certain record for 8 years.

*Siskin.* Flock Holme Fen during Feb. and early Nov. and Dec. (G.M., Rec.). Dec. 24th, several Salome Wood. (G.A.). See also Woodwalton Fen.

*Redpole.* Jan. 30th, several Holme Fen. (E.R.). March 31st, several Monks Wood. (P.B.). April 25th, several Bevills Wood. (E.R.). Winter several Kimbolton Woods. (Rec.).

*Bullfinch.* A larger than ever breeding population that would seem to have been increased by migration during Autumn and Winter. (Rec.).

*Chaffinch.* Probably scarcer than at any time during last 50 years. (Rec.).

*Brambling.* Oct. 8th, 1 ringed Stibbington. (R.F.).

*Snow Bunting.* Nov. 28th, Flock 7, St. Ives. (D.G.). Only record since 1954.

*Tree Sparrow.* Usual winter flocks. March 4th, c. 100, Glatton. Lt. Paxton, April 22nd, 10. Dec. 3rd, c. 100. (Rec.).

C. F. TEBBUTT

#### ADDENDUM

Records received late. All from Meadow Lane, Gravel Pits, St. Ives.

*Pintail.* 52, December 9th.

*Greenshank.* 7, October 8th. 1, November 5th.

*Dunlin.* 3, November 5th.

*Arctic Skua* (dark phase). 1, September 7th. (A first record in the county).

*Glaucous Gull* (1st winter). 1, November 5th.

*Rock Pipit.* 1, October 30th.

*Siskin.* Few, October 30th.

*Redpoll.* Few, October 30th.

*Snow Bunting.* 7, November 24th.

(B. S. Milne via Cambridge Bird Club).

#### WOODWALTON FEN

I visited the Fen on May 9 and 23 to inspect the nest boxes. Of the 40 "tit type" boxes 31 were occupied; 26 by Tree Sparrows, 3 by Gt. Tits and 2 by Blue Tits. 4 boxes had been successfully attacked by predators, 2 apparently by Woodpeckers (enlarged hole) and 2 by Squirrels (lid removed). 1 dove box had been attacked by Squirrels and the other had a brood of Starlings followed by Tree Sparrows. The tunnel box had a deserted nest of Tawney Owl with 1 egg.

New bird records for the Fen were 2 Short-eared Owls seen at the end of March. A Long-eared Owl found dead April 10, Common Redstart seen May 9. Both English and French Partridges were present in May and apparently breeding. Siskins were again present in Nov./Dec., and an unusually large number of Water Rails at the end of December.

#### MIGRANT DATES, 1961

<i>Lt. Ringed Plover.</i>	March 31st. (Rec.). August 10th. (Rec.).
<i>Golden Plover.</i>	March 29th. Eynesbury. (Rec.). October 12th. Offord. (Rec.).
<i>Turtle Dove.</i>	April 13th. Hilton. (W.G.). September 13th. Paxton. (Rec.).
<i>Cuckoo.</i>	April 10th. Paxton. (L.A.).
<i>Swift.</i>	April 29th. Paxton. (L.A.). Fletton. (G.A.). Fenstanton. (G.R., P.B.). May 4th. St. Neots residents. (Rec.). August 10th/11th. St. Neots residents left. (Rec.). Oct. 15th. Paxton. (L.A.).
<i>Swallow.</i>	March 31st. Stibbington. (R.F.). April 12th. Paxton residents. (L.A.). April 17th. Grafham residents. (E.R.). October 27th. Paxton. (L.A.). October 28th. Stibbington. (R.F.).
<i>House Martin.</i>	April 5th. Fletton. (G.A.). November 4th. Stanground. (G.A.).
<i>Sand Martin.</i>	March 19th. Brampton. (E.R.). St. Ives. (D.G., Rec.). Paxton. (Rec.). April 23rd. Paxton residents. (Rec.). October 26th. (E.R.).
<i>Fieldfare.</i>	April 17th. Brampton. (E.R.). October 4th. Paxton. (L.A.).
<i>Redwing.</i>	March 31st. Holme. (G.A.). September 14th. Farcet. (G.A.).
<i>Wheatear.</i>	March 27th. Connington. (G.A.). October 7th. Woodwalton Fen. (Geo. M.).
<i>Nightingale.</i>	April 14th. Bevills Wood. (E.R.).
<i>Grasshopper Warbler.</i>	April 10th. Woodwalton Fen. (G.M.).
<i>Reed Warbler.</i>	May 6th. St. Neots. (Rec.).
<i>Sedge Warbler.</i>	April 9th. Paxton. (L.A.). Sept. 3rd. Paxton. (Rec.).
<i>Blackcap.</i>	March 19th. St. Ives. (G.R.).

<i>Garden Warbler.</i>	April 11th.	Houghton.	(Rec.).
<i>Whitethroat.</i>	April 9th.	St. Ives.	(G.R., D.G.).
	Sept. 18th.	Wyton.	(G.R.).
<i>Lesser Whitethroat.</i>	April 26th.	Paxton.	(L.A.).
<i>Willow Warbler.</i>	April 4th.	Brampton.	(E.R.).
	April 5th.	Hilton.	(L.A.).
<i>Chiffchaff.</i>	March 17th.	Brampton.	(E.R.).
	March 19th.	St. Ives.	(G.R.).
	Sept. 25th.	St. Ives.	(G.R.).
<i>Spotted Flycatcher.</i>	May 11th.	Stirtloe.	(A.L.).
	Aug. 30th.	Wyton.	(G.R.).
<i>Yellow Wagtail.</i>	April 12th.	St. Ives.	(D.G.).
	Sept 17th.	St. Neots.	(Rec.).

C. F. TEBBUTT.

#### LEPIDOPTERA

There is very little to record and I have received no information from any quarter. I had very few opportunities for observation but my impression is that it was a disastrously bad year. Monks Wood, Bevills Wood, Diddington Park, and Diddington Wood, were all unproductive even of the commoner species *Maniola jurtina* L was almost a rarity! Butterflies, in fact, have ceased to be a feature of the rural scene for reasons that are far from clear.

The diminution of the *Lycaenidae* and *Hesperiidae* may well be attributable to spraying but the woodlanders, in particular the *Argynnids*, are in equally poor case and the migrant *Vanissids* have been very scarce.

Visits to France in recent Augusts have convinced me that a similar though much less extreme situation exists there in many parts.

I hope that the greatly reinforced team of expert observers which the coming of the Conservancy is bringing into the County will lead to a systematic and extensive investigation into the facts and their causes.

It is of interest to note that Mr. B. O. C. Gardiner, F.R.E.S., has published in *The Entomologists Gazette*, Vol. 12, No. 4, an article on the Pyraloidea of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. This group which includes the Pearls, Plumes and grass-moths has been very incompletely studied and Mr. Gardiner has added much material to our knowledge of it in this county.

J. E. H. BLACKIE

#### FLORA

Once again very few records have been received. Our botanical outings (Exc.) were—as usual—a success. The large number of garden remnants seen on the Diddington outing are omitted, as it is doubtful that many will increase there.

During the year an important work on British botany appeared, *A New Illustrated British Flora* by Dr. R. W. Butcher. Despite various attempts since the war to popularize our wild flowers this is the best so far and is heartily recommended to all.

We are very sorry to lose Mr. E. V. Rogers (R.), who has now left the county. Other contributors of several records are: L. W. Angell (A.), J. H. Chandler (J.H.C.), W. O. Copland (W.O.C.), J. G. Dony (J.G.D.) and Mrs. Phyllida Rixon (P.R.). As usual where no name or initials are given the records are those of your recorder. All the records from Norman Cross were made in company with Miss D. Peacock and Mr. T. Patston and all plants believed to be new to the county are indicated thus \*.

#### Flowering Plants:—

6/4	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i> L.	Goldilocks. Small wood nr. West Wood, Grafham, 9/6/60 (R.).
6/9	<i>R. arvensis</i> L.	Corn Buttercup. Roadside and cornfield, Perry, 28/5/60 (Exc.).
11/1	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> L.	Columbine. Nr. Grafham, 21/5 (W.O.C.). ONLY TWO PREVIOUS RECORDS.
*14/1	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> L.	aggregate. Monkshood. Naturalized, Stow Longa churchyard, 19/6/60 (W.O.C.).
17/1	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.	Common Barberry. Rough ground, Ellington, 8/8/55 (D. A. Davies & Recorder). Offord Darcy, 1957 (A.). Hedgerow, Tilbrook, 8/5 (W.O.C.).
49/7	<i>Arabis thaliana</i> (L.) Heynh.	Thale-cress. Nr. Grafham, 21/5 (W.O.C.).
101/7	<i>Stellaria graminea</i> L.	Lesser Stitchwort. Parkland, Kimbolton Castle, 4/7/55 (O. N. Bishop). Monks' Wood, 18/6/59 (Exc.). Abundant in pasture, Norman Cross, 24/6. Diddington Park, 24/6 (Exc.).
104/1	<i>Spergula arvensis</i> L.	Corn Spurrey. By Diddington Wood, 24/6 (Exc. per J.H.C.).
128/3	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> (L.) L'Herit.	Common Storksbill. Offord Cluny, 1957 (A.). St. Neots rly. sidings, 17/6 (J.G.D.).
149/1	<i>Ulex europaeus</i> L.	Gorse. Kimbolton airfield (W.O.C.).
154/2	<i>Melilotus alba</i> Desr.	White Melilot. Roadside, Gt. Stukeley (R.).
176/34	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i> (L.) S. F. Gray	Hairy Tare. Nr. Grafham, 21/5 (W.O.C.).

- 176/35 *V. tetrasperma* (L.) Schreb. Smooth Tare. By Diddington Wood, 24/6 (Exc. per J.H.C.).
- 178/8 *Lathyrus nissolia* L. Grass Vetchling. By Gt. Nth. Rd., nr. Connington (R.).
- 183/2 *Prunus padus* L. Bird-cherry. Kimbolton Castle grounds, 17/6/60 (W.O.C.). ONLY ONE PREVIOUS RECORD.
- \*197/6 *Cotoneaster horizontalis* Decne. Wallspray. Bird-sown, garden, Stibbington, 1959. NOT CULTIVATED IN THE VICINITY.
- 211/10 *Sedum dasyphyllum* L. Thick-leaved Stonecrop. On wall top, Huntingdon, 14/4/60 (Miss P. E. Goodliff). ONLY ONE PREVIOUS RECORD.
- 259/1 *Scandix pecten-veneris* L. Shepherds Needle. By Diddington Wood, 24/6 (Exc. per J.H.C.). Cornfield, Perry, 28/5/60 (Exc.).
- \*312/6 *Solidago canadensis* L. Canadian Golden-rod. Lagoons area, St. Neots, 3/9 (Miss M. J. Eldridge). Also recorded from there by Miss Eldridge and Mr. Tebbutt during 1958. Little Paxton gravel pits, 13/8/60 (Exc.). Known there for some time by Mr. Tebbutt.
- \*320/4 *Erigeron bonariensis* L. One plant among paving stones by a garage, Stibbington, 23/9. Introduced from Spain via the tyres of a caravan or car.
- 395/3(2) *Carduus tenuiflorus* Curt. Seaside Thistle. St. Neots rly. sidings, 17/6 (J.G.D.).
- \*527/1 *Verbascum phlomoides* L. Orange Mullein. Waste ground, Staughton Moor, 4/8/58 (N. Y. Sandwith and Recorder).
- 532/2 *Linaria purpurea* (L.) Mill. Purple Toadflax. Kimbolton House grounds, 29/6/55 (O. N. Bishop).
- 550/10 *Orobancha minor* Sm. Lesser Broomrape. On clover by farmyard, Little Paxton (P.R.). ONLY ONE PREVIOUS RECORD.
- 600/3 *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* L. Good King Henry. Gaynes Hall grounds, 1954 (R.F.). Little Catworth, 29/5/57 (S. M. Walters). Little Paxton (P.R.).
- 628/16 *Euphorbia lathyris* L. Caper Spurge. Nr. gravel pits, Little Paxton (P.R.).
- 644/1 *Carpinus betulus* L. Hornbeam. Sapley spinnies, 1959 (R.W.G. Dennis, N. Y. Sandwith and Recorder). Old tree, Diddington Park (Exc.).
- 648/1 *Juglans regia* L. Walnut. Young trees, Diddington Park (Exc.). Presumably bird-sown.
- 706/3 *Endymion non-scriptus* (L.) Garcke. Bluebell. White-flowered form. Common, Bevill's Wood, April (J. E. H. Blackie).
- 753/10 *Carex pendula* Huds. Pendulous Sedge. Kimbolton (J.H.C.). Coppingford Wood, 28/6 (Exc. per R.).
- 753/62 *C. divulsa* Stokes. Grey Sedge. One large plant, Diddington Park, 24/6 (Exc.).
- \*782/1 *Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf. Annual Beard-grass. St. Neots rly. sidings, 17/6 (J.G.D.).

- 822/1 *Briza media* L. Totter Grass. Abundant in pasture, Norman Cross, 24/6.
- 826/3 *Festuca arundinacea* Schreb. Tall Fescue. Abbots Ripton, 27/6/59 (Exc.). Diddington Park, 24/6 (Exc. per T. Patston).

Fungi of Stibbington continued from 1960 Report:—

#### AGARICALES

- \**Mycena mairei* (Gill.) Kuhner—Lawn, 23/4.

#### APHYLLOPHORALES

- Auricularia auricula-judae* Schroet.—On elder, Tollbar Spinney, 29/3/59.
- Dacrymyces deliquescens* (Bull.) Duby—Very common everywhere on fences, etc.
- Polystictus versicolor* (L.) Sacc.—Very common on dead apple trees.

#### ASCOMYCETES

- \**Coprobria granulata* (Bull. ex Fr.) Boud.—On cow dung nr. stone quarry, Sibson, 19/8/57 and nr. Stibbington Hall, 24/8/57.
- \**Microsphaera alphitoides* Griffon et Maublanc (conidial state)—On *Quercus robur*, Tollbar Spinney, 20/8/57.
- \**Mollisia* sp. cf. *M. melaleuca* (Fr.) Sacc.—Tollbar Spinney, 29/3/59.
- \**M. sp. cf. ligni* (Desm.) Karst. var. *olivascens* Grelet non Feltgen—Tollbar Spinney, 29/3/59.
- \**Nectria peziza* (Tode) Fr.—On apple log, September, 1956. (det. C. Booth).
- \**Propolis versicolor* (Fr.) Fr.—On apple (Warners King), 1/7/58.
- \**Pseudopeziza medicaginis* (Lib.) Sacc.—Leaves of *Medicago lupulina*, stone quarry, Sibson, 19/8/57.

#### HYPHOMYCETES

- Trichoderma viride* Pers. ex Fr.—On rotten twigs, Tollbar Spinney, 24/8/57.

#### UREDINALES

- \**Melampsora euphorbiae* Cast.—On *Euphorbia peplus*, 25/3/57 (Small spur forming on undersides of leaves of second year plants affected by rust).
- \**M. rostrupii* Wagner—On *Mercurialis perennis*, Tollbar Spinney, 20/5/57.
- Puccinia caricina* DC.—On *Urtica dioica*, gravel pits, 24/5/56.
- \**P. hysterium* Röhl.—On *Tragopogon pratensis* nr. Nene, 24/5/56.
- \**P. obtegens* Tul. ex Fuckel.—On *Cirsium arvense*, gravel pits, 31/5/58.
- \**Uromyces kabatianus* Bub.—Leaves of *Geranium pratense*, Sutton Ford, 24/8/57.

On 15/10 Dr. R. W. G. Dennis again visited the S.W. portion of Monks' Wood in company with Mr. and Mrs. E. Miln-Redhead and myself. We also visited Woodwalton Fen.

Dr. Dennis has kindly prepared the following lists of determinations of the fungi collected :—

#### Fungi of Woodwalton Fen, 15.10.61.

##### AGARICALES

- \**Lactarius torminosus* (Schaeff. ex Fr.) S. F. Gray—Under *Betula* sp.
- \**L. lacunarum* Romagn.
- \**Russula gracillima* J. Schaeffer—Under *Betula* sp.
- \**Amanita phalloides* (Vaill. ex Fr.) Secretan—Under *Quercus* sp.
- \**Lepiota subincarnata* Lange.
  - Clitocybe dealbata* (Sow. ex Fr.) Kummer—In grass rides.
- \**Collybia dryophila* (Bull. ex Fr.) Kummer—Under *Quercus* sp.
- \**Mycena filopes* (Bull. ex Fr.) Kummer
- \**Agrocybe vervacti* (Fr.) Maire—In grass rides.
- \**Hebeloma pusillum* Lange
- \**Inocybe geophylla* (Sow. ex Fr.) Kummer
  - I. geophylla* var. *lilacina* Gillet
- \**Galerina clavata* (Vel.) Kühner—In grass rides.
  - G. unicolor* (Vahl ex Sommerfeldt) Singer—On sticks.
- \**Conocybe macrocephala* (Kühner) Kühner & Romagnesi—In grass rides.
  - Tubaria furfuracea* (Pers. ex Fr.) Gillet—On sticks.
- \**Psathyrella albidula* (Romagnesi) Moser var. *palustris* (Romagnesi)
- \**P. conopilea* (Fr.) Pearson & Dennis
- \**Panaeolus rickeni* Hora—In grass rides.
  - Paxillus involutus* (Batsch ex Fr.) Fr.—Under *Quercus* sp.
- \**Boletus badius* Fr.
  - B. scaber* Bull. ex Fr.
  - Stropharia aeruginosa* (Curt. ex Fr.) Quéf.

##### APHYLLOPHORALES

- Polyporus betulinus* Bull. ex Fr.—On *Betula* sp.
- \**Tomentella* sp.

##### UREDINALES

- Melampsora populnea* (Pers.) Karst.—III on *Populus tremula*.

##### USTILAGINALES

- \**Thecaphora seminis-convolvuli* (Duby) Liro—On *Calystegia sepium*.

#### Fungi of Monks' Wood, Sawtry, 15.10.61.

##### AGARICALES

- Amanita muscaria* (L. ex Fr.) Hook.
- Mycena galericulata* (Scop. ex Fr.) S. F. Gray
- M. galopus* (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer
- \**M. filopes* (Bull. ex Fr.) Kummer
- Micromphale foetidum* (Sow. ex Fr.) Singer
- Laccaria laccata* (Scop. ex Fr.) Cooke
- Marasmius ramealis* (Bull. ex Fr.) Fr.—On ash twigs.
- M. epiphyllus* (Pers. ex Fr.) Fr.—On ash petioles.
- \**Hebeloma longicaudum* (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer
- \**Resupinatus rhacodium* (Berk. & Curt.) Singer—On branches.
- \**Inocybe geophylla* (Sow. ex Fr.) Kummer
  - I. geophylla* var. *lilacina* Gillet
- \**Galerina clavata* (Vel.) Kühner—In grass rides.
- \**Crepidotus mollis* (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Kummer—On branches.
  - Coprinus lagopus* (Fr.) Fr.
  - C. plicatilis* (Curt. ex Fr.) Fr.

##### APHYLLOPHORALES

- \**Daedalea biennis* Bull. ex Fr.
- \**Poria versipora* (Pers.) Baxter
- Trametes rubescens* (A. & S. ex Fr.) Fr.
- Typhula erythropus* Fr.—On ash petioles.
- Exidia nucleata* (Schw.) Burt

##### ASCOMYCETES

- \**Daldinia concentrica* (Bolt. ex Fr.) Ces. & de Not.—On ash branches.
- \**Calycella citrina* (Hedw. ex Fr.) Quéf.
- \**Ceratostomella* sp.—On rotten ash wood.
- \**Peziza anthracophila* Dennis—On burnt ground.

##### FUNGI IMPERFECTI

- \**Phomopsis conii* Died.—On dead stem of *Conium maculatum*.
- \**Penicillium claviforme* Bainier—On bird dropping.

##### MYXOMYCETES

- Trichia varia* Pers.—On rotten ash wood.



### Additional Monks' Wood fungi :—

The following spp. recorded on 15/10/60 should be added to those listed on pages 13—15 of our 1960 Report.

Agaricales—*Coprinus micaceus* (Bull. ex Fr.) Fr., \**Mycena inclinata* (Fr.) Quél., *Tubaria furfuracea* (Pers. ex Fr.) Gillet

Aphylophorales—*Dacrymyces deliquescens* (Bull.) Duby, *Fistulina hepatica* (Huds.) Fr., \**Phlebia merismoides* Fr. ex Fr., \**Stereum gausapatum* (Fr.) Fr., \**S. hirsutum* (Fr.) Fr., *S. purpureum* (Fr.) Fr., \**Typhula gyrans* (Batsch.) Fr. sensu Remsberg specimens in Hb. Kew (det. D. A. Reid).

Ascomycetes—\**Phialea cyathoidea* (Fr.) Gill., *Xylaria hypoxylon* (L. ex Fr.) Grev.

Hyphomycetes—*Trichoderma viride* Pers. ex Fr.

14/10/57 \**Clavaria inaequalis* (Mull.) Quél. (Mrs. D. K. Atkinson).

23/3/57 \**Trichia decipiens* (Pers.) Macbr.

30/12/60 \**Strossmayeria basitricha* (Sacc.) Dennis, *Comatrica nigra* Schroet.

25/2/61 *Calvatia gigantea* (Pers.) Lloyd (J. E. H. Blackie).

### Holme Fen fungi, 3.9.61.

On 3/9 the Kettering Naturalists' Society visited Holme Fen and thanks are due to Mr. G. F. Laundon of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute for sending me a list of 18 spp. seen there of which the following have not previously been recorded for this locality :—

\**Collybia maculata* (Alb. & Schw. ex Fr.) Kummer, \**Russula fellea* (Fr.) Fr., \**Coleosporium senecionis* Fr. on *Senecio sylvatica*, *Melampsorium betulinum* (Fr.) Kleb. on *Betula* sp., \**Phragmidium violaceum* (Schultz) Wint. on *Rubus fruticosus* agg., \**Puccinia arenariae* (Schum.) Wint. on Caryophyllaceae indet., \**P. circaeae* Pers. on *Circaea lutetiana*, *P. coronata* Corda on *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *P. pygmaea* Erikss. on *Calamagrostis epijegos*, *P. taraxaci* Plowr. on *Taraxacum* sp., *P. violae* DC. on *Viola* sp., \**Pucciniastrum epilobii* Oth on *Chamaenerion angustifolium*.

JOHN L. GILBERT

### HUNTINGDONSHIRE SPRINGTAILS

No lists of Huntingdonshire Collembola have so far been published and the following are probably all first records for the county. I am indebted to Mr. Peter N. Lawrence of the British Museum (Natural History) for naming my specimens. The 32 springtails listed are arranged according to "A Check List of British Insects" by G. S. Kloet and W. D. Hincks (1945).

*Hypogastrura (Ceratophysella) armata* (Nicolet). Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61.

*Brachystomella parvula* (Schaeffer). Old wheat stack near Monks' Wood, 20/5/61.

*Friezea mirabilis* (Tullberg). Peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Anurida granaria* (Nicolet), agg. Peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Onychiurus armatus* (Tullberg), agg. Peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Tullbergia krausbaueri* (Börner). Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61; peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61; soil by Tollbar Spinney Pond, Stibbington, 9/11/61.

*Folsomia quadrioculata* (Tullberg). Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61; leaf mould, Monks' Wood, and peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Isotoma viridis* Bourlet. Beneath moss, Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington, 29/3/59; rotting vegetation by Nene, Stibbington, 18/8/60; water tank, Stibbington, 26/3/61.

*I. violacea* Tullberg. Leaf litter, Tollbar Spinney, Stibbington, 9/11/61.

*I. (Pseudoisotoma) sensibilis* Tullberg. On flowerpot in house, Stibbington, 23/3/61; beneath moss, Monks' Wood, 20/3/61.

*I. notabilis* Schäffer. Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61; peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61; pollarded *Salix alba* and soil by Tollbar Spinney Pond, Stibbington, 9/11/61.

*Tomocerus minor* (Lubbock). Old wheat stack by Monks' Wood, 18/7/59 and 20/5/61; beneath rotten wood, Monks' Wood, 30/12/60; rotting vegetation by Nene, Stibbington, 21/7/59; pollarded *Salix alba* and soil by Tollbar Spinney Pond, 9/11/61; beneath moss, Holme Fen, 25/5/60.

*Isotomurus palustris* (Müller). Beneath moss, Holme Fen, 25/5/60; beneath moss, Monks' Wood, 20/5/61; peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61; soil by Tollbar Spinney Pond, Stibbington, 9/11/61.

*Orchesella cincta* (L.). Monks' Wood, 18/7/59; beneath moss, Holme Fen, 15/8/59; pollarded *Salix alba* and by Tollbar Spinney Pond, Stibbington, 9/11/61. Other Stibbington records are omitted as this is probably our commonest species.

*O. villosa* (L.). Monks' Wood, 18/7/59.

*Pseudosinella alba* (Packard). Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61; beneath moss, Holme Fen, 25/5/61.

*Entomobrya albocincta* (Templeton). Garden privet litter, Stibbington, 19/7/59; pollarded *Salix alba*, Stibbington, 9/11/61; beneath moss, Monks' Wood, 20/5/61.

*E. nivalis* L. Rotting vegetation by Nene, Stibbington, 18/8/60.

*E. muscorum* (Tullberg). Water tank, etc., Stibbington, 26/3/61

*E. multifasciata* (Tullberg). Rotting vegetation by Nene, Stibbington, 18/8/60.

*Lepidocyrtus lanuginosus* (Gmelin). Beneath moss, Holme Fen, 25/5/60; beneath rotten wood, Monks' Wood, 30/12/60.

*L. cyaneus* Tullberg. Rotting vegetation by Nene, Stibbington, 18/8/60; pollarded *Salix alba* and soil by Tollbar Spinney Pond, 9/11/61; old wheat stack near Monks' Wood, 20/5/61.

*Seira domestica* (Nicolet). Water tank, Stibbington, 21/7/59, 15/8/60, 26/3/61 and 24/5/61.

*Willowsia nigromaculata* (Lubbock). Water tank, Stibbington, 15/8/60, 26/3/61 and 24/5/61.

*Cyphodurus albinos* Nicolet. Nest of yellow ant (*Lasius flavus*), pasture, Norman Cross, 24/6/61.

*Megalothorax minimus* Willem. Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61; leaf mould, Monks' Wood and peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Sminthurides malmgreni* (Tullberg), agg. Peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Sphaeridia pumilio* (Krausbauer). Leaf mould, Diddington Wood, 24/6/61; leaf mould, Monks' Wood and peat, Woodwalton Fen, 15/10/61.

*Sminthurinus aureus* (Lubbock). Leaf mould, Monks' Wood and peat, Woodwalton, 15/10/61.

*S. niger* (Lubbock). Bird bath in garden, Stibbington, 17/4/60.

*Allacma fusca* (L.). On ash bole, Riddy Wood, Woodwalton, 7/9/58; active, Monks' Wood, 15/10/61.

*Dicyrtomina minuta* (Fabricius). Soil by Tollbar Spinney Pond, Stibbington, 9/11/61.

Those recorded from Monks' Wood and Woodwalton Fen on 15/10/61 were collected in company with Dr. R. W. G. Dennis and Mr. & Mrs. E. Milne-Redhead; the rest of the Monks' Wood records, as well as the Holme Fen and Norman Cross ones, were made jointly with Mr. T. Patston; the Riddy Wood with Mr. N. Y. Sandwith and the Diddington Wood on our recent outing there.

JOHN L. GILBERT.

February, 1962

Dear Sir,

Re: HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY  
COLLECTION OF INSECTS

I hope to replace the badly damaged specimens in the Norris Museum (St. Ives) insect cabinets with a collection of insects found in the county. (I shall not deal with Lepidoptera.)

All species of insects are needed, even very common types—dead or, preferably, alive; also as much information about their capture as possible, e.g., date, place, etc.

I hope this project will be able to be labelled: HUNTS.  
FAUNA & FLORA SOCIETY COLLECTION.

Sincerely,

H. J. BERMAN, F.R.E.S.

St. Ivo School,

St. Ives 2382.

St. Ives,

Huntingdon.