

HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

21st

Annual Report

1968



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HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1968
(No. 21)

INTRODUCTION

The Society comes of age with this Report and it is regretted that the method of producing it has of necessity been changed. The committee sincerely hopes that members will not be too displeased with the new style which has been forced on us by the present cost of printing. We were faced with a choice between severely reducing the length of the report or its cost per page and decided unanimously to accept the latter if the familiar cover and page size were retained. We are greatly indebted to Prof. Worden, who has allowed this to be litho-printed at Huntingdon Research Centre for little more than half the cost of recent Reports. This process has the advantage of being able to reproduce photographs and line drawings at no extra cost.

A.G.M. 1968. The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 23rd. March in the library of Cromwell House, Huntingdon, and was attended by about 40 members (the total paid up membership has remained stable at about 75 for several years now). Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, 1967, and the Secretary's report contained in the Annual Report was accepted. The Treasurer's report was accepted and led to much discussion of the Society's poor financial position. A proposition from the floor that the annual subscription be raised to £1 was carried unanimously. It was further agreed that there should be a joint subscription of 30/- for a married couple who would receive one copy only of the Annual Report. Members up to the age of 21 or while receiving full time education would continue to pay 10/6. The new rates apply from 1st. January, 1969.

The election of Officers, Members of the Committee and Referees was dealt with as listed in the present Report.

After the official business, Mr. Ian Prestt of Monks Wood Experimental Station gave a most interesting illustrated talk on studies he had made on the adder population of a Dorset nature reserve.

Three ordinary winter meetings were held during 1968 as follows:-
26th January. Monks Wood Experimental Station. Dr. Mellanby spoke on "The life of the mole", and was followed by a colour film "The alder wood wasp and its insect enemies".
27th February. Peterborough Museum. Mr. J. Chandler spoke on "The Uffington Gravel Pits - an ecological study".

14th December. (postponed from 12th November). Monks Wood Experimental Station. Dr. E.A. Smith spoke on "Biological Research in the Antarctic".

The following ten field meetings were held during the year:-

- Sunday, 21st April - Waresley Wood. Leader Dr. Morris.
- Sunday, 28th April - Buckworth Wood. Leader Mr. Lees.
- Saturday, 18th May - Little Paxton Wood. Leader Dr. Horrill.
- Saturday, 1st June - Barnack Hills and Holes. With Peterborough Museum Society.
- Sunday, 9th June - Wistow flood meadows. Leader Mr. Wells.
- Saturday, 22nd June - Old Kettering railway east of River Ouse. Leader Mr. Wells.
- Saturday, 6th July - Old Sutton railway, near Wansford. With Peterborough Museum Society.
- Sunday, 21st July - Grafham Water Nature Reserve. Leader Dr. Davis.
- Saturday, 10th August - Yaxley Brick Pits. Leader Mr. Tebbs.
- Saturday, 14th September - Somersham Rubbish Dump. Leader Mr. Wells.

Grafham Water Nature Reserve. You will probably know that the hide for watching wild fowl and other birds in the Reserve at the western end of Grafham Water is now open on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Tickets, price 2/6, are obtainable from the Fishing Lodge at Mander Park car park. (Beds. and Hunts. Naturalist Trust Members free). Anyone willing to help at weekends in wardening the reserve and issuing tickets will be welcome, (about one three hour session in six weeks). Please contact Dr. Brian Davis or the Secretary.

BOTANICAL NOTES

T. C. E. Wells
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

The increased interest in the flora of the country is reflected in the steady flow of new records of species which were previously known from fewer than four localities in the county or are new county records. In the latter class four new records were made; Hordeum jubatum L. found by D.A. Wells on a newly sown roadside verge, Bromus x pseudohominii Philip Smith, a new segregate in the Bromus mollis aggregate found on waste land at Monks Wood Experimental Station, Panicum miliaceum L. found at Buckden rubbish dump in 1967 and at Somersham rubbish dump this year and Carex polyphylla discovered at Woodwalton Fen by Dr. S.M. Walters.

The value of old pasture as a habitat for some species of limited distribution in the county, such as Orchis morio, Carex caryophylla, Betonica officinalis and Ophioglossum vulgatum is becoming more apparent as our knowledge of these areas increases and members are asked to make a special effort to locate and report on areas of old pasture in the county over the next two years. Locations of any old pasture and plant records should be sent to me at Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Records are given in the same form as in last years report, the 4 or 6 figure grid reference accompanying each record, the 100 km. square 52 (TL) being omitted.

The following initials are used for recorders: Dr. B.N.K. Davis (B.N.K.D.) Miss L. Farrel (L.F.) Dr. A.D. Horrill (A.D.H.) Mr. J. Chandler (J.C.) Mr. T.C.E. Wells (T.C.E.W.).

Ophioglossum vulgatum L. ssp. vulgatum. Adder's Tongue. Old Meadow, Coppingford 1680. May 24th, abundant on roadside verge, Broughton. 271784. July (T.C.E.W.).

Ranunculus sardous Crantz. Hairy Buttercup. Abundant along shore line at Grafham Water from the Mander car park to the Reserve. 1266 and 1268. August Dr. J.G. Dony and (B.N.K.D.). Only other records from St. Ives and Offord Darcy.

Ceratophyllum demersum L. Hornwort. Old River Nene, Ramsey St. Marys. 243883. June (A.D.H.).

Silene noctiflora L. Night-flowering Champion. Field edge, Easton. 124699. August. (B.N.K.D.) Arable field, Sapley, 254753. October (B.N.K.D.). First records for 50 years.

Trifolium medium L. Zigzag Clover. Old railway track, Easton. 127698. August (B.N.K.D.). Roadside verge near Alconbury. 183742. July 2nd. Patch 10 metres long. Dr. E. Pollard. Only other localised record by Newbould from Gamlingay in the nineteenth century.

Trifolium ochroleuchon Huds. Sulphur Clover. Old railway track, Easton. 125698. July 31st. (B.N.K.D.). This species has been recorded from 8 tetrads since 1964.

Rosa tomentosa Sm. Monks Wood. June 22nd. Mrs. I. Vaughan. Hedgerow, Folksworth 135890. July 28th. (T.C.E.W.).

Rosa obtusifolia Desv. Pidley Parks. 354777. Sept. 14th. (J.C.).

Hippuris vulgaris L. Mare's-tail. Old River Nene, Ramsey St. Mary's. 243883. June (A.D.H.).

- Torilis arvensis (Huds.) Link. Spreading Hedge-parsley. Field-edge, Stow Longa airfield. 106696. August 4th. (B.N.K.D.).
- Oenanthe fluviatilis Coleman. Edge of small pond, Folksworth. 135890. July 28th. (T.C.E.W.).
- Silaum silaus (L.) Schinz and Thell. Pepper Saxifrage. Roadside verge at Woolley 176744, Stonely 123695, Upton Lodge 57792, Stangate Hill 182785, Bevills Wood 2079. Recorded June - August (B.N.K.D.).
- Centaurium pulchellum (Sw.) Druce. Edge of arable field, Coppingford Wood. 172802. August (L.F.). Only other records from Monks Wood (1948) and near Perry and Grafham (1886).
- Gentianella amarella (L.) Borner. Felwort. Cutting on the A1, near Stangate Hill 183797 August (B.N.K.D.). About 50 plants. Only other record from the county from Ellington.
- Nymphoides peltata (S.G.Gmel.) O. Kuntze. Fringed Waterlily. Old River Nene, Ramsey St. Mary's. 243883. June (A.D.H.).
- Kickxia spuria (L.) Dum. Fluellen. Arable field, Monks Wood, 195802. August (L.F.). Somersham rubbish dump 3678 Sept. (T.C.E.W.).
- Galeopsis angustifolia Ehrh. ex Hoffm. Narrow-leaved Hemp-nettle. Waste ground, Stow Longa airfield 105696. August (B.N.K.D.).
- Erigeron canadensis (L.) Cronq. Canadian Fleabane. Somersham rubbish dump 3678. Sept. 14th (T.C.E.W.). Disused railway track, Somersham, 366778 Sept. 14th (J.C.). St. Ives gravel pits, 325716, August. B. Milne.
- Chrysanthemum segetum L. Corn Marigold. Newly made up road verge Ellington. 153722. Sept. Miss P. Goodliff.
- Carlina vulgaris L. Carlina Thistle. Disused railway track, between Grafham and the A1, 172695. Aug. (T.C.E.W.); same railway track at Easton 121701, Aug. (B.N.K.D.).
- Centaurea nigra ssp. nemoralis (Jord.) Gugl. Hardheads. Field edge, Hamerton. 1278 July 6th (B.N.K.D.). Det. Dr. F.H. Perring. The first record since Druce in V.C.H.
- Hieracium perpropinquum (Zahn.) Druce. Field edge, Easton 1268. Aug. 23rd. (B.N.K.D.). Det. P.D. Sell. Known previously only from Orton Longueville.
- Alisma lanceolatum With. Water-Plantain. Small pond by track to Leighton, Spaldwick. 127737. Sept. (B.N.K.D.).
- Butomus umbellatus L. Flowering Rush. Old River Nene, Ramsey St. Marys 243883. June (A.D.H.).

- Hydrocharis morsus-ranae L. Frog-bit. Old River Nene, Ramsey St. Marys 243883. June (A.D.H.).
- Triglochin palustris L. Marsh Arrow Grass. Flood meadow south of R. Nene, Water Newton. 102975 Sept. 24th., D.A. Wells.
- Juncus compressus Tacq. Round-fruited Rush. Wet meadow, between St. Ives and Hemingford Grey. 306708 Dr. E. Duffey. The second record in 100 years.
- Ophrys apifera Huds. Bee Orchid. Disused railway track near Huntingdon 2068. June 22nd. (T.C.E.W.), roadside verges at Woolley Leys 176744, Stangate Hill 185785, Shepherds Close, Easton 133707. (B.N.K.D.). More widespread in the county than previously thought.
- Orchis morio L. Green-winged Orchis. Base rich meadow, Coppingford 1680. 36 plants in flower on May 24th. (T.C.E.W.). Old pasture, Easton, 135705 2 spikes. In similar habitat at Easton 142717 80 spikes and at 143718 2 spikes (B.N.K.D.). This species appears to be characteristic of old calcareous pastures and is worth searching for in other parts of the country.
- Orchis praetermissa Druce. Grazed fields at Woodwalton Fen, Compt. 127. 2282. June 29th. Dr. S.M. Walters. The third record for the county in the last 100 years.
- Carex caryophyllea Latour, Spring Sedge. Old pasture at Coppingford. 1680. May 24th (T.C.E.W.). Old pasture at Easton 143718 and 135705, April 23rd. (B.N.K.D.). Only other recent record from base-rich meadows, Upwood.
- Carex polyphylla Kar. and Kir. Woodwalton Fen, Compt. 94E. 232844 June 29th. Dr. S.M. Walters. New County Record.
- Bromus racemosus L. Rough grassland around Monks Wood, frequent near to greenhouses. 201792, June 26th (T.C.E.W.). Det. Dr. A. Melderis. Also collected in 1964 by Dr. J.M. Way near to the Warden Naturalists House. Specimens in Herb. Monks Wood.
- Bromus lepidus Holmberg. Roadside verge, 100yds. west of Monks Wood 200794. May 31st. (T.C.E.W.). Specimen in Herb. Monks Wood. Grassland around gravel-pit, Stibbington 089992. June 4th. (T.C.E.W.). Probably widespread in Hunts. but overlooked or incorrectly called Bromus mollis.
- Bromus x pseudothominii. Philip Smith (Bromus hordeaceus L. x Bromus lepidus Holmberg). Grassland outside laboratories, Monks Wood. 201792. June 25th (T.C.E.W.). Det. Dr. A. Melderis. Specimen in Herb. Monks Wood. A newly recognised taxon. New County Record.

Bromus commutatus Schrad. Meadow Brome. Grassland outside laboratories, Monks Wood 201792. June 26th (T.C.E.W.). Det. Dr. A. Melderis. Specimen in Herb. Monks Wood.

Hordeum jubatum L. Roadside verge, on new fly-over on A.1, near Monks Wood 186781. Oct. 10th. D.A. Wells. Specimen in Herb. Monks Wood. A recently introduced species which has appeared on other newly made roadside verges in other counties. New County Record.

Calamagrostis canescens (Weber) Roth. Purple Smallreed. Frequent in area of about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Waresley Wood. 2654 April 24th. (T.C.E.W.). Only other recent records from Woodwalton and Holme Fens.

Echinochloa crus-galli (L.) Beauv. Cockspur. Frequent as a weed in onion fields in the Ramsey Heights district. 235845 Sept. 27th. Gordon Mason det. (T.C.E.W.). Probably introduced with the onion seed. Specimen in Herb. Monks Wood.

Setaria lutescens (Weigel) Hubbard. Bristle-grass. Weed in onion field in the Ramsey Heights district. 235845. Sept. 27th. Gordon Mason, det. (T.C.E.W.). Specimen in Herb. Monks Wood.

Panicum miliaceum L. Common Millet. Somersham rubbish dump. 3678 Sept. (T.C.E.W.). Apparently a new County Record.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE ROAD VERGES

B.N.K. Davis, J.M. Schofield and T.C.E. Wells
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Despite their superficial uniformity, verges encompass a wide variety of habitats arising from differences in soil type, drainage, aspect, shading, etc., and also as a result of the treatments they have received. Most country roads, for example, show two distinct zones caused by cutting a swathe near the road more frequently than the rest of the vegetation and this enhances the total variety of species to be found within a given length of verge.

In Huntingdonshire a number of attractive and local species are better represented on roadsides than in any other habitat, for example Sulphur Clover (Trifolium ochroleuchon), Meadow Cranesbill (Geranium pratense) and Restharrow (Ononis spinosa). Other species are associated with sides of ditches and road cuttings where better drainage or more lime-rich soil provides suitable conditions. Examples of these are Bee Orchid (Ophrys apifera) and Stemless Thistle (Cirsium acaulon).

During 1968 we visited several stretches of road verge (usually between 100 and 200 yards long) in order to decide on the best sites in the county for such species and the principal botanical features of these are given below. Records were made on cards designed by Dr. J.M. Way which allow for the main site characteristics to be noted as well as the zones in which the various species occurred. A few other potentially important botanical sites are known and are still to be recorded but a great many more probably exist and some sites are important also for Lepidoptera or other insect groups.

BEVILLS WOOD VERGES (Grid reference 2079, both sides of road).

Over a hundred species (without shrubs and trees) including Crested Cow-wheat (Melampyrum cristatum), Betony (Betonica officinalis), Musk Mallow (Malva moschata), Hemp Agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum), Yellow Flag (Iris pseudacorus), Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), Greater Burnet Saxifrage (Pimpinella major), Meadow Cranesbill, Bushgrass (Calamagrostis epigejos) and Wood Poa (Poa nemoralis).

STANGATE HILL VERGES (Grid reference 1878, both sides of south-bound carriageway).

Seventy species including Felwort (Gentianella amarella), Gorse (Ulex europaeus), Yellow-wort (Blackstonia perfoliata), Bee Orchid, Spotted Orchid (Dactylorchis fuchsii), Musk Mallow, Eyebright (Euphrasia nemorosa), Blue Fleabane (Erigeron acris), Gromwell (Lithospermum officinale), Restharrow, Stemless Thistle and Bushgrass.

STOCKING LANE (Grid reference 1269, both sides of road).

About 80 species including Crested Cow-wheat, Sulphur Clover, Wood Spurge (Euphorbia amygdaloides), Betony, Gromwell, Meadow Cranesbill, Spotted Orchid, Bluebell (Endymion nonscriptus).

WOOLLEY LEYS VERGE (Grid reference 1774, north side).

Seventy species including Dyer's Greenweed (Genista tinctoria), Bee Orchid, Restharrow, Strawberry Clover (Trifolium fragiferum) and Crow Garlic (Allium vineale).

LODGE SPINNEY VERGE (Grid reference 2475, west side).

About 70 species including Crested Cow-wheat, Pyramidal Orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis) and Valerian (Valeriana officinalis).

VINEGAR HILL VERGE (Grid reference I877, east side).

Sixty-eight species including Sulphur Clover, Stemless Thistle, Restharrow and Spurge Laurel (Daphne laureola).

UPTON LODGE VERGES (Grid reference I579, both sides).

Seventy-two species including Slender Tare (Vicia tenuissima), Stone Parsley (Sison amomum), Restharrow, Stemless Thistle and Crow Garlic.

(Note: English names follow Clapham, Tutin and Warburg 1952).

THE MOSS PLATYGYRIUM REPENS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

by A.D. Horrill
Monks Wood Experimental Station

During a bryological excursion to Monks Wood in early 1968 Platygyrium repens (Brid.) B., S. & G. was discovered by Mr. J. Duckett.

The moss was only previously known from two other localities in the British Isles; Wytham Wood in Oxfordshire and Bagley Wood in Berkshire about 5 miles from Wytham (Warburg and Perry 1963). In Monks Wood the plant is growing in a thicket on an area which is Oxford Clay. Several patches have been found on the stems of some large Dogwood shrubs. The plant is growing mainly in pure mats but has been observed to occur occasionally in association with Brachythecium rutabulum, Hypnum cupressiforme, and Lophocolea heterophylla.

To the unaided eye the species appears as a dense, glossy, dark-green mat, usually with a coppery tinge, making the plant detectable from several yards. Under a lens some of the branch apices are bushy in appearance due to the presence of shoot-like gemmae, these become detached and propagate the plant.

Reference

Warburg, E.F. & Perry, A.R. (1963)

Platygyrium repens in Britain.

Trans. Brit. Bryol. Soc. 4 (3) p. 422.

FOSSIL MOSS FROM THE GALLEY HILL PITS, NEAR ST. IVES, HUNTS.

Phillip Cambridge.

Among material collected from the West End pit two years ago were some plant remains extracted from clods of dark bluish clay brought up

from below water level. Among these were some fragments of moss which were eventually examined by Dr. J.H. Dickson of the Department of Botany, University of Cambridge. He writes:

'The moss specimen . . . proves to be a remarkable find, representing the sole British Quaternary remains of Entodon concinnus (De Not.) Paris. This is a species of calcareous rocks and grassland, sterile in Britain and with a very patchy distribution. Since the species no longer grows in Huntingdonshire, it joins the category of mosses which have suffered contractions in Late Quaternary times. The nearest place where this moss is known to grow today is on the Devil's Dyke, Cambs.'

THE PLANT BUGS (HETEROPTERA) OF WOODWALTON FEN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE:

A PRELIMINARY LIST.

M.G. Morris
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

W. Dolling
Imperial College Field Station, Silwood Park.

Although Woodwalton Fen was established as a nature reserve in 1912 no early records of the Heteroptera appear to have been made. In the 1960s, however, a considerable amount of recording was done and it seems appropriate to publish the results of this work at the present time. In 1960 the late Dr. A.M. Masee (A) collected Heteroptera in the reserve and Mr. W.E. Russell (R) has done so since about 1965. In 1965 one of us (Dolling, D) collected intensively for a week on behalf of the Nature Conservancy and this period of recording accounts for a large part of this list. Morris (M) worked the aquatic species in some detail from 1963 to 1965 and made other records from 1961 onwards. Mr. C.M.H. Harrisson (H) recorded aquatic species in the course of a general freshwater survey in 1961. The initials given are used to refer to the collectors in the text. The compartment numbers of the Fen are also given where appropriate. Slightly more species have been recorded in Woodwalton Fen than in Monks Wood (Morris, 1968) but a detailed comparison of the two very different reserves would not be very meaningful. The numbering of species follows Southwood & Leston (1959) and nomenclature Kloet & Hincks (1964).

ANEURIDAE

7. Aneurus avenius (Dufour). A female under bark of a cut oak log, 104, 20/8/65 (D); under bark of cut birch logs, 79E and 80E, July 1967 (R).

ACANTHOSOMATIDAE

8. Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale (L.). Larvae beaten from Hawthorn, 102S, 18/8/65 (D).
 10. Elamostethus interstinctus (L.). On Birch, 62, 97E, 80E, 95, May, August and September 1965 (DMR).
 12. Elasmucha grisea (L.). One male on fruiting Birch, 95, 18/8/65 (D), 79E (R).

CYDNIDAE

15. Sehirus bicolor (L.). On White deadnettle 92E, 16/9/65 (M), 80 (R).

PENTATOMIDAE

34. Palomena prasina (L.). One larva swept from field-layer vegetation, 104, 18/8/65. (D).
 39. Pentatoma rufipes (L.). One female 17/8/60 (A).
 42. Picromerus bidens (L.). One female 17/8/60 (A); 79E (R).

RHOPALIDAE

63. Myrmus miriformis (Fall.). Swept from grasses, 128N, 128S, 17/8/65 (D); 79E, by sweeping (R).

LYGAEIDAE

68. Heterogaster urticae (F.). 80E, near Great Raveley Drain, 15/5/66 (R).
 70. Chilacis typhae (Perris). Under leaves of Reedmace, 79E, 3/11/64 (M) 80, 16/6/65 (R).
 73. Ischnodemus sabuleti (Fall.). Three, 17/8/60 (A); 79E, August 1966; 80, 21/5/67 (R).
 77. Kleidocerys resedae (Panz.). Common on Birch, 79, 80, 128N etc. (DMR).
 78. K. truncatulus (Walk.). Adults and larvae under Calluna, 128N, 17/8/65 (D).
 102. Acompus rufipes (Wolff). Not uncommon at base of Valerian, 79E, 80E, 92W, 94, 104, August and September (ADMR).
 104. Stygnocoris rusticus (Fall.). One male beneath Self-heal, 62W, 20/8/65 (D).
 105. S. pedestris (Fall.). 62W, 125, 128N, etc. in various situations, (ADR).
 106. S. fuliginus (Geoff.). One male, 17/8/60 (A).
 113. Drymus sylvaticus (F.). In litter heaps, 80E, 19/2/61 (M).
 115. D. brunneus (Sahlb.). In litter heaps, 80 etc., 16/6/65 (R).
 119. Scolopostethus affinis (Schill.) 17/8/60 (A); 125, 20/8/65 (D); 104 (R).
 121. S. puberulus Horv. 20/8/60 (A); larvae reared from 95 (D); 104 and 80, 1/5/66 (R).

122. S. thomsoni Reut. Rather common, on ground, in litter heaps, sweeping nettles etc., 79W, 80E, 92E etc. (ADM).
 123. S. decoratus (Hahn). Many adults under Calluna, 128N, 17/8/65 (D); 1968 (R).

BERYTINIDAE

133. Cymus glandicolor Hahn. Two by general sweeping, 92E, 6 & 12/5/65 (M).
 139. Berytinus minor (H. -S.). One by general sweeping, 126, 29/3/65 (M).
 143. Metatropis rufescens (H. -S.). One larva swept from Enchanter's nightshade, 102S, 17/8/65 (D).

PIESMATIDAE

144. Piesma maculatum (Laporte). One taken 3/6/62 (M).

TINGIDAE

159. Tingis ampliata (H. -S.). Rather common on Creeping thistle, 80, 92E & W, 94, 104, 125, 126, spring and late summer (DMR).
 163. Physatocheila dumetosum (H. -S.). Several beaten from lichen-covered Plum trees, 80W, 22/5/65 (M).

NABIDAE

175. Nabis flavomarginatus Scholtz. 79E, 125 etc. (ADR).
 176. N. ferus (L.). In various situations, 79E, 128N etc., August (AD).
 181. Aptus mirmicoides (Costa). Single larvae in 128S and 128N, 17/8/65 (D).
 182. Himacerus apterus (F.). Common on trees in late summer, (DMR).
 183. Stalia major (Costa). One male in a grass tuft, 92W, 18/8/65 (D).
 185. Dolichonabis limbatus (Dahlb.). Common by sweeping in damper areas (AD).
 186. D. lineatus (Dahlb.). Recorded by A, 17-20/8/60.

CIMICIDAE

187. Temnostethus gracilis (Horv.). On lichen-covered Buckthorn, 92W 19/8/65 (D).
 190. Anthocoris confusus Reut. Widespread on Oak and Birch, 79E, 80E etc (DM).
 192. A. nemoralis (F.). Not as common as 190. and chiefly on Oak, 79W, 92W (D).
 197. A. nemorum (L.). General, abundant, e.g. 80E, 92E (DMR).
 198. A. limbatus Fieb. Single females on Sallow 62W, 16/8/65 (D).
 202. Orius majusculus (Reut.). Single females recorded by A, and D (125, 20/8/65).
 203. O. minutus (L.). 20/8/60, (A); 80, On Sallow (R).
 204. O. niger (Wolff). One female 17/8/60 (A); one male swept, 104, 18/8/65 (D).

206. Lyctocoris campestris (F.). A pair in cut grass, 128N, 17/8/65 (D).
 208. Xylocoris cursitans (F.). 125, under bark of birch stump, 21/8/66 (R).

MICROPHYSIDAE

219. Loricula elegantula (Bärens.). A female beaten from old Birch, 95, 18/8/65 (D).
 220. Myrmedobia tenella (Zett.). 79E, at grass roots with moss, 21/8/66 (R).

MIRIDAE

228. Deraeocoris lutescens (Schill.). 104W, 4/9/65 (R).
 229. D. ruber (L.). Single females recorded by A, 17/8/60 and D, by sweeping nettles, 79E, 29/8/65.
 248. Harpocera thoracica (Fall.). A pair beaten from Oak, 80W, B. Pendlebury, 25/5/66; 80E (R).
 249. Tytthus pygmaeus (Zett.). 79, 21/8/66, frequent (R).
 252. Phylus palliceps Fieb. 80, 20/6/65 (R); 128, 17/6/68 (M).
 253. P. melanocephalus (L.) 80, 20/6/65 (R).
 256. Psallus betuleti (Fall.). One female beaten from Birch, 128S, 17/6/68 (M).
 257. P. ambiguus (Fall.). 107, 3 specimens 4/6/66 (R).
 262. P. quercus (Kirschb.). Beaten from Oak, 80, 128N, June (MR).
 263. P. roseus (F.). Common everywhere on Sallow, 62E, 92E etc. (DMR).
 266. P. falleni Reut. A pair beaten from Birch, 128N, 7/8/65 (D).
 271. P. varians (H.-S.). A female on Oak, 128N, 17/6/68 (M).
 278. Plagiognathus arbustorum (F.). Abundant in open places and along droves, July and August (ADR).
 279. P. chrysanthemii (Wolff). Also common, 62W, 79E, 92E, August (AD).
 297. Dicyphus epilobii Reut. Common on dykeside Great hairy willow herb, 79, 80, 92E, 95 etc. (DMR).
 298. D. errans (Wolff). One female by sweeping in woodland, 94, 18/8/65 (D).
 302. D. globulifer (Fall.). Many adults on White Campion, 125, 20/8/65 (D).
 305. Pilophorus clavatus (L.). One male beaten from Sallow, 92W, 19/8/65 (D).
 318. Fieberocapsus flaveolus (Reut.). In cut grass, 79E, 19/8/65 (D); 79E, 10/7/66 (R).
 319. Cyllocoris histrionicus (L.). On Oak in June, 80 etc. (MR).
 326. Heterotoma planicornis (Pallas). One female, 102, 18/8/65 (D).
 327. Blepharidopterus angulatus (Fall.). Abundant on Birch and Alder, 92E, 94, 128S etc., August and September (DR).

332. Orthotylus marginalis Reut. Common on Sallow, also occurs on Alder, 62E, 79E, 92W, 94, 95, August and September, (DR).
 335. O. nassatus (F.). Widespread on Oak, 62E, 92E, 105, August 1965 (D).
 338. O. ericetorum (Fall.). Swept from Calluna, 128N, 17/8/65 (D).
 348. Neocomma bilineatus (Fall.). On Aspen, 80, 25/7/65 (R).
 349. Mecomma ambulans (Fall.). By sweeping and in grass tufts, 62W, 102S, 104 (D).
 357. Lygus rugulipennis Poppius. By sweeping, 92E etc., August (AD).
 358. Liocoris tripustulatus (F.). Widespread on nettles, 79E, 79W, 92E, 104 (ADMR).
 363. Orthops campestris (L.). 80E under Poplar bark, 3/11/64 (M); 104, 4/9/65 (R).
 365. Lygocoris pabulinus (L.). Widespread, usually by sweeping, 79E, 80, 93E, 93W, 104 (DR).
 366. L. viridis (Fall.). Recorded by A, 17-20/8/60.
 368. L. contaminatus (Fall.). Common on Birch, 79E etc. (AD).
 369. L. spinolai (M.-D.). Single males swept in 62W and 79E, 20/8/65 (D).
 370. L. lucorum (M.-D.). Recorded by A, 17/8/60 and D, 79W, 92E, August 1965.
 373. Plesiocoris rugicollis (Fall.). On Sallow, 17/6/67. (R).
 375. Polymerus palustris (Reut.). On Marsh Bedstraw, 62W (D).
 377. P. nigritus (Fall.) On Lady's Bedstraw and Cleavers, 79E, 125, August 1965 (MD).
 382. Calocoris quadripunctatus (Vill.). 80, 6/6/65 (R).
 387. C. norvegicus (Gmel.). By sweeping, 79E, 92E, 94, 15-18/8/65 (D).
 389. Adelphocoris ticinensis (M.-D.). One female recorded by A, 17/8/60.
 390. A. lineolatus (Goeze). By sweeping, 79E etc. August (AD).
 391. Megalocoelum infusum (H.-S.). On Oak, 79W, 80, August 1965 (DR).
 393. Stenotus binotatus (F.). By sweeping, 95, 125, 18-20/8/65 (D).
 397. Phytocoris dimidatus Kirschb. 80, 20/8/66 (R).
 398. P. longipennis Flor. Widespread on various trees, 79W, 102S, 128S (D).
 399. P. reuteri Saunders. Beaten from Birch, 79E etc., August (AD).
 401. P. ulmi (L.). One female by sweeping, 79E, 16/8/65 (D).
 402. P. varipes Boh. Two males by sweeping, 125, 20/8/65 (D).
 405. Capsus wagneri Remane. On Calamagrostis, 62W, 79E, 79W, June - August 1965 (DR). A very local species only known previously from Wicken Fen, Cambs. and Askham Bog, Yorks.

411. Stenodema calcaratum (Fall.). Common and widespread by sweeping grasses, 62W, 80, 92E, 128S (ADMR).
 413. S. laevigatum (L.). Less common than 411. 92E, 95 etc. (AD).
 415. Notostira elongata (Geoff.). By sweeping, 79E, 128S (DR).
 416. Megaloceraea recticornis (Geoff.). By sweeping, 79E, 92E (D).

SALDIDAE

434. Saldula saltatoria (L.). In peat cuttings, etc., 92E, 107 (DM).
 445. Chartoscirta cincta (H. -S.). Two males in 62W, 16-20/8/65 (D).

MESOVELIDAE

449. Mesovelvia furcata (Muls. & Rey.). Not uncommon in Great Raveley Drain (MR).

HYDROMETRIDAE

452. Hydrometra stagnorum (L.) Not common, at the sides of dykes (M). Overwintered examples fairly common in Great Raveley Drain (R).

VELIDAE

454. Velia caprai Tamanini. Not common, Great Raveley Drain, July 1961 (H).
 456. Microvelia reticulata (Burm.). Rather common in sheltered places in dykes (HM).

GERRIDAE

459. Gerris argentatus Schummel. Apparently widespread in dykes, but not common (HM).
 461. G. thoracicus Schummel. Not very common and usually on the broader bodies of water such as peat cuttings and only occasionally in dykes (MR).
 464. G. lacustris (L.). Abundant in dykes, cuttings and temporary pools (HMR).
 465. G. odontogaster (Zett.). In dykes with 464, but much less common (M).

NEPIDAE

468. Nepa cinerea L. Widespread but scarce in the older dykes (HM).
 469. Ranatra linearis (L.). Even scarcer than 468, in dykes (M).

NAUCORIDAE

470. Ilyocoris cimicoides (L.) Very localised, but abundant where it occurs; Great Raveley Drain (R), Coleman's Drain (HM).

NOTONECTIDAE

472. Notonecta glauca L. Widespread and abundant in dykes, ponds and cuttings (HMR).
 475. N. maculata (F.). One in East Dyke, 79E, 7/10/63 (M).

PLEIDAE

476. Plea atomaria (Pallas). Uncommon, recorded only by H, July 1961.

CORIXIDAE

481. Cymatia bonndorffi (Sahlb.). Not common, mainly in the younger dykes (M).
 483. Callicorixa praeusta (Fieb.). Frequent in the younger dykes (HM).
 485. Corixa punctata (Illig.). Widespread but not common in dykes (HM).
 486. C. dentipes (Thoms.). Less frequent than 485, but widespread in dykes (M).
 489. Hesperocorixa sahlbergi (Fieb.). The predominant corixid of mature dykes. Very abundant and widespread (HM).
 490. H. linnei (Fieb.). Much less common than 489 but frequent and widespread (M).
 492. H. moesta (Fieb.). Known only from clay ponds in 109 (C. Newbould and M. Woolner, May 1968); not in water bodies on the peat.
 495. Sigara dorsalis (Leach). Common, especially in the larger drains (HM).
 497. S. fossarum (Leach). Frequent in the younger dykes (HM).
 498. S. scotti (Fieb.). Rare, in Heath Dyke (128) and East Dyke (79E), 1963 (M).
 499. S. falleni (Fieb.). Rare, only in shallow peat cuttings and probably not resident (M).
 501. S. distincta (Fieb.). Widespread but never abundant in dykes (M).
 502. S. lateralis (Leach). Not uncommon in shallow peat cuttings etc. (M).
 503. S. nigrolineata (Fieb.). Common in shallow peat cuttings (HM).
 504. S. concinna (Fieb.). Uncommon, in newly dug peat cuttings etc., and probably not breeding (M).
 506. S. semistriata (Fieb.). Not common, but fairly widespread in dykes and cuttings (M).
 507. S. limitata (Fieb.). Rare, single specimens in several different dykes (M).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the collectors named in the text, and especially Mr. W. E. Russell, for permission to include their records in this account.

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Morris, M.G. (1968): A preliminary list of plant bugs (Heteroptera) recorded in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve. Rep. Huntingdon Fauna Flora Soc. 1967, 9-13.

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ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF PLANT BUGS (HETEROPTERA)
RECORDED IN MONKS WOOD NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

M.G. Morris
Monks Wood Experimental Station

Although not a great deal of collecting was done in Monks Wood in 1968 a number of records new to the list of Heteroptera from the reserve (Morris, 1968) were made. Most of the new records are those of Mr. W.E. Russell, to whom my thanks are given for permission to include them in this account. As in the first list the numbers referring to the species are those of Southwood and Leston (1959), while the initials R and M refer to Mr. Russell and myself respectively. Nomenclature follows Kloet and Hincks (1964).

LYGAEIDAE

90. Megalonotus antennatus (Schill.). Apparently overwinters amongst moss in East Clearing. In some numbers 7/4/68 (R).
114. Drymus ryei Douglas & Scott. With the above, East Clearing 7/4/68 (R).

TINGIDAE

150. Acalypta parvula (Fall.). One in East Clearing, 7/6/68, H.E. Henson.

MIRIDAE

252. Phylus palliceps Fieb. On Oak, Main Ride, 7/6/68 (R).
299. Dicyphus stachydis Reut. Top ride, by 'vacuum sweeping', 9/4/68 (M).
352. Pithanus maerkeli (H.-S.) East Clearing, 7/6/68 (R).
358. Liocoris tripustulatus (F.). Top ride, by 'vacuum sweeping' nettles, 9/4/68 (M).
365. Lygocoris pabulinus (L.). Taken 6/8/67 (R).
413. Stenodema laevigatum (L.). Top ride, by 'vacuum sweeping', 9/4/68 (M).

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Morris, M.G. (1968): A preliminary list of plant bugs (Heteroptera) recorded in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve. Rep. Huntingdon Fauna Flora Soc. 1967, 9-13.

Southwood, T.R.E. & Leston, D. (1959): Land and Water Bugs of the British Isles, London.

GREAT GREEN GRASSHOPPER (TETTIGONIA VIRIDISSIMA L.)
IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

On 9th September, 1968, Mr. Cawthorne brought a fine female specimen of this spectacular insect to Monks Wood Experimental Station; it had been found on a doorstep in the St. Peters' Hill district of Huntingdon. This insect, the largest native British grasshopper, is a beautiful bright green in colour and about $1\frac{2}{3}$ inches long, with an ovipositor of over $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. The species is omnivorous, feeding on all kinds of insect and plant food and can draw blood with a bite from its powerful jaws. Although not mentioned in the Victoria County History of Huntingdon (1926) T. viridissima was recorded from Ramsey by Lucas (1920) A monograph of the British Orthoptera, according to Gardner (1961) The Odonata and Orthopteroid Insects of Wood Walton Fen, Huntingdonshire, Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc. 1960 124-129, who notes that it was once recorded from the Fen. It seems to be a secretive creature, despite its large size, and although there have been reports of its being heard from time to time it seems to have been captured but rarely in Huntingdonshire.

M.G. Morris,
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

LEPIDOPTERA 1968

J.E.H. Blackie.

The most miserable summer since 1912 was not, on the face of it, a very promising one for butterflies and moths, but surprisingly there were a number of good features. More and systematic recording led to the discovery of moths which had not been noted for many years and of small colonies of once common, but now rare, butterflies. Records have been sent in by the Rev. E.A. Bawtree (B), Mr. H.F. Tebbs (T), Mr. John Heath (H) and Dr. Brian Davies (D). My own records are indicated by Rec. The numbers are those in Hislop's Check-list (1947).

The following seem the most interesting of the records received:

12. Gonepteryx rhamni. L. This butterfly is holding its own unlike the Orange-tip which is very thin on the ground (Rec.)
24. Polygonia c-album. L. Mr. Marriott of Monks Wood tells me that none has been seen this year, but I saw one at Old Saul on May 2nd. There seems no doubt that this butterfly is entering one of its recurrent rare phases.
- 25, 28, 29, 31. The Small Tortoiseshell was the commonest of these this year, but there were numbers of Peacocks about in August. The Red Admiral was scarce and there were very few Painted Ladies.
32. Limenitis camilla. L. Commoner in Monks Wood than in 1967 (H).
34. Melanargia galathea. L. One at Easton (D) and three in Brampton Wood (J.M. Schofield teste H.) This is very welcome news.
40. Maniola jurtina. L. Small colony near Alconbury (Rec.) Orton Waterville (T). Woodston (T), Folksworth (T).
41. M. tithonus. L. In great abundance about a mile south of Alconbury village (Rec.)
48. Strymonidia pruni. L. Commoner than in 1967 in Monks Wood (H).
49. S. w-album. Knoch. Wennington Wood (M.J. Skelton teste H.) Mr. Marriott tells me that 1968 was a particularly good year for this hairstreak in Monks Wood.
50. Callophrys rubi. L. One Old Saul 28.v. (Rec.) This the commonest of the group in many parts of England, is always scarce in Hunts. Last previous record 1963.
53. Lycaena phleas. L. Warboys, one (H). Holme Fen, a few (M.J. Skelton teste H.)
59. Polyommatus icarus. Rott. Woodston. (T).
68. Thymelicus sylvestris. Pod. Woodston (T) Orton Waterville (T). Monks Wood - one (Rec.).
69. T. lineola. Ochs. Woodston (T). First record since 1955. Not common since 1948 when abundant.
73. Carterocephalus palaemon. Pall. Woodwalton Fen, a few (H). Last record 1963. This butterfly may exist in small numbers in a much larger number of localities than is generally supposed. There are fairly recent records which support this.
35. Apamea epomidion. Haw. (hepatica Hb.) Warboys (H). A welcome record after many years.
400. Rhizedra lutosa. Hb. Warboys (H). The Wainscots must once have been widespread in this county and it is pleasant to know that some of the rarer ones still exist in favoured spots.
463. Anchoscelis helvola. L. Warboys (H).

540. Enclidimera mi. Clerck. Warboys (H). Vestigial? This is a heath-haunting species.
614. Scopula rubiginata. Hufn. Warboys (H). No previous record.
661. Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata. Clerck. Warboys (H). A very local moth not previously recorded from Hunts.
709. Euphyia cuculata. Hufn. Hemingford Abbots (B). First record for many years.
720. Perizoma flavofasciata. Thunb. Hemingford Abbots (B). This is an unusual record. The normal food plant (Red Campion) scarcely occurs in the county.
736. Horisme tersata. Hb. Warboys (H). No recent record.
737. H. vitalbata. Hb Warboys (H). No recent record.
824. Plagodis dolabraria. L. Warboys (H). One previous record from Hemingford Abbots (B '63).
851. Biston strataria. Hufn. Hemingford Abbots (B). Only one recent record from Monks Wood (Rec. 1953).
1099. Zygaena filipendulae. L. Woodston (T). Stangate Hill, a small colony (D). This once abundant moth has not been seen of recent years.

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF WARBOYS RAILWAY CUTTING
NATURE RESERVE

J. Heath.

Monks Wood Experimental Station.

This railway cutting has a rich calcareous grassland flora with a wide variety of deciduous trees and shrubs along its boundary and at the eastern end. An informal nature reserve agreement was made by the Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire Naturalists' Trust with the owner in 1968.

The list of Lepidoptera recorded below (18 butterflies and 218 moths) is the result of observations made during the years 1967 and 1968. In all twenty daytime visits (9 in 1967 and 11 in 1968) were made and a battery powered portable light trap was operated on 26 nights (9 in 1967 and 17 in 1968). No assessment of status is given as the area has not been under observation long enough to make this possible with any degree of accuracy.

The nomenclature of the macro-lepidoptera follows that of South, R., 1941 "The Butterflies of the British Isles" and South, R., 1961 "The Moths of the British Isles" Series I and II, and the micro-lepidoptera that of Ford, L.T., 1949 "A Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera".

BUTTERFLIES

SATYRIDAE

- Pararge megera L. - Wall Brown
Maniola tithonus L. - Hedge Brown
jurtina L. - Meadow Brown
Coenonympha pamphilus L. - Small Heath
Aphantopus hyperanthus L. - Ringlet

NYMPHALIDAE

- Vanessa atalanta L. - Red Admiral
cardui L. - Painted Lady
Aglais urticae L. - Small Tortoiseshell
Nymphalis io L. - Peacock

LYCAENIDAE

- Polyommatus icarus Rott. - Common Blue

PIERIDAE

- Pieris brassicae L. - Large White
rapae L. - Small White
napi L. - Green-veined White
Anthocaris cardamines L. - Orange Tip
Gonepteryx rhamni L. - Brimstone

HESPERIIDAE

- Syrichtus malvae L. - Grizzled Skipper
Thymelicus sylvestris Poda - Small Skipper
Ochlodes venata Br. & Grey - Large Skipper

MOTHS

SPHINGIDAE

- Sphinx ligustri L.
Laothoe populi L.

NOTODONTIDAE

- Lophopteryx capucina L.
Pterostoma palpina Cl.
Phalera bucephala L.

THYATIRIIDAE

- Habrosyne pyritoides Hufn.
Thyatira batis L.

DREPANIDAE

- Cilix glaucata Scop.

LYMANTRIDAE

- Orgyia antiqua L.
Euproctis similis Fuessl.

NOCTUIDAE

- Agrotis segetum Schiff.
clavis Hufn.
exclamationis L.
ipsilon Hufn.

- Spaelotis ravida Schiff.

- Graphiphora augur F.

- Diarsia brunnea Schiff.

- mendica F.

- Diarsia rubi View.
Ochropleura plecta L.
Amathes baja Schiff.
c-nigrum L.
ditrapezium Schiff.
triangulum Hufn.
xanthographa Schiff.

- Axylia putris L.
Euschesis janthina Schiff.
comes Hübn.
interjecta Hübn.

- Noctua pronuba L.
Cerastis rubricosa Schiff.
Naenia typica Linn.
Mamestra brassicae L.
Melanchnra persicariae L.
Polia nitens Haw.
Diataraxia oleracea L.
Ceramica pisi L.

- Hadena thalassina Schiff.
Orthosia gothica L.
stabilis Schiff.
incerta Hufn.
gracilis Schiff.

- Leucania pallens L.
impura Hübn.
obsoleta Hübn.
lythargyria Esp.
conigera Schiff.

- Bombycia viminalis Fab.
Xylocampa areola Esp.
Allophyes oxyacanthae L.
Anchoscelis litura L.
Atethmia xerampelina Esp.
Cirrhia icteritia Hufn.
Conistra ligula Esp.
Apatele tridens Schiff.

- psi L.
Amphipyra tragopogonis Cl.
Rusina ferruginea Esp.
Apamea lithoxylaea Schiff.
monoglypha Hufn.
epomidion Haw.
sordens Hufn.

- Apamea remissa Hübn.
unanimis Hübn.
secalis L.

- Procus fasciuncula Haw.
Eremobia ochroleuca Schiff.
Luperina testaceae Schiff.
Phlogophora meticulosa L.
Thalpothila matura Hufn.
Petilampa minima Haw.
Caradrina blanda Schiff.
clavipalpis Scop.

- Gortyna flavago Schiff.
Cosmia trapezina L.
Arenostola phragmitidis Hübn.
Catocala nupta L.
Euclidimera mi Cl.
Plusia chrysitis L.
jota L.
gamma L.

- Episema caeruleocephala L.
Rivula sericealis Scop.
Scoliopterix libatrix L.
Hypena proboscidalis L.
Zanclognatha tarsipennalis Tr.
nemoralis Fab.

LASIOCAMPIDAE

- Malacosoma neustria L.
Poecilocampa populi L.
Philudoria potatoria L.
Gastropacha quercifolia L.

ARCTIIDAE

- Nola cucullatella L.
Lithosia lurideola Zinck.
Spilosoma lubricipeda
lutea Hufn.

GEOMETRIDAE

- Alsophila aesularia Schiff.
Comibaena pustulata Hufn.
Hemithea eastvaria Hübn.
Hemistola immaculata Thunb.
Calothyssanis amata L.
Scopula imitaria Hübn.
immutata L.
Sterrha dimidiata Hufn.

Sterrrha aversata L.
 biselata Hufn.
 emarginata L.
Xanthorhoe montanata Schiff.
 fluctuata L.
 quadrifasciata Cl.
 ferrugata Cl.
 spadicearia Schiff.
Ortholitha chenopodiata L.
Larentia clavaria Haw.
Colostygia pectinataria Knoch
 didymata L.
Europhila badiata Schiff.
Anticlea derivata Schiff.
Perizoma alchemillata L.
Euphyia bilineata L.
Melanthia procellata Schiff.
Lyncometra ocellata L.
Pelurga comitata L.
Lygris pyrallata Schiff.
Cidaria fulvata Forst.
Plemyria rubiginata Schiff.
Dysstroma truncata Hufn.
Thera obeliscata Hüb. n.
Hydriomena furcata Hüb. n.
Anaitis plagiata L.
Epirrhoe alternata Müll.
 rivata Hüb. n.
Horisme vitalbata Schiff.
 tersata Schiff.
Eupithecia centaureata Schiff.
 vulgata Haw.
 icterata de Villers
Chloroclystis coronata Hüb. n.
Abraxas grossulariata L.
Ligdia adustata Schiff.
Bapta bimaculata Fabr.
 temerata Schiff.
Deilinia pusaria L.
 exanthemata Scop.
Campaea margaritata L.
Deuteronomos fuscantaria Steph.
Selenia bilunaria Esp.

Gonodontis bidentata Cl.
Crocallis elinguaris L.
Ourapterya sambucaria L.
Plagodis dolabria L.
Opisthograptis luteolata L.
Erannis marginaria Fabr.
Phigalia pilosaria Schiff.
Biston betularia L.
Menophra abruptaria Thunb.
Cleora rhomboidaria Schiff.
Alcis repandata L.
Chiasmia clathrata L.
Zeuzera pyrina L.
Hepialus sylvina L.
 hecta L.
 PHYCITIDAE
Eurhodope marmorea Haw.
 GALLERIIDAE
Aphomia sociella L.
 CRAMBIDAE
Crambus pascuella L.
 silivellus Hüb. n.
 pratellus L.
 culmellus L.
Crambus hortuella Hüb. n.
 perlellus Scop.
 tristellus Fabr.
Chilo phragmitellus Hüb. n.
 PYRAUSTIDAE
Nymphula stagnata Doh.
 stratiotata L.
Hydrocampa nymphaeata L.
Notarcha ruralis Scop.
Eurrhpara hortulata L.
Phlyctaenia sambucalis Schiff.
Pyrausta olivalis Schiff.
Scoparia crataegella Hüb. n.
 ambigualis Treits.
Mesographa forficalis L.
 PYRALIDAE
Pyralis glaucinalis L.
 costalis Fabr.
 PTEROPHORIDAE

Platyptilia gonodactylia Schiff.
 ochrodactyla Hüb. n.
Alucita pentadactyla L.
Pterophorus monodactylus L.
Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla Haw.
 pterodactyla L.
 PHALONIIDAE
Euxanthia hamana L.
 TORTRICIDAE
Cacaoecia rosana L.
 lecheana L.
Pandemis heparana Schiff.
Acleris schalleriana L.
 variegana Schiff.
 EUCOSMIDAE
Notocelia uddmanniana L.
 roseacolana Doubl.
Eucosma cana Haw.
 foenella L.
 tripunctana F.
Lathronympha hypericana Hüb. n.
Argyroproce variegana Hüb. n.
 striana Schiff.
 lacunana Dup.
 OECOPHORIDAE
Endrosis lactella Schiff.
Chimabache fagella Fabr.
Carcina quercana Fabr.

Depressaria heracliana L.
 arenella Schiff.
 hypericella Hüb. n.
 ELACHISTIDAE
Elachista cygnipennella Hüb. n.
 HYPONOMEUTIDAE
Hyponomeuta padella L.
 cognatella Hüb. n.
 PLUTELLIDAE
Plutella maculipennis Curt.
 TINEIDAE
Tinea semifulvella Haw.
 ADELIDAE
Adela viridella Scop.
 ERIOCRANIIDAE
Mnemonica subpurpurella Haw.
 MICROPTERIGIDAE
Micropterix aruncella Scop.
 calthella L.

HOVER FLIES (DIPTERA SYRPHIDAE). NEW RECORDS

B. N. K. Davis.
 Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Once again regular collecting of hoverflies has produced several new county records bringing the total to 122. Studies by Dr. E. Pollard on insects in hedges has led to two species, not hitherto taken, being bred from larvae found on blackthorn.

(Collectors J. H. Cole, B. N. K. Davis, E. Pollard, H. J. Wills indicated by initials.)

NEW RECORDS

- Cheilosia grossa Fallen. (E.P.) Monks Wood 26 March
Melanostoma ambiguum Fallen (E.P.) Several bred from larvae, emerging March. Houghton and Monks Wood.
Paragus tibialis Fallen (J.H.C.) Yaxley brick pit, 10 August.
Platychirus immarginatus Zett. (H.J.W.) Monks Wood 27 August 1966 (from published list). An uncommon species.
Syrphus euchromus Kowarz. (E.P.) Monks Wood, 26 April. An uncommon species.
S. triangulifer Zett. (E.P.) Bred from larva, emerging 30 March. Monks Wood, an uncommon species.
Triglyphus primus Loew (J.H.C.) Yaxley brick pit, 10 August. A rare species.
Xylota abiens Meig. (J.H.C.) Monks Wood, 6 July. An uncommon species.
X. nemorum Fab. (J.H.C.) Yaxley brick pit, 10 August. An uncommon species.

Other species which have only been recorded once before are Chrysotoxum bicinctum L. taken this year from Monks Wood and Houghton (E.P.) Easton (J.H.C.) and Yaxley (B.N.K.D.); Cheilosia vulpina Meig. from Yaxley (B.N.K.D.); Heringia heringii Zett. from Brampton Wood (J.H.C.) and Monks Wood (B.N.K.D.); Pipiza noctiluca L. from Grafham Water Nature Reserve (B.N.K.D.) last recorded in the 1930's from Woodwalton Fen; and Eumerus ornatus Meig. from Monks Wood (J.H.C.).

REFERENCE

- H. J. Wills (1968). Diptera from Monks Wood National Nature Reserve. Entomologists Record 80, 115-119.

MYRIAPODA FROM MONKS WOOD NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

R. Colin Welch.
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Although the Millipedes (Diplopoda) and Centipedes (Chilopoda) must be familiar to everyone relatively little is known of their distribution and life histories. Blower (1958) lists 44 species of Millipedes from the British Isles and Eason (1964) describes the same number of Centipedes. With regard to the former, over one third of the species are thought to have a fairly restricted distribution in Britain. Of the remaining species 14 have been recorded in or adjacent to Monks Wood National Nature Reserve during the past three years. A few "woodland" species may still remain undiscovered in the reserve but

from our present knowledge of their distribution it would seem unlikely that the total number would be over 20 species.

Only 9 species of Centipede have so far been taken in Monks Wood although three other species are known from Huntingdonshire. Among the remainder there are about 11 species which could possibly occur in woodland in this part of the country. The other half of the recorded British species are known either from only a few localities or from different habits, such as seashore.

DIPLOPODA (MILLIPEDES)

POLYXENIDAE

Polyxenus lagurus (L.). On 12/10/65 a number of specimens were taken in a grey squirrel's drey, 15 feet above the ground, in a field maple, (Compt. 24a). One specimen was also collected by beating one year old hazel on 30/5/67 (Compt. 24b.).

GLOMERIDAE

Glomeris (Eurypleuroglomeris) marginata (Villers). Common throughout Monks Wood. Abundant in pit-fall traps at the beginning of April with a slight second peak in mid-June, but very few caught towards the end of September. This species is most numerous in those parts of the wood with either a thick leaf litter layer or ample low vegetation and moss cover.

CRASPEDOSOMIDAE

Polymicrodon polydesmoides (Leach). Single individuals were collected in pit-fall traps in 5 (Compt. 12c) and 7-year old hazel coppice (Compt. 8b) on 10/6/66. During the rest of the year specimens were taken only from the former compartment, becoming most numerous in the first half of September.

POLYDESMIDAE

Brachydesmus superus Latzel. Only two specimens have been collected from within the reserve boundary, both in pit-fall traps; one in an area of dense scrub on 15/4/66 (Compt. 23b) and the other under 30-40 year old hazel coppice on 18/7/66 (Compt. 24a). Dr. J. P. Dempster has also found this species in some numbers on a cultivated plot adjoining the wood.

Polydesmus angustus Latzel and P. denticulatus C.L. Koch. Both these species are very common throughout the wood, particularly in June and July, and are present in almost equal numbers. In hazel coppice of different ages both were approximately three times more numerous in the 5 year old area (Compt. 12c) than in any other age stand from 1 to 9 years old.

BLANIULIDAE

Choneiulus palmatus (Nemec). This species has been taken by P. E. Jones in corrugated cardboard bands placed around the trunks of oaks along Southedge Ride on the following dates: 10/4/68 (1 spec.); 15/7/68 (3); 30/10/67 (4) and 25/11/68 (11).

Blaniulus guttulatus (Bosc.) Ten specimens were collected in pit-fall traps under 30-40 years old hazel coppice (Compt. 23b) from 12-14/8/65.

Proteroiulus fuscus (Am Stein). A single specimen was taken by P. E. Jones on 2/1/68 under a corrugated cardboard band 6 feet up the trunk of an oak in Southedge Ride.

IULIDAE

Iulus (Micropodoiulus) scandinavicus Latzel. Fairly common in pit-fall traps from March until May, gradually declining in numbers through the summer so that very few were collected in September. This species was equally common in all areas of hazel coppice from 1-9 years old.

Ophiulus pilosus (Newport). Present in much smaller numbers than the former species. Most abundant in April and early May. Small numbers continue to be caught in pit-fall traps until the beginning of August, after which it becomes scarce.

Cylindroiulus (Aneuloboiulus) punctatus (Leach). Taken in small numbers in pit-fall traps from March until mid August, after which no more were caught before trapping ceased on 30th September. However, P. E. Jones has found single specimens in corrugated cardboard traps on oaks at dates ranging from July 15th (1968) to 30th October (1967).

Brachyiulus pusillus (Leach). Not recorded from within the reserve but a single specimen was found in the outdoor insectary at Monks Wood Experimental Station on 28/3/68.

Tachypodoiulus niger (Leach). The most abundant Iulid in Monks Wood in early parts of the year, but the numbers of adults caught in pit-fall traps drops sharply in early July. This corresponds with a peak in the numbers of immature Iulids caught. Although only occasional adults were trapped in August and September, P. E. Jones observed a sharp rise in the numbers collected from corrugated cardboard bands in September and October.

CHILOPODA (CENTIPEDES)

GEOPHILIDAE

*Strigamia acuminata (Leach). Only 11 specimens taken singly from pit-fall traps in areas of different aged hazel coppice on the

following dates:- 9/10/65 (Compt. 24a); 15/4/66 and 22/7/66 (23b and 12c); 5/8/66 (8b and 19d); and 19/8/66 (23b).

Geophilus carpophagus Leach. Although generally regarded as a common woodland species it has been recorded from pit-fall traps on only three occasions:- 15/4/66 (Compt. 19d); 16/9/66 (Compts. 23b and 24b).

LITHOBIIDAE

*Lithobius variegatus Leach. Eason (1964) remarks that this endemic species is apparently absent from Eastern England, however, it has proved to be the second most common Centipede taken in pit-fall traps in Monks Wood. It has been collected in most months of the year with a tendency to be slightly more numerous in areas with a thicker leaf litter layer.

Lithobius forficatus (L.). The most abundant species in Monks Wood. It has been collected in pit-fall traps during nearly every month of the year and appears more numerous in the more open, newly coppiced areas.

*Lithobius lapidicola Meinart. Occasionally taken in pit-fall traps, appearing more commonly in September:- Compt. 24b (27/5, 10/6 and 2/9/66); Compt. 8b (29/4, 2 and 30/9/66); and Compt. 19d (10/6 and 16/9/66). It has also been collected from a grey squirrel's drey in a field maple (Compt. 24a) on 12/10/65, and in a bird's nest (Compt. 12c) on 4/1/66.

*Lithobius aulacopus Latzel. A single female was caught in a pit-fall trap on 22/7/66 in an area of 9 year old hazel coppice (Compt. 19d).

*Lithobius calcaratus C. L. Koch. Taken infrequently in pit-fall traps:- 29/4/66 (Compt. 8b); 13/5/66 (24b); 24/6/66 (12c); 22/7/66 (8b and 12c) and 16/9/66 (19d). A single male was also found in a Deschampsia tussock on 27/1/66 (Compt. 6c).

Lithobius crassipes C. L. Koch. Caught in pit-fall traps in small numbers throughout most of the year with a slight peak towards the end of July.

*Lithobius curtipes C. L. Koch. Taken in pit-fall traps with the former species but slightly less common.

*indicates species not recorded from Huntingdonshire in Eason (1964). I am grateful to Dr. J. P. Dempster and Mr. P. E. Jones for permission to include their records in this list.

REFERENCES

- Blower J. G., 1958. Synopses of the British Fauna, No. 11 - British Millipedes (Diplopoda). Linn. Soc., London.
Eason, E. H., 1964. Centipedes of the British Isles. London.

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE NON MARINE MOLLUSCA
OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Phillip Cambridge.

Although the response to my request for specimens was not as good as was hoped, sufficient live material was collected to make the publication of a first list justified. Much further collecting is still needed as many habitats have only been touched on or neglected completely. No doubt the small pea mussels can be found in most waters in the county by sieving water plants and mud. The small snail species living in moss, grass, roots, and on old walls are poorly represented and only one species of slug is on the list so far.

Helicella gigaxi is always a distinctly local species, but in contrast Helix aspersa is found wherever human habitations are and is the common snail of the garden. It was unknown in Britain before Roman times however.

In further reading an inexpensive book is "Molluscs" by M. Janus in the Young Specialist Series. Although the title is misleading (non-marine Molluscs would be more accurate), the black and white drawings of each species and the fine colour photographs are especially useful for the identification of species.

Stibbington Gravel Pits, near Wansford. Approx. TL081995

Unio tumidus Philipsson

U. pictorum (L)

Anodonta anatina (L)

Lymnaea stagnalis (L)

L. auricularia (L)

L. peregra (Mueller)

Bithynia tentaculata (L)

Planorbis carinatus Mueller

Wyton Airfield (TL294750) and Sawtry Way alongside airfield (TL279739)

August 1967

Grassland and roadside verges with ditches.

Hygromia striolata (Pfeiffer)

H. liberta (Westerlund)

H. hispida (L.)

Helicella virgata (Da Costa)

H. caperata (Montagu)

H. gigaxi (Pfeiffer)

Oxychilus helveticus (Blüm)

P. vortex (L)

P. albus Mueller

Succinea pfeifferi Rossm&ssler

Zonitoides nitidus (Mueller)

Hygromia hispida (L)

Arion ater (L)

Discus rotundatus (Mueller)

Retinella nitidula (Draparnaud)

Cepaea nemoralis (L)

Helix aspersa Mueller

Monacha cantiana (Montagu)

Lymnaea truncatula (Mueller)

Whittlesey, Flooded Brickpits. (TL284958) June 1968

Dreissena polymorpha (Pallas).

This was taken about 15 feet below water level attached to stones and fragments of fossil oysters by sub-aqua divers. This mussel was introduced from Europe in the early nineteenth century and it is interesting to note that Whittlesey Mere (drained about 1850) was one of the very earliest known habitats for this species in Britain.

Banks of River Ouse

Succinea putris (L) Brampton 25.5.67 (TL221704).

Arianta arbustorum (L) The Thicket, St. Ives. 8 June 1966.

Dreissena polymorpha (Pallas) Houghton Mill, 3.7.68.

HERPETOLOGICAL RECORDS FOR 1968

H. J. Berman and Phillip Hitchcock,
St. Ivo School, St. Ives.

Frogs

The Native frog Rana temporaria L., it would be inappropriate to call it the common frog any more, is I am happy to say back on county records. The circulars distributed by Dr. Brian Davis of Monks Wood Experimental Station stimulated quite an interest in schools as to the whereabouts of frog breeding sites. Adult frogs, spawn and tadpoles were reported by various people in many places in the county but very few of these were substantiated with specimens. Unfortunately I did receive several examples of toad's spawn and tadpoles as evidence of frog colonies.

Orton Longueville and Orton Waterville. Reports via the Headmaster of Orton Longueville Primary School from 5 children who recorded considerable numbers of both frogs, toads, spawn and tadpoles from ditches, ponds, gravel pits and streams around these villages between the 1st and 24th of April, 1967. A dozen or more other places were searched unsuccessfully.

Sawtry. A thorough report from the Head of Sawtry Primary School. 9 children reported seeing frogs, spawn and tadpoles from around Sawtry, and 5 different children recorded toads and toad's spawn between 31st of March and the 28th May, 1968.

Woodhurst. A few frogs reported by 2 children in a pond and ditch via Warboys C.P. School 18th and 19th of March 1967.

Stanground. Several frogs and spawn reported by 1 child via Stanground C.E. School, in ditch, pond and lode, late March-April, 1967.

Tetworth. A few frogs and spawn and one toad seen in a pond at Tetworth Hall by Mrs. Crossman, 12th April, 1967.

Alconbury. One frog in a ditch reported via Alconbury C.E. School, late March 1967.

Catworth. Frogs spawn found by 1 child at Catworth, 2nd May, 1967.

St. Neots. Mr. Terry Wells of Monks Wood reported seeing frogs and toads in St. Neots during May and June of 1967 and Mrs. Angell of Offord Primary School says that frogs were there on the 26th March, 1968. A teacher at Buckden Primary School also watched frogs in St. Neots on the 24th April 1968.

Huntingdon. Frogs, spawn and tadpoles reported in a pond and stream by 3 children at St. Peters School 10th March-27th April, 1967. I received five tadpoles from the Huntingdon site from the Biology Department of St. Peters School during the early part of the summer of 1968 and am happy to say they were definitely frog tadpoles.

St. Ives, Fenstanton, Earith, Hemingford. This area did not provide any confirmed reports of frog sightings.

Toads.

The Common, or native toad, Bufo bufo L. seemed to be holding its own in the county last year. In addition to the records mentioned above I received many individual specimens of adult and immature toads from various places in East Hunts. including St. Ives, Hemingford Grey and Abbots. A small frog or toad seen in Fenstanton was not identified and might have been either.

Somersham. A few toads were reported as having been seen in a gravel pit on the 12th of March 1967 by people at Ramsey Modern School.

Kimbolton. Mr. I. Burton of Kimbolton School found toads and an abundance of spawn in a pond during March and April, 1968.

Newts.

Assorted colour varieties of the Common Newt, Triturus vulgaris L. turned up in ponds and puddles in St. Ives, Fenstanton, Woodhurst and Earith and I am told by people in various parts of the County that this species was fairly plentiful last year. It was often found in fairly new garden ponds.

A number of individual specimens of black newt, Triturus cristatus Laurenti, turned up in the St. Ives area and also at Woodhurst.

Snakes.

A grass snake Natrix natrix L., was taken at Woodhurst in July 1968 and another live specimen was found near gravel pits in St. Ives

in August. A dead specimen was found on the road near St. Ivo School in St. Ives also in August.

Lizards.

Common lizards Lacerta vivipara Jacquin were seen and identified at St. Ives railway station on the old track and one was taken on the railway embankment half mile north of St. Ives, July, 1968.

We would like any records of adder and slow worm sightings anyone may have, please.

NOTES ON THE COMMON TOAD (BUFO BUFO) AT CASTOR HANGLANDS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

R. V. Collier
Reserve Warden.

Observations have been carried out since 1961 on a colony of the Common Toad (Bufo bufo) in a pond on the Castor Hanglands National Nature Reserve. The results have been used for guidance in the management of the aquatic habitats in the Reserve and also to see the effects of such management on this toad colony. The aims of the work were, (a) to estimate the toad population, (b) to record their presence at the pond, (c) to try and locate their hibernation places and (d) to obtain data on their size and weight. The pond, which is 50 feet above sea level and at Grid Ref. TF119016, lies at the eastern end of a grassy peninsular which extends from Ailsworth Heath into Castor Hanglands Wood. The pond is permanent and spring fed and known as the Main Pond and the peninsular as the Pond Leg. During the study period it underwent considerable changes which altered both its size and depth. The outlet was dammed in 1962, then in 1966 the dam was replaced by a more permanent wooden structure and the southern half of the pond dredged out by dragline. In 1967 the rest of the pond was dredged and a new circular dyke cut at its western side and a small island created. An overspill was incorporated in the new dam so the water level is now constant, giving 1,100 square yards of surface. It has a maximum depth of about four feet with six inches of silt on the bed and sloping margins. Readings taken in June 1964 showed an average pH of 7.6.

Before the dredging the dominant aquatic plant was the Stonewort, Chara hispida. Since dredging Sparganium erectum (Branched Burr-reed) and Potamogeton natans (Broad-leaved Pondweed) have been co-dominants in the southern half while in the recently dredged northern half Chara hispida is resuming its previous dominance.

The Pond Leg and the immediate surround of the pond is grassland with occasional shrubs, trees and small areas dominated by Juncus sp. About thirty yards from the edge of the pond on three sides there is woodland. The outlet runs south-east from the pond and another stream, running west to east, joins it about 20 yards south of the pond. About 300 yards up the latter there is a small pond known as the Heath Pond which dries up in most summers. In the Pond Leg about 200 yards west of the main pond is a small depression about five yards square which holds a few inches of water during the period the toads are breeding. The whole of the Pond Leg is badly drained with marshy conditions throughout.

Population.

Observations were carried out by day and night. The night visits were used to locate the position and direction of movement of toads away from the pond. During the day catches were made for examination, weighing, measuring and marking (toe clipping).

Estimates of population were made by the capture/recapture method carried out over several days to increase accuracy. Only the population of males could be estimated in this way as they stay at the pond for most of the breeding season whereas the females soon leave. Thus far more males than females were handled. Number of males captured daily varied from 5 to over 200 and averaged about 30-50. From these data it was estimated that the male population was about 300.

By coincidence the main investigation into weights, lengths and population took place in the springs of 1962 and 1963, between which the winter was the severest for many years. The weights and lengths of toads caught in 1963, after the winter, are slightly higher than those caught in 1962. This could indicate a greater survival of the larger and thus presumably older individuals. It was of particular interest to find a survival value of 11%. This is similar to that recorded by other workers so it would appear that the hibernation places provided adequate protection against severe conditions.

Displacement

At 14.00 hours G.M.T. on 27th March 1964 twenty-five males were marked and released in a woodland stream 450 yards due south of the Main Pond. The area of release was searched again on the 28th, but none was found then or later. At 09.45 hours 28th March 1964 twenty-five males were marked and released in the Heath Pond, and were still there five hours later. Only one was subsequently seen, this was in the main pond, ten days later.

Hibernation and Migration.

By mapping the distribution of individuals found away from the pond it was hoped to locate the hibernation sites. Locating the toads at night by torchlight was fairly easy on woodland rides or short grassland, but in other habitats it was more difficult and the result was an emphasis on the former. However, as rides and paths are present all round the area it was considered that the records obtained were a reliable indication of the directional movement.

Although large numbers of toads were seen away from the pond, (over fifty on some evenings), no apparent pattern to indicate any special hibernation source emerged. Rather the maps showed a random pattern of dispersal to both grassland and woodland habitats. Some toads were extremely dry indicating very recent emergence, but again no directional pattern could be found. No individuals were located over 350 yards from the pond. Apparently either a wide range of scattered hibernaculae are used or a few favoured places which were not located.

In other studies it has been found that toads migrate to the breeding site in one direction leading from the hibernation area. At Castor Hanglands this does not appear to be the case as there is an even scatter of incoming toads from all directions. No indication could be found of the type of site used for hibernation, although it seemed likely that it took place in a variety of habitats including woodland, grassland and conifer plantation.

Breeding Sites and Times.

Most of the spawn was laid amongst the aquatic vegetation in the Main Pond, particularly on the shallow sides of the pond at depths less than one foot six inches. The distribution of the spawn suggested that some places were favoured more than others, as in certain sites the water was black with ribbons of spawn and others were devoid of any. Two plants seem to be connected with spawn distribution, Juncus subnodulosus and more recently Sparganium erectum. A few also spawned at the very end of the season in the Heath Pond and the small depression.

The males were first seen or heard between 23rd March and 9th April except for 1966 when breeding was exceptionally early with both males and females at the pond on 3rd March. 1966 was also a long breeding season that included periods of inactivity when the temperature dropped low enough to form ice on the pond. This resulted in the last females laying spawn after tadpoles had hatched from the first batch of eggs. The last female laying that year was recorded on 10th April. The alterations to the pond had no apparent effect on the

breeding apart from causing the spawn to be placed differently, no doubt a secondary factor caused by changed plant distribution.

If it becomes particularly cold when the toads are breeding at the pond they cease croaking and bury themselves in the silt at the bottom or on its margins. They can also be stimulated to bury themselves by disturbing the water, although sometimes this action has the effect, particularly at night, of attracting a male that possibly thinks a female has arrived.

Reaction to a torch beam varies considerably, some retreat into corners backwards while others sit upright and can be easily seen as their white throats show up clearly.

Predation and Disease.

Grass snakes (Natrix natrix) have been seen eating toads although not many snakes are seen at the pond until the toads have finished breeding. Herons (Ardea cinerea) and Brown rat (Rattus norvegicus) have also been seen taking small numbers of adult toads. There have been several instances of a female being found dead in the middle of large numbers of males (in one instance no less than 22). Periodically these 'bundles' of animals are separated to save the females as it is believed the males kill them.

Some males were found with brick-red blotches of up to 1/2" diameter on various parts of the skin and Dr. E. Elkan has suggested this could be caused by bacteria or fungi, but this requires confirmation.

Other Species

During the study numerous contacts were made with other Amphibia and Reptiles and the following species were recorded:

Grass snake (Natrix natrix) Common. Frequently swims.
Smooth newt (Triturus vulgaris). Frequent.
Palmate newt (Triturus helveticus). Occasional.
Crested newt (Triturus cristatus). Very rare.

Acknowledgements

This is a condensed version of a paper which will be published in full elsewhere and I should like to thank Mr. I. Prestt for his very helpful suggestions on the draft copy.

SELECTED BIRD RECORDS FOR 1968.

B.S. Milne
Houghton Grange Bird Club.

1968 will long be remembered as the year of the Osprey. For close on a month one or two were seen almost daily along the valley of

the Ouse and on the adjoining gravel-pits, or at Grafham Water. The year also saw the welcome return of the Kingfisher as a breeding bird and it is pleasing to record successful nesting at many of its former haunts where it has been completely absent since the severe winter of 1962/63. Lack of space prevents publication of a complete systematic list and only the more outstanding records are given below. Unless otherwise stated, all records are from members of Houghton Grange Bird Club.

4. Red-throated Diver - Grafham, one Jan. 18th - Feb. 23rd.
(J.T.R. Sharrock, R.F. Porter).
6. Red-necked Grebe - Grafham, one Jan. 14th, two Feb. 23rd.
(J.T.R. Sharrock), one Mar. 3rd, 31st, Apr. 8th-11th.
7. Slavonian Grebe - Grafham, two Feb. 25th - Mar. 24th.
8. Black-necked Grebe - Meadow Lane, one Aug. 25th.
29. Shag - Grafham, up to ten in November, a few remaining until December. Meadow Lane, two Dec. 1st.
53. Shoveler - Grafham, two pairs bred successfully.
55. Scaup - Grafham, up to six Feb. 18th - Mar. 17th, one-two remaining until Apr. 7th.
56. Tufted Duck - Grafham, max. count 1,000 Jan. 14th. Meadow Lane, 17 pairs bred on one pit.
57. Pochard - Grafham, max. count 1,200 Jan. 14th. Meadow Lane, two pairs bred.
60. Goldeneye - Grafham, a marked increase in the winter population, with 46 in February and 36 in March.
64. Common Scoter - Meadow Lane, a drake June 2nd, Grafham, a duck June 18th.
70. Goosander - Grafham, small numbers at both ends of the year. Meadow Lane, one Feb. 25th - Mar. 3rd., Hartford Road, two Nov. 23rd.
73. Shelduck - Grafham, three pairs until June when they deserted due to rabbit clearance activities. Breeding is thought to have been attempted.
78. Pink-footed Goose - Abbots Ripton, eight in flight Jan 19th.
86. Bewick's Swan - Reported from all the usual localities, max. Holywell, 110 Jan 20th.
103. Osprey - River Ouse (Huntingdon to Needingworth), Hartford Road and Meadow Lane gravel-pits, Grafham Water, one or two birds almost daily Apr. 28th - May 31st.
104. Hobby - Birds were present throughout the summer at a woodland locality and probably bred, as several juveniles were reported in the autumn.
117. Quail - Keyston, heard calling April - June.

131. Oystercatcher - Abbots Ripton, one Apr. 1st., Grafham, one Aug. 10th.
135. Little Ringed Plover - Nine pairs bred.
139. Grey Plover - Grafham, one Apr. 14th.
143. Turnstone - Grafham, one Apr. 29th.
151. Whimbrel - Grafham, one-two Apr. 20th - 21st.
155. Bar-tailed Godwit - Grafham, one June 23rd.
162. Spotted Redshank - Grafham, one Apr. 21st., Meadow Lane, one Aug. 25th.
171. Little Stint - Grafham, one Apr. 15th.
181. Sanderling - Grafham, one Dec. 29th.
184. Ruff - usual passage records. Meadow Lane, one Dec. 8th
212. Black Tern - Grafham - 13 Apr. 21st, 15 May 4th, almost daily June 1st-23rd with peak of 40 on 12th. Fenstanton, two Aug. 15th., Houghton floods, one Sept. 22nd-24th.
223. Sandwich Tern - River Nene, Wansford, two May 6th., Grafham, two Sept. 15th.
- Collared Dove - A marked increase in the number of records with reports from Huntingdon, Hemingford, St. Ives, Hartford, Hilton, Warboys, Ramsey, Monks Wood and Stibbington. Although breeding is thought to have taken place at several localities, definite evidence is lacking.
252. Nightjar - Perry West Wood, present during the breeding season.
258. Kingfisher - A remarkable recovery in breeding numbers. Breeding pairs were reported from Little Paxton, Brampton, Stibbington, Hartford Road (two pairs), Marsh Lane, Meadow Lane and Earith. In addition birds were noted at several other localities during the breeding season.
265. Wryneck - Monks and Bevill's Woods, one Apr. 20th.
307. Ring Ouzel - Grafham, a cock bird Apr. 9th. (J. T. R. Sharrock).
321. Black Redstart - Hilton, a hen Mar. 24th and a cock Apr. 7th. Meadow Lane, a cock Apr. 15th.
343. Blackcap - St. Ives, a cock bird in the recorder's garden Nov. 17th-28th.
379. Rock Pipit - Meadow Lane, one May 11th.
380. White Wagtail - Grafham, three Apr. 20th.
423. Snow Bunting - Grafham, one Feb. 18th, Mar. 3rd., three Apr. 19th.

BIRDS - SOME 1968 BREEDING RECORDS

E. T. Lees.

Kestrel. Showed a slight increase in numbers. A pair was observed several times during the breeding season entering the top floor of the old flour mill by the Godmanchester railway station site. Believed to have bred.

Water Rail. Single bird caught by a cat in the old gravel pit at Somersham, released unharmed and returned to pit. A good chance that a pair of birds was present owing to date of this event (May 10th) when Water Rail should be incubating eggs.

Cuckoos. Average number about, but the storm of 10th and 11th July almost wiped out those young which had been and were being reared by Reed Warblers. The next few seasons will be well worth careful recording to see the effect of the July disaster.

Blackcap. An invasion of breeding birds in the woods in the Upton Sawtry area. Four nests with eggs seen within 2 hours on 12th May.

Chaffinch. A steady increase. Ten nests seen with either eggs or young - the largest number I have found in one season since 1946.

Tufted Duck. Possibly the best ever breeding season with clutch sizes above average, one nest contained 16 eggs and 14's and 12's were not uncommon. The average number in a normal year is about 10.

Great Crested Grebe. Plenty of birds evident, but one of their erratic years as there were only two certain nests from about 10 observed pairs.

Tree Creeper. A decrease in numbers. No nests seen in the usual haunts.

Snipe. Birds observed during the breeding season but no evidence of nests, eggs or young in spite of ideal breeding conditions. Before the war this was a common breeding bird in this county, but the trend over the country is that it has to a great extent moved its breeding grounds further north.

STOAT RECORD

J. E. H. Blackie.

I saw a stoat, Mustela erminea stabilis, on the road between Hamerton and Alconbury Weston on 29th May 1968. It was a good sighting of the body size and black-tipped tail, so I think the record is unquestionable.

THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY
(The County Natural History Society)

The Society exists to promote the study, preservation and recording of wildlife by the encouragement and publication of the results of research, the holding of meetings and such other activities as may forward the above-mentioned purposes of the Society within the county of Huntingdon and now also of Peterborough.

Membership is open to all who are interested in natural history, for a subscription of 30/-, payable on January 1st each year.

The affairs of the Society are conducted by a Committee consisting of a President, a Chairman, a Treasurer, one or more Honorary Secretaries and eight ordinary members (exclusive of co-opted members), elected by the members of the Society at the A.G.M., usually held in March. The Committee annually elects recorders to assist with the identification of specimens and to prepare contributions to the Annual Report, which members receive free.

The Society holds field meetings at sites of interest at regular intervals during the summer and autumn, and indoor meetings during the winter.

If you are interested in the work of the Society and would like to join, please contact the Secretary or Treasurer.