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for 1977



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HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977

No. 30

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Secretary's report

The 1977 Annual General Meeting was held at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 26th March at Huntingdon Research Centre. Mr T.C.E. Wells took the chair until the election of Mr J. Heath, and 46 other members attended.

Minutes of the previous A.G.M. held on 20th March 1976 had been circulated and were accepted.

The Secretary's Report contained in the Annual Report No. 29 and the Treasurer's Report and balance sheet were accepted.

Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee were elected and are listed at the beginning of this Report. There were no changes in Recorders.

After the official business Dr A. Cooke spoke on "The birds of Grafham Water".

Meetings

The following four ordinary meetings were held during the year:

27th January "The harvest mouse in Bedfordshire" by Mrs E.B.Rands, at Monks Wood Experimental Station.

17th February "Natural History in close-up" by Mr B. Dickerson, at Monks Wood Experimental Station.

26th October "Plant survey methods" by Mr T.C.E. Wells, at Huntingdon Research Centre.

23rd November "Studies of the autumn migration of birds through Gibraltar" by Sq.Ldr. C. Pomeroy, at Monks Wood Experimental Station.

The following 10 field meetings were held:

24th April Aversley Wood. Botany and general interest. Leader, Mr R.A.Fitton. Mr and Mrs Fitton kindly entertained members to tea afterwards.

29th May Upwood Meadows Reserve. Botany, particularly Orchis morio. Leader Mr T.C.E. Wells. Mr and Mrs Wells kindly entertained members to tea afterwards.

18th June Hartham Street bridle way. Evening meeting at which Mr J. Heath operated a light trap for night flying insects.

26th June Bedford Purlieus. Botany and day flying Lepidoptera. Leader Mr J. Heath.

10th July Holywell, bridle way between the Ferryboat Inn and the Pike and Eel Inn. General interest. Leader Miss L.Farrell

23rd July Ramsey Heights Clay Pits Reserve. Pond life.
 Leader Mr J. Limentani.
 7th August Woodston/Fletton brick pits. General interest.
 Leaders Mrs S. Wells and Mr Lewin.
 4th September Denton Covert Reserve, Holme. General interest.
 Leader Mr R. Mortlock.
 17th September Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve. Evening
 meeting to observe Chinese Water Deer. Leaders
 Miss L. Farrell and Dr A. Cooke.
 8th October Waresley Wood Reserve. Fungus foray. Leaders
 Mrs S. Wells and Mr S. Carter.

* * * *

BOTANICAL NOTES

T.C.E. Wells

In contrast to 1976, 1977 was wetter than usual and roadside verges which in the previous year had been brown and dried up were a lush green throughout the year. Plant growth was exceptionally good and the absence of cold weather in the autumn enabled many species to continue flowering until early November.

Recording the flora of the county continued steadily, much time being spent in the Soke of Peterborough - nevertheless some interesting records were made in Huntingdonshire, v.c. 31. The most exciting find was the discovery of a single plant of the rare Mouse-tail (Myosurus minimus L.) in flower and fruit on a bare ant-hill in Upwood Meadows during a H.F.F.S. excursion. This species is usually found in wet soil at the edges of arable fields, or in cart ruts, and one can only suggest that the seed had lain dormant for many years while in the ant-hill and that the activities of the ants in mound-building brought the seed to the surface, where it germinated and grew. Excellent photographs of the plant were taken by a number of members, including Barry Dickerson and Alan Moores, which serve as a record of an unusual event.

Records are given in the same form as in previous reports, the 4 or 6 figure grid reference accompanying each record, the 100 km square 52 (TL) being omitted. The following initials are used for the recorders:- Dr B.N.K.Davis (B.N.K.D.), Mr J.H. Chandler (J.H.C.), Miss Katy Clark (K.C.), Miss L. Farrell (L.F.), Mr J.O.Mountford (J.O.M.), Mrs S.E.Wells (S.E.W.), Mr T.C.E.Wells (T.C.E.W.), Mrs Felicity A. Woodhead (F.A.W.).

Dryopteris dilatata (Hoffm.) A. Gray. Broad Buckler Fern. Several clumps on peat under Alder. Woodwalton Fen, 228838, May 22 (T.C.E.W.).

Myosurus minimus L. Mouse-tail. A single plant in flower, growing on bare soil on top of ant-hill, Upwood Meadows, 252827. Found by L. Farrell during H.F.F.S. meeting. Last recorded in the county in 1898 by Hunnybun and only other record by W.R. Linton from Buckden in 1883. Unfortunately the plant had disappeared by June 3, 4 days after its discovery.

Brassica juncea (L.) Czern. In small quantity on waste ground near the River Nene at Alwalton Weir, 129963, June 20, 1976 (J.H.C.). Only other record by J. Gilbert from Horsey Toll in 1956.

Lepidium sativum L. Garden Cress. Among sugar beet, Bythorn, 049762, July 16, (J.O.M.). This is almost the same site where T.C.E.W. found depauperate specimens in 1974.

Erophila verna (L.) Chevall. Whitlow Grass. Edge of flower bed, Houghton Poultry Research Station, 2774, March 8 (K.Jefferies); courtyard, Godmanchester, 243703, May (B.N.K.D.).

Cardamine amara L. Large Bitter-cress. Shady backwater of R. Nene. The Stauch, Orton Longueville, 166972, May 18, 1976 (J.H.C.). This is the first recent record of this species from the north of the county.

Stellaria alsine Grimm. Bog Stitchwort. Old meadow, Easton, 142718, June 18, (B.N.K.D.). An interesting record of a species seen only twice in the county since 1966.

Impatiens capensis Meerburgh. Orange Balsam. Shady backwater of R. Nene, The Staunch, Orton Longueville, 166972, June 1 (J.H.C.). This species is still spreading in the county.

Buxus sempervirens L. Box. Several small trees in a planted spinney, White Hill, Fenstanton, 312669, April 13 (F.A.W.).

Medicago arabica (L.) Huds. Spotted Medick. Abundant for about 20 m along roadside verge, Godmanchester, 244697, June 25 (T.C.E.W.).

Vicia tenuissima (M. Bieb.) Schinz & Thell. Slender Tare. In ex-arable field, east of Warboys Wood, 306819, July 9 (T.C.E.W.).

Aphanes arvensis L. Parsley Piert. In lawn, Hemingford Grey, 290700, May, (B.N.K.D.). Usually found in arable fields.

Daphne laureola L. Spurge Laurel. Five plants in roadside hedge, nr. St. Ives Golf course, 3172, March 28 (L.F.); eight plants in hedge nr. Mayfield Barn, Kings Ripton, 250750, March 28 (L.F.).

Hedera helix var Hibernica Kirchn. Woodland, site of Alwalton Mill, 132962, October 8, 1975, det. A. Rutherford (J.H.C.). The first record of this distinctive variety for the county.

Sison amomum L. Stone Parsley. Roadside verge, Godmanchester, 246681, June 25 (S.E.W.).

Rumex pulcher L. Fiddle Dock. Six plants in rough grassland, Mill Lane, Bluntisham, 371748, August 1 (J.O.M. and K.C.). The first siting of this distinctive plant in the east of the county since G.C. Druce's records at the turn of the century.

Salix purpurea L. Purple Willow. Streamside, Orton Longueville, 157969, June 8, 1976 (J.H.C.). Previous records from the south of the county.

Vinca minor L. Lesser Periwinkle. Grass verge, Paxton Hill, 203624, July 27 (J.O.M.). A garden escape.

Cuscuta europaea L. Large Dodder. On Urtica dioica, near R. Ouse, Brampton, 216694, August 1976, Peter Walker and Barry Dickerson. A record of this rare species inadvertently missed from last year's records.

Veronica filiformis Sm. River bank beside Water Newton Mill, 110974, May 29, 1975; waste places and hedge bottoms, Riverend, Elton, 084939, June 18, 1974 (J.H.C.).

Orobanche elatior Sutton. Tall Broomrape. Several plants on Centaurea scabiosa, dis-used quarry, Water Newton, 115971, June 24, 1975 (J.H.C.). Known from this site since 1937, the only other record for the county being from Stow Longa in 1913-15.

Calamintha ascendens Jord. Common Calamint. Embankment facing cricket-field, Stibbington, 076992, August 10, 1974 (J.H.C.). First reported from this site by J. Gilbert in 1949.

Clinopodium vulgare L. Wild Basil. In hedge, behind Hermitage Wood, 195776, August 1, Henry Arnold.

Lamium hybridum Vill. Cut-leaved Dead-nettle. Gravel path, Houghton, 2774, March 28 (K. Jefferies); arable field, Easton, 133718, June 5 (B.N.K.D.).

Campanula trachelium L. Bats-in-the-Belfry. Woodland ride, Savages Spinney, 134692, July 26 (B.N.K.D.).

Sherardia arvensis L. Field Madder. Ex-arable field, east of Warboys Wood, 307820, July 9 (T.C.E.W.).

Galium cruciata (L.) Scop. Crosswort. Several large clumps, along roadside verge on Fenstanton-Conington road, 317671, May 19 (F.A.W.). Also seen by T.C.E.W. in August at same site. Reported in 1952 by Mrs Blackie from 'near Fenstanton', and by T.W. from Houghton in 1974. No other recent records of this normally common plant.

Dipsacus pilosus L. Small Teasel. Woodland edge and on wet ride, Warboys Wood, 305820 and 302819, July 9 (T.C.E.W.).

Galinsoga ciliata (Raf.) Blake. Weed in nursery among tomatoes, Turkington Hill, Somersham, 373785, August 20 (Basil Blake). Probably introduced accidentally by nurseryman.

Inula helenium L. Elecampane. Grass verge, south west side of lane, Little Catworth, 103726, July 25 (H.W.J. Lucas).

Centaurea cyanus L. Cornflower. Headland in arable field, Bluntisham, 368737, July 27 (J.O.M. and K.C.). This is almost the same site where I found this uncommon weed in 1975.

Cichorium intybus L. Chicory. Grass verge, Bluntisham, 378747; rough grass verge on All23, 368744, October 9 (J.O.M. and K.C.).

Ruscus aculeatus L. Butcher's Broom. About 10-15 clumps in White Hill Spinney, Fenstanton, 312669, April 13 (F.A.W.). An interesting record of a planted species which is uncommon in Hunts.

Allium ursinum L. Ramsons. Several hundred plants near ditch, Warboys Wood 305820 and 304818, July 9 (T.C.E.W.). Still doing well at one of its few sites in the county.

Ophrys apifera Huds. Bee Orchid. About 12 plants in flower, Fenstanton-Hilton gravel pits, 3068, June 18 (Rosemary Parslow).

Anacamptis pyramidalis (L.) Rich. Pyramidal Orchid. Sixty-six flowering spikes counted over 50 m section of east facing slope of Sapley railway cutting, just south of bridge, 236742, August 1 (B.N.K.D.). This is probably the site from which E.W. Hunnybun recorded the plant in 1880. This must be the largest concentration of plants in the county.

Carex acuta L. Tufted Sedge. Flood meadow by R. Ouse, Godmanchester Common, 266722, May 21; Great Raveley Drain, 234848, May 22 (T.C.E.W.).

Poa nemoralis L. Wood Poa. Edge of Warboys Wood, 304818, July 9 (T.C.E.W.).

Festulolium loliaceum (Huds.) P. Fourn. Roadside, Church Lane, Elton, 088937, June 18, 1974 (J.H.C.). About the fourth record for the county.

Melica uniflora Retz. Wood Melick. Edge of Warboys Wood, 304818, July 9,
(T.C.E.W.).

Bromus commutatus Schrad. Meadow Brome. Ditch-side, Warboys Wood, 302820,
July 9; roadside verge, Godmanchester, 246681, June 25 (T.C.E.W.).

* * * *

The Marchioness of Huntly's botanical records for Huntingdonshire (V.C.31)

T.C.E. Wells and J. Sheail

Introduction

In the account of the botany of Huntingdonshire contained in the Victoria County History (V.C.H.), published in 1926, G.C. Druce gives details of earlier botanists who contributed to knowledge of the flora of the county. He rightly begins by saying that 'botanists connected with it have been few, nor are there any very early records'. The first substantial list of plants for the county was made by W.W. Newbould (1819-1886), who was a curate at Bluntisham in 1845. His records form the basis of the Huntingdonshire Records in Watson's Topographical Botany (2nd edition, 1883), and they also form the foundation for Druce's account of 1926. Druce himself made no secret of the fact that he was primarily interested in the county of his birth, Northamptonshire, and that his knowledge of Huntingdonshire was based on 'occasional incursions'. On 'one or two occasions Peterborough was made a centre and the dykes towards Ramsey and Whittlesey were worked with some degree of thoroughness'. In fact, Druce's account of the flora is mostly a compilation of the work of other botanists, among the most notable of whom was the Marchioness of Huntly (1821-1893).

The Marchioness differs from other major contributors to the flora of the county (with the exception of A. Fryer, who lived at Chatteris) in that she lived for the greater part of her life in the county, at Orton Hall in Orton Longueville. After her marriage in 1844 to Charles, Earl of Aboyne, she lived for most of the time at Orton and developed her childhood interest in botany. This may be illustrated by the fact that she collected and kept specimens of plants growing around the edge of Whittlesea Mere in 1848, three years before it was drained.

During the 1870s, much of her time was spent abroad in the company of learned amateur botanists, and it was then that the main part of her Herbarium Central Europe was made. This consists of 46 volumes and is now preserved at Aboyne Castle. Although she collected widely in the British Isles, most of her botanising in Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough was carried out in the last ten years of her long life. Her British Herbarium contains substantial collections of plants from these vice-counties and Druce (1926, 1930) acknowledges the value of these records and of her manuscript notes and annotations of various check-lists and floras. Unfortunately, many of the records which he attributes to the Marchioness in the V.C.H. are undated, and therefore of less value than they might otherwise have been.

Our interest in the Marchioness arose from a study we were making of land use in the Huntingdonshire fens, and we were accordingly interested in her records as evidence for changes in the vegetation which arose as a result of drainage and other forms of agricultural change. This led to a successful search for the Marchioness's Herbarium and resulted also in the discovery of her day-journals for the period 1844-1893 and her annotated copy of Bentham's Handbook of the British flora.

The significance of these sources of information in relation to the flora of Huntingdonshire is described in this paper. Other aspects of the records of the Marchioness will be discussed elsewhere at a later date.

1 The British Herbarium

Originally kept at Orton Hall, her Herbarium is now the property of the present Earl of Aboyne, and is preserved at Aboyne Castle, Aberdeenshire, together with the European Herbarium.

Her British Herbarium consists of 23 volumes, each bound in leather with its number and the title 'British Plants Collected by Mary Antoinetta, Marchioness of Huntly' embossed in gold on the spine. The plants are neatly mounted on ordinary white herbarium paper, with a label which gives the latin name of the plant, the date of collection, and the locality from which it was collected. Only 58, out of 1,301 specimens of Phanerogams, lack a date or locality.

The first 19 volumes contain 798 species of Phanerogams, the remaining four containing vascular Cryptogams, mostly mosses and liverworts. Fifty-two vice-counties are represented in the collection, but only Aberdeen (V.C. 92), Northamptonshire (V.C. 32) and Huntingdonshire (V.C. 31) are represented by more than a hundred species.

Huntingdonshire records

The Herbarium contains 251 species from this county, represented by 290 sheets. The earliest specimens were collected in 1846 (when the Marchioness was 25 years old) and the last are from 1892, less than a year before her death. Some of the most interesting specimens are those collected at Whittlesea Mere in 1848, and include five plants of Drosera rotundifolia, three of which were in flower, a specimen of D. intermedia and a robust plant of Lathyrus palustris. All of these species are now extinct in the county. Other specimens of particular interest from the Holme Fen area include a robust plant of Parnassia palustris, collected in 1886 from the side of a ditch, Anagallis tenella (1885) and Cirsium dissectum (1888 and 1889). Their presence indicates that some relics of the rich Whittlesea Mere flora persisted long after drainage in 1850.

The Marchioness did not collect at random within the county. Although specimens from 26 localities are represented in her Herbarium (Table 1), 55% were collected from Orton Longueville and Orton Waterville, the parishes in which she lived and botanised most, with Holme Fen and the 'fens below Yaxley' being other favourite hunting-grounds. Although Druce used her Herbarium as a source of county records, Table 1 shows that he overlooked much information or excluded it for reasons of economy of space. Of the 277 records in the Herbarium, 79% appear in Druce's flora, but 96 of the 218 records are given without a date, in spite of the specimens on the Herbarium sheets being dated. Fifty-nine records (21% of the total) are not included in his flora. The full list of species from V.C. 31, together with date of collection and habitat details (where given) are presented in Appendix 1, arranged in alphabetical order of sites.

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2 The Journals

The journals, which consist of 16 leather bound volumes are for the period 1844-1893. They were presented to the Huntingdon Record Office in 1961 by the grand-daughter of the Marchioness, Mrs J. Hodgson. The journals provide a remarkably detailed insight into the activities which pre-occupied the Marchioness throughout her long life. Although the entries for several days were often written together, her remarkable memory ensured that they were both detailed and precise. Long gaps occur during the twenty years when she was having children (she had 14) and in times of ill-health.

The detailed contents of the journals will be the subject of another paper-suffice it to say at this stage that a detailed examination for the period 1871-1893 has revealed that they contain (a) information which supports and repeats in many instances data contained in the Herbarium, and (b) provides new information on habitats. For example, her journal for 13 August 1886 records 'to Paxton Wood. A heavy shower of rain cut short our botanical researches but we found fine plants of Epipactis latifolia (E. helleborine) and the Melampyrum cristatum. Also white flowered specimens of Campanula trachelium'. Her Herbarium (Appendix I) contains specimens of two of these species, with that date and locality on them. On 16 September 1886, she records, 'drove at 3.30 to the fens below Yaxley. Found Parnassia palustris by the side of one of the ditches a remnant of the old marsh times. A countryman passing by dug up the roots which were growing on the opposite side of the ditch to that on which we were standing'. This specimen, which has an unusually long flower stem as a result of its growing in a ditch, is to be found in the Herbarium.

In the period 1871-1893, the journals contain references to 171 species growing in V.C. 31 and the Soke of Peterborough (V.C. 32), and many of the species are recorded many times at the same site. For example, Orchis morio is recorded in 1880, 1882, 1890 and 1891 from a meadow near Thompson's Thorns, a site which has subsequently been quarried for clay and is now within the complex of clay pits south of Fletton.

The following species in V.C. 31, which do not appear in her herbarium, are noted in her journals:

- Anemone nemorosa (1887) Brampton Wood
- Angelica sylvestris (1879) Thompson's Thorns
- Apium graveolens (1892) Haddon
- Astragalus danicus (1889) nr. Orton Longueville
- Calluna vulgaris (1880, 1883, 1887) Holme Fen
- Campanula trachelium (1886) Paxton Wood
- Carex flacca (1887) Stibbington
- Centaurea scabiosa (1886) Holme Fen - with light coloured flowers
- Chenopodium ficifolius (1884) Holme station

: 9 :

**Cirsium dissectum* (1889) Home Fen "which I was not aware still lingered in the fens. It must be 40 years since I found it on the borders of Whittlesea Mere"

Cladium mariscus (1887) Holme Fen

Coeloglossum viride (1888) "near Boultons Hunch Wood, Abbots Ripton, in a field"

Cornus sanguinea (1892) hedges near Thompson's Thorns

Cotyledon umbilicus (1880) Holme Fen

Daucus carota (1880) Holme Fen

Dryopteris spinulosa (1879, 1883, 1886, 1889) Jones' Covert; Holme Fen (1884, 1886).

Endymion non-scriptus (1873) Monks Wood

Erica tetralix (1880) Holme Fen; (1892) Yaxley Fen

Erysimum cheiranthoides (1884) arable field below Yaxley

Filipendula ulmaria (1888) Thompson's Thorns; (1889) Abbots Ripton

Galeopsis tetrahit (1884) arable field below Yaxley

Geranium molle (1889) Boulton's Wood, Abbots Ripton - white form

Hottonia palustris (1888) Holme Fen

Juncus conglomeratus (1888)

Listera ovata (1884) fields near Thompson's Thorns; Stibbington (1887).

Lotus corniculatus (1887) Haddon Nursery

Lychnis flos-cuculi (1887) Haddon Nursery

Lysimachis vulgaris (1887) Alwalton

Mentha aquatica (1888) Holme Fen

Moehringia trinervis (1887) Stilton

Odontites verna (1878) Elton Furze - white flowered form

Ophioglossum vulgatum (1875) field near Elton Furze

Ophrys apifera (1872) Monks Wood

O. insectifera (1874) Chesterton Hill, in a spinney

Orchis mascula (1873) Monks Wood; Caldecote Wood (1882); Jones' Covert (1887); Haddon Nursery (1889)

Orchis morio (1875, 1891) field near Elton Furze; Thompson's Thorns (1880, 1882, 1884, 1890, 1891).

Orchis ustulata (1890) Stibbington - specimen from Capt. Vipsoin

Papaver dubium (1888) Home Fen

Phalaris canariensis (1892) Orton Longueville

Potentilla erecta (1880) Holme Fen

Primula veris (1873) Brampton Wood

Primula veris x vulgaris (1873) Folksworth; (1877) Monks Wood; (1882) Caldecote Wood

Rumex maritimus (1884) Holme station

Sagina nodosa (1884) Fens below Yaxley

Melandrium noctiflorum (1883) arable field near Holme Fen

Sonchus arvensis (1887) arable field, Orton Waterville

Sonchus palustris (1886) Holme Fen

Valeriana dioica (1880) Holme Fen

Vicia cracca (1888) Holme Fen

Viola palustris (1880, 1884) Holme Fen

Viola stagnina (1887) Holme Fen

* specimen in herbarium, but note in diary provides extra information.

3 Annotations and lists in Bentham's 'Handbook of the British Flora'

The two-volume work by Bentham, published in 1865, formerly belonging to the Marchioness, was recently discovered in the possession of Dr Maureen Preston of Warmington, near Oundle. It was given to her by Lady Ethel Wickham, youngest daughter of the Marchioness. The flora has been annotated in pencil by the Marchioness, usually giving the locality and date when a species was seen. One hundred and fifty-one species are noted, 29 of which are Huntingdonshire plants. All of these are referred to in the journals or appear on Herbarium sheets, and they are not therefore listed separately here. The annotation merely provides further confirmatory evidence of the plants having been found on a site.

Of more interest are the letters and a list of plants found between the pages of the flora. For example, there is a letter from William Bodger, a chemist and amateur botanist in Peterborough, which once accompanied two specimens of the uncommon *Cardamina amara* that grew on a small island near Castor Mills. The letter is dated 13 May 1889 and in passing mentions Capt. Vipsoin of Stibbington, the same gentleman who sent the Marchioness a specimen of *Orchis ustulata* in 1890. In a card sent on 28 May 1890, Vipsoin wrote, 'Dear Lady Huntly, I send over a plant of the orchis I told you about, it seems to be getting very scarce as I was an hour yesterday looking for it and did not find a single other plant'. This correspondence is noted in the Marchioness's journal for that day, and the plant sent was clearly *Orchis ustulata*. This species is not recorded as present in the county by either Druce (1926) or Gilbert (1965), so this record is the first and only record for the county.

The most interesting item in Bentham's Flora is a single sheet of paper, with writing which is clearly that of the Marchioness, headed 'List of plants mentioned in list Huntingdonshire Flora'. The list is undated, but an entry in her journals for 31 January 1888 says 'Copied out a list of interesting plants and their habitats from the old Catalogue of Hunts Flora' so it is highly probable that this is the list she was referring to.

The list (Appendix II) contains 89 flowering plants, two Charophytes and a moss. It is clearly an attempt to catalogue the rare and unusual plants of the county. Nineteen of the species do not appear in the flora compiled by Druce (1926). It may be significant that Druce, in his flora, refers to the Marchioness's copies of Babington and Sowerby, but he does not mention her Bentham. We can only conclude that he was unaware of the volumes and of the manuscript list 'hidden' within their pages.

The list clearly derives some of its information from earlier floras. For example, the record of Lythrum hyssopifolia from 'opposite the Wheat-sheaf, Alconbury' is the same record by Sir T.G. Cullum as given in Turner and Dillwyn (1805), and records by Mr Woodward of Linum usitatissimum, Lathyrus nissolia and L. latifolius are copied from the same source. The records of Genista anglica and Dianthus deltoides from Everton and Tetworth are from that detached part of the administrative county of Huntingdonshire which is now included in V.C. 30, Bedfordshire. This suggests that these records precede the establishment of the vice-county system by H.C. Watson in 1852. Dony (1953) notes Dianthus deltoides from this locality on the authority of Abbott (1795). He also confirms that Genista anglica, although now extinct, did once occur at Everton.

The author of the 'catalogue' from which the Marchioness copied the list remains a mystery. It was not copied from Watson's Topographical Botany (1883), which was largely based on Newbould's records, nor is it likely to be based on a catalogue of A. Fryer (1826-1912) because Druce both knew Fryer and made extensive use of his records when compiling his flora (1926).

Reference to Somersham Heath, Dobdale Field, the Turnpike Gate near Hartford, and to the abundance of the Water Soldier (Stratiotes aloides) at many sites around Ramsey suggest that the catalogue was compiled during the middle years of the nineteenth century by a person who knew the county extremely well. The habitats given for the species, and the localities, give the records credibility. Indeed, eight of the nineteen species not mentioned by Druce have subsequently been recorded in the county. For the moment, the identity of the compiler of the catalogue remains unknown, and we would be interested to hear from anyone who may be able to suggest a likely author.

Conclusions

Some early botanists have left herbaria, manuscript lists, notes or field journals, but it is the combination and availability of all these sources of evidence which makes the contribution of the Marchioness of Huntly so remarkable. Over and above this, the credibility of the Marchioness as a botanist is beyond doubt : by cross-checking the evidence in her Herbarium, journals and copy of Bentham, and from our present-day knowledge of the habits of individual species and the flora of Huntingdonshire, it is clear

that the Marchioness provides a comparatively reliable, precise and detailed insight into the county flora of the last century. If we exclude the decades of the 1950s and '60s, the most dynamic period in the recent rural history of the county coincided with the lifetime of the Marchioness, when the agricultural pendulum swung from prosperity to depression - from a time of large-scale arable farming, drainage and reclamation work to one of land reversion and abandonment. In this context, the discovery of a large part of the records of the Marchioness of Huntly may provide a breakthrough in trying to reconstruct the way in which the distribution of wild plants reflected these environmental changes.

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Table 1. The localities and numbers of specimens for V.C. 31
(Huntingdonshire) in the Marchioness of Huntly's herbarium

Locality	No. of specimens	No.in V.C.H. with date	No.in V.C.H. without date	No.not in V.C.H.
Abbots Ripton	3	1	1	1
Abbotsley	1	1	-	-
Alwalton	4	2	-	2
Brampton Wood	1	-	-	1
Caldecote Wood	1	-	1	-
Chesterton	2	1	-	1
Elton	6	4	1	1
Elton Furze	2	2	-	-
Fens below Yaxley	20	7	8	5
Folksworth	2	2	-	-
Haddon Nursery	6	1	4	1
Holme Fen	25	10	11	4
Holme Railway Station	8	2	5	1
Jones' Covert	3	1	2	-
Morborne	3	2	1	-
Norman Cross	1	1	-	-
Orton (O. Longueville, O. Waterville)	152	70	44	37
Overton Station	1	-	1	-
Paxton Park, St Neots	4	2	2	-
Paxton Wood	4	3	1	-
Peterborough	1	-	1	-
River Nene	9	2	6	1
Stibbington	4	1	2	1
Thompson's Thorns	1	-	1	-
Water Newton	9	3	4	2
Whittlesea Mere	5	4	-	1
Total	277	122	96	59
%		44.1	34.7	21.3

* * * * *

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Appendix I
Specimens in the Marchioness of Huntly's herbarium from
Huntingdonshire (V.C. 31), classified by localities

* = undated record in V.C.H.

+ = record not in V.C.H.

Abbots Ripton

- * *Geranium robertianum* (white var.) (1889) border of wood
- Trifolium campestre* (1889) railway embankment
- + *Ajuga reptans* (1889)

Abbotsley

- Apium graveolens* (1887) hedgebank

Alwalton

- Hypericum calycinum* (no date) naturalized
- + *Cirsium vulgare* (1886) roadside
- + *Centaurea nigra* (1887) hedgeside
- Crepis capillaris* (1884)

Brampton Wood

- + *Potentilla sterilis* (1887)

Caldecote Wood

- * *Dipsacus pilosus* (1882)

Chesterton

- Epilobium hirsutum* (1883) ditch
- + *Lamium amplexicaule* (1883) (coll: J. Waites)

Elton

- + *Ranunculus repens* (1887)
- Moehringia trinervia* (1887)
- * *Geranium pyrenaicum* (1889) hedgebanks, road to Elton
- Arctium minus* (1887) Elton Wood
- Campanula rapunculoides* (no date) nr. Elton Station
- Chenopodium polyspermum* (1887) Elton Wood

Elton Furze

- Viola canina* (1875) from a field beyond Elton Furze, between Chesterton and Elton
- Moehringia trinervia* (1887)

Fens below Yaxley

- Erysimum cheiranthoides* (1884) arable field
- + *Sinapis nigra* (1884) fen ditch
- * *Brassica napus* (1883) arable field

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Fens below Yaxley (Contd.)

- Melandrium noctiflorum (1883) arable field
- + Epilobium montanum (1852)
- * Sium latifolium (1883) ditch
- * Berula erecta (1883) ditch
- Foeniculum vulgare (1883) arable fields
- * Daucus carota (1888) arable field
- Picris echioides (1884) arable field
- + Sinapis arvensis (1884) arable field
- Hieracium umbellatum (1887) fenland
- + Lapsana communis (1884) arable field
- Calluna vulgaris (1883) uncultivated ground
- Erica tetralix (1892) Yaxley (1883) uncultivated ground
- * Lysimachia vulgaris (1881)
- * Scutellaria galericulata (1889) Yaxley Fen
- + Galeopsis tetrahit (1884) arable field
- * Agrostis stolonifera (1892)
- * Agrostis tenuis (1892)

Folksworth

- Myosoton aquaticum (1886)
- Iris foetidissima (1886) in wood

Haddon Nursery

- * Calamagrostis epigejos (1892)
- Deschampsia caespitosa (1892)
- * Holcus lanatus (1892)
- + Agropyron repens (1892)
- * Bromus ramosus (1892)
- * Festuca gigantea (1892)

Holme Fen

- Thalictrum flavum (1888)
- * Arabis hirsuta (1886) (1888)
- * Arenaria serpyllifolia (1888)
- * Cerastium holosteoides (1888)
- Stellaria palustris (1887) bottom of ditch, nearly dry
- * Trifolium pratense (1889)
- * Lotus uliginosus (1887)
- Parnassia palustris (1886) by the side of a ditch of a cultivated field
- * Conium maculatum (1889)
- Achillea ptarmica (1886) by the side of ditches
- Cirsium dissectum (1888) (1889)
- + Sinapis arvensis (1887) side of field
- Crepis capillaris (1887)
- + Wahlenbergia hederaceus (1886)
- Anagallis tenella (1885) fens below Holme
- Utricularia vulgaris (1888)

Holme Fen (contd.)

- * Calystegia sepium var. rosea (1886)
- * Symphytum officinale (1887) ditch
- * Scutellaria galericulata (1889) large form
- Myrica gale (1887)
- + Salix repens (1886)
- Triglochin palustris (1887) ditch
- Hydrocharis morsus-ranae (1888) watery ditch
- + Juncus articulatus (1887)
- Molinia caerulea (1892) ditch

Holme railway station

- * Papaver argemone (1884) side of railway
- Sisymbrium officinale (1886) side of railway
- * Sinapis nigra (1884) fen arable field, near Holme Station
- * Trifolium pratense (1884)
- Hieracium pilosella (1884) roadside
- * Acinos arvensis (1886)
- + Chenopodium album (1884) arable land
- Rumex maritimus (1884) Fen ditch

Jones' Covert

- * Stellaria graminea (1883) grass field
- Veronica officinalis (1888)
- * Galeopsis tetrahit (1888)

Morborne

- Pulicaria dysenterica (1887) roadside
- Senecio erucifolius (1889) roadside
- * Cirsium arvense (1889) roadside

Norman Cross

- Carduus nutans (1886) roadside

Orton (O. Longueville and O. Waterville)

- Clematis vitalba (no date)
- Thalictrum flavum (1889)
- Anemone nemorosa var. plena (1853)
- Ranunculus trichophyllum (no date) pond in a field opposite the 'Gordon Arms'
- * R. ficaria (1853)
- R. auricomus (1855)
- R. bulbosus (1853)
- R. acris (no date)
- * R. arvensis (1855) cornfields
- * R. sceleratus (1855)
- * Eranthis hyemalis (1853) naturalized in the wilderness
- Berberis vulgaris (1889)
- * Papaver rhoeas (1851) cornfield

Orton (contd.)

- Papaver dubium (1853)
- P. hybridum (no date)
- * Chelidonium majus (1851)
- + Fumaria officinalis (no date) weed in kitchen garden
- Barbarea vulgaris (no date) hedgerow
- * Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum (1886) wet ditch
- + R. islandica (1886) Ferry Meadows
- Cardamine pratensis (no date)
- C. hirsuta (1865) wall
- + Sinapis arvensis (no date)
- Erophila verna (1865) wall
- * Camelina sativa (1888) stable yard
- Thlaspi arvensis (1887) weed in garden
- Capsella bursa-pastoris (1851)
- + Lepidium sativum (1884) wanderer from the garden
- + Coronopus squamatus (1886) imported in soil
- Raphanus raphanistrum (1884) hedgerow
- Viola odorata (no date)
- Melandrium album (1878)
- Lychnis flos-cuculi (1855)
- + Cerastium holosteoides (1884)
- Stellaria holostea (1855)
- Linum catharticum (1855)
- + Malva neglecta (1882)
- * M. sylvestris (1885)
- * M. moschata (1889)
- * Geranium molle (1886)
- + G. dissectum (1888)
- Melilotus alba (1878)
- + Trifolium pratense (1855)
- T. repens (no date)
- Lotus corniculatus (no date)
- Vicia sativa (no date) wood
- * Prunus avium (1892) Long Walk
- + P. cerasus (no date) bottom of Long Walk
- Geum urbanum (1855)
- Rubus fruticosus (no date)
- Potentilla reptans (no date)
- P. anserina (no date) roadside
- Sanguisorba officinalis (no date) Ferry Meadow
- + Rosa canina (1847)
- R. arvensis (1846)
- + Crataegus oxyacanthoides (1853)
- * Epilobium hirsutum (1878) fen dykes
- Circaeae lutetiana (no date)
- Bryonia dioica (no date)
- Saxifraga granulata (1855)
- * S. tridactylites (1887) Wilderness wall

Orton (contd)

- * Pimpinella saxifraga (1879)
- * Oenanthe fistulosa (1889)
- * O. aquatica (1889)
- Aethusa cynapium (no date)
- Silaum silaus (no date)
- Scandix pecten-veneris (no date)
- * Chaerophyllum temulentum (1879)
- Anthriscus sylvestris (1854) churchyard
- + A. cerefolium (1887) garden weed
- * Torilis japonica (1879) hedge bank
- + Smyrnium olusatrum (1884) shrubbery
- Galium aparine (no date)
- G. mollugo (no date)
- Sherardia arvensis (no date) cornfields
- Knautia arvensis (1851) Orton
- * Bellis perennis (1889)
- + Chrysanthemum leucanthemum (1853)
- Tripleurospermum maritimum ssp inodorum (1879)
- * Achillea millefolium (1884)
- * Senecio jacobaea (1886)
- + Arctium lappa (1883) hedges
- * Cirsium vulgare (1886) roadside
- * C. arvense x C. vulgare (1884)
- * Centaurea nigra (1887) grass field
- * Sonchus asper (1889) kitchen garden
- + S. oleraceus (no date)
- Crepis capillaris (1887)
- Lapsana communis (1882)
- Mottonia palustris (1853) meadows
- Primula veris (1863) Ferry Meadow
- + Lysimachia vulgaris (no date) hedgebank
- * Anagallis arvensis (1882)
- + Ailanthus glandulosa (1887) park
- + Kolreuteria paniculata (1887) park
- + Vinca minor (1888)
- Convolvulus arvensis (1851) hedgebank
- Calystegia sepium (no date) hedges
- + Pulmonaria officinalis (1855) naturalized
- * Lithospermum officinale (1892)
- + Myosotis arvensis (1887) growing on earth brought from Woodhall Spa
- M. palustris (no date)
- + Lycopus europaeus (1852)
- Hyoscyamus niger (1884) waste ground
- Solanum dulcamara (no date)
- Linaria vulgaris (1851)
- Scrophularia aquatica (no date)
- * Veronica serpyllifolia (1883) weed on rockery

Orton (contd.)

- * *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (1883)
- V. *beccabunga* (no date)
- V. *chamaedrys* (1853) white form
- V. *hederifolia* (no date)
- V. *persica* (1865)
- V. *polita* (1882)
- + *Glechoma hederacea* (1887)
- * *Stachys sylvatica* (1889) roadside going to Ferry Meadows
- * *Ballota nigra* (1888)
- * *Ajuga reptans* (1855)
- + *Rumex acetosa* (1889) Ferry Meadow
- + *Euphorbia peplus* (1889) kitchen garden
- * *Urtica urens* (1889) kitchen garden
 - Alisma plantago-aquatica* (no date) ditches
 - Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (1883) ditch nr. the Staunch
 - Listera ovata* (no date) woods
- + *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (1846) Ferry Meadow
- * *Platanthera chlorantha* (1844) side of Long Walk
 - Iris pseudacorus* (no date) pond
- + *Narcissus x biflorus* (1871)
- + *N. hispanicus* (1846) wilderness
- + *Tamus communis* (no date)
- + *Tulipa sylvestris* (1889) naturalized
- + *Ornithogallum umbellatum* (1855) gardens
- + *Scilla campanulata* (1871) naturalized
 - Juncus conglomeratus* (1888)
- + *Fagopyrum esculentum* (1857) Long Walk
- * *Luzula campestris* (1887)
- Phalaris canariensis* (1892)
- * *Alopecurus myosuroides* (1892)
- * *Agrostis stolonifera* (1892)
- * *Holcus mollis* (1892) roadside
- * *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (1889)
- * *Bromus ramosus* (1892) Long Walk
- * *B. molis* (1892)
- + *Poa compressa* (1892) top of Rectory Wall
- * *Dactylis glomerata* (1892)
 - Cynosurus cristatus* (no date)
 - Briza media* (no date)
 - Glyceria maxima* (no date)
- * *Poa annua* (1892)
- + *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (no date)
 - Phragmites communis* (no date)

Overton Station

- * *Heracleum sphondylium* (1889) roadside

Paxton Park, St Neots

- Impatiens parviflora* (1881) as a weed in the shrubberies
- Fragaria vesca* (1884) hedgebank
- * *Parietaria diffusa* (1886)
- * *Allium vineale* (1886) hedgerow

Paxton Wood

- Rubius caesius* (1886)
- Melampyrum cristatum* (1886)
- * *Euphorbia exigua* (1886)
- Epipactis helleborine* (1886)

Peterborough

- * *Humulus lupulus* (1851) hedge

River Nene

- + *Ranunculus fluitans* (1884)
- * *Rorippa sylvestris* (1888) side of Nene, Alwalton
- * *Cardamine pratensis* (1889) nr. the Staunch, Orton
 - Nymphoides peltata* (1887) nr. Overton Station
- * *Phragmites communis* (no date) Orton Longueville
- * *Lysimachia vulgaris* (1887) side of Nene, Alwalton
- Scrophularia aquatica* (1887) Alwalton
- * *Scutellaria galericulata* (1888) Alwalton
- * *Sagittaria sagitifolia* (1887) Alwalton

Stibbington Plantation

- Anthyllis vulneraria* (1887)
- * *Vicia hirsuta* (1888)
- * *V. tetrasperma* (1888)
- + *Carex caryophyllea* (1887)

Thompson's Thorns

- Orchis morio* (no date) grass fields

Water Newton

- * *Trisetum flavescens* (1892)
- + *Avena fatua* (1892)
 - Geranium pratense* (1885) near Bridge
- * *Cornus sanguinea* (1885) hedge
- Valerianella locusta* (1887) bankside
- * *Linaria vulgaris* (1883) roadside
- Salvia verbenaceae* (1889) nr. Gravel Pits
- * *Phleum pratense* (1892) gravel pits
- + *Agrostis tenuis* (1892)

Whittlesea Mere

- Lathyrus palustris* (1848)
- Drosera rotundifolia* (1848) 5 plants, 3 in flower

Whittlesea Mere (contd.)

Drosera intermedia (1848)
Lysimachia vulgaris (no date)
+ Anagallis tenella (no date) borders of

Appendix II

List of plants mentioned in list Huntingdonshire Flora

(See text for details. Plant names are those in current use and where they differ from those on the list, the latter are given in brackets. Apart from this we have copied the list exactly as written by the Marchioness as far as we could decipher her handwriting. Where we were doubtful of a spelling we have added a question mark or alternative in brackets. We have not so far been able to identify a few of the sites mentioned such as Waverly (Wavely) or Buckley).

Utricularia vulgaris Ditches and stagnant waters. Ramsey, Holywell etc.
Lycopus europaeus Sides of rivers and ditches
Valeriana dioica Alwalton on the Lynch
Iris foetidissima Hedges, sides of ditches
Cladium mariscus (as Schoenus mariscus) Fens. Ramsey, etc.
Schoenus nigricans Fens and Moors etc.
Montia fontana In wet places
Asperugo procumbens Dunghills etc.
Echium vulgare Cornfields and roadsides
 cepea var. cepea flowers in closer spikes
Nymphoides peltata (as Menyanthes nymphoides) Rivers and ditches.
 Woodstone nr. Peterborough Bridge, South Holywell
Menyanthes trifoliata Lynch Hole near the Spring found with W. Hetley
Lysimachia vulgaris Alwalton Mills on an island of the (?) dam
Verbascus lychnitis Waste places
Verbascus nigrum Waysides
Campanula glomerata Roman Camp, Chesterton
C. latifolia Old Weston Grove
Bupleurum rotundifolia Cornfields
Bupleurum tenuissimum Pastures. Bank by North Road towards Wheatsheaf,
 Alconbury.
Apium graveolens In a little pond between Walton and Higney Woods. In a
 pond at (?) Gains at Brington and in Wick Lane, near the town of
 St. Neots
Sambucus ebulus Alwalton, Mill Close
Linum usitatissimum Cornfields nr. Ripton
L. anglicum (as L. perenne) Dry chalky soils
Myosurus minimus Borders of cornfields, Ripton
Allium vineale Meadows and pastures. St Ives and Holywell Meadow
Narcissus (?) Woods, hedges. Keyston and Molesworth
Rumex maritimus (as R. aureus) Wet meadows, Whittlesea Mere etc.
 Dr Withering calls this species "maritimus".

Appendix II (contd.)

Dianthus deltoides Broom Closes in the Parish of Everton with Tetworth
 between White Wood Cambridgeshire and Governor Powell's (?Pannell's)
 seat. Hunts and on a ditch bank near Hemingford Gray.
Sedum telephium Holywell, Nr. Mill Field
S. dasypodium Walls at Buckden
Sagina nodosa (as Spergula nodosa) in a bog Dobdale field, Molesworth
Lythrum hyssopifolia (as Lithrum hyssopifolia) Cornfield opposite the
 Wheatsheaf, Alconbury
Filipendula vulgaris (as Spiraea filipendula) Kimbolton, Yaxley,
 Warboys etc.
Rosa rubiginosa Sweet briar, Bluntisham wood
Potentilla anglica Dry pastures, Everton
Aquilegia vulgaris Woods, Brington
Stratiotes aloides Fortyfoot Bridge in a fish pond, Ramsey mere edge
 Palmers' Farm near Ugg mere and most plentifully at Coping Corner
 and the loads (lodes) from Somersham towards Chatteris
Thalictrum flavum Alwalton Mill dam
Teucrium scordium Fens
Mentha rotundifolia Watery places with M. aquatica and M. gentilis
Marrubium vulgare Ramsey middle Fen, Somersham Heath, Holywell
Scutellaria galericulata Lynch at Alwalton
Melampyrum cristatum Paxton, Monkswood etc.
M. pratense Meadows and Woods Kimbolton and Ripton
Ornithogalum pyrenaicum no habitat given (?) Paxton fields
Brassica rapa (as B. campestris) On a bank between Houghton and St Ives.
 Brick kilns
Coronopus squamatus (as Cochlearia coronopus) Sides of ditches, fields
 etc. Kimbolton
Armoracia rusticana (as Cochlearia armoracia) Horse Radish Kimbolton
Genista tinctoria Easton Leys, between Savage and Calpher Woods, Warboys
 Wood, a field (?) Buckley.
Genista anglica Everton, Tetworth
Lathyrus aphaca Meadows and cornfields
L. nissolia Ripton. Pastures and borders of cornfields
L. latifolius Honeyhill, Paxton, Ripton, Wavely, Brampton
L. sylvestris Woods and hedges Buckley
L. palustris Wet pastures and fens
Ornithopus perpusillus Tetworth
Astragalus glycyphylloides Holywell Hills at Huntingdon opposite Portholme
? Trifolium campestre (as T. alpestre) Waverly, Tetworth, Holywell Way
 lodge, Buckley, Abbotts Ripton
T. ochroleuchon Side of road to Houghton, Buckley, Monks Wood
T. arvense Kimbolton, Everton, Tetworth
T. fragiferum Borders of fields
T. aureum (as T. agrarium) Hop trefoil. Dry pastures
T. micranthum (as T. filiforme) Somersham Heath, Wiggen(?)
Hieracium (?) caledonicum (as H. rubicundum) Woods and hedges

Appendix II (contd)

Serratula tinctoria Pastures, woods. Waresly, Warboys. with white flowers near the Wheatsheaf Alconbury
Silybum marianum (as Carduus marianus) St Ives, Brick kilns, Brampton etc.
Bidens tripartita Marshes and watery places
B. cernua Bluntisham Fen
Tanacetum vulgare Tansey, one found near houses at Needingworth
Artemesia absinthium Very common in the fens
Inula conyzoides (as Conyza squarrosa) Between Pidley and Somersham on a hedgebank opposite Hazel-hearts wood. Between Hartford and the Turnpike gate on the right hand side of the road. Waybridge on S. side of the wood
I. helenium Washingley Wood
I. pulicaria Holywell from the Church to the Ferry (?) Earith
Senecio palustris (as Cineraria palustris) Fen dykes near Ramsey (a var. nr. Ramsey)
Achillea ptarmica A var. with double flowers in a pasture at Ripton by the gardener of the late Wm. Bonfoy
Centaurea calcitrapa Waste places and waysides
Viola tricolor Millfield, Needingworth, Everton, Holywell meadow and Farthing Lane
Neottia nidus-avis (as Ophrys nidus-avis) Warboys and Tetworth Woods
Spiranthes spiralis (as Ophrys spiralis) In a pasture called Horse (or Home) close near the wood, Hail Weston, Brington Heath
Ophrys apifera Meadows and pastures, Buckley
Epipactis helleborine (as E. latifolia) Woods and hedges - Abbots Ripton
Chara vulgaris Rivers, ditches, and ponds. C. tomentosa nr Somersham Heath nr. the Spa
C. hispida Ditto - Ramsey Nene, River at Hemingford
Typha latifolia Ditches of the Camp at Stanground
T. angustifolia Ditch nr. Bushmead, Gains, Whittlesea Mere, Nene, Alconbury Hill on the road to Huntingdon, Brick kilns Hail Weston, Middle Moor, Ramsey. All the loads (lodes) in the Fens, Holywell.
Myriophyllum spicatum Whittlesea Mere. Ditch nr St. Neots Mills. Graham fish pond, Holywell pen
M. verticillatum Moat that in part surrounds Glatton roundhills
Mercurialis annua Waste places and dung-hills
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae Ditches and slow streams in our fens
Dryopteris cristata (as Polypodium cristatum) Woods and moist shady places. Honeyhill.
Geranium sanguineum Gough's Camden
Dianthus armeria Monks and Bluntisham Woods, Warboys, Toseland
Hypnum crista castrensis Dry chalky hills - Somersham Heath

Since this paper was written further evidence has been found which suggests that the undated and authorless list found in the Marchioness' Bentham (Appendix 2) is probably from the late 18th century. It may well be part of the list which the Rev. Richard Relham (1754-1823) gave to a Mr Hutchinson, who had intended publishing a history of Huntingdonshire.

FUNGI

Ascomycetes reported from the county in the Spring

Sheila Wells

Of the fungi appearing in the spring, the most striking are the cup fungi and morels. This spring was remarkable for the numerous reports from various parts of the country of Verpa conica Swartz ex Pers., a species of morel considered to be rather rare. During the previous 36 years only 12 collections of this fungus had been received at Kew or the British Museum, whereas this spring 26 collections or reports were received. In Huntingdonshire, Verpa conica - which is rather like Mitrophora semilibera, but with a smooth cap and horizontal bands of brown granules on the stem, was recorded from 2 locations. These were the first records of this species for the county. Details of the records are as follows:-

April 24th. at Aversley Wood. Coll. P.Walker during the HFFS meeting at the wood.

April 30th. at Waresley Wood. Coll. P.Walker. Both det. S.Wells

It will be interesting to see if this fungus reappears in subsequent springs.

Morchella esculenta Pers. ex St. Amans, the true morel, was reported from Waresley Wood by T.Collins on April 30th. Records for the little morel Mitrophora semilibera (DC ex Fr.) Lev. continue to accumulate, two new locations were reported as follows:-

April 24th. Aversley Wood. Coll. P.Walker. Det. S.Wells

April 25th. Hemingford Abbots, in a vegetable patch. Coll. & det. S.Carter

One very unusual record not reported last year was the appearance in spring of the False Morel, Gyromitra esculenta (Pers.) Fr. in a flower bed at Abbots Ripton Hall. This is normally a fungus of sandy soils under conifers and despite the epithet 'esculenta' is poisonous!

Disciotis venosa (Pers.) Boud., a large brown cup fungus which was particularly abundant but nevertheless a new county record, was collected from:-

Aversley Wood, April 24th. P.Walker

Waresley Wood, April 30th. D.Walker. Both det. S.Wells

Another cup fungus Sclerotinia tuberosa ((Hedw.) Fr.) Fuckel, which arises from a sclerotium formed inside the rhizomes of Anemone nemorosa was found in Wistow Wood by D.Walker on April 17th. This fungus is uncommon and is another new county record.

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LEPIDOPTERA - 1977

J. Heath

Monks Wood Experimental Station

Despite the poor weather, this year has produced records of two species new to the vice-county. A specimen of the dotted footman (Pelosia muscerda Hufn.), a very local broadland species previously only known from Norfolk, Kent and Hampshire, was taken in a light trap at Waresley Wood Nature Reserve in early July (J.Day). A colony of the small psychid, Narycia monilifera Geoffrey, was found on a sycamore tree in St. Ives. The larvae of this species feed on lichens living within conical, portable cases constructed from silk and lichen. This species is locally distributed throughout southern Britain (J.Heath).

A colony of the green hairstreak butterfly, (Callophrys rubi L.) was found near Sapley (B.N.K.Davis). This species is very local in the vice-county.

The convolvulus hawk-moth (Herse convolvuli L.) was seen at flowers at Wistow in July (J.Jackett) and three larvae of the elephant hawk-moth at Denton Covert in early September. Larvae of the very local pinion-spotted pug (Eupithecia insigniata Hubn.) were beaten from hawthorn 'somewhere in Huntingdon' by Mr B.C. Jackson who has not disclosed the locality. This species also occurs in Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk as well as in the south-east.

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MONKS WOOD BUTTERFLIES 1977

M. L. King

Butterfly monitoring is now in its fifth year at Monks Wood. The results, which were first published in Huntingdonshire Fauna and Flora Society, 27th Annual Report, have proved a valuable source of information on the fluctuations of the butterfly populations in the wood.

In 1976, a national butterfly monitoring scheme was begun, using the same method of recording as used in Monks Wood (Pollard et al, 1975). We now have approximately 60 sites, mainly on Nature Reserves but also including some agricultural sites. They range from Inverpolly in N.W.Scotland to Yarner Wood in S. Devon.

The results from Monks Wood this year suggest that the drought in 1976 may have affected many species, Table 1 shows that the index value of 26 of the total 28 species present, on our transect, declined in 1977. However, how much of the decline was a direct result of the drought and how much a reflection of other factors, is difficult to tell.

The numbers of some double brooded species increased in the second generation, e.g. the index of green-veined white rose from 14.7 to 184.5. One species, the meadow brown, actually increased in numbers this year (Fig. 1), but this is almost certainly a reflection of management within the wood, as elsewhere locally, numbers have fallen.

One butterfly which appears to have been steadily declining since 1973 is the ringlet (Fig. 1). The decline is also occurring on other local sites but the reasons are unclear. However, as we gather more data from the National scheme, it is hoped that patterns will begin to emerge to make interpretation of the reasons for such fluctuations possible.

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Table 1 (contd.)

SPECIES	73	74	75	76	77
White-letter hairstreak <u>Strymonidia w-album</u> (L.)	1.8	0.3	0.4	2.1	0.5
Small copper <u>Lycena phlaeas</u> (L.)	1.8	0.3	2.1	5.0	0.3
Common blue <u>Polyommatus icarus</u> (Rott.)	0/0.1	0/0.9	0/2.0	0.2/1.7	0
Holly blue <u>Celastrina argiolus</u> (L.)	1.8/0.2	0.3/0.8	0.3/0	0	0
White admiral <u>Ladoga camilla</u> (L.)	5.5	0.8	1.6	11.2	1.6
Red admiral <u>Vanessa atalanta</u> (L.)	12.9	1.9	0	21.6	15.1
Painted lady <u>Vanessa cardui</u> (L.)	0.5	0	0	0	0.3
Small tortoiseshell <u>Aglais urticae</u> (L.)	0/0.6/2.6	1.3/0.2/0	0.7/0.2/2.9	0.6/0.6/2.1	0.2/2.1
Peacock <u>Inachis io</u> (L.)	/57.0	44.7/41.4	22.7/20.3	13.0/18.8	2.0/37.0
Comma <u>Polygonia c-album</u> (L.)	3.8/0.3	1.5/0.4/0.5	1.1/0/1.4	1.2/1.5/1.0	1.0/1.3
Speckled wood <u>Pararge aegeria</u> (L.)	12.9	10.2	7.5	8.9	3.9
Wall <u>Lasiommata megera</u> (L.)	0/2.6	0.6/1.9	2.4/32.9	16.0/17.7	0/2.0

Table 1

Index value of species occurring in Monks Wood 1973-77. If more than one flight period can be distinguished index values are given separately.

SPECIES	73	74	75	76	77
Small skipper <u>Thymelicus sylvestris</u> (Poda)	12.7	2.4	13.7	12.1	7.1
Large skipper <u>Ochlodes venata</u> (Br. & Grey)	20.8	4.7	1.0	5.7	0.4
Grizzled skipper <u>Pyrgus malvae</u> (L.)	0.6	0.6	1.5	3.6	0.3
Wood white <u>Leptidea sinapis</u> (L.)	0	0	0	0.2	0
Brimstone <u>Gonepteryx rhamni</u> (L.)	/12.3	24.7/16.0	19.0/11.2	19.8/19.0	7.2/9.0
Large white <u>Pieris brassicae</u> (L.)	6.5/6.8	13.1/19.6	33.7/27.8	14.0/10.9	0/0.6
Small white <u>Pieris rapae</u> (L.)	0.5/13.9	1.2/7.2	3.1/16.2	1.7/14.9	4.2/7.1
Green-veined white <u>Pieris napi</u> (L.)	55.9/308.9/9.0	62.1/121.5	56.5/169/7.6	39.0/73.7	14.7/184.5
Orange tip <u>Anthocaris cardamines</u> (L.)	4.1	5.3	9.2	11.6	6.3
Purple hairstreak <u>Quercusa quercus</u> (L.)	1.8	0.3	0.4	1.5	0.8
Black hairstreak <u>Strymonidia pruni</u> (L.)	0.5	0.4	0	3.0	0.5

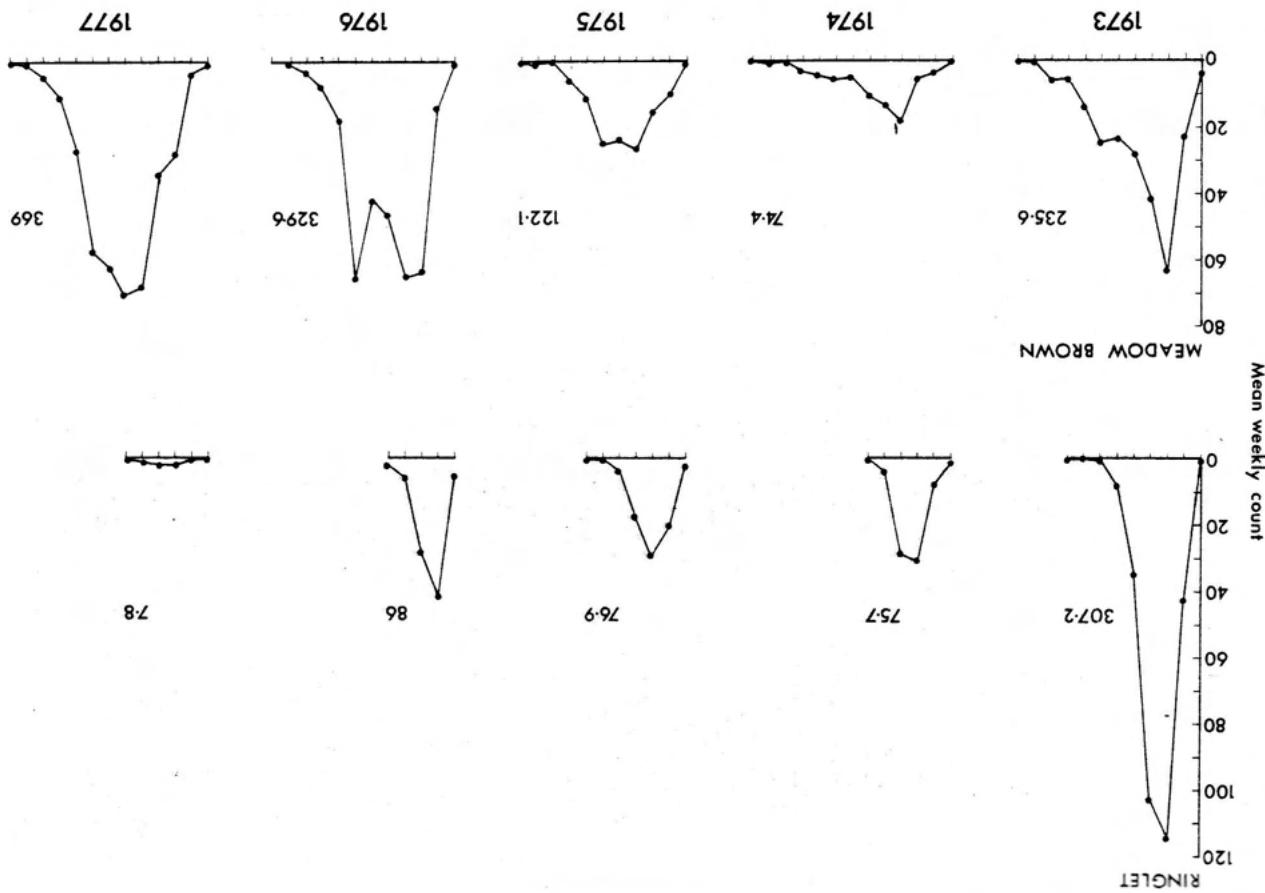


Fig. 1. Mean weekly counts for the ringlet Aphantopus hyperantus (L.) and meadow brown Maniola jurtina (L.). The annual index value given is the sum of the mean weekly counts.

Table 1 (contd.)

SPECIES	73	74	75	76	77
Marbled white <u>Melanargia galathea</u> (L.)	0.4	0	0	0	0
Hedge brown <u>Pyronia tithonus</u> (L.)	349.4	75.2	68.8	293.9	247.2
Meadow brown <u>Maniola jurtina</u> (L.)	235.6	74.4	122.1	329.6	369.0
Small heath <u>Coenonympha pamphilus</u> (L.)	58.0	52.4	40.9	76.4	20.0
Ringlet <u>Aphantopus hyperantus</u> (L.)	307.2	75.7	76.9	86.0	7.8

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Entomologists Gaz. 26, 71-78.

Elias, D.O., Pollard, E., and Skelton, M.J.
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DIPTERA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE (10)

J. H. Cole

Huntingdon Research Centre

This part contains 10 families of the section Schizophora Acalyptrata which includes about 40 mainly small families of small and undistinguished flies. The records are my own unless stated otherwise and the nomenclature follows Kloet and Hincks check list (1975). The figures following the family name are the numbers recorded and the total on the British list.

GP = Gravel Pit

NR = Beds and Hunts Naturalist Trust Nature Reserve

NNR = National Nature Reserve

MWS = Specimens recorded from Dr Michael Service's suction traps in Monks Wood 1971-72.

PSILIDAE 10/27

Chyliza scutellata Fab. Elton, Furze Wood 12.6.71. Monks Wood NNR, 27.8.67, 26.6.72, 11.8.74.

Loxocera albisetata (Schrank) Widespread July to September. Easton, Shepherds Close NR. Brampton Wood. Monks Wood NNR. Woodwalton Fen NNR. Raveley Wood NR. Yaxley Brick Pits.

Psila (Psila) fimetaria (L.) Brampton, Race Course 24.5.70, and River Lane GP 8.5.71. Easton, Shepherds Close NR 22.6.69. merdaria Collin Brampton, River Lane GP 30.4.67.

Psila (Chamaepsila) atra Meig. Monks Wood NNR 26.5.74. bicolor Meig. Woodwalton Church End 5.8.69. nigricornis Meig. Upwood Meadows NR 29.5.77.

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Psila (Chamaepsila) pallida (Fall.) Easton, Shepherds Close NR 2.7.70. Elton, Furze Wood 12.6.71. Fenstanton, Galley Hill GP 27.5.67. Form nigrosetosa Frey Alconbury 9.7.75.

rosae (Fab.) Abbotts Ripton, Bevills Wood 31.5.76. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 7.6.75. Woodwalton Fen NNR 15.8.70. Upwood Meadows NR 29.5.77. Upwood, Lady's Wood NR 9.6.73.

Psila (Tetrapsila) obscuritarsis Loew Brampton, Ouse flood Meadow 3.6.76. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 9.6.75. Raveley Wood NR 29.5.72.

CHAMAEMYIIDAE 8/25

Chamaemyia aridella (Fall.) Monks Wood NNR 22.6.75. elegans Panz. Monks Wood NNR 8.66 (Wills), 22.6.75, Abbotts Ripton, Bevills Wood 11.6.72. fasciata Loew Easton, Shepherds Close NR 2.7.70. Woodwalton Fen NNR 4.7.72. herbarum R-D. Hemingford Grey, Marsh Lane GP 30.7.72. nigripalpis Collin Woodwalton Fen NNR 6.7.70, 4.6.77. paludosa Collin Woodwalton Fen NNR 6.40 (Collin 1966), 4.6.77. polystigma (Meig.) Brampton 29.6.66. Little Paxton GP 20.7.75. Monks Wood NNR 22.6.75. Woodwalton Fen NNR 4.7.72. sylvatica Collin Brampton Wood 23.5.67. Little Paxton Wood 18.5.68. Monks Wood NNR 6.7.68.

HELEOMYZIDAE 12/59

Allophylla atricornis Loew Holme Fen NNR 4.6.70, 14.9.74.

Suillia affinis Meig. Brampton, Lenton Close 15.4.67, River Lane GP 9.5.67, Little Paxton GP 30.5.71. Monks Wood NNR 15.8.66 (Wills).

bicolor Zett. Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 14.8.66. Holme Fen NNR 20.7.73. Woodwalton Fen NNR 4.6.77.

laevifrons Loew Holme Fen NNR 3.6.72, 14.9.74. Woodwalton Fen NNR 5.7.70.

pallida Fall. Little Paxton GP 30.5.71.

variegata Loew Widespread April to Sept. and 21.12.69. Graftham Water NR. Monks Wood NNR. Warboys Wood. Wistow Wood. Yelling.

Heteromyza rotundicornis (Zett.) Monks Wood NNR 23.6.72 (MWS).

Morpholeria ruficornis (Meig.) Holme Fen NNR 3.6.72.

Neoleria inscripta (Meig.) Widespread May-Sept. Brampton, Ouse flood meadow. Brampton Wood. Monks Wood NNR (Wills). Waresley Wood NR. Wennington Wood. Woodwalton Fen NNR.

ruficeps (Zett.) Holme Fen NNR 14.9.74.

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Oecotaea fenestralis (Fall.) Brampton, Lenton Close, on windows 30.3.66, 20.3.71, 18.4.75. Alconbury 27.4.76.

Tephrochlamys flavipes (Zett.) Monks Wood NNR 29.9.72.
rufiventris (Meig.) Common most of the year, particularly noticeable on windows in winter.

SCIOMYZIDAE 24/65

Pelidnoptera fuscipennis (Meig.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 25.5.67. Elton Furze Wood 12.6.71. Monks Wood NNR 15.6.72 (MWS). Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 9.6.75.

Colobaea punctata (Lundb.) Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 17.6.73, 9.6.75.
Pherbellia albocostata (Fall.) Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 31.5.76. Elton Furze Wood 12.6.71. Holme Fen NNR 14.6.69, 3.6.72. Monks Wood NNR 22.7.66 (Wills).

Pherbellia brunnipes Meig. Little Paxton GP 30.5.71. Hemingford Gray, Marsh Lane GP 15.7.70.
cinerella (Fall.) Brampton Wood 23.5.67.
dubia (Fall.) Widespread May-August. Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood. Brampton. Elton Furze Wood. Holme Fen NNR. Monks Wood NNR (Wils). Staughton. Agden Green Wood. Waresley Wood NR.
grisescens (Meig.) Bluntisham, Berry Fen 13.7.75.
pallidiventris (Fall.) Woodwalton, Church End 5.8.67.
ventralis (Fall.) Grafham Water NR 24.5.70. Warboys Wood 2.5.71

Sciomyza simplex Fall. Brampton Wood 22.8.70.

Elgiva cucularia (L.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 6.6.71, 14.5.77. Holme Fen NNR 3.6.72. Little Paxton GP 30.5.71. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 27.6.71.

Euthycera fumigata (Scop.) Brampton, Lenton Close 20.7.69. Hemingford Gray, Marsh Lane GP 15.7.70, 30.7.72. Monks Wood NNR 8.9.66 (Wills). Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NNR 23.7.77.

Hydromyia dorsalis (Fab.) Hemingford Gray, Marsh Lane GP 14.6.70.

Knutsonia albisetata (Scop.) Widespread 27.6.-9.9. Bluntisham, Berry Fen. Hemingford Gray, Marsh Lane GP. Monks Wood NNR (Wills). Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR. Wennington Wood. Woodwalton Fen NNR.
lineata (Fall.) Hemingford Gray, Marsh Lane GP 15.7.70.

Limnia unguicornis (Scop.) Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 27.6.71. Sawtry Roughs 19.6.66. Woodwalton Fen NNR 12.6.68, 4.6.77.

Pherbina coryleti (Scop.) Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 27.6.71. Sibson, Nene flood meadow 1.6.69. St. Neots Holt 15.6.71.

Sepedon spinipes (Scop.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 6.6.71. Bluntisham, Berry Fen 13.7.75. Little Paxton GP 30.5.71. Fenstanton, Galley Hill GP 27.5.67. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits 27.6.71.

Tetanocera arrogans (Meig.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 8.6.69. Pidley Knot Holes 29.6.69. St. Neots Holt 15.6.71.
elata (Fab.) Widespread June-August. Easton, Hartham Street. Grafham Water NR. Hemingford Grey, Marsh Lane GP, Holme Fen NNR. Monks Wood NNR (Wills). Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR. St. Neots Holt. Woodwalton Fen NNR.

ferruginea Fall. Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 6.6.71. Hemingford Grey Marsh Lane GP 14.6.70. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 17.6.73. Raveley Wood NR 29.5.72.

hyalipennis v. Ros. Easton, Hartham Street 22.6.69. Grafham Water NR 9.7 & 16.8.69. Monks Wood NNR 7.9.66 (Wills), 30.8.70. Wennington Wood 5.9.70.

robusta Loew Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 29.8.66, 23.5.76. Woodwalton Fen NNR 15.8.70.

Trypetoptera punctulata (Scop.) Easton, Shepherds Close NR 22.6.69. Elton, Furze Wood 12.6.71. Elton Hall Park 24.6.72. Monks Wood NNR 7.8.66 (Wills), 27.8.67. Sawtry Roughs 19.6.66. Warboys Wood 24.7.66.

PALLOPTERIDAE 7/11

Palloptera arcuata (Fab.) Holme Fen NNR 12.8.77.
ambusta (Meig.) Monks Wood NNR 25.7.72 (MWS).
muliebris (Harris) Alconbury 13.9.73. Brampton, Lenton Close 10.7.67, 27.7.70.
saltuum (L.) Widespread 25.5-8.8. Brampton, Ouse flood meadow. Elton Furze Wood. Grafham Water NR. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR. Raveley Wood NR. St. Neots Holt. Woodwalton Fen NNR.
scutellata macqu. Brampton Wood 10.5.74. Brampton, Ouse flood meadow, 14.5.77.
umbellatarum (Fab.) Brampton, Lenton Close 3.7.71. Huntingdon, Portholme Meadow 10.6.68. Woodwalton Fen NNR 4.6.77.
ustulata Fall. Brampton, Lenton Close 22.7.66. Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 14 & 17.8.66. Holme Fen NNR 12.8.77. St. Neots Holt 23.6.71. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 27.6.71.

LONCHAEIDAE 8/29

Dasyops mucronatus Morge Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 27.6.71

Earomyia nigra (Meig.) Easton, Shepherds Close NR 2.7.70.

viridana (Meig.) Brampton Wood 10.8.75. Brampton, Lenton Close 29.7.68. Easton, Shepherds Close NR 28.7.68. Sibson, Nene flood meadow 1.6.69.

Lonchaea chorea (Fab.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 14.5.77. Earith GP 8.8.76. Little Paxton GP 30.5.71. Monks Wood NNR 7.66 (Wills).

fumosa Egger Very common and widespread 12.5-21.9

hirticeps Zett.? Holme Fen NNR 20.7.73. 1♀ provisionally named by Mr. Brian Cogan of the British Museum. This little known species is not represented in the National Collection but Collin (1953) recorded it from Herefords, Cambs., Hants, and Inverness, the latest date being 1931.

laticornis Meig. Easton, Shepherds Close NR 27.5.77.

nitens (Bigot) Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 31.5.76.

PIOPHILIDAE 5/11

Piophila (Stearibia) foveolata Meig. Earith GP 26.6.76. Waresley Wood NR 18.5.74.

(Protopiophila) latipes Meig. Monks Wood NNR 26.6.71 (MWS)

(Allopiophila) luteata Hal. Grafham Water NR 16.8.69. Monks Wood NNR 25.8.72. (MWS).

vulgaris Fall. Alconbury 30.4.66, 4.6.74. Little Paxton GP 20.7.75. Monks Wood NNR 8.9.66 (Wills). Raveley Wood NR 8.7.73.

(Liopiophila) varipes Meig. Brampton, Lenton Close 14.6.75, 24.6.77.

OPOMYZIDAE 5/14

Geomyza balachowskyi Mesnil Brampton, Lenton Close 13.6.66. Holme, Denton Covert NR 4.9.77. Monks Wood NNR 7-9.66 (Wills). Wennington Wood 5.9.70.

tripunctata Fall. Common and widespread April-Sept.

Opomyza florum Fab. Very common and widespread July-Sept.

germinationis (L.) Very common and widespread June-Sept.

lineatopunctata v. Ros. Woodwalton Fen NNR 15.8.70.

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ASTEIDAE 5/6

Asteia amoena Meig. Alconbury 18.9.67. Brampton 18.4.75. Home Fen NNR 14.9.74. Yelling 16.7.66.

concinna Meig. Hemingford Grey, Marsh Lane GP 30.7.72. Little Paxton GP 19.7.75. Woodwalton Fen NNR 5.7.70.

Leiomyza dudai Sabr. Home Fen NNR 14.9.74.

laevigata Meig. Alconbury 27.6.67. Monks Wood NNR 26.5.64.

scatophagina (Fall.) Upwood, Lady's Wood NR 9.6.73.

CHLOROPIDAE 50/144

Lipara lucens Meig. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 23.7.77.

Calamoncosis aprica (Meig.) Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 9.6.75. Woodwalton Fen NNR 4.6.77.

duinensis (Strobl) Earith GP 21.7.74, 26.6.76.

glyceriae Narchuk Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 14.5 & 12.6.77. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 7.6.75. Stibbington GP 18.8.74.

Oscinismota cognata (Meig.) Stibbington GP 18.8.74. St. Neots Holt 22.6.71.

Conioscinella mimula Collin Alconbury 25.7.75.

Tricimba cincta (Meig.) Little Paxton GP 31.8.74. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits 9.6.75, 23.7.77. var. apicalis (v. Ros) Alconbury 23.6.76. Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 31.6.76. Holme Fen NNR 20.7.73.

lineella (Fall.) Brampton, Lenton Close 30.6 & 19.7.75. Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 31.6.76. Monks Wood NNR 5.9.72. Little Paxton GP 31.8.74.

Dicraeus fennicus Duda Alconbury 5.6.74. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 23.7.77.

vagans (Meig.) Widespread June-July. Alconbury. Brampton. Easton, Shepherds Close NR. Huntingdon, Portholme Meadow. Little Paxton GP. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR. Woodwalton Fen NNR. ✓

Botanobia dubius (Macqu.) Monks Wood NNR 26.6.72.

Eribolus hungaricus (Becker) St. Neots Holt 15.6.71.

Tropidoscinis albipalpis (Meig.) Alconbury 23.6.76.

keiteszi (Becker) Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 11.6.72. Monks Wood NNR 27.6.75.

Oscinella frit (L.) Alconbury 29.6.67, 25.7.75. Brampton 30.7.66, 19.5.76.

hortensis Collin Alconbury 25.7.75. Woodwalton Fen NNR 12.6.68

maura (Fall.) Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 31.6.76. Huntingdon, Portholme Meadow 10.6.68.

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Oscinella nigerrima (Macqu.) Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 9.6.75.
nitidissima (Meig.) Alconbury 9.6 & 29.6.67, 5.6.74, 25.7.75.
posticata Collin Great Paxton, Bankside NR 25.7.66.
trochanterata Collin Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 30.6.68,
 18.8.70, 3.6.67.
vestator (Curtis) Brampton, Lenton Close 30.7.66. Yelling
 16.7.66.
Lioscinella anthracina (Meig.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 17.6.67,
 12.6.77. Elton Hall Park 24.6.72. Huntingdon,
 Portholme Meadow 3.6.76. St. Neots Holt 22.6.71.
 Woodwalton Fen NNR 12.6.68.
fasciola (Meig.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 17.6.67, 12.6.77
Elachiptera cornuta (Fall.) Common and widespread March-Sept.
megaspis (Loew) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 8.8 & 10.9.67,
 14.5.77. Alconbury 28.3.68. Bluntisham, Berry Fen
 30.5.70. Woodwalton Fen NNR 4.9.71.
tuberculifera (Corti) Widespread May-Sept. Alconbury.
 Brampton Wood. Holme Fen NNR. Monks Wood NNR.
 Raveley Wood NR. Wistow Wood NR. Wennington Wood.
Platycephala planifrons (Fab.) Woodwalton Church End 5.8.67.
Meromyza nigriventris Macqu. Grafham Water NR 2.6.68. Monks Wood NNR
 22.6.75.
pratorum Meig. Yaxley Brick Pits 108.68.
variegata Meig. Alconbury 11.8.65. Brampton, Lenton Close
 22.7.73. Woodwalton Church End 5.8.67.
Cryptonevra flavitarsis (Meig.) Earith GP 21.7.74, 8.8.76. Holme,
 Denton Covert NR 4.9.77. Woodwalton Fen NNR 12.6.68,
 4.6.77.
tarsata Fall. Warboys, Pingle Cutting NR 11.7.69. Woodwalton
 Fen NNR 4.6.77.
Diplotaxa messoria Fall. Earith GP 26.6.76. Stibbington GP 18.8.74.
Cetema cereis (Fall.) Earith GP 21.7.74. Holme, Denton Covert NR 4.9.77.
 Woodwalton Fen NNR 6.7.70.
elongata Meig. Alconbury 8.7.75. Elton Hall Park 24.6.72. Holme
 Fen NNR 20.7.73. Monks Wood NNR 6.7.68. Woodwalton
 Fen NNR 4.7.72.
neglecta Tonn. Brampton Wood 25.7.67. Earith GP 26.6.76.
 Woodwalton Fen NNR 6.7.70.
Epichlorops puncticollis (Zett.) Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 16.7.67.
 Monks Wood NNR 6.7.68.
Anthracophaga frontosa (Meig.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 28.5.66.
 Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 9.6.75. Woodwalton Fen
 NNR 4.6.77.

Chlorops gracilis Meig. Abbots Ripton, Bevills Wood 16.7.67. Monks Wood
 NNR 6.7.68. Ramsey Heights Clay Pits NR 23.7.77.
 Sawtry Roughs 19.6.66. Woodwalton Fen NNR 16.8.70.
hypostigma Meig. Easton, Hartham Street 11.6.67. Monks Wood NNR
 26.5 & 11.8.74. Raveley Wood NR 26.5.75.
meigeni Loew Monks Wood NNR 22.6.75. Woodwalton Fen NNR 12.6.68,
 4.7.72.
nigrithorax Strobl Monks Wood NNR 6.7.68.
planifrons Loew St. Neots Holt 22.6.71.
pumilionis (Bjerk.) Widespread 27.5-11.8. Alconbury. Brampton
 Wood. Easton, Hartham Street. Monks Wood NNR.
 Upwood, Lady's Wood. Fenstanton, Galley Hill GP.
 Stibbington GP.
speciosa Meig. Brampton Wood 25.7.67. Brampton, Ouse flood
 meadow 6.6.71. Easton, Hartham Street 13.7.68.
 Monks Wood NNR 6.7.68.
Chloropisca glabra (Meig.) Alconbury 5.6.74. Holme, Denton Covert NR
 4.9.77. Huntingdon, Portholme Meadow 10.6.68.
 Little Paxton GP 19.7.75.
Thaumatomyia hollandica Anders. Little Paxton GP 30.5.71, 29.7.75.
notata (Meig.) Brampton, Ouse flood meadow 8.5.77. Little
 Paxton GP 31.8.74.
rufa (Macqu.) St. Neots Holt 22.6.71.

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I am indebted to Mr Peter Chandler for naming the Asteidae and to
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SUB-FOSSIL REMAINS OF CERAMBYX CERDO L. (COL., CERAMBYCIDAE)

AT RAMSEY HEIGHTS, HUNTINGDONSHIRE

by ROGER A. PLANT and PAUL T. HARDING.

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station.

On the 6th May 1976 two almost perfectly preserved longhorn beetles were found in a sub-fossil tree, a "bog oak", at Ramsey Heights, Huntingdonshire. We were told by the finders, two tenant small holders, Mr. J. Edwards and Mr. C. Butler, that the tree had been extracted from an arable field on a small-holding at Evisons New Fen Farm, Ramsey Heights the previous winter. The trunk was some 12 m, in length, with a diameter one metre above the root buttress of 1 m. A count of the annual growth rings gave an age in excess of 200 years.

The two beetles were found in large galleries running in from 3 holes about 2.5 cm wide on the surface and 20 cm in depth. They were provisionally identified as Cerambyx cerdo L., and this was later confirmed by Mr. M.J.D. Brendell of the Entomology Department, British Museum (Natural History).

One of the specimens was found by Mr. Brendell to be infested with the nymphs of mites which seem to have been attached to the beetle during its life. The nymphs were identified by Mr. K.H. Hyatt of the Zoology Department, British Museum (Natural History) as Histiogaster sp.. Both specimens of C. cerdo together with examples of the Histiogaster mites and of the parent timber have been deposited at the British Museum (Natural History).

A carbon-14 dating based on a sample of timber containing the galleries has been given at 3690 ± 100 years B.P. (Birm. 853) C. cerdo was associated with the ancient forest of Britain and sub-fossil remains were recorded from Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire by Duffy (1968). This species has been recorded from several other localities in Britain, but both Duffy (1968) and Allen (1968) agree that except as an importation C. cerdo is extinct in Britain.

On the 22nd September 1977 we were contacted by Mr. S. Bedford of the Speed-the-Plough Farm, Ramsey Heights. He had excavated the trunk of a "bog oak", which contained galleries similar to those associated with the C. cerdo found nearby, but no traces of any sub-fossil insect remains were found.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Mr. J. Edwards and Mr. C. Butler and the Cambridge-shire County Land Agent, Mr. A.G.O. Ashpole, for informing us of this find, and for allowing the insects and samples of timber to be removed for examination and preservation. We are also grateful to Dr. G.R. Coope and Dr. R.E. Williams for arranging the C14 dating to be done at the Department of Geological Sciences, Birmingham University. Mr. M.J.D. Brendell for correspondence about the specimens.

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INSECTS RECORDED BY PROFESSOR C.C. BABINGTON IN MONKS WOOD AND
OTHER HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCALITIES, 1828-1836

R. Colin Welch

Monks Wood Experimental Station

In 1972 a manuscript catalogue of insects collected by Professor C.C. Babington between 1828 and 1876 was examined for me and records abstracted of 50 species of Coleoptera taken in Monks Wood (see Steele & Welch, 1973, pp 212-233). These are the earliest known records from the reserve, and it is interesting to note that J.G. Baker, in his introduction to the second edition of H.C. Watson's Topographical Botany (1883) mentions Prof. Babington, together with three other eminent botanists, who "were all ardent entomologists before they settled down to Botany". Dr M.G. Morris informs me that throughout his career Prof. Babington was affectionately known as "Beetles Babington"! It is difficult to visualise a time span of 150 years until one reads of Babington receiving insect specimens from a student by the name of Charles Darwin!

I have recently had the opportunity to examine this catalogue more closely. As a result a considerable number of additional records have been deciphered. By reference to contemporary checklists a list of 120 species of Coleoptera collected in Monks Wood has been compiled and is shown in Table 1. I am still unable to synonymise the two species of Apion named by Babington as A. flavicorne and A. involutum, but the "missing" reference to the 1831 Osphya bipunctata specimen was traced once I understood the nomenclature in use at the time. In addition six specimens were not identified beyond genus; 3 Chrysomela (23.6.1829), Curculio (2.7.1829), Hister (1831) and Rhagium (28.5.1831), the last named most probably being R. mordax (Deg.). From our knowledge of the past and present distribution of two species, Cicindella hybrida and Hypera meles, it is extremely doubtful that they ever occurred in Monks Wood. The former could conceivably refer to C. campestris which was present in the fields within the wood up until at least 1956. H. meles has always been exceedingly rare in Britain and is most likely a mis-identification. Specimens may exist in the Cambridge Zoology Museum which will enable the identity of these species to be established, but I have not yet made a search for them. A few records of Coleoptera from Whittlesea Mere, Holme Fen and Sawtry are listed in Table 2, including Dromius agilis and Galeruca interrupta which appear to be new records for the County of Huntingdonshire.

Although I was primarily interested in Coleoptera I took the opportunity of abstracting all the insect records for Huntingdonshire. These included some 56 species of Lepidoptera from Monks Wood, of which 11 species, plus two only recorded at generic level, represent additional records to those listed by J. Heath in Steele & Welch (1973). It is interesting to see the Black hairstreak included in the list, and although no date is given, it seems likely that this refers to the 1829

record mentioned by J.A. Thomas (in Steele & Welch) as the second British record. The extinct Black-veined white is recorded on 16 June 1828 and among the few Lepidoptera from other Huntingdonshire localities (see Table 4) it is recorded a day earlier from Sawtry, together with two other extinct species, the Large Copper from Whittlesea Mere in July 1829 and Laelia coenosia (Lymntriidae) from Sawtry Fen.

Babington also recorded a number of the larger, more readily identifiable Diptera. A list of 20 species is given in Table 5 which includes 7 species probably new to Monks Wood. The majority of species listed are hoverflies (Syrphidae), most of which have since been recorded by J.H. Cole and H.J. Wills, whilst the 3 species of Horsefly (Tabanidae) were included in M.W. Service's list (in Steele & Welch). An assortment of other insects were also recorded by Babington:- male and female Demoiselle, Argion virgo (L.) (+ 1164 and 1165 as Calopteryx virgo ?1829); a common Water boatman, Nononecta glauca L. (141, 17.6.1828), plant bugs, Miris striatus (L.) (1210, Phytocoris striatus), Picromerus bidens (L.) (+ 970, Pentatoma bidens, 17.6.1828, W.S. Greig), ? Nabis rugosus (L.) (1212, Nabis nervosa) and ? Cimex (1211). Two Leafhoppers are listed, Membracis sinapsis (1103) which is almost certainly Centrotus cornutus (L.) recorded from the reserve by J. Omer-Cooper (1926) and M.G. Morris (in Steele & Welch), and Aphrodes bifasciatus (L.) (+ 1102, Tettigonia bifasciata) which was recorded by Dale as Acocephalus bifasciatus L. from Whittlesea Mere (in Omer-Cooper). The Snake-fly, Raphidia ophiopsis (1883, 1831), is also recorded from Monks Wood although I have not yet discovered with which modern species this synonymises. Two parasitic Hymenoptera are listed, ? Macroneura vesicularis (Retz.) (+ 784, M. hyosciami, ? 1829) and Glypta (+ 1197, 1829), together with the sawfly Abia sericea (L.) (1194, 1829) a record of which is quoted by Omer-Cooper. The aculeate, Mutilla europea L. (2722), is recorded from Holme Fen by G. Osborne of Foulbourn.

In addition to the species listed, the name Tetyra obliqua (604, 16.6.1828) occurs in a block of coleopterous records, but I have been unable to synonymise it with any species known to me.

Nomenclature follows the Second Edition Kloet & Hincks (1964-1977). I am indebted to J. Heath for help in establishing the Lepidoptera synonymy and to Dr W.A. Foster for making the Babington manuscript available to me.

In the following tables a + nearest to the left hand margin indicates a new record for Monks Wood a † in Tables 1 and 5 indicates records included in Steele & Welch, and an * in Tables 1 and 2 represents a new County record for Huntingdonshire. In all tables the first column is the reference number in Babington's catalogue, the second column is the name in current use, followed by Babington's identification and date of collection, where given.

TABLE 1. COLEOPTERA RECORDED FROM MONKS WOOD 1828-1836

CARABIDAE

?1293 Cicindela hybrida L.	Cicindella hybrida Curt.	1829
	aprica Steph. ♂ & ♀ (J.Curtis)	
1939 Notiophilus aquaticus (L.)	Notiophilus aquaticus	
†2508 Dyschirius aeneus (Dej.)	Dischirius aeratus (?)	1829
+1235 Trechus (Lasiotrechus) discus (F.)	Bleonus unifasciatus	?1829
1727 Bembidion (Trepanes) articulatum (Pz.)	Lopha paecila	5.1831

DYTISCIDAE

1595 Hydroporus planus (F.)	Hydroporus flavipes	1831
†1412 Stictonectes lepidus (Ol.)	Hygrotus scitulus	?1830
* 778 Graptodytes flavipes (Ol.)	Hydroporus concinnus	1831
+1850 Enochrus melanocephalus (Ol.)	Hydrobius atricapillus	1831
†1849 Enochrus quadripunctatus (Hbst.)	Hydrobius melanocephalus	1831

HISTERIDAE

+ 945 Hister unicolor L.	Hister unicolor	1831
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SILPHIDAE

†1292 Nicrophorus vespillo (L.)	Nicrophorus vespillo	1829
1201 Nicrophorus vespillioides Hbst.	Nicrophorus mortuorum	2.7.1829
+ 3 Silpha tristis Ill.	Silpha tristis	1831

SCARABAEIDAE

+ 93 Colobopterus erraticus (L.)	Aphodius erraticus	1831
765 Aphodius rufus (Moll.)	Aphodius rufescens	1831
†1861 Onthophagus nuchicornis (L.)	Onthophagus nuchicornis	1831
† 608 Onthophagus nutans (F.)	Onthophagus nutans	6.10.1828
1208 Onthophagus ovatus (L.)	Onthophagus ovatus ?	1829

SCIRTIDAE

1606 Elodes minuta (L.)	Cyphon melanurus	1831
†1838 Elodes minuta (L.)	Cyphon laetus	1831

BYRRHIDAE

†1648 Cytilus sericeus (Forst.)	Byrrhus sericeus	1831
605 Byrrhus pilula (L.)	Byrrhus pilula v. ferruginea	16.6.1828

BUPRESTIDAE

2721 Trachys minutus (L.)	Trachys minuta	18.5.1836
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ELATERIDAE

1936 Cidnopus minimus (L.)	Elater minutus	1831
1097 Athous bicolor (Goez.)	Anathrotus longicollis	
903 Athous haemorrhoidalis (F.)	Anathrotus haemorrhoidalis ?	1831
1581 Athous hirtus (Hbst.)	Anathrotus nigrinus	1831
1823 Athous hirtus (Hbst.)	Anathrotus niger	1829
1094 Selatosomus nigrocornis (Pz.)	Ctenicerus metallicus	
1096 Denticollis linearis (L.)	Campylis linearis	

CANTHARIDAE

†1751 Cantharis nigra (Deg.)	Telephorus affinis ?	1831
†1747 Cantharis pellucida F.	Telephorus pellucidus	
†1748 Cantharis rufa L.	Telephorus lituratus	
+1937 Cantharis thoracica (Ol.)	Telephorus thoracicus	1829
+1093 Silis ruficollis (F.)	Telephorus (ruficollis) tibialis mihi	

ANOBIIDAE

1092 Anobium punctatum (Deg.)	Anobium rufipes ?	
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CLERIDAE

†1804 Necrobia ruficollis (F.)	Necrobia ruficollis	1831
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MELYRIDAE

1724 Malachius bipustulatus (L.)	Malachius bipunctatus a.punctis nigris	1831
+1753 Malachius viridis (F.)	Malachius viridis	1831
1728 Anthocomus fasciatus (L.)	Malachius fasciatus	1831

NITIDULIDAE

†1821 Meligethes atratus (Ol.)	Meligethes rufipes ?	1831
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RHIZOPHAGIDAE

†1793 Monotoma picipes Hbst.	Monotoma picipes	1831
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BYTURIDAE

1089 Byturus tomentosus (Deg.)	Byturus tomentosus	
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COCCINELLIDAE

† 332 Hippodamia tredecimpunctata (L.)	Coccinella 13-punctata	1831
1091 Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata (L.)	Coccinella 12-punctata	23.6.1829

COCCINELLIDAE (Contd.)

† 334 Coccinella hieroglyphica L.	Coccinella heiroglyphica	1831
1090 Propylea quatuordecimpunctata (L.)	Coccinella conglomerata var. 23.6.1829	

MYCETOPHAGIDAE

558 Mycetophagus multipunctatus F.	Mycetophagus multipunctatus	1831
557 Mycetophagus quadripustulatus	Mycetophagus 4-pustulatus (L.)	1831

MELANDRYIDAE

† 1809 Osphya bipunctata (F.)	Nothus bimaculatus on Crataegus oxyacantha	28.6.1831
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SCRAPTIIDAE

1745 Anaspis frontalis (L.)	Anaspis frontalis ?	5.1831
1742 Anaspis humeralis (F.)	Anaspis biguttata	5.1831
1743 Anaspis maculata Fourc.	Anaspis melanopa	5.1831
1101 Anaspis regimbarti Schil.	Anaspis ruficollis	

MORDELLIDAE

† 1934 Mordella aculeata L.	Mordella aculeata	1829
1100 Mordella villosa (Schr.)	Mordella fasciata	
1935 Mordellistena abdominalis (F.)	Mordella abdominalis	1829

CERAMBYCIDAE

545 Stenocorus meridianus (L.)	Toxotus chrysogaster ♂ & ♀	1829
† 1206 Stenocorus meridianus (L.)	Toxotus meridianus	1829
1207 Stenocorus meridianus (L.)	Toxotus meridianus var. nigripes	1829
† 1297 Grammoptera ruficornis (F.)	Leptura ruficornis	1829
† 1812 Alosterna tabacicolor (Deg.)	Leptura laevis	28.5.1831
† 450 Strangalia maculata (Poda)	Leptura elongata	
† 603 Strangalia melanura (L.)	Leptura melanura	16.6.1828
1098 Strangalia melanura (L.)	Leptura melanura	
* 1375 Phymatodes alni (L.)	Callidium alni	1831
* 1811 Plagionotus arcuatus (L.)	Clytus arcuatus	28.5.1831
2395 Mesosa nebulosa (F.)	Lamia nubila	
585 Leiopus nebulosus (L.)	Pogonocerus nebulosus	16.6.1828
1078 Agapanthia villosoviridescens (Deg.)	Saperda cardui	23.6.1829
† 538 Saperda populnea (L.)	Saperda populnea	1828
1099 Phytoecia cylindrica (L.)	Saperda cylindrica	
1801 Tetrops praeusta (L.)	Tetrops praeusta	28.5.1831

CHYSOMELIDAE

† 2028 Lema cyanella (L.)	Criocerus puncticollis	1831
1071 Cryptocephalus aureolus Suff.	Cryptocephalus sericeus	23.6.1829
1081 Cryptocephalus labiatus (L.)	Cryptocephalus labiatus	23.6.1829
1072 Cryptocephalus moraei (L.)	Cryptocephalus moraei	23.6.1829
+ 1277 Chrysolina fastuosa (Scop.)	Chrysomela fastuosa	1831
+ 9 Chrysolina hyperici (Forst.)	Chrysomela hyperici	1830
491 Chrysolina polita (L.)	Chrysomela polita	1828
+ 815 Chrysolina staphylea (L.)	Chrysomela staphylea	?1829
1083 Chrysolina varians (Schall.)	Chrysomela varians	23.6.1829
+ 606 Chrysomela populi L.	Chrysomela populi	16.6.1828
340 ?Phytodecta decemnotata (Marsh.)	Chrysomela 10-punctata	29.5.1831
* 1920 Galeruca tanaceti (L.)	Galeruca taenaci	1831
1095 Lochmaea caprea (L.)	Galeruca caprea	
† 1085 Chalcoïdes aurea (Fourc.)	Haltica helixes	23.6.1829
† 2017 Chalcoïdes nitidula (L.)	Haltica nitidula var. Helxines	1831
+ 1080 Sphaeroderma testaceum	Haltica cardui?	23.6.1829
+ 1303 Sphaeroderma testaceum	Haltica centaurea	
1079 Cassida nebulosa L.	Cassida nebulosa in plenty in stems of Herach. spond.	
† 403 Cassida nobilis L.	Cassida nobilis	1831
1301 Cassida murraea L.	Cassida (maculata) murraea	
† 1304 Cassida murraea L.	Cassida murraea	
† 548 Cassida rubiginosa Muell.	Cassida rubiginosa	1831
† 547 Cassida vibex L.	Cassida vibex	1831
ATTELABIDAE		
586 Apoderus coryli (L.)	Apoderus avellanae	16.6.1828
1074 Apoderus coryli (L.)	Apoderus avellanae	23.6.1829
† 437 Rhynchites (Caenorhinus) aequatus (L.)	Rhynchites equatus	5.1828
1075 R. (Caenorhinus) inter- punctatus Steph.	Rhynchites alliaria?	23.6.1829
† 1950 R. (Caenorhinus) inter- punctatus Steph.	Rhynchites átrocaeruleus	
1951 R. (Caenorhinus) pauxillus Germ.	Rhynchites interpunctatus	
1200 Byctiscus betulae (L.)	Rhynchites betula	2.7.1829
† 1043 Deporaus betulae (L.)	Deporaus betula	? 1829
APIONIDAE		
† 1960 Apion (Aspidapion) radiolus (Marsh.)	Apion radiolus	1830
† 1963 A. (Eutrichapion) ervi Kirby	Apion ervi	
† 1953 A. (Eutrichapion)?vorax Hbst.	Apion flavidum	1831
1351 A. (Oxystoma) pomonae (F.)	Apion pomonae	?1829
1446 A. (Protapion) dichroum Bedel	Apion flavipes	

APIONIDAE (contd.)

†1956	Apion involutum mihi	1831
†1962	Apion flavicorne mihi	?1830
CURCULIONIDAE		
1619 <i>Otiorhynchus singularis</i> (L.)	<i>Otiorhynchus notatus</i>	
1076 <i>Phyllobius oblongus</i> (L.)	<i>N.G. (Polydrusus p.) oblongus</i>	23.6.1829
886 <i>Phyllobius roboretanus</i> Gred.	<i>Phyllobius uniformis</i>	
†1042 <i>Strophosoma nebulosum</i> Steph.	<i>Strophosoma retusus</i>	?1829
* 306 <i>Liophloeus tessulatus</i> (Muell.)	<i>Leiophilus nubilus</i>	17.6.1828
*1618 <i>Liophloeus tessulatus</i> (Muell.)	<i>Liophloeus nubilus</i>	
?†2039 <i>Hypera meles</i> (F.)	<i>Hypera trifolii</i>	1831
†1833 <i>Cionus scrophulariae</i> (L.)	<i>Cionus scrophularia</i>	1831
†1834 <i>Cionus tuberculosus</i> (Scop.)	<i>Cionus verbasci</i>	1831
+1077 <i>Notaris acridulus</i> (L.)	<i>Notaris acridulus</i>	23.6.1829
+1614 <i>Notaris acridulus</i> (L.)	<i>Notaris acridulus</i>	?1831
2036 <i>Cidnorhinus quadrimaculatus</i> (L.)	<i>Centorhynchus didymus</i>	1831
2031 <i>Ceutorhynchus litura</i> (F.)	<i>Nedius ovalis</i>	1831
+2032 <i>Ceutorhynchus marginatus</i> (Pk.)	<i>Nedius marginatus</i>	1831
2033 <i>Ceutorhynchus pollinarius</i> (Forst.)	<i>Nedius pollinarius</i>	1831
2035 <i>Ceutorhynchus pyrrorrhynchus</i> (Marsh.)	<i>Nedius phaerrhynchus</i>	1831
†1858 <i>Anthonomus rubi</i> (Hbst.)	<i>Anthonomus ater</i>	1831
† 881 <i>Curculio ?nucum</i> L.	<i>Balaninus nucum?</i> <i>glandium?</i>	1831
1752 <i>Curculio nucum</i> L.	<i>Balaninus nucum</i>	
+1952 <i>Gymnetron veronicae</i> (Germ.)	<i>Gymnetron beccabunga</i>	?1831

TABLE 2. COLEOPTERA RECORDED FROM OTHER HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCALITIES 1828-1831

WHITTLESEA (MERE)

607 <i>Calathus fuscipes</i> (Goeze)	<i>Calathus cisteloides</i>	16.6.1828
601 <i>Colymbetes fuscus</i> (L.)	<i>Colymbetes striatus</i>	16.6.1828
602 ? <i>Agabus bipustulatus</i> (L.)	<i>Colymbetes bipustulatus</i>	16.6.1828
157 <i>Lixius paraplecticus</i> (L.)	<i>Lixius productus</i> ?	17.6.1828
600 <i>Chrysolina fastuosa</i> (Scop.)	<i>Chrisomela fastuosa</i>	16.6.1828
517 <i>Chrysolina graminis</i> (L.)	<i>Chrysomela fulgida</i>	16.6.1828

HOLME FEN

*2052 <i>Dromius ? agilis</i> (F.)	<i>Dromius bifasciatus</i>	7.1831
2051 <i>Axinotarsus ruficollis</i> (Ol.)	<i>Malachius ruficollis</i>	7.1831

TABLE 2 (contd.)

SAWTRY		
1281 <i>Atomaria (Anchicera) pusilla</i> (Pk.)	<i>Atomaria basella</i>	20.10.1829
1282 ? <i>Lathridius</i>	<i>Latridius</i>	20.10.1829
SAWTRY FEN		
1277 <i>Chrysolina fastuosa</i> (Scop.)	<i>Chrysomela fastuosa</i>	1829
*2030 <i>Galeruca interrupta</i> Ill.	<i>Galeruca rustica</i>	1831

TABLE 3. LEPIDOPTERA RECORDED FROM MONKS WOOD 1828-1829

HEPIALIDAE		
1109 <i>Hepialus hecta</i> (L.)	<i>Hepialus hectus</i>	23.6.1829
COSSIDAE		
1110 <i>Cossus cossus</i> (L.)	<i>Cossus ligniperda</i>	23.6.1829
ZYGAENIDAE		
+ 596 <i>Zygaena filipendulae</i> (L.)	<i>Anthrocera filipendula</i>	16.6.1829
TINEIDAE		
+2001 <i>Triaxomera parasitella</i> Hubn.	<i>Tinea parasitella</i>	1828
OECOPHORIDAE		
+1139 <i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i> (L.)	<i>Anacampsis sarcitrella</i>	
TORTRICIDAE		
+1138 <i>Cydia aurana</i> (F.)	<i>Pseudotomia aurana</i>	
+1209 <i>Endothenia quadrimaculata</i> (Haw.)	<i>Achenia 4-maculata</i>	
1132 <i>Orthotaenia undulana</i> (D.&S.)	<i>Orthotaenia urticana</i>	
1130 ? <i>Olethreutes</i> (Loxoterma)	<i>Lozotonia ?</i>	
1129 <i>Pandemis cerasana</i> (Hubn.)	<i>Nozotaenia Ribeana</i>	
+1134 <i>Ptycoloma lecheana</i> (L.)	<i>Phycoloma lecheana</i>	
1133 <i>Croesia bergmanniana</i> (L.)	<i>Argyrotoza bergmanniana</i>	
+ 591 <i>Eriás chlorana</i> (L.)	<i>Tortrix clorana</i>	16.6.1828

PYRALIDAE

611 Nymphula nymphaeata (L.)	Hydrocampus potamogota	16.6.1828
609 Eurrhypara hortulata (L.)	Botys urticata	16.6.1828
1156 ? Sitochroa verticalis (L.)	Margaritia verticalis	
1135 Aglossa pinguinalis (L.)	Aglossa pinguinalis	

PTEROPHORIDAE

+1141 Platynotilia calodactyla (D.&S.)	Pterophorus calodactylus	
+1140 Pterophorus pentadactyla (L.)	Pterophorus pentadactylus	

HESPIRIIDAE

1108 Carterocephalus palaemon (Pallus)	Pamphila paniscus	23.6.1829
1274 Ochlodes venata (Bremer & Grey)	Pamphilus sylvanus ♀	?1829
539 Pyrgus malvae (L.)	Thymela aleolus	?1828

PIERIDAE

581 Leptidea sinapis (L.)	Leucophasia sinapis	?1829
1104 Leptidea ? sinapis (L.)	Leucophasia cornuta	
105 Aporia crataegi (L.)	Pieris crataegi	16.6.1828

LYCAENIDAE

1269 Thecla betulae (L.)	Thecla betula ♂♀ (John Ashwood)	1829
1246 Quercusia quercus (L.)	Thecla quercus ♂♀	1829
1106 Strymonidia pruni (L.)	Thecla pruni	
1273 Polyommatus icarus (Rott.)	Polymmatus	1829

NYMPHALIDAE

244 Apatura iris (L.)	Apatura iris ♂♀	1829
247 Cynthia cardui (L.)	Cynthia cardui	
1105 Boloria (Clossiana) selene (D.&S.)	Melitaea selene	2.7.1829
668 Argynnис (Mesoacidalia) aglaja (L.)	Argynnис Aglaja	1829
218 Argynnис paphia (L.)	Argynnис Paphia	2.7.1829
613 Euphydryas aurinia (Rott.)	Melitaea Artemis	16.6.1828

SATYRIDAE

217 Melanargia galathea (L.)	Hipparchia galathea	2.7.1829
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GEOMETRIDAE

530 Archiearis parthenias (L.)	Brephos Parthenias	1829
1114 Timandra griseata (Pet.)	Bradyepetes amataria	23.6.1829
1118 Scotopteryx chenopodiata (L.)	Larentia chenopodiata	23.6.1829
589 Camptogramma bilineata (L.)	N.G. (Acidalia) bilineata	16.6.1828
1127 Camptogramma bilineata (L.)	N.G. (Acidalia) bilineata	
1514 Camptogramma bilineata (L.)	N.G. bilineata	6.1829
1126 Mesoleuca albicillata (L.)	Kerena albicillata	
592 Semiothisa clathrata (L.)	Hercyna clathrata	16.6.1828
984 Semiothisa clathrata (L.)	Hercyna clathrata	17.6.1828
(W.S. Greig)		
1034 Semiothisa clathrata (L.)	Hercyna clathrata	6.1829
1113 Angerona prunaria (L.)	Geometra prunaria	23.6.1829
+1124 Cleora ?cinctaria (D.&S.)	Cleora boyaria	
598 Cabera pusaria (L.)	Cabera pusaria	16.6.1828
1128 Lomographa temerata (D.&S.)	Bapta punctata	

NOTODONTIDAE

521 Harpyia furcula (Clerk)	Cerura furcula	6.1828
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ARCTIIDAE

568 Parasemia plantaginis (L.)	Nemeophila plantaginis	18.6.1828
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NOCTUIDAE

1120 Agrotis exclamacionis (L.)	Agrotis exclamacionis	
421 Noctua pronuba (L.)	Triphaena innuba	29.6.1829
455 Noctua pronuba (L.)	Triphaena pronuba	29.6.1829
1119 Xestia c-nigrum (L.)	Graphiphora c-nigrum	23.6.1829
+202 Aporophyla nigra (Haw.)	Laphria nigra	17.6.1828
+1121 Acronicta	Acronycta	
1136 Oligia fasciuncula (Haw.)	Miana fasciuncula	
1123 Bena prasinana	Chloephora prasinana	
1116 Diachrysia chrysitis (L.)	Plusia chrysitis	23.6.1829
1538 Autographa gamma (L.)	Plusia gamma	1829
+1272 Catocala	Catocala	1829
1115 Hypena proboscidalis (L.)	Hypena proboscidalis	23.6.1829

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TABLE 4. LEPIDOPTERA RECORDED FROM OTHER HUNTINGDONSHIRE
LOCALITIES 1828-1829

WHITTLESEA FEN

208 *Lycaena dispar* (Haw.) *Lycaena dispar* ♂ + ♀ 3.7.1829

SAWTRY FEN

1276 <i>Malacosoma neustria</i> (L.)	<i>Lasiocampa Neustria</i>	1829
1271 <i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i> (L.)	<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i> (John Ashwood)	1829
1270 <i>Laelia coenosa</i> (Hubn.)	<i>Laelia caenosa</i> ♂ & ♀ (John Ashwood)	1829
1275 <i>Leucoma salicis</i> (L.)	<i>Leucoma salicis</i>	1829
105 <i>Aporia crataegi</i> (L.)	<i>Pieris crataegi</i>	15.6.1828
210 <i>Deilephila elpenor</i> (L.)	<i>Deilephila Elpenor</i>	2.7.1829

WOOD IN FEN AT SAWTRY

582 *Nemophora degeerella* (L.) *Adela Degeerella* 30.6.1829

TABLE 5 DIPTERA RECORDED FROM MONKS WOOD 1828-1829

STRATIOMYIDAE

+1152 <i>Stratiomys furcata</i> (F.)	<i>Stryomys furcata</i>
+1144 <i>Stratiomys potamida</i> (Meig.)	<i>Stratyomys potamida</i>

TABANIDAE

†1154 <i>Chrysops viduatus</i> F.	<i>Chrysops pictus</i>	23.6.1829
† 204 <i>Tabanus bromius</i> L.	<i>Tabanus vittatus</i>	17.6.1828
† 965 <i>Tabanus bovinus</i> L.	<i>Tabanus bovinus</i>	16.6.1828

BOMBYLIIDAE

+1143 ?*Villa cingulata* (Meig.) *Anthrax singulata*

SYRPHIDAE

1153	<i>Syrphus n.c. ?</i>
1148 <i>Dasydysyrphus venustus</i> (Meig.)	<i>Syrphus astraceus</i>
+1158 <i>Doros conopseus</i> (F.)	<i>Doros conopseus</i>
+1145 <i>Chrysotoxum arcuatum</i> (L.)	<i>Chrysotoxum arcuatum</i>
+1157 <i>Chrysotoxum cautum</i> (Harris)	<i>Chrysotoxum marginatum</i>
226 <i>Volucella bombylans</i> (L.)	<i>Volucella bombylans</i>
1155 <i>V. bombylans</i> (L.) f. <i>plumata</i> (Deg.)	<i>Volucella plumata</i>
1149 <i>Volucella inflata</i> (F.)	<i>Volucella inflata</i>
1147 <i>Volucella pellucens</i> (L.)	<i>Volucella pellucens</i>
1142 <i>Xylota sylvarum</i> (L.)	<i>N.G. (Xylota p.mei) sylvarum</i>

SYRPHIDAE (Contd.)

1160 <i>Helophilus pendulus</i> (L.)	<i>Helophilus pendulinus</i>
1159 <i>Eristalis intricarius</i> (L.)	<i>Eristalis intricarius</i>

TEPHRITIDAE

1163 <i>Urophora cardui</i> (L.)	<i>Tephritis cardui</i>
1162 <i>Euleia cognata</i> (Weid.)	<i>Tephritis cognata</i>

PLATYSTOMATIDAE

+1161 <i>Platystoma seminationis</i> (L.)	<i>Platystoma seminationis</i>
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: 53 :

MAMMAL REPORT FOR 1977

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and

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Of the mammal records received during 1977 those for the stoat (Mustela erminea) are of particular interest. First because of their numbers. They are being seen quite frequently these days and this is the first year that we have seen and had recorded as many stoats as weasels. Before 1954 "vermin bag" records suggested that the stoat populations varied from place to place but were as high or even higher than those of weasels. After myxomatosis reduced the population of their main prey species, the rabbit, the stoat populations rapidly declined to a quarter or less of their previous numbers whereas weasels were unaffected by this event (Jefferies & Pendlebury, 1968). Stoats became less frequent in the county (see Mellanby, 1973). Although there is no information on local rabbit numbers for recent years the 1976 Game Conservancy Report notes that the population of this animal is increasing rapidly in East Anglia as a whole and may be back to its pre-myxomatosis numbers by 1985 (Tapper 1977). It is possible that the stoat too may be returning to its former numbers, at least in East Anglia. Vermin bag returns support this suggestion (see Tapper 1977). The second interesting observation on this animal was the occurrence of the change to ermine or partial ermine in the region during the winter of 1976-77. Besides the two local animals reported below (stoats a and c) Miss M Lovell saw a stoat in ermine on two separate occasions at the same place in the King's Forest near Thetford (TL 8274, February 1977) and the Mammal Recorder for Norfolk (Mr J.G.Goldsmith) told us of a sighting of his own during this same winter, south of Norwich. These last three animals were totally white. We have had no records of this coat change for the winter 1977-78 yet and have not seen stoats in ermine in the county before. We would like to hear of any other observation of this change to ermine and to hear of any sightings of stoat and weasel in the county during the coming year. They are particularly easy to observe when dashing across the road in front of your car or in fact ending up squashed behind it. Date and site of observation are required.

Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus): a) one found raiding cats food at the Old Plough, Wistow (28.7.77) (TL 2781) (JJ). b) One seen running alongside the road on the Oxmoor Estate at Huntingdon (30.7.77) (TL 2472) (PF). c) A young one was reported in a garden at Hawthorn Way, St Ives (30.7.77) (TL 37) (CB). d) Road casualty; found dead on the road at Offord D'Arcy (21.9.77) (TL 26) (JJ).

Pygmy Shrew (Sorex minutus): One caught by a cat in Upwood village (21.4.77) (TL 2582) (TCEW).

Brown Hare (Lepus capensis): a) One seen running along the road to the Raveleys from Wistow (25.7.77) (TL 2680) (JJ). b) Two were seen in Hermitage Wood (31.7.77) (TL 1977) (HRA).

Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis): Two seen in gardens in Hemingford Abbots (3 and 4.9.77) (TL 2771) (DJJ).

House Mouse (Mus musculus): a) One of these much under recorded mammals was found in an oven at the Old Plough, Wistow (-.6.77) (TL 2781) (JJ). b) Three were caught in Longworths in a house in Hemingford Abbots (12/13.11.77) (TL 2771) (DJJ).

Fox (Vulpes vulpes): a) Many seen at Woodwalton Fen NNR throughout 1977 (see article in this report) (TL 2283, 2284, 2285, 2383, 2384, 2385) (ASC, LF). b) One found dead with no obvious cause of death visible externally at Belle Isle, near Brampton (-.6.77) (TL 2370) (W). c) One seen jumping into a ditch near a chicken run in the middle of Bushmead housing estate, Eaton Socon (4.9.77) (TL 15) (JJ). d) Road casualty; found dead on the Buckden to Perry Road (19.9.77) (TL 16) (D). e) On the night of 25/26 October and 20/21 November 1977 foxes were heard calling in Hemingford Park (TL 2771). Both nights were dry, frosty and with bright moonlight. Burrows (1968) has noted that there appears to be more vocal activity among foxes on cold clear moonlit nights than on other occasions. The call heard was the rising triple bark on both occasions (DJJ). f) One seen at 20.00h, running along the side of the road between the A604 and Hemingford Grey (27.11.77) (TL 2969) (DAW). g) Strong suspicion, i.e. smell, that foxes are splitting open plastic 'bin bags' in gardens in Hemingford Grey (26/27.11.77) (TL 2970) (RM).

Stoat (Mustela erminea): a) One seen in ermine running across the A1 just north of Stangate Hill (-.2.77) (TL 1880) (JK). b) Road casualty; found dead on the B1090 road near to Abbots Ripton (26.2.77) (TL 2179) (DJJ). c) One seen crossing the B1040 road three miles north of Whittlesey. This animal was watched for some time and seen to be in partial ermine. The body and legs were white but there was a brown stripe along the head and back (26.2.77) (TL 2701) (DJJ). d) Road casualty; found dead on the A141 Hartford to Oldhurst road at Hartford Hill (17.4.77) (TL 2673) (DJJ). e) Road casualty; found dead on the Wyton to Hartford road (23.4.77) (TL 2772) (DJJ). f) Road casualty; found dead on the unclassified road between Safefield Farm and the A1 (31.7.77) (TL 1978) (HRA). g) One seen crossing the B1040 road south of the A604 (19.11.77) (TL 2967) (DAW).

Weasel (Mustela nivalis): a) Seen on side of B1090 road at Walton Hill, Woodwalton (TL 2080) and the section between Kings Ripton and Wyton cross roads (TL 2675) (dates not known exactly) (JB). b) One seen crossing the A1123 road between Houghton and Huntingdon near Hartford Marina (18.2.77) (TL 2672) (ML). c) A body was found in a garden at Sapley near Huntingdon.

The previous night the owner had heard a commotion and a bird calling. The body was that of a female which had a rip across the abdomen. It seems likely that this animal had been caught by an owl or kestrel. These birds are known to prey on weasels (Corbet & Southern 1977) though sometimes the outcome is not in the predators favour (Burnham, 1970) (18.4.77) (TL 2374) (DJJ & HRA). d) Road casualty; found dead at the bottom of Houghton Hill near the entrance to Houghton village (21.7.77) (TL 2872) (DJJ). e) One seen crossing the A1 just north of the turn to Woolley (30.7.77) (TL 1974) (PF). f) One seen crossing the road near the riding stables at Alconbury Hill (1.8.77) (TL 1878) (PF.). g) One seen in the grass at the side of the road leading from the A604 to Hemingford Abbots (9.9.77) (TL 2770) (DJJ). h) One seen running across the A14 road between Godmanchester and Hilton (11.10.77) (TL 2568) (DAW).

Mink (Mustela vison): Tracks were seen in silt after flood by the side of a backwater of the River Ouse near Houghton. These were large prints for mink being some 35-38 mm across. This is outside the upper size limit for this species given by Lawrence & Brown (1973). However, it was thought that they were not from a young otter, (they were not large enough for an adult). The toe and claw prints were pear shaped as in mink. There was no indication of webbing but this only shows up in very soft conditions. The fifth toe does not register every time (23.1.77) (TL 2871) (DJJ).

Badger (Meles meles): a) Road casualty; on the unclassified road from Graveley to Lattenbury Hill (-.2.77) (TL 2665) (ML). b) Road casualties; two badgers seen dead at the roadside on the same morning on the Fenstanton bypass (27.6.77) (TL 3168 and 3268) (NWM). c) Road casualty; one seen on the A604 near the turn to Hemingford Grey (4.7.77) (TL 2969) (NWM).

Fallow Deer (Dama dama): Six were seen in Waresley Wood on the edge of the old county of Huntingdon (16.4.77) (TL 2654) (PW).

Muntjac (Muntiacus reevesi): a) This species has been recorded in i) Brampton Wood (TL 1769, 1869, 1770, 1870) where there are thought to be at least 30 animals; ii) the woods at the south-west (TL 1267, 1268, 1367, 1368) and north-west (TL 1369) of Graftham Water; iii) Midloe Wood and the small woods to the north of it (TL 1564, 1565); iv) Little Paxton Wood (TL 1663, 1763) and the two woods to the east of Graftham Water (TL 1666, 1766, 1866) and on a regularly used track between them; v) Perry West Wood and Ash Wood (TL 1366), and the wood to their east (TL 1466) and the nearby wood south of Agden Green (TL 1265); vi) Tilbrook Bushes and Honey Hill Wood near Kimbolton Park (TL 0767, 0867); vii) the small woods alongside the A14 at Lattenbury Hill (TL 2667, 2666, 2665, 2765). We are indebted to Miss M Lovell for all the above data.

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b) A male was seen at 19.00h on the roadside verge of the unclassified Dillington to Stonely road at the top of the short hill dropping down to the A45 (2.2.77) (TL 1166) (DHW). c) A male was found dead in Bevills Wood (2.11.77) (TL 2079) (LF). d) One seen from the train from Huntingdon to Kings Cross in the fields near Offord Cluny level crossing (11.11.77) (TL 2167) (RM).

Chinese Water Deer (Hydropotes inermis): Two deer were seen on the roadside at the edges of Bevills Wood and Monks Wood in mid October 1977 (TL 2079) (BD). It is most likely that it was one of these animals which was knocked down by a car on 19 October at this same site and which had to be destroyed. A useful, definite record of wild Chinese Water Deer outside Woodwalton Fen NNR (see 1976 report) (ASC, LF).

CONTRIBUTORS

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SEASONAL VARIATION IN SIGHTINGS OF FOXES (*VULPES VULPES*) AT
WOODWALTON FEN

Arnold Cooke & Lynne Farrell

In the new edition of The Handbook of British Mammals (Corbet and Southern, 1977) the Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is stated to be 'mainly nocturnal and crepuscular, but may also be active during daylight, especially in autumn.' This is not in agreement with our own observations which are presented below.

Since June 1976, we have been studying the population of Chinese Water Deer (Hydropotes inermis) that occurs in Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve. The Fox is known to take young deer (Harris and Duff, 1970) so each Fox sighting has been recorded, both in the Reserve and on the arable farmland to the west where some deer feed, particularly in winter. Visits have been made at all times of day, but have most frequently been during the period from one hour before sunset until one hour after sunset.

During the 19 months of the study, 272 hours were spent searching for deer, and 53 Foxes were recorded. This is an average of 0.20 Foxes per hour (or one Fox every 5 hours). There was marked seasonal variation with most being seen from April to August (Figure 1). Signs, such as tracks and faeces, showed that Foxes were still abundant in winter. They appeared, however, to be hunting comparatively less frequently during the day and at dusk (especially since the tall lush vegetation in the Reserve in summer renders both Foxes and deer more difficult to see).

The increase in frequency of sightings during the period April to August may be due to the Foxes either being more active in the summer or else altering their hunting schedule to a time when they were more likely to be seen. There is some support for both suggestions. First, the period of the greatest frequency of sightings coincides with when the adults have cubs to look after and might be expected to be out hunting more often. But also we have found that relative to sunset the Chinese Water Deer tend to graze earlier in the summer than in the winter, and the foraging of the Foxes may follow a similar pattern.

In 1977, two earths were known in the Reserve and there was almost certainly one more at least. Yet another earth was reported on Castlehill Farm to the south west. Seventy four per cent of the sightings were made in the western half of the Reserve or on the western farmland. Foxes presumably favour the western side of the Reserve because of easy access to the farmland, which is crisscrossed by their paths. The Great Raveley Drain may be an effective barrier to the eastern farmland, so making the east side of the Reserve more isolated and less attractive.

We are grateful to Henry Arnold for drawing our attention to the comments in the Handbook. Mr Arnold is about to investigate seasonal variation in daytime sightings in other parts of Britain.

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BIRD REPORT FOR 1977

J D Limentani

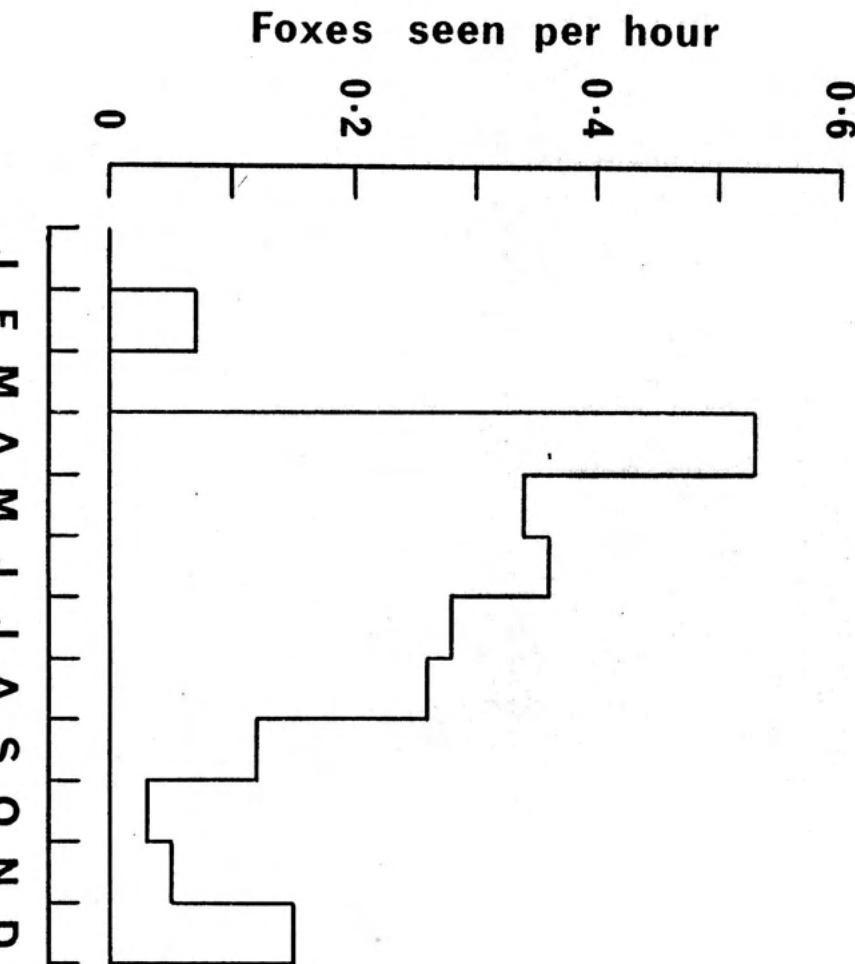


Figure 1. Mean number of sightings of Foxes per hour on a monthly basis. Time spent in the area varied from 8 hours for March to 48 hours for December.

This year has shown a further increase in the number of records that have been submitted to about 6000 from an ever increasing number of observers, now about 90, which is very encouraging.

The effects of the 1976 drought were still being felt in 1977 in spite of the water levels having recovered with the above average winter rains, which lasted up to the beginning of March. By the end of the year, the duck and grebe populations had returned to something like normal numbers.

The above average rainfall caused all the watermeadows to be deeply flooded. These areas were quickly exploited by many of the opportunist species such as Mallard and various gulls; the receding waters were then followed by Snipe, Dunlin and Starling.

In the autumn, the high water levels were a contributory factor to the poor wader passage. Numbers of both individuals and species were lower than for several years. At Grafham Water the water was at top level and no muddy areas or shallow waters were available for feeding.

The weather had a considerable effect on the breeding season in 1977, Spring was cooler than average which delayed plant growth, in turn this affected the insect population. In May and early June the build up in numbers of insects, on which many migrant birds depend, did not take place and it was not until mid June that the majority of insectivorous species such as Swift and Swallow were able to breed.

A series of strong northerly winds on the east coast during the autumn and winter months brought considerable falls of migrant birds, the most notable of which was on 17th November when large numbers of Scandinavian birds were forced inland causing falls of Fieldfare, Blackbird and Pochard with smaller numbers of Great Crested Grebe, Redshank and Redwing; some rarer species were also recorded including Scaup and Snow Bunting.

It would be useful if observers could note the ages of waders and particularly the age composition of wader flocks at the major sites. A new guide on wader ageing has recently been produced by the RTO which may be of help to those that find this group of birds difficult.

I would like to thank Dr A.S.Cooke for supplying details of the regular counts at Grafham Water and for help with the drafting of the systematic list.

THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1977

Key: GP = Gravel Pit

BP = Brick Pit

NNR = National Nature Reserve

BF = Beet Factory

* indicates that all records for a species are included in the list.

Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer)*: Grafham Water - single on 19th February (ECBN).

Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)*: Nene Lake - present from 27th December 1976 to 3rd January (RC, MC).

Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus): Grafham Water - numbers dropped from 268 on 6th January to 62 by 15th January and remained low only rising in late November and reaching a peak of 620 on 11th December. Elsewhere all counts were below 30. Breeding was recorded at Little Paxton GP (3 broods), Grafham Water (3 nests), River Ouse at Offord (1 brood), Hartford Marina (3+ broods), Jones Boatyard Fenstanton (1 brood), Marsh Lane GP (6 broods, 5 successful), Fenstanton GP (2 broods), Earith GP (2 broods and 1 nest), Bainton GP (2 pairs reared 4 young) and Fletton BP (3 pairs). Spring passage was noted on a small scale at Nene Lake (MC).

Slavonian Grebe (Podiceps auritus)*: Little Paxton GP - single on 4th December (RWHG), Grafham Water - single on 11th December (CAEK).

Black-necked Grebe (Podiceps nigricollis)*: Grafham Water - single on 9th December (RL).

Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis): Spring movement noted at Bainton GP with a peak of 24 on 10th April and Earith GP - 7 on 12th April. Breeding records from Bainton GP (7+ pairs). An autumn flock at Bainton GP with a maximum of 43 on 19th September. Elsewhere low numbers generally with up to 4 at 9 localities.

Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus)*: Waresley - one was found in a very weak condition on 10th September, it died the following day (PH). This is the fourth record for this species in Huntingdonshire.

Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis)*: St. Ives - one picked up alive on 21st September (MJE). This is the third record for this species in Huntingdonshire.

Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo): Roosting centered at Grafham Water where up to 20 individuals were present during the winter 1976/77 including 7 that died, the cause of their deaths is unknown but is possibly due to botulism or shooting. Grafham Water - recorded up to 15th May and from 20th August; up to 7 were present in the latter part of the year. Small numbers were reported from other sites which were probably birds that wandered from Grafham Water or the Ouse Washes.

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Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis)*: River Ouse at Hemingford Grey -single immature on 6th and 12th June which was thought to have been present from mid May (MJE). St. Ives - single on the river on 25th November (SEL).

Heron (Ardea cinerea): Nest counts at breeding sites were: Hemingford Abbots 37, Milton Park 21.

Bittern (Botaurus stellaris)*: Fenstanton GP - single on 16th and 22nd to 29th January (JSC, MJE). Hemingford Abbots - single on Russler's Island in the river Ouse in July (SC).

Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos): Grafham Water - 1750 on 6th January, numbers dropped fast to 400 by March. A minimum of 44 broods of ducklings were estimated for the 'lagoons' area. Numbers built up quickly in August and reached a peak in October with 2385 on 16th dropping again to just below 1000 in December. Other maximum counts were: Little Paxton GP - 500 on 12th November, Stirtloe GP - 97 on 12th November, Fenstanton GP - 950 to 1000 on 13th September, Earith GP - 63 on 14th August, Wood-walton Fen mere - 180 on 11th October, Bainton GP - 92 on 13th November, Nene Lake - 216 on 25th November, Orton Staunch (floods) - 115 on 12th February and Fletton BP - 548 on 18th December.

Teal (Anas crecca): Grafham Water - numbers dropped rapidly from 1250 in mid January to about 50 in March. In the autumn the numbers peaked in late September at about 1000 but dropped to less than 100 in December. Maximum counts elsewhere were: Little Paxton GP - 450 on 10th November, St. Neots Common - 65 on 5th February during floods, Fenstanton GP - 150 on 13th September, Marsh Lane GP - 50+ on 1st February, Orton Staunch - 300+ on 15th January, Nene Lake - 314 on 19th January, Eye GP - 100 on 20th November and Bainton GP - 78 on 19th September. A pair bred successfully at Marsh Lane GP.

Garganey (Anas querquedula): The only spring records were from Marsh Lane GP - a pair on 3rd April and a male on 28th May. The first autumn record was from Borough Fen - single on 1st July. Grafham Water - up to 12 from the end of July to the middle of August and a male at Fenstanton GP on 16th September.

Gadwall (Anas strepera): Greatly increased numbers with maximum counts at Grafham Water - 207 on 17th December which was more than double the previous highest count, Little Paxton GP - 60 on 15th October, Hemingford Grey GP - 25 in January, Fenstanton GP - 17 on 22nd January and Earith GP - 39 on 16th January. Several other sites had counts of less than 10. Three pairs attempted to breed at Grafham Water, one had 6 young by 10th July but the others were unsuccessful.

Wigeon (Anas penelope): Grafham Water - 2100 on 12th February which is the highest count to date; in the autumn the numbers built up to 1200 on 11th December. Other maximum counts were: Bury Fen - 210 on 6th February, River Ouse between Holywell and Earith - 500+ in mid February during floods, Fenstanton GP - 70 on 8th January, Hemingford Grey - 60 on 9th January, St. Neots Common - 50+ on 23rd January and Little Paxton GP - 110 on 15th October. Counts at other sites were of less than 40.

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Pintail (*Anas acuta*): The highest numbers were in February with 32 at Grafham Water on 6th, 17 at Nene Lake on 16th and 10 at Fenstanton GP on 23rd. All other counts were of less than 10. At Grafham Water up to 4 were recorded in the autumn.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): Grafham Water - less than 10 for the first half of the year. An influx occurred with 60 on 1st June. In September a pre-migratory flock of up to 81 birds gathered but numbers were down again to 20 in December. Little Paxton GP - generally higher numbers than Grafham Water with a maximum of 96 on 17th September. Fenstanton GP - 60 on 3rd January. Three broods were recorded at Grafham Water of which at least 2 were successfully fledged.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*): Nene Lake - recorded regularly with up to 30 on 20th September, 4 pairs bred, 7 young were seen. St. Neots Common - a pair on 27th and 29th March and a female on 9th April.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*): Fenstanton GP - a pair on 2nd and 8th January, Little Paxton GP - a female on 17th September and Borough Fen - one caught and ringed on 7th October.

Scaup (*Aythya marila*): Grafham Water - single on 16th January, single female on 19th February and a single male on 17th March; Little Paxton GP - 5 males and 4 females on 9th and 10th August and 5 males on 13th September; Fletton BP - single female on 5th November and 18th December and Nene Lake - single female on 17th November and from 3rd to 31st December. At the last two sites, sightings may relate to the same bird, which may have been an escape.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): Grafham Water - numbers similar to those before the drought with 1200 on 12th November, at the same time there were 450 at Little Paxton GP giving an overall total for that population of 1650. Maximum counts elsewhere were: Fenstanton GP - 79 on 2nd December, St. Ives GP - 169 on 10th February, Earith GP - 350 on 26th January, Bainton GP - 50+ on 1st August and 13th November, Nene Lake - 193 on 1st January and Fletton BP - 185 on 18th August. Several other sites had counts of less than 50. Breeding recorded at: Grafham Water (7 broods in the 'lagoon' area), Fenstanton GP (1 brood), Marsh Lane GP (5 broods), Earith GP (2 broods) and Bainton GP (2 broods). Tufted Duck/Scaup hybrids were reported from Nene Lake in February and April and Grafham Water in March and April.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*): Earith GP - a single male was present from 23rd March to 29th April. This record has been accepted by the 'British Birds' Rarities Committee.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): Maximum counts were: Grafham Water - 470 on 15th January and 230 on 12th November, Little Paxton GP - 71 on 12th February and 240 on 17th September, Fenstanton GP - 255 on 24th September, Earith GP - 119 on 30th November, Woodwalton Fen mere - 54 on 28th October, Bainton GP - 62 on 13th November, Fletton BP - 195 on 13th

November and Nene Lake - 73 on 1st January and 160 in November. One pair bred successfully at Marsh Lane GP.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*): Grafham Water - following the unusual water conditions in 1976, numbers were low early in 1977 with a maximum of 70 - 80 in February. At the end of the year, the highest count was 47 on 11th December. Little Paxton GP - appears to have picked up many of the birds missing from Grafham Water with counts of 44 on 17th March and 23 on 11th December. Elsewhere maximum counts were: Nene Lake - 10 on many dates in January, St. Ives GP - 16 on 27th February. Several other sites had counts of less than 10. A single female probably summered at Grafham Water/Little Paxton GP. General departure for the breeding grounds was late this year with over 10 still present at Grafham Water until the end of April.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*): Grafham Water - 2 males flew into Savages Creek on 1st January (TC).

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): Grafham Water - 2 females or immatures on 15th August and 27th October (CAEK, TT), one male on 29th August.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*): Grafham Water - one or two present on several occasions between 1st September and 18th December. Little Paxton GP - singles on 13th August and 24th December.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*): Grafham Water - 14 on 6th February and 15 on 18th December, Little Paxton GP - 13 on 6th January and 23 on 24th December, Nene Lake - 3 from 13th to 15th April, Bainton GP - single flying over on 18th December. The last spring record was on 15 April at Nene Lake and the first autumn record was from Grafham Water on 13th November.

Smeew (*Mergus albellus*): Little Paxton GP - single on 12th February, Grafham Water - single female on 3rd and 4th December.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): Grafham Water - small numbers up to the end of March, a maximum of 28 between mid April and the end of June. After the end of July only occasional sightings. Up to 6 were recorded at 11 other localities. Breeding was reported from: Grafham Water (2 broods successful and one nest which was accidentally destroyed in a straw bale), River Kym (one nest), Bainton GP (a brood of 6 young) and Somersham GP (a pair with 4 immatures in August possibly bred here).

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*): Little Paxton GP - 2 in mid July.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*): A flock of up to 80 present in the Fenstanton/Hemingfords/St. Ives area from January to March. A small flock also present in the Nene Lake/Fletton BP area. Breeding recorded at Marsh Lane GP and Fenstanton GP.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*): Grafham Water - a single immature present from 6th February to 24th March.

Pink-footed Goose (Anser brachyrhynchus)*: Fenstanton/Hemingford Grey - 3 feeding on flooded fields with Greylag Geese on 1st January, Little Paxton GP - single on 6th January.

Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis)*: Grafham Water - single present from October 1976 to 24th March, a second was present on 12th March, one had a red ring.

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis): Main concentration at Fletton BP/Nene Lake where 200 were recorded on 8th October. Breeding recorded at Fletton BP (6 pairs, 24 young), Nene Lake (3 pairs, 14 young), Bainton GP (1 pair unsuccessful), Hemingford Grey Holmes Island (1 pair) and Fenstanton GP (1 pair).

Mute Swan (Cygnus olor): The usual moulting flock at Grafham Water of 100 birds increased in November and December to over 120. Other sizable flocks were: Bury Fen - 70 on 13th January, Earith - 54 on 17th April, river Ouse at Huntingdon - 30+ in April, Bainton GP - 24 on 13th November and St. Ives GP - 21 on 2nd December. Nests were reported from 9 localities.

Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus)*: Earith - 40 on the river during floods on 13th February (MW).

Bewick's Swan (Cygnus bewickii): Birds seen in Huntingdonshire are normally wandering groups from the Ouse Washes. In the early part of the year, particularly in the Hemingford/St. Ives/Fenstanton area, many more sightings than usual were recorded, probably due to the heavy floods of the Ouse Washes. Bury Fen - 173 on 13th January and Earith 72 on 9th January including 10 immature birds and 44 on 9th December.

Rough-legged Buzzard (Buteo lagopus)*: Monks Wood - single on 17th January which had been present for a day or so (JW). Castor Hanglands - single in December (JR).

Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus)*: Many more sightings than in recent years, particularly in April. All records are of single birds. Woodwalton Fen NNR - 9th January, Great Raveley - 14th February and 25th March, Monks Wood - 29th March, 7th July, 5th and 16th November and 7th December, Offord - 9th April, Buckden - 14th April, Needingworth - 20th April, Glatton - 26th April, Bedford Purlieus - 23rd May, Earith GP - 23rd October, Castor Hanglands - November and December, Marholm - 20th November and Abbots Ripton - 28th December.

Marsh Harrier (Circus aeruginosus)*: Bainton GP - single female soaring over the pits on 1st May (RIH).

Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus)*: Grafham Water - single male on 2nd January (MH), Woodwalton Fen NNR - single on 10th February (PB) and single female on 3rd December (ASC).

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)*: Grafham Water - single flying from east to west on 29th April (PJM).

Hobby (Falco subbuteo): Reported from 15 localities between 5th May and 18th September including many sites where it had not been recorded for many years. Two records of breeding, in one case the outcome was unknown, in the other 2 young were reared.

Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus): Breeding was confirmed at 7 sites and probable at a further site. Reported from every part of the county in increasing numbers, many records are from birds hunting over the A1.

Quail (Coturnix coturnix)*: Woodwalton - one calling on 23rd June, probably on passage (ASC).

Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus): Winter records from Grafham Water, Little Paxton GP, Hemingford Abbots, Marsh Lane GP, St. Ives GP and Fenstanton GP. Summer records from Five Arches pits and Marsh Lane GP.

Spotted Crake (Porzana porzana)*: Grafham Water - single by lagoons on 23rd October (KB, BW).

Coot (Fulica atra): Maximum counts were: Grafham Water - 1190 on 6th January and 3100 on 12th November, Little Paxton GP - 416 on 6th January and 450 on 11th December, Earith GP - 285 on 10th January and 200 on 30th November, Fletton BP - 470 on 16th January and 406 on 18th December, Bainton GP - 345 on 13th January, numbers were greatly reduced at this site by shooting in February. Breeding reported from 5 sites.

Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus): Grafham Water - present from mid May to mid August with a peak of 7 in May. From the end of May reports were of singles except in mid July when 2 were present. Singles also present on 16th October, 17th November (adult) and 11th December. Little Paxton GP - 2 on 7th August and singles on 24th September and 11th December, RAF Wyton - single on the runway on 23rd February, Bainton GP - 3 flying over on 9th August. Nene Lake - single on 26th August and Marsh Lane GP - 2 flying west on 4th December.

Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus): In the north of the county large numbers were noted on passage in early February, by March few remained in the highlands of the north west of the county. Ortons - 800 on 1st January declined to 300 - 400 by March, Morborne Thorns - 850 including 250 on ploughed land on 6th February, Great Paxton - 400 - 500 on flooded field on 2nd March. In October westerly passage was noted at Farset on 10th and 23rd. Autumn and winter flocks of over 150 were reported from: Wansford, Glatton, Denton, Nene Lake, Marsh Lane GP, Grafham Water and Eynesbury. Hilton - 1500 on 26th December was the largest concentration.

Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula): Grafham Water - present from 5th February with more than 10 from 25th February to 17th March. Breeding was poor due to fox predation in the lagoon area from May. 2 broods (3 young) were fledged. Up to 14 were present in early August. The last record was on 9th September. Nene Lake - up to 15 present in May, mainly passage birds, one pair bred and fledged one young. Autumn passage started on 9th July with peaks of 19 on 27th July and 17 on 20th August. Pairs also present at Somersham GP and Marsh Lane GP but there was no proof of breeding.

Little Ringed Plover (Charadrius dubius): First record of the year at Grafham Water on 20th March. Spring passage at Nene Lake from 1st April to the end of May with a peak of 6 on 9th May. Breeding reported from: Grafham Water (4 pairs, only 3 young fledged due to predation by a fox), Nene Lake (2 pairs, one bred, one young fledged), Bainton GP (3 pairs, 2 seen with young), Somersham GP (3 pairs, 2 broods each of 2 young), Marsh Lane GP (3 pairs, 2 broods successful) and Fenstanton GP (2 pairs unsuccessful). Autumn passage at Nene Lake started on 11th July with peaks of up to 10 in mid July and on 12th August, Fenstanton GP - 10 on 23rd August. Last seen at Nene Lake on 17th September.

Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)*: Grafham Water - singles on 1st January and 22nd April, Nene Lake - 2 on 2nd January and singles on 3rd, 4th and 15th May.

Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria): Major flocks of over 100 in the early part of the year were: Castor 600 - 1000, Morborne - 1000 on 6th February, Glatton - 150 on 13th March, Haddon - 500 in January increasing to 800 on 6th February, Conington - maximum of 100 on 29th January, Sawtry - 360 on 11th January, Broughton - 360 on 6th January increasing to 600 by 10th March, Warboys - 105 on 15th January increasing to 600 by 29th March, Oldhurst - 500 on 11th February. Autumn flocks were generally small due to the mild weather in the north of Britain. The major flocks in winter were: Morborne Hill - 190 on 6th November, Elton - 125 on 26th November, Warboys - 300 on 13th November and Hilton - 250 on 11th December increasing to 750+ by 26th December.

Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)*: Grafham Water - 2 on 3rd May, singles on 17th July, 23rd, 26th and 27th August. Nene Lake - 2 from 4th to 9th May, singles from 10th to 19th July and 29th July to 3rd August, 3 on 11th August and one on 13th August. Marsh Lane GP - single on 26th July.

Snipe (Gallinago gallinago): Ortons - 500+ on 15th January decreased to 150 by floods in February, St. Neots Common - numbers built up to 100+ by 23rd January, Perry - 80 on 24th January, Bury Fen - 110 on 6th February declining to 30 by the end of March. Passage started at the beginning of March with peaks at Castor Meadow of 50 - 100 on 10th March, Grafham Water of 30+ on 15th March and Nene Lake of 300 on 6th April. Passage ended at Nene Lake on 29th April. Drumming records from: Nene Lake, Peterborough BF, Woodwalton Fen, St. Neots Common and Fletton BP. Small autumn passage was noted with peaks in mid August, late September and early November. Winter numbers built up in December with Orton Staunton - 40 on 9th, Nene Lake - 180 on 17th and Fenstanton GP - 35+ on 25th.

Jack Snipe (Lymnocryptes minimus): Grafham Water - single from 1st to 18th January, 2 on 6th and 20th November, 6 on 12th November and a single on 18th December, Earith GP - singles on 10th January, 6th February, 23rd March, 11th and 12th April and 30th November. Woodwalton Fen area - singles on 4th, 6th and 11th April, Nene Lake - single on 11th April.

Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola): Recorded in 11 localities with roding reported from Brampton Wood, Monks Wood, Woodwalton Fen (10's of birds). Waresley Wood - 8 were put up by a shoot in January.

Curlew (Numenius arquata)*: Winter and spring records from: Grafham Water - single on 1st January, 2 on 24th February and single on 5th March. Hilton - single on 1st January, Nene Lake - singles on 16th February and 16th March, Fletton BP - single heard on 4th April. Autumn passage recorded at Grafham Water - singles on 23rd June, 3rd and 21st July and 3 on 3rd August, Nene Lake - singles on 3rd and 22nd July, and 22nd September, Monks Wood - singles on 22nd July, 15th and 29th August, RAF Wyton - singles on 7th and 14th July and 8th August.

Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)*: Nene Lake - 3 flying north west on 6th May, Bainton GP - 2 flying west and calling on 1st August.

Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)*: Grafham Water - single in full summer plumage from 25th March to 1st April, Nene Lake - pairs present on 27th April and 5th May.

Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)*: Grafham Water - single on 10th May.

Green Sandpiper (Tringa ochropus): Wintering birds reported from Belham Wood - 4 in a storm calvert on 16th and 23rd January, Nene Lake, Peterborough BF, Marsh Lane GP, Woodwalton, Bainton GP, St. Ives GP, Godmanchester GP and Earith GP. Autumn passage, particularly in August, with Nene Lake - a maximum of 6 on 14th August, Peterborough BF - 4 on 31st July and 5th August, Fenstanton GP - 5 on 15th July and Somersham GP - a maximum of 9 on 6th August. Winter reports in November and December at Little Paxton GP, Peterborough BF, Nene Lake, St. Ives GP and Marsh Lane GP.

Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola)*: Grafham Water - singles on 27th April and 14th July, Somersham GP - singles on 31st May, 9th July, 2 on 17th July and singles on 10th and 16th August.

Common Sandpiper (Tringa hypoleucos): Spring passage records from: Grafham Water - up to 10 in May, Nene Lake - passage between 22nd April and 26th May with peaks of 7 on 24th April and 9th May. Autumn passage from 3rd July to 23rd October with maximum numbers in middle and late August; Grafham Water - 26 on 25th August, Nene Lake - 21 on 14th August, Somersham GP - 10+ on 14th August, Godmanchester GP - 10+ on 26th August and Little Paxton GP - 10+ on 10th August. A wintering bird at St. Ives GP in December.

Redshank (Tringa totanus): Small wintering numbers with maxima of 5 at most sites except Bury Fen - 21 on 16th February, Little Paxton GP - 15 on 24th February and Nene Lake - 12 on 17th December. Spring passage started on 28th February at Nene Lake with maxima of 22 on 7th March. 50+ on 8th April and 28 on 17th May, passage ended on 20th May; Grafham Water - peak passage of 24 on 21st April. Breeding only reported from Nene Lake (3 pairs) and Grafham Water (10 pairs, mainly unsuccessful due

to fox predation). Autumn passage started on 14th July but only small numbers were recorded. The carcass of one with an Estonian ring was found at Grafham Water on 24th September.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*): Nene Lake - single in summer plumage on 17th May, autumn records from Grafham Water - singles on 10th July and 11th August.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): Small numbers recorded on spring passage between 27th April and 27th May at Nene Lake and Grafham Water with ones and twos mainly in the first week of May. Small numbers were recorded during autumn passage between 10th July and 16th October with peaks at Nene Lake of 6 on 19th July and 4 on 8th September; during the second half of September up to 2 recorded at Grafham Water, Little Paxton GP, Buckden GP, Somersham GP and Godmanchester GP.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*): Grafham Water - singles on 4th and 6th September, Little Paxton GP - single on 7th August in summer plumage and 3 on 11th December and Nene Lake - single on 28th November.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): Spring passage records from Grafham Water: single on 21st April, 2 on 28th and 29th April. Autumn passage records from: Marsh Lane GP - single on 3rd July, Grafham Water - single on 27th July, Nene Lake - single on 1st to 3rd and 20th August, 2 on 30th August, singles 1st and 22nd September, 2 on 13th to 16th September and Little Paxton GP - single on 15th October.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*): Grafham Water - 3 on 20th and 21st August (NRR, JCAR).

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): Winter flocks included: St. Neots Common - 50 on 3rd and 9th January, Portholme - 50 on 3rd February following the receding flood waters. Little Paxton GP - 70 on 6th March. Passage was recorded from early March until 10th May with maxima at Bury Fen - 155 on 31st March, Grafham Water - 65 on 22nd April. Autumn passage started on 8th July with small numbers at many sites including Nene Lake - 15 on 29th July. Wintering flocks included Little Paxton GP - 47 on 10th November and Grafham Water - 26 on 10th December.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): Fewer records than in the last two years. Nene Lake - single on 17th August, Grafham Water - singles on 21st and 26th August, Somersham GP - singles on 13th, 14th and 17th September.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): Spring passage at Grafham Water - 2 on 21st and 27th April and 7 on 12th May, Nene Lake - 7 individuals between 6th and 12th May. Autumn passage at Grafham Water - single on 21st July and 2 on 13th August, Nene Lake - 3 on 22nd July.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Grafham Water - occasional wintering birds, a build up in numbers in March with maxima of 15 on 8th March and 13 on 28th March. Post breeding build up in July with maxima of 17 on 19th

July and 20 on 16th August. Few records after mid September. Nene Lake - post breeding build up with a maximum of 7 on 19th July, predominantly males. Small numbers recorded at 3 other sites.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*): Grafham Water - single immature bird from 25th to 28th August.

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*): Grafham Water - singles on 17, 18, 24th and 30th September and 2nd October after periods of strong northerly winds (RF, MS, DAS, RCM). The bird on 24th September was disturbed from the carcass of a Redshank (BLD).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Nene Lake - 50+ on 6th April, Grafham Water - 500 in the gull roost on 11th December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Small numbers recorded during the winter months, Fletton BP - 24 on 16th January. Autumn passage at Nene Lake - small numbers of Scandinavian race with up to 21 on 27th July, Buckden GP - 75 on 15 August and 15th September.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*): Grafham Water - single adult on 6th February, single sub-adult on 23rd March during strong winds. Also single immature on 27th November, 4th and 11th December, thought to be the same bird.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*): In spring Grafham Water - 9 on 28th April, Nene Lake - single immature on 17th May. In the autumn Little Paxton GP - single immature on 7th August, Grafham Water - 5 juveniles on 10th August, 2 on 15th August, 7 on 21st August and singles on 3rd September and 9th December. Nene Lake - single on 24th December.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Feeding flocks of 100+ widespread during winter months. Roosts at Fletton BP and Grafham Water, at the latter 5000 birds were estimated on 17th March. Borough Fen - one controlled, which had been ringed at Gdańsk, Poland in 1972. Breeding reported from Fletton BP (80+ pairs), Bainton GP (2 pairs). In January, on one stretch of water, 16+ were found dead on three boats which had been left out on the water for several months. They had apparently died through choking on contraceptives, of which there were a similar number.

Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): Grafham Water - single adult on 15th April (CAEK, TT), 3 adults and one sub-adult during strong winds on 16th June, the sub-adult was present from 14th to 18th June (PJM).

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*): Spring passage occurred at Grafham Water from late April to early June, with a peak of 40 to 50 per day in mid May; then July records of 6 on 3rd and 2 on 15th. Autumn passage was from mid August to mid October with a peak of 33 on 24th September. Small numbers were also recorded at Nene Lake, Bainton GP, Marsh Lane GP, St. Ives GP and Little Paxton GP.

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*): Grafham Water - single on 18th May (PJM). This is the second record for this species in Huntingdonshire.

Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias hybrida)*: Grafham Water - single on 25th May (PJM). This is the first record for this species in Huntingdonshire.

Common Tern (Sternia hirundo): The extreme dates were Nene Lake - 2 on 17th April and Grafham Water - 1 on 16th October. Breeding records from Nene Lake (6-8 pairs, 14 young), Fletton BP (3 pairs, 2 young), Bainton GP (4 pairs, 4 young), Marsh Lane GP (1 pair, 3 young) and Fenstanton GP (2 juveniles).

Arctic Tern (Sternia paradisaea): Grafham Water - 2 on 15th April and heavy passage on 5th May when 220 were counted in six hours, most in the afternoon. The last reported was on 28th August. Many 'Comic' Terns were reported from Grafham Water including 84 on 6th May of which 3 were identified as Arctic and 15 as Common; the last was seen on 23rd October.

Roseate Tern (Sternia dougallii)*: Grafham Water - single adult on 26th July (KDM). This is the third record of this species in Huntingdonshire.

Little Tern (Sternia albifrons)*: Grafham Water - single on 5th May (CAEK) and Earith GP - 3 on 29th May (RF.).

Sandwich Tern (Sternia sandvicensis)*: St. Ives GP - 2 on 25th May (BSM).

Woodpigeon (Columba palumbus): Holme Fen NNR - a large roost in November, Ramsey Heights - 1200 on 4th December, Denton - 2000 in December, Farcet - 1000 on 23rd December, Hemington - 15,000+ flew, in six flocks, over the county boundary at dusk on 29th December. A general increase in numbers over the previous few years.

Turtle Dove (Streptopelia turtur): Extreme dates were Wood Walton Fen NNR - 23rd April and Glatton - 9th October.

Collared Dove (Streptopelia decaocto): Smaller numbers reported than in previous years, particularly in the north of the county.

Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus): An exceptional record from St. Ives - one heard and seen on 18th March at The Waits (SEL). This is by far the earliest record for the county and according to R. Hudson's "Early and Late Dates for Summer Migrants" there were only 11 earlier records nationally up to the end of 1972. Several observers noted a decline in numbers of this species.

Barn Owl (Tyto alba): Reported from only 13 localities. One was found dead on the road at Upton.

Little Owl (Athene noctua): Reported from 15 localities. Breeding attempted at Nene Lake (tree felled), Marholm (2 young), Castor Hanglands and Little Paxton GP. Birds found dead on the road at Easton and Marholm (2).

Tawny Owl (Strix aluco): Reported from 23 localities. Breeding at Orton, Milton Park, Castor Hanglands NNR (4 pairs), Hemingford Grey (3 young), Woodwalton Fen NNR (several pairs) and Houghton where one young fell from the nest and ran back up the tree to the nest (ALF). Fewer pairs breeding in the Ortons due to trees with Dutch Elm disease being felled.

Long-eared Owl (Asio otus): Woodwalton Fen NNR - present in April, June and December, 2 heard mewing could have been fledged young in late June (AAB, ASC).

Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus)*: Farcet Fen - single on 15th January, Holme Fen NNR - single in February, Woodwalton Fen NNR - at least one hunting on the evenings of 5th, 21st and 22nd June.

Nightjar (Caprimulgus europaeus)*: Coppingford Wood - single on 22nd May (ETL), Woodwalton Fen NNR - single 'churring' on 5th and 6th June, a late passage bird (ASC).

Swift (Apus apus): First record of the year from Grafham Water on 27th April with a general arrival in early May, hundreds over Grafham Water on 14th May. In early August a build up of several thousand at Grafham Water. Departure was mainly in late August, and early September with three October records, the last on 9th at St. Ives.

Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis): Reported from 24 localities. Probably under recorded as at Bankside, Great Paxton, where six individuals were caught during the year but only one or two were seen at a time.

Green Woodpecker (Picus viridis): Reported from 28 localities. Breeding at Nene Lake, Orton Hall, Fletton BP, Milton Ferry, Abbots Ripton, St. Ives and possibly at Peterborough BF.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (Dendrocopos major): Reported from 13 localities. Possible breeding at Castor Hanglands and Grafham Water. Probably considerably under recorded.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (Dendrocopos minor): Reported from 15 localities. Probably under recorded.

Wryneck (Jynx torquilla)*: St. Neots - single in October.

Skylark (Alauda arvensis): Winter influxes noted at Nene Lake - 100+ on 7th January and 50 at the end of October, Conington - 300+ on 30th October.

Swallow (Hirundo rustica): First arrival was recorded at Glatton on 21st March, small numbers until May, breeding was late starting due to cold weather in May reducing the number of insects on the wing, large gatherings formed around wet areas. An autumn roost at Earith GP - 2000 on 14th and 17th September. A general departure by mid October with a late bird at Fenstanton GP on 13th November.

Red-rumped Swallow (Hirundo daurica)*: Borough Fen - single with Swallows on 24th April (WAC, AJM). This is the first record for this species in Huntingdonshire.

House Martin (Delichon urbica): First arrival was recorded at Peterborough BF on 9th April. The majority departed by mid October; two late records from Kimbolton on 2nd December and Wistow on 17th December.

Sand Martin (Riparia riparia): First arrival was recorded at Little Paxton GP on 17th March. Breeding at Marsh Lane GP, Nene Lake (30 pairs), Peterborough BF (about 150 pairs) and Bainton GP (32 pairs). A pre-migratory flock of several hundred gathered in the vicinity of Grafham Water during August.

Golden Oriole (Oriolus oriolus)*: St. Ives GP - single on 8th April (RSH, PSJF). Holme Fen - single in late May (PB).

Carrion Crow (Corvus corone): Winter roosts of C.c.corone at Earith GP - 80 on 10th January.

C.c.cornix reported at East Perry - single on 11th January, Fenstanton - single on 14th January and Stoneley - 2 on 17th February. No reports for the last part of the year.

Rook (Corvus frugilegus): The largest concentration of breeding birds was near Woodwalton - 130 nests in Plantation Wood. A large autumn gathering at Glatton - 680 on 22nd August. Milton Park - a winter roost of 5,000 to 10,000 in November and December.

Magpie (Pica pica): Recorded at 27 sites, in steadily increasing numbers. A group of 10 was seen at Great Paxton on 7th September, the largest flock for many years. Breeding was reported from: St. Neots (2), Offord (2), Great Paxton (1), Little Paxton (1), Buckden/Brampton (8) and Sawtry (1).

Jay (Garrulus glandarius): Recorded at 23 sites, mainly woods. At Hemingford Grey up to 13 were feeding on Turkey Oak acorns, Quercus cerris, in October and November.

Blue Tit (Parus caeruleus): Lady's Wood - a very successful breeding season with high numbers of young fledging, including a brood of 12.

Long-tailed Tit (Aegithalos caudatus): Large family groups in January with up to 14 at Marsh Lane GP and 20+ in St. Ives. Fewer nests found than in recent years (ETL).

Bearded Tit (Panurus biarmicus): Grafham Water - up to 3 from the beginning of January which left with a transient party of 6 on 12th March. In the autumn present from 2nd November with 16 on 10th November and 10 on 18th December. Between 13th November and the end of December, up to 6 were present on various dates at Little Paxton GP, Fenstanton GP, Earith GP and Marsh Lane GP.

Nuthatch (Sitta europaea): An increase in the number of records for this species. Hinchingbrooke - a pair on 20th April, Hemingford Abbots - nesting in a dead Elm on 30th April, Milton Park - 2 pairs breeding and seen regularly on the nearby golf course, Kimbolton - seen regularly in the school grounds, Barnack Hills and Holes - single on 13th August. This increase is probably linked to the number of dead Elms in the county.

Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris): Pre-migratory flocks in March at Helpston (500+), Elton (250+), Haddon (500+). In the Tetworth/Waresley area regular passage was noted throughout March with a maximum of 1000 per hour on 14th. Last noted at Nene Lake on 20th May. First autumn return was at Borough Fen on 17th October. The main arrival was in November; there was also a big influx of Thrushes following prolonged strong northerly winds on 17th November.

Redwing (Turdus iliacus): Helpston - a pre-migratory flock of 250+ on 12th March. Regular passage throughout March in the Tetworth/Waresley area, a peak, as with the Fieldfares, on 14th. All had departed by 10th April except for one in St. Ives on 6th May that appeared to have an injured wing. The first autumn return was at Borough Fen on 30th September with the main arrival in the middle of October. Influxes during strong winds on 17th November and 9th December.

Ring Ouzel (Turdus torquatus)*: Belham Wood - single on 24th April (PDC), Castor Hanglands - single on 26th and 28th April (JR), Grafham Water - single female on 3rd May (PJM) and Houghton - single male on 6th May (BSM)

Blackbird (Turdus merula): Large fall of continental birds in the county in late November following strong Northerly winds. Great Paxton - 30 caught and ringed on 26th November had on average longer wings and were greyer in appearance than the resident birds (JDL).

Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe): Spring passage started at Grafham Water on 10th March. Farce Fen - 23 on 1st April. Largest numbers were present at the beginning of May; the last record was at St. Ives on 28th May. Autumn passage started at Nene Lake on 1st August, smaller numbers were recorded up to 21st October.

Stonechat (Saxicola torquata): Recorded at 12 localities during the year. Grafham Water - a maximum of 6 on 9th March. In the latter part of the year present from 3rd October at Nene Lake with a maximum of 7 on 9th November in the Nene Park complex.

Whinchat (Saxicola rubetra): Recorded at 6 localities with most records coming from Grafham Water and Nene Lake between 27th April and 17th May in the spring, and 3rd August and 24th September in the autumn.

Redstart (Phoenicurus phoenicurus): Reported from 8 localities. Breeding was recorded at four sites, at one site six young were reared. Extreme dates were Great Staughton and Castor Hanglands on 23rd April and Monks Wood on 7th September.

Black Redstart (Phoenicurus ochruros)*: Eynesbury - single male on 31st March, Nene Lake - single on 17th April, RAF Wyton - single females on 25th April and 4th November, Bretton - a male singing on 3rd and 4th May, Stukeley - single female on 15th October. A pair bred in Peterborough.

Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Earliest record from Castor Hanglands on 15th April. Breeding reports from: Little Paxton GP (1 singing), Grafham Water Reserve (1 singing), Earith GP (1 singing), Brampton Wood (2-3 singing), Monks Wood NNR (9), Woodwalton Fen NNR (c. 10 pairs), Castor Hanglands NNR (c. 6 pairs) and Bainton GP (5 pairs).

Robin (*Erythacus rubecula*): In the north of the county there was a large fall of continental migrants on 4th and 5th October.

Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*): Brampton Wood - 2 reeling on 27th April, Southey Wood - 2 on 30th April and 3 on 3rd May, Grafham Water - up to 3 in early May, Castor Hanglands NNR - reeling in May, Great Paxton - single reeling at the end of June and Woodwalton Fen NNR - 2 or 3 birds reeling up to 9th August.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): First record of the year at Borough Fen on 2nd May.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): Extreme dates were Earith GP on 18th April and Nene Lake on 14th September. Numbers of territories held were Nene Lake 16, Peterborough BF c.30, Bainton GP c.20.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Wintering birds reported from Werrington - a female from December 1976 to 10th January when it was joined by a male which remained until March, Brampton - a male in a garden on 16th, 20th and 21st February, Dogsthorpe - one in February and March. Extreme dates were Milton Ferry on 15th April and Nene Lake on 26th September.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*): First record of the year at Nene Lake on 29th April. Breeding season records included 3 pairs each at Bainton GP and Grafham Water reserve.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*): Extreme dates were Borough Fen on 20th April, and Brampton on 15th September. Breeding records from: Nene Lake (3 pairs), Ortons (10 pairs), Peterborough BF (6 pairs), Bainton GP (3-4 pairs), Borough Fen (3+ pairs) and Ramsey Heights Clay Pits (1 pair).

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*): First record of the year was at Castor Hanglands NNR on 18th April. Confirmed breeding from 10 sites and probable breeding from 4 sites.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): First record of the year was at Lady's Wood on 25th March. Bainton GP - c.15 singing on 17th April, Monks Wood NNR - 29 heard on 1st May.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Extreme dates were Castor Hanglands NNR and Nene Lake on 7th March and Marsh Lane GP on 30th September.

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*): In the north of the county one singing regularly from 5th March to early April and less frequently until the end of June. Breeding not proved but possible.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): Extreme dates were Milton Ferry on 2nd May and Monks Wood NNR on 17th September.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): Croxton - single male on 1st May (JMO'S), Barnack - single male on 13th May (RIH). These are the first spring passage records of this decade. Alconbury - single female on 16th August (PB,R).

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*): Marsh Lane GP - single on 14th April, Southey Wood - 2 singing on 3rd May, Abbots Ripton - a nest with 5 eggs was disturbed by workmen on 18th May, and Barnack - 3 or 4 pairs breeding.

Rock Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*): Grafham Water - single of the Scandinavian race on 24th March, singles on 13th March and 23rd October, St. Ives GP - single on 20th November.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): M.a.yarrelli roosts of 100+ in reeds at St. Neots Common on 29th March.

M.a.alba reported from Nene Lake between 8th and 28th April with a maximum of 10 on 18th April, and Grafham Water - single on 24th April.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): Many records from January to March, and from October to December. May records from Grafham Water - single on 1st and St. Ives - single male singing on 21st, but not found subsequently. One pair bred in the north of the county.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): M.f.flavissima extreme dates were Godmanchester GP on 2nd April and Great Staughton on 2nd October. The main arrival was at the end of April with 100+ at Grafham Water on 24th to 27th April and Nene Lake - 50+ on 27th April. M.f.flava recorded at Grafham Water - single female on 22nd April (CAEK).

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*): Grafham Water - single in the reserve on 2nd January and 20th February, probably the same bird; Holme Fen NNR - single on 10th January.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Major roosts at Buckworth which had 'several million' at the beginning of the year, the MAFF tried a dispersal experiment on 11th February and the roost dispersed on 14th February; on 5th September the roost started to build up again with several thousand birds, by October and November there were a million birds. At Earith there were up to a million birds at a roost on 23rd October, the roost had dispersed by 10th November. Smaller roosts at Needingworth, Diddington Wood, Marsh Lane GP, Warboys/Pidley and Hamerton.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*): Grafham Water - single near hide on 15th October (PB).

Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*): Nene Lake - a build up in April to a maximum of 200+ on 29th.

Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*): Widespread reports with breeding at Nene Lake, Peterborough BF, Bainton GP (3 nests), Earith, Buckden, Brampton and Little Paxton. Winter flocks at Nene Lake and Grafham Water.

Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*): Offord Darcy - 3 feeding on pine cones on 1st May (DC).

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): Peterborough BF - 100 to 150 in January and February. Continuing reports of this species becoming less common.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*): Few reports. Hod Fen - 5 on 26th March, Nene Lake - single female on 25th April, Peterborough BF - 40 on 27th November.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*): Nene Lake - 25 to 30 in December.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)*: Nene Lake - single male on 17th and 18th November (MESR).

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Autumn flocks reported from Fletton BP (500), Stilton (150), Morborne Hill (200), Farcey (300) and Glatton (150).

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*): Nene Lake - 200 in November.

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The following species were also recorded in the county during the year, but are not included in the Systematic List: Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge, Pheasant, Moorhen, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Stock Dove, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Goldcrest, Dunnock, Meadow Pipit, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Siskin, Bullfinch, Corn Bunting and Reed Bunting.

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The following exotic 'escapes' were also reported:

Red-billed Teal - Grafham Water, a single on 22nd and 24th May.

Demoiselle Crane - Little Paxton GP, single from 17th September to 12th November.

Additions to the 1976 Systematic List

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*): Grafham Water - one found dead on 23rd September which had been ringed as a pullus at Foula on 15th July 1976.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): Grafham Water - a group of 5 followed later by a single heading south west on 12th September (DDN).

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Grafham Water - one found dead on 9th November which had been ringed as a pullus at Harakarahu, Estonian S.S.R. (58°31' N. 23°19' W.) on 11th June 1974.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): Little Paxton GP - 2 seen flying towards Grafham Water on 5th September (TG), Grafham Water - single on 5th September (PR, DDN). The Little Paxton GP record was not accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee, the Grafham Water record has not yet been submitted.

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THE WEATHER 1977

J. E. Manser

Based on records from R.A.F. Wyton Met. Office

January: The 1st was warm but the 2nd was cold with snow flurries, the next ten days were anticyclonic, with frosty nights and bright days. The 12th saw cold air spread in and the first real snow of the year, but this was to be short lived. The second half of the month was unsettled with depressions crossing the country. Temperatures were slightly below average and rainfall average.

February: This month was a real fill dyke with over double the average rainfall, in fact a new record for Wyton, the reason was a series of depressions crossing the country from the Atlantic. It was a warmer month than average.

March: The track of depressions was moved further north by high pressure over south-east Europe weakening the fronts as they crossed East Anglia where we had only average rainfall. On the 27th a north-easterly wind set in and snow showers swept from the North Sea, but south-westerly winds returned on the 30th.

April: Winds from the north dominated the month, some of the April showers were of snow. It was a cold month and rainfall was also below average.

May: A cool month, the most notable feature was that the rainfall was confined to the first fifteen days, and consequently was below average for the whole month.

June: Decidedly unroyal weather for the Jubilee Bank Holiday which was wet and cool. Thunderstorms on the night of 13/14 produced a good soaking in a month that was mainly cool and wet.

July: Whilst temperatures were normal, rainfall was sparse, 6.7 mm as opposed to an average of 52 mm. It was mainly cloudy so no heat wave was experienced.

August: A wet month when 105.7 mm of rain fell, the wettest period being 16th to 20th when 46.9 mm were recorded. The mean temperature was over a degree below the normal.

September: A drier month with rainfall about half the normal. Temperatures were cooler than average as high pressure dominated the weather.

October: Again a dry month with about half the normal rainfall, but temperatures were over a degree above the normal; there were no frosts.

November: Another dry month with 68% of normal rainfall. Temperatures were average, the first air frost occurred on the 18th when northerly winds swept the country.

December: A mild month with only one air frost on the 3rd, the mean temperature was two and a half degrees above normal. Rainfall was average. Strong winds on the 24th from the south-west gusted to 64 Kts, more strong winds were recorded on the 30th, this time from the north-west.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST AMENDMENTS

The following membership changes have taken place during 1977:-

New Members

DANSWAN, C.W.	119 Suttons Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex
DANSWAN, M (Mrs)	119 Suttons Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex
DAY J.C.N.	11 Vicarage Road, Waresley, Cambs.
DONCASTER, J.	26 Wintringham Road, St. Neots, Cambs.
FOUNTAIN, R.	Edwards Farm, Somersham, Cambs.
FOUNTAIN, (Mrs)	Edwards Farm, Somersham, Cambs.
GILBERT, P.M. (Miss)	10 Ryecroft Avenue, St. Neots, Cambs.
HOUGHTON, E. (Mrs)	20 St. Judiths Lane, Sawtry, Cambs.

Changes of Address

BENSON, H.	2 Copperfield Gardens, Brentwood, Essex
ELLOWAY, R.E.	21 Perry Road, Buckden.
FAWELL, J.K.	Lord Rank Research Centre, Lincoln Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.
GOUDGE, H.J. (Mrs)	31 Morborne Road, Folksworth, Peterborough.
LIMENTANI, J.D. & S.E.	10 Acacia Avenue, St. Ives, Cambs.

Resignations & Lapses

Mrs. Abraham
Rev. Bawtree
Mr. Cobbold
Mr. Elias
Kimbolton School Nat. Hist. Soc.
Mr. Marsh
Mr. Page
Mr. & Mrs. Saw
Mr. Skelton
Mr. & Mrs. Tew
Mrs. Theakston