

HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY

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**19th**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
**1966**

PRICE (to non-members) 10/6

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAUNA AND FLORA SOCIETY



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<i>Ants, Myriapods, Woodlice &amp; Myxomycetes</i> - -	MR. B. ING, Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.	

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1966

(No. 19)

## INTRODUCTION

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 30th April, 1966, at Cromwell House, Huntingdon, and was attended by approximately 50 members and guests.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March, 1965, were read and confirmed and the Hon. Treasurer's Report was received and accepted. The Hon. Secretary's Report was read and apologies made for the delay in the completion of the Annual Report for 1965.

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

After the official business, Dr. F. H. Perring, of the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, described the work he is carrying out on the distribution of species throughout the British Isles, an account which gave rise to an active discussion.

The following list of field meetings was arranged at later Committee meetings:—

Sun., June 12: Brampton Gravel Pits.  
Sun., June 19: Sawtry Roughs.  
Sat., June 25: Hartham Street.  
Sun., July 10: Orton Lodge (Two Pond Coppice).  
Sat., July 16: Yelling.  
Sun., July 24: Warboys Wood.  
Sun., Aug. 7: Riverside Walk, Little Paxton.

The Society, in collaboration with Monks Wood Experimental Station and St. Ivo School, organised an exhibition in All Saints' Parish Church Hall, Huntingdon, during National Nature Week (April 23rd—30th). Apart from the large and splendid contributions from the Nature Conservancy and St. Ivo School, the exhibits included a collection of *Diptera*, and books, paintings and postage stamps on natural history subjects. In addition, the Nature Conservancy organised daily guided tours of its Nature Reserves at Monks Wood and Woodwalton Fen. The Manager of the 'Regal' Cinema at St. Ives kindly showed the films, "Wild Wings", "Wild Highlands" and "Journey into Spring" throughout the week. Approximately 1,200 people attended the exhibition and about the same number saw the films.

During the year the Society experienced something of a financial crisis in the form of the printing bill for the 1965 Annual Report. It was, therefore, agreed at a Committee meeting towards the end of the year to explore means by which this expense item could be reduced in future. This state of affairs

emphasises the necessity for a large active membership. An area the size of Huntingdonshire should be able to provide far more than our present eighty to ninety members. All existing members are asked to recruit as many new people as possible. Details of membership are given on the back cover of this report. It will greatly help the Secretary and Treasurer if subscriptions are paid on or as soon as possible after Jan. 1st each year and preferably by Banker's Order; this saves you the trouble of remembering and the Society the trouble and expense of reminders. The appropriate forms are available from the Secretary.

## SAWTRY ROUGHS, HUNTINGDONSHIRE

T. C. E. WELLS

Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Sawtry Roughs (Grid Ref. 52/197835) lies about half a mile north of the site of the Cistercian Sawtry Abbey (founded A.D. 1147) and is bounded on the north-west and east by dykes which connect with the general drainage system of the district. It consists of about 20 acres of rough grassland which, because of the low-lying nature of the ground and the presence of numerous 'bog-oaks', has probably never been ploughed. It is surrounded on all sides by deep fen peat soils which are used exclusively for growing arable crops, mainly carrots, sugar-beet, celery and potatoes. The nearest large area of semi-natural vegetation is Holme Fen, although smaller areas of reed swamp vegetation are found along the base of the railway embankment a few hundred yards to the east.

The past land-use history of Sawtry Roughs is not known with certainty, but it seems likely that until the draining of Whittlesea Mere by W. Wells in 1851, its usage was similar to that of the peatlands surrounding the Mere. We know from the writings of Heathcote (1876) and others that the fenland provided peat for fuel, reed and sedge for thatching and that the rough grazings were used as pastures for sheep and cattle in the summer and often cut for litter in the autumn.

As a result of use by man, a special type of herbaceous vegetation developed called mixed fen, which supports many interesting plants which are rare or not found in other habitats. The best remaining examples of fen vegetation have been preserved by the Nature Conservancy at Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen. However, other small areas of vegetation exist in the Fens which are not arable at the present time and the object of the field meeting held by the Society on May 19th, 1966, was to examine the flora and fauna of Sawtry Roughs for any evidence which might provide clues as to the earlier history of the site.

*Arrhenatherum elatius* is the dominant grass over about three-quarters of the Roughs, being associated with other coarse

grasses, particularly *Dactylis glomerata* and *Agropyron repens* (including the awned form var. *aristatum*). *Pastinaca sativa*, *Urtica dioica* and *Vicia cracca* were the only herbs present in any quantity. This association indicates disturbance of some kind in the past and the presence of numerous bog-oaks 20 to 30 feet long and 2 to 3 feet in girth on the surface of the ground indicates that attempts to clear the land for agricultural purposes have been made. Furthermore, this clearance would have been fairly recent, for in holes created when bog-oaks had been pulled out *Cardamine hirsuta* was present in some quantity with *Funaria hygrometrica*. Three small patches of *Thalictrum flavum*, growing with *Filipendula ulmaria* were found among the dense growth of grass which may be relics of a mixed fen community. Towards the eastern side of the Roughts, disturbance appeared to be less, and an acid grassland, with *Festuca rubra* and *Agrostis tenuis* as co-dominants had developed, which is probably the type of grassland which covered most of the drier parts of the Roughts when it was used for grazing. Within this grassland the following species were frequent to occasional:

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	<i>Poa compressa</i>
<i>Carex hirta</i>	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
<i>Cerastium vulgatum</i>	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
<i>Galium verum</i>	<i>Sagina apetala</i>
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	<i>Trifolium pratensis</i>
<i>J. inflexus</i>	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	<i>Viola hirta</i>
	<i>Viola canina ssp. montana</i>

The most interesting find of the afternoon was the discovery of fairly large patches of *Viola canina ssp. montana*, a Violet which is restricted to fens in Huntingdon and Cambridge, the only other site in Huntingdon known to me being Woodwalton Fen.

From this brief survey of the vegetation it is possible only to speculate in general terms on the past land-use of Sawtry Roughts. About 100 years ago, the Roughts would have been much wetter and a mixed fen community with *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Thalictrum flavum*, *Phragmites* and many other characteristic species may have covered most of the area. With increased agricultural drainage, particularly from 1870 onwards, and with less frequent flooding in the winter, the mixed fen was probably replaced by a grassland which was greatly influenced and modified by grazing animals, particularly rabbits, which became more abundant from

about the turn of the present century. At the same time, cattle and sheep may have grazed the Roughts and a short grassland developed in the drier parts, with relics of the mixed Fen community persisting in the wetter areas. More recently, mechanical operations to remove bog-oaks have taken place which have greatly disturbed the peat surface and a coarse grassland, dominated by *Arrhenatherum* has replaced the shorter *Agrostis/Festuca* grassland.

An alternative explanation of the present-day vegetation, which was suggested by Dr. E. Duffey, is that Sawtry Roughts was used as arable land for a short period after drainage, but was later abandoned when bog-oaks came to the surface as a consequence of the oxidation and shrinkage of the peat following drainage. The plant communities which developed on the disturbed peat were then grazed by rabbits and possibly by sheep or cattle which prevented the establishment of scrub.

The similarity of the flora of Sawtry Roughts in its more undisturbed parts, with some of the fields at the southern end of Woodwalton Fen, which we know to have formed part of a small farm in the past, is remarkable, and further researches into the past land-use history at either site would be a valuable aid in interpreting the present-day vegetation.

It is a pleasure to record the help of members of the Society in compiling the list of plants.

## HARTHAM STREET

### Further Botanical Records

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

The most interesting new record for Hartham Street was the finding of *Epipactis helleborine* in June on the hill section of the track by Mrs. Atkinson and Miss Goodliff. This was very near where the Butterfly Orchids occur.

*Senecio erucifolius* and *Tragopogon pratensis* were also recorded as additions to the 1965 list.

The following list of grasses, sedges and rushes were collected on June 16 during a society excursion. None is uncommon, but the 35 species are given here for the sake of completeness. They bring the total number of species recorded for Hartham Street to 148.

<i>Agropyron caninum</i>	<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	<i>Bromus commutatus</i>
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	<i>Bromus ramosus</i>
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>

*Deschampsia caespitosa*  
*Festuca arundinacea*  
*Festuca pratensis*  
*Festuca rubra*  
*Holcus lanatus*  
*Hordeum secalinum*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Phleum bertolonii*  
*Poa pratensis*  
*Poa trivialis*  
*Trisetum flavescens*

*Carex contigua*  
*Carex flacca*  
*Carex hirta*  
*Carex otrubae*  
*Carex pendula*  
*Carex sylvatica*

*Juncus articulatus*  
*Juncus conglomeratus*  
*Juncus effusus*  
*Juncus inflexus*

## ADDITIONS TO THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE BRYOPHYTE RECORDS

A. D. HERRILL,  
 Monks Wood Experimental Station.

- 1/1 *Sphagnum palustre* L. Old Decoy, Holme Fen, Apr. '66, A.D.H.  
 8/1 *Fissidens viridulus* Wahlenb. Under elm, on shady bank by gravel pit, near Earith, Nov. '65, Hill.  
 5/11 *Polytrichum commune* Hedw. Damp peaty soil, Holme Fen Covert, Nov. '64, Birks & Lees (B. & L.).  
 31/11 *Campylopus introflexus* (Hedw.) Brid. On peat, near Decoy, Holme Fen, Oct. '66, A.D.H.  
 34/2 *Encalypta vulgaris* Hedw. Wooden planks of bridge near Holme village, Nov. '64, B. & L.  
 34/5 *E. streptocarpa* Hedw. Concrete by bridge over stream near Holme village, Nov. '64, B. & L. Thicket path, St. Ives, Apr. '65, A.D.H.  
 44/20 *Barbula recurvirostra* (Hedw.) Dix. Chalky, clayey bank of ditch, junction of B660 and A1 roads, Nov. '64, B. & L.  
 77/26 *Bryum bicolor* Dicks. Concrete slab, Holme Fen, Feb. '65, J. Dransfield.

Following the revision of certain species in the genus *Bryum* (Nos. 77/28-77/31, Crundwell, A. C. and Nyholm, E. Trans. Brit. bryol. Soc. Vol. 4 p. 597) the records for Vice County 31, Hunts., are amended as follows:—

- 77/28 *B. micro-erythrocarpum* C. Müll & Kindb. Base of *Calamagrostis* tussocks, Woodwalton Fen, May '63, S. R. J. Woodell.  
 77/28 *B. bornholmense* Winkelm & Ruthe. Peat surface in grassland, Woodwalton Fen, May '63, S. R. J. Woodell.  
 77/29 *B. rubens* Mitt. Stubble field, near Waresley Wood, Oct. '58, H. L. K. Whitehouse (H.L.K.W.).  
 77/29 *B. ruderale* Crundw. & Nyh. Ride in Monks Wood, June '50, H.L.K.W.  
 77/30 *B. klinggraeffii* Schimp. Stubble field near Waresley Wood, Oct. '58, H.L.K.W.  
 Arable field, Hilton, Grid Ref. 52/286653, Nov. '60, H.L.K.W.  
 149/4 *Plagiothecium denticulatum* (Hedw.) B., S. & G. *denticulatum*. S.E. end of main ride, Gransden Wood, Apr. '65, Chamberlain.  
 149/6 *P. curvifolium* Schlieph. ex Limpr. Birch stump, Holme Fen, Nov. '66, B. & L.  
 161/4 *Hylocomium splendens* (Hedw.) B., S. & G. Badger Ride, Monks Wood, Apr. '66, A.D.H.

57/2 *Lophocolea cuspidata* (Nees.) Limpr. Rotten stumps between Waresley and Gransden Woods, near Great Gransden, Apr. '65, Chamberlain.

Records other than my own have been abstracted from Trans. Brit. bryol. Soc. Vols. 4 and 5 (1). Reference numbers are taken from the latest editions of the Census Catalogues.

## FURTHER BOTANICAL NOTES

J. L. GILBERT  
 The Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Mr. A. L. Fawkes collected specimens of the Southern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) from the water meadows at Houghton on 25 May. First record since V.C.H., 1926.

Dr. B. N. K. Davis reports a flourishing colony of Crested Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum cristatum*) between Easton and Stonely with an equally good colony of Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*).

Mr. A. J. Kerr records Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) from Sand Wood.

Mr. T. C. E. Wells reports Adder's Tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) from an old meadow in Upwood; Goldilocks (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*) and Sawwort (*Serratula tinctoria*) from meadows at Upwood; Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*) from roadside between Woodwalton village and Monks' Wood and meadow, Upwood.

Sawwort was last recorded for the county in 1898!

Dr. S. M. Walters has found the Lesser Water-plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*) in shallow peat cuttings, Woodwalton Fen. First record since V.C.H., 1926.

I am pleased to hear of the formation of a "Tree Lovers' League" for the care and preservation of trees in the borough of Huntingdon and Godmanchester.

## PUBLICATIONS

Gilbert J.L., 1966, Compiling a County Flora, *Wild Life News*, Vol. 1, No. 6, pp. 6-7.

Houlton J.P., 1966, *Survey of some of the larger fungi growing in Monks Wood (Huntingdon) during 1965*. Duplicated.

Mr. J. P. Houlton has produced an excellent ecological account of agarics and boleti of Monks' Wood. Precise locations for each species have been recorded. 124 species not previously known to occur in the wood have been recorded, about 80 of which are new county records. Should any member feel they would like a copy, Mr. Houlton's address is: 2 Northfield Road, Acton, W.3.

## WOODLICE (ISOPODA, ONISCOIDEA) FROM HUNTINGDONSHIRE

P. T. HARDING  
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Woodlice are the only Crustacean group which are terrestrial throughout their life histories. The adaptations to terrestrial life vary between Families, but as a general rule the more primitive Families (*Ligiidae* and *Trichoniscidae*) are less well adapted to withstand desiccation than the more advanced Families (*Porcellionidae* and *Armadillidiidae*) and hence are limited to wetter habitats or those with a high relative humidity.

Edney (1954) lists 36 species of woodlice as being definitely recorded from the British Isles, of which 33 species occur in England and Wales. Ing (1959) records 18 species from Cambridgeshire which includes all the 12 species listed here except *Trachelipus rathkei*. The only comprehensive account of woodlice distribution in the British Isles (Collinge, 1943) is very incomplete and lists nothing from Huntingdonshire. An extensive search of the literature has produced only 5 recorded species from the county—those listed by Stebbing in the Victoria County History.

All the records listed below date from between 1958 and 1966 with the exception of the Victoria County History records (marked V.C.H.) which date from 1910. No planned collecting has been done and the western half of the county has not been worked. Each species is listed with the habitat in which it has been collected in the County (where this is available) followed by the localities from which it has been recorded. The localities Holme Fen, Monks Wood and Woodwalton Fen refer exclusively to those National Nature Reserves; Monks Wood Fields refers to the arable and pasture land immediately surrounding the Experimental Station. The Nomenclature and Systematics follow Vandel (1960, 1962).

### Family *Ligiidae*

*Ligidium hypnorum* (Cuvier). Among the litter of large grass tussocks. Holme Fen, (B.I.): Woodwalton Fen, Heath Field & Compartment 92.

### Family *Trichoniscidae*

*Androniscus dentiger* Verhoeff. Under stones on marshy ground. Sawtry Abbey.

*Trichoniscus pusillus pusillus* Brandt. Among fen litter, under bark, logs and leaves, in large tussocks of grass, etc. Monks Wood: Woodwalton Fen, Compts. 80E and 92.

*Trichoniscus pusillus provisorius* Racovitza. Monks Wood, (B.I.).

### Family *Squamiferidae*

*Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii* Brandt. Under stones with ants. Hemingford Grey: St. Ives.

### Family *Oniscidae*

*Philoscia muscorum* (Scopoli). Under stones, logs, leaf litter, etc., fen grassland. Woodwalton Fen, Compts. 80, 92, Heath Field: Monks Wood: Monks Wood Fields: Huntingdon & Godmanchester (V.C.H.): Hemingford Grey: St. Ives.

*Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus. Ubiquitous — especially near habitations. Woodwalton Fen (B.I.): Monks Wood: Monks Wood Fields: Huntingdon & Godmanchester, (V.C.H.): Hemingford Grey: Houghton Mill (B.I.): St. Ives.

### Family *Porcellionidae*

*Trachelipus rathkei* (Brandt). Under stones in rough grass, woodland glade edge. Monks Wood Fields: Monks Wood.

*Trachelipus ratzeburgi* (Brandt). Among grass litter. Woodwalton Fen, Compt. 79: Monks Wood: Monks Wood Fields.

*Metoponorthus (Metoponorthus) pruinus* (Brandt). Under dry stones and leaves in and around outbuildings. Hemingford Grey.

*Porcellio scaber scaber* Latreille. Ubiquitous — among litter and grass and under stones, logs, bark, etc. Woodwalton Fen: Monks Wood: Monks Wood Fields: Huntingdon & Godmanchester, (V.C.H.): Hemingford Grey: Houghton Mill, (B.I.): St. Ives.

*Porcellio spinicornis* Say. Huntingdon & Godmanchester, (V.C.H.).

### Family *Armadillidiidae*

*Armadillidium vulgare* (Latreille). Under stones, timber, among grass and leaf litter, usually in drier localities. Monks Wood: Monks Wood Fields: Huntingdon & Godmanchester, (V.C.H.): Ramsey, (V.C.H.): Hemingford Grey: St. Ives.

I am grateful to Bruce Ing for permission to use his records—those marked (B.I.); to Dr. R. C. Welch for permission to examine specimens collected by him in Monks Wood N.N.R. and to Miss L. Farrell, D. Marsh and Miss S. Murrell for collecting specimens for me at various times.

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- Vandel, A. (1960): Isopodes terrestres (Première Partie). *Faune de France*, 64, 1-416.
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## LEAFHOPPERS OF THE GENUS *IDIOCERUS* (HOMOPTERA: CICADELLIDAE) IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

M. G. MORRIS,  
Monks Wood Experimental Station.

One of the many groups of insects which have been little studied in Huntingdonshire is the leafhoppers, or Homoptera-Auchenorrhyncha. A rather short list of species appears in the

Victoria County History (Omer-Cooper, 1926). Since then almost nothing has been done, with the exception of Dr. W. J. Le Quesne's excellent preliminary list of species from Woodwalton Fen (1965a). This list, the result of only a very few days' collecting, emphasises how our knowledge of the county's fauna can be increased by even the briefest visits by specialists. The identification of many of the smaller species of leafhoppers is still difficult, for Edwards' handbook (1896) is now considerably out of date. However, the group is partially covered by the Royal Entomological Society's Handbooks (Le Quesne, 1960, 1965b), and further volumes are in preparation.

*Idiocerus* are relatively large and conspicuous leafhoppers and can be quite readily identified using Le Quesne's key (1965b). Nineteen species are recorded as British and with one exception they are associated with willows and poplars (*Salix* and *Populus* spp.). The life histories do not appear to be well known, but some species overwinter as adults and most can be found in this stage in late summer and early autumn. Only two species were recorded from Huntingdonshire by Omer-Cooper (1926) (taken by H. F. Fryer), but five were added by Le Quesne (1965a) from Woodwalton Fen. The present account summarises these, with some additional records, bringing the number of species recorded in the county up to eleven.

*I. stigmatalis* Lewis. Somersham (Omer-Cooper, 1926). Earith Washes, beaten from white willow (*Salix alba* L.), 12/10/63. Woodwalton Fen (compartment 80), also beaten from white willow, 6/8/66 (new to Woodwalton Fen).

*I. tremulae* (Estlund). Woodwalton Fen (Le Quesne, 1965a). Rather common in Monks Wood on aspen (*Populus tremula* L.); I have specimens taken 26/7/65, 2/8/66 and 8/8/66.

*I. vitreus* (F.). St. Ives (near the parish church), several beaten from Lombardy poplar (*Populus italica* (Duroi) Moench) with *I. fulgidus*, 13/8/66.

*I. distinguendus* Kirschbaum. Hemingford Abbots, several beaten from grey poplar (*Populus canescens* Sm.) in company with *I. albicans* and *I. laminatus*, 10/8/66.

*I. vittifrons* Kirschbaum. This species is not associated with Salicaceae but is found exclusively on field maple (*Acer campestre* L.). It is widespread but not very abundant in Monks Wood, where I have beaten specimens from the host in various parts of the wood on 15/5/63, 2/8/66, 8/8/66 and 23/8/66.

*I. lituratus* (Fallen). Woodwalton Fen (Le Quesne, 1965a). Monks Wood (Hotel Ride), beaten from common sallow (*Salix atrocinerea* Brot.), 4/8/65 and 8/8/66.

*I. albicans* Kirschbaum. Somersham (Omer-Cooper, 1926).

#### Explanation of Plate 1

Bones from a gravel pit worked from 1963 to 1965 by Messrs. Inns & Co., half a mile south-west of Galley Hill crossroads, Hemingford Grey, Hunts.

Fig.

1. Giant Deer. Frontlet of skull with base of right antler.
2. Rhinoceros; probably the cold-climate woolly rhinoceros. Distal end of left humerus.
3. Fallow Deer. Base of antler.
4. Wild Ox, *Bos primigenius*. Horn core.
5. Straight-tusked elephant, *E. antiquus*. Lower molar tooth.
6. Red Deer. Base and beam of antler.
7. Bison. Part of frontlet, horn-core and orbit.
- 8 to 12. Examples of Cervid and Bovid cannon-bones, ascribed to the following species.
8. Giant Deer.
9. Red Deer.
10. Fallow Deer.
11. Ox or Bison, fore-leg.
12. Ox or Bison, hind-leg.
13. Mammoth. Molar tooth.
14. Bear. Proximal end of right radius (funny-bone).
15. Elephant, probably mammoth. Tusk.

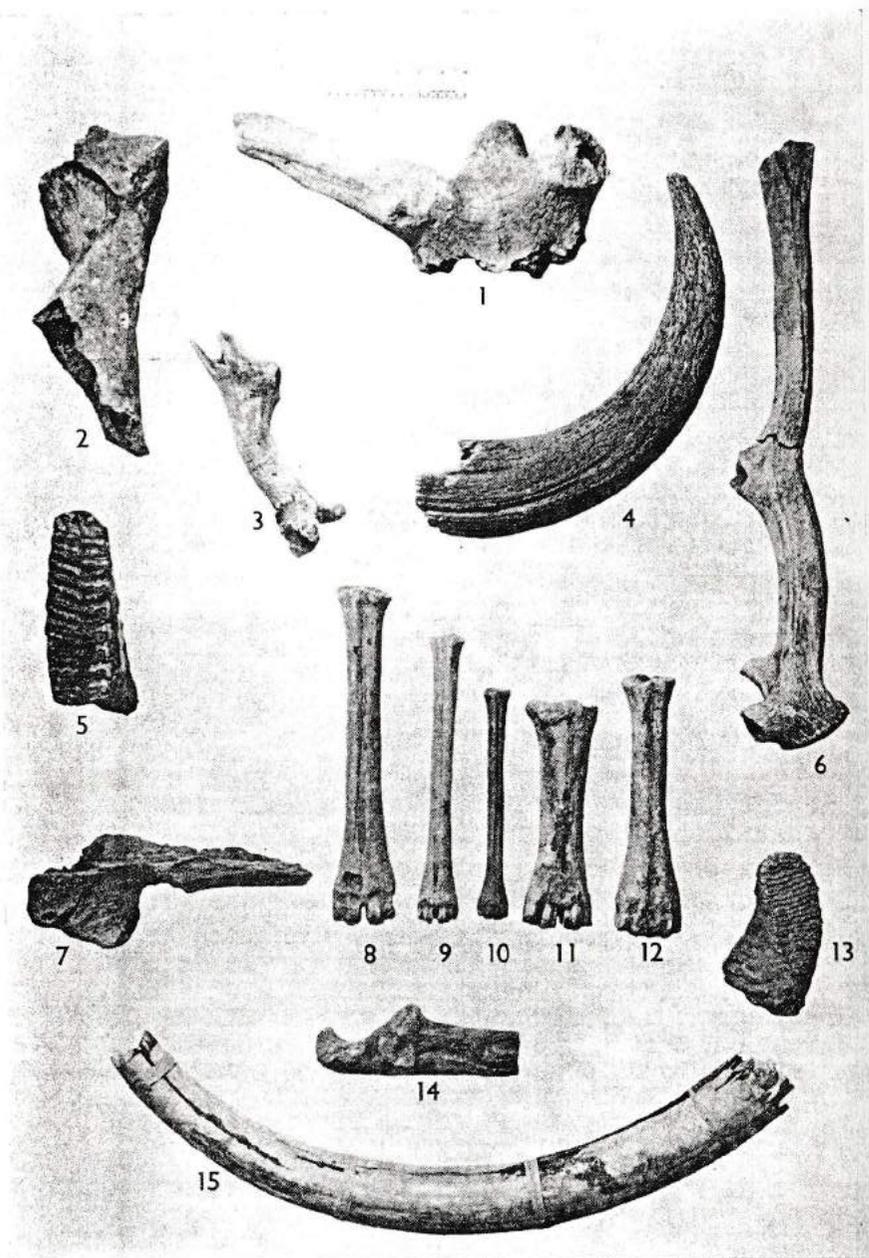
#### Explanation of Plate 2

Bear bones from St. Ives Sand and Gravel Co's, West End pit, Fenstanton, south-east of Galley Hill crossroads, Hunts.

Fig.

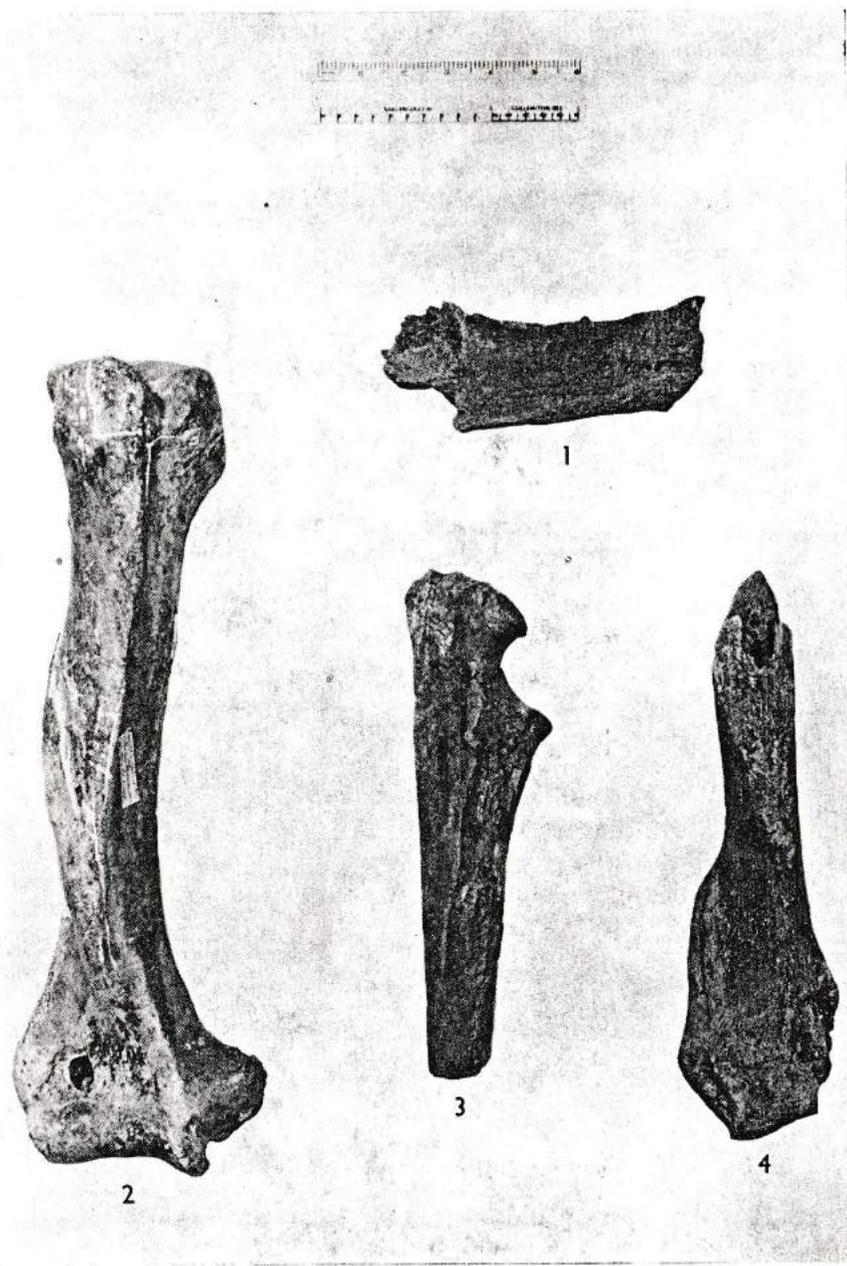
1. Left ramus of mandible, lingual view.
2. Right humerus, anterior aspect.
3. Right radius, proximal end, medial aspect.
4. Right humerus, distal end, posterior aspect.

PLATE 1



C. L. Forbes

PLATE 2



C. L. Forbes

Hemingford Abbots, beaten from grey poplar (with *I. distinguendus* and *I. laminatus*), 10/8/66.

*I. confusus* Flor. Woodwalton Fen (Le Quesne, 1965a). Monks Wood (Hotel Ride) beaten from common willow, 2/8/66. Holme Fen (near Short Drove), probably beaten from common willow, 8/8/65.

*I. populi* (L.). This species occurs in Monks Wood on aspen, but is much the rarest of the species found on that tree. Three specimens were taken 14/8/62 and one (by sweeping birch) on 4/8/65, but I was unable to find the species at all in 1966.

*I. laminatus* Flor. Woodwalton Fen (Le Quesne, 1965a). The most numerous species on aspen in Monks Wood, being recorded from various parts of the wood on 4/8/65, 2/8/66, 8/8/66 and 23/8/66. Hemingford Abbots, beaten from grey poplar with *I. distinguendus* and *I. albicans*, 10/8/66.

*I. fulgidus* (F.). Woodwalton Fen (Le Quesne, 1965a). St. Ives, beaten from Lombardy poplar with *I. vitreus*, 13/8/66. Near Ramsey Heights, beaten from black Italian poplar (*Populus X canadensis* Moench var. *serotina* (Hartig) Rehder), 11/8/66.

These records come from only a few of the species of trees and shrubs known to be hosts of *Idiocerus* spp., and from a very few Huntingdonshire localities. It is probable that other species occur in the county. Poplars and willows should be worked in August and September and again in spring for species of this very attractive genus. An additional interest is added to this work in that much needs to be recorded on what species of Salicaceae are hosts for each species.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. W. J. Le Quesne has kindly identified some of the species included in these notes.

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## TIPULIDAE AND EMPIDIDAE (DIPTERA)

J. H. COLE  
Huntingdon Research Centre.

Dr. Brian Davis has pointed out that Huntingdonshire Diptera (true flies with only one pair of wings) are very inadequately known and the area is one of only three remaining lowland vice countries with no published list. (Ent. Gaz. 16, p. 89). It is hoped to remedy this situation in due course and I shall be pleased to receive flies of any kind and number from the county—with locality and date of capture please. I have recorded some 250 species, excluding hover flies, in my first year in the county but without monopolizing the report I can only list some of them this year. I have decided to give a complete list of just two of the larger families, Tipulidae and Empididae, rather than select a few of particular interest from many families. Other families and additions will be dealt with in future reports as space permits.

Most of the species listed below are common or fairly common with a widespread distribution at least over southern England. The few less common ones are noted.

Collection sites abbreviated as follows: Hollows Farm, Alconbury (A.), Brampton Village (B.), Brampton, Ouse Bank (B.O.), Brampton Wood (B.W.), Brampton, Old Gravel Pits (B.G.), Brampton, disused railway track (B.R.), Orton Lodge, Two Pond Coppice (O.L.), Great Paxton, Ouse bank (G.P.), Yelling (Y.), Sawtry Roughs (S.R.), Warboys Wood (W.).

*Tipulidae* (Crane flies or "Daddy Long Legs"). About 300 British species, some small and gnat-like, but mostly medium sized to very large flies, usually drab in colour but often with conspicuously marked wings. Typical of damp shady habitats, although a few of the most common species frequent open spaces where their larvae (leather jackets) are serious pests feeding on the roots of grasses and cereal crops. 47 species recorded here.

- Dicthenidia bimaculata* L. 12/7/66. (A). Wet woods, not common.  
*Nephrotoma quadrifaria* Mg. 27/7. (B.O.).  
*Nephrotoma flavipalpis* Mg. 10/7. (O.L.).  
*Nephrotoma maculata* Mg. 12/5. (A). 10/7. (O.L.).  
*Nephrotoma cornicina* L. 25/7. (G.P.).  
*Nephrotoma flavescens* L. 19/6. (S.R.).  
*Tipula oleracea* L. Grasslands and fields, common everywhere.  
*Tipula rufina* Mg. 28/9. (B.R.).  
*Tipula fulvipennis* Deg. 13/8. (W.). Woodland species.  
*Tipula fascipennis* Mg. 23/7. (B.).  
*Tipula lunata* L. 6/6. (A.).  
*Tipula irrorata* Macqu. 6/3. (B.W.). Larva in rotten log.  
*Tipula nigra* L. 2/7. (B.G.). Marsh species.  
*Tipula luteipennis* Mg. 28/9. (B.R.). Marsh species.

*Tipula flavolineata* Mg. 14/5. (B.W.). Several pupae found under bark of rotten log, and emerged during following weeks.

- Tipula pagana* Mg. 16/10. (B.).  
*Tipula lateralis* Mg. 7/4. (B.).  
*Tipula variipennis* Mg. 30/5. (B.W.). Damp woodland species.  
*Cylindrotoma distinctissima* Mg. 21 & 30/5. (B.W.). 24/7 (W.).  
*Limonia (Metalimnobia) quadrinotata* Mg. 13/8. (B.R.).  
*Limonia s.str. maculipennis* Mg. 7/5. (B.G.). Uncommon.  
*Limonia s.str. nubeculosa* Mg. 7/5. (B.G.).  
*Limonia s.str. tripunctata* F. 12/5. (B.).  
*Limonia s.str. macrostigma* Schumm. 7/5 (B.G.). 29/8 (B.R.).  
*Limonia s.str. stigma* Mg. 16/7. (Y). Uncommon.  
*Limonia (Dicranomyia) modesta* Mg. 25/7. (G.P.).  
*Limonia (Dicranomyia) sericata* Mg. 7/5. (B.G.).  
*Limonia (Dicranomyia) morio* F. 7/5 (B.G.). 29/8 (B.R.). Marsh species.  
*Limonia (Rhipidia) maculata* Mg. 7/5. (B.G.).  
*Pedicia s.str. rivosa* L. 16/7. (Y.). Wet woodland species.  
*Pedicia (Tricyphona) immaculata* Mg. 15 & 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Epiphragma ocellaris* Mg. 21/5. (B.W.). Wet woodland species.  
*Austrolimnophila ochracea* Mg. 10/7 (O.L.), 16/8 (W.).  
*Limnophila (Phylidorea) dispar* Mg. 15 & 28/5 (B.O.), 21/5 (B.W.).  
*Limnophila (Pseudolimnophila) lucorum* Mg. 14/6. (B.G.).  
*Limnophila (Pilaria) adjuncta* Walk. 27/8. (B.O.).  
*Limnophila (Pilaria) nemoralis* Mg. 19/6 (S.R.), 10/7 (O.L.), 16/8 (W.).  
*Cheilotrichia (Gonempeda) flava* Schumm. 1/7. (A.).  
*Cheilotrichia s.str. imbuta* Mg. 25/7. (G.P.).  
*Cheilotrichia (Platytoma) cinerascens* Mg. 1/5. (B.W.).  
*Erioptera s.str. flavescens* L. 25/7. (G.P.).  
*Erioptera s.str. griseipennis* Mg. 7/5. (B.G.).  
*Erioptera s.str. irivaldis* Mg. 7/4. (B.).  
*Erioptera (Symplecta) stictica* Mg 7/4 & 29/7 (B.). Mainly a coastal marsh species.  
*Erioptera (Symplecta) hybrida* Mg. 14/6 (A.), 22/6 (B.).  
*Erioptera (Ilisia) maculata* Mg. 24/7. (W.).  
*Ormosia lineata* Macqu. 7/4 (B.). 30/4 (A.), 1/5 (B.).  
*Ormosia hederæ* Curtis. 1/5. (B.W.).

*Tipulidae* nomenclature after Coe, R. L., Royal Entomological Society Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, Vol. IV, pt. 2.

*Empididae* (No common names). Some 350 British species, mostly small to very small flies of drab colour which rarely attract attention, although the males of some species swarm, particularly under trees or over water. All species are predatory on small insects, mainly other flies. 38 species are recorded here.

- Drapetis assimilis* Fall. 30/6. (B.).  
*Sicodus arrogans* L. 9/6 (A.), 19/6 (S.R.).  
*Tachydromia albiseta* Panz. 19/6 (S.R.).  
*Tachydromia minuta* Mg. 19/5 (B.), 19/6 (S.R.).  
*Tachydromia albifacies* Col. 16/6. (A.).  
*Tachydromia optiva* Col. 14/6. (B.G.). Uncommon.  
*Tachydromia cursitans* F. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Tachydromia pallidicornis* Col. 31/8/65. (A.).  
*Tachydromia fasciata* Mg. 16/7/66 (Y.), 23/7 (B.). Uncommon.  
*Tachydromia pallidiventris* Mg. 16/6. (A.) and (B.). 17/6 (Y.).  
*Tachydromia extricata* Col. 10/7. (O.L.).  
*Tachydromia calceata* Mg. 19/6 (S.R.), 31/8 (A.).  
*Tachydromia agilis* Mg. 6/5. (B.).

*Tachydromia longicornis* Mg. 6/5 & 22/6 (B.), 7/5 (B.G.).  
*Hybos culiciformis* F. 10/7 (O.L.), 24/7 (W.).  
*Hybos femoratus* Müller. 24/7. (W.).  
*Ocydromia glabricula* Fall. 10/7. (O.L.).  
*Oedalea holmgreni* Zett. 21/5. (B.W.).  
*Microphorus crassipes* Macqu. 6/6. (A.).  
*Rhamphomyia (Megacyttarus) crassirostris* Fall. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Rhamphomyia (Parahamphomyia) dentipes* Zett. 1/5, 14/5 & 21/5 (B.W.).  
*Rhamphomyia s.str. sulcata* Mg. 26/4. (B.).  
*Empis (Xanthempis) stercorea* L. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Empis (Xanthempis) trigramma* Wied. 1/5 (B.W.), 7/5 (B.G.).  
*Empis (Xanthempis) lutea* Mg. 19/8. (B.W.).  
*Empis (Xanthempis) scutellata* Curtis. 21/5 (B.W.), 28/5 (B.O.), 19/6 (S.R.).  
*Empis (Kritempis) livida* L. Common everywhere.  
*Empis (Polyblepharis) opaca* Mg. 15/5. (B.O.). Uncommon.  
*Empis (Pachymeria) tessellata* F. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Empis s.str. nigripes* F. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Empis s.str. nuntia* Mg. 25/4. (B.).  
*Empis s.str. chioptera* Mg. 28/4 (B.), 20/5 Holywell.  
*Empis s.str. caudatula* Loew. 20/5. (B.).  
*Hilara quadrivittata* Mg. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Hilara monedula* Col. 8/6. (A.).  
*Hilara curtisi* Col. 28/5. (B.O.).  
*Dolichocephala guttata* Halid. 14/5, 21/5 & 20/8 (B.W.).  
*Dolichocephala irrorata* Fall. 19/6, (S.R.).

Empididae nomenclature after Collin, J. E., British Flies, Vol. 6,  
 Empididae (Cambridge University Press, 1961).

## SYRPHIDAE (DIPTERA)

### NEW RECORDS

B. N. K. DAVIS

Monks Wood Experimental Station.

Thanks to the efforts of Jon Cole and Howard Wills, the total number of Syrphidae species recorded from the vice county of Huntingdon now stands at 108. Howard Wills' collecting was restricted to Monks Wood and the total for this site alone is now 81. John Cole's collecting was from a number of localities, especially in the Brampton area, but does not include Monks Wood.

The new records are:

<i>Baccha elongata</i> Fab. (HJW)	<i>Heringia heringii</i> Zett. (HJW)
<i>Brachyopa scutellaris</i> Des. (JC)	<i>Pyrophaena rosarum</i> Fab.
<i>Cheilosia antiqua</i> Meig. (JC)	(HJW, JC)
<i>C. scutellata</i> Fall. (HJW, JC)	<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i> v. <i>typica</i>
<i>C. velutina</i> Loew (JC)	L. (JC)
<i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i> L. (HJW)	<i>Syrphus torvus</i> Ost.-Sack. (HJW)
<i>C. verralli</i> Collin (JC)	<i>S. cinctus</i> Fall. (HJW)
<i>Cnemon vitripennis</i> Meig. (JC)	<i>Xanthandrus comtus</i> Harr.
<i>Eumerus ornatus</i> Meig. (HJW)	(HJW, JC)
<i>Ferdinandea cuprea</i> Scop.	<i>Xanthogramma citrofuscium</i>
(HJW, JC)	Deg. (JC)
<i>Helophilus transfugus</i> L. (JC)	

## LEPIDOPTERA

J. E. H. BLACKIE

Very few records have been sent in for 1966, which was generally a 'bad' year. The following list of less common moths sent by the Rev. E. A. Bawtree as having come to light at Hemingford Abbots is of interest. The comments in square brackets are mine.

101. *Pheosia tremula* Clerck. May 7th. [No record in V.C.H. First recorded at Woodstone, 1952.]  
 141. *Poecilocampa populi* L. Nov. 7th.  
 214. *Apatele rumicis* L. Aug. 10th. [Previous records only from Brampton, Alconbury and Woodwalton.]  
 370. *Brachionycha sphinx* Hufn. Nov. 7th.  
 381. *Hydraecia micacea* Esp. Nov. 7th.  
 456. *Atethmia xerampelina* Hb. Sept. 10th.  
 465. *Tiliacea citrigo* L. Sept. 10th. [No recent records. The food-plant is Lime (*Tilia cordata* Mill) which is not native in the county but is sometimes planted (v. Flora of Huntingdonshire, Gilbert, 1965). The moth is therefore only likely to be found in parks and large gardens or avenues.]  
 492. *Cucullia umbratica* L. May 28th. [Only one previous record, from Fletton in 1964.]  
 660. *Lampropteryx suffumata* Schiff. [Has only once been noted previously, at Fletton in 1963. This is a local moth but usually persists in the same place year after year.]  
 804. *Bapta trememata* Hb. June 12th. [Although V.C.H. describes this species as "common", this has certainly not been so for many years. I have only single records from Monk's Wood, Bevill's Wood and Brooklands Wood which are all parts of a single forest area.]

The Light-trap at St. Ivo School was in operation from June 11th to 23rd, July 13th to Oct. 15th and Oct. 17th to Dec. 31st. Only common moths were recorded and, sad to say, in very small numbers. Even 344 *Apamea secalis* L. which is one of our commonest moths, totalled only 68 individuals. Subsequent observations from this source will be of great interest and significance. The records were sent by Mr. H. J. Berman.

## THE COUNTY PAPILIONARIUM

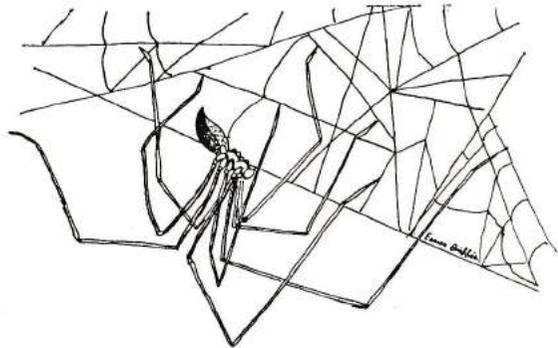
For some years a collection of Lepidoptera has been formed and added to, consisting of specimens taken in the county of Huntingdonshire and, when these were lacking, of other specimens of species recorded for the county. Until recently, this collection was kept at Alconbury in the house of the County Recorder. It has now been transferred to the Experimental Station at Monks Wood where it may be examined by anyone interested.

Any collector having possible additions to the collection should communicate with me.

J. E. H. BLACKIE.

## ARANEAE

H. J. & P. BERMAN & M. FULTON  
St. Ivo School, St. Ives, Huntingdon.



*Pholcus phalangoides* after Smith.

Only one really exciting spider was collected in the county, a "Daddy Longlegs" Spider (*Pholcus phalangoides*). A male was found in a boiler house at R.A.F. Wyton in September. This strange spindly spider, with its poorly constructed tangled web, is usually found only in the coastal counties of Southern England. The British Spider Study Group ran a course at Monks Wood in September, and it is hoped that some new spider records may, as a result, become available for next year's report.

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

H. J. BERMAN, D. JOHNSON & J. BARNES  
St. Ivo School, St. Ives, Huntingdon.

No reports were received of the Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*). All the samples of eggs received turned out to be those of the Toad, (*Bufo bufo*). Toads were fairly common last Summer in the St. Ives district and large numbers of young toads were seen in St. Ives and Hemingford Grey.

The Common Newt (*Triturus vulgaris*) was seen in ponds in St. Ives and Hemingford Grey and a number of individuals have been seen in gardens and on roadside verges from Ramsey to Earith.

No Black Newts (*T. cristatus*) were reported last season, but this was probably through lack of observers, rather than to a genuine decline in numbers.

Several Grass Snakes (*Natrix natrix*) turned up, although in smaller numbers than in past years. Two were seen in April, one in Huntingdon and one in the river at Houghton. Four more were seen in the St. Ives Thicket Bird Sanctuary in September.

One rather large female Viviparous (Common) Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) was caught at the Marsh Lane gravel pits, Hemingford Grey, at the end of August.

Two rather exciting herpetological finds were made in S.E. Hunts. last season. A bronze-brown Slow Worm was caught and released at R.A.F. Wyton in July, and another dark-brown adult was caught at Earith in early September.

## BIRDS

B. S. MILNE  
Houghton Grange Bird Club.

It is pleasing to record a steady increase in the volume of records received and in view of this it is proposed to bring the bird report into line with those of other counties. The practice of publishing records under separate localities will be discontinued and in future the report will consist of a systematic list in the Whetmore order. Records of rare and unusual species will only be published where sufficient evidence has been provided to substantiate the record. In order to conserve space, observers' initials will only appear after records of the rarer species.

4. *Red-throated Diver* — (G.W.), one found dead Apr. 10th (R.L.). An unidentified diver was present at the same locality on Dec. 4th.
8. *Black-necked Grebe* — (G.W.), single birds, Mar. 16th and from Oct. 23rd-Nov. 13th (R.L.). (M.L.) one from Aug. 28th-Sept 3rd (D.M.G., B.S.M.).
28. *Cormorant* — (G.W.), 1-3 several dates Apr., May and Oct. R. Ouse between Houghton and Godmanchester, 1-2 several dates late Aug. - early Sept.
38. *Bittern* — (Ma.L.), one Dec. 27th, 1965 (per C.D.), Little Paxton G.P., one Jan. 15th (C.F.T.), Stibington G.P. and R. Nene, one throughout Jan. and Feb. (R.F.).
45. *Mallard* — (G.W.), max. counts 4,000 Jan., 3,200 Nov. Abbots Ripton, a brood of day old ducklings Nov. 13th.
46. *Teal* — (G.W.), max. counts 230 Feb., 100 Nov.-Dec. One pair summered.
47. *Garganey* — (G.W.), a pair Apr. 28th-May 17th. (M.L.) a pair May 20th, two July 9th, 1-3 July 31st-Sept. 18th, one Oct. 23rd.
49. *Gadwall* — (G.W.), a pair Feb. 17th. (M.L.) a pair on several dates in Feb., female Sept. 18th, male Oct. 16th-Nov. 5th.
50. *Wigeon* — (G.W.), max. count 640 Feb. Only 70 birds in Dec.
52. *Pintail* — Small numbers, up to 30, noted at many localities on the R. Ouse between Earith and Godmanchester. (G.W.) up to 20 many dates, but 58 flying W on Dec. 18th.
53. *Shoveler* — (G.W.), three pairs bred.
54. *Red-crested Pochard* — (M.L.), male, Jan. 2nd (B.S.M.). The possibility of this bird being an escape cannot be ruled out.
55. *Scaup* — (G.W.), single birds Jan. 2nd-16th and Dec. 6th. (M.L.) a pair Jan. 29th-30th, one Feb. 12th, two on 26th, male Apr. 8th.
56. *Tufted Duck* — A marked increase in the winter population. Max. counts (G.W.) 700, (M.L.) 160.

57. *Pochard* — Max. counts (G.W.), 630; (M.L.), 300. The only breeding record is of a pair at (Ma.L.).
58. *Ferrugin Duck* — (M.L.), the wintering male remained until Feb. 20th (D.M.G., B.S.M.).
60. *Goldeneye* — A steady increase in the winter population with birds present from Jan. 1st-May 1st and again from Nov. 13th until the end of the year. Max. counts (G.W.), 20; (M.L.), 8. Overcote Ferry, three Jan. 16th.
62. *Velvet Scoter* — (G.W.), one immat. from Dec. 26th until the end of the year (R.L., H.G.B.C.).
70. *Goosander* — (G.W.), one Jan. 16th, seven Oct. 30th, up to four Nov. - Dec.
73. *Shelduck* — (G.W.), one Feb. 3rd. Well marked spring passage from March 20th - May 10th with max. of 12 at Grafham and four in the Bury Fen/Brownhill Staunch area. (G.W.), one pair bred successfully and a second pair present during the breeding season. 1-2 several dates Oct.-Nov. at this locality.
- Grey Geese* (? Sp.) — (M.L.), 50 Jan. 18th. Monk's Wood, 30 flying W. Nov. 18th.
- 78(b). *Pink-footed Goose* — (M.L.), seven Apr. 23rd - 25th.
80. *Brent Goose* — (G.W.), two feeding with the Wigeon flock, Feb. 15th - 17th (R.L.).
82. *Canada Goose*—Breeding at Little Paxton and Stibbington as usual.
85. *Whooper Swan* — Bury Fen, four Feb. 18th (B.P.A.).
86. *Bewick's Swan* — Herds of up to 30 birds at many localities Jan.-March and again Nov. and Dec. Max. counts principal localities, Bury Fen, 120; (G.W.), 60; (M.L.), 50; Overcote Ferry, 50; Monk's Wood, several parties noted passing over in a westerly direction late Nov. —early Dec.
91. *Buzzard* — Houghton, one Aug. 14th, Abbot's Ripton, one Oct. 11th. A party of three reported by a keeper over a wooded locality.
92. *Rough-legged Buzzard* — Monk's Wood, one Nov. 14th—early Dec. (H.G.B.C.).
93. *Sparrow-hawk* — Castor Hanglands and Monk's Wood, single birds at both localities in Dec.
100. *Hen Harrier* — Monk's Wood, female Nov. 9th — early Dec. (H.G.B.C.) Woodwalton Fen, female Oct. 28th—Nov 1st (H.G.B.C.).
103. *Osprey* — (G.W.), one Apr. 18th—20th (R.L.).
110. *Kestrel* — Well marked autumn passage. No positive breeding records but a family party over Houghton Thicket is suggestive of breeding.
125. *Corncrake* — Single birds heard calling for several weeks in May at King's Ripton and Wennington (C.D.).
127. *Coot* — (G.W.), max. counts 2,000 Jan., 1,500 Dec.
131. *Oystercatcher* — (G.W.), single birds March 29th, Apr. 24th and 28th. (M.L.), five Apr. 8th.
134. *Ringed Plover* — Small numbers, max. seven, on both spring and autumn passage.
135. *Little Ringed Plover* — a decline in the breeding population, only nine pairs being located (H.G.B.C.).
143. *Turnstone* — (G.W.), two May 29th, one Aug. 14th.
154. *Black-tailed Godwit* — (G.W.), single birds Apr. 17th, May 1st and 10th.
155. *Bar-tailed Godwit* — (G.W.), one Jan. 16th, one (M.L.) May 7th.
157. *Wood Sandpiper* — (G.W.), two May 31st.

165. *Greenshank* — (G.W.), one May 31st is the only spring record. Autumn passage from July 17—Oct. 25th. Max. (G.W.), 7; (M.L.), 3; Brownhill Staunch, 3.
178. *Dunlin* — Small numbers in winter and on both passages. Max. counts (G.W.), 36, May 22nd, 10-12th Aug. and again Nov. and Dec.
181. *Sanderling* — (G.W.), one July 29th.
184. *Ruff* — (G.W.), single birds May, Aug. and Sept. Two Nov. 13th-20th and four Dec. 26th. (M.L.), one Jan. 1st.
- Pratincole* (? Sp.) — (G.W.), one June 26th (R.L.).
- 193/5. *Arctic/Pomarine Skua* — (G.W.), a dark phase bird Jan. 5th (R.L., C.F.T.). Although reported as an Arctic, the description does not rule out the possibility of the bird being a Pomarine.
207. *Little Gull* — (G.W.), two May 2nd - July 11th (R.L.).
212. *Black Tern* — (G.W.), 13 on May 1st, one on 2nd, two on 12th 100 on 31st, 30 on Aug. 22nd. (M.L.), a late bird on Oct. 23rd.
- 217/18. *Common/Arctic Tern* — (G.W.), max. 20, May 26th.
223. *Sandwich Tern* — (G.W.), an undated record of a bird in early April (per R.L.).
- Collared Dove* — Reports from Grafham, Godmanchester, Hemingford Abbots, Houghton Hill, Huntingdon and Little Paxton indicate a further increase. No positive breeding records received, but the number of reports from Huntingdon and Godmanchester suggest several pairs in this area (H.G.B.C.).
248. *Long-eared Owl* — Little Raveley, two Oct. 29th. (C.D.).
249. *Short-eared Owl* — Wintering records of 1-3 birds from Bluntisham Fen, Earith, Holme Fen, Monk's Wood and Woodwalton Fen, Castor Hanglands, one Aug. 15th, Brampton, one late Sept.
252. *Nightjar*—Bevill's Wood, heard calling but no evidence of breeding.
258. *Kingfisher* — A few records at the gravel pits and on the R. Ouse.
261. *Hoopoe* — Stangate Hill, Alconbury, one June 21st. (J.B.).
278. *Golden Oriole* — Castor Hanglands, male on the remarkable date of March 13th (per R.V.C.). In view of the date the possibility of the bird being an escape must be considered.
293. *Willow Tit* — (M.L.), one pair bred.
307. *Ring Ouzel* — Hilton, male Apr. 11th-21st. (W.G.).
318. *Whinchat* — Sawtry Roughs — one pair bred.
327. *Grasshopper Warbler* — breeding reported from all the usual localities. New localities where birds were noted during the breeding season were Brampton, Fenstanton, Stibbington and Wennington.
365. *Firecrest* — (M.L.), one Oct. 31st (B.S.M.).
381. *Grey Wagtail* — (M.L.), one Oct. 31st is the only record.
383. *Waxwing* — Stibbington, one Jan. 13th (R.F.). Hemingford Grey, one Feb. 22nd (per B.S.M.).
384. *Great Grey Shrike* — (M.L.), one Dec. 18th (B.S.M.).
394. *Siskin* — Woodwalton Fen, up to 20 during the winter. (M.L.), three Oct. 9th.
397. *Redpoll* — Usual winter parties noted at the gravel pits.
423. *Snow Bunting* — (M.L.), one Jan. 2nd. (B.S.M.).

OBSERVERS : B. P. Austin, Mrs. J. Blackie, Houghton Grange Bird Club, R. V. Collier, C. Drage, R. Forster, D. M. Garner, W. Garnett, Mrs. R. Lovell, B. S. Milne, C. F. Tebbutt.

Sites are abbreviated as follows :—

Grafham Water (G.W.), Marsh Lane Gravel Pits (Ma.L.), Meadow Lane (M.L.).

**THE GALLEY HILL PITS, NEAR ST. IVES, HUNTS.  
NEW FINDS OF PLEISTOCENE BONES**

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During the past year the pits near Galley Hill crossroads have continued to yield fossil bones. The more interesting of these have been deposited with the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, and in the two plates a selection is illustrated.

Messrs. Inns & Co's. pit, half-a-mile south-west of the Galley Hill crossroads, has ceased work; but not before most of the species suspected in the article published in the Society's Annual Report for 1964 had been proved by further finds, illustrated in plate 1. Rhinoceros has not been identified to species, but a humerus (pl. 1, fig. 2) has proved its presence here as well as in the West End pit. The presence of horse is doubtful, the only two bones having from their appearance been derived from the topsoil. The most remarkable finds are the numerous antler-bases of fallow deer, and almost as common are the massive cannon-bones of bovines, of which representative examples are shown in pl. 1, fig. 11, 12. The more slender cannon-bones of deer are much less common (pl. 1, figs. 8, 9, 10). Careful watch has been kept for indications of Hippopotamus, known in this district from the Alconbury bypass, but entirely without result. A single bone of a bear, pl. 1, fig. 14, resembles those discussed below from the West End pit.

The most remarkable finds from the West End pit, Fentanton (St. Ives Sand and Gravel Co.), have been a series of bones of bears, illustrated in pl. 2. Three bones from fore-limbs (figs. 2, 3, 4) indicate animals of immense size and strength. A jaw fragment (fig. 1), noted in the 1964 report, seems to be from a much smaller individual, though this difference may be due to age or sex rather than to difference of species. Bear bones are almost unknown from the Pleistocene river gravels, so that the present finds are especially welcome.

A new pit has been opened by Messrs. Inns & Co. to the north-west of the Galley Hill crossroads and this too is yielding bones, most of which still await identification. However, mammoth is definitely proved by the presence of molar teeth and Reindeer by an antler. This Reindeer is of special interest, the species being absent from the collections made in the pits mentioned above.

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