

The  
**BEDFORDSHIRE**  
**NATURALIST**

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BEING THE  
JOURNAL  
OF THE  
BEDFORDSHIRE  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
AND FIELD CLUB  
FOR THE YEAR  
1952

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1953

**BEDFORDSHIRE  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY & FIELD CLUB  
1953**

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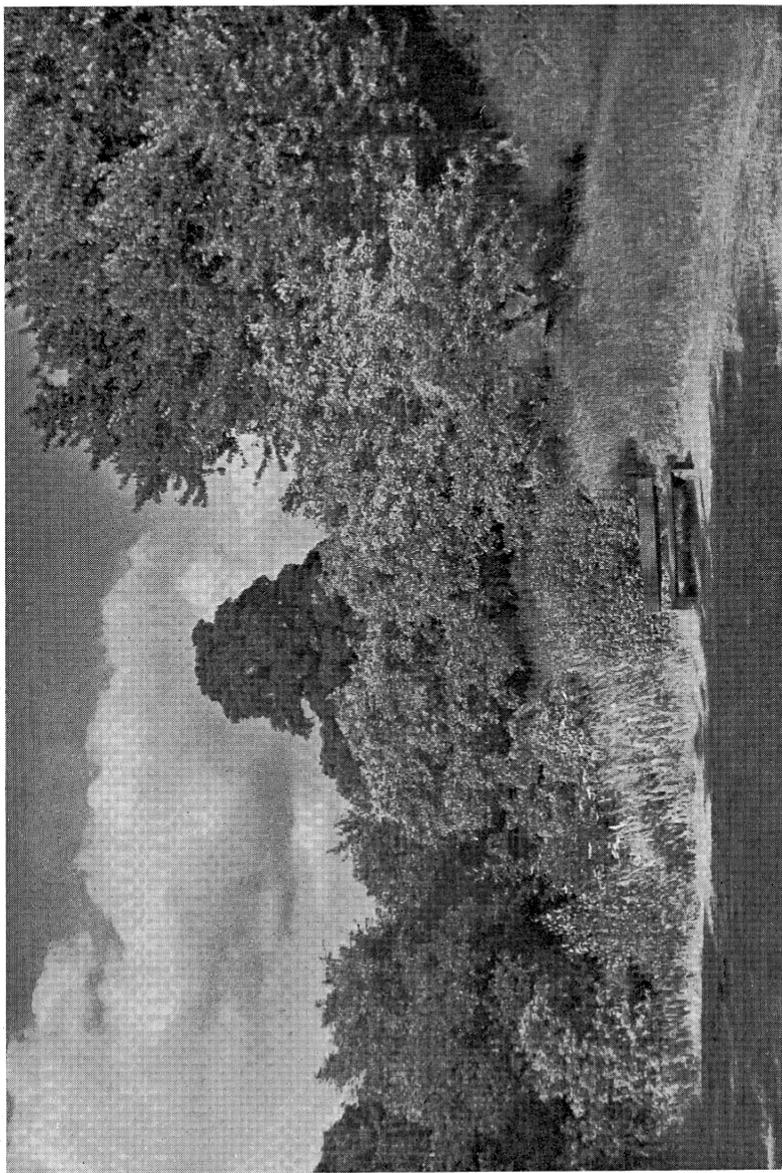
*Vertebrates:*

*Fishes:* F. G. R. Soper, The Briars, Bromham Park, near Bedford

*Amphibians and Reptiles:* F. G. R. Soper, The Briars, Bromham Park, near Bedford

*Birds:* Henry A. S. Key, 61b Goldington Road, Bedford

*Mammals:* Henry A. S. Key, 61b Goldington Road, Bedford



THE SANCTUARY LOOKING NORTH (see p. 15)  
(*Photograph by Oliver G. Pike*)

# THE BEDFORDSHIRE NATURALIST

BEING THE

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## BEDFORDSHIRE

## NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## AND FIELD CLUB

EDITED BY H. F. BARNES, M.A., Ph.D.

No. 7—1952

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## Report of the Council

Although in the main progress achieved during the year can be regarded as satisfactory, the present decline in the number of members leaves much to be desired. It is unfortunately necessary to report a decrease in membership, for whereas the year began with 250 on the list it ended with 232 and, as a further eight resignations took effect from 31st December, 1953 commenced at the low level of 224. While regretting the loss of old members, some of whom have left the county, it is however heartening to see an infusion of new blood and the Council welcomes the thirteen new members who joined during the year.

With the removal of the Hon. Editor, Mr Ray Palmer, to Cornwall in March, the Society lost the services of one whose outstanding enthusiasm for his office has ensured the success of the Journal. As a token of their esteem the members, on the occasion of his last lecture to the Society delivered a few days before his departure, presented him with inscribed volumes and wished god-speed to both him and his wife. Dr H. F. Barnes, who later was appointed to fill the vacancy, has proved a worthy successor.

The Council feel that all members should endeavour to improve the present position by making special efforts in the new year to encourage new members and to stimulate generally a keener interest by better attendance at both indoor and outdoor meetings. Most lectures were reasonably supported though the meetings at Luton still give rise to some concern. This is disappointing for visiting speakers, all of whom earned our indebtedness by charging no fee. The Council will be pleased to receive constructive suggestions for improving the appeal of these talks. In the case of the field excursions the interest remained keen despite weather conditions which were at times unfavourable.

Of all the year's activities the outstanding event was again the Ornithological Conference—the fourth—and as in former years neighbouring societies were well represented among the 160 present. The British Trust for Ornithology delegated Mr W. B. Alexander who gave a delightful talk on the work of bird observatories during the morning session, while in the afternoon the honours were shared by Messrs W. R. P. Bourne and R. A. O. Hickling, who discussed "Diurnal Migration over East Anglia" and "Wintering of Gulls in Britain" respectively. The sales of Trust publications reached a new high level, largely due to the energy of Mr F. C. Gribble. Dr G. A. Metcalfe of Bedford and Mr C. W. Holt of Leicester were applauded for their excellent colour-films of bird-life.

It is unfortunate that field work of the Ornithological Section flagged somewhat during the year owing to lack of leaders, though there are now signs that this will be remedied in 1953. The Section-Secretary earned the gratitude of members for his untiring direction and it is hoped that future outings will be accorded the increased support they deserve. The same may be said of the Botanical Section under Mr A. W. Guppy. A river-dredging experiment coupled with a subsequent exhibition of "finds" was an innovation which aroused much interest and such events are to be repeated.

The cost of publishing the Journal remains unavoidably high and donations to the Publication Fund will be welcome. These should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer suitably earmarked for that purpose. The Council places on record its gratitude to the Royal Society for the grant of £10 from the Government Fund for Grants-in-aid. The Library has now been housed at the Nature Room of the Bedford Training College, with Miss E. Proctor as Hon. Librarian. Members should avail themselves of the loan of these volumes. The major part of the library was a gift of books from Mr Ray Palmer, making the Society still further indebted to him. Such generosity is warmly appreciated and it is hoped that others will donate suitable books.

All who have aided the Society in several ways, including the Press, are thanked for their good offices and the Council records its appreciation for this assistance which gives fresh incentive for renewed endeavours.

H. A. S. KEY, *Hon. General Secretary*

# THE BEDFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND FIELD CLUB

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1952

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1952

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in Bank, 1st January 1952 ...			4 14 0	By Cost of Journal ... ..	70	5	6
„ Subscriptions—1950-51 ... ..	2	5	0	„ Printing and Stationery ... ..	3	0	0
„ 1952 ... ..	91	8	6	„ Hire of Halls ... ..	2	10	0
„ 1953 ... ..	7	12	6	„ Hire of Coaches ... ..	6	17	6
			101 6 0	„ Postages ... ..	10	5	0
„ Coach Fares ... ..			6 12 0	„ Bank Charges ... ..	13	0	
„ Sale of Journals ... ..			11 11 4	„ Cash in Bank, 31st December 1952 ...	61	13	7
„ Donations to Journal Fund ... ..			10 18 0				
„ Royal Society: Government Grant-in-aid ... ..			10 0 0				
„ Advertisements in Journal ... ..			5 0 0				
„ Ornithological Conference—							
Sale of Tickets and Refreshments	22	1	0				
Less Expenses ... ..	16	17	9				
			5 3 3				
			£155 4 7				
					£155 4 7		

We have examined the above Account with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify the same to be correct in accordance therewith.

BEDFORD,  
9th February 1953

McPHERSON, TIMMINS & EDNIE,  
*Chartered Accountants, Honorary Auditors.*

## Report of the Hon. Treasurer

The year started with the small balance of £4 14s. 0d. Our income from subscriptions was much the same as in the previous year. Coach trips were largely cut out and so we made a considerable saving. The size of the Journal was also reduced, resulting in a reduction of costs from £100 2s. 6d. to £70 5s. 6d.

We have to thank the Royal Society for £10 from the Government Grant-in-aid of Scientific Publications and we are again indebted to those Members of the Society who have so generously responded to the appeal for our publication fund.

The Ornithological Conference showed a profit of £5 3s. 2d. This excellent result was largely brought about by the splendid efforts of the ladies who managed the refreshments, thus making a very great saving on the catering expenses.

There are still a good number of Members of the Society who do not pay their subscriptions as promptly as one could hope and I do appeal to them to pay their dues.

Our thanks are once more due to Mr Eric Lucas for kindly auditing our accounts in an honorary capacity.

At the end of the year our Cash in Bank amounted to £61 13s. 7d.

W. H. BONNETT, *Hon. Treasurer*

### MEMBERSHIP

	1.1.52	Resignations	Presumed to have resigned	New Members	31.12.52
Ordinary ...	169	5	16	8	156
Corporate...	13	—	—	2	15
Student ...	10	2	2	2	8
Associate ...	39	1	2	1	37
Junior ...	19	2	1	—	16
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>232</b>

After eight additional resignations as from the end of the year and various transfers had taken place, the year 1953 began with 150 Ordinary Members, 15 Corporate, 11 Student, 34 Associate and 14 Junior Members, making a total of 224.

HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

## PROCEEDINGS

### Indoor Meetings

48TH ORDINARY MEETING, 17th January 1952, Bedford. "Animal Behaviour", by Miss E. Proctor, Attendance 32. *Chairman*: Dr H. F. Barnes.

49TH ORDINARY MEETING, 24th January 1952, Luton. "The Abundance of local Rarities, Animals and Insects", by B. R. Laurence, B.Sc. Attendance 12. *Chairman*: Dr J. G. Dony.

50TH ORDINARY MEETING, 7th February 1952, Bedford. "Snails", by B. Verdcourt, B.Sc. Attendance 30. *Chairman*: Dr J. G. Dony.

51ST ORDINARY MEETING, 21st February 1952, Luton. "Ferns, with special reference to Bedfordshire Species", by Peter Taylor. Attendance 24. *Chairman*: Dr J. G. Dony.

5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 28th February 1952, Bedford. Details as printed in the last issue, No. 6, 1952, pp. 9-10.

52ND ORDINARY MEETING, 6th March 1952, Bedford. "Social Wasps and Bumble Bees", by Ray Palmer, F.R.E.S. Attendance 32. *Chairman*: Mr F. G. R. Soper. This was Mr Palmer's last lecture to the Society before leaving Bedfordshire to reside in Cornwall. The Society in recognition of his valued services presented him, through the Chairman, with inscribed volumes and wished him and Mrs Palmer all happiness in their new home. A photographic record of the presentation was secured.

53RD ORDINARY MEETING, 20th March 1952, Bedford. "A Botanist in Blunderland", by A. W. Guppy. Attendance 30. *Chairman*: Mr F. G. R. Soper.

54TH ORDINARY MEETING, 27th March 1952, Luton. "Nature by Night", by Henry A. S. Key. Attendance 30. *Chairman*: Mr F. G. R. Soper.

55TH ORDINARY MEETING, 30th October 1952, Luton. "Birds in Spitzbergen", by C. Dalgety. Attendance 41. *Chairman*: Mr W. E. K. Piercy.

56TH ORDINARY MEETING, 6th November 1952, Bedford. "A Naturalist in Egypt", by Dr C. B. Williams. Attendance 33. *Chairman*: Dr H. F. Barnes.

57TH ORDINARY MEETING, 27th November 1952, Luton. "Iceland, its Natural History", by Henry A. S. Key. Attendance 42. *Chairman*: Dr G. A. Metcalfe.

58TH ORDINARY MEETING, 11th December 1952, Bedford. "A Review of the 1952 Summer (Entomology)", by Bernard West. Attendance 23. *Chairman*: Mr F. G. R. Soper.

## Field Meetings

SUNDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1952, YELNOW LANE, SHARNBROOK. *Leader*: Mr F. C. Gribble. A party of fifteen members assembled on this very cold day during which there was a strong easterly wind. A Badger's earth was found early on during the walk and several parties of Finches, Marsh Tits, Long-Tailed Tits and Goldfinches were seen. On the disused Podington aerodrome a party of Golden Plovers was on the ploughed land between the runways. The most interesting sight was that of Hazel bushes already showing fully developed catkins.

SUNDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 1952, EYEBROOK RESERVOIR, LEICS. *Leader*: Mr Henry A. S. Key. Twenty-two members made a coach trip to the Reservoir. The weather was dull, windy and raining, but in spite of this an unusually large number of Ducks and Gulls were seen. The former included Mallard, Wigeon, Pintail, Goosander (over 40), Pochard, Goldeneye (6) and Teal, while the latter numbering several thousand (at the time of roosting) were mostly Black-Headed with a fair sprinkling of Herring Gulls. More than 100 Great-Crested Grebes were also present and a Short-Eared Owl was flushed from the fir plantation.

SUNDAY, 20TH APRIL 1952, ELTISLEY WOOD. *Leader*: Mr K. West. This was a botanical meeting. Twenty-five members were present and the weather was fine and sunny. The main object of this trip was to see the Oxlip which was found in full bloom and in plenty. Hayley Wood was later visited where Oxlip and Adders Tongue also were found.

THURSDAY, 24TH APRIL 1952, BURY END FARM, STAGSDEN. *Leader:* Mr F. C. Gribble. During the evening a party of twelve members was shown round the pond and plantation and also Hardwick Spinney. Nests of Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Blue Tit, Robin, Mallard and Moorhen were pointed out. Members were also shown the construction of nest boxes from logs for various types of birds together with other methods of attracting birds to gardens and spinneys. Items of botanical interest were also noted.

SUNDAY, 4TH MAY 1952, GREAT BRAMINGHAM WOOD. *Leader:* Mr S. W. Rodell. It poured with rain all day—three boys and the leader only present. Nothing of interest was noted.

SUNDAY, 18TH MAY 1952, ODELL GREAT WOOD. *Leader:* Miss G. H. Day. A delightful walk through the wood in excellent weather was enjoyed by the twenty-eight members present. The Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) was not yet in flower; flowering Adders Tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Early Purple Orchis (*Orchis mascula*) and Birds Nest Orchis (*O. nidus-avis*) were seen in the wood. A Robin's nest with five eggs and a Willow Wren's nest were found.

THURSDAY, 22ND MAY 1952, COOPERS HILL, AMPHILL. *Leader:* Mr W. Champkin. Nine members were present at this evening meeting; the weather was fine and warm. A few of the common species of birds were seen including Willow Warbler, Meadow Pipit and Skylark. The marshy patch at the bottom of the hill proved interesting to the botanists who obtained specimens of the Great Horse-Tail. The party afterwards moved off to Clophill where the plantation on the side of Pennyfathers Hill was explored. Specimens from the nests of Wood Ants were taken and a young Tree Pipit was caught and ringed after its mother with food in its beak had been carefully watched.

THURSDAY, 5TH JUNE 1952, EXETER WOOD. *Leader:* Mr J. S. Dunn. The interest of this meeting was mainly botanical. Sixteen members were present. While nothing of special note was found a good selection of flowering shrubs was seen; Spindle, Dogwood, Wild Rose, Guelder Rose, Wayfaring Tree and Privet were in flower. A large colony of Great Wild Valerian was found in a marshy clearing in the wood. Nightingales were heard shortly before the close of the meeting.

SUNDAY, 8TH JUNE 1952, KINGS WOOD. *Leader:* Mr W. Durant. Twenty-seven members met in continuous rain, but it was decided to carry on in the hopes of the rain ceasing. A general tour of the wood was made, but the search for plants was hindered by the steady increase in downpour and it was decided to terminate the meeting at 4.30 p.m. after 38 different species of plants had been logged. Nothing of special interest was found.

SUNDAY, 15TH JUNE 1952, BLOWS DOWNS. *Leader:* Mr H. Cole. Nine members attended this meeting, the day being very warm. Several Red-Backed Shrikes were seen, also Whinchats and Meadow Pipits. The usual botanical species of this area were noted.

THURSDAY, 19TH JUNE 1952, BROMHAM PARK. *Leader:* Mr R. Skinner. Twenty-three members enjoyed a very pleasant evening. During the walk along the river the herony was noted with interest. The gardens were inspected and afterwards the members were entertained by Mr and Mrs and Miss Skinner in the house when supper with strawberries from the garden was served.

SUNDAY, 29TH JUNE 1952, CLOPHILL—CAINHOE. *Leader:* Mr F. C. Gribble. A very warm day; twelve members were present. Many of the rough meadows in this area have now been ploughed but in the remaining rough fields near Cainhoe Castle Reed Buntings, Sedge Warblers and Reed Warblers were seen. A Tree Pipit in full song was seen on the Castle mound but no nest could be found. Returning via Warren Wood a Nightjar and its nest were found and later a Grasshopper Warbler was heard singing among herbage near the main road.

MONDAY, 7TH JULY 1952, BOTANICAL EXHIBITION. See page 7.

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY 1952, RIVER DREDGING FOR AQUATIC LIFE. See page 8.

SUNDAY, 13TH JULY 1952, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BEECHWOODS. *Leader:* Mr Henry A. S. Key. Twenty people journeyed in five cars through Woburn and thence by back lanes to Totternhoe and Ivinghoe Beacon where the first stop was made and typical flora was collected. Lunch was taken in Ashridge Park from where the party moved on through Aldbury to the escarpments above Tring when again a halt was made to collect specimens. By a devious route through the typical beech country the convoy of cars arrived for tea at Great Missenden and afterwards moved on to Monks Risborough, pausing for a while to study a Bodger's cabin en route. After studying the vegetation of a dried-out reservoir near Wendover the company returned to Bedford.

SATURDAY, 19TH JULY 1952, CHALGRAVE—SUNDON. *Leader:* Mr B. R. Laurence. Only four members were present on this hot sunny day. The usual flora and fauna for this time of year were found, although the hot weather was too dry for some of the insects. *Eriophorum angustifolium* and other marsh-loving plants were flowering on the small piece of marshy ground known as Boggy Bank.

SATURDAY, 2ND AUGUST 1952, MOTH SUGARING, BURY END FARM, STAGSDEN. *Leader:* Mr B. B. West. Fourteen members were present, the weather being unseasonably cold by nightfall. A tour of Mr Elliot's ground was made in the late evening, a considerable survey being made of one meadow with the object of assessing the number of ant hills covered with thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) with a view to the possible introduction of the Large Blue butterfly; this insect flew there in the nineteenth century. Larvae of the Painted Lady were found and several Common Blue butterflies in excellent condition asleep on grass stems. By nightfall the cold wind had come and in spite of several rounds to look at the "sugared" trees nothing of importance was seen.

SUNDAY, 24TH AUGUST 1952, NORTHAMPTON SEWAGE FARM. *Leader:* Mr Henry A. S. Key. Twenty members were present at this ornithological meeting. The main interest was the thirteen species of Waders seen including Common, Green and Wood Sandpiper; Common and Spotted Redshank; Greenshank, Curlew, Ruff, Turnstone, Ringed Plover and Little Stint.

SUNDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 1952, BARTON HILLS. *Leader:* Mr W. Durant. Only two members and the leader braved the decidedly bad weather conditions of high winds and heavy showers to reach the meeting place. The meeting was cancelled.

SUNDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 1952, MYSTERY TOUR WITH CARS. *Leader:* Mr K. West. This excursion was of general interest. Many stops were made at particularly interesting places, e.g. Barnwell Wold and Barnack where the foliage of the Pasque flower was found in profusion. The Painted Lady and Red Admiral butterflies were seen feeding on ivy at Kimbolton, both having survived the long wet cold spell. During the day well over a hundred flowers were found, some of course out of season probably due to the late rains.

SUNDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1952, FUNGUS FORAY, CLOPHILL AREA. See page 8.

SUNDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 1952, TEMPSFORD—SANDY. *Leader:* Mr F. C. Gribble. Nine members were present on this fine and sunny day. Among the places visited was the old starling roost near the aerodrome at Tempsford. This is a thick thorn copse and, like that of Elstow, almost impenetrable. Starlings, Lapwings and various parties of Tits and Finches were seen all along the route. Coming into Sandy several Fieldfares were seen and a large charm of Goldfinches.

## Botanical Section

Two special meetings of the Botanical Section were held during the year, both during the month of July.

On Monday, 17th July, a Botanical Exhibition was held in the Nature Room from 6 to 9 p.m. and was attended by 20 members. Mr Durant showed about 35 species mostly from the north of the county. These included the Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*) and the Dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum*). Some

interesting species from Cheddar were the Lesser Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum minus*), the Mountain St John's Wort (*Hypericum montanum*) and the Ivy Broomrape (*Orobanche hederacea*). Miss G. H. Day showed specimens from the Odell and Harrold neighbourhood, including the Nettle-leaved Bell-flower, (*Campanula Trachelium*) and the Crested Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum cristatum*). The Botanical Secretary showed plants from Souldrop and Bolnhurst, including the Zig-zag Clover (*Trifolium medium*), the Dyers' Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), the Sweet Milk Vetch (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), and the Elecampane (*Inula Helenium*). Also exhibited was a plant of the Small Yellow Balsam (*Impatiens parviflora*) now growing naturalised in his garden at Bromham. It was perhaps unfortunate that the exhibition was kept open for three hours; the attendance at any one time was small, and it would have been better to concentrate it into a shorter period. It is to be hoped, too, that on a future occasion more members will bring individual specimens for identification and discussion, rather than rely upon a series of prepared specimens.

On Thursday, 10th July, a well-attended river survey was held at Moor End, Kempston, by kind permission of Mr H. C. M. Felce. It was unfortunate that the activities of the Catchment Board in recent clearing of the banks must have considerably reduced the number of species. Nevertheless, a most interesting evening was spent in plotting the cross-section of the river-bed and recording the plant and animal life. There was a wide variety in the river craft which appeared on this occasion; some of the younger and more active members took the opportunity of enjoying a swim. This is the first time that such a survey has been carried out, and it is hoped that others will be planned for this year.

A. W. GUPPY

## The Fungus Foray

We were again very fortunate in having Dr R. W. G. Dennis, of Kew, as our leader and also in having clement weather for the occasion.

This season the foray was held on 12th October in the Clophill district: the State Forest, Clophill Warren Wood and Maulden Woods were each visited. These woods are all situated on the Greensand. The fact that the State Forest is coniferous, whilst the other woods are mostly oak, aspen and sweet chestnut, explains the wide variety of species collected. Altogether 82 species are listed below and this despite a universally poor agaric season.

The most interesting find was that of *Coprinus funarianum* Metrod. by Mrs Milne-Redhead. This is the first collection of the species from the British Isles. Another uncommon fungus gathered was *Mycena lasiosperma* Bres.

*Amanita citrina* (Schaeff.) Roques; *Armillaria mellea* (Vahl.) Fr.; *Lepiota amianthina* (Scop.) Fr.; *Tricholoma cinerascens* (Bull.) Fr.; *T. nudum* Fr.; *T. rutilans* (Schaeff.) Fr.; *Clitocybe aurantiaca* (Wulf.) Studer; *C. clavipes* (Pers.) Fr.; *C. hirneola* Fr. var. *ovispora* Lange; *C. nebularis* (Batsch) Fr.; *C. vibecina* Fr.; *Laccaria amethystina* (Vaill.) Cke.; *L. laccata* (Scop.) Cke.; *Mycena ammoniaca* Fr.; *M. galericulata* (Scop.) Fr.; *M. galopus* (Pers.) Fr.; *M. inclinata* Fr.; *M. lasiosperma* Bres.; *M. metata* Fr.; *M. polygramma* (Bull.) Fr.; *Collybia ambusta* Fr.; *C. butyracea* (Bull.) Fr.; *C. maculata* (A. & S.) Fr.; *Marasmius acervatus* (Fr.) Pearson & Dennis; *M. oreades* (Bolt.) Fr.; *Lactarius glycyosmus* Fr.; *L. plumbeus* Fr.; *L. rufus* (Scop.) Fr.; *L. torminosus* Fr.; *Russula azurea* Bres.; *R. fallax* (Fr.) Cke.; *R. ochroleuca* Fr.; *R. sororia* Fr.; *R. venosa* Vel.; *Pluteus cervinus* (Schaeff.) Fr.; *Entoloma sericeum* (Bull.) Fr.; *Hebeloma crustuliniforme* (Bull.) Fr.; *H. mesophaeum* (Pers.) Fr.; *H. sinapizans* (Paul.) Fr.; *Flammula carbonaria* Fr.; *F. sapinea* Fr.; *Galera hypnorum* (Batsch) Fr.; *G. spicula* Ricken forma *macrospora* Kühn; *Crepidotus variabilis* (Pers.) Fr.; *Inocybe asterospora* Quél.; *I. cincinnata* Fr.; *I. geophylla* (Sow.) Fr.; *I. geophylla* var. *lilacina* Fr.; *Paxillus atrotomentosus* (Batsch) Fr.; *P. involutus* (Batsch) Fr.; *Stropharia aeruginosa* (Curtis) Fr.; *Hypopholoma fasciculare* (Huds.) Fr.; *H. hydrophilum* (Bull.) Fr.; *H. sublateritium* Fr.; *Coprinus funarianum* Metrod.

*Boletus badius* Fr.; *B. chrysenteron* (Bull.) Fr.; *B. scaber* (Bull.) Krombh.  
*Polystictus versicolor* (L.) Sacc.; *Daedalea quercina* (L.) Fr.; *Fomes*  
*amosus* (Fr.) Cke.

*Acia fusco-atra* (Fr.) Pat.

*Clavaria acuta* Fr.; *C. cristata* Fr.; *C. fusiformis* Fr.; *Typhula erythropus*  
 Fr.

*Coniophora puteana* (Schum.) Karst.; *Stereum purpureum* Pers.; *Thelophora*  
*terrestris* Ehrn. ex Fr.

*Lycoperdon echinatum* Pers.; *L. nigrescens* Pers.; *L. perlatum* Pers.; *L.*  
*pyriforme* Schaeff.

*Xylaria hypoxylon* (L.) Grev.

*Leotia lubrica* (Scop.) Pers.; *Mitruia abietis* Fr.; *Peziza aurantia* Pers.  
 ex Fr.; *Helotium aciculare* Pers.; *Hyaloscypha hyalina* (Pers. ex Fr.) Boud.

*Fuligo septica* Gmelin; *Perichaena corticalis* Rost.; *Trichia varia* Pers.

D. REID

## Ornithological Section

For the second successive year a field meeting was the first of the Section's activities, the venue being the Yelnow Lane. The usual winter parties of tits and finches were seen and in addition several Golden Plover on the disused aerodrome at Podington. In February a number of members journeyed to the Eye Brook Reservoir, Leicestershire, and were introduced to the various species of wild fowl which included Pintail, Goosander and Goldeneye. A Short-Eared Owl and several Goldcrests were seen.

At Bury End Farm, Stagsden, in April a party was shown the various nests that had been located in the area and the methods of constructing nest boxes and other means of attracting birds to gardens and spinneys. The collection of birds owned by Mr Elliott was also visited when darkness ended the outdoor activities.

Visits were also made to Ampthill and Clophill. At the latter a new area for Reed Warblers and Tree Pipits was found near Cainhoe Castle. Further south on Blows Downs near Luton several Red-Backed Shrikes were seen.

During October Mr C. T. Dalgety gave a most interesting lecture on Birds in Spitzbergen to an audience in Luton. This included the original cine-films of Brent Goose and Knot in their arctic breeding grounds. A walk from Tempsford to Sandy was also held during this month and many interesting species were seen; numbers of Fieldfares being particularly strong.

In November the Fourth Ornithological Conference was held in Bedford. This was again most successful and following the discussion in the afternoon several members of the Section made valuable contributions regarding the roosting and feeding places of gulls in the county. Help was also given in observing diurnal migration and in exchange we received from Cambridge several reports on migrating starlings which were of considerable assistance in observations on the starlings' roost at Elstow.

Apart from these meetings several members completed census forms for the British Trust for Ornithology enquiry held last year. It is hoped that more attention still will be given to these national enquiries in future.

It will be seen that the activities of the year have been mainly in the nature of field work. Meetings were particularly well attended, in no case were numbers below ten. This is very gratifying to the organisers who trust that this support will continue to grow.

F. C. GRIBBLE

## Fourth Bedfordshire Ornithological Conference

SUNDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 1952

As in previous years this meeting was held in the County Headquarters of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, where an assembly of about 160 representatives from Societies in our own and contiguous counties enjoyed another memorable day.

In opening the proceedings Mr W. E. K. Piercy, M.B.O.U., from the chair, said how pleased he was, as a regional representative of the British Trust for Ornithology, to extend a special welcome to members of the Trust to this joint gathering. The Trust had also delegated one of its senior members to give the address at the morning session and he, Mr W. B. Alexander, M.A., needed no introduction.

An authority on the subject, Mr Alexander spoke on "Bird Observatories", giving details of the work carried out at such widely distributed stations as Fair Isle, Isle of May, Spurn Head, Gibraltar Point, Cley, Lundy, Channel Islands, etc., illustrating his remarks with a series of excellent slides both in monochrome and colour. Such keen interest was evinced in the talk that subsequent discussion was only brought to an abrupt close by the timed break for lunch. There was hearty applause when the Chairman thanked the speaker and he, in reply, expressed his gratitude to Mr L. A. Speed for his services as projectionist.

For the first time a group of ladies of the Beds. Nat. Hist. Soc. and Field Club undertook all the catering arrangements. The improvement was noticeable and warmly commented upon on all sides. During the interval Mr F. C. Gribble, in charge of the Trust stall of publications, was responsible for selling literature to the record sum of nearly £10.

The afternoon session opened with an address by Mr W. R. P. Bourne, from London, entitled "Diurnal Migration over East Anglia", in which he described the westward drift of Larks and other migrants, chiefly during the autumn months, from the North Sea over the Wash and Eastern Counties. The deflection of the drift-stream of birds by the geographical and climatic factors and the effects of air currents in determining the "waves" of bird movement were explained by means of compilations of the observations of groups of watchers in the area under discussion. The difficulty of arriving at satisfactory conclusions due to insufficient data was mentioned and an appeal was made for further observation of such movements.

Following on, Mr R. A. O. Hickling, of Leicester, spoke on "Wintering of Gulls in Britain", a survey which he is carrying out under the auspices of the Trust. Interesting details from his own and contributed records of movements, feeding and roosting territories of several species were given. These led to a lively discussion which culminated in a request by the speaker for a greater number of watchers to participate in the enquiry. Both lecturers were warmly thanked by Mr F. G. R. Soper on behalf of the audience and they were accorded a round of applause.

The business of the meeting concluded with announcements by the Hon. Organising Secretary and the Chairman in his final remarks appealed for a further increase in membership of the Trust.

An hour of cine-films in colour by Mr C. W. Holt, M.B.O.U., of Leicester, and Dr G. A. Metcalfe, M.A., of Bedford, was deeply appreciated and ideally rounded off the programme. Mr Holt's film of the display of the Corncrake received its première. The gathering showed its esteem of these competent photographers by a spontaneous outburst of clapping.

HENRY A. S. KEY, *Hon. Organising Sec.*

## Annual General Meeting 1953

THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in the Nature Room of the Bedford Training College, The Avenue, Bedford on Thursday, 19th February 1953.

An attendance of 55 Members was presided over by Mr F. G. R. Soper in the absence of the Society's Chairman, Mr W. E. K. Piercy. In opening the proceedings the Hon. General Secretary was called on to read the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and these were adopted. Then followed the Report of the Council for 1952, which is printed on page 2 of this Journal, also read by Mr Henry A. S. Key. The report was adopted without dissent.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr W. H. Bonnett, then gave his Report and Statement of Accounts for the past year. These are printed on pages 4 and 3. The Report and Statement were unanimously adopted and the Hon. Treasurer thanked for his services.

Mr F. C. Gribble gave an interesting report of the somewhat curtailed activities of the Ornithological Section (see page 9). Need for an increase in field work was indicated. Mr. A. W. Guppy, for the Botanical Section (see page 7), was confident that 1953 would see a marked improvement and spoke of the river dredging experiment of the past year which it was intended should be repeated. Both reports were adopted and the secretaries were thanked.

Then followed the Election of the Officers. The Chairman was pleased to be able to announce that His Grace the Duke of Bedford had accepted the invitation to remain as President of the Society. Mr W. E. K. Piercy did not seek re-election as Chairman and Mr F. G. R. Soper had been nominated to the vacancy. Dr H. F. Barnes, who since the departure from the county of Mr Ray Palmer, the former Hon. Editor, had held that office, was re-nominated; so were all the other retiring officers. These having confirmed their readiness to serve were duly elected.

To fill the vacancies on the Council nine nominations had been received leaving one seat to be filled at the discretion of the Council. A feeling was expressed that if possible this should be offered to a suitable member from the south of the county. Without opposition the nine nominated were elected on a show of hands. They were Miss E. Proctor, Dr J. G. Dony and Messrs J. S. Dunn, W. Durant, F. C. Gribble, A. W. Guppy, S. W. Rodell, B. B. West and K. E. West.

Under "Any other business" several interesting points were raised, including the desirability of organising social events, the confirmation that the fee for Life Membership was £10, and a request that Council should earnestly consider the possibility of suitable coach trips during the coming summer. Dr H. F. Barnes, as Hon. Editor, spoke on matters concerning the forthcoming number of the Journal and the Hon. General Secretary outlined proposed ecological surveys. Mr G. H. Stansfield suggested that the Council should consider whether the Society should acquire its own lantern or projector.

The business of the meeting then being concluded Mr Soper announced that Mr Key would entertain the audience with an illustrated lecture entitled "Wanderings in Britain and Iceland". Beginning with Bedfordshire and illustrating his remarks with nearly two hundred colour slides, the speaker after visiting places of interest in the county went further afield to neighbouring counties and thence to Central Wales, the Lake District and North Scotland before concluding with a description of the trips made by his wife, himself and Mr G. H. Stansfield in Iceland during the summer of 1952. Mr F. C. Gribble officiated as projectionist.

# The Weather of 1952

By A. W. GUPPY

Unlike its two predecessors, 1952 had a more normal spring and summer, but these were followed by a wet and unusually cold autumn. Using as a criterion the number of days on which the temperature reached, or exceeded,  $80^{\circ}$ , there were 13 such in 1952, as compared with 1 in 1951, 5 in 1950, and 19 in 1949.

The first fortnight of January was comparatively mild ( $51^{\circ}$  on the 15th), but the second was much chillier, with slight snow on the 23rd and extremely cold days on the 26th and 27th. The following day saw a change to milder conditions which continued with only slight intermissions throughout February and the first three weeks of March. As usual, February was the driest month of the year, and no measurable rain fell on the 14 days 19th February to 3rd March inclusive.

A brief cold spell during the last week in March, with slight snow on 4 days, was succeeded by a mild April with rather more thundery tendencies than usual. The 17th and 18th were brilliantly fine and cloudless, and the temperature on the following day reached  $72^{\circ}$ .

The first warm period of the year occurred in mid-May both the 16th and 17th being very fine and hot; on the latter  $80^{\circ}$  was reached for the first time. An abrupt collapse followed the heavy thunderstorm of the 19th May, and it was not until the 24th June that a real spell of summer heat began. The maximum temperature rose daily to a peak of  $87^{\circ}$  on 1st July, a particularly oppressive day, and this temperature was repeated five days later. After a cooler week from the 11th to the 18th July, a second warm period lasted until the end of the month, a rainless fortnight, which, with the February drought, was one of the two longest dry periods of the year.

There was an abrupt change to cooler, wetter, conditions on 1st August, and although the second half of the month was more settled, there were no further very warm periods. September was unusually cool and wet, the temperature exceeding  $70^{\circ}$  on only 3 days, and failing to reach  $60^{\circ}$  on 11 others. October and the first half of November were fairly mild, with a very wet and stormy period between 22nd October and 6th November. The latter half of November was much colder, with day temperatures below  $40^{\circ}$  and several keen frosts ( $20^{\circ}$  minimum on the night of 24th-25th). There were appreciable falls of snow and sleet during the last 5 days of the month. The cold weather continued into December, and after a brief intermission of 3 days, from the 10th to the 12th, a further period of rain, sleet, and snow occurred during the third week. The year closed cold, damp, and foggy.

## TEMPERATURE

The average temperatures for the various months are here tabulated, and the average compared with that for the previous year. It will be seen that this was  $0.83^{\circ}$  higher than in 1951, due to the much higher spring temperatures. On the other hand, September and December were about  $4^{\circ}$  colder than in 1951.

January	36.81	July	65.29
February	37.65	August	63.19
March	44.43	September	53.27
April	50.85	October	48.01
May	58.16	November	39.10
June	60.48	December	36.02

Average for the whole year 49.44

This compares with 48.61 in 1951 and 49.09 in 1950

The two hottest days were the 1st and 8th July, both with 87°. At Carlton, 91° was recorded on the former day. On one day, 26th January, the temperature failed to reach freezing point, and only just reached it on the following day.

Night frosts occurred on 67 nights, the latest being 2nd April, the earliest, the 10th October. The coldest nights were those of 26th-27th January with 21°, and 24th-25th November with 20°.

#### RAIN AND SNOW

The rainfall was only slightly in excess of normal at most stations, but there were considerable divergences between places comparatively close to one another. These were, in part, attributable to the rainfall accompanying thunderstorms. Thus, the heavy storm of 19th May, which produced 1.27 inches at Carlton, gave 0.48 inches at Bromham, and only 0.17 at Cardington. An unusual feature was the low July rainfall at all stations, due to the complete absence of thundery conditions throughout the month.

Snow fell on 17 days, which was a higher number than in any of the preceding years since 1947. Amounts were not large, however, and in all cases thawing was fairly rapid. The heaviest day's total was on 29th March, equivalent to a rainfall of 0.57 inch.

#### THUNDERSTORMS

Thunder was heard on 15 occasions, though not accompanied by rain on all of them. The storm of the 19th May has already been referred to; that during the night of 15th-16th August yielded 0.57 inch of rain, while that of the night of 15th-16th April gave 0.28 inch. The storm of 6th August which was very severe in south-east Bedfordshire and in Hertfordshire, produced only a slight shower at Bromham.

The writer would like to take this opportunity of thanking those who send their records for inclusion in this report and of asking others to do so, especially from the south of the county. Nothing of any kind has ever been received from Luton, for example, although it is unlikely that there is a complete absence of observers there.

In conclusion, one would like to pay a tribute to the memory of Mr J. Arnold Whitchurch whose recent death has brought to a close an unbroken series of weather observations dating back to 1900. It was typical of him that a request from the writer for information on the rainfall of Great Barford should have brought back, almost by return of post, the complete record for nearly 50 years, month by month, all in manuscript.

## RAINFALL FOR 1952

	Ampthill	Aspley Guise	Bedford	Bromham	Cardington	Carlton	Kempston	Silsoe
January ... ..	1.45	1.51	1.40	1.33	1.14	1.60	1.32	1.18
February ... ..	0.59	0.74	0.63	0.57	0.33	0.68	0.55	0.48
March ... ..	3.17	3.47	3.18	3.06	1.63	2.89	3.04	2.12
April ... ..	1.86	1.70	1.75	1.86	1.67	2.03	1.86	1.45
May ... ..	1.66	2.56	1.89	1.68	1.36	2.85	1.93	1.60
June ... ..	1.73	1.34	0.98	1.05	0.82	1.24	0.90	1.04
July ... ..	0.37	0.40	0.58	0.44	0.46	0.58	0.51	0.31
August ... ..	2.78	3.31	3.36	2.36	2.80	2.66	1.98	2.99
September ... ..	2.98	2.32	3.47	3.18	1.66	3.16	3.58	2.24
October ... ..	2.91	3.74	2.80	2.65	2.46	2.93	2.87	2.52
November ... ..	3.70	3.64	2.95	2.50	3.35	3.56	3.06	2.80
December ... ..	2.19	2.14	2.12	1.29	1.78	2.47	2.09	1.82
TOTALS ... ..	25.39	26.87	25.11	21.97	19.47	26.65	23.69	20.55

Ampthill (Mr Horne)  
 Aspley Guise (Mr Young)  
 Bedford (Mr Lock)  
 Bromham (the writer)

Cardington Aerodrome (per Mr Speed)  
 Carlton (Col. Battcock)  
 Kempston (Mr Payne)  
 Silsoe (N.I.A.E., Wrest Park, per Mr Dunn)



THE MALE FOX PICKS UP AND FOLLOWS A SCENT IN THE SANCTUARY

*(Photograph by Oliver G. Pike)*

## A Bedfordshire Nature Sanctuary

BY OLIVER G. PIKE, HON. F.R.P.S.

As an example of what can be done in forming a nature sanctuary, we might take a lesson from that famous Canadian, Jack Miner. In his early days he was a trapper, but from his twenty-ninth birthday, to when he died at the ripe old age of eighty, he devoted all his time to turning his farm into a haven for all wild creatures. He tamed them all magically; they all knew him as a friend. His estate was absurdly small, yet the wild things crowded there for sanctuary. The man who earned his first five dollars trapping skunks, ended his days as one of the greatest men who ever showed us that wild nature may be wooed and won by kindness.

Thirty years ago my wife and I were searching for a country home. We travelled hundreds of miles by rail and car, eventually to find at Leighton Buzzard a large bungalow standing in just over an acre of land. The latter was not a plot that would appeal to many, for two-thirds consisted of an old disused pit from which clay and sand had in the past been taken for making bricks. But as a place for studying and photographing nature it appealed to us. The old brick kiln, converted into a barn still stood, although it was many years since the last brick was made there.

The banks of the pit were overgrown with brambles, bushes and trees, while in the undergrowth a variety of wild flowers showed among the thick matted grass. The place appeared to have possibilities for turning into a nature sanctuary, and we decided to make this our aim. Now, thirty years later, as we look back we can realise how successful our efforts have been, for in this small tract of land, standing in the heart of a hunting district, where fox, otter hunting, and hare coursing are carried on throughout the seasons, numbers of mammals and birds discovered this was a haven of refuge where they could live in peace. Thirty-seven different species of birds have nested here and successfully reared their young, and twelve different species of mammals have brought up families, while four other species of the latter have visited us.

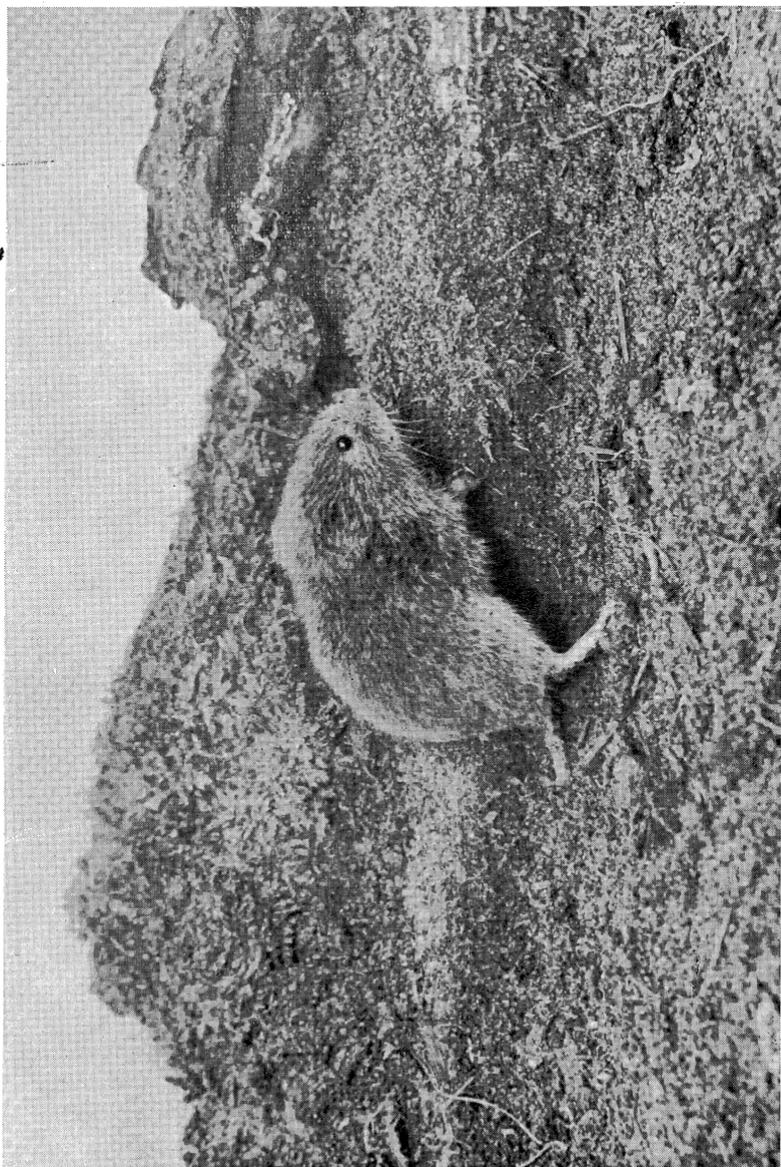
On the south-east side of our garden sanctuary there is a large cherry tree, it must have been growing on the bank for well over fifty years, who planted it, or whether it came from a seed dropped by a bird we shall never know, but for us it has been one of our most treasured possessions. In the spring and autumn it fills the garden with a beauty that shows us what a wonderful artist nature can be. At that lovely time when spring is joining hands with summer, it is a waving sea of delicate blooms that attract bees in their thousands, filling the whole garden with a soft musical tone that blends in so fully with the blossoms and the delicate green of the young leaves. In the autumn the late summer sun paints the foliage with all the gorgeous tints of which nature alone is the mistress; she seems to take all the glory of the spring and summer and weld it together to produce a picture that lives with us long after the winter has destroyed it.

Under the tree there is an old bench, we call this the seat in the stalls, for from it we have watched some wonderful scenes on nature's stage. From it we get a view of three parts of the sanctuary. Below is a pond with its small reed-fringed island and right opposite a sloping sand bank which is the home of our rabbits; they have been there for as long as we have been in possession of our small nature sanctuary. A friend and myself were resting on the seat, our conversation drifted to rabbits, and how they hold their own in any type of country. My friend then mentioned that he once met a man who said he could call rabbits from their burrows by uttering a certain cry. I knew this was not an impossible feat, for I have on several occasions called rabbits from a distance of fifty yards, by imitating the squeal of a young rabbit, when it is caught by a stoat or cat. Then to my friend's amazement I told him that I too, could call a rabbit from its burrow by simply calling "Bunny". I left him on the bench, went over to the sand bank and called "Bunny, Bunny, Bunny". I had to keep up the call for several minutes, then a small head appeared at the entrance to one of the burrows. The rabbit first looked cautiously around, then seeing I was alone, came slowly out, hobbled up to me and sat up on its haunches, it allowed me to stroke it, and followed me back to the bench. This was just one of our rabbit friends that discovered that our garden was a real sanctuary.

Below the bench, and between it and the sand bank, we had constructed a pond; this was the home for several weeks of an otter that proved to be the most interesting wild visitor we ever had. It seems almost like a fairy tale when I say that this mammal learned that it was safe here, and became so tame that it would come to my call and take food from my hand. It would never allow me to touch it, I tried it once and received a severe bite. It loved to play with a tennis ball I threw into the water, and would swim on its back, holding the ball in its front paws. About one hundred yards from our garden, there are two large pools several acres in extent, and this was the otter's real home. Many of our friends came to see our interesting visitor. One well known naturalist could hardly believe that I could attract a wild otter from its pool by calling the name—"Bobby,"—that I had given it. He was, however, quite convinced when I took him to our pond one evening. For over ten minutes I called, then we saw the otter creeping along under the hedge that divided the steep bank from a small orchard. For a few minutes it hesitated; it had full confidence in me, but was rather shy of visitors, but presently it came down, walked right up to me, stood up on its hind feet and took a piece of fish from my hand.

Foxes are frequent visitors to our sanctuary; one spring a vixen reared seven cubs on the rabbit bank. The majority of wild animals will not molest others that have their homes in close proximity to their own lairs. The fox and the rabbits appeared to live in perfect harmony. A rabbit reared her own family a few feet from the entrance to the vixen's earth, and one day I saw her go into the latter while I knew the vixen was at home.

When the seven cubs were a few weeks old they would come to the entrance to the lair on sunny mornings, and later when older had rollick-



FIELD VOLE IN THE SANCTUARY  
(*Photograph by Oliver G. Pike*)

ing games on the grassy banks. On moonlight nights we, and visitors, were entertained as they played on the tennis court at the end of the garden. One evening my wife and I were able to stalk slowly down to the lawn, and were rewarded by having those seven delightful cubs romping all round us.

Some years previously two full grown fox cubs decided to make their home with us. They excavated a great hole on one of the sand banks, living there for several weeks. At first we only saw them as they left their earth at dusk, but they soon found that here they were safe and soon learned to trust us. About a fortnight later they answered to the names we gave them, and even made friends with our spaniel; one evening all three were on the tennis lawn having a romping game.

We introduced two badger cubs to our sanctuary, and they lived with us for two years, they became very tame and would follow us around the countryside like dogs. Occasionally they wandered away, but always returned.

From the bench under the cherry tree we have watched young stoats playing on a grassy bank; one afternoon we saw the wonderful dance of the adult stoat when it wishes to hypnotize a rabbit. The latter was higher up the bank among the thick vegetation. About ten feet below the stoat commenced its dance, it twisted and turned, leapt up, rolled over, and sideways, and did its utmost to attract the attention of the rabbit, the latter had probably seen this trick before, for it was not interested, and after another lengthy performance the little hunter had to give up.

Under the thick matted grass on the banks of our sanctuary there are hundreds of small runs made by the field mice and voles. The most charming of these are the field voles, they are to be seen in the evening occasionally coming out into little clearings in the grass. The two species of shrews are also here; they are such miniature little creatures, but are sometimes to be seen among the rotting twigs on the margins of a faggot pile.

Among the thirty-seven species of birds that have nested here, we have eight species of warblers; the rarest of these is the grasshopper warbler. It is, however, several years since we heard the strange reeling notes. The lovely songs of the blackcap and garden warbler fill the sanctuary with music throughout the spring and early summer. We have often been entertained while watching the female cuckoo searching for a nest in which to lay her egg, and many young ones have been reared by robins and hedge sparrows. Two pairs of turtle doves arrive each May, and wood pigeons bring up several broods in the cherry tree. Although the nightingale passes through each spring it has never nested; he and his mate have a small territory they look upon as their own, about three hundred yards away.

Four species of finches bring up families each spring, continuing their nesting activities up to the middle of August; these homely birds become very tame. One male chaffinch was a special favourite, he always came to my call, and would enter the house, even tapping at the window to be let in, when he would explore the room and would sit by my side on the arm of my chair, and give out his merry song.

I have mentioned sufficient to prove that even a small tract of country can be made a very successful sanctuary for wild mammals and birds if we let them know they will not be molested. To me it is a thrilling experience to make friends with the wild creatures, and to see them come fearlessly to you, and also to treat you as a person to be trusted.

## The Ecology of the Bedfordshire Mollusca (conti.)

BY BERNARD VERDCOURT

### 4. WOODS OTHER THAN BEECH

Two such woods have already been mentioned in a previous number of the journal (4, 44, 1950), namely Kings Wood and Odell Wood. The fauna of Dedmansey Wood has also been discussed adequately elsewhere with particular regard to the habitat of *Clausilia rolfhii* Leech in Turton (Stratton, *J. Conch.*, 23, 101-4, 1950). This paper lists all my records from that area. Much has been said in all my notes in this present journal on the prolific fauna of beech woods. The fauna of a large mixed wood such as Odell is, however, practically as large as that of any beech wood as may be seen from the list quoted. (*Retinella pura* may also be added to that list having been found on an earlier visit.) The majority of the large woods have not been systematically searched and although there are records from Potton Wood, Worley Wood, Exeter Wood, etc., insufficient is known to make lists of species. A few additional woods are mentioned here.

HIPSEY SPINNEY, FANCOTT. Mixed wood on clay, with Ash, *Prunus avium*, Elm, Hazel, Oak, Elder, Maple, etc., with an interesting ground flora of *Allium ursinum*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Scilla nutans*, *Primula*, *Anemone*, *Geum*, *Ficaria*, *Mercurialis*, *Spiraea*, *Arum*, etc. At least 18 species of snail may be found there. It has been severely coppiced.

<i>Carychium tridentatum</i>	r	(mossy logs)	<i>Retinella nitidula</i>	f	(Moss)
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	r	(moss)	<i>Oxychilus cellarium</i>	f	
<i>Azeca goodalli</i>	r	(sticks)			
<i>Ena obscura</i>	f	(logs, and leaves)			
<i>Gomiodiscus rotundatus</i>	a	(logs and moss)			
<i>Arion ater</i>	f				
<i>A. circumscriptus</i>	r		<i>O. alliarium</i>	f	(logs)
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	f	(logs)	<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>	f	(logs)
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	c		<i>Agriolimax reticulatus</i>	r	
<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	f	(rides)			
<i>Trichia striolata</i>	c				
<i>T. hispida</i>	f				
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> incl.					
var. <i>fuscilabris</i>	f				

WOODCOCK WOOD. Close to the previous wood, but is disturbed with extensive *Mercurialis* ground flora.

<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	f	<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>	r (stumps)
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	f	<i>Retinella pura</i>	r
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	r	<i>R. nitidula</i>	c
<i>Arion circumscriptus</i>	f	<i>O. alliarium</i>	f
<i>Trichia striolata</i>	f	<i>Oxychilus cellarium</i>	f
<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	f (edge)	<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>	r
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> incl.		<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	c
var. <i>fuscilabris</i>	f		

CHALTON SPINNEY. Close to the previous wood; is disturbed and damp. *Geum rivale* used to occur in it and there are banks of *Mnium* and other mosses on the edges near the stream.

*Planorbis spirorbis leucostoma* found on one occasion in ditch

<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	f
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	f
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	f
<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	f (edges)
<i>Oxychilus alliarium</i>	f

Cockayne Hatley Wood is very similar.

BADGERSDELL WOOD, small mixed wood very near Luton.

<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	a
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	f (mossy logs in dell)
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	f
<i>Retinella radiatula</i>	r
<i>R. nitidula</i>	c
<i>Oxychilus alliarium</i>	f

RAVENSDELL WOOD, WHIPSNADE. Well-kept plantation wood, heathy in parts.

<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	extinct
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	r
<i>Retinella radiatula</i>	r

HAWTHORN-ELDER SCRUB WOOD. 466,328 Luton O.S. Studham area. Of the five species in this wood three are invaders from the surrounding downland, and beech hedges.

<i>Ena obscura</i>	<i>H. caperata*</i>
<i>Helicella itala*</i>	<i>Retinella nitidula</i>
<i>H. virgata*</i>	

Small woods and copses show the poorest fauna. Beech woods of equally small extent often contain more than ten times as many species. Bramingham Wood for example yields little else but *Cochlicopa lubrica* and the nearby George Wood *Vallonia excentrica*, *Trichia hispida*, and *Oxychilus cellarium*. Small woods in the north are similar and in Dungee Wood, and Hinwick Wood only *Retinella nitidula* and *Goniodiscus rotundatus* could be found. The extensive Marston Thrift also yielded these species alone but a proper search would almost certainly show a rich fauna.

MAULDEN WOOD (Clophill State Forest). The healthy parts of the wood contain few snails but the several species may be found in the other parts.

<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	r	<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	c
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	c	<i>C. nemoralis</i>	c
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	r	<i>Retinella nitidula</i>	f
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	r	<i>Oxychilus helveticum</i>	r
		<i>O. cellarium</i>	c

GREAT HAYES WOOD. Oak-Ash, portions felled and replaced by seven years old Birch scrub. Parts are marshy and *Ajuga*, *Paris*, *Platanthera*, and *Carex sylvatica* are characteristic.

<i>Carychium tridentatum</i>	f (stumps)	<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	c (trees)
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	f (marshy places)	<i>Trichia hispida</i>	f
<i>Columella edentula</i>	r (log)	<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	f
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	r (log)	<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>	f (stumps)
<i>Arion ater</i>	c	<i>Oxychilus helveticum</i>	f
<i>A. circumscriptus</i>	f	<i>Agriolimax laevis</i>	f (marsh)
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	f (rotting birch)		
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	c (stumps)		

Conifer woods are not natural in our county and their fauna consists of the acid soil fauna which has survived. This fauna is in any case very sparse. Conifers planted on calcareous soils may have a different ground flora. That of Butts' Hill Wood is quite rich (see Part 3 of this series), but a larch plantation near Luton has a very poor fauna.

#### LARCH PLANTATION, BLOWS DOWNS, LUTON.

<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	f	<i>Oxychilus alliarium</i>	f
<i>Retinella nitidula</i>	f		

#### ASPLEY WOOD, WOBURN.

<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	r	<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	r
<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	r		

To close this section mention should be made of Stevington Wood which at its top is traversed by an oolite outcrop and two species characteristic of the edges of chalk downland beechwoods occur. Shells of *Pomatias elegans* are frequent together with *Helicella itala* var. *minor*.

### 5. WALLS

Bedfordshire is particularly well off for walls, the northern part of the county abounding with them. Those in that part of the county are usually made of soft oolite and are naturally particularly suited for those snails which prefer lime and are xerophilous as well. Certain snails namely *Lauria cylindracea* and *Pyramidula rupestris* are confined to walls in Bedfordshire. The former is an abundant species but the latter has only been found rarely at Bedford and needs looking for since the record is quite old. Oolite walls contain crevices filled with loose earth and debris which often supports a moss flora. A few examples are given.

## KNOTTING CHURCH WALL.

<i>Lauria cylindracea</i>	a	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	r
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	r	<i>C. hortensis</i>	r
<i>Monacha cantiana</i>	r	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	r
<i>Trichia striolata</i>	r	<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>	r

## HINWICK VILLAGE WALLS.

<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	f	<i>H. caperata</i>	f
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	r	<i>Trichia hispida</i>	c
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	r	<i>T. striolata</i>	a
<i>Ena obscura</i>	r	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	r
<i>Helicella itala</i>	r	<i>C. hortensis</i>	r
		<i>Helix aspersa</i>	f

## WALLS AT BIDDENHAM, PAVENHAM, STEVINGTON AND SWINESHEAD.

<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	f	<i>H. caperata</i>	f
<i>Lauria cylindracea</i>	f	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	r
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	c	<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	r
<i>Helicella virgata</i>	f		

N.B.—Where *Pupilla* is common *Lauria* is usually much rarer and vice versa.

Walls in the south of the county are not much in evidence save in towns and are of a different texture from those in the north. Those which do harbour snails do so because there are suitable habitats under ivy, etc., which is growing on the hard rock, e.g.

## FARLEY GREEN POND WALL.

<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	a	<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	a
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## Bedfordshire Plant Galls

## PRELIMINARY LIST

BY H. F. BARNES AND RAY PALMER

It is proposed to publish a preliminary list of the plant galls in two parts. The first will deal with those caused by the presence of gall midge and other Dipterous larvae, while the second will enumerate those due to other insects and mites. The list makes no pretence of being representative of the plant galls of the county, but has been compiled with the object of arousing interest in this neglected branch of natural history.

## PART I

## DIPTERA

## CECIDOMYIDAE (Gall Midges)

<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> L.		Foxtail Grass
Inflorescence	<i>Dasyneura alopecuri</i> Reuter (Henlow and Biggleswade, A.D.I., 1929)	
Inflorescence	<i>Contarinia merceri</i> Barnes (Henlow and Biggleswade, A.D.I., 1929; Bedford, C.W.H., 1929)	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> L.		Dogwood
Leaf	<i>Craneiohia corni</i> Giraud (Pegsdon, R.P., 1927)	

<i>Crataegus</i> sp.		Hawthorn
Stem	<i>Thomasimiana crataegi</i> Barnes (Kinsbourne Green, P.I.R.M., 1937)	
Terminal bud	<i>Dasyneura crataegi</i> Winnertz (Stotfold, R.P., 1930; Bedford, H.F.B., 1947; Dedmansey Wood, V.H.C., 1948)	
<i>Eupteria aquilina</i> L.		Bracken
Leaf	<i>Dasyneura filicina</i> Kieffer (Flitwick, R.P., 1942; Woburn, R.P., 1948)	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.		Beech
Leaf	<i>Hartigiola annulipes</i> Hartig (Studham, R.P., 1945; Kings Wood, V.H.C., 1951)	
Leaf	<i>Mikiola fagi</i> Hartig (Kensworth, R.P., 1947)	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.		Ash
Leaf	<i>Dasyneura fraxini</i> Kieffer (Turvey, H.F.B., 1949)	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> L.		Hogweed, Cow Parsley
Leaf	<i>Macrolabis corrugans</i> F. Loew (Great Barford, H.F.B., 1947)	
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> L.		Woad (cultivated)
Leaf	<i>Contarimia nasturtii</i> Kieffer (Bedford, H.F.B., 1951)	
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		Pea (cultivated)
Pod	<i>Contarimia pisi</i> Winnertz (Biggleswade, R.P., 1947; Bedfordshire, Anon., 1951)	
<i>Populus tremula</i> L.		Aspen
Leaf	<i>Harmandia tremulae</i> Winnertz (Stotfold, R.P., 1930; Flitwick Moor, V.H.C.)	
<i>Pyrus communis</i> L.		Pear (cultivated)
Fruit	<i>Contarimia pyrivora</i> Riley (Flitwick, R.P., 1941-49; Bedford, H.F.B., 1947)	
Leaf	<i>Dasyneura pyri</i> Bouché (Bedford, H.F.B., 1925, 1946)	
<i>Pyrus malus</i> L.		Apple (cultivated)
Leaf	<i>Dasyneura mali</i> Kieffer (Biggleswade, G.L.H., 1942; Cockayne Hatley, Anon., 1951)	
<i>Ribes nigrum</i> L.		Black Currant (cultivated)
Terminal leaves	<i>Dasyneura tetensi</i> Rübsaamen (Bedfordshire, Anon., 1951)	
<i>Rorippa amphibia</i> L.		Great Watercress
Flower	<i>Contarimia nasturtii</i> Kieffer (Bedford, H.F.B., 1948)	
<i>Rosa</i> sp.		Rose
Leaf	<i>Wachtliella rosarum</i> Hardy (Bedford, H.F.B., 1947)	
<i>Rubus</i> sp.		Bramble
Leaf	<i>Dasyneura plicatrix</i> H. Loew (Bedford, H.F.B., 1947)	
Stem	<i>Lasioptera rubi</i> Heeger (Pegsdon, R.P., 1928)	
<i>Salix</i> spp.		Willow
Leaf	<i>Rhabdophaga marginemtorquens</i> Bremi (Luton, V.H.C., 1940)	
Leaf	<i>Iteomyia capreae</i> Winnertz (Shefford, R.P., 1930)	
Terminal bud	<i>Rhabdophaga rosaria</i> H. Loew (Stotfold, R.P., 1927)	

<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> L.	Flower	Woody Nightshade, Bittersweet <i>Contarinia solani</i> Rübsaamen (Turvey, H.F.B., 1949)	
<i>Spiraea ulmaria</i> L.	Leaf	<i>Dasyneura ulmariae</i> Bremi (Stotfold, R.P., 1927; Flitwick, R.P., 1943; Bedford, H.F.B., 1947)	Meadow Sweet
<i>Taxus baccata</i> L.	Terminal bud	<i>Taxomyia taxi</i> Inchbald (Luton, R.P., 1945)	Yew
<i>Tilia europaea</i> L.	Leaf, flower-stalks	<i>Contarinia tiliarum</i> Kieffer (Luton, C.R.R., 1949)	Lime
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i> L.	Inflorescence	<i>Contarinia tragopogonis</i> Kieffer (Goldington, H.F.B., 1947)	Goatsbeard
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> L.	Inflorescence	<i>Dasyneura leguminicola</i> Lintner (Kinsbourne Green, H.F.B., 1930)	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i> L.	Leaf	<i>Dasyneura trifolii</i> F. Loew (Great Barford, H.F.B., 1947)	White Clover
<i>Triticum</i>	Inflorescence	<i>Contarinia tritici</i> Kirby (Goldington, H.F.B., 1946; Bromham, H.F.B., 1947)	Wheat (cultivated)
	Inflorescence	<i>Sitodiplosis mosellana</i> Géhin (Goldington, H.F.B., 1946; Bromham, H.F.B., 1947)	
<i>Triticum repens</i> Beauv.	Inflorescence	<i>Stenodiplosis</i> sp. (Goldington, H.F.B., 1946)	Couch-grass
<i>Ulmus anglica</i> Druce	Flower bud	Unidentified gall midge (Bedford, H.F.B., 1951)	Common Elm
<i>Veronica</i> sp.	Terminal bud	<i>Jaapiella veronicae</i> Vallot (Barton, R.P., 1930)	Speedwell
<i>Viola</i> sp.	Leaf	<i>Dasyneura affinis</i> Kieffer (Bedford, H.F.B., 1946; Milton Ernest, Anon., 1951)	Violet
		CHLOROPIDAE	
<i>Phragmites phragmites</i> Druce	Stem	<i>Lipara lucens</i> Meigen (Flitwick, R.P., 1942)	Common Reed
		MUSCIDAE	
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	Root	<i>Erioischia brassicae</i> Bouché (Biggleswade, R.P., 1947; Flitwick)	Cabbage (cultivated)

## Reports of Recorders

### BOTANY

The year was not a good one for field work as a very dry summer and a cold and early autumn gave little chance for many species to appear at their best. No native species were added to the county list and little extension of range was discovered of the known species. The crop of wool adventives was less than it had been in recent years. London Rocket (*Sisymbrium irio* L.), recorded earlier many times in error, was a welcome addition.

It is hoped that my flora of the county will be published in the near future (see cover iv). There will then be some significance in additions which will be noted in these reports. May I now thank the members of the Society who have over a long period sent me many records and notes on plants from parts of the county which I have found it difficult to visit.

J. G. DONY

#### ODONATA

A new locality for *Lestes sponsa* (the Common or Green Lestes), a small roadside pond above Milton Ernest, has been kept under observation for two seasons.

A new locality for *Erythromma najas* (the Red-eyed Damsel-Fly) was discovered at the Staunch Pool at Willington.

*Aeshna mixta* (the Scarce Mixta) was flying very late in 1952. Several specimens were seen at Cardington Mill Pond and the Staunch Pool, Willington, during the second week of October when there had already been one or two frosts.

K. E. WEST

#### LEPIDOPTERA

During March 1952, from about the 10th onwards, there was a remarkable invasion of the Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) arriving along the South coast of England. Reports from Kent and Dorset were numerous up to the disastrous snowfall at the end of the month. Our President, His Grace the Duke of Bedford, was able to record what must have been one of these immigrants feeding on 15th March on a sprig of a foreign heath at Woburn. He stated "that it was a sunny day but the wind was cold, and there had been a hard frost the previous night". Later in the year, from July onwards, descendants of these early arrivals, or of later ones arriving after the late March snow, were noticed as larvae in large numbers throughout the county, mostly on Spear Plume Thistle (*Carduus lanceolatus*). This gave promise of a big flight later in the autumn, a promise that was not fulfilled, owing perhaps to the subsequent inclement weather.

In April the main season's work began with a study of the Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) colony along the Newnham Wall, Bedford. Large numbers of larvae had been seen feeding at the end of the 1951 season on the ivy, but considerable depredation had been caused by the ichneumonid parasite *Listrodomus nycthemerus*. Several females that approached in colour the darker summer form were taken at the end of April. There was a complete absence of *argiolus* in this locality during the autumn; although the Wall was visited repeatedly when the ivy was in flower not a single specimen was seen.

Totternhoe Knolls were visited on several occasions during the season. The Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) appeared to be absent from its usual haunts. The clearance of the Litany may have removed some of the Devil's-bit Scabious (*Scabiosa succisa*), on which the colony was probably maintained, but this does not account for its disappearance on the slopes.

The Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*) was seen in plenty during May and June, but unfortunately the Adonis Blue (*Lysandra bellargus*) was conspicuous by its complete absence. The summer brood did not appear and in consequence there was not an autumn emergence. A Camberwell Beauty (*Nymphalis antiopa*) was seen by Mr Elliott at Stagsden on 19th August; this is a valuable record as county observations are few.

New localities of the White-letter Hairstreak (*Strymon W-album*) are: at Pavenham, on the hill above the church, at Hinwick and near Pictshill House along the Turvey road.

It would be much appreciated if any records of either individuals or complete lists of observations and/or captured specimens of Moths could be sent to the Recorder at the side door of 8 St Loyes, Bedford, since a list is being prepared.

B. B. WEST

## BIRDS

The year 1952 proved an interesting one and thanks to an even greater number of reporters the standard of the report has been maintained. There is still room for improvements in several ways but present results are encouraging. A few members who have in the past submitted valuable data either failed to do so this year or else contributed little. It is hoped that as far as is practicable this will be remedied in 1953. To all who have in any degree co-operated the Society tenders its thanks. The Society records its gratitude for the permission granted by the owner of the property to study bird-life at Luton Hoo. Hitherto this park has been closed to visitors and the crop of records obtained this year from it, especially the lake, has added greatly to our knowledge of the distribution of certain species in this area.

Reports from certain other areas are either few or completely lacking and any member who can watch and report on occurrences round Sandy, Riseley and Heath and Reach will be doing a real service. Similarly, reports concerning the distribution in the county of certain species during the breeding season are earnestly sought: these species include Hawfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Crossbill, Wood-Lark, Willow-Tit, Red-Backed Shrike, Wood-Warbler, Wheatear, Whinchat, Stonechat and Long-eared Owl. All information regarding nesting sites will be treated as confidential.

Summer visitors arrived somewhat earlier than is normal. The unusual occurrence on passage of the Dotterel bridged a gap of over fifty years. Storms in the autumn caused the interesting but disastrous "wreck" of Leach's Fork-tailed Petrel, five specimens of which were recovered in the county.

Apart from the species enumerated in the report, the following list contains the names of those whose status was normal for the year and for which numerous reports were received: Jackdaw, Magpie, Jay, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Yellow Bunting, House-Sparrow, Tree-Creeper, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Goldcrest, Mistle-Thrush, Song-Thrush, Robin, Hedge-Sparrow, Wren, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Greater and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Little Owl, Barn Owl, Kestrel, Sparrow-Hawk, Stock-Dove, Moorhen, Pheasant, Common and Red-legged Partridges.

Abbreviations of Observers' names: P.S.B.=P. S. Bates; B.S.=Bedford School Natural History Society; H.C.=Harry Cole; E.G.E.=E. G. Eeles; D.W.E.=D. W. Elliott; H.W.G.=H. W. Gover; F.C.G.=F. C. Gribble; R.L.=Roger Lyle; C.S.P.=C. S. Payne; W.E.K.P.=W. E. K. Piercy; G.P.=Gordon Plummer; Rec.=Recorder of Birds; S.W.R.=S. W. Rodell; W.G.S.=W. G. Sharpe; F.G.R.S.=F. G. R. Soper; C.F.T.=C. F. Tebbutt; M.W.=M. Wortley and M.O.=more than four observers.

**HOODED CROW** (*Corvus cornix*)—Two at Dunstable Sewage Farm, 3rd February and one there on 24th February; one in same locality 23rd November (H.C. and M.W.).

**CARRION CROW** (*Corvus corone*)—Now very common as a nesting species, particularly north of the Greensand, and relatively abundant in winter no doubt due to some immigration. Forty-two shot during the winter of 1952-3 in Hanger and Astey Woods, Stagden (D.W.E.).

**ROOK** (*Corvus frugilegus*)—Newly hatched young heard, Oakley, 6th April (F.C.G.). A new roost of Rooks and Jackdaws in Astey Wood, Stagden, was eventually deserted (D.W.E.). The new rookery at St. Peter's, Bedford, increased in size.

**STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)—The large roost at Elstow again developed from about the beginning of October and the noticeable increase in numbers on 21st October coincided with reported passage of migrants across Cambridgeshire on 18th and 19th October. The assemblies, in-fighting and out-fighting were studied in detail and these investigations are to be continued in subsequent seasons. The peak in numbers, similar to that of the preceding season, was reached about the middle of November. From the 13th December the roost gradually broke up and the roost at Tempsford once again developed. A new and considerable roost was also formed at this time in Molliver's Wood, Bromham (F.C.G. and B.S.).

A female with ring No. ST.153, ringed at Saffron Walden, Essex, on 17th February 1951, was caught at Luton on 28th April 1952 and released.

**HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)—Several reported from the Flitwick-Woburn area and one on 26th April at Sandy (new locality) (W.G.S. and W.E.K.P.).

**SISKIN** (*Carduelis spinus*)—Flock at Oakley, early in May (A. G. Oldfield).

**COMMON CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*)—Small flock at Whipsnade in early January (P.S.B.).

**BRAMBLING** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)—Small parties reported in winter months from many localities, being more abundant in the Greensand area. Last emigrants seen at Tingrith, 12th April (S.W.R.).

**CORN-BUNTING** (*Emberiza calandra*)—Apparent increase in numbers in Clifton area (W.E.K.P.). Distribution in other areas normal.

**TREE-SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*)—Smaller flocks than in 1951 reported from Bedford Sewage Farm and other localities, but one of c. 200 at Stanford, 30th November (W.E.K.P.).

**SKY-LARK** (*Alauda arvensis*)—Passage through Marston Valley noted by a group of observers on 26th October, 2nd and 3rd November at the rate of c. 200 per hour. No appreciable passage along the hills north and south of the valley. Other large flocks (feeding) were: c. 200 at Stanford on 30th November; c. 300 at Bury End, Stagsden, during the latter part of November; and c. 200 at Eaton Green on 26th December (B.S., F.C.G. and W.E.K.P.).

**TREE-PIPIPIT** (*Anthus trivialis*)—First arrival heard, Clophill, 25th April (M.W.).

**MEADOW-PIPIPIT** (*Anthus pratensis*)—Largest party (c. 50) reported at Bedford Sewage Farm during winter months. Breeding distribution normal (F.C.G. and Rec.).

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla flava flavissima*)—First arrivals at Bedford Sewage Farm, 5th April (Staff); Luton, 6th April (M.W.). Behaviour of pairs at both Dunstable Sewage Farm and East Hyde during June indicated breeding in these areas (H.C.).

**GREY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*)—Reports of from 1-3 seen in several localities in both north and south of the county intermittently during winter months (M.O.). Party of 12 on passage at Pictshill, Turvey, 23rd August (D.W.E.). During the breeding season a pair was seen near Harrold bridge and another pair on the river Ivel near Biggleswade. Although investigations were made, nesting was not proved in either case.

**PIED WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)—Party of c. 40 evident during winter at Bedford Sewage Farm, where a pair reared six young in the tool-box of a motor pump in constant use (F.C.G.). Flock of c. 200 seen flying to roost in Luton Hoo from New Mill End, 14th December (H.C.).

**WHITE WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba alba*)—One, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 28th April (M.W.).

**BRITISH NUTHATCH** (*Sitta europea affinis*)—Reported from Bromham, Southill, Woburn and Luton Hoo (new locality) (M.O.).

**COAL-TIT** (*Parus ater*)—Several reports of single birds or pairs in winter months only (M.O.).

**MARSH-TIT** (*Parus palustris dresseri*)—Reports from widely separated areas of single birds and small parties seen during the winter months (M.O.).

**GREAT GREY SHRIKE** (*Lanius excubitor*)—One, Flitwick, 18th January (W.G.S.); one, Luton, 26th December (H.C.): all characters noted in each case. Another reported at the end of year near Leighton Buzzard by Oliver G. Pike was outside the county boundary in Buckinghamshire.

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** (*Lanius collurio*)—One, Bramingham, 10th May; one, Spittlesea, near Luton, 28th May; two males at Blows Downs, Dunstable, 15th June. Three nests found in Luton area (M.W., S.W.R. and H.C.).

1951 record—male, Cranfield, 8th May (H.W.G.).

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*)—First arrival, Whipsnade, 7th May (P.S.B.). Last emigrant, Bedford, 19th September (Rec.).

**PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*)—Male, Whipsnade, 12th May (P.S.B.).

1951 record—Pair near Luton, 2nd May (M.W.).

**CHIFFCHAFF** (*Phylloscopus collybita*)—First arrivals: Bedford Sewage Farm, 15th March; New Mill End, 16th March; Flitwick, 17th March (F.C.G., B.S., H.C. and W.G.S.).

WILLOW-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)—First arrival, Bedford, 17th March (B.S.).

An unusual un-domed nest containing four eggs was found by a Kempston resident on the ground under a drooping leaf on 8th May and brought to the attention of the Recorder by Dr G. A. Metcalfe.

WOOD-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)—First seen and heard (pair) near Eversholt in old haunt, 17th April, and another pair later near Ridgmont (W.G.S.). One (singing), Whipsnade, 19th April (P.S.B.).

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)—Heard singing, 19th April, Maulden Wood; 10th June, Barton Hills; 29th June, Clophill (by the river Flitt) (F.C.G., S.W.R. and H.C.).

SEDGE-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schaeobæus*)—First arrivals, Bedford Sewage Farm, 19th April (E.G.E.). Normal distribution in all areas later. Luton Hoo (new locality), from 28th April onwards (M.W.).

GARDEN-WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)—First arrival, Bramingham Wood, 28th April (M.W.).

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)—First arrival, Kempston, 11th April (C.S.P.). One, Bedford, 20th September (Rec.).

An interesting record of breeding was obtained at Hardwick Spinney, Stagsden. A nest containing one egg was found by Mrs Key on 20th April. There were four eggs by the 23rd and four young were reared leaving the nest on 16th May. The previous day another nest had been found with one egg and, as only one pair of Blackcaps could be discovered in the small spinney, one or both birds must have combined feeding duties with those of nest-building. The second nest contained four eggs by the 18th May but was unfortunately destroyed by vermin shortly afterwards.

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*)—First arrival, 9th April, Oakley (A. G. Oldfield).

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*)—First seen and heard, 27th April, Pulloxhill (H.C.).

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*)—Last emigrants seen at Stagsden and Bromham, 9th May (D.W.E. and W.T. Pares). First arrivals at Whipsnade, 10th September (P.S.B.). Larger flocks than usual in both Bedford and Luton areas in later months of the year (F.C.G. and H.C.).

REDWING (*Turdus musicus*)—First arrivals, Flitwick, 10th September (W.G.S.). Remark on numbers of migrants also applies to this species (F.C.G. and H.C.).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)—Nest containing four white eggs found at Turvey, 25th April (D.W.E.). Reported to be more abundant than normal from certain areas during the nesting season (F.C.G.).

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)—Many reports received from all parts of the county, usually in small numbers, the largest party (12), Luton, 6th April. Earliest records: (spring), Flitwick, 15th March; Cranfield, 16th March; (autumn), Whipsnade, 20th August. No record of breeding in the county during 1952.

1951 record—early arrival, Cranfield, 20th March (H.W.G.).

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)—First arrivals Luton, 20th April; Maulden wood, 26th April; Cardington, 29th April. Breeding proved at Bedford Sewage Farm and near Luton. Last bird seen Luton, 25th September (M.O.).

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)—One, Luton, 16th March; and another at Bedford Sewage Farm, 15th November (M.W. and F.C.G.).

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)—Substantial passage through Flitwick-Woburn area from 2nd May onwards. Breeding in normal numbers reported from the Greensand region, with a pair in residence at Toddington (new locality) (F.C.G., W.G.S. and M.W.).

NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhyncha*)—First arrivals heard at Clophill, 13th April; Rowney Warren, 14th April; at Stagsden, 15th April. More abundant than usual during the summer in all thickets, spinneys and woods of north Bedfordshire and the Greensand (M.O.).

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)—First arrivals at both Streatley and Biggleswade, 5th April (M.W. and G.P.). Last emigrant, Stagsden, 24th October (D.W.E.).

HOUSE-MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)—First arrivals, Luton, 9th April (M.W.). Last emigrants, Kempston, 4th October; Luton, 6th October (C.S.P. and M.W.).

SAND-MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)—First arrivals, Tingrith, 20th March (early date). Last emigrants, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 14th September (H.C.). A party of c. 300 at Willington gravel pits roosted in docks.

SWIFT (*Apus apus*)—Many reports. First arrivals (early record), Bedford, 15th, 16th and 17th April (F.G.R.S.). Next waves, Bedford, 29th April; and Bedford, Flitwick, Biggleswade and Luton, 1st May (M.O.). Last emigrants, Bedford, 29th September (F.G.R.S.).

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)—Nest with 2 eggs found at Clophill, 25th June: young ringed 18th July (S.W.R. and F.C.G.).

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)—A bird almost certainly of this species was seen on the ground from a car while driving through Old Warden Park, 2nd June, by Col. P. R. Broadway, who during service in India knew the species well. In his letter he describes his impressions of size of body, fawn colouration, long beak and barred wings.

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)—First arrivals: Oakley, 11th April; Tingrith, 12th April; Whipsnade, 13th April; Ampthill and Biggleswade, 14th April (M.O.). Last emigrant (juvenile), Whipsnade, 20th September (P.S.B.).

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)—Pair seen during year in same area of the Greensand in which the species nested in 1951. Breeding was suspected but no nest was found in 1952 (W.G.S.).

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)—One, Hockliffe, 1st January, and another, Stewartby, 13th January (M.W. and R.L.).

1951 record—pair, Cranfield, 18th April (H.W.G.).

BRITISH TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco sylvatica*)—An adult female found dead at Bury End, Stagsden, was identified by the ring on its leg as having been ringed in the same locality in 1945 as an adult.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falcon peregrinus*)—One, Pictshill, Turvey, 24th September, and one shot while attacking poultry at Carlton, 13th November (D.W.E.).

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)—Single bird seen in a locality on the Greensand range, 1st May, where a pair was also seen 22nd May. Not seen later in the season and no evidence of breeding (W.G.S.).

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius aesalon*)—One seen near Flitwick, 17th January (W.G.S.).

COMMON BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)—One, Woburn area, late April, where a pair was seen 29th August (W.G.S. and M.W.). One caught in a hawk-trap at Colesden in mid-December, 1951. It was ringed and released after being kept in captivity some months to allow damaged tail feathers to grow.

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)—One fishing at Southill lake, 30th May (F. White); two (one fishing in a lake while the other circled overhead), Woburn, 16th April, seen by His Grace the Duke of Bedford.

COMMON HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)—Further increase in breeding. Forty-nine nests found: Bromham, 15; Southill, 20; Sandy, 11; Tempsford, 3.

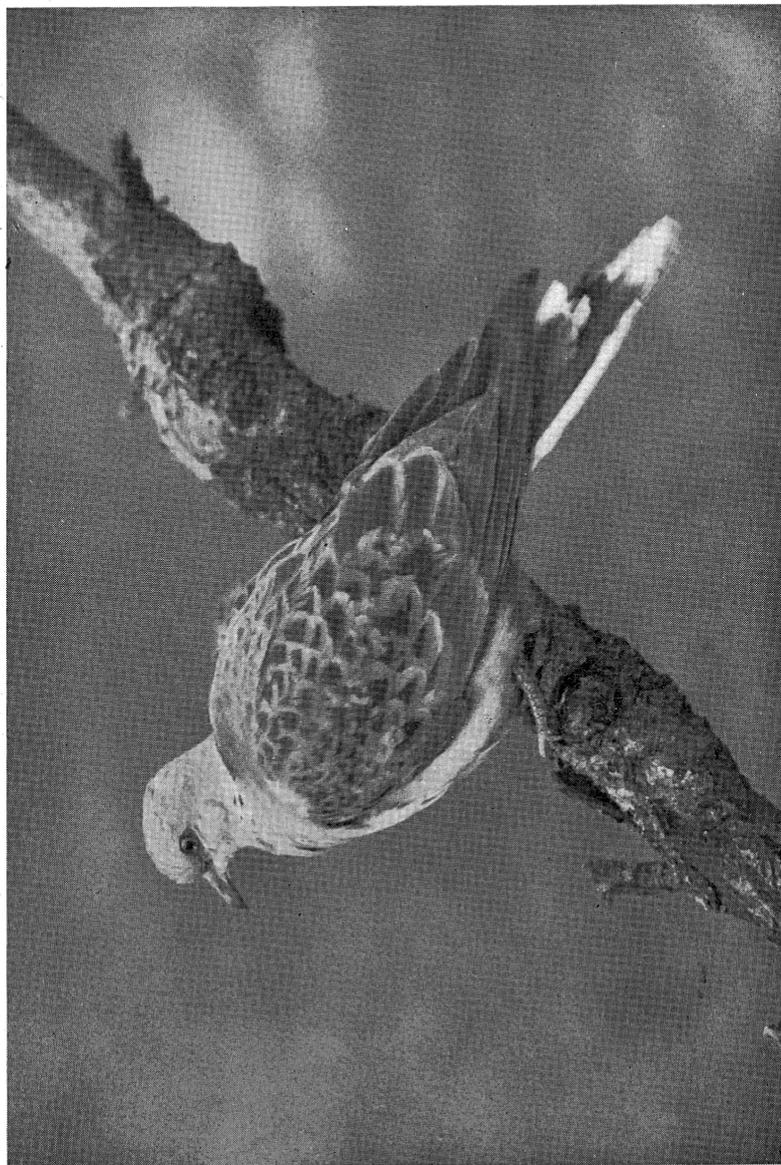
MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)—Party of nearly 100 birds seen regularly on River Ouse between Newnham and Queen's Park, Bedford, during the winter months.

GREY GESE (*Anser* sp.)—Several flights in January, mainly in westerly direction; c. 16, Bedford, and c. 30, Kempston, 5th; 9 and another flock of c. 7 which sounded like Whitefronts, Kempston, 13th; 6, Bedford, 18th; another 6, Bedford, 22nd (F.C.G., C.S.P. and E. M. B. Day). Other flights: 34 towards S.W., Stagsden, 12th September (D.W.E.); 6 towards S.E., Bromham, 5th November (F.G.R.S.); and 12 towards N.W., Bromham, 19th December (T. H. Pares).

BARNACLE-GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)—Six, Luton Hoo Lake, 23rd and 24th December (all characters noted) (M.W. and S.W.R.).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)—Eight flying between Wilstead and Elstow, 25th July (C.S.P.).

SHELD-DUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)—Immature bird, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 29th–30th August (M.W. and H.C.).



TURTLE DOVE IN THE SANCTUARY (see p. 17)  
(Photograph by Oliver G. Pike)

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)—Largest parties seen during the year; c. 500, Kempston-Hardwick claypit, 9th October and c. 250 Bedford Sewage Farm (during slight flood), 21st December (C.S.P., F.C.G. and Rec.). Reported from all stations in about usual numbers.

TEAL (*Anas crecca*)—Largest parties, c. 250, at Bedford Sewage Farm in January and December. Reported in usual numbers from all stations (M.O.). Pair bred at Felmersham gravel pits where duck was seen with young (B.S.).

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*)—Pair, Willington, 16th April. They did not remain (F.C.G.).

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)—Reported during winter months in small parties from Felmersham, Bedford Sewage Farm, Luton Hoo lake (new locality) and Kempston Hardwick claypit where c. 25 were present 25th February (M.O.).

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)—Five males on flood water, Bedford Sewage Farm, 21st December (F.C.G. and Rec.).

SHOVELER (*Spatula clypeata*)—Pair, Luton Hoo lake (new locality), 10th April; two pairs there, 28th April; pair, Felmersham gravel pits, 30th April to 5th May (Lady Wells); pair, Willington, 30th April and 1st June; and up to 3 (2 males and 1 female) Bedford Sewage Farm, 26th April to 1st June (F.C.G.). No evidence of any breeding at any locality. Female, Bedford Sewage Farm, 2nd November (F.C.G.).

COMMON POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)—Small numbers during winter months only, Kempston Hardwick clay pit, Felmersham gravel pits, Woburn, Battlesden and Luton Hoo lake (new locality) (M.O.).

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)—Similar observations as for the preceding species but numbers of birds much smaller (usually less than 10 in a party).

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)—Six, four ducks and two drakes, at Felmersham gravel pits for a week prior to 12th April (Lady Wells).

SMEW (*Mergus albellus*)—1951 record—a "redhead" near Bedford, 4th January (H. James); all characters noted.

LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)—Of the enormous nationally reported "wreck" of these birds, following gales, five specimens were recovered in the county (some were alive when found but died of exhaustion shortly afterwards): one, Turvey, 29th October (D.W.E.); one, Bromham, 30th October (A. W. Guppy); one, Stewartby, and one, Thurleigh, 8th November (R. L. and D. J. Green). The fifth was found near Leighton Buzzard at about the same time (Oliver G. Pike).

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*)—Dead specimen picked up at Staploe, Eaton Socon, 27th July (C.F.T.). It bore a ring No. AX. 7455 and apparently had been released at Cambridge.

GREAT-CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)—Increase in numbers reported, due to new locality at Luton Hoo lake which was not open for inspection previously. Here probably three pairs bred in the summer of 1952. Thirty other adults were distributed over seven other localities.

LITTLE GREBE (*Podiceps ruficollis*)—Widespread in the winter on all suitable streams and pools. Bred in fair numbers, chiefly on lakes and pools with occasional pairs along the main streams, except the river Ivel where G.P. reports a marked decrease at all times of the year since the river was dredged.

WOOD-PIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)—Large flocks on farm land in winter months, the largest reported being c. 600-700, Kempston, 25th December (C.S.P.).

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)—First arrivals, Stagsden, 2nd May (D.W.E.) and Luton Hoo, 3rd May (M.W.).

COMMON CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*)—One, Cowslip Common, Luton, 3rd February; one, calling at night over Bedford, 16th March; one, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 25th June; one, Kempston, 14th August; and one calling at night over Luton, 20th October (M.W., F.C.G., C.S.P. and H.C.).

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)—One calling over Willington, 25th April (B. B. West); large passage over Bedford during the night of 30th April to 1st May when many were heard calling through a space of several hours (Rec.).

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)—Reported from many wooded areas of the Greensand and north Bedfordshire and from Luton Hoo (new locality) during the winter months. Bred in fair numbers on the Greensand (M.O.).

COMMON SNIPE (*Capella gallinago*)—Numerous at Bedford Sewage Farm in January and February, but numbers in the later months of the year did not exceed *c.* 75. A party of *c.* 100 at Dunstable Sewage Farm, 25th October. Sixteen at Cowslip Common, Luton, 16th February, where drumming was heard on 8th June. Reported in small numbers from several other marshy areas during winter months (M.O.).

JACK SNIPE (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*)—Fewer than usual in winter months at Bedford Sewage Farm; not more than two seen on any occasion (F.C.G.).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)—One, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 10th August (H.C.).

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)—Two, Bedford Sewage Farm, 22nd March and two here 3rd May (C.S.P.); one, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 6th September (M.W.).

TEMMINCK'S STINT (*Calidris temminckii*)—One, Bedford Sewage Farm 23rd to 25th August. All characters noted and seen to "tower" when flushed. (F.C.G. and E.G.E.).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)—Up to four along the Ouse near Willington, 11th to 25th May (A. Dymond); several, Luton Hoo lake, 14th July to 7th August (M.W.); up to two at Willington gravel pit, 18th July to 23rd August (F.C.G.); up to six, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 10th to 24th August (H.C.).

WOOD-SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)—Unusually large passage. One or two, Willington gravel pit, 25th April to 17th May, and four there 4th August; 4, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 17th August (F.C.G., H.C. and Rec.).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)—Small numbers, not exceeding three in any party, occurred at Bedford Sewage Farm intermittently from January to July; single birds at Willington gravel pits, 21st April and 4th August (F.C.G.); one, Woburn Park, 22nd August (His Grace the Duke of Bedford); two, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 28th August (M.W.).

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)—Reported from the various breeding areas: first spring occurrences (all in March) were six, Dunstable Sewage Farm on 1st; four, Cowslip Common, Luton, 7th; one, Willington gravel pits, 8th; and 12, Bedford Sewage Farm on 8th (M.W., F.C.G. and C.S.P.).

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)—One and then two, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 17th to 21st August; one, Bedford Sewage Farm, 25th August (M.W., H.C. and F.C.G.).

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)—Two, Bedford Sewage Farm, 24th to 25th April and three there, 9th to 31st May; one, Dunstable Sewage Farm, 10th August; three during October, Cranfield aerodrome, following gales (M.O.).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*)—Many parties of various size reported from areas of arable land during the winter months; one party (*c.* 20) was seen on the former airfield at Podington (new locality); last party of emigrants (*c.* 90), Luton, 30th March and first winter visitors (*c.* 200), Luton airport (M.O.).

DOTTEREL (*Eudromias morinellus*)—One, seen at Maulden, 4th May, by a very competent watcher who noted all characters. This is as far as can be ascertained, the first record for the county during this century (W.G.S.).

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*)—Two large young at Bedford Sewage Farm, 30th April, were evidently hatched from eggs which survived the blizzard of 30th March (F.C.G.).

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)—One, Woburn, 30th April; up to 10, Felmersham gravel pits, 30th April; two, Cranfield airfield during October, following gales (W.G.S., Lady Wells and H.W.G.).

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna hirundo/macrura*)—One, by river Ouse near Renhold, 25th May (A. J. Dymond).

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*)—Small flights commonly reported during winter months over several parts of the County, especially along the Ouse valley, particularly at flood time, and along the line of the Dunstable Downs. These latter birds were no doubt going to roost at Tring reservoirs. The numbers in January and February at the refuse dump at Willington gravel pits never rose above 50 on any date (M.O.).

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*)—A few birds occasionally seen in company with some parties of the former species (M.O.). Several at Luton rubbish dump, 17th February (H.C.).

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)—One, dead, Sidegate Spinney, Stagden, 27th January; one, Whipsnade, 1st to 3rd February; three, Willington, 2nd November (D.W.E., P.S.B. and F.C.G.). Reports of single or pairs of large gulls seen intermittently over Bedford may have been this species. Large party at Luton rubbish dump, 17th February (H.C.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*)—One, Luton rubbish dump, 17th February (H.C.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*)—Two on arable land near Bushmead, 29th June (K. A. Odell).

WATER-RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)—One, Luton Hoo, 7th February; one, dead, Goldington, 25th March; one, Marston Morteigne, 26th June; one, East Hyde, 7th December (M.W., A. D. Pentland, Mary Goode and H.C.).

COOT (*Fulica atra*)—Normal breeding status: c. 200, Southill lake, 26th December, when numbers reached a peak for the winter (F.C.G.). Present at Luton Hoo lake throughout the year (M.W.).

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*)—One, heard, mid-June at Mr Saunder's farm, Harrold; another, Clifton, during July; and a third, Newnham, Bedford, 10th-11th July; one flushed, Kempston Hardwick, 18th October (C.F.T., W. Inskip, F.C.G. and R.L.).

HENRY A. S. KEY

## MAMMALS

Few records of animals are received each year though I feel sure that many members do observe interesting occurrences from time to time if only of the more common species. May I appeal for both a keener interest in the subject generally and for an increase in reports even though they may seem trivial to the observer?

In particular information as to the distribution of both the Otter and the Badger in the county is earnestly sought and I shall be glad to learn the location of suspected excavations or 'sets' of the latter.

Specimens of any species forwarded for identification will be welcomed.

HENRY A. S. KEY

# Notes and Observations

## ABNORMAL SONG OF ROBIN

On 6th September a Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) was heard at Luton singing the usual robin's song, always prefaced by a few calls very similar to the Great Tit's (*Parus major*) "teacher" call. This type of song continued throughout September and October. Very little Robin's song was heard in November and December, but what was heard from the same Robin omitted the "teacher" calls.

H. GOLE

## CHAFFINCH NESTING IN A BLACKBIRD'S NEST

A Blackbird's nest at Luton, in which the mud lining had been completed, was being finished in the usual way by the hen Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). Later the inside was noticed to be much smaller than normal and also eccentric relative to the outside.

Observation showed that a hen Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) was building its nest inside the Blackbird's.

On 13th April the Blackbird laid one egg. The Chaffinch continued to build over it, and the Blackbird laid no more eggs and left the area, so the one egg was removed on 15th April. On 20th April the Chaffinch laid its first egg, completed a clutch of four on 23rd April and commenced incubation.

Another Chaffinch's nest existed only five yards away, and after a fight between Chaffinches near the nests on 27th April the eggs in the Blackbird's nest were deserted. Two young were eventually fledged from the other nest.

The Chaffinch's eggs laid in the Blackbird's nest were of a different character from the other Chaffinch's, having a considerably more bluish ground colour, indicating that this was not a case of one hen laying in two nests.

H. COLE

#### ATTACKS ON BEE HIVES BY THE GREEN WOODPECKER

During the cold and snowy spell in December Green Woodpeckers caused a great deal of damage to bee hives in orchard and wooded areas on the Bedfordshire—Hertfordshire borders.

Large holes were pecked in a number of hives causing considerable agitation among the inmates and disturbing the quietness so necessary to successful wintering.

There was no evidence of the birds actually eating the bees since the normal winter casualties lay untouched on the floor boards. No trace of bees was found in the birds' droppings which consisted entirely of remnants of ants.

It is not easy to assign a reason for the attacks. The theory that the birds were probably attracted by the humming noise of the bees seems reasonable as I understand that similar attacks on sound telegraph poles in isolated areas are not infrequent.

As a protection against the woodpeckers the hives have now been surrounded by wire netting and this has proved effective.

N. ELLEMENT

#### WOOD-WARBLER'S SONG

The Wood-Warbler is credited with having two songs, or at least a song in two phases, but I consider that it has one real song and that the so-called "second song" is nothing more than an alarm call or scold. An experiment which I have carried out to justify my belief began quite accidentally in 1937. In that spring I was on the outside of a wood near Ampthill listening to a male Wood-Warbler singing high up in a tree when I started to imitate a Cuckoo. Immediately, the bird changed over to its so called "second song" and became very excited. I persisted with my cuckooing, and the bird, still giving its vehement "Pew: Pew: Pew:", came right down to within a very few feet of where I stood. I refrained for some time until it began to sing its song again, then directly I cuckooed it switched over to its alarm notes and came down towards me. In 1940 at the same place, a Wood-Warbler pair arrived as usual, also another pair about thirty yards further in the wood. Not only did the usual male bird change to the alarm call when I cuckooed, but the distant male immediately stopped its song and flew straight over to me and joined in the scolding with the other bird. I have visited this wood for ten different seasons and each year I have persuaded a Wood-Warbler to answer my cuckooing; although not always being successful on my first visit. In some seasons they have definitely refused to get at all perturbed in early May, yet have readily obliged two or three weeks later. This seems to suggest that it is not until nesting has commenced that the cuckoo is considered to be an undesirable visitor. Both song and scold are accompanied by a shivering of the wings.

CLAUDE S. PAYNE

#### MINOR EVILS OF A GARDEN IN LUTON

The rustic work in our garden often falls down through decay and high winds but usually in winter. This year it fell down in the spring at Easter and consequently one felt like lingering over the decay and inspecting it more closely. The wood had been tunnelled quite extensively and in the tunnels were numbers of fully-grown rather naked caterpillars. There were also some pupae that appeared to be those of the caterpillars. These were kept in order to see if the moth emerged. About four did so and could be identified as *Oecophora sulphurella* F., a bronze-coloured species with a yellow stripe on the wing. This moth often flies during the day and the larvae are said to live in dead wood. Not one of the pupae apparently was parasitised.

Not so fortunate were the caterpillars of the moth *Gracillaria syringella* F. that mine in the leaves of our lilac bushes making them blotchy-brown. The moth is a white and brown speckled creature with long antennae. Breeding from leaves kept in small Kilner jars produced 334 moths. The numbers are not really surprising as each mine is inhabited by more than one larva. However, 35 Braconid parasites also emerged, so just under 10 per cent of the caterpillars had been parasitised.



BEE HIVE ATTACKED BY GREEN WOODPECKER  
*(Photograph by G. A. Ingold)*

The larvae of a fly, *Trypeta zoe* Mg., that mines our big white daisy leaves fared even worse. Some of these collected in a tin and lain over soil produced numbers of puparia, but only one male and one female fly emerged. All the rest gave rise to the fly's parasite, a bright green Chalcid, which emerged in much larger numbers than the fly; in fact 18 parasites appeared or, to put it another way, there was 90 per cent parasitism. It will be interesting to see what happens to the daisies next year.

B. R. LAURENCE

*Inocybe patouillardii* AT SHARPENHOE CLAPPERS

The Hertfordshire Natural History Society was at Sharpenhoe Clappers wood on 14th June and we found large numbers of *Inocybe patouillardii* on the ground under beeches. I went up again on 18th June and got a lot more. It is poisonous. The identification was confirmed by Dr F. B. Hora of Reading.

P. H. GREGORY

**ABSTRACTS OF LITERATURE ON  
BEDFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY FOR 1952**

BRITISH BIRDS. Vol. 45 (1952).

(a) "Report on bird ringing for 1951", No. 8, p. 267. A Starling ringed in Bedford on 18.1.51 was recovered at Zeist (Utrecht), Holland, on 25.4.51.

(b) "British recoveries of birds ringed abroad", No. 12, p. 458. A Rook ringed at Giethoorn (Overijssel), Holland, on 8.5.49 was recovered at Ampthill on 11.5.50.

ENTOMOLOGISTS' RECORD. Vol. 64 (1952).

(a) "Food of *Platystoma seminatiois* L.", by B. R. Laurence, p. 29. Feeding on a dead caterpillar at Fancott.

(b) "*Macroglossum stellatarum* L. in Bedfordshire" by W. A. C. Carter, p. 253. One seen at Yelden, 15th July.

ENTOMOLOGISTS MONTHLY MAGAZINE. Vol. 88 (1952).

"Further records of Bedfordshire Coleoptera" by B. Verdcourt, pp. 73-80. Numerous habitats of beetles found in the county.

THE FIELD. 1952.

(a) "Outsize Rats". J. Ivester Lloyd gives details of large rats killed at Leighton Buzzard, Vol. 199, p. 254.

(b) "Starling roost at Elstow". Commented upon by Major Ormrod of West Hoathly, Vol. 199, p. 174; also comments and corrigenda by F. G. R. Soper, Vol. 199, p. 334.

(c) "A departure from virtue". His Grace the Duke of Bedford records the killing of a brood of ducklings by a Barn Owl, Vol. 200, p. 231.

(d) "Cuckoo-koo". An unusual call of a Cuckoo at Woburn reported by His Grace the Duke of Bedford, Vol. 200, p. 548.

**THE LIBRARY**

In 1952 the Society was offered the hospitality of the Nature Room of the Bedford Training College for housing its library. At the same time a cupboard was generously, but anonymously, given to the Society. It was therefore decided by Council, at its meeting on 20th August, to transfer what publications it owned to the cupboard in the Nature Room from the Luton Museum, where Dr J. G. Dony had very kindly been keeping them since the inception of the Society in September 1946. Miss E. Proctor was appointed Hon. Librarian at the same Council meeting.

The Library will be open on all occasions of the Society's meetings in the Nature Room. Books, periodicals or pamphlets in the library may then be borrowed by any member of the Society, or at any other time previously arranged with the Hon. Librarian. The only conditions are (i) that the Borrower enters the title of the publication to be taken out of the library together with the date and his or her name on the sheet pinned up on the inside of the cupboard door; and (ii) the borrowed publication must later be handed back personally to the Hon. Librarian.

### List of Books, Periodicals, etc., in the Library 1.3.53

(Those marked with an asterisk were given by Mr Ray Palmer, see "Report of the Council", p. 2)

#### BOOKS

Robert Adkin's *The Moths of Eastbourne\**, 2 parts, (1930-31) (Trans. Eastbourne Nat. Hist., Photogr. & Lit. Soc., Vol. 10, supplements); F. Balfour-Browne's *Concerning the Habits of Insects\** (1925); Canadian Nature Magazine's *Conservation\** (1946); G. D. Carpenter & E. B. Ford's *Mimicry\** (1933); Evelyn Cheesman's *Insect Hunting in the South Seas\** (1932); Evelyn Cheesman's *Insect Behaviour\** (1932); Evelyn Cheesman's *The Great Little Insect\** (no date); Vaughan Cornish's *The Scenery of England\** (1932); T. A. Coward's *Birds and other Nature Problems\** (1931); E. J. J. Cresswell's *Sponges, their nature, history, modes of fishing, varieties, cultivation, etc.,\** (no date); D. Davidson's *Days and Ways of Early Man\** (1927); W. G. Davis' *The Macro-Lepidopterists' Calendar\** (1909); C. A. Ealand's *Insect Life\** (1921); J. Ericksson's *Fungoid Diseases of Agricultural Plants\** (1912); James Fisher's *Watching Birds\** (1946); A. H. Foster's *The Birds of North Hertfordshire\** (1914); J. C. F. Fryer & F. T. Brooks' *Insect and Fungus Pests of the Farm\** (1928); W. B. Groves' *A Synopsis of the Bacteria and Yeast Fungi\** (1884); H. R. Haweis' *White's Natural History of Selborne\** (1886); G. Henslow's *Poisonous Plants\** (1909); Martin Hiesmann's *How to attract and protect wild birds\** (1911); R. L. Hine's *The Natural History of the Hitchin region\** (1934); R. Kearton & Howard Bentham's *The Pocket Book of British Birds\** (1925); M. C. E. Kirby's *Chapters on Trees\** (1873); W. Kirby & W. Spence's *An Introduction to Entomology\** (7th Edition, 1856); F. B. Kirkman's *British Birds, Descriptions of all but the rarer species, their nests and eggs\** (1923); R. B. Lodge's *The Birds and their story\** (no date); E. W. MacBride's *Zoology, the study of animal life\** (1922); Maxwell Lefroy's *Manual of Entomology\** (1923); L. C. Miall's *History of Biology\** (no date); S. A. Neave's *The History of the Entomological Society (Centenary History) 1833-1933\** (1933); R. M. Neill's *Microscopy in the service of man\** (no date); W. C. O'Kayne's *Injurious Insects\** (1912); J. W. Oliver's, revised by W. B. Grove, *Elementary Botany\** (1908); Ray Palmer's *Marvels of Pond Life\** (1927); Ray Palmer's *Bombus, the Bumble Bee\** (1940); Ray Palmer's *Rufa, the Wood Ant\** (1940); F. R. Petherbridge's *Fungoid and Insect Pests\** (1916); R. A. Proctor's *Pleasant Ways in Science\** (1878); K. Prouth & S. H. Vines' *Textbook of Botany\** (1881); J. F. Rayner's *A standard Catalogue of our English Names for wild Flowers\** (no date); F. E. Stevens' *The New Forest Beautiful\** (1925); Edwin Way Teale's *Grass Root Jungles\** (1937); F. V. Theobald's *British Aphids\**, Vol. 1 (1926); J. Arthur Thompson's *Natural History\** (no date); A. Wilmore, etc.'s *The Natural History of Hertfordshire\** (1925).

#### PERIODICALS

*The Countryman*, Vols. 29-46 (1944-52) (lacking No. 2 of vols. 36 (1947) and 37 (1948)); *The Country Side\** (weekly edition), 10 vols. (complete set), 1905-1909; *Country-Side\**, Vol. 13, Nos. 2, 4, 7 and 10; Vol. 14, nos. 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9; Vol. 15, Nos. 5 and 8 (these all contain articles by Ray Palmer); *Country-Side*, Vol. 16, Nos. 1-4 (1951), Nos. 5-8 (1952); *Natural History* (J. of the American Museum of Natural History), monthly, Vol. 60, no. 7 (September 1951) to date.

#### OUR CONTEMPORARIES

Haileybury & Imperial College Nat. Hist. Soc., *Ann. Rep.*, 1949 and 1950.  
Hertfordshire Nat. Hist. Soc., *Trans.*, 1875-1940 (160 parts)\*.  
Huntingdonshire Flora & Fauna Soc., *Ann. Rep.*, 1950.  
Kings School, Canterbury, Nat. Hist. Soc. & Field Club, *Ann. Rep.*, 1946.  
Letchworth Nat. Hist. Soc., *J.*, 1944-50\*.  
Middle-Thames Nat. Hist. Soc., *Ann. Rep.* (The Middle-Thames Naturalist), 1947-8, 1949, 1950, 1951.

Northamptonshire Nat. Hist. Soc. & Field Club, *J.*, 1948-52.  
 Oundle School Nat. Hist. Soc., *Ann. Rep.*, 1947.  
 Northumberland, Durham & Newcastle-on-Tyne Nat. Hist. Soc., *Trans.*, 1950  
 (Vol. 10, 1).

## ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORTS

Cambridge Bird Club, Rep. for 1949.  
 Farne Islands, Ornith. Rep. for 1950.  
 Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, Rep. of the Bird Observatory and Field Study  
 Centre at, for 1949.  
 Northumberland, Durham & Newcastle-on-Tyne Nat. Hist. Soc., Ornith.  
 (Ann.) Rep. for 1944-51 inclusive.  
 Oxford Ornithological Society ("Birds of Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Bucking-  
 hamshire 1929"), Rep., 1930.

## GUIDES, HANDBOOKS, ETC.

British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Guide to the British Vertebrates\* (1910);  
 Horniman Museum, Guide for the use of visitors\* (1912); Society for the  
 Promotion of Nature Reserves, Handbooks (5) (1946-50).

## REPRINTS

"List of Birds found in the neighbourhood of Oundle", compiled by the  
 Oundle School Natural History Society (Oundle School Nat. Hist. Soc. Rep.  
 1947); "List of Plants in the Herbarium of the Oundle School Natural History  
 Society" (Oundle School Nat. Hist. Soc. Rep. 1947); "Problems on Distribution  
 raised in the Compilation of a County Flora", by J. G. Dony; "Distribution of  
*Bunium Bulbocastanum*", by J. G. Dony (reprints from "The Study of the  
 Distribution of British Flora", edited by J. E. Lousley, 1951); "The Satyrid  
 Butterflies of Hertfordshire—a short study of *Pararge aegeria*", by A. E. Gibbs  
 (Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc., 16 (3), 1917); "The Natural History of Hert-  
 fordshire", by F. W. Jane\* (Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc., 22, 1946); "Observa-  
 tions on the Social Life of Humble Bees", by Ray Palmer\* (Trans. S.E. Union  
 Sci. Soc., 1924); "Hertfordshire Dragonflies", by Ray Palmer\* (Trans. Herts.  
 Nat. Hist. Soc., 21, 1940); "New British Mammals", by Ray Palmer\* (Country  
 -Side).

E. PROCTOR

## NEW MEMBERS

1953 Barnett, Miss V., 29 Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard  
 j1953 Blythe, Miss A., 5 The Avenue, Flitwick, Beds.  
 1953 Blythe, H., 5 The Avenue, Flitwick, Beds.  
 a1953 Dunn, Mrs A. A., 52 Brookfield Road, Goldington, Bedford  
 1952 Measures, P. J., F.R.H.S., Keyston House, Keyston, Hunts.  
 1952 Metcalfe, Mrs D. E., 2 Goldington Road, Bedford  
 s1953 Mitchell, Miss J., 15 Winifred Road, Bedford  
 s1952 Oldrey, A. D. G., The Laws House, Turvey, Beds.  
 1952 Porter, T. G. Y., 24 St. George's Road, Bedford  
 1953 Randall, Plt Officer T., Officers' Mess, R.A.F., Cardington, Bedford  
 c1952 Rothamsted Bird Group, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpen-  
 den, Herts.  
 a1953 Stansfield, Mrs L. A., The Pines, 20 High Street, Flitwick, Beds.  
 1952 Stanyon, J. S., 3 Grange Street, Clifton, Beds.  
 s1953 White, D. J., 21 Whitehill Avenue, Luton, Beds.  
 j1953 White, R. J., 21 Whitehill Avenue, Luton, Beds.

## LIST OF MEMBERS, No. 6, pp. 37-41

**Corrigenda and Changes of Address**

- Bagshawe, T. W., F.S.A., F.Z.S., The Old House, Aspley Guise, Bletchley, Bucks.  
Godber, Miss J., M.A., Willington Manor, Bedford  
Laurence, B. R., 4 Princes Garth, London Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.23  
Lucas, E., 20 Clapham Road, Bedford  
Norris, H. F., The Kennels, Woburn Park, Woburn, Bletchley, Bucks.  
Rodell, Mrs M., 17 Tudor Road, Luton, Beds.  
Soper, Mrs D., The Briars, Bromham Park, Bromham, Bedford  
Soper, F. G. R., The Briars, Bromham Park, Bromham, Bedford  
Soper, Miss P. M., The Briars, Bromham Park, Bromham, Bedford  
Stansfield, G. H., The Pines, 20 High Street, Flitwick, Beds.  
Verdcourt, B., B.Sc., E.A.A. AND F.R.O., Ainsworth Hill, P.O. Box 5166, Nairobi,  
Kenya  
Wadelin, Miss B. E. M., 54 Bower Street, Bedford

## APPEAL FOR BUMBLEBEES

Research is being carried out at the Bee Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, on bumblebee behaviour particularly with reference to their ability to pollinate certain crops. In recent years this work has been somewhat curtailed by lack of sufficient numbers of bumblebee nests, so any nests or information of their whereabouts will be gratefully received.

JOHN B. FREE

## CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN NATURAL HISTORY

The University of London awards a Certificate of Proficiency in Natural History, which is designed for teachers who require a certificate testifying that they have a practical working knowledge of the subject such as will be of special value in teaching it to children up to the age of 15 years. The work involves a directed course of private reading at home, attendance at a Practical Course of four weeks' duration in the Easter and Summer vacations, an approved plan of field-work suited to the students' locality to be written up in the form of an essay and examinations.

Students wishing to begin their directed course of reading may apply at any time *before 30th November 1953* for registration with a view to attending the next Practical Course, which it is hoped to hold at Flatfield Mill Field Centre (Council for the Promotion of Field Studies), East Bergholt, nr Colchester, during one week of the Easter vacation and three weeks of the Summer vacation in 1954.

The work for the Certificate has been found particularly valuable by teachers whose special interest lies in the study of living things.

Copies of the regulations and further information may be obtained from the Director of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, Senate House, London, W.C.1.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Complete sets of the JOURNAL (Nos. 1-6) are now obtainable, price one pound four shillings, from the Hon. Editor. Single copies remain at five shillings each.

## CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Council of the Society shall approve each application for membership, but subject to this condition, membership shall be granted on payment of the annual subscription, viz:—

- 10s. 0d. Ordinary members and affiliated institutions (full membership).
- 7s. 6d. Full time students (full membership).
- 5s. 0d. Associate members (do not receive the Society's Journal).
- 2s. 6d. Junior members (under sixteen years of age, do not receive the Society's Journal).

Application forms for membership can be obtained from the *Hon. Membership Secretary*, 27 Rothsay Road, Bedford.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Any Member may compound for life by a single payment of £10.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that their subscriptions are due on the 1st January in each year. These should be sent to

*The Honorary Treasurer,*  
W. H. BONNETT,  
Bedford Road, Stagsden, Bedford.

## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The Editorial Committee welcomes suitable contributions on the natural history of the county for publication in THE BEDFORDSHIRE NATURALIST. Short paragraphs from members about their own observations of general interest are specially desired. All material should, if possible, be typewritten in double spacing on one side of the paper only, or written very legibly. Illustrations should not be prepared before consultation with the Editor.

Contributions to be considered for publication in the next issue should be submitted by 1st March 1954, and should be sent to

*The Honorary Editor,*  
DR H. F. BARNES,  
27 Rothsay Road, Bedford  
(Phone: Bedford 2611)

## A NEW COUNTY FLORA

The eagerly awaited "Flora of Bedfordshire" by John G. Dony, with a foreword by Sir Edward Salisbury, will be published on 1st December 1953. This comprehensive account of the flora with introductory chapters on the history of Bedfordshire botany and the factors governing plant distribution as well as a complete bibliography is being attractively printed on about 500 pages, 8½ in. by 5½ in., illustrated by maps and photographs, and will be bound in cloth with gold title. Obtainable from the publishers, the Luton Museum, price 40s.; to advance subscribers 30s. (list, to be included in the book, closes on 30th September).