

EDITORIAL.

WITH this volume, the *Proceedings* become once again up to date, and in future the normal practice will be to publish only once a year. Members will, it is hoped, welcome the relation between recent Field Meetings and certain parts of this volume of *Proceedings*. Contributions to a series on Hampshire Castles, inaugurated in this volume, will be gratefully received by the Editor. Intending contributors writing on this or any suitable subject are asked to send a typed manuscript when this is possible, and are advised not to embark on a large number of illustrations, maps, etc., without first consulting the Editor. They are also reminded that immediate publication is not always possible.

The Club's grateful thanks are due to Mr. Helliwell, F.L.A., Librarian to the City of Winchester, who has again compiled the Index for all three parts of this volume of *Proceedings*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor of The Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club.

Sir,—I am anxious to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of Wrynecks visiting this country annually both as passage migrants and residents. It should not be very difficult to conduct a comprehensive census (only about fifty individuals of the species are at present actually reported annually) provided *every bird* is recorded on *every day* it is heard or seen. Since the Wryneck is declining comparatively rapidly in numbers it is obviously of scientific interest that a census should be made as soon as possible.

If your Society is in a position to do so could it possibly adopt the Wryneck as a bird for intensive recording this year?

I should be most grateful if this could be done, and perhaps you would kindly inform your members that I should be glad to receive *all records* (however apparently trivial) for this coming year. If possible the information should include:—

- (1) Date (time) and place of *every* bird heard or seen.
- (2) Duration of stay, *i.e.*, *every* date on which recorded.
- (3) An opinion on whether the bird was on passage or resident, and whether it possibly, probably, or actually, nested.
- (4) Any notes on field behaviour of particular interest.
- (5) Details of breeding.

I should also be glad to receive any past records (however old) which have *not* been printed in local or county reports, but again would like to emphasise that even a postcard with a single date and locality on it would be very gratefully received.

Little Stow,
Goring-on-Thames, Nr. Reading, Berks.
January, 1954.

DR. J. F. MONK.

REVIEWS.

"Shaftesbury, Dorset. The Streets, Roads and Lanes."

By E. Jervoise, F.S.A. (Shaftesbury and District Historical Society. Publication No. 1, 1950.)

This excellent little volume might serve as a model for other local history societies, whose chief faults in the past have usually been either lack of small publications or else the tendency to publish at an unnecessarily low academic standard. For half-a-crown we have here a map of Shaftesbury in 1615, and a concise series of descriptions of the main features, architectural and historical, of the Shaftesbury streets and lanes. It is to be hoped that this will prove to be the first of a successful series.

B. C. T.

"Saxon Architecture and Sculpture in Hampshire." By

Arthur R. Green, F.S.A., and Phyllis M. Green.

The County of Southampton is exceptionally rich in relics of the Saxon period, and this small book will be welcomed not only as a handy volume of reference by those who are initiated, but also by those who are unfamiliar with this terrain, as a careful, concise, and most interesting account.

The book is very well produced, clearly written, and lavishly illustrated with excellent photographs, plans and diagrams.

The authors trace the influence behind the remarkable sculptural remains such as those at Romsey to the same source as the truly splendid work of the "Winchester School" of MSS. illumination.

In the acknowledgements a generous tribute is paid to the Hampshire Field Club and it seems to me that the Club may be proud of its connection with so useful and scholarly a publication, and that everyone interested in this lovely county, its history and monuments will wish to possess a copy.

F. JOHNSON, A.R.I.B.A., J.P.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.**March, 1954.**

Proceedings Bournemouth Nat. Science. Soc., Vol. XLIII, Session 1952-53.

Brighton and Hove Nat. Hist. Soc. Centenary Report, 1954.

The Advancement of Science, Vol. X, No. 40 (British Association), 1954.

Curtis Museum, Alton. 20th Annual Report, 1953.

C.P.F.S. (Council for the Promotion of Field Studies) Annual Report, 1952-53.

Report on Dorset Birds, 1952, by K. B. Rooke, M.A., M.B., M.B.O.U. (Reprinted from *Proceedings* Dorset Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc., 1952, Vol. 74, pp. 133-148.)

Haslemere Educational Museum. Annual Report, 1953.

The South-Eastern Naturalist and Antiquary (Proceedings and Transactions of the S.E. Union of Scientific Socs., 1953, reporting Congress at Worthing, Vol. LVIII).

Sussex Arch. Soc. Annual Report, 1953.

The receipt of "**The Archaeological Bulletin for Great Britain and Ireland, 1948-1949**", published by the Council for British Archaeology, 1952, is also acknowledged, "**The Invasion of Wessex in the Sixth Century**", by Gordon Copley (Phoenix House, 1954), and "**The Smith**", by F. W. Robins, F.S.A., F.R.G.S.

PLATE V.



WIELD CHURCH.

Alabaster Monument on South wall of Chancel to William Waloppe, 1617,
with his third wife.

SUBJECT SECRETARIES' REPORTS.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION.

ADDITIONS to the photographic collection during the past year include copies of a series of photographs illustrating Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt's article on Royal Arms in Hampshire Churches, kindly presented by the author, and a collection of late nineteenth-century photographs of Hampshire Churches and Abbeys donated by Mr. J. P. M. Pannell, M.B.E. The Club's collection continues to be much in demand by students of architecture and archaeology and requests have been received for permission to reproduce photographs illustrating "The Imagery of British Churches" by M. D. Anderson and a paper on the Avon Valley by Muriel M. Coventry. Members are reminded that the photographic collection is readily accessible and may be studied in comfort at the Tudor House Museum, Southampton; members are also cordially invited to contribute photographs which they feel might be of interest to the Photographic Section.

A. M. TROUT,
P. STORER PEBERDY,

Joint Honorary Secretaries.

BIOLOGICAL SECTION.

General Remarks.

Again I have to thank contributors for a number of very interesting records of botanical finds in 1953.

Mr. E. A. Burrows writes : " We have just found a number of Morels in a bank about 200 yards from this house. I have never seen them in this neighbourhood before." Looking through the many lists of fungi published in the *Proceedings* of the Field Club from 1891 up to date I have been unable to find any record of Morels (*Morchella esculenta*) in Hampshire. The species is said to favour disturbed soil such as bomb craters and rubbish dumps and particularly burnt places.

The Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*) and the Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) have both been recorded this year from Nightingale Wood, and the elusive Mouse-tail (*Myosurus minimus*) was found in an old gravel-pit near Southampton, an unusual site for this species which is normally found on arable land. A rarity, the Small-flowered Yellow Rocket (*Barbarea stricta*), was discovered by Mrs. Lucas, a member of the Southampton Natural History Society, in a ditch near Queen's Bower in the New Forest in September. Another "highlight" of the year was the finding of *Chenopodium capitatum*, which in the Cambridge Flora (Clapham, Tutin and Warburg) is said to be "naturalized in fields in Caernarvon and Fermanagh, and as a rare casual on rubbish tips elsewhere". Mr. G. W. Willis wrote to me : "In case you have not seen this rather rare plant recently I send one of my surplus specimens for inspection and record. It—several plants—occurred in a local chicken-run, actual address . . . Basingstoke, but the normal attribution to 'chicken food' does not appear to apply in this case as they use their own grown corn for their chickens". Mr. Willis adds : "The last time I saw it was, I think, some 25 years ago when it suddenly occurred in the High Street at Alton". Druce calls it "Strawberry Blite" from the likeness of the scarlet flower-clusters to rather large wild strawberries.

In the course of our visit in July to Lepe and Stanswood Bay Mr. H. T. Baker detected and showed me a tiny woolly clover, and afterwards wrote : "The small woolly clover which I showed to you just to the west of Stone Point was, so far as I can judge, certainly *Trifolium striatum*. It is recorded from 'below Lymington', but Townsend and Rayner appear not to have used Lepe as a habitat for any of their records". Townsend gives some other similar localities for the "Soft Knotted-clover", for instance "Mudford" and "shore near Netley" and Rayner adds "Keyhaven" and some other places.

Martagon Lilies. Mrs. Carden of Kilmeston Vicarage sent the following very interesting note : " I have found a group of Martagon Lilies in Stanmore Woods near here in a thicket of hazel and beechwoods. For the last nine years I have found them in the same place, flowering in mid-June and growing to 3 to 4 feet high ". Rayner records these lilies in Stanmore Wood in 1911 and 1917, so it seems they have been established there for at least the past 42 years. Rayner also gives another locality, " Ashley Wood " in 1928, and members of the Southampton Natural History Society reported them plentiful in Ashley Wood this year, 1953. Another lily, the Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*), was reported by Mr. Paul Bowman this year " at the edge of a wood near Nursling ", and he also recorded the finding in the same neighbourhood " under willows " of the Slender-lipped Helleborine (*Epipactus leptochila*).

In 1951 in the Mammal Report for that year I asked if anyone could confirm my belief that the Red Squirrel still had a footing in the Isle of Wight and that the Grey Squirrel had not yet invaded the Island. Mr. Oliver Hook paid more than one visit to the Island this year to investigate the matter and has written a most interesting and valuable report to which I would draw attention.

Weather, 1953.

1953 began with three rather cold months and a good deal of fog in January and March, though there were many bright and warm days at the end of February and in March. Winds were mainly northerly or north-easterly and there was little rain, especially in March. April was a sunny month with westerly winds during the first week, but afterwards mostly from the north. May and June had some very hot days and were bright almost throughout, but S.W. winds in mid-May brought more than the average of rain for that month and again an average fall during the third week of June. Otherwise winds were mainly northerly. In July the wind was chiefly from the S.W. after the first four days and rainfall was very much above normal. August had an average rainfall, with variable winds during the first half and S.W. to N.W. during the rest of the period, but there was considerable sunshine and some high temperatures, August 12th sharing with June 26th the highest temperature of the year, 83 degrees. September and October both began well with warm dry days, but both months produced heavy rain in their latter ends, particularly in the last week of October when a downpour described as " fantastic " produced a flood in Southampton. Winds were very variable in September but mainly N.E. or N. in October. There were some bright days in November but the beginning of the month was cold. Wind variable. The year closed with some six weeks of

warm, dry weather more like early summer than the beginning of winter.

For the benefit of those who like figures I append two tables which explain themselves. These figures are for Southampton and I am again indebted to Mr. H. J. R. Mabey, Recorder of the Hudson Verity Weather Station at Southampton, for his assistance and co-operation in giving me access to his records.

F. E. W. VENNING,
Biological Secretary.

TABLE A.
SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL.

	No. of Hours of Sunshine	No. of Days with less than one hour of Sunshine	No. of Days on which rain fell	Total Inches of Rainfall	Largest Amounts on Day and Date	Remarks
Jan. -	51	17	12	.995in.	.65in. (5th)	
Feb. -	80.25	10	11	1.19in.	.41in. (9th)	3in. snow on 13th
March -	150	6	7	.54in.	.25in. (30th)	Last six days rainy
April -	198.50	6	16	1.6in.	.25in. (2nd)	
					.24in. (12th)	
					.27in. (30th)	
May -	238.50	3	10	2.45in.	.93in. (15th)	Most rain 13th to 20th
June -	204.25	3	16	2.28in.	.55in. (15th)	
					.74in. (21st)	
July -	200.55	3	17	4.615in.	1.04in. (11th)	
					.59in. (30th)	
Aug. -	264.20	3	12	1.65in.	.53in. (19th)	
					.41in. (23rd)	
Sept. -	168.10	2	16	3.325in.	.86in. (19th)	No rain 3rd to 13th
Oct. -	111	9	12	5.19in.	.88in. (26th)	Rain mostly after 22nd
					.54in. (30th)	
Nov. -	53.50	17	13	1.385in.	.32in. (3rd)	Rain mostly first and last weeks
Dec. -	34.25	20	11	.79in.	.35in. (30th)	
Totals -	1756.10	99	153	26.01in.		

(Average Rainfall for last 23 years in Southampton : 27.227in.)

TABLE B.
TEMPERATURES.

MAXIMA				MINIMA		
	Highest Daily Maximum and Date	Lowest Daily Maximum and Date	Average Maximum for Month	Average Minimum for Month	Lowest Daily Minimum and Date	Highest Daily Minimum and Date
Jan. -	55 (29th)	35 (7th)	43	34	24 (13th)	48 (27th)
Feb. -	59 (27th)	34 (15th)	44	34	21 (7th)	47 (21st)
					24 (6th)	
March -	65 (23rd)	44 (6th)	54	34	25 (3rd)	48 (28th)
	65 (25th)					
April -	69 (22nd)	48 (6th)	55	40	34 (3rd)	46 (17th)
					34 (6th, 7th, 10th)	
May -	80 (25th)	52 (1st)	64	48	33 (11th)	59 (24th)
	79 (24th)					
June -	83 (26th)	54 (23rd)	67	52	42 (4th)	60 (26th)
	81 (29th)				42 (7th)	60 (27th)
July -	75 (4th)	62 (12th)	68	54	46 (11th)	59 (5th)
	74 (5th)				46 (31st)	
Aug. -	83 (12th)	64 (23rd)	68	54	44 (18th)	64 (11th)
Sept. -	77 (8th)	61 (21st)	64	48	41 (28th)	60 (1st)
		61 (28th)				
Oct. -	70 (1st)	52 (14th)	58	44	35 (8th)	56 (14th)
		52 (27th)			35 (28th)	
Nov. -	59 (28th)	47 (5th)	54	42	29 (2nd)	54 (13th)
					31 (9th)	
Dec. -	59 (4th)	43 (20th)	51	42	34 (20th)	52 (3rd)
		43 (31st)			31 (25th)	

(Temperature figures are all degrees Fahrenheit.)

ZOOLOGICAL REPORT.

PART I.

Mammals in Hampshire, 1953.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*).—One found dead on road at Keyhaven, July 17th; remarkably few ever come to my notice (E C). One seen alive by Keyhaven Harbour, November 1st (E C). One inhabits my garden at Beaulieu all summer (D W Y). Occasional specimens found dead on roads in S. Hants during the mild months of the year (O H).

Mole (*Talpa europaea*).—Perhaps more in evidence this January than usual (E C).

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus castaneus*).—One dead in drive, Sway, May 9th (E C).

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*).—Killed by cat near Sway, April 5th; the first I have known in the district during the last 13 years (E C). One seen in stream at Matley, New Forest, June 21st (O H).

Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*).—Found hibernating in a nest-box at Sway, December 8th; when warmed in hand it flew off in daylight (E C).

Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).—A number, probably of this species, flying at dusk in garden at Linwood, April 16th; keen frost on two previous nights (Mrs. Haines).

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes crucigera*).—Two litters watched several times in New Forest between May 2nd and mid-June—five cubs in each litter (O H). Mrs. Haines writes from Linwood: "A big dog-fox was about here for a long time in the spring and on one occasion sat sunning himself just outside our windows, a few yards away".

Badger (*Meles meles*). A litter of four, probably born at end of February in New Forest, watched during May and June. When the cubs were about three months old the family changed residence and occupied another sett about 100 yards away. It was noticed that bedding changing was often undertaken just before rain fell, thus ensuring a supply of dry material.

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*). Mr. C. W. Andrews of Hale, near Fordingbridge, writes: "Fallow deer have been frequenting this district in greater numbers than for the last seven years. I am afraid they have not been very popular as they have raided most of the gardens between Woodgreen and Hale. A fallow buck took a liking to my little larch trees in the wood, to my surprise as I should not have thought the flavour would attract him. He also tore the bark off in strips and ate it. One or two mallards were served in the same way. He is forgiven as I love them but I wish he had gone elsewhere".

Mr. Andrews also reports: "Two fallow bucks and some does and fawns were about the rhododendron forest that skirts Hale Purlieu during the summer. I saw two white does in this part of the Forest on several occasions."

Mrs. Haines writes: "At Appleslade two fallow does spent a lot of time on our ground and came into the garden on a number of occasions during March and April. They seemed hungry, owing, we believe, to the lack of general growth on account of the dry weather. They came within a few feet of the front door and ate off the flowers of our crocuses and tulips. In certain places where the ground was covered with ivy they bit off all the leaves leaving it quite bare. They also cleared away a lot of brambles".

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).—Mr. C. W. Andrews writes : " There have been several roe deer about. One morning at the end of April a roe buck came down the grass field in front of my cottage. He walked along the wire fence, then squeezed under and strolled down into my wood. He was about here for weeks afterwards".

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucourus*).—Observed in woodland areas on the Isle of Wight in various months. This is the only species of squirrel at present found on the Island. (See report on "The Squirrels of the I.O.W." that follows the "Mammal" report.)

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*).—Now on the black list with a price on its tail (1s.). In spite of fairly hard shooting and trapping its numbers still keep up in many districts (O H). A few throughout the year at Sway (E C).

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus soricinus*).—One in hay stack, Sway, at 2200 hours, January 29th ; weather mild, full moon (E C). Two near Lymington seen whilst threshing rick of dredge corn, December 2nd (O H).

Yellow-necked Field Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis wintoni*).—One in apple shed at Sway in March (E C).

The Squirrels of the Isle of Wight.

In these days of the increasing spread in Britain of the once alien, and now unpopular, Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), it is refreshing to find that the only squirrel to-day on the Isle of Wight is our native Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucourus*). Rapid as has been the rate at which the grey has spread and populated the mainland, the Solent appears to have provided an effective barrier against this species, and it is to be hoped it will never reach the Island.

The position toward the end of 1953 appeared to be that there was a rather thin stock of Red Squirrels on the Island, mostly centred in and around the woodland areas, as one would expect, and generally holding its own. The Forestry Commission do not interfere with the squirrels for, although fircones of many species form part of its diet, the loss of the conifer seed is not important in the afforested areas as natural regeneration is not relied upon here for re-stocking. Hazel nuts are also eaten in considerable numbers, but here again hazel is no longer in demand for hurdle making, nor to any extent for other minor woodland produce for which it was once cultivated.

In the past the woodlands of the Isle of Wight have been predominantly deciduous, but in common with other areas in the British Isles, deciduous species are gradually giving way to conifers to satisfy the increasing demand for softwood. It is doubted whether such a change will much affect the Red Squirrel population on the Island for they seem almost as much at home in either type of tree species, and this may be explained by the fact that the deciduous trees include a large proportion of Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Hazel, all of which produce edible seed highly attractive to the Red Squirrel, whilst the cones of Scots Pine, Corsican Pine, Maritime Pine and the Cedars are all enjoyed.

In March 1953 I had been told of the presence in the Osborne Woods of a type of Red Squirrel much darker in colour than the common kind, and on a subsequent visit in January 1954 I saw a specimen of this dark variety in the grounds of Osborne House. The pelage of this animal was an extremely dark reddish brown, looking almost black in some lights, with the tail of the same colour, and of normal length, the underside nearly white but the cartufts very short. Luckily it was possible to compare the features of this squirrel with those of a normal type that was seen nearby about an hour later, and this latter animal possessed the rich red-brown pelage and tail of a normal red

squirrel, with white underside and the usual long ear tufts that one expects at this period of the year. Both these squirrels were seen amongst oaks, but an avenue of cedars was nearby. There is no doubt they move appreciable distances with the seasons in search of food supplies, and they are often seen feeding on the ground.

In August 1953 the tail of a normal Red Squirrel seen in the Osborne grounds was appreciably bleached, whilst the ear tufts were absent: this is what one would have expected at this season. It is, however, desirable to collect more information concerning the seasonal changes in pelage of the dark variety, and perhaps readers of these notes, living on the Island, could help by sending to the writer at Brockenhurst, details of any colour changes that they may have observed.

In the larger mixed woodland areas several dreys were observed in the autumn of 1953, mostly in conifers, but some in oaks and other deciduous trees, though many would have been old dreys. On 30th June, 1953, a Scots Pine about 30 feet high was felled during a thinning operation, and in its upper branches was found a drey with five naked young red squirrels.

The foresters, park keepers, gardeners and others whom I questioned regarding the population of the Red Squirrels on the Island all seemed interested in these attractive little animals, and it is to be hoped that the Isle of Wight will long continue as a stronghold for them, unchallenged by the more aggressive and omnivorous Grey Squirrel.

O: Hook,

Zoological Secretary.

PART II.

Reptiles and Amphibians in Hampshire, 1953.

Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*).—Remains of a specimen run over in roadway at Keyhaven, February 2nd (E C). A live specimen found on Farlington Marshes, April 18th. A dead specimen in roadway at Keyhaven, September 10th (Mrs. Rogers).

Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*).—One seen basking in the sun at Linwood on April 21st (Miss Pratt).

Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*).—A specimen seen at Sway on May 20th (E C).

Smooth Snake (*Coronella austriaca*). One caught in New Forest, July 29th (O H).

Adder (*Vipera berus*).—During the exceptionally mild spell an adder, which was very active, was killed in Highland Water by a forester on Dec. 14th.

Frog (*Rana temporaria*). Spawn observed at shallow end of a pond near Brockenhurst on March 1st (O H).

Toad (*Bufo bufo*).—Fourteen spawning toads in pond near Brockenhurst and considerable quantities of spawn March 1st (O H).

O: Hook,

Zoological Secretary.

PART III.

Birds in Hampshire, 1953.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There are many more observers this year—over fifty—whom I must thank, particularly J. S. Ash, J. Stafford and the young and energetic band who for convenience are here labelled “Portsmouth Group” (P.G.). I should also like to thank those observers who have sent me records but whose observations there has been no room to particularise ; their notes are included in the summaries and I hope that they will not be discouraged from continuing to send in reports.

Two rarities have had to be omitted, one each of Gull-billed Tern and Great Snipe, because I am not fully convinced of the correctness of the identifications ; both records have been submitted to the Editors of *British Birds* who have not yet pronounced judgment. Their inclusion in the following list would make it more exciting but perhaps inaccurate. First records for the County are the Lesser Yellowlegs and the breeding of the Siskin. The Little Bittern is the first record for the Hampshire mainland this century. The Goshawk is omitted from the County avifauna in Kelsall and Munn's *Birds of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* (1905).

We hope to have more information on Herons for the 1954 report as a result of the national census of heronries to be undertaken this year by the British Trust for Ornithology.

I make no apologies for having put in things of interest to Hampshire people which may not always be of interest to ornithological specialists or may to them be nothing out of the ordinary, e.g., some of the ringing recoveries and also some interesting observations from J. S. Ash which are not concerned with distribution and might as well have been seen in other counties but which seem to me of sufficient interest to warrant inclusion in this report. I say this because the Editor of a report like this has to have one eye on his Society's readers and the other on the critical Editors of *British Birds* !

The numbers at the left are those of the B.O.U. Check-list 1952. I hope readers will now be getting accustomed to the new (Wetmore) order. “The Island” means the Isle of Wight throughout.

Although I have received plenty of first and last dates of migrants I have again, to economise space, omitted these where they come within the limits of “early” and “late dates” given in *The Handbook*. As a matter of fact most migrants this year appear to have arrived rather late.

EDWIN COHEN,
Ornithological Secretary.

Hazellhurst,
Sway.

REPORT.

- 2 **Great Northern Diver** (*Colymbus immer*).—January 20th, one off Eastney watched down to 4-5 yards; bill long, stout, evenly tapered; back barred (C J H). December 6th, about 2½ miles off Bournemouth, one seen within 15 feet very close to a Cormorant, than which it appeared only very slightly shorter (D F B).
- 4 **Red-throated Diver** (*Colymbus stellatus*).—A number of reports both from the mainland coast and the Island from January to March and from October to December, the most together being eight at Mudeford Point on January 24th (M C A). Once again, not a few of the reports are of oiled birds. One was picked up as far inland as Compton (per D G P).
- 5 **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*).—Mostly November to March with a maximum together of 22 in Langstone Harbour on February 20th (P G). Attempted breeding at Portchester but eggs were taken (D M J).
- 6 **Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps griseigena*).—Two in the Lymington River on December 20th took to flight at about 40 yards from the ferry when two white patches were seen on the wing. Stoutest and more pied than Great Crested Grebe (M C A).
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*).—At Langstone Harbour on October 24th four were seen including one in partial summer plumage and the next day there were eight, including that bird, seen at 40 yards with telescope (P G). One was seen 70/100 yards offshore at Sandown on January 2nd by D G who states that he is familiar with the Black-necked Grebe and saw the characteristic bill of this bird and that the dark cap did not extend below the eye.
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps caspicus*).—All reports are from the Farlington Marshes (Langstone Harbour) where on September 9th there were three in summer plumage and on October 10th two in transition plumage when display was witnessed, of which I have been sent a description. Between October 18th and December 31st numbers on six visits varied between 28 on November 28th and three on December 31st (P G).
- 9 **Little Grebe** (*Podiceps ruficollis*).—Adults were seen with young near Bembridge, I.O.W., on June 6th (R M C) and on Beaulieu Pond on August 19th (C B A). The maximum number seen together on salt water (Langstone Harbour) in winter was 35 (P G). The winter flock on the River Medina dropped from about 40 in December 1952 to about 25 in January, 20 in March and 10 on April 10th (last date) and began to re-form with four on July 29th (none on the 19th) and was up to 20 by September (J S).
- 26 **Fulmar** (*Fulmarus glacialis*).—Between Freshwater Bay and the Needles from one to three were seen on four dates between April 23rd and June 6th (R M C, G H R, C J H, and M C A).
- 27 **Gannet** (*Sula bassana*).—Occasionally seen in very small numbers off the coast or off the Island, the only striking observation being of a flock of about 200 adults and immatures fishing at the shingle bank between Hurst Castle and the Needles about the last week in August (W J T). The observer was out in his boat looking at lobster pots.
- 28 **Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—About 100 at High Cliffs, I.O.W., on May 28th when nests, eggs and young were also seen (G H R). The maximum numbers in Langstone Harbour in winter were about 80 on November 28th; many left the harbour at night in the direction of the

Island but probably roosted on Spithead defence boom (P G). A bird ringed as young on June 28th on St. Margaret's Island, Pems., was recovered at Christchurch, 150 miles E.S.E. on September 29th. Another ringed as young on July 9th, 1950, on Puffin Island was recovered at Binstead, I.O.W., 282 miles S.E. on February 1st, 1953.

- 29 **Shag** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*).—Only three adults seen at High Cliffs on May 28th by G H R and C J H. At least two pairs, probably more, nested at the Needles (J S).

- 30 **Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*).—In Langstone Harbour normally two or three but a series of sudden peaks during which the birds appeared very restless, often indulging in high-flying evolutions in which most birds present took part: July 25th, 13; August 10th, 17; October 11th, 34; October 24th, 30; November 8th, 27 (P G).

- 37 **Little Bittern** (*Ixobrychus minutus*).—August 9th, a female at Titchfield Haven (C S). Description of bird seen can only have been of this species.

Hybrid duck shot January 17th at Tichborne by Lt.-Gen. S. R. Wason. Report on it from Mr. J. D. Macdonald, Principal Scientific Officer, Bird Section, Natural History Museum: "Its characteristics appear to be mainly those of Mallard and Teal. It may have some Pintail blood also and if so may be a multiple hybrid which escaped from captivity. Unless one has a series of known hybrids and mutations for comparison one can only guess at the origin of an unusual specimen."

- 45 **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—A melanistic young one appeared in a brood reared at Hale (J S A) and another in a brood at Farlington Marshes; the latter was all black with a white triangular blaze on the breast (P G). About 10 pairs nested by the Yar between Bembridge and Brading (J S).

- 46 **Teal** (*Anas crecca*).—One out of three nests at Pennington successful, the other females being killed by a grass-cutter (W J T). Present on Farlington Marshes in every month except May; maximum 150 during December. Main autumn passage September 7th to 22nd (P G). On March 11th and 15th there were about 25 between Keyhaven and Pennington on the salterns (E C).

- 47 **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*).—Male and female at Ringwood on April 8th (M C A). Single males on the Avon (M C A) and on Brading Marsh, I.O.W. (R M C), on two dates in May and a male on Farlington Marshes from May 1st—23rd (P G).

- 49 **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*).—A female at Bedhampton Creek on November 22nd and December 1st (P G). This species is very uncommon in the County.

- 50 **Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*).—Numbers frequently approach or exceed 100 on the mainland and Island coasts from October to March. Maximum monthly counts at Farlington gave about 500 in January, 300 in February, 450 in March, 90 in October, 500 in November and 500 in December (P G). There were also 180 on Blackwater near Beaulieu on December 31st (J G).

- 52 **Pintail** (*Anas acuta*).—Ones and twos between January and mid-April at several places, mostly on the coast. Very few records in November and December, but on December 20th there were five at Farlington (P G).

- 53 **Shoveler** (*Spatula clypeata*).—From January to April and August to December some ten records of up to 10 birds on the mainland and Island coasts (various observers) and a note of 10 males and two females at Old Alresford Pond on February 20th (E L J).

- 55 **Scaup** (*Aythya marila*).—On November 30th a female flew out to sea from Sturt Pond, Milford (E C) and on November 15th there was a male in Langstone Harbour (P G). The only records.
- 56 **Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*).—Apart from records of smaller numbers between December and March and two females in May there were from 20 to 40 on a Portsmouth claypit up to January 6th (C J H) and 15 at Blashford on January 25th (M C A).
- 57 **Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*).—All reports but one are in January and February mostly from the same places as the Tufted Ducks and often with them. The only counts of more than ten were about 54 at Old Alresford Pond on February 20th (E L J) and 60-70 at Winnall on February 21st (W).
- 60 **Golden-eye** (*Bucephala clangula*).—In Langstone Harbour there were 90 on January 24th, an exceptionally high number for the south coast; 10 of them were adult males (K B and C J H). The numbers there decreased from 50 on February 11th by a gradual drop to 30 on March 8th and two on March 29th. On October 17th there were again 20 (P G). The only inland report was of a female seen diving repeatedly on Winnall on April 4th by D G P.
- 61 **Long-tailed Duck** (*Clangula hyemalis*).—All reports are by P G from Langstone Harbour, viz., two pairs on April 5th, an immature male on November 7th and a female on November 15th and 21st and December 23rd.
- 64 **Common Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*).—Odd birds seen in the Solent in January, March, October and November by various observers and eight to the east of St. Catherine's Point on September 6th and about 25 to the west of Hengistbury Head on November 15th by M C A.
- 67 **Eider** (*Somateria mollissima*).—An immature male in Langstone Harbour on December 18th and found dead there on December 27th (P G).
- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*).—Up to nine birds seen on seven or eight occasions between Pennington and Hayling Island from January to April 3rd and in November by several observers.
- 70 **Goosander** (*Mergus merganser*).—From the 15th to the 26th of February, when it disappeared, there was a female on Winnall which "has never happened before" within the observer's knowledge (D G P). It was also reported by W. There was also a female on Great Salterns Lake just east of Southsea from the 19th to the 21st of April (P G). A male with two females off Pennington on December 2nd and 8th (E C).
- 71 **Smew** (*Mergus albellus*).—A female or immature in Freshwater Bay on January 5th, which was also there from December 1st to 6th, 1952, and was included in the 1952 report (per G H). On January 18th there was a female or immature on the River Medina (J S).
- 73 **Sheld-duck** (*Tadorna tadorna*).—Records in all months along the coast except July. On February 24th there was the maximum number on spring passage, 550 (P G). 70+ at Farlington on April 18th (E C) and about 60 at Stanpit in May (M C A). On June 8th a pair with 12 young at Needs Oar (E C). A party of 15 flying west down the Solent into Poole Bay on December 6th; this and small parties passing west near Eastbourne on the same day (G H R and C R T) coincides with the return of main mass of adults in Langstone Harbour (D F B). The only inland record is of one on Marsh Court Lake near Andover on March 8th (per E L J). Nested Wootton Creek, I.O.W., a pair with five young being seen June 26th (G A).

- 76 **White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*).—The numbers in the Ringwood area were variously estimated in January at 600-800 with a reduction to 500 on March 15th at Ibsley. On January 18th a few were seen both at Keyhaven (R S) and at Titchfield Haven, six, lacking the white forehead (therefore immature), the first of the species ever seen there by C S. About 50 on Farlington Marshes on January 7th and 25th (P G).
- 80 **Dark-breasted Brent Goose** (*Branta b. bernicla*).—Langstone Harbour, 25 on January 4th and about 70 from February 4th to 28th dropping slowly to nine on March 14th, the last date. Seventy again from December 20th to 27th (P G). On December 13th a flock of six at the sea's edge, Meon shore (C S *et al.*, the first he has ever seen there). Six or seven at Pennington on January 10th (E C) and 18th (R S).
- 82 **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*).—May 6th, Stratfield Saye Park, a pair allowed a fairly close approach so were probably not truly wild (E C).
- 84 **Mute Swan** (*Cygnus olor*).—The largest herd was of 410, all adults, in Christchurch Harbour on August 20th (E C). The highest counts from the train at Redbridge gave about 40 at low tide on June 17th and about 65+ at high tide on July 2nd, all adults on each occasion. Other counts gave 55 at Lymington on January 9th (a high number there), 152+ adults and two immatures in Christchurch Harbour on September 19th and 73 adults with two immature on Sturt Pond, Milford, on December 29th (all E C). On August 27th a pair with seven cygnets was on Blackwater near Beaulieu (E C). No reports in February or October but that is probably due to absence of observers.
- 91 **Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*).—In Ridley Plantation, New Forest, a very large pellet found on May 26th consisted entirely of lizard skins and was probably cast by this species (J S A). Common in New Forest but unusual in E. Hants. A pair frequented downland in the I.O.W. in the winter of 1952/53 and until March (M C A).
- 94 **Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*).—A female on September 8th at Fordingbridge seen down to 30 yards with 10 x 40 glasses in very good light. The outstretched yellow legs showed no evidence of jesses but any record of this species is open to doubt as not being that of a truly wild bird (J S A).
- 99 **Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*).—An adult female or young male appeared on several occasions between August 3rd and December 31st at a number of places on the coast and at Yarmouth on November 28th and was seen by seven observers. The bird on August 3rd left to the N.W. from Farlington Marshes at about 500/600 feet (P G).
- 100 **Hen Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*).—In January, March and from October to December occasional singletons were seen, mostly females, by five observers at widely separated points. In the Damerham-Martin area there were many records of both males and "ringtails" in early spring and from October to December, one of which was trapped and ringed (J S A).
- 102 **Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*).—Males and females occasionally seen but no young reared in any of the three areas where they were reared last year. A female was trapped on Brook Down, I.O.W., on May 6th (M C A).
- 103 **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*).—One near Fordingbridge was watched daily from June 5th to 15th when it was shot and proved to be a first summer male weighing 3 lb. 12 oz. On one occasion it chased and caught a swallow on the wing (J S A). (This prey is not mentioned in *The Handbook*.) Evidence for a prosecution proved to be unobtainable. On August 1st a bird which had also been seen on July 29th was seen to leave Long Island, Farlington Marshes, to the N.W. at about 600 feet.

- On September 12th and 19th one was seen at Titchfield Haven, mobbed on one occasion for about 10 minutes by Rooks (C S). On December 5th a probable immature at Yarmouth (M C A) which the *Daily Telegraph* described as the first in the Isle of Wight for 60 years; what was most probably the same bird was seen on the mainland two days later by M R who did not know at the time of the other occurrence. May 1st, Hengistbury Head, one (R B).
- 104 **Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*).—Only four reported, the first on May 10th flying over Sway going north (E C), and the last on September 30th at Newton Stacey (B B P). Reports of nesting received, but withheld for security reasons.
- 105 **Peregrine** (*Falco peregrinus*).—Singletons on the mainland in March, September, October and December. Probably bred on the Island as usual (M C A).
- 107 **Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*).—In the Damerham—Martin area ones and twos on seven occasions from January to April and on seven occasions from October to December (J S A). One or two on the Farlington Marshes in October and November (P G).
- 110 **Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*).—An adult male ringed near Damerham and released at Goodwood, Sussex, on March 24th was retrapped where ringed four days later (J S A). On February 28th one was disturbed near Damerham while eating a male Bullfinch (J S A). This prey is not mention in *The Handbook*.
- 117 **Quail** (*Coturnix coturnix*).—Appear to be common near Damerham; first heard on May 26th and heard frequently in different parts of one estate of 4000 acres during June/July where two old and six young birds were seen regularly from July 16th to the end of August. Also odd birds in three other areas not far away. Last dates: two and probably three flushed from kale on November 7th and one from roots on December 18th (J S A). A female at Hunnyhill, Brighstone, I.O.W., on September 5th (O H F).
- 120 **Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*).—Common in winter along the Allen Valley between Damerham and Alderholt Mill; none from the end of April until mid-October (J S A). Two or three wintered as usual at Farlington (P G). Resident at Brighstone; no nests found but young occasionally seen (O H F).
- 121 **Spotted Crane** (*Porzana porzana*).—An immature bird caught alive at Farlington on October 24th by C R T.
- 125 **Corncrake** (*Crex crex*).—Only four reports, all in September, two of them, including five birds at Brook (C S), from the Island (various observers).
- 126 **Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*).—On March 5th near Damerham one was in a field at least a mile from the nearest water (J S A). At Farlington 13 pairs bred as against about three pairs in 1952 (P G). By a tidal pond just inland from Keyhaven Harbour fairly frequent counts gave a maximum of 37 in November, December and January; they were usually feeding on a more or less permanently semi-flooded meadow (E C). The pond at the north end of New Milton has been allowed to fill again after being drained and on November 6th there were 15 adults and six immature birds on it (E C).
- 127 **Coot** (*Fulica atra*).—January 12th, Stanpit, about 98 (E C). March 7th, Bedhampton Creek, 280 and about 210 there in November and December (P G). At Bembridge, where it nests (J S and R M C) there were 73 on September 19th (G A) and 56 on December 19th (R M C).
- 131 **Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—The largest count between Stanpit and Needs Oar gave about 42 on September 11th at Warren Flats (E C). Much movement between Langstone and Chichester Harbours makes estimate of numbers at the former difficult but in March there were 100+, in June 60 and in August 100 (P G).

- 133 **Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*).—A nestling ringed near Damerham on May 2nd, 1953, was shot 125 miles S.S.E. in Calvados on November 16th and another ringed near there on June 2nd, 1952, was shot 360 miles S.S.W. in Charente Inférieure on January 2nd (per J S A). Flocks of from 100+ to 350 are not uncommon outside the breeding-season at Keyhaven and Farlington Marshes; on the latter there were 30 breeding pairs (P G).
- 134 **Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—March 24th, Keyhaven, a male doing courtship flight like a bat over the female. August 20th, Stanpit, at least 70 (E C). Unusually scarce at Farlington this year; maximum about 200 on August 22nd, minimum five on April 2nd though there were about 100 two days previously. On May 6th seven left Langstone Harbour at 1910 hours G.M.T. at about 300 feet to N.N.E. over the shoulder of Portsdown Hill and were not seen to return. (See also under Dunlin and Knot) (G H R).
- 135 **Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*).—A pair returned to the gravel pit near Sway where they bred last year. A scrape found on May 3rd contained no eggs then nor on five visits up to the 12th although the adults were still about. On May 16th the area was under water after heavy rain and there was no sign of the adults (E C).
- 136 **Kentish Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).—August 24th at Needs Oar, two. Record accepted by *British Birds* (E L J).
- 139 **Grey Plover** (*Charadrius squatarola*).—In every month from September to January between Keyhaven and the mouth of the Beaulieu River, but never more than 11 birds (E C). Smaller numbers at Newtown May to July and December (J S, M C A and R M C). April 10th at Needs Oar about 20 (G H R *et al*). Seen in every month at Farlington; first big autumn influx, 50, on August 22nd, in full breeding plumage; about 100 in Langstone Harbour in October and November (P G).
- 140 **Golden Plover** (*Charadrius apricarius*).—From January to April and October to December flocks of from 50 to about 230 more often inland than on the coast. One report from the Island, *viz.*, 50—60 at Newtown on February 15th (M C A).
- 143 **Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*).—In all months in suitable stretches along the whole coast; also on the Island but not in the summer months. Numbers sometimes considerable, 15—40 at Pennington and at Warren Flats, but up to 100 in Langstone Harbour at times and even one flock of about 150 (G H R and D F B) on the south shore of Hayling Island (E C, P G and others). A party calling as they flew over Fordingbridge at 2325 hours B.S.T. on August 28th (J S A).
- 145 **Snipe** (*Capella gallinago*).—Highest numbers reported from Farlington Marshes where present in all months except June (only one in May); maximum 42 on March 8th; about 30 in November and December (P G). About 20 at Thorness Bay, I.O.W., on December 19th (J S). A nest in a tuft of rushes was completely exposed on the day before hatching when a horse ate the cover to ground level round the sitting bird (J S A).
- 147 **Jack Snipe** (*Limnocryptes minimus*).—First autumn date, September 26th, Farlington Marshes, two (P G). Last date in spring, May 3rd, one, same place. Several at Yarmouth February to March and one on April 18th (M C A).
- 148 **Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*).—Recorded from several suitable areas both on the mainland and the Island in winter and roding in the breeding season (several observers).
- 150 **Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*).—Counts during flight to high tide roosts at Farlington gave 1000 in October, November, December; 1500 (maximum) on July 12th and 1100 on August 8th. Seen in all months (P G).

- Much smaller numbers further west in August and September (100 to 130) (E C). Nests, or attempts to, in suitable parts of the New Forest. Largest number from the Island was 80—90 by the R. Medina on March 8th (J S).
- 151 **Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*).—Only one in June and October, otherwise in quite small numbers this year except at Farlington (see below) in all months except November to February. Counts at high tide "roosts" in Langstone Harbour gave from 57 to 150 on four dates in April/May; there was one on the first and last dates, April 19th and October 11th (P G). On March 25th a party flew over Fordingbridge calling at 2315 hours B.S.T. (J S A).
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*).—Reported in all months. Most in August and September. Maximum 350 at Farlington on September 12th (P G). All records were from mainland or Island coasts, none inland.
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*).—Not more than seven at a time and nearly all in September and October except at Farlington where in all months except January: maximum 250 on December 27th, but this was a quite exceptionally large flock; 17 on June 3rd (P G). The two singletons from the Island were both at Newtown (M C A and J S).
- 156 **Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*).—Reported in all months except February and October both inland and on the coast, and also at Newtown (many observers). The maximum number was eight near Andover in July—August (E L J).
- 157 **Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*).—Mostly singletons between May 9th and September 5th, all on the coast from Needs Oar eastwards (P G, N F O C, E L J, E C and R M C).
- 159 **Common Sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*).—Mostly in small numbers on spring and autumn passage (none in June) and occasionally winters. No reports from inland. High numbers were 40+ at Stanpit on July 28th (F J W) and 23 at Farlington (G H R *et al*).
- 161 **Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*).—By far the largest gatherings on the coast are reported from Farlington Marshes where 40 pairs are said to have bred; maximum 2500 on October 10th, 1400 on July 12th and 1200 on August 25th and December 4th. Flocks further west much smaller (P G and E C). Largest number on the Island, where it nests at Newtown and Bembridge, 200/300 by R. Medina on January 11th (J S). A nest with four eggs of which two were "starred" at 2000 hours on June 2nd had all four starred from 1400 hours on the 3rd until the same time on the 5th; at 1000 hours on the 6th there were four chicks still wet. Weather was cold on the 3rd and 4th, cool on the 5th (J S A).
- 162 **Spotted Redshank** (*Tringa erythropus*).—In all months except July, November and January to March, nearly all singletons (six observers, including, from the Island, J S and M C A). One, on June 24th and 27th at Farlington in full summer plumage (P G).
- 164 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (*Tringa flavipes*).—One between Keyhaven and Pennington on sea-wall on September 28th and October 2nd (R E S). (Record accepted by B.B.). This is the first record for the County if one excepts a statement in a book *Notes on Some Common and Rare British Birds* by J. E. H. Kelso, M.D. (1912) where it is stated that "The Yellowshank has been obtained at Hayling" (p. 369) without stating the species, date or any other detail.
- 165 **Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*).—Rather more on autumn than on spring passage; occasionally in mid-winter; one remained through the summer at Newtown (R M C). Maximum on one day, eight at Farlington on September 27th (P G, who say that there were fewer this autumn than in 1952). (These reports from several observers.)

- 169 **Knot** (*Calidris canutus*).—Flocks of from about 30 to 300 seen in winter, spring and autumn at Pennington, Needs Oar and Langstone Harbour (E C, P G *et al*). Also at times 10 or less at Stanpit (R E S and R M C) and R. Hamble (R M C). On May 6th at 1803 hours G.M.T. flocks of 53 and 15 left Langstone Harbour at about 300 feet to the N.N.E. over the shoulder of Portsdown Hill and were not seen to return (G H R).
- 170 **Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*).—November 21st, Langstone Harbour, one, which appeared to be immature (P G who sent full description). The only record this year ; most of the coastline is unsuitable for this species.
- 171 **Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*).—Good, close views of two in summer plumage in Christchurch Harbour on June 5th (J M McH). One on June 27th at same place (E L J). Others, except for one each in October (11th at Thorness Bay, J S) and December (off Black Point, Hayling, on 20th, G H R and D F B, who also heard the call-note), were all in September, maximum seven on the 8th, 9th and 12th at Farlington (P G).
- 178 **Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*).—Far the largest flocks were reported from Langstone Harbour, *viz.*, 3000 on January 2nd and November 8th, and 1000 on December 12th, with between 40 and 600 in March and April (P G). On May 6th at 1745 hours G.M.T. 130 left the harbour flying N.N.E. at about 300 feet over the shoulder of Portsdown Hill and were not seen to return (G H R). At Fordingbridge on June 16th several flew over to the N.E. at 2330 hours B.S.T., calling ; the night was overcast (J S A). The largest flock reported in 1953 from the Island was one of 100+ at Thorness Bay on March 14th (G A per J S). At Pennington there were flocks of several hundred in January and December (E C).
- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris testacea*).—In May, June and September to November, nearly all singletons (P G, E C, R E S and J S A). At Farlington on May 2nd one was shot with 98 Dunlin (P G).
- 181 **Sanderling** (*Crocethia alba*).—Largest flocks S. Hayling about 150, November 20th and December 19th (P G). Once each in May, 20 at Stanpit (M C A) and June, 22 at Warren Flats (G H R). Twelve at Warren Flats August 27th (E C). No reports from the Island.
- 184 **Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*).—Ones or twos at Farlington between May 12th (the first) and October 10th (the last) but none in June (P G). One at Pennington on October 2nd and two on the 3rd (E C).
- 185 **Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).—On November 26th one was seen by M. Keeping to fly from Sturt Pond towards Hurst Castle (per W J T who was given a description which indicated that the bird was an immature).
- 187 **Grey Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—One at Farlington, September 25th—27th (G H R *et al*). The only record this year.
- 189 **Stone Curlew** (*Burhinus oedipnemos*).—Bred as usual in a number of areas which cannot be specified for security reasons. One ringed as a young bird on July 24th, 1951, recovered November 1st, 1952 at Durango, Vizcaya, Spain (B.B., XLVI, 314).
- 193 **Arctic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—A good view of one at Pennington on October 8th (E C).
- 194 **Great Skua** (*Stercorarius skua*).—From September 12th to 21st a bird (very likely the same one) was seen once at Hurst Castle chasing a Sandwich Tern (E. J. Avery in *litt* to *New Milton Advertiser*), on the 14th in the Solent and in Keyhaven Harbour, an adult (M R), on the 15th at the mouth of the Beaulieu River (Col. Spenser) and on the 14th and 21st off the defence boom at Beaulieu (W J T). It is of rare occurrence in the County.
- 198 **Greater Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*).—Two pairs nested on the Needles (M C A, G A and J S). About 150 wintered in Langstone

- Harbour (P G). 30+ adults at Stanpit, September 19th (E C). Often some at Stanpit and a few round Keyhaven, more adults than juveniles (E C). Inland records, one at Marsh Court near Andover, September 26th (E L J), and one at Winchester on March 7th (W).
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*).—Very small numbers apparently winter in the Test Valley near Andover (E L J). One wintered near Portsmouth Harbour station 1952/53 (P G). On December 22nd about 40 were seen from the Cowes—Southampton ferry (J S). On October 18th in Christchurch Harbour one agreeing with description of *Larus f. fuscus* alongside five of the British race (J S A) and there was another probable *fuscus* with one of the British race at Keyhaven on October 2nd (E C).
- 200 **Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*).—Nested in numbers on High Cliffs, I.O.W. (G H R and C J H). About 200 adults at Stanpit, August 20th, but otherwise only odd birds on the coast between Milford and Needs Oar in most months except June (E C).
- 201 **Common Gull** (*Larus canus*).—None reported between April 10th and August 18th, but otherwise small numbers on the coast between Stanpit and Southampton Water in all months (E C). At Farlington, however, the picture is very different, the highest total being 14,150 counted during the evening flights on March 29th (D F B). Other high totals from Langstone Harbour were 12,600 on February 21st and 6500 on October 25th (P G).
- 202 **Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*).—An adult in winter plumage in Langstone Harbour on October 3rd (P G).
- 207 **Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*).—Keyhaven, November 1st, one adult. (M R, who had not previously seen the species but noted the very dark underwing and whose description of it in other respects convinced me that it must have been this species.)
- 208 **Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*).—Stanpit, January 12th, at least 2000 including some first winter birds (E C). March 11th, hundreds on spartina nesting-grounds between Keyhaven and Pennington (E C). Almost all birds feeding by day in winter along the R. Medina between Newport and Cowes appear to join the roost at the mouth of the R. Hamble (J S and M C A). One bird with complete brown hood seen at Seaview and Cowes on November 18th (Mrs. R. A. Lawrence), December 4th (R M C) and 11th (M C A).
- 211 **Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*).—Farlington Marshes on November 2nd, one immature after high winds (P G). The only record.
- 212 **Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*).—Two at Thorney Island on March 14th (W); nine others between August 31st and September 20th, viz., seven immatures in Southampton Water (R M C), one in winter plumage near Keyhaven on September 15th (E C) and two at Old Alresford Pond on the 20th (E L J).
- 217 **Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*).—First date, April 28th (C P); last date October 23rd (R M C). A few pairs breed.
- 218 **Arctic Tern** (*Sterna macrura*).—Three records, all from the Island, by J S. May 8th, one; June 8th, one; September 20th, three adults in flock of 85—90—"Comics".
- 222 **Little Tern** (*Sterna albifrons*).—First date April 21st, three at Needs Oar (O H). Last date September 27th, one at Farlington (E C). Maximum spring numbers at Farlington, 16, on May 3rd; maximum in autumn, 23 on August 3rd (P G).
- 223 **Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*).—First date, June 1st, four went W. along the shore at Warren Flats (G H R and C J H). Last date September 27th, one, at Farlington. Maximum numbers, 34 in August at Eastney, going W. (P G).

- 224 **Razorbill** (*Alca torda*).—May 28th, High Cliffs, I.O.W., about 50 (G H R and C J H).
- 227 **Guillemot** (*Uria aalee*).—May 28th, High Cliffs, between 80 and 100, some brooding (G H R and C J H). Very small numbers occasionally seen off the coast, including seven off Southsea Beach on August 3rd (P G). One ringed as young Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, July 10th, 1951, recovered Hayling Island, 450 miles south, March 15th, 1953 (B.B., XLVI, 317).
- 230 **Puffin** (*Fratercula arctica*).—May 28th, High Cliffs, about 10 on the water (G H R and C J H).
- 232 **Stock Dove** (*Columba oenas*).—Three found dead on January 6th near Damerham were the first of many to be found suffering from a Pasteurella infection (pseudo-ruberculosis) : also reported in a large number of shot birds. A dead Rook, Jackdaw and Skylark had died from the same cause (J S A).
- 234 **Woodpigeon** (*Columba palumbus*).—5000+ near Damerham on November 6th. Numbers dwindled towards the end of the month (about 1000 on the 28th). Birds fed first on acorns still attached to trees before taking those on the ground (J S A).
- 235 **Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*).—First date, April 23rd, Farlington (P G) and Damerham (J S A). Last date September 27th, Needles (M C A). Young ringed Winchester June 7th, 1950, recovered at Estoril, near Lisbon, September 1st, 1952 (B.B., XLVI, 318).
- 237 **Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*).—On September 17th about eight arrived from the north at sunset and settled in a copse at Kingston, I.O.W., apparently preparing to roost ; tails appeared short—probably juveniles (J S). On May 11th near Damerham a cowman watched a cuckoo about to lay an egg in a Robin's nest ; when it settled down he rushed forward and actually caught it, whereupon it promptly laid an egg in his hand (J S A).
- 241 **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*).—January 27th, near Damerham, two found drowned in water tanks. Two eating carrion (a dead rabbit). Nestling ringed June 22nd, 1952, in New Forest found dead at Hampstead Norris, Berks, 43 miles N.N.E. on February 1st, 1953 (J S A and B.B., XLVI, 319).
- 246 **Little Owl** (*Athene noctua*).—Young ringed June 11th, 1952, at Sibford Ferris, Oxon., recovered December 16th, 1952, at Hursley, 70 miles south (B.B., XLVI, 319).
- 248 **Long-eared Owl** (*Asio otus*).—Bred in the Fordingbridge area, where on January 5th one was eating carrion (dead Blackbird). Several reported by keeper at Somerley but no nests found (J S A). Feathers found in Butser Combe in December and identification confirmed by the British Museum (Natural History) (G H R).
- 249 **Short-eared Owl** (*Asio flammeus*).—November 22nd in 100-acre stubble between Andover and Winchester 26 roosting at dusk on the ground. Reported to winter in the same place yearly from about October to January for the last 28 years (A W P R). On Farlington Marshes up to four January to March, one or two September to December ; last date, March 28th ; first date, September 27th (P G). May 17th on Brightstone Down, I.O.W., one ; probably a late migrant as not seen again during several visits May to August (J S). Occasionally elsewhere on the coast or Island in winter (various observers).
- 252 **Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*).—First date, May 18th, near Damerham (J S A). First date on the Island, April 26th, Parkhurst Forest, heard (J S). A few pairs breed near Andover (B P P per E L J).
- 255 **Swift** (*Apus apus*).—First date, April 20th, Cowes (R M C) ; last date Rookley, September 6th (D T A). Large S.W. and S. passage at Farlington on July 12th, 18th and 21st (G H R).

- 258 **Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*).—From one to four seen on coast between Keyhaven and Calshot in most months except April to July (E C and C B A). No report of breeding though they certainly used to in the New Forest.
- 261 **Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*).—Seen twice in April (I G F and D T A) and once in June (per C P). Bred successfully in North Hants.
- 262 **Green Woodpecker** (*Picus viridis*).—May 8th, a bird sitting on post-top flicking out its tongue to catch passing flies (J S A).
- 264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos minor*).—Nests on Lord Sherwood's estate at Brook (C. Smith, keeper, per J S). October 30th, one at Fordingbridge, the only record from that area (J S A). It appears to be much less common everywhere than the Greater Spotted and is rarely seen.
- 265 **Wryneck** (*Jynx torquilla*).—May 24th, one watched for an hour in old birches between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (M C A).
- 271 **Woodlark** (*Lullula arborea*).—In small numbers in the southern part of the County and the Island. Also one on Rushmore Down on December 29th (E L J). Adult and juvenile near Calshot, August 14th (C B A). Breeding data confidential.
- 272 **Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*).—Farlington, February 14th, flock after flock, hundreds of birds, passing east (snow on the ground) (G H R).
- 274 **Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*).—August 12th, reed-bed roost on Farlington Marshes built up to 200 (P G). On three dates in September small parties were seen going N., N.E. and E. (G H R).
- 276 **House Martin** (*Delichon urbica*).—Late date, November 24th, Seaview, three (R. A. Lawrence per J S).
- 277 **Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*).—Apparently no longer breeds on the Island. Last breeding record was of about two pairs in about 1950. All known sites deserted and some other suitable sites were visited and drawn blank (J S). March 28th and May 8th up to 500 at Winnall (W). Late date, November 1st, at Farlington, one, the last (P G).
- 279 **Raven** (*Corvus corax*).—Seen only twice in over twenty visits to the Needles (M C A and R M C).
- 281 **Hooded Crow** (*Corvus cornix*).—January 19th near Damerham, two in a tree caused much excitement among Magpies, Rooks and Jackdaws, which circled and alit beside them calling loudly. One or two on seven other occasions, the last on March 26th. First record of the species in the lifetime of the head-keeper. Many other records in the S.W. from Gloucestershire to the Isle of Wight from keepers who had never seen them there before (J S A). March 1st, one at Bedhampton Creek (G H C). November 8th one on sheep's back at Rookley, I.O.W. (D T A).
- 282 **Rook** (*Corvus frugilegus*).—Portsmouth, a new rookery in the heart of the city had 15 pairs (P G). Ten roosts located on the Island (J S). On October 15th at about mid-day eight flew at about 50 feet over the sea-wall at Pennington coming from the Island (E C). Movements just before dusk indicate that some fly from the mainland to the Island to roost and others from the Island to the mainland. On September 20th 63 with a few Jackdaws flew S.S.W. out to sea from Lee-on-Solent in a loose flock at about 10 feet to 100 feet above the water at about 5.0 p.m., presumably to roost on the Island (C R T). On the same day a flock of about 20 flew over Saltmead Ledge from the mainland to roost near Elmsworth Farm; two of them remained circling with terns for ten minutes in a compact flock (J S). On October 8th four flew N. at about 100 feet over the sea-wall at Pennington, coming from the Island, just before dusk (E C). And, finally, on December 2nd at 1600 hours (dusk) two were flying separately to the Island at the same place; they would have landed up at about Totland (E C).

- 283 **Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*).—January 12th, nine feeding on the sand at the mouth of Christchurch Harbour (E C). April 10th, Ringwood, at 1945 hours, when quite dark, three parties numbering 26, 14 and two birds flew fast and fairly high to the west in a very purposeful manner: "Could they be going to roost so late?" (J S A).
- Jackdaw** (*Corvus m. monedula*).—On February 26th at Fordingbridge a bird found dead (shot) was identified as belonging to the Scandinavian race. Identification confirmed by R. Wagstaffe. Back of head considerably more silvery grey and paler than local race; conspicuous white patch at each side of neck; underparts paler grey (J S A).
- 284 **Magpie** (*Pica pica*).—May 21st: a flightless bird which was caught had a broken egg impacted at the mouth of the cloaca. The whole area had become inflamed and swollen (J S A).
- 286 **Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*).—April 10th, Damerham: two trapped birds were retained in a cage overnight. The female crept about the cage bottom on the whole length of the tarsi in a crouched position, several times uttering the mewling note of a Buzzard (J S A).
- 293 **Willow Tit** (*Parus atricapillus*).—Young seen of one pair near Long-parish and of two pairs in Harewood Forest (B P P). Seen frequently in winters of 1952/53 and 1953/54 in usual locality on Hants/Dorset boundary between Alderholt Mill and Damerham. No sign of them there in spring or summer (J S A).
- 294 **Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos caudatus*).—At Sway on January 24th and "for some weeks previously" at first nine and later three regularly at bird-table, taking breadcrumbs (Miss Fisher and, on January 24th E C).
- 298 **Treecreeper** (*Certhia familiaris*).—A pair building on March 25th in a door jamb at Fordingbridge (J S A). (*The Handbook* gives the breeding-season as beginning in the latter half of April.)
- 300 **Dipper** (*Cinclus cinclus*).—One at Winchester on June 3rd, the only record (W).
- 302 **Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*).—Near Damerham, nine on May 6th, one on the 7th. First in autumn, one on October 20th arrived with an influx of Blackbirds, Song Thrushes and Chaffinches; several on October 21st and a very large increase on December 7th with advent of a brief cooler spell (J S A).
- 303 **Song Thrush** (*Turdus ericetorum*).—Very large numbers about with other Turdidae on October 22nd; they appeared to belong to the dark Continental race although none were identified in the hand (J S A). On October 17th there were 14 very grey birds of this species with Redwings at Farlington (P G). See also under Blackbird.
- 304 **Redwing** (*Turdus musicus*).—October 4th at Rookley, the first (D T A). First inland, at Damerham, five on October 20th flying S.W., occurred with large influx of other Turdidae (J S A).
- Redwing** (*Turdus m. coburni*).—One picked up dead near Damerham on November 18th. "It immediately struck me as being a remarkably dark bird. On closer examination its upperparts were especially dark, underwings very deep red (particularly axillaries), throat streaks blackish (not brownish); brown markings on breast were suffused, forming a patch of brown rather than a series of streaks. Left wing 126 mm. and right 125 mm. Tarsus 33 mm." (J S A) February 14th (2½ in. of snow) large numbers passing E. all day at Farlington (G H R).
- 307 **Ring Ouzel** (*Turdus torquatus*).—One at N. Hayling on April 21st (C J H and K B).
- 308 **Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*).—A new nest found on January 9th—a fortnight later it had been pulled out (J S A). About six nests and six of Song Thrush found on the ground up to April 23rd; this remarkable

- number could not be correlated with either weather or available nesting-cover (J S A). On March 15th between Wellow and Romsey a complete albino; no colour, pale bill and legs and "I think" pink eyes (C P). On October 17th a very large increase on Farlington Marshes; one small row of bushes held over 50; still very many on the 21st—100 in the large bushy area; on the 17th one dropped into the marsh from a considerable height from an easterly direction (P G). One bird sitting on eggs on December 7th at Fordingbridge and many other reports received about this time of birds with eggs or young (J S A).
- 311 **Greenland Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oe. leucorrhoa*).—A regular passage of large bright Wheatears in late spring were probably referable to this race. One female killed in a rabbit trap on May 21st definitely was; wing 103.5 mm. (J S A).
- 317 **Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*).—As last year, occasional birds of both sexes were seen near Damerham, which is outside their breeding area, outside the breeding season. One roosted in a riverside reed-bed on October 29th and 30th (J S A).
- 318 **Whinchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*).—Several seen inland, on the coast and on the Island on spring and autumn passage. No evidence of breeding.
- 320 **Redstart** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).—On spring and autumn passage and a male on Brading Down on June 27th (G A) but "not known to nest" on the Island (M C A). For that matter no nests were reported on the mainland although it does normally nest in the New Forest.
- 321 **Black Redstart** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*).—Five reports from the Island and four from the mainland, mostly October to December but one on March 21st—at N. Hayling (C J H and K B and several observers).
- 322 **Nightingale** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*).—An early bird on April 6th at Alderholt Mill on the Hants/Dorset border (J S A).
- 325 **Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*).—An adult ringed December 31st, 1951, at St. Mary's Bay, Kent, recovered in the summer of 1952 at Andover, 108 miles W. (B.B., XLVI, 324). A great increase on Farlington Marshes on October 17th (P G). One released from a trap into which a Sparrowhawk had gained access, entered my companion's clothing, to which it continually returned on being ejected (J S A).
- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella naevia*).—Plentiful in Newton Stacey area in July (A W P R). One timed singing continuously for 2½ minutes at Godshill on May 2nd (J S A).
- 333 **Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).—One ringed as young at Slough, Bucks, June 14th, 1952, recovered near Petersfield, 45 miles S.S.W. August 5th, 1952 (B.B., XLVI, 324).
- 337 **Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*).—The main autumn passage at Farlington was from September 4th—26th, but a very late bird was there on October 18th (P G).
- 343 **Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*).—January 22nd—24th, a female at bird-table at Sway (Miss Fisher and E C).
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*).—Five pairs located on the Island (D T A).
- 352 **Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia undata*).—July 13th, two on Warren shore where only gorse and no heather (R E S). Two males singing by the Ringwood—Cadnam road on November 16th (C P). Breeding sites withheld for security reasons.
- 356 **Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*).—Single birds heard calling with loud Redstart-like note, almost like "spink" of Chaffinch on September 18th and 24th (J S A).
- 364 **Goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus*).—Frequently singing at Sway from July 7th until August 10th (E C). From the table in the *Handbook* song in the first half of August would appear to be unknown.

365. **Firecrest** (*Regulus ignicapillus*).—Two on January 10th at Carisbrooke Castle (J S). A male on a coil of barbed wire at the Needles battery on March 21st and 22nd (M C A). One on April 3rd at Ashford Chace, Steep, with Goldcrest, tits and Treecreeper suggesting a winter party rather than a spring migrant (H. C. Helme, who furnished a full description).
368. **Pied Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*).—Male and female on the Island in spring (M C A), and one on September 8th (R M C). A male at Appleslade for three or four days, April 23rd. Male at Highcliffe on August 9th (E. M. Nicholson), one at Eastney Point, September 4th (P G) and a female at Thorney Hill, near Burley, on the 21st (C P).
370. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa parva*).—An adult male and a first winter bird or female in a garden at Farlington on September 14th (M. Bryant—description available).
371. **Dunnock** (*Prunella modularis*).—A very remarkable and sudden increase noted independently by several observers at Farlington on November 15th (P G).
373. **Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*).—Passage of considerable numbers in September and the first half of October noted both round Fordingbridge (J. S. A) and at Farlington (P G).
376. **Tree Pipit** (*Anthus trivialis*).—Two at Farlington Marshes on April 3rd and seven at Dibden Purlieu on the 10th (P G). Three breeding pairs in the Damerham area (J S A).
379. **Rock Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*).—Only a few winter at Farlington Marshes but spring and autumn passage noted, October 18th being the date of main autumn passage (P G).
- Water Pipit** (*Anthus s. spinoletta*).—One at Titchfield Haven on March 8th watched for a quarter of an hour in perfect light by H. J. Harrison and three others; skins examined later in Oxford University Museum and identification confirmed. On November 8th a bird of this race was described by J C and G H R who had two Rock Pipits close to it at Farlington for comparison.
380. **Pied Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*).—July 17th, Brockenhurst Grammar School, four young in a nest in a desk in a much-used half-covered passage; the pupils took a protective interest and the young flew successfully. September 29th a roost of 20 in an old fishing-boat at Keyhaven (R E S). A young bird ringed July 9th, 1952, near Settle, Yorks, recovered January 10th at Sandown (B. B., XLVI, 326).
- White Wagtail** (*Motacilla a. alba*).—From one to four on eleven dates in April at Farlington (P G and E C). A female or young male with Pied Wagtails in a Sway gravel-pit, September 5th (E C).
381. **Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*).—July 17th, Brockenhurst Grammar School, three young in a nest at the foot of a stack-pipe in a quadrangle; the adjacent gutter was almost completely waterless except after heavy rain. The young flew successfully (E C). A pair near Damerham reared three broods (J S A). There is no mention of such an occurrence in the *Handbook*. On the Island two pairs nested at Carisbrooke Waterworks and three other pairs were seen on the Island (D T A and A. J. Henry).
382. **Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*).—On Farlington Marshes the main arrival of males was on April 12th and of females on the 26th. Nine pairs bred there; the male of one pair was a variant of the Sykes type, with crown, nape and ear-coverts pale blue-grey and a fairly conspicuous eye-stripe, but the chin was yellow, not white. The largest number there on autumn migration was 66 on September 17th and the last (14) were seen on the 27th (P G).

- Blue-headed Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. flava*).—A typical male on Farlington Marshes on April 17th (P G).
- 388 **Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius collurio*).—Only three records sent in, all from the New Forest area. E C visited about six sites of nests in former years without seeing a single Shrike.
- 389 **Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Southsea, April 13th: one flew across roadway carrying a House Sparrow! The Sparrow managed to disengage itself and somewhat dishevelled alit on a wall (Mrs. E. S. W. Maclure). J S A writes: "I have not previously seen this species 'pirating' birds in the same manner that Common and Black-headed Gulls do to Lapwings. This winter they frequently did so to Fieldfares, but only as a side-line to their normal pursuit of food and not as the only means of obtaining food as is usually the case with the gulls". On November 12th on the Hants/Dorset border a vast flock 200-300 yards wide and about a mile long flew low, following the contours of the ground, S.W. over the estate and Martin Wood into Dorset at 1600 hours. Estimated 50,000—100,000 birds. Five minutes later two other flocks of about 1000 birds each passed over on the same line. Flight routes to roost normally pass to N.E. and S.E. over this ground (J S A). One ringed as adult at Bartley February 11th, 1951, recovered in presumed breeding area at Zydwow, N. Poland, April 30th, 1951 (B.B., XLVI, 327).
- 391 **Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).—February 11th, a party of at least two males and two females and probably up to 10—12 birds feeding on seeds of hornbeam on the ground at Brockenhurst Grammar School (E C). Amberwood Inclosure, New Forest, a fully-fledged brood of young with adults on June 16th (J S A). Thirteen in Harewood Forest on July 19th (B P P).
- 392 **Greenfinch** (*Chloris chloris*).—An adult female trapped and ringed on February 21st and released at Fordingbridge four miles away was retrapped where ringed the next day and an adult male similarly treated was back in five days (J S A). The first autumn birds appeared at Farlington on September 20th and were followed by a series of "waves" on October 4th and November 7th, 8th and 29th (P G).
- 393 **Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Flock of 60 adults on June 4th mobbing a Nightjar near Damerham (J S A). Maximum numbers at Farlington Marshes in autumn, 200, from the end of August to the beginning of October (P G).
- 394 **Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*).—January 29th, a flock of five in alders at Sway (M R). In an enclosure of the New Forest P L D saw a pair and an attempted coition on April 16th; on May 8th near the same place he and E C watched the female on to the nest, which had been found by P L D in a typical site, far out on a high branch of a Scots Pine; on the 13th the female was watched by E C feeding well-grown young still in the nest but on the 16th there was no sign of life at the nest, the young probably having flown. This appears to be the first breeding record for the county and there is no reason to suppose that they were not wild birds. The nest proved inaccessible for inspection even with a ladder.
- 395 **Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*).—Young ringed May 20th, 1952 near Fordingbridge recovered October 17th, 1952, at Parentis-en-Born (Landes) (B.B., XLVI, 329). Of 119 nests found in the Fordingbridge area 102 eventually contained completed clutches; average size 4.36. The ultimate fate of 87 of the nests is known; young presumably flew from 48 of them (55.2%), 16 were deserted (mainly due to strong winds and rain) and 23 were predated (Jays and mice suspected as being the main culprits). Total destroyed was 39 (44.8%) (J S A). Several flocks of 20—30 on May 4th when most local birds were laying (J S A).

397. **Redpoll** (*Carduelis flammea*).—Harewood Forest, January 4th and 5th, a flock of 30 (B P P).
401. **Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).—Apparently a general increase. More than usual round Sway (E C). At Woodgreen "a plague; much damage to fruit and flower buds" (D. A. Rawlence). Increased and spread inland round Portsmouth (P G).
404. **Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*).—As the species breeds in the New Forest regularly it is not easy to decide which of the flocks seen are referable to the 1953 "irruption". But flocks of 21 on July 17th and 12 on the 18th in different parts of the Forest are said by P.L.D. to be exceptional; and about six on August 7th at Highcliffe were considered by E. M. Nicholson to be undoubtedly part of the irruption. Other occurrences which probably also were, are a flock of 14 on October 1st at St. Catherine's Hill, near Burley (C P) and small numbers up to nine birds at Totland Bay, I.O.W. (Dr. Julian Huxley).
Only two definite cases of breeding: a fully-fledged young one fed by a male in the Forest on April 28th (P L D) and a male and female feeding four fledged young in the Forest on May 16th (E C). J S A saw eight on December 3rd and 12—14 on the 22nd in the Damerham—Martin area; this is outside the Forest so that these too were probably attributable to the irruption.
407. **Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*).—A male on February 24th had the blue of the head replaced by white. A flock of about 40 still present in the Damerham area on May 4th (J S A). Peak of the autumn migrants passing on Farlington Marshes was on November 8th (P G).
408. **Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*).—A number seen in February and March and November/December, the only flocks of any size being about 20 in Hurstbourne Park on November 14th (E L J) and 50 on the Ringwood—Cadnam road on November 16th (R M C). On February 14th, with 2½ in. of snow on the ground, 14 flew in from the W., alit for three minutes on waste land near Portsmouth airport, and continued to the E. (G H R).
409. **Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*).—On Farlington Marshes about 60 on November 28th, only three on the 27th and none on the 29th (P G).
410. **Corn Bunting** (*Emberiza calandra*).—A party of 11 appeared at Bouldsbury on May 12th, where they have not been noted previously. Three on May 20th; pair established on June 3rd (J S A). A pair bred near Bedhampton (P G). One at Warren Flats on August 14th (C B A).
415. **Cirl Bunting** (*Emberiza cirius*).—Fairly common round Winchester in May (W). Nest with four young in a macrocarpa hedge in a garden at Highcliffe on August 8th (E C). Several pairs bred in the Damerham—Martin area (J S A). Maximum numbers 17 on December 26th and 27th on the Farlington Marshes (P G) who report "Appears to have increased locally". About four on the high tide line at Keyhaven on January 4th feeding in the debris of dead cordgrass with the usual winter flocks of Yellowhammers, Greenfinches, Chaffinches and Reed Buntings (E C).
421. **Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).—February 8th, Ladycross Walk, New Forest, a flock of 30/40, both sexes (C B A). Large numbers in reeds during autumn passage at Farlington Marshes, September 25th to October 24th (P G).
422. **Lapland Bunting** (*Calcarius lapponicus*).—A male which stayed at East Head, Sussex, until at least January 3rd, 1954, and which is accepted by the Sussex recorders, was seen to fly thither from Hayling Island on December 23rd (G H R and C R T per D F B).

- 423 **Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—The bird reported in the 1952 report as being on the sea-wall at Pennington on December 22nd was seen four times in January up to the 10th (E C). A female on Farlington Marshes on November 10th (D. Pomeroy per D F B).
- 425 **Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*).—Still very few reports. One at Farlington on April 15th and May 5th and two on December 25th (P G); several in Crab Wood near Winchester on July 2nd (W) and one near Wherwell on November 2nd (E L J).

List of Observers.

- (M C A) - M. C. Adams.
 (J S A) - J. S. Ash.
 (C B A) - C. B. Ashby.
 (D T A) - D. T. Attrill.
 (G A) - Mr. and Mrs. G. Avery.
 (B. B.) - *British Birds* magazine.
 (D F B) - D. F. Billett (P G).
 (R B) - R. Brewer.
 (K B) - K. Brown (P G).
 (G H C) - G. H. Clay (P G).
 (N F O C) - New Forest Ornithologists' Club, which includes G. Bundy, Mr. and Mrs. K. V. Edwards, B. Goater, G. Kinsey, A. Moody and G. E. Wooldridge.
 (E C) - E. Cohen.
 (J C) - J. Conchie (P G).
 (R M C) - R. M. Curber.
 (P L D) - P. L. Day.
 (I G F) - I. G. Farwell.
 (O H F) - O. H. Frazer.
 (D G) - D. Gobbett.
 (J G) - J. Goodhart.
 (P G) - "Portsmouth Group"; which includes, besides those marked (P G) in this list, B. Renyard and occasional notes from A. Allan, P. F. Le Brocq and D. Pomeroy.
 (C J H) - C. J. Henty (P G).
 (G H) - Mrs. H. C. Hopkinson.
 (O H) - O. Hook.
 (E L J) - E. L. Jones.
 (D M J) - D. M. Jones.
 (J M McH) - J. M. McHoul.
 (B P P) - B. P. Pickess.
 (C P) - Miss C. Popham.
 (D G P) - D. G. Pumfrett.
 (G H R) - G. H. Rees (P G).
 (A W P R) - Commander A. W. P. Robertson.
 (M R) - Mrs. C. F. G. Rogers.
 (R E S) - R. E. Sharland.
 (C S) - C. Smith, on I.O.W.
 (R S) - R. Snelgrove.
 (J S) - J. Stafford.
 (C S) - Dr. C. Suffern, on mainland.
 (W J T) - W. J. Thomas.
 (C R T) - C. R. Tubbs (P G).
 (F J W) - Corporal F. J. Walker, R.A.F.
 (W) - Winchester College N.H.S. Report.

PART IV.

Insects in Hampshire, 1953.

Unfortunately very few members have sent records, and it is evident that 1953 has been very poor for most orders of insects.

Lt.-Col. F. C. Fraser, F.R.E.S., writes : "The year that has passed will be remembered more for its paucity of insect life than for its interesting records. The vagaries of the climate accounted largely for this, but there was also the hang-over of the previous year, which was itself remarkable for the absence of many even common species. Presumably a bad year will be followed by a series of similar ones during which the insect populations will slowly recover."

ORTHOPTERA (Earwigs, Cockroaches, Crickets and Grasshoppers).

Even the commonest members of this order were generally scarce at Linwood throughout the season. Mr. C. W. Andrews of Hale, near Fordingbridge, writes : "*Chorthippus parallelus* and *Ch. bicolor* usually so plentiful on the dry grassy knap behind my stable were much fewer in numbers this year, but down in the wetter ground below the cottage *Pholidoptera cinereus* were very numerous indeed. They were also very common in Godshill Enclosure."

ODONATA (Dragonflies).

The members of this order appear to have fared better than most. Lt.-Col. Fraser writes : "Odonata were generally plentiful and *Oxygastra curtisii* was again on the wing, a female and two males being taken by two collectors in July at Hurn. The National Trust having taken over part of its habitat, there seems good prospect of this rare insect being preserved for our dwindling fauna."

Dr. C. Suffern sends the following records from Hill Head, Fareham. *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* was plentiful. The season lasted from May 3rd to June 6th, and two were seen on July 5th. *Coenagrion puella* was very plentiful. The season lasted from May 23rd to July 5th. *Ischnura elegans* was plentiful between May 31st and August 13th. Only a few *Agrion splendens* were about, from May 31st to July 19th. *Libellula depressa* was a failure, only one was seen—on June 6th. Only a few *Anax imperator* also were seen. The season lasted from June 9th to August 30th. Again only one *Agrion virgo* was seen—on June 9th. *Sympetrum striolatum* is decreasing in numbers and fewer have been seen each year since 1950 as the pool is becoming more choked with vegetation. The season lasted from June 28th to October 18th. Two *Orthetrum cancellatum* were seen on July 5th. Of *Sympetrum flaveolum* Dr. Suffern reports that one of this rare species, which he had never seen before, was caught on August 12th. He writes : "When I reported it to London I was told that two others had been caught in Kent this year—the only specimens reported up to that date in England. One *Aeshna juncea* was seen on August 12th, and a fair number of *Aeshna cyanea* were about from September 5th to October 18th."

HEMIPTERA, HETEROPTERA (Bugs).

These orders were very poorly represented throughout the season. This was probably largely due to the great paucity of other insect life required as prey. Dr. Suffern records a first Water Boatman, *Corixa* sp. ?, seen on March 14th and a few *Picromerus bidens* were found at Appleslade. These are usually very common here.

NEUROPTERA.

(Alder-flies, Snakeflies, Brown and Green Lacewings).

Lt.-Col. F. C. Fraser writes : "Neuroptera were scarce except for the two species of Chrysopidae, *perla* and *carnea* ; not a single specimen of the large *C. flava* was seen although sought for to replace poor deteriorated specimens". At Appleslade a Brown Lacewing (*Hemerobius stigma* ?) came to light on the evening of February 25th.

COLEOPTERA (Beetles).

Lt.-Col. Fraser writes : "Among Coleoptera, the capture of two specimens of *Elater pomonae* Steph., is worth recording. Fowler gives the species as 'very rare ; New Forest'. My specimens were dug out of wood at Oakley Enclosure in the New Forest. Another interesting find was a female of *Necrodes littoralis* along with a number of 'Staphs' in rotting fungus, which they apparently mistook for decaying animal matter". Dr. Suffern sends the following records : The first Whirligig Beetles (*Gyrinus natator*) seen on March 22nd. The first Oil Beetle (*Meloe proscarabeus*) seen on May 2nd, and the first Wasp Beetle (*Clytus arietis*) is recorded on June 9th. Miss Platt of Linwood records the first Two-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella bipunctata*) on April 14th and the first Seven-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella 7-punctata*) on April 20th. At Appleslade the Devils' Coach Horse (*Ocyrops olens*) was much commoner than usual on the sandy track leading down to our house. Glow-Worms (*Lampyrus noctiluca*) were also very common on the heaths and particularly large numbers appeared on and about July 10th. The lights gleaming everywhere among the heather made quite a wonderful sight and a large number of males came indoors attracted by the light in the late evening. Only one specimen of *Prionus coriarius* was found here—a small male crawling up the garage door on August 7th. The common Dor Beetle (*Geotrupes stercorarius*) was first seen flying here on April 16th, and a specimen of *Geotrupes typhoeus* was found on the heath the same day.

DIPTERA (Flies).

I am much indebted to Mr. J. E. Collin, F.R.E.S., of Newmarket for the following most interesting notes on Hampshire Diptera. "Once again I was able to spend two separate weeks, one at the beginning, and one at the end of June 1953, collecting Diptera in Hampshire. As my chief object was to search for certain species, which, with good luck, might be found at about these dates, and not to see how many different species of Diptera could be taken, those mentioned in the following notes are not very numerous, and certainly less so than they would have been in a more normal season, for the year as a whole was by no means a good one for insects, particularly in the first week in June when they were quite remarkably scarce.

"Very little attention was given to the Nematocera. A few specimens of a very small 'Daddy Longlegs' (*Tasiocera*) which were swarming about a tree-trunk near Denny Bog were taken in the hope that they might be one of Dr. Freeman's recently described new species, but they proved to be the common *T. murina* Mg. A much more interesting and larger 'Daddy' was taken in Mark Ash Enclosure ; this has proved to be a *Tipula* new to the British List, and probably an undescribed species. The Mycetophilid *Boletina reuteri* Lindstr., occurred in the same Enclosure, while *Phronia forcipata* Winn., and *Mycetophila ornata* Steph., were found at 'Appleslade', Linwood.

"The end of June is rather early for the more common of the two very large New Forest Tabanids, *T. verralli* Oldr. (*perplexus* Verr.), but a female was taken near Lyndhurst on June 28th.

"Of the Bombyliidae the handsome *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* Flin., with its curiously marked wings was found sitting on the sun-baked track leading down to 'Appleslade'.

"Asilidae taken included the blue-black *Dioctria atricapilla* Mg., at Linwood, and *D. rufipes* Deg., and *Leptogaster cylindrica* Deg., at Breamore.

"In the Empididae, *Rhamphomyia longipes* Mg., and *tibiella* Zett., and *Empis aestiva* were all not uncommon, while hovering over the stream at Linwood were *Hilara angulodanica* Lanbk., *Beckeri* Strbl., and *rejecla* Coll., and the curious little *Hemerodromia baetica* Coll. was present on the sandy shingle. One Empid I was particularly pleased to find near Denny Bog was the true *Ocydromis melanopleura* Lw., a species I had previously only found in Scotland.

"Dolichopodidae were not abundant, and I failed to get the species of *Dolichopus* (*D. melanopus* Mg.) which I particularly wanted to find, but *D. lepidus* Staeg., and *signatus* Mg., and *Thrypticus tarsalis* Par., were found in Denny Bog. The last named, which was described from British specimens in 1932, has somehow got left out of our list of British species. *Xiphandrium auctum* Lw., *X. appendiculatum* Zett., and *Rhaphium longicorne* Fln., were found in Mark Ash Enclosure, and *Achalcus flavicollis* Mg., *Anepsomyia flaviventris* Mg., *Syntormon tarsatus* Fln., and *sulcipes* Mg., at Linwood.

"A female of the pretty little yellow and black Phorid *Megaselia picta* Lehm., was taken in Denny Bog on the 9th June.

"Among Platypezidae and Pipunculidae, *Agathomyia antennata* Zett., was found at Mark Ash, and *Pipunculus unicolor* Zett., and *zonatus* Zett. at Linwood.

"Little attention was paid to the Syrphidae apart from hunting for, and failing to find, more specimens of the Paragus taken near Breamore last year, but I was pleased to find *Syrphus diaphanus* Zett. at this locality. The 'Cossus-tree' at Lyndhurst again provided a specimen or two of *Ferdinandia ruficornis* F. as well as the common *F. cuprea* Scop., and a female *Xylota lenta* Mg., was kind enough to take refuge in my car, and was promptly boxed.

"My chief objective during my visit at the end of June was Breamore, where I hoped to take further specimens of the Tachinid *Ernestia* (or *Eurythia*) *caesia* Fln., and where I was delighted to find it present in some numbers, together with several *Helicobosca distinguenda* Vill., and a single female of the rare *Nemoraea pellucida* Mg., while *Micropalpus pudicus* Rdl. and the very striking-looking *Alphora hemiptera* F. were also present.

"In Anthomyiidae I can record the capture of *Helina suecica* Ringd., *Pycnoglossa cinerosa* Zett., and *setifemur* Ringd., and *Chelisia monilis* Mg., from Mark Ash, *Pegomyia prosecta* Vill. from near Denny Bog, and *Phorbia grisea* Ringd. from Linwood.

"Very little attention was paid to the Cordyluridae and Acalyptrate Muscidae, but in the former, *Norellisoma spinigera* Zett., and *Megaphthalma pallidum* Fln. were found at Linwood, and in the latter the Otitid *Dorycera graminum* F., and the peculiar Psilid *Chyliza extenuata* Rossi, were taken at Breamore, *Sciomyza dubia* Fln., and the Milichiid *Phyllomyza flavitarsis* Mg., and the Diastatid *Diastata nebulosa* Fln. at Denny Bog. The Clusiid *Clusiodes gentilis* Coll. and the Sapromyzid *Meiosimyza platycephala* Lw. were taken at Linwood. Several species of the two Ephyrid genera *Notiphila* and *Hydrellia* were to be had, as usual, at Denny Bog, and the Anthomyzids *Paranthomyza nitida* Mg., and *Anthomyza neglecta* Coll., occurred at Linwood.

"Finally, a specimen of the well-known New Forest Pony Fly *Hippobosca equina* L. (one of the Pupipara), was taken at 'Appleslade' shortly before I finally returned to Newmarket."

Dr. Suffern records the following from Hill Head, Fareham: "On April 11th a Bee-fly (*Bombylius major*) was seen, and a Woodcock Fly (*Leptis scolopacea*) on May 31st. A Syrphid (*Helophilus pendulus* L.) was seen on June 6th, and the first Thistle-gall Fly (*Urophora cardui*) on June 11th. Two early records at Appleslade were *Eristalis tenax* flying in an unheated greenhouse on February 24th and a very comatose male *Bibio marci* also in the greenhouse on the same date."

HYMENOPTERA (Sawflies, Ichneumon-flies, Ants, Bees and Wasps).

Mr. C. W. Andrews writes: "Very many *Vespa germanica* queens came to the flowers of the cotoneaster in the early summer but workers seemed very late in putting in an appearance. Workers of *V. sylvestris* were the first to appear, and they did so in considerable numbers. The other species lagged far behind both in time of appearance and numbers. *V. crabro* was scarcer than usual. *Bombus pratorum* was common as usual on the *Ribes*, but *B. lapidarius* and *B. terrestris* are scarcely ever seen here. Their places seem to be taken by *B. lucorum* and *B. derhamellus*. *B. agrorum* and *B. helfricanus* are very numerous in this district. Wool Carder Bees (*Anthidium manicatum*) were in their usual numbers, and *Osmia rufa* rather more plentiful than usual. The Digger Wasps and Sand Wasps seemed in their normal numbers".

Dr. Suffern records *Vespa crabro* on February 14th brought to him from Fareham by Mr. J. C. Draper, and a queen *Vespa germanica* seen on June 6th. Miss Platt records the first Ruby-tail Wasp (*Chrysis* sp.) at Linwood on April 19th. At Appleslade the first *Bombus terrestris* was seen on the crocus flowers on March 4th. All Wasps were scarce, and only one *Vespa crabro* was seen—a queen on October 12th.

E. M. HAINES,

Entomological Secretary.

PART V.

Butterflies and Moths in Hampshire, 1953.

The year 1953 may be described, by and large, as an average year for lepidoptera, though it was noteworthy for an interesting immigration in May and an exceptionally mild and prolific autumn and winter when native species if not migrants were unusually abundant.

Rather few migrant species were noted in Hampshire during the year, but in mid-May large numbers of *Eublemma parva* Hübn. (Small Marbled) appeared along the south coast having come from N. Africa, and about a dozen were taken at a light trap near Alton. This insect looks rather like a "micro" and may well have been overlooked elsewhere on account of its small size. The larva feeds on a foreign species of *Inula*, and lack of a suitable food-plant may have been responsible for the failure of the species to produce a summer brood as had been hoped. In early June the migrant hawkmoth *Celerio lineata* Fabr. (Striped Hawk) appeared in small numbers, and two males were taken at Burghclere on June 5th and 11th (R S). There are sporadic migration records for the remainder of the season: on July 10th *Leucania unipuncta* Haw. (White Speck) came to light at Farnborough (A. W. Richards, E.R. 66, January 1st, 1954); *Plusia gamma* L. (Silver Y) appeared early and was very common until quite late in the autumn; a female *Daphnis nerii* L. (Oleander Hawk) came to light near Bordon on August 21st and a *Plusia ni* Hübn. (Small Silver Y) was recorded from the same locality also in August (D W). There were a few records of *Acherontia atropos* L. (Death's Head Hawk) in late summer and autumn, but although it was apparently a good autumn for *Leucania vitellina* Hübn. (Delicate Wainscot) in Devon and elsewhere the only record I have for Hampshire is one at Burghclere on May 24th.

The migrant butterflies were very poorly represented. The only *Colias croceus* Fourc. (Clouded Yellow) were two at Hill Head on October 4th and 10th (C S), and *Pyrameis cardui* L. (Painted Lady) was also very scarce. *Vanessa atalanta* L. (Red Admiral) was, however, not uncommon in the autumn.

Moderate weather in the spring caused insects to appear before February was out, and *Phigalia pedaria* Fabr. (Pale Brindled Beauty), *Erannis leucophaea* Schiff (Spring Usher) and *Theria rupicapra* Hübn (Early Moth) were on the

wing early in the month. *Gonepteryx rhamni* L. (Brimstone) was first noted on February 18th at Rockford and was abundant in many localities on the last days of the month. On February 28th *Aglais urticae* L. (Small Tortoiseshell) was flying at Chandler's Ford at midday, and *Achlya flavicornis* L. (Yellow Horned) came to light in the evening.

The swallow catkins yielded moths in abundance at the end of the second week of March, but the only capture of note at Chandler's Ford was a hibernated *Lithophane semibrunnea* Haw. (Tawny Pinion) on March 20th. In early April with the swallows over, the catkin-loving moths were still numerous at light and were joined by *Earophila badiata* Hübn. (Shoulder Stripe), *Selenia tetralunaria* Hufn. (Purple Thorn), *Orthosia miniosa* Fabr. (Blossom Underwing) and on April 18th by *Polyphlocia ridens* Fabr. (Frosted Green) and *Orthosia advena* Schiff. (Northern Drab) which is very scarce at Chandler's Ford. Two specimens of *Odontotia carmelita* Esp. (Scarce Prominent) were recorded at Chandler's Ford, one on a beastly cold night when the only other visitors to the light were single specimens of *Orthosia stabilis* View. (Common Quaker) and *O. gothica* L. (Hebrew Character).

Many larvae of *Panaxia dominula* L. (Scarlet Tiger) were collected along the River Itchen in early April feeding on comfrey, butterbur and nettle. They fed up quickly on the nettle and began to emerge at the end of May. As usual they varied little. Better success was obtained with a collection of larvae of *Phylodoria potatoria* L. (Drinker) from Titchfield Haven, where they abounded at dusk on the upper leaves of reed. A fine series was bred, the females varying in ground colour from pale whitish buff to the rich brown more characteristic of the males.

The "Whites" began to emerge at the end of March (Small White on March 25th at Sway (B C)), and by the second week of April *Pieris rapae* L. (Small White) and *P. napi* L. (Green-veined White) were commoner than for several years. *Anthocharis cardamines* L. (Orange Tip) too was much in evidence, but *Pieris brassicae* L. (Large White) was very scarce everywhere. Only one specimen of the spring brood was seen at Chandler's Ford and only a few in the summer.

The May butterflies were once more disappointingly scarce with very few *Argynnis euphrosyne* L. (Pearl-bordered Fritillary) and *A. selene* Schiff. (Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary) and only a sprinkling of *Lycaena phlaeas* L. (Small Copper), *Erynnis tages* L. (Dingy Skipper) and *Pyrgus malvae* L. (Grizzled Skipper). At night there was a constant stream of insects to the M.V. lights which are now operated by many entomologists in the County, but little out of the ordinary was recorded. *Anaplectoides prasina* Fabr. (Green Arches) was particularly common near Alton (H S R), and at Chandler's Ford a few *Apatele alni* L. (Alder Moth), several *Drymonia trimacula* Esp. (Marbled Brown) and later *Stauropus fagi* L. (Lobster), *Hyloicus pinastri* L. (Pine Hawk) and two melanic *Dasychira pudibunda* L. (Pale Tussock) were seen.

On June 1st a male *Arctia villica* L. (Cream-spot Tiger) with confluent basal spots on the forewings was found in a telephone kiosk at Chandler's Ford. This insect is always rare in the district, but it was found more commonly at Titchfield Haven on June 6th and 13th when *Leucania obsoleta* Hübn. (Obscure Wainscot) was the chief quarry. Nineteen specimens of this local insect were recorded on June 13th, all at light. *Chilodes maritima* Tausch (Silky Wainscot) var. *wismariensis*, *Cerura hermelinea* Goetze (Poplar Kitten), many *Apamea unarimis* Hübn. (Small Clouded Brindle) and *Leucania comma* L. (Shoulder-striped Wainscot), *Apamea oblonga* Haw. (Crescent Striped) and two *Orthonama lignata* Hübn. (Oblique Carpet) were noted amid a host of visitors. At sugar, the "Minors" and *Hadena suasa* Schiff (Dog's Tooth) were the commonest insects.

The average number of species recorded at light at Chandler's Ford during late June and early July was c. 75, but there was little worthy of note. Single specimens of *Polia nitens* Haw. (Pale Shining Arches) and *Leucania pudorina*

Schiff. (Striped Wainscot) constituted new records for the district. *Bombycia viminalis* Fabr. (Minor Shoulder Knot) was much commoner than usual, and *Tethea duplaris* L. (Least Satin Lutestring), several *Polychrisia moneta* Fabr. (Golden Plusia) and a few *Hadena contigua* Vill. (Beautiful Brocade) deserve mention. *Mythimna turca* L. (Double Line) on July 8th was a new record for the Burghclere District (R S).

Reports from the New Forest indicate that the larger Fritillaries were more abundant than for some years. Lt.-Col. Fraser writes: "... the variety *valesina* of *Argynnis paphia* L. (Silver-washed Fritillary) was abundant and at least equalled the normal female in numbers. Its companion *A. cydippe* L. (High Brown Fritillary) positively swarmed but only locally". He also records a fresh *Limenitis camilla* L. (White Admiral) and a female *euphrosyne* L. in late August, both evident examples of a second emergence, which is very unusual in both species. A feature of the summer was the great abundance of *Aglais urticae* L. *Polygonia c-album* L. (Comma) was apparently scarce, although there were several at Michaelmas daisies at Chandler's Ford in early October and others were seen at ripe blackberries at Hythe. *Maniola jurtina* L. (Meadow Brown) was very common, but *M. tithonus* L. (Hedge Brown) remained as scarce as it has been for several seasons.

At the end of July *Leucania conigera* Fabr. (Brown-line Brighteye) became very abundant at light, and at Mudeford on July 31st a male *Oenestis quadra* L. (Large Footman) and a few *Euxoa tritici* L. (White-line Dart) were taken amid a swarm of that species. A number of interesting species were recorded at Burghclere during August, including *Catocala promissa* Esp. (Light Crimson Underwing) on August 8th and *Cosmia diffinis* L. (White-spotted Pinion) on August 13th, both new to the district. Eight *Amathes glareosa* Esp. (Autumnal Rustic) came to light during the month and *Tholera cespitis* Fabr. (Hedge Rustic) was unusually common from August 9th to September 13th. At Chandler's Ford *diffinis* on September 12th, *Zenobia subtusa* Fabr. (Olive Kidney) and *Phalaena typica* L. (Type Gothic) were recorded for the first time.

The autumn proved one of the most mild and productive of recent years, but a tinge of disappointment was felt in the paucity of migrants. The autumn Noctuids began to appear in early September, together with strong second broods of *Hypena proboscidalis* L. (Snout) and *Thera obeliscata* Hübn. (Grey Pine Carpet) and a few *moneta* Fabr. and *Epione repandaria* Hufn. (Common Bordered Beauty). *Citria lutea* Stroem. (Pink-barred Sallow), usually rather uncommon at Chandler's Ford and Burghclere, was quite numerous in both localities, and *Griposia aprilina* L. (Merveille du Jour) was common at Burghclere though unrecorded there in 1952. Several *Tiliacea aurago* Fabr. (Barred Sallow) were noted at Chandler's Ford and two specimens of *Aporophylla nigra* Haw. (Black Rustic), scarce inland, were observed on September 25th and October 1st. My notebook records fine weather until well into October and this was reflected in insect activity—an average of twenty species a night at light during that period.

Late October and early November brought on an abundance of *Eupsilia transversa* Hufn. (Satellite) which had not been seen in numbers for some years. *Episema caeruleocephala* L. (Figure of Eight) too was quite common at Chandler's Ford after an absence of several seasons. In mid-November males of *Operophtera fagata* Scharf. (Northern Winter Moth) became common, while *Agrochola macilenta* Hübn. (Yellow-line Quaker), *A. lota*, Clerck. (Red-line Quaker), *Comistra vaccinii* L. (Chestnut) and *Plusia gamma* were still about. The mild weather continued into December enabling one to meet with *Erannis defoliaria* Clerck. (Mottled Umber) in infinite variety at street lamps near woodland. A male *rhamni* was seen scrambling up a hedge in bright sunlight on December 14th and there have been several records of *Orthosia stabilis* and *O. cruda* Schiff. (Small Quaker) on the wing before Christmas in counties adjacent to Hampshire though I have received no records for this County.

Thanks are due to the following entomologists for their notes and observations :

E. Cohen (E C), Sway.
Lt.-Col. F. C. Fraser, New Forest.
Miss Haines, Linwood.
Miss Platt, Linwood.
A. C. R. Redgrave, Southampton.
H. S. Robinson (H S R), Alton.
Air Marshal Sir R. Saundby (R S), Burghclere.
Dr. C. Suffern (C S), Hill Head.
D. Wright (D W), Bordon.

B. GOATER,

Secretary for Lepidoptera.

BOTANICAL OUTINGS.

Burley Rock-garden and Boldrewood.

On June 23rd a visit was paid to Mr. Davis' rock-garden at "Byways", Burley, by the kind permission of the owner, who graciously welcomed the party. Many members expressed their delight at the beauty of the garden and its lay-out and were emphatic in wishing to visit it again at an earlier time of year when the spring flowers would be at their best. Even so late in the season as June the shrubs and trees and the late-flowering rock-plants in their setting of rocks, pools and stream were almost startlingly beautiful and were very much enjoyed.

Leaving Burley the party made its way to Boldrewood, where members lunched on the grass sward outside the gate, after which a portion of the arboretum was explored and the fine collection of coniferous trees was much admired, especially the splendid specimens of Douglas Fir and Cedar, both species of Sequoia, a fine Swamp Cypress and many examples of Silver Fir, Thuya, Cypress and Pine. Tea at the Crown Hotel, Lyndhurst, ended the day's outing.

Lepe Beach.

About 50 members journeyed to Lepe to look at the wild plants of the sea-shore, very well represented there on the shingle and the sand and in the tidal marsh. On the way a pause was made to notice the alien Great Bindweed, *Calystegia sylvestris*, now growing in profusion in many hedges in this area, and to compare it with the common native species, *Calystegia sepium*.

Lunch was taken near Stone Point and after lunch a move was made to the marsh. The drive back to tea at Beaulieu was interrupted to look at a fine patch of Marsh Mallow on the shore near Inchmery.

The following were among the plants seen :

- Yellow-horned Poppy (*Glaucium flavum*).
- Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*).
- Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*).
- Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*).
- Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia marginata*).
- Beet (*Beta vulgaris*).
- Shore Orache (*Atriplex littoralis*).
- Frosted Orache (*Atriplex sabulosa*).
- Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*).
- Herbaceous Seablite (*Suaeda maritima*).
- Saltwort (*Salsola kali*).
- Glasswort (*Salicornia stricta* agg.).
- Soft Trefoil (*Trifolium striatum*).
- Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*).
- Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*).

Sea Carrot (*Daucus gingidium*).
 Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*).
 Sea Bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*).
 Ploughman's Spikenard (*Inula conyza*).
 Slender Thistle (*Carduus tenuiflorus*).
 Sea Arrow-grass (*Triglochin maritima*).
 Mud Rush (*Juncus gerardi*).
 Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*).
 Common Rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*).
 Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*).
 Sea Club-rush (*Scirpus maritimus*).
 Glaucous Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*).
 Floating Scirpus (*Eleogiton fluitans*).

Fungus Foray at Clay Hill.

On October 8th a joint meeting with Bournemouth Natural Science Society was held at Clay Hill when some 35 members from Bournemouth attended but only about a dozen from the Field Club, which was disappointing as the venue was an exceptionally beautiful part of the New Forest and the weather was lovely. Moreover, by the kind permission of Mr. Wynne Jones, the Deputy Surveyor, the Verderer's Hall at Lyndhurst had been placed at our disposal for the naming and display of the specimens, and, best of all, our usual leader Mr. A. A. Pearson came to identify the finds and brought with him another authority, Dr. R. W. G. Dennis from Kew, to walk round with us since Mr. Pearson himself was prevented from doing so by doctor's orders. Mr. A. L. Jewell of the Haslemere Museum also accepted an invitation to attend and gave much assistance. Our thanks are due to these gentlemen.

Following is a list of the fungi found :

Amanita citrina.	Russula nigricans.
" muscaria.	" cyanoxantha.
" rubescens.	" laurocerasi.
" excelsa.	" ochroleuca.
" pantherina.	" fellea.
Armillaria mellea.	" claroflava.
Mucidula mucida.	" atropurpurea.
Tricholoma fulvum.	" emetica.
Laccaria laccata.	" drimeia.
" l. v. amethystina.	Clitopilus prunulus.
Collybia fusipes.	Pholiota aurivella.
" maculata.	Cortinarius (Myxaciium) elatior.
" butyracea.	" (Inoloma) albobviolaceus.
Pleurotus ostreatus (blue form).	" (Dermocybe) anomalus.
Lactarius torminosus.	Paxillus involutus.
" plumbeus.	Stropharia squamosa.
" vellereus.	Hypholoma fasciculare.
" blennius.	Psilocybe ericaea.
" glyciosmus.	" subericaea.
" rufus.	" elongata.
" quietus.	Coprinus niveus.
" seriffuus.	" micaceus.
" decipiens.	Cantharellus cibarius.

Cantharellus tubaeformis.

Boletus luteus.

„ *bovinus.*

„ *variegatus.*

„ *chrysenteron.*

„ *subtomentosus.*

„ *edulis.*

„ *versipellis.*

„ *scaber.*

„ *luridus.*

Polyporus giganteus.

„ *betulinus.*

„ *schweinitzii.*

Poria mucida.

Polystictus versicolor.

Trametes gibbosa.

„ *rubescens.*

Fistulina hepatica.

Hydnum repandum.

Clavaria sp. ? *stricta.*

Sparassis crispa.

Thelephora laciniata.

Stereum hirsutum.

Phallus impudicus.

Lycoperdon perlatum.

Scleroderma vulgare.

Rhizopogon rubescens.

Helvella crispa.

F. E. W. VENNING,

Biological Secretary.

FOLK LORE SECTION (I).

TWO of our members have contributed to our record of folk lore during the year, forming links with that of Kent and Leicestershire.

Miss G. K. Bliss wrote as follows :—

“ Before the last few days of rain I overheard a Hampshire girl say : ‘ Cat’s on its brain—sure to rain ’ (and there was the cat stretched out on its back with the back of its head on the ground !).

“ On enquiry the girl told me that it was an old Hampshire saying”

After asking for information from London I was told that the saying has been recorded from Kent by R. Edwards in *Weather Lore*.

We thus have a link between Kentish and Hampshire folk lore.

In the second case, Brigadier F. M. Montresor wrote in reference to the letter I received from Mrs. A. R. Green (see *Proc. XVIII*, Pt. I) :

“ The custom of placing a flag on the top of a new building is a very old one and in the past could be seen in all parts of England and many parts of the Continent. I have before me now a letter from a builder in Leicester who writes that he has been in touch with retired operatives of his firm who have assured him that the custom was quite general in the Midlands.

“ The reason that it has no longer been seen of late years is that most houses are now built for public authorities and less often for private owners.

“ The object, *i.e.*, to obtain a drink either from the boss or the private owner for whom the house is being built is, I believe, essentially English.

“ On the Continent a wreath is more general in place of a flag and there is little doubt that the practice had, originally, a religious signification. It assured good luck to the house and kept away evil spirits, witches, poltergeists, etc.

“ Incidentally there are many versions of what the brick-layers say. If you have trouble with the downdraught of your chimney and it smokes, you are likely to be told ‘ Bet that chimney was never wet ’.”

Very many thanks to my two informants.

FOLK LORE SECTION (2).

THE wide scope of the study of folk lore in all its branches may not be recognized generally and a summary of these may be useful to direct the attention of our members to the disappearance from our midst of old ways of thought and practice, and to the value of placing them on record.

- (1) We may begin with the idea of the external soul, of which Frazer wrote in the *Golden Bough*, quoting the folktale from Norway of the giant "who had no heart in his body" as an example. Collectors in Hampshire are hardly likely to find traces of this belief still extant in our County.
- (2) But stories of ghosts are only a stage removed from this idea and it is quite possible to hear of ghost tales still believed in by old folk.
- (3) Tales of witches assuming the shape of animals were frequent in former times.
- (4) In our County it was thought unlucky to step inside a fairy ring.
- (5) Legends and traditions of giants, subterranean passages and many other matters were widespread. Examples from Hampshire are the Mistletoe Bough, the Tichborne Crawling, with others from Southampton, Wherwell, Ellingham and the Christchurch Avon.
- (6) Customs of holding fairs and markets in many places of the County are recorded in the volumes of the *Victoria County History*.
- (7) Here, too, in Winchester is historical ground for research, for the City had its own particular system of Weights and Measures.
- (8) Children's games again are well worth study and research.
- (9) Ordeals. In the neighbouring county of Wiltshire there is an interesting brass showing the Champion of the Bishop of Salisbury; and we have here the costume of the Champion of our City.
- (10) Costume. Traditional styles of dress are also of interest to the student of folk lore.
- (11) Customs of many kinds exist or have recently existed. A few may be named: The Mummers Play; May Day; Morris Dancing; St. Clement Celebrations; Parish Boundaries; Bells, inscriptions and tolling; Bees; New Moon; Scythe Sharpening; and Personal—in connection with birth, marriage and death.

- (12) Beliefs. Many referring to the Weather ; to Lightning ; to Trees ; to Animals ; to Leechcraft ; to Unlucky Days ; and so on, are on record.
- (13) Lastly, I recall a remark made to me many years ago, by a member of the Council of the Folk Lore Society : there lies open much of interest to any one who would undertake to collect the folk lore of thieves.

This list might be much extended, but I hope that enough has been set out to make good the claim that a wide field for research is offered by the study of folk lore.

P. J. HEATHER.

REPORT ON POTTERY, 1952 - 1953.

THE following finds of pottery were reported to the writer during the year between the Annual General Meetings of the Club in 1952 and 1953. With the exception of those from Shedfield and Kingsley they are now in Winchester City Museum. The Museum also received during the year pottery found previously in the sand-pit on the south side of Poles Lane, between Silkstead and Otterbourne (Nat. Grid ref. 41/456239) ; it includes sherds of an Early Bronze Age B beaker and of Belgic carinated bowls.

The gravel-pit at Timsbury produced Iron Age pottery and triangular loomweights in the north-west part of Field 221 (41/352250), some of the finds being from pits. The site would appear to have been occupied for some centuries, as Iron Age A and C (Belgic) are represented, and there is also late Roman occupation.

Two pits cut in the chalk were found during the making of a cesspit at Littleton, near Kimpton (41/284476). At the bottom they were about 7 feet in diameter and they narrowed towards the top : one was 5ft. 3in. deep from the present surface and the other 6 or 7 feet. From the filling came animal bones and sherds of Iron Age A jars, one of which has a polished surface. This discovery was reported by Mr. H. de S. Shortt, Curator of Salisbury Museum.

In Hallcourt Wood, Shedfield, Mr. Arthur Corney, of Cumberland House Museum, Southsea, dug a trial trench in a low mound about 60 feet in diameter and found a ditch and two depressions cut into the Bagshot Sand. The associated pottery is Romano-Belgic, attributable to the third quarter of the first century A.D., and may be wasters from a kiln.¹

¹ This site is not to be confused with a "Roman Kiln" marked on the Ordnance Survey in Hallcourt Wood, which would appear to be a late mediæval structure. *Proceedings H.F.C.*, XVII, 361.

Mr. C. N. Gowing, Curator of the Curtis Museum, Alton, reported the discovery of Roman pottery of the first and second centuries A.D. and a few Iron Age sherds on a housing site at Woodfield, Kingsley.

At Cranbourne Clump, Sutton Scotney, the north face of a silage pit dug on the hill-top, near to the two barrows (*Procs. H.F.C. XIV*, 352 ; 41/475401), exposed two inhumation burials in graves cut in the chalk. Near the shins of one of the skeletons was a late Roman one-handled flagon 7in. high, of a type made at Ashley Rails in the New Forest, which was recovered in perfect condition. It has a terra cotta-coloured surface and is decorated on the shoulder with a simple scroll pattern in white paint. The discovery was reported to the police and the flagon was submitted for identification by our member Inspector F. Butter, so that in this case archaeology had a certain forensic interest.

Two Winchester sites remain to be mentioned. A trial excavation in the garden of Archdeacon's Close, on the west side of Staple Garden, about 210 yards north of High Street, cut into four mediaeval rubbish-pits, the pottery from which awaits further study. An extension to the basement of the Southgate Hotel, Southgate Street, cut through a mass of dark filling which had a depth of about 7 feet below the floor of the hotel ; the fact that the pottery from this filling is mediaeval and early post-mediaeval is consistent with the possibility that it is soil placed here when the site of Charles II's palace was being prepared, or works associated therewith were being carried out. A pitcher of nearly cylindrical form, in unglazed buff ware, appears to be late mediaeval ; it contained a padlock and other iron objects. A mediaeval paving-tile $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. square has a simple quatrefoil pattern. The post-mediaeval material includes decorated stoneware (one sherd having part of a German inscription) and various other glazed wares ; also clay tobacco-pipes, two of which have a heart-shaped stamp enclosing a glove and the initials "R W", while a third is stamped "F T".

F. COTTRILL.

FIELD MEETINGS, 1953.**"The Archaeology of the Middle Nile Valley."**

The Club met for the first time in 1953 on March 10 at Winchester Guildhall, to hear a past-president, Dr. O. G. S. Crawford, C.B.E., D.LITT., F.B.A., lecture after his return from an expedition to North Africa. A large and appreciative audience heard Dr. Crawford describe the main archaeological features of his survey, and the lecture was illustrated by a varied selection of many slides.

Stratfield Saye House.

On 6 May the Club met at Stratfield Saye House, by kind invitation of the President, His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K.G., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A. Members were able to go round the house independently, after hearing of its history from the President. They later saw the eighteenth century church, and the first Duke's state coach.

Isle of Wight Meeting.

The Isle of Wight meeting took place on 26 May, 1953, and began with an address by Mr. John Bartlett, Curator of the Castle Museum, Carisbrooke, on "The pre-history of the Isle of Wight". On show in the museum was a special exhibition of coins, Coronation medals, and Coronation souvenirs. The Club next went by bus to Newtown and saw the Georgian Town Hall, restored by the late W. E. Troke, Esq., a former member of the Society. At Shalfleet members saw the Parish Church, and left for the mainland after tea at Cowes.

Bramshill.

On 6 July the Club visited Bramshill, under the direction of Mr. John Simpson, and by permission of the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department. Mr. Simpson conducted an unusual tour, viewing the house as a setting for "Hamlet". Members were also able to see maps and pictures from the director's Hampshire Collection, and later on went to Eversley Church, and the Rectory garden, seen by kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. R. C. Rudgard, O.B.E.

Hurst Castle and Keyhaven.

On 11 August the Club went to Hurst Castle and Keyhaven. Colonel C. H. Wilkinson, Vice-Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, read a paper on Hampshire Writers (*vide* p. 223 of this volume). Hurst Castle was described by Mr. F. W. Robins, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., and it is hoped that his paper will appear in the next volume of *Proceedings*.

Winchester.

The Roman excavation in Middle Brook Street, Winchester, and St. John's house were visited on 24 August. The Roman building and some of the finds were described by Miss M. Bennet-Clark, M.A., the Director of the excavation. Her interim report appears in this volume. St. John's Chapel was described by the Chaplain, the Rev. J. H. McKew, C.B.E., M.C., and the house by Mr. P. Sawyer, F.R.I.B.A.

Portchester.

A very successful meeting was held at Portchester on 1 September. Mr. T. L. Jones, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments outlined the history of the site, and led members on a long tour, which included the church and the mediaeval castle.

Chichester.

On 10 September, 1953, the Club met at Chichester, and through the kindness of the Mayor, Alderman A. F. Eastland, J.P., saw the Charters and City Plate, and was later entertained with sherry in the Council House. After lunch Dr. A. E. Wilson, D.LITT., F.S.A., read a paper on "Roman Chichester in the light of recent excavation", and members went on a series of conducted tours of the City.

Meeting in the I.W., June 12 (Tuesday), 1951.

(Reference H.F.C. *Proceedings*, Vol. XVIII, Pt. 2, p. 215.)

The party assembled at Southampton and proceeded by steamer to Cowes, from which a coach was taken to Newport. Here a Roman villa was visited, the history of the permanently preserved mosaic pavements being given by Mr. F. Stroh.

The next halt was at Arreton, where the church was visited and Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt gave an account of its architectural history. The W. wall includes some Saxon masonry and is the earliest piece of church architecture in the Island. Picnic lunches were then taken by the sea at Sandown.

In the afternoon Godshill Church was visited, Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt explaining the architectural features of the church. This is almost wholly in the Perpendicular style and contains a number of interesting features, especially the wall-painting of Christ crucified on a budding tree.

Tea was taken at the Griffin Inn at Godshill, after which the coaches drove past Carisbrooke Castle *en route* for the 6 p.m. boat at Cowes.