

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

General Remarks.

AS many members will know, the past year has seen a change of Biological Secretary. There is no need for me to say how much we shall miss Brigadier Venning's guiding hand in the preparation of this section of the *Proceedings*, also his enthusiastic organisation of Field Meetings. As a comparative newcomer to the Field Club, I have as yet had little opportunity of meeting him personally, but one has only to look through the back numbers of this journal to find evidence of his many contributions, in particular the assembly of Natural History records from all parts of the County. We wish Brigadier Venning a speedy return to health and look forward to seeing him again before long at our various meetings.

One of the main difficulties with which a Society such as ours has to contend is a fluctuating membership with its inevitable influence on the systematic recording of field observations. Such a problem confronts us at present for, with the notable exception of the ornithologists, the year has revealed a serious lack of members who keep regular notes and records. It seems to me that there is only one satisfactory way of overcoming this difficulty and of ensuring that really representative records are kept covering the whole of Hampshire. This is to establish a permanent recording system (such as a card index) for each group of animals and for plants, which can be handed on from one Subject Secretary to the next. Such a scheme is shortly to be introduced for plants and it is to be hoped that it may prove possible to do the same for the various animal groups.

It is partly with this idea in mind that we are hoping to form Sections within the Field Club whose interests will be confined to specific groups. Members have already been circularised about this and, as I write, some forty-five have already announced their intention of joining an Ornithological Section. Judging by correspondence and the talks I have had so far, it should be possible to start a Botanical Section before the end of the summer. I hope it may also prove possible for these sections to study certain additional problems connected with the animals and plants of the County and eventually to prepare reports for publication in the *Proceedings*.

Several letters from members have contained items of interest. Mr. C. W. Andrews of Hale, near Fordingbridge, reports that in spite of the wet summer there was an increase, compared with 1953, in the numbers of *Corthippus parallelus* and *C. bicolor* on the

dry, grassy knap near his house. Mr. D. Knowlton records an interesting melanic form of the spider *Hyptiotes paradoxus* (adult female) obtained from holly in Rushpole Wood (New Forest) on 24th August. A previous account (Field Club *Proceedings* 1952) concerns a specimen from Denny Lodge in July, and states that the species had not been seen previously in the New Forest for some years.

Three Field Meetings took place in the summer and autumn and reports of them occur elsewhere in this journal. The subjects studied were varied, attendance was good and, on the whole, the weather was kind. Much of the success of these gatherings often depends on expert guidance drawn from outside the Club and, in this connection, our thanks are particularly due to Mr. F. Weston of the Forestry Commission and Dr. F. B. Hora of the Botany Department, Reading University, for their kind and invaluable help.

W. H. DOWDESWELL.

NATURAL HISTORY REPORTS.

1. Mammals, 1954.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*).—Not uncommon in valleys Damerham area, less frequent on downland. Begin to appear in early March. Common in Fordingbridge area. One seen December 22nd, 1954 (J S A). Two seen at Farlington Marshes August 7th; one on August 8th, and one on August 28th (G H R). Often seen squashed on roads during summer months (G H R). 1954 was a good year for hedgehogs around the villages of the New Forest area, but casualties on the roads have been correspondingly frequent (O H). One in garden at Keyhaven for several days, July 11th (M R).

Mole (*Talpa europaea*).—Common on downland on upper chalk, Damerham area (J S A).

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus castaneus*).—Occasionally found dead on roads, Damerham area (J S A).

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*).—One found dead in garden at Brockenhurst, October 4th (O H).

Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).—Three taken in Sway Tower, January 24th (E C).

Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*).—One caught near Sway, April 27th, kept for three days and liberated (O H).

Fox (*Vulpes v. crucigera*).—Frequent in Damerham area in spite of hunting and other control measures. Many on nearby heaths and in New Forest area (J S A). Dead fox found at Farlington Marshes February 13th; also at Butser on March 27th; near Purbrook on May 19th, and at Hill Head on October 24th. Usually present at Farlington Marshes and breeds (G H R). Often heard at night, but only seen twice in daytime this summer (C W A). Myxomatosis creating serious food shortage.

Stoat (*Mustela erminea stabilis*).—Common in Damerham area, but numbers vary from year to year. Periodically subjected to "ferret distemper" ("big head"). Influxes of family parties occur in June and July (J S A). At Farlington Marshes, the following were observed: one hunting, February 20th; one mobbed by Lapwing April 16th; two fighting August 4th; one dead November 14th (G H R).

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*).—Common Damerham area, but less often seen than Stoat (J S A). A dead Weasel seen at Farlington Marshes on February 6th and a live one on December 28th (G H R).

Badger (*Meles meles*).—Several sets in Damerham and Fordingbridge areas, and evidence of presence of this species in many New Forest areas (J S A). Activity observed at several sets in New Forest in all months of the year. Tracks seen in fresh snow in same area January 27th (O H). Seem to be in fair numbers (Hale) and are often heard by the wood edge at night (C W A). With this species, but to a lesser extent than with the fox, myxomatosis will create a serious food problem in the future.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*).—Regularly occurs in valley between Damerham and Martin. More frequently below Damerham and in Avon valley at Fordingbridge (J S A).

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).—Myxomatosis appeared in Damerham area towards the end of 1954 (J S A). By that time practically the whole of the southern half of the New Forest was affected, but the spread appears to be slowed up considerably in the winter months, as one would expect (O H).

Hare (*Lepus europaeus occidentalis*).—Common on downland in Damerham area and frequent in woodland. Probably leverets died in the wet summer of 1954, and population definitely lower than usual at end of 1954. 250 counted on 3,800 acre estate in December 1954. Never seen in New Forest area (J S A). Hare seen at Butser on April 12th: at Hatchet Gate, New Forest, on April 24th: at Greenmoor, Beaulieu Heath, on July 10th (G H R).

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus scoticus*).—There is still a stag about the Godshill district of the New Forest (C W A).

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*).—Widespread and frequently seen in New Forest area (J S A). Small parties of these deer again raided gardens here in early and mid summer. Towards the end of September they seem to have returned within the boundaries of the New Forest, with a few exceptions (C W A).

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).—Small numbers in woodland surrounding Damerham (J S A). A good number were seen in the woods on the west side of the R. Avon (C W A).

Japanese Sika (*Cervus nippon nippon*).—Occasionally odd ones seen in Damerham area (J S A).

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris leucourus*).—Now absent Damerham area. Last seen at Fordingbridge in 1950 (J S A).

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*).—Common Damerham area, and increasing (J S A). A few throughout the year at Sway (E C). One seen near Langrish, June 4th, and a few at Woolmer Forest. Decreased recently in Purbrook district (G H R). Still widespread and numerous in the New Forest.

Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*).—The first that I have seen for many years was found preparing to hibernate under a stump in the wood. It is now rolled up in a ball fast asleep (Hale area—C W A).

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus soricimus*).—Not uncommon in hedgerows, Damerham area.

Long-tailed Field Mouse (*Apodemus s. sylvaticus*).—Common in Damerham area (J S A).

Yellow-necked Field Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis wintoni*).—Local, but common where it occurs in Damerham area. Does much damage at times in gardens, and occasionally infests houses (J S A).

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*).—Abundant around Damerham and increasing each year possibly due to increase in combine harvesting (J S A).

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*).—Abundant near Damerham, occasionally doing much damage in ricks (J S A).

Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus britannicus*).—Occurs near Damerham, but no record of status (J S A). One seen daily at Sway for about a week (E C).

Water Vole (*Arvicola a. amphibius*).—Frequent in Damerham area, also at Fordingbridge (J S A).

Short-tailed Vole (*Microtus agrestis*).—Abundant near Damerham (J S A).

Contributors :—

Mr. C. W. Andrews, Fordingbridge	-	-	(C W A)
Mr. J. S. Ash, Fordingbridge	-	-	(J S A)
Mr. Edwin Cohen, Sway	-	-	(E C)
Mr. Oliver Hook, Brockenhurst	-	-	(O H)
Mr. G. H. Rees, Portsmouth	-	-	(G H R)

As Mr. Oliver Hook, who has kindly prepared this list, rightly points out, mammal-observers have been so few that the above records must be regarded as of local interest only and in no way representative of the County as a whole. Reports of amphibians and reptiles have been too scanty to justify publication.

W. H. DOWDESWELL.

2. Birds, 1954.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

I have made two innovations in the report this year. To save space I have omitted the scientific names, which, in point of fact, are unnecessary as each species is again preceded by its number in the *Check List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* published by the British Ornithologists' Union ; thus the scientific name can easily be looked up. Secondly, I have copied from the 1953 Wiltshire county report the excellent idea of giving at the end the *Check List* numbers of species seen during the year but not mentioned in my report. Without this precaution readers might think that because, say, the Blackcap is not mentioned therefore none were seen in 1954. I might add that these numbers are also given in the handy *Field List of British Birds* obtainable, price 6d.

plus postage 1½d., from the Secretary of the British Trust for Ornithology, 2 King Edward Street, Oxford.

I have also given more space to notes of visible migration as this aspect of ornithology is receiving increased attention at the present time.

Notable occurrences of the year include first Hampshire records of the Mediterranean Black-headed Gull and Black-eared Wheatear, a Sabine's Gull in the Isle of Wight, Little Bittern, Lesser Yellowlegs (for the second year running), probable Caspian Terns (two birds), possible Little Buntings wintering and the breeding of Pied Flycatchers in the New Forest.

Readers will remember the dreadful weather of 1954, not only the very cold spell from January 25th to February 7th, but also the wet and sunless summer. In this connexion J. S. Ash has written :

"SOME EFFECTS OF THE COLD SPELL ON BIRDS.

One of the outstanding features of the cold spell at the end of January and early February was the almost immediate effect it had upon birds. By the second day many birds were obviously suffering from the cold and also, to a certain extent, through lack of food. Dr. P. A. Clapham kindly carried out a post-mortem examination on several of the birds I found dead during this period and most of these were obviously not in 100 per cent. good health before the cold. It can be assumed that most of the birds dying—at least during the early part of the cold spell—were already ailing." (Here follow reports on infections found in one Stock Dove, three Blackbirds, two Chaffinches, a Partridge and a Redwing.)

"The Martin/Damerham area was almost entirely depopulated of some species, especially Larks, Lapwings, *Turdidae* and *Larus* spp. : the first three returned very slowly. No doubt in common with many other birds from further north, they had all moved west (the recovery in the S.W. of several birds ringed in the north of England bears this out).

"Oddly enough, there appeared to be no reduction in the spring in the breeding population of some species of small birds most likely to have been affected : Dartford Warblers and Stonechats were slightly reduced in numbers, but Long-tailed Tits, Goldcrests, Wrens, Treecreepers, etc., were all in similar numbers to the previous year."

And of summer visitors and the breeding season he writes : "It is believed that many of the earlier summer migrants died in southern Europe during the cold, which resulted in smaller numbers of some species in the spring. The later arrival of many migrants may be due to the heavy mortality amongst the earlier ones ; the later arrivals being further south at the time would be unaffected by the cold.

"One of the worst summers for years caused heavy losses among breeding birds, probably due to a combination of excessive rain (3·8 inches fell in 3½ hours at Damerham on May 13th) and shortage of food."

And K. Brown has the following interesting note: "After severe cold of early February the following birds were found dead at Hayling Island on February 13th: Red-throated Diver, Great-crested Grebe, Teal, Shelduck, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull, Dunlin, Redshank, Skylark and Meadow Pipit."

I have to thank the many contributors who have made this report possible; though not all have been mentioned by name all may be assured that their observations have been taken into account and have helped to complete the picture; some have taken great trouble over very comprehensive reports, in particular J. S. Ash, K. Brown and G. H. Rees, and I hope that even more readers will contribute notes of interest in 1955. But it has been decided to exclude the Isle of Wight in future as they now have a report of their own and duplication of records in ours would be a waste of time.

EDWIN COHEN,

Hazelhurst,

Sway.

Ornithological Secretary.

BIRD RECORDS.

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.**—Found dead on the north coast of the Island in January and February. One off Bournemouth on April 16th in intermediate plumage (T C S). One in Langstone Harbour on December 12th (P G).
- 2 **Great Northern Diver.**—Adult female found dead at Blashford, on which *The Field's* Pathological Department reported that it had died of coccidiosis and trichostrongylosis (G C). Up to eight off Bournemouth between April 6th and 9th (T C S). One found dead on December 9th in New Forest after a storm—probably flew into wires (P L D). Two watched at close range on the Island on December 11th, one of them catching fish and crabs (M C A).
- 4 **Red-throated Diver.**—Quite frequently recorded from January till May 1st and in December both from the mainland and the Island, usually only one or two but three in flight at Hurst Castle on May 1st (G H R).
- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.**—Numerous records in winter along coasts but double figures only from Langstone Harbour where a maximum of 24 on November 9th. Twenty which were there in January disappeared until the cold weather ended, returning about mid-February; numbers (23 in March) dwindled again until there was only one on May 23rd. One was seen there on June 4th. Several had returned by September 8th and remained till the end of the year (P G). Also two at the Hampshire end of Great Frensham Pond on February 24th (M R).
- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.**—One at Pennington on January 9th (R C H) and on the 31st one picked up at Brownwich shore, comatose (with cold ?)

and one at Hill Head near above, badly oiled, on February 14th (C S). In Osborne Bay in January up to five, November 8th and December 9th (M C A).

- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.**—From January until April 9th and from October 23rd to the end of the year. One at Yarmouth in full breeding plumage from July 29th to 31st is the only report from the Island (M C A). One on the Itchen near Winchester from February 23rd—26th (W) and at Winnall on the 27th (D G P) are the only inland records and probably refer to the same bird. On April 9th one was seen off Bournemouth displaying to a Black-necked Grebe (T C S). Reports from Langstone Harbour in March and December mention that Black-necked Grebes were always present for comparison (P G).
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.**—January to April 20th and from October 3rd to the end of the year. Maximum together 27 in November and December in Langstone Harbour. From the end of February onwards most were in summer plumage and display was frequently noted but before that, while the very cold weather lasted, they completely disappeared (P G).
- 9 **Little Grebe.**—Wintering birds leave the coast for inland breeding localities during March and return gradually in September, though one in breeding plumage was at Titchfield Haven, where none were seen from April to the end of June, on August 15th (C S). The maximum seen together was ca. 40 on salt water at N. Hayling on November 13th (G H R), and ca. 40 in Portsmouth Harbour December 19th (W H T).
- 14 **Storm Petrel.**—One flying west at Warden Point opposite Hurst Castle on November 28th (M C A) and one dead at Ventnor on August 14th (C S).
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.**—One at Spithead on April 1st (I. of W.).
- 26 **Fulmar.**—A few along cliffs along S. coast of the Island from the Needles to Atherfield Point between April 5th and July 3rd. One seen to touch down once for a short while. On April 5th 13 were resting on the sea off Atherfield Point (I. of W.). One dead at Southsea on December 28th (P G).
- 27 **Gannet.**—July (one in August) to November 27th off the Island, maximum 11 on September 11th, of which five were adults (G H R).
- 28 **Cormorant.**—The maximum number of nests counted on the Freshwater cliffs was ca. 95 on May 22nd, with a few more at the Needles (G H R and C J H). Maximum in Langstone Harbour after the breeding season was 62 on August 8th and numbers remained at about 50 until the end of the year; most leave there towards dusk and fly W. up the Solent to roost, but where is not known (P G). On November 3rd in fine weather 11 birds alit a good 60 feet up in a row of six tall poplars on the bank of the Avon near Sopley at 1610 hours (E C). A bird exactly resembling *The Handbook* plate of a Southern Cormorant was seen in Langstone Harbour on four dates in February (P G). (Some of our local birds have the head as white as that of a Southern Cormorant.—Ed.)
- 29 **Shag.**—Only a very few bred on Freshwater cliffs; some young were seen trying their wings (G H R). An immature was seen in Langstone Harbour on four dates in December (P G).
- 30 **Heron.**—The British Trust for Ornithology organised a census of occupied nests this spring. A total of 114 were counted on the mainland at nine sites, by far the largest (with 30 nests) being still that at Wickham. There is only one heronry on the Island, that near Ryde with four occupied nests. The sudden "peaks" in Langstone Harbour when the birds

- indulged in high-flying evolutions, were again noted this year ; at 0700 hours on June 29th six came in at a great height from the east, causing much excitement among the birds already there (P G).
- 37 **Little Bittern**.—An adult male was flushed in Titchfield Haven on June 13th and 14th by R P, W T and C S. On August 12th or 13th one was found dead at the edge of Farlington Marshes (A F McQ) and a coloured sketch made of it by G K.
 - 38 **Bittern**.—One at Somerley in January (G C). Regularly there March to May when "booming" heard. One at Newport on April 9th (J S).
 - 42 **Spoonbill**.—One probable at Langstone Harbour on August 9th (P G) and four there on the 14th (H C, who got quite close with his boat). (*Cf. The Field*, September 2nd, 1954.)
 - 45 **Mallard**.—Maximum, at Titchfield Haven, 160 on December 19th (C S)). Fifty-nine (only three females) on June 10th, and 30 on the 12th at Farlington Marshes appeared and left quite suddenly. A very good breeding season there (P G). Twenty-seven flew up from a pool near Beaulieu Road station on August 16th (E C).
 - 46 **Teal**.—Much put out by the cold spell in January/February, becoming quite "tame" and foraging in ditches and fields by day. Under six in Langstone Harbour from May 14th to September 12th, numbers rising to 175 by December 31st (P G). The largest flock reported was *ca.* 1,500 in Titchfield Haven after a gale on December 19th (C S).
 - 47 **Garganey**.—First date March 23rd, male, at Keyhaven (E C). A few other records until May 16th.
 - 50 **Wigeon**.—Only an odd one or two between May 1st and the fourth week in September. Often at Avington where the maximum was 36 on February 6th (W). At Langstone Harbour they were much affected by the cold weather of January/February and foraged by day on the freshwater marsh (P G). About 400 at Harbridge on February 16th (E C). Numbers in Titchfield Haven more than doubled after gales in November and December until on December 19th there were *ca.* 1,200 (C S). An evening flight, always upstream, occurs in winter at Fordingbridge (J S A).
 - 52 **Pintail**.—Sudden increase in Langstone Harbour with the snow and frost and sudden departure after the thaw ; maximum 33 on February 7th. A pair on Farlington Marshes from April 24th to May 1st (P G) and one male in the Emsworth Channel on June 6th (G H R). One female flew in on September 28th at Stanpit (J G). One or two at Yarmouth in the cold spell (M C A).
 - 53 **Shoveler**.—Reported in all months except June and September, inland, on the coast and on the Island. Usually under 12 but up to 30 in December at Titchfield Haven (C S). A pair on the Farlington Marsh lagoon from April 3rd to May 15th might have bred but for constant disturbance (P G).
 - 55 **Scaup**.—A few came close inshore to the mainland and Island during the hard weather. In February and up to March 27th there were up to 38 in Dibden Bay (E L J and G B).
 - 56 **Tufted Duck**.—Rather more reported than last year especially during the cold spell ; reports came from the coast, inland and the Island. Blashford gravel pit held 21 in January (E L J and E B). On February 1st when the weather was very hard with an icy east wind there were eight males and six females in Keyhaven harbour where normally the sp. is never seen (E C). Thirty-four in Langstone Harbour (half males) on February 13th and 14th, *i.e.*, after the thaw (P G).

- 57 **Pochard.**—Nearly all reports January to March, including a few on salt water in Langstone Harbour during the freeze-up (P G). Regular at Winnall in those months when there were from 50 to 75 (E L J, D G P and W). A few in the Yar and Medina rivers (M C A and R M C).
- 60 **Goldeneye.**—Largest numbers in January, February and December and most of them in Langstone Harbour where the largest count was 52 on January 27th. A few remained there and in Dibden Bay until the end of March (P G). Small numbers round the Island during and after the cold spell.
- 61 **Long-tailed Duck.**—Reported only from Langstone Harbour and only in January, November and December; never more than three; immatures, females and adult males all seen (P G).
- 62 **Velvet Scoter.**—February 10th, Lepe beach, male dead, oiled (F E W V). February 11th Freshwater Bay, female swam ashore and died (M C A).
- 64 **Common Scoter.**—Mostly from early April until towards the end of July, maximum *ca.* 30 off Bournemouth (T C S) and 30 off the west end of the Island (J S and M C A), but also on October 9th 20 were seen flying past St. Catherine's Point (G H R and C R T).
- 67 **Eider.**—An immature at Gurnard on January 11th (R M C) and a female 20 yards off Hayling Yacht Club on January 16th (J L L P). Female in Langstone Harbour on three dates in the second half of December (P G).
- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.**—An exceptionally good year for this species, especially in Langstone Harbour and Osborne Bay. Numbers at the former in December ranged from 18 to 66 (P G) and at the latter there were 34+ in November (M C A).
- 70 **Goosander.**—Female in Langstone Harbour on January 30th and male and two females at Newtown on February 7th, both in the cold spell (P G and M S per M C A).
- 71 **Smew.**—All reports are of "redheads" except for one male on the Yar in the cold spell. All were between January 31st and February 28th. There were about a dozen birds in all, three in Langstone Harbour on February 6th being the most at one time (P G, G B, M C A).
- 73 **Shelduck.**—Seen in all months all along the coast but reported only in February and March from the Island. A fairly good breeding season, many broods reared. About four caretaker birds stayed in Langstone Harbour throughout the autumn; the biggest number there was 700 on four dates between February 14th and March 6th. In May, June and July flocks of non-breeding birds gave maxima of 80, 102 and 30 respectively. 110 juveniles and 10 adults at Hayling Island on August 15th (K B). Adults began to return early in October and numbers reached 430 by December 28th (P G).
The only inland records are of 10 on a small bog pond on Beaulieu Heath on April 24th (C R T). A pair on Week Common April 19th and a singleton at Avon Tyrrell on June 8th (J S A).
- 76 **White-fronted Goose.**—About 230 at Harbridge above Ringwood on February 16th (E C). As last year, a few were seen on one or two days at Pennington, Titchfield Haven and Farlington but only six at the last-named as against 50 last year (P G), and only *ca.* 250 at Somerley during winter as against 6/800 last year (G C per J S A).
- 80 **Brent Goose.**—All reports are from east of Keyhaven and all reports of double figures or more are from Langstone Harbour, where there were from 50 to 70 between January 2nd and February 8th, rising to a maximum of 128 on February 21st and declining to five on March 27th, the last

- date. All were of the dark-breasted form. From November 20th to the end of the year there were 50-60 (P G). The only pale-breasted reported were three in Dibden Bay on February 20th (G B). The only report from the Island is of two dark-breasted in Thorness Bay on January 31st (R M C).
- 84 **Mute Swan.**—The largest count gave 336+, all adults, in Christchurch Harbour on September 1st (E C). In frosty weather in the first week of January there were as many as 90 on Sturt Pond, Milford—a rather unusual concentration for that water (E C). Decreasing in Langstone Harbour and area (P G).
- 85 **Whooper Swan.**—Two adults and 1 immature at Pennington on February 16th (G B) and five adults with four immatures on Witton Pond near Burley on the 19th (C P).
- 86 **Bewick's Swan.**—Twenty-two flying in formation and calling occasionally on March 20th over Langstone Harbour (E C with P G).
- 91 **Buzzard.**—More than usual seen over the New Forest this spring, including six in the air at once on February 27th (E C). Also 13 at Damerham on January 13th (J S A). They seem to be spreading eastwards, having bred near East Meon (G H C *et al.*) and been seen at Butser Hill (C W N). Up to four reported at Rushmore Down and Fullerton, near Andover (E L J). A pair on the Island in April and May (K B) and a singleton was seen to fly from Alum Bay to the mainland on September 19th (M C A). It will be interesting to see what effect, if any, the destruction of rabbits by myxomatosis has upon their numbers.
- 94 **Goshawk.**—Bird of the year at Farlington Marshes on three dates in August. Rufous buff under-parts with dark markings (P G).
- 98 **Honey Buzzard.**—A pair. Details withheld for security reasons.
- 99 **Marsh Harrier.**—A female or immature male was seen in widely separated areas on several dates in January, February, April and October.
- 100 **Hen Harrier.**—A male at Farlington Marshes on February 2nd and an adult female there from November 6th—21st (P G). Seen on many occasions in the Damerham/Martin area from January to April 22nd and from November 16th to the end of the year; mostly "ringtails" but also males several times; twice seen to kill and once to chase Partridges (J S A). Ringtails occasionally seen in other parts in winter. A female at Newtown on November 13th is the only one reported from the Island (M C A).
- 102 **Montagu's Harrier.**—A pair had their first clutch sucked and then hatched three and reared two of a clutch of three within a few yards of the first nest. A male was last seen on the coast on August 8th and another inland on the 24th. A melanistic female shot in West Hants on July 19th was in second summer plumage (or older); weight 365 grammes, wing 360 mm. (J S A).
- 103 **Osprey.**—One on the River Avon on March 6th (J S A), and two together on May 15th (A R per D. A. Rawlence). One watched fishing the River Itchen on September 12th and for some days previously (J M I).
- 104 **Hobby.**—A few pairs in the New Forest, one of which was robbed of its eggs by a well-known collector. Two calling in Woolmer Forest on June 4th (G H R). One flying along Jewry Street in the middle of Winchester on June 11th (D J). One on Rushmore Down on August 9th (E L J). A male on passage moving rapidly S.W. into a strong wind at Farlington Marshes on September 26th (P G).
- 105 **Peregrine.**—At least one pair bred on the Island. Single birds occasionally seen on the mainland, mostly in the winter months.

- 107 **Merlin**.—January 11th to March 26th and November 9th to December 24th in the Damerham/Martin area, both sexes seen but only once together (J S A). On many occasions on Farlington Marshes except between April 21st and August 24th (P G). Two or three times elsewhere in January.
- 117 **Quail**.—Only one heard in Damerham/Martin area where so many had been found last year; a pair flushed on June 23rd (J S A). A pair seen near Winchester on May 25th (W). One shot on the Island on October 7th (I. of W.).
- 120 **Water Rail**.—Widely distributed but nearly all reports are in winter. However, a pair in a wet ditch near Portsmouth on June 18th "suggests breeding" (G H R).
- 121 **Spotted Crake**.—One found dead on roadside near Shanklin on April 26th (M S per M C A). One found alive on the London Road, Portsmouth, "dodging the traffic", and kept for four days by R.S.P.C.A. Inspector and released at Bedhampton.
- 125 **Corncrake**.—One seen and heard on Wroxall Down, I. of W., on April 11th (V. S. Wadham per J S). Heard several times at Hill Head between July 2nd and 6th, "the first known in 34 years" (C S *et al*). One stunned but uninjured at Rookley, I. of W., on May 8th (I. of W.) and one at Damerham on September 17th (J S A).
- 126 **Moorhen**.—Trapped birds on being handled utter a harsh note not recorded in *The Handbook*—reminiscent of calls of migrating Cranes (J S A). At Brownwich the cold weather in February drove some into the sea where they died (C S). About 100 in Brading Harbour on February 5th and 6th (I. of W.).
- 127 **Coot**.—Many reported to have died in the cold spell but many more survived as is shown by flocks of ca. 400 at Bedhampton Creek in mid-February (P G) and of 200+ at Winnall on March 1st (P J R C).
- 131 **Oystercatcher**.—Always present but not more than about 100 in any area at one time and that only in Langstone Harbour in February, October and November (P G). Numbers west of Southampton are always less than those to the east. A partial albino which has been seen in Langstone and Chichester harbours since 1947 was seen several times (P G).
- 133 **Lapwing**.—Common in flocks of 100 or more, the largest reported being one of 500 in water-meadows, Winchester, on January 29th (W). Twenty-five pairs bred on Farlington Marshes and birds began to flock there as early as June 5th when there were 35 birds; this increased to 120 by June 29th and continued at over 100 till the end of the year (P G). Two 1953 ringed nestlings recovered in France (J S A).
- 134 **Ringed Plover**.—Here again Langstone Harbour provides by far the largest flocks, about 900 on January 4th and 1,000 on December 28th (P G). A few birds remain in parties up to mid-March—11 at Keyhaven on the 17th (B C)—and up to 39 in Langstone Harbour in May, where flocks again reached the 500 mark on August 22nd (P G).
- 135 **Little Ringed Plover**.—One at Farlington Marshes on May 8th, August 4th and 14th (P G). None at gravel pits near Sway, Warsash or Blashford (G H R).
- 139 **Grey Plover**.—In all months, all along the coast and a few on the Island in January and February. The largest number was ca. 300 in Langstone Harbour on October 30th (P G) and counts at N. Hayling exceeded 100 on several dates (K B). Noteworthy were 20 on June 6th and 30 on the 26th in Langstone Harbour (P G).

- 140 **Golden Plover.**—Absent between mid-March and early September. The return on September 19th of a flock of *ca.* 150 near Andover was exceptionally early, the previous earliest there for large numbers being on October 9th (B L J). Larger numbers than usual at N. Hayling in autumn, about 200 on November 7th, dwindling to 10 on December 12th (K B).
- 143 **Turnstone.**—In all months but only one in July (15th). Flocks not infrequently between 50 and 100. Migration : At Langstone Harbour on May 8th, 11th and 12th when the sky was almost cloudless and there was practically no wind parties of 24, 27 and 28 birds rose, calling loudly, to about 400 feet (except on the 11th when they rose until out of sight of binoculars) and flew over Portsdown Hill to the N.E. on the 8th and to N.W. on the 12th at 1700 hours on the 8th and at 1930 hours G.M.T. on the 11th and 12th (P G). Perch repeatedly on timber (C S).
- 145 **Snipe.**—At 1500 hours on December 18th at Titchfield Haven about 31 flew in high from the N.E. and swooped down to the reed-beds. On the 19th at about 1230 hours 170 were flushed there in half an hour, including wisps of 48 and 30 ; all flew out to sea, which is unusual for Snipe flushed there (C S *et al.*).
- 147 **Jack Snipe.**—Twenty to twenty-five on January 29th in Lower Watermeads, Winchester (W). Last spring date April 23rd (2) on Farlington Marshes (P G).
- 150 **Curlew.**—Several pairs apparently breeding in water meadows at Breamore where they first appeared last year (J S A). Flocks at Langstone Harbour of between 40 and 300 in April/May and of between 300 and 1840 between June 24th and August 31st indicate passage movements. There were also 170 there on June 6th and 100 on June 20th (P G). At N. Hayling there were easterly movements of 25 birds on March 30th and of 40-50 on April 22nd and 24th when the flight was much higher than that of ordinary tidal movements with the birds in a more compact formation and using different calls. The largest estimate received from anywhere was of 2000 there on September 18th (K B). On February 6th there were *ca.* 300 roosting on the ice in Dibden Bay (B P P).
- 151 **Whimbrel.**—First and last dates April 18th four at Needs Oar (A P-S) and one on Farlington Marshes November 12th, where also was the largest number recorded, *viz.*, 157 on May 9th (P G). Migration : At 2005 hours on May 18th eight birds rose from Farlington Marshes and, gaining height steadily, were watched out of sight over Portsdown Hill to the N.W. (P G). Up to five there on seven dates all through June.
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.**—Present in all months with flocks of well over 100 at times at Langstone Harbour, Hayling Island, Titchfield Haven and Dibden Bay ; maximum 350+ (the first of the winter) at Titchfield on November 13th (C S) and 350 at N. Hayling on September 12th (K B). From the Island not more than eight (July 7th at Newtown) (M C A). On May 8th seven in breeding plumage flew in from the sea at Titchfield (W T per C S).
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.**—Reported in all months but only one bird in November. Largest flocks 200/300 at Langstone in January/February (P G) and N. Hayling on March 6th (K B). Counts at Langstone from the beginning of June right through to the end of July gave as many as 50-60 birds at times (P G). Only four birds reported from the Island.
- 156 **Green Sandpiper.**—Reported in all months except May, so it would seem that the singletons on June 21st, 24th and 29th were early return migrants. The largest number was eight at Farlington Marshes on August 9th (P G). Odd birds on the Island from August to the end of the year (M C A) and one on January 30th (J S).

- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.**—Nearly all reports are from Farlington Marshes in August with as many as 10+ on the 13th and ones or twos in September until the 21st (P G).
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.**—One or two on four dates in January and on February 3rd in Fareham Creek (R P *et al.*). Main spring passage at Farlington from April 25th to May 16th with a maximum of six (P G); there is also evidence of a spring passage up the Avon valley (J S A). Autumn passage at Farlington from July 2nd to September 28th with 32 on July 29th and 30 on August 13th (P G); last date, October 6th, five (P L R). There were also quite a number in July and August along the coast between Keyhaven and Lymington (A G H and E C). A party flying S.E. at Fordingbridge at 2300 hours B.S.T. on September 5th (J S A).
- 161 **Redshank.**—As last year the large numbers are all from Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island, 2,000 and over at the former during September, October and December and from 500 to 2,000 at the latter (P G and K B). Twenty pairs bred on the marshes and 21 on islets in the harbour while there was a flock of 20 non-breeders in the harbour in May and early June (P G). The first appeared in the Damerham breeding area on March 17th and several nests were found along the Avon at Avon Tyrrell (J S A).
- 162 **Spotted Redshank.**—All months except June and December. Always ones or twos except three at Warren Flats on April 18th (G B) and six there on September 28th (J G). April birds were often in breeding plumage.
- 164 **Lesser Yellowlegs.**—One on Farlington Marshes from September 20th to 28th (P G). As this has been accepted by and will be published in *British Birds* there is no need for a description.
- 165 **Greenshank.**—All months except June, November and December but most in September (32 on the 17th at N. Hayling (C J H); a few inland records on pools in the New Forest (C R T and E C). Only four singletons from the Island in January and October.
- 169 **Knot.**—Absent from April to July inclusive. Largest flocks about 100-150 in Langstone Harbour on January 17th (K B) and about 100 in Dibden Bay in February (G B) and at N. Hayling in October (K B). Two singletons on the Island (J S and M C A).
- 171 **Little Stint.**—One at Pennington on August 8th with 20 Dunlin (A G H), one at Farlington Marshes on the 18th and 19th (P G) and a juvenile at N. Hayling on the 22nd (K B).
- 173 **Temminck's Stint.**—Two at Farlington Marshes in summer plumage on May 13th, 14th and 15th, and three on the 16th and 18th. Legs were greenish, not black, and they towered when flushed, uttering the characteristic trilling call; the white outer tail feathers were then noted (P G).
- 178 **Dunlin.**—Langstone Harbour flocks reached the 2,000/3,000 mark in January, February and on March 20th and again on November 6th with no less than ca. 9,000 on December 28th. Migration was seen on May 9th at 1650 hours when ca. 50 birds rose steeply to ca. 400 feet calling loudly and were watched out of sight over Portsdown Hill to the N.; at 1945 hours on May 12th 25 birds acted similarly. Much smaller flocks than the thousands mentioned above were present except in June when there were only odd birds and on July 29th when there were ca. 1,000 (P G). At N. Hayling on different dates from the Langstone Harbour figures (so that these may have been some of the same birds) counts totalled from

- 200 to over 1,000 (K B). On February 8th one which was probably moving down the adjacent Test valley flew from a roadway in Longparish to the S W (B P P per E L J). On March 3rd a flock of ca. 150 was caught up for some seconds with a flock of about 450 Starlings on Pennington salterns (E C). On December 12th there were ca. 200 on floodwater near the railway at Christchurch (R M C).
- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper**.—One in Langstone Harbour on April 20th and 23rd, ones and twos from August 28th to September 19th, one on October 27th and one on November 20th (P G). Two at Stanpit on September 1st (E C).
- 181 **Sanderling**.—Ca. 100 in Brading Harbour on February 6th (I. of W.) and ca. 200 at S. Hayling on December 12th (B W R) were the only flocks of any size. There were reports of 12 birds in April at different places and of one in Langstone Harbour on June 6th.
- 184 **Ruff**.—On January 16th four Ruffs and a Reeve watched for 45 minutes in clear bright light at 10 yards feeding in a grass meadow on the E. side of Hayling Island (J L L P). (Three were reported in Sussex the next week-end.) Nine with a flock of Lapwing feeding in a wet ploughed field and also on the saltings on March 11th and 12th at Keyhaven (E C). Small numbers regularly from the end of July to the end of September at Farlington Marshes (P G). And a few other records there and elsewhere in other months.
- 185 **Avocet**.—One shot at Lymington on January 2nd; the head, a leg and a wing were preserved. Four at Stanpit on March 17th (F. R. Clifton) and 20th (R M C). One on Newtown Marsh from April 25th to 28th (Lord Hurcomb, M S and M C A).
- 187 **Grey Phalarope**.—October 3rd at Mudeford ferry one, oiled (Bruce Campbell). One shot on Farlington Marshes on October 30th (P G).
- 189 **Stone Curlew**.—Bred in several localities not to be mentioned for security reasons. The first (three) birds arrived on March 25th and all had gone by the end of September. Two on passage at Farlington on April 24th, one on the 25th (P G).
- 193 **Arctic Skua**.—One of the dark phase flew across Hurst Castle shingle spit E. into the Solent on May 1st (G H R) and on the same day (? the same bird) one flew up the Meon in bad weather (B. R. Henson and W T per C S).
- 194 **Great Skua**.—On October 1st one with an injured leg and a little oil on the underparts was being tossed (!) by cows in the grounds of Farringford and was picked up and cared for by Mrs. Williams at whose house E C saw it on November 17th. It ate an enormous amount of raw meat but was not making much progress.
- 198 **Greater Black-backed Gull**.—One at Fordingbridge on the second day of the cold spell (January 27th) and two on the 31st; seldom seen there (J S A). Recorded in all months in Langstone Harbour where 21 immatures and one adult summered. Ca. 150 on February 14th; 50 adults had returned by September 19th and by the end of the year there were 160 (P G). Three at Winchester in January (W), one at Fullerton on February 21st and one at Marsh Court, near Andover, on August 26th (E L J).
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.—In all months but numbers mostly small except on September 5th at Blackgang when there were 160-180 (M C A). Several inland records at all seasons. On April 4th at Pennington two British and three of the Scandinavian race seen at 30 yards in very good light (G B). In Langstone Harbour there was a spring passage between

April 3rd and May 16th and an autumn one from July 11th to September 15th, small numbers only in both cases (P G).

- 200 **Herring Gull.**—In all months. More than 160 nests on Freshwater cliffs (G H R) and downy young still in nests there in the first week in August (K B). Great increase of immature birds in Langstone Harbour on March 14th and 20th and about 20 immatures and 14 adults summered there; *ca.* 500 on October 30th (P G). One at Clatford on November 14th eating a rabbit which had died of myxomatosis (E L J).
- 201 **Common Gull.**—Very large numbers in Langstone Harbour where *ca.* 20 birds summered. 6,000 counted on evening flight on February 28th and *ca.* 10,000 on March 27th. A few adults returned by early July and full numbers again by mid-September; at least 10,000 in December (P G).
- 205 **Mediterranean Black-headed Gull.**—A new species to the county. An adult in winter plumage at Eastney Point on April 27th (G H R). This record has been accepted by *British Birds* and when published will no doubt be accompanied by a full description.
- 207 **Little Gull.**—One at Hythe pier on January 24th seen down to 20 yards with 8 x 25 glasses flying with Black-headed Gulls; small size, buoyant, tern-like flight, no black on ends of primaries, slender, dark bill, underwing blackish rather than grey (G B). One at St. Catherine's Point on November 27th in first winter plumage seen at 30 yards in flight and settled (G H R and C R T). An adult in Langstone Harbour the next day (P G) and two adults flying west on that day at Warden Point opposite Hurst Castle (M C A).
- 208 **Black-headed Gull.**—Large-scale departure from Langstone Harbour March 20th-27th; still *ca.* 1,000 there on April 24th, a rather late date; *ca.* 100, mostly immature, summered; first arrival there of birds of the year July 11th (P G). First few eggs at the Needs Oar gully on April 17th (G H R and C R T). Large flocks at Stanpit, say up to 1,500, at the beginning (E C) and end (J G) of September.
- 209 **Sabine's Gull.**—One at Warden Point, I. of W., on November 28th (M C A). This record is to be published in *British Birds* for February 1955. There are still less than ten records for the Island or mainland.
- 211 **Kittiwake.**—About 20 occurrences as against only one report last year, quite possibly due to gales. Of those reported four were dead, two were oiled and one was sick and eventually died.
- 212 **Black Tern.**—Eight on spring passage, 15 on autumn passage. One at Blackwater on September 28th was catching dragonflies (J G).
- [216] **Caspian Tern.**—"Two very large terns flying east near Damerham at *ca.* 300 feet on April 17th, directly overhead. Strong *ca.* N.N.E. breeze blowing at time, overcast, slight haze. Following points noted: silent; appeared definitely larger than Sandwich Terns, having markedly heavier build. No other birds nearby for size comparison, but impression of larger size and more robust appearance AT ONCE noticed. Definitely terns and not gulls. Watched by my wife and me through 8 x 30 binoculars (two pairs) for about one minute as they flew steadily on. Long head and neck noticeable ('heavy-headed'), angled, broad wings, relatively short tail which was forked but *not* deeply. Typical tern flight but less graceful than Sandwich, *i.e.*, 'stronger, heavier, more powerful'."
- N.B.—A Caspian Tern was seen in Kent on May 3rd, *vide British Birds*, 47, 403j (J S A).
- 217 **Common Tern.**—Two pairs attempted to breed in Langstone Harbour (P G).

- 222 **Little Tern.**—Main spring passage in Langstone Harbour, a particularly heavy one, from April 23rd to May 23rd with peak on May 9th when 17 passed E. in the upper reaches of Langstone Harbour in half an hour and 37 passed E. at Eastney Point in *ca.* half an hour. The first birds of the year were seen on July 12th and the autumn passage lasted from then until September 12th (P G).
- 223 **Sandwich Tern.**—Migration: Birds going E. at Eastney Point from April 26th-28th and 48 on May 9th over Langstone Harbour. Return migration going W. on August 14th and 26th and 31 together on October 6th. Curious movements were of 15 going S.W. on June 25th and six on July 4th, both over Langstone Harbour (P G). There were 16 at Keyhaven on August 12th (E C).
- 234 **Woodpigeon.**—Flock of *ca.* 100 by Brownwich Lake on May 22nd, a late date (C S). From September 1st, 1953 to April 1st, 1954, 7,335 were killed in weekly organised shoots on the Island (I. of W. quoting I. of W. County Press).
- 237 **Cuckoo.**—First date April 6th (one) at Damerham (J S A). On June 12th one flew out from Park Shore to mid-Solent against a moderate S.W. wind but was drifted back to Needs Oar (G H R). On August 16th there was an adult female of the hepatic variety not far from where a dead one was picked up on July 26th, 1951 (E C).
- 241 **Barn Owl.**—One hunting in brilliant sunshine at mid-day near Chilbolton on June 19th. A nestling ringed at Damerham on July 2nd, 1952, was found dead on the road at Harbridge near Ringwood on February 13th, 1954 (J S A). A pellet found at Hill Head, where the species breeds, contained a flat stone measuring 4in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (C S).
- 246 **Little Owl.**—On February 21st one was picked up dead, oiled, at Brownwich beach, where on February 18th, 1950, one was found dead which a post mortem showed to have been drowned (C S).
- 247 **Tawny Owl.**—At Micheldever in February two crops contained feathers, one of a Partridge, the other of a Red-legged Partridge. Neither species is mentioned as prey in *The Handbook* (D J).
- 248 **Long-eared Owl.**—One near Martin on May 14th. Reported by keepers at Somerley to be not uncommon and much sought after by egg-collectors (J S A). One at mid-day asleep in a small copse at Catisfield; ear-tufts not very conspicuous; bird looked slimmer than a Tawny Owl (A G H).
- 249 **Short-eared Owl.**—At Farlington Marshes the last of four birds stayed a month longer than last year, until April 25th, and the first in heavy moult and coincident with the arrival of small birds, returned rather earlier, on September 19th; from then there were up to three till the end of the year. They stay on at Micheldever in spite of persecution; one was flushed from a freshly killed Partridge, a prey that is not specifically mentioned in *The Handbook* (D J). Again one on Brighstone Down in early April (I. of W.), one dead on Brading Marsh on May 1st (I. of W.) and up to three at Newtown in February, March and November (M C A and R M C).
- 252 **Nightjar.**—Still not uncommon in suitable habitats. A nestling ringed June 28th, 1953, at Damerham hit high tension wires at Nantes, France, on September 8th, 1954 (Ash and Ridley).
- 255 **Swift.**—First date April 5th (two) near Ryde hospital (Miss S. Russell per J S who accepts her competence to identify). There are only three earlier dates in *The Handbook*. Last date September 12th (one) at Farlington (P G). Many reports of migration and mid-season movements received from P G, K B and J S A, of which perhaps the most noteworthy

are : 1800-2000 hours B.S.T. May 8th very many flying over the Damerham/Martin area in direct manner N. on very broad front over downs ; sky clear, wind N.E. force 3 (J S A). 2000-2130 hours July 5th 90 singles counted moving across Hayling Bay into the setting sun (K B). Peak numbers at Eastney coming in off the sea from S.E. to N.E. on May 9th, 15th and 16th. During June mid-season movements of varying intensity were noted on most days, all birds going S.W. with a few exceptions on 19th, 26th and 29th going W. and N.E. A daily S.W. movement from July 4th to August 14th (except 3rd to 5th) with peaks on July 22nd and 23rd (a continual stream all day) and large numbers passing after bad weather hold up on July 25th. The following records are exceptional : one going S.E. on April 22nd ; one N. on August 25th ; ca. 30 N.E. on July 21st ; two N.W. on August 23rd (P G).

- 261 **Hoopoe**.—One at Yarmouth, March 27th-31st (M C A). One at Sway April 20th (E. A. Marsh). One in a garden near Shanklin August 17th-24th, roosted in firs ; another at Shanklin on September 26th ; and one daily in a garden at Totland from September 26th to October 7th (I. of W.).
- 264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**.—A tame one taken as an apparently abandoned fledgling and hand-reared drummed quite loudly when only a few weeks old on loose plaster, cardboard boxes and its cage-support and once even on its captor's finger when, although no noise was produced, he was well able to see the fantastic speed at which its head moved (J S A). Several reports from the New Forest, Damerham, Avon Tyrrell (bred), Winchester area and Fareham ; also three at Shanklin in the second week of March (I. of W.).
- 265 **Wryneck**.—April 16th, Sandford Moor, Godshill, one seen and heard feeding on anthill (C. H. Heal per J S). Ca. May 15th near Fording-bridge, one in orchard near house (Miss Wilbraham per Miss P. M. Nicholson ; has been there in previous years). August 28th at Freshwater Bay one present in a garden for half an hour (Dr. H. C. Hopkinson).
- 272 **Skylark**.—Over 50 trapped at Micheldever in the cold spell when it was noticed that some birds were half as large again as others (D J). Many moving at Hill Head with Redwings and Fieldfares from S.E. to N.W. from January 30th to February 7th (C S). The cold spell caused a large influx at Farlington Marshes until in February there were about 400 ; it also gave rise to much movement, some going E. and others W., N.W. or N. In early October there was again an increase in numbers there and migrational movements to the W., S.W. and N.W. (P G).
- 274 **Swallow**.—On August 24th At Damerham in a strong N.W. wind, overcast, very cold, and rain at times, a flock of ca. 70 flew low over fields systematically picking insects off herbage. They often hovered over Yarrow and Ragwort to pick insects off the flowers. 'On reaching the end of the field they all returned to the other end and recommenced the procedure. On August 26th a party of about 20 was watched feeding in a similar manner in a different locality, only this time they frequently alit on the flower-heads to search for food. On September 15th ca. 300 roosting in Pitt's Wood, New Forest ; majority were in 25-30 foot high oaks, others in thick hollies. This is a small isolated wood several miles from any water and surrounded by heathland (J S A).
Migration : Numerous reports about both migrations but nothing in either dates or numbers that might not be expected except that at Farlington Marshes during the latter half of August and in September birds were noted going N.N.W., N., N.N.E. and N.E., including ca. 50 together going N.E. on August 28th, 21 N. on September 7th, and 25 N. on the 22nd (P G). Last birds (two) on November 17th at Freshwater Bay (E C).

- 277 **Sand Martin.**—*Ca.* 300 roosting in the reed-beds at Titchfield Haven in mid-July (C S *et al.*). On August 3rd *ca.* 900 came down the Meon on migration and flew out to sea (W H T per C S).
- 279 **Raven.**—Not recorded at all at the Needles in the breeding season (M C A). As a pair was often seen in January near Compton Bay just along the coast (I. of W.) and a singleton on April 26th on Tennyson Down (B W R) and on June 5th (G H R and C J H) it would seem as though one of the pair came to grief before the breeding season. Two at Damerham on three dates in February (J S A).
- 280 **Carriion Crow.**—*Ca.* 50 with Rooks on the shore at Osborne Bay on February 13th (G A).
- 282 **Rook.**—Reports, as last year, of birds flying at dusk from the mainland in October, November, December and March to roost on the Island, including 173 over Lepe and the N.E. Gurnard flashing buoy to W. Cowes and probably beyond (November 1st ; E C) and many on March 2nd with Jackdaws (J S A) and 69 from Meon shore on October 24th (G H R), but none reported this year in the reverse direction.
The rookery in the centre of Portsmouth first recorded last year with 15 pairs was occupied again ; seven nests were built but all subsequently taken to pieces again and the site deserted. A rookery near the edge of Farlington Marshes consisted of 180 occupied nests as against 73 last year (P G).
- 289 **Blue Tit.**—Courtship feeding seen once at food-container in Sway garden on May 4th ; though very large number of breeding pairs there every year this has not been observed before (E C). On October 4th and 7th and November 6th large increase at Farlington Marshes when the birds were in unusual places (P G). A bird trapped at Sway on October 10th and re-trapped twice in December, and another trapped on December 12th, had wing measurements of 67 and 68 mm. respectively which is outside *The Handbook* range for the British Blue Tit and within that of the Continental. However, on January 2nd, 1955, one was re-trapped which had been ringed there as a nestling in 1953 (and recovered on February 21st, 1954) and its wing measured *ca.* 67.75 mm., *i.e.*, again outside the British range. The measurement of the first one was checked by A. W. Boyd and that of the second by my wife. Comment from *British Birds* is awaited (E C).
- 293 **Willow Tit.**—A few seen in Allen valley, at Damerham and in Harewood Forest (J S A and B P P) in winter. On June 19th one near Chilbolton and one near Micheldever (J S A).
- 294 **Long-tailed Tit.**—A nest at Damerham 6 feet up was suspended from the bough of a spruce like the nest of a Goldcrest (J S A). On the whole the species seems to have recovered well from the severe winter.
- 296 **Nuthatch.**—On April 24th at Sway a male sang on the ground when the female was a few feet away. The species is very common round the house but in 14 years I have never observed this (E C).
- 302 **Fieldfare.**—Completely disappeared from Martin/Damerham and from Micheldever early in the cold spell (J S A and D J). Last date April 27th (four birds) near Andover (E L J).
- 303 **Song Thrush.**—First immigrants at Fordingbridge on October 12th. Many dead and dying on the fourth day of the cold spell (January 29th) yet despite heavy mortality of these and Blackbirds both were numerous in the breeding season and it seems likely that many of the birds which moved S.W. from further north in the British Isles failed to return and remained in the south to breed (J S A). Large increase in the bushy area of Farlington Marshes on October 16th and 23rd and on November

- 2nd and 16th ; these birds appeared larger and darker and were much more shy than the usual thrushes (P G).
- 304 **Redwing.**—Completely disappeared from Damerham/Martin and Micheldever areas by the second day of the cold spell (January 27th) (J S A and D J). Large increase and much movement at Farlington and Hill Head (C S) with the coming of the cold spell, hundreds going W. and N.W. on January 27th and 31st. Heavy passage indicated by calls at night over Portsmouth from October 27th onwards especially on the 28th and November 2nd, 15th and 16th (P G).
- 307 **Ring Ouzel.**—An adult male on April 28th and 29th feeding in young spring corn field at Damerham (J S A). A male at Farlington Marshes on September 26th (P G). On the Island there was a pair on a garden lawn in Carisbrooke for twenty minutes on April 14th (I. of W.), a male at Alum Bay on October 3rd and an immature female on Westover Down on the 23rd (M C A).
- 308 **Blackbird.**—Many dead and dying by the fourth day of the cold spell in the Damerham/Martin area, January 29th (J S A). Bushes at S. Hayling full of them on October 10th and a S. passage seen at dusk from the area (K B). Large influx in the bushes on Farlington Marshes on October 23rd and November 12th and 14th—very large numbers and very wary (P G).
- 311 **Wheatear.**—First date March 12th, Brockenhurst, male (E C). Last dates October 8th, Keyhaven, two (E C) and Stanpit, one, on 10th (Miss E. Batchelor), and, an exceptionally late straggler at Titchfield Haven on November 19th (C S). Peak spring passage at Farlington on April 25th and 26th and May 2nd and in autumn, September 7th, 12th, 18th (31 birds) and 26th (P G), and at S. Hayling on August 28th (35 birds) (K B).
- Greenland Wheatear.**—A party of one male and six females on Week Common on April 25th were probably referable to this race (J S A) as were a male at Pennington on May 1st (E C), five at Farlington Marshes on May 4th, one each on September 12th and 18th (P G) and one at Chilton, I. of W., on October 23rd (H. E. Axell). At Pennington and Farlington there were Common Wheatears present for comparison.
- 313 **Black-eared Wheatear.**—A male on Farlington Marshes on September 18th (P G). This record has been accepted by and will be published in *British Birds*. The species is not-listed in Kelsall and Munn's *Birds of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*.
- 317 **Stonechat.**—On the mainland a fair number survived the cold spell but on the Island they were apparently wiped out again, being seen on autumn passage only and no breeding pairs (M C A).
- 318 **Whinchat.**—Fourteen, an unusually large number, on autumn passage at Hayling Island on August 28th (K B).
- 320 **Redstart.**—Arrived late, the first, a female, near Fritham on April 22nd (J S A). Well distributed in the New Forest later. In autumn this species was involved in a series of waves of small birds which was noticeable in the isolated bushy areas of Farlington Marshes in the early mornings, numbers being particularly high on September 19th (P G).
- 321 **Black Redstart.**—A female at Farlington Marshes on November 20th and a male at Eastney Point on December 18th-20th and 24th (P G) and one at Freshwater Bay on November 17th (E C).
- 322 **Nightingale.**—The first was seen at Lee on April 8th (R M C) which is early, but no other until April 24th at Damerham (J S A) which is late for a second date.

- 325 **Robin**.—A nest at 'Everton on May 18th with one addled egg and two freshly killed young below completely filled the cup of a Song Thrush's nest in which four eggs were buried under the Robin's nest (E C).
- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler**.—20+ pairs breeding in an area a few miles N. of Portsmouth (C R T and G H R).
- 333 **Reed Warbler**.—Two colour-ringed birds breeding at Great Salterns Lake, Southsea, had been ringed as nestlings there last year (P G).
- 337 **Sedge Warbler**.—First date, an early one, April 7th, in the S.W. of the county (C P) and last date, a quite exceptionally late one, October 2nd at Farlington Marshes (P G).
- 347 **Whitethroat**.—Like most of the other warblers it arrived late, the wind having been in the N. for a long period before becoming S.W. in the last three days of April. The main spring passage came with a great wave at Farlington Marshes on April 25th and there was a smaller one there on May 1st (P G) on which date there was also a marked influx (200+) from Alum Bay to the Needles (M C A).
- 354 **Willow Warbler**.—Very few early arrivals before the main wave; first date April 4th at Godshill (Miss E. Batchelor) and Farlington Marshes (P G). In the Sway area, in spite of a keen search throughout the previous week, the first was heard on the 12th, after the first arrival of Yellow Wagtails, Swallow and even Cuckoo (E C). Very large arrival on Hayling Island April 25th (K B), which was also the day of peak numbers on Farlington Marshes (P G). Main departure on August 24th, September 12th and 18th (P G).
- 364 **Goldcrest**.—Song at Sway January 18th, *i.e.*, outside the period given in the song-chart in *The Handbook* (E C). (*Cf.* the 1953 report for song there in the first half of August.) A few, not more than 10 on any date, in bushes on Hayling Island and Farlington Marshes and even some on the islets in Langstone Harbour on several dates from October 3rd to November 6th (K B and P G).
- 365 **Firecrest**.—One among bushes January 31st on St. George's Down, Blackwater, I. of W., the weather being very cold with snow falling and an easterly wind (J S).
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher**.—Many more records this year both from the mainland and the Island in April (three birds) and August (eight). In addition a male and female were seen near to one another on Southampton Common on May 3rd (R M C), a probable pair in the New Forest on June 27th (per J S A) and a pair watched bringing food to young in another part of the Forest four and a half miles away on June 3rd and 8th (A. Bull *et al.* from Bryanston School) where E C saw the male only on the 14th. There are only very few breeding records for the Forest.
- 373 **Meadow Pipit**.—Inward spring passage most noticeable at Farlington on March 20th and 27th and April 3rd (P G). Small parties flying in from the sea at Bournemouth from April 6th-10th (T C S) and at Main Bench, I. of W., on the 10th and 22nd (C R T). Autumn assemblage and passage at Farlington, involving at times hundreds of birds, was seen on many days from September 18th to October 30th, most birds going S.E., S.S.E. or S., but a few to W. and E. (P G). Emigration of much smaller numbers from Hayling Bay seen in the early morning of October 3rd (K B).
- 376 **Tree Pipit**.—Two came in off the sea at Main Bench, I. of W., on April 10th, calling "teez" (G H R). Numerous in the central New Forest area (G H R and C R T). Migrants are partial to stubble fields in autumn (J S A).

- 379 **Rock Pipit**.—Estimated 10 pairs breeding between Freshwater Bay and the Needles (G H R). Noticeable influx at Farlington on November 20th; absent there from March 27th to October 9th (P G).
- Water Pipit**.—One, well towards summer plumage, at Yarmouth on March 24th (M C A). Very grey head, marked eyestripe and bright, almost unstreaked, breast; at first taken for Wheatear; bill stout compared with that of adjacent Meadow Pipit.
- One probable at Pennington on November 10th (E C). Strikingly large area of unstreaked whitish on throat and upper breast and very heavy streaking where that ended; back dark, warm brown; note had a slight grating quality in it. The bird was seen for several minutes at close range, but it was very restless and, as the light was fading, the eyestripe and colour of the tail-feathers could not be seen.
- 380A **Pied Wagtail**.—30+ at the Farlington Sewage Works roost as late as March 14th. Small northward movement there on October 4th and 6th (P G). A nestling ringed June 8th, 1951, at Blagdon, Northumberland was found dead at Basing, 290 miles south, in February 1954 (Ash and Ridley).
- 380B **White Wagtail**.—A male watched singing at very close range at Winchester on March 10th (W). A pair at Farlington Sewage Works from April 4th to May 9th often displaying and chasing off Pied Wagtails (P G). Five other April records.
- 381 **Grey Wagtail**.—Seven together at Bedhampton Creek on January 27th (P G). Parties of four, one and four coasted E. past St. Catherine's Point on September 5th (M C A).
- 382 **Yellow Wagtail**.—Though not, according to *The Handbook*, unduly early, the first males at Stanpit (one on April 5th, five or six on the 9th (E C) were a fortnight ahead of the next report of any numbers. The peak spring passage at Farlington was on April 23rd (28 males) and 25th (42 birds). The male of one of the pairs that bred there was a variant of the Sykes type exactly resembling the male recorded there last year (P G). At Titchfield Haven too a variant male was seen on June 14th and 18th with a white supercilary stripe and a white chin (C S and C R T). About 150 roosted in the reed-beds there on August 29th and the last one seen was on October 30th, a very late date (C S). The autumn passage at Farlington Marshes was heavy, top numbers being 85 on September 14th and 101 on the 16th (P G). In April birds passed N.E. or N.N.E. and in autumn S.W. except for 12 going N.N.E. on August 26th (P G). On Hayling Island also four passed E.N.E. on August 25th and seven N.W. on the 27th; largest number was 45 on the 29th (K B).
- 382B **Blue-headed Wagtail**.—A female at Winchester from May 28th to June 6th seen on May 28th and 29th in company with a male Yellow Wagtail (W.).
- 384 **Great Grey Shrike**.—A male on March 14th near Beaulieu Road station (R. E. Williams). It was not to be found in the area on the 17th (E C).
- 388 **Red-backed Shrike**.—Had a good breeding season in and around the New Forest. Very few reports from elsewhere.
- 389 **Starling**.—A sudden movement at Farlington in the cold weather on January 27th when between 0900 and 1000 hours *ca.* 2,000 birds passed W.; before and after those times hardly any were seen to move. On March 13th *ca.* 15,000 were counted passing W. presumably to roost. Last roosting birds in spring *ca.* 100 on April 24th but by May 11th *ca.* 120 had returned (P G). On July 11th at Sway a pair were still feeding a second brood in the same nest-site as the first (E C). An adult ringed on February 3rd at Fordingbridge was found dead on March 19th 78 miles East in Sussex (Ash and Ridley). See also note under Dunlin.

- 391 **Hawfinch.**—Reports from all over the county, maximum *ca.* 10 at Ashley, near Romsey, on April 19th (E L J). Bred at Leckford (J S A).
- 392 **Greenfinch.**—A flock of *ca.* 50 feeding in a cabbage field on May 2nd at Hill Head (C S) which seems a late date for a flock. Song at Sway on September 2nd and 3rd, when not even exceptional song is shown in the chart in *The Handbook* (E C).
- 393 **Goldfinch.**—With the coming of the cold spell numbers rose sharply on Farlington Marshes from *ca.* 10 in early January to a flock of *ca.* 100 on the 30th feeding on seeds of Golden Samphire (P G).
- 394 **Siskin.**—January 17th, Titchfield Haven, two, the only ones ever seen there by (C S *et al.*). *Ca.* 25 on January 30th near Fleet (E L J). April 4th, Parkhill Inclosure, New Forest, one male seen and another heard singing at the same time (E C). Two with Goldfinches in the Allen valley on the Hants/Dorset border on December 11th (J S A).
- 395 **Linnet.**—Spring passage at Farlington, April 3rd-26th, birds moving N., mostly on 24th. Autumn passage August 7th to September 26th, Maximum 151 on the 7th and *ca.* 100 on the 17th (P G).
- 397 **Redpoll.**—Three on February 13th at Bokerley, near Damerham (J S A). Five at Farlington Marshes on November 12th (P G).
- 401 **Bullfinch.**—*Ca.* 60 were shot in a small N. Hants garden in the spring, where much damage was being done to fruit trees (per J S A).
- 407 **Chaffinch.**—*Ca.* 100 at noon on October 23rd coasting W. at Hamstead, I. of W. (H. E. Axell).
- 408 **Brambling.**—The only flocks of any size reported were 120 on February 13th and *ca.* 35 on the 23rd, both near Andover, and *ca.* 100 near Stockbridge on March 20th (E L J). If they do feed under the beeches in the New Forest I have never succeeded in finding any, but there was a flock of *ca.* 20 at Keyhaven on January 31st and February 4th in a hard frost with a very cold E.S.E. wind (E C). They are the first I have ever seen on the shore there, and were still present on February 27th (M R). In January they were present in every small bird flock throughout the Micheldever area and there must have been hundreds (D J).
- 409 **Yellowhammer.**—At Butser a flock of 60 on March 27th and one of *ca.* 50, mostly males, in stubble on April 19th (G H R).
- 415 **Girl Bunting.**—Plenty of reports from many areas. At Micheldever, where they are common (J S A), they banded together into flocks of up to a dozen in the cold weather in January and it was estimated that there were probably at least 50 on 1,000 acres (D J). Between February and August within $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Andover 30 singing males were located and others farther afield (E L J). There were 13 on Farlington Marshes on January 9th (P G).
- [420 **Little Bunting.**—First seen on November 13th and at week-ends since until the end of the year near Fareham Sewage Farm; usually to be found in the bushes and young trees nearest the river. Number not stated and description still awaited at time of completion of this report, but from enquiries made the record would appear to be provisionally acceptable (R. Ewing).] No record for Hampshire in *The Handbook* or in Kelsall and Munn.
- 421 **Reed Bunting.**—Increase at Farlington with the cold spell from two on January 23rd to *ca.* 40 on January 31st and February 6th, dropping again to 2 on the 8th. Small spring and autumn passage, mid-April and mid-October (P G).
- 423 **Snow Bunting.**—Two on January 17th at S. Hayling fed along the tide-line and allowed a very close approach (K B).

- 425 **Tree Sparrow.**—No records (J S A) (E C), not seen in Hill Head area (C S), did not breed at old Purbrook haunt (G H R). The only report comes from New Close near Watergate Bridge, S. of Newport, on April 6th, one bird (I. of W.).

CORRECTION. 1953 Report (p. 364). **Tree Sparrow.**—*delete* "and one near Wherwell on Nov. 2nd (E.L.J.)."

Check List numbers of the species which, though not mentioned in the notes, were recorded in 1954 :—

93	110	115	116	118	148	218	224	227	230	232	235
258	262	263	271	276	283	284	286	288	290	291	292
298	299	301	343	346	348	352	356	357	366	371	404
410	424										

Additions to 1953 Report.

- 252 **Nightjar.**—Bred on the edge of reed-bed adjoining the river at Leckford (Terry Jones per J S A).
- 258 **Kingfisher.**—Several reports of breeding received since the 1953 report, in which I wrote "No report of breeding".

List of Observers.

NOTE.—The "Portsmouth Group" (P G) consists of the following :—
D. F. Billett, P. F. le Brocq, G. H. Clay, J. Conchie, C. J. Henty, P. L. Rabbetts, G. H. Rees, B. W. Renyard and C. R. Tubbs, with occasional notes from A. Allen, K. Brown, J. Morris, C. Norris, R. Ruston, G. A. Sutton, E. Richards, N. A. Rand and J. Bowers.

Some of these have sent in reports concerning areas outside that worked by the Portsmouth Group (*i.e.*, Langstone Harbour and Farlington Marshes) and in such cases their own initials appear after the observation.

(M C A)	-	M. C. Adams.	(C W N)	-	C. W. Norris.
(J S A)	-	J. S. Ash.	(R P)	-	R. Parsons.
(G A)	-	G. Avery.	(A P-S)	-	A. Pearce-Smith.
(E B)	-	E. Batchelor (Miss).	(B P P)	-	B. P. Pickess.
(J K B)	-	J. K. Bowers.	(J L L P)	-	J. L. L. Pilkington.
(K B)	-	K. Brown.	(C P)	-	C. Popham (Miss).
(G B)	-	G. Bundy.	(P G)	-	Portsmouth Group.
(H C)	-	H. Carrell.	(D G P)	-	D. G. Pumfrett.
(G H C)	-	G. H. Clay (P G).	(G H R)	-	G. H. Rees (P G).
(P J R C)	-	P. J. R. Clifton.	(B W R)	-	B. W. Renyard (P G).
(E C)	-	E. Cohen.	(A R)	-	A. Richardson.
(G C)	-	G. Cole.	(M R)	-	M. Rogers (Mrs.).
(R C)	-	R. Cook.	(M S)	-	M. Seabroke (Mrs.).
(R M C)	-	R. M. Curber.	(T C S)	-	T. C. Smout.
(J G)	-	J. Goodhart.	(J S)	-	J. Stafford.
(R C H)	-	R. C. Hallowes.	(C S)	-	C. Suffern (Dr.).
(C J H)	-	C. J. Henty (P G).	(W T)	-	W. Truckle.
(A G H)	-	A. G. Hill.	(C R T)	-	C. R. Tubbs (P G).
(G H)	-	G. Hopkinson (Mrs.).			
(J M I)	-	J. M. Impey (Mrs.).			
(D J)	-	D. Jenkins.			
(E L J)	-	E. L. Jones.			
(G K)	-	G. Kinns.			
(A F M C Q)	-	A. F. McQuarrie.			
(E F W V)	-	E. F. W. Venning (Brigadier).			
(I. of W.)	-	<i>Proceedings</i> of the Isle of Wight Nat. Hist. Soc.			
(W)	-	Winchester College Nat. Hist. Soc.			

3. Insects, 1954.

Lepidoptera.

By B. GOATER, B.Sc., F.R.E.S.

Contributions were received from the following :—

- E. Cohen, Sway.
- E. L. Jones (E J), Andover.
- A. C. Redgrave (A C R), Bournemouth.
- G. H. Rees (G H R), Portsmouth.
- C. Suffern (C S), Hill Head.

The 1954 season was a great disappointment to entomologists, a fact that may account for the small number of contributions received. The first few days of January still retained some of the softness of the phenomenally mild autumn of 1953, but soon afterwards came a spell of really hard weather which lasted for three weeks. Cool and changeable weather then persisted until Christmas, without a single spell of traditional summery warmth and sunshine. Insects were in general scarce and late in emerging, and there was little migration. The only butterflies seen in greater numbers than in 1953 were *Pieris brassicae*, *Colias croceus* and *Vanessa atalanta*, while *Aglais urticae* and *Melanargia galathea* were among those less common than last year. Moths, too, were scarce, and adverse weather conditions at night restricted their activity.

This year records are presented as a Systematic List. It is thought that this treatment will be preferable to the generalised account in making references to individual species more accessible. By no means all the common species have been referred to, but some have been included as an index of the abundance of Lepidoptera as a whole.

Systematic List.

Pieris brassicae L.—Many more than in either 1952 or 1953, but still far from abundant. First seen April 27th at Chandler's Ford ; last on October 9th, Hill Head (C S) and Andover (E J).

P. rapae L.—Fair numbers ; first April 10th, Hill Head (C S).

P. napi L.—Few only.

Anthocharis cardamines L.—Fewer than in 1953. Numerous in Butser and Wolmer Forest areas on June 4th (G H R).

Colias croceus Fourc.—Small numbers, chiefly August-September. Only spring records from Hill Head (G H R and C S), May 30th, June 14th. Var. *helice*, Andover, October 1st (E J). Our record from St. Catherine's Point, October 9th (G H R).

Gonepteryx rhamni L.—First seen February 20th. Few in summer.

Argynnis paphia L.—Very few recorded, even from the New Forest.

Polygonia c-album L.—Very few.

- Aglais urticae* L.—After the abundance in the autumn of 1953 few were seen after hibernation, and there must have been a high mortality during the winter. Numbers in autumn 1954 below average.
- Pyrameis cardui* L.—No records of this migrant were received.
- Vanessa atalanta* L.—More common than for some years, according to most reports. C S saw seventeen on September 19th, Hill Head.
- Limnitis camilla* L.—Few, and late in emerging. Three near Lyndhurst on July 24th (G H R).
- Melanargia galathea* L.—Not as prolific as usual. Farley Mount, Compton, Twyford, etc.
- Pararge aegeria* L.—Fairly common, but none recorded until mid-April.
- Maniola jurtina* L.—Abundant.
- M. tithonus* L.—Comparatively few.
- Thecla quercus* L.—A fresh female seen at Otterbourne on August 26th—a late date—otherwise none recorded.
- Strymonidia w-album* Knoch.—Female near Andover, July 31st (B J).
- Lycaena phlaeas*.—Exceedingly few.
- Lysandra coridon* Pod.—A good year for this species, and considerable variation reported.
- L. bellargus* Rott.—No record. This insect is becoming excessively scarce in Hampshire and, I believe, in other counties.
- Celastrina argiohous* L.—Rather less uncommon than recently, but a great wanderer, and colonies are few.
- Pyrgus malvae* L.—Small numbers, first April 30th, Morestead.
- Ochlodes venata* Br. and Grey.—Small numbers at the end of June and through July.
- Mimas tiliae* L.—First on May 28th, Chandler's Ford.
- Smerinthus ocellata* L.—Few at light, Chandler's Ford, the first not until June 20th. Larvae numerous in August.
- Hyloicus pinastri* L.—Not as many as usual, and late in emerging.
- Deilephila elpenor* L.—First on June 5th and peak numbers not until mid-July, Chandler's Ford.
- Macroglossum stellatarum* L.—None recorded.
- Stauropus fagi* L.—Few males at light, Chandler's Ford; one melanic, July 10th.
- Odontotia carmelita* Esp.—Five taken at Chandler's Ford in two localities between April 23rd-29th.
- Glostera curtula* L.—One, Hill Head, May 29th, the first the observer has recorded there (C S).
- Habrosyne derasa* L.—Less common than usual, Chandler's Ford.
- Tethea ocularis* L.—Chandler's Ford, July 10th.
- Poecilocampa populi* L.—None seen at Chandler's Ford, where it is usually very common.
- Lasiocampa quercus* L.—A male seen at Otterbourne August 26th, the first I have recorded in the district.
- Macrothylacia rubi* L.—The colony at Chandler's Ford on the Hiltingbury Estate appears to have been wiped out.

Nola cucullatella L.—This attractive little insect was particularly common at Chandler's Ford in July.

Pseudodips bicolorana Fuessl.—Only one was seen at Chandler's Ford, on July 10th.

Panaxia dominula L.—Larvae common in their usual haunts, but possibly fewer than usual.

Callimorpha jacobaeae L.—This usually abundant insect was hardly seen at all, even the larvae were hard to find.

Apatele tridens Schiff; *A. psi* L.—A mixed series of these two insects taken at random over the last few years, mostly at Chandler's Ford, was carefully examined. Four only, all males, were *tridens*.

Agrotis ipsilon Rott.—A poor year for this reputed migrant; only a handful were seen.

Euxoa nigricans L.—A few on Hockley Downs, near Winchester, at the end of August.

E. tritici L.—One at sugar, Hockley Downs, August 23rd.

Amathes c-nigrum L.—A female of this species was found in cop. with a male *Amathes xanthographa* Fabr. under a sugar patch on Hockley Downs, August 26th. On September 1st the *c-nigrum* died after having laid fifteen eggs. These proved to be infertile.

Cerapteryx graminis L.—Fairly common on the downs round Winchester, the males flying during the day and both sexes being found on the grass after dark. One or two females caught in flight at dusk.

Procus strigilis Clerck; *P. latruncula* Schiff.—A random series taken in Hampshire (about 80 insects) was examined anatomically and the following conclusions, to be checked in future years, were drawn: at Chandler's Ford *latruncula* clearly outnumbers *strigilis* (probably by at least four to one). My specimens from Titchfield Haven and from Stockbridge are all very black-and-white and are all *strigilis*. In general, however, *latruncula* appears to be the commoner, especially in wooded localities. Most of the *latruncula* are smaller and lack white markings, while most *strigilis* are larger and more marbled. In both species both sexes come freely to light and to sugar.

P. literosa Haw.—Fairly common at sugar, Hockley Downs.

P. furuncula Schiff.—Fairly common, Hockley Downs.

Apomea ophiogramma Esp.—A specimen at light at Chandler's Ford, August 12th, was the first seen in the district.

Hydraecia oculea L.; *H. paludis* Tutt.—Two series, separated morphologically and ecologically, were checked by examination of genitalia. All those taken at Chandler's Ford, including one large, red, "doubtful", were *oculea*, while those from the saltings, as suspected, were all *paludis*.

Arenostola pygmina Haw.—A strong colony discovered at Chandler's Ford, was visited for the hour before dusk on five successive nights, after a preliminary survey on August 29th. Strong flights were noted when the evening was clear, cold and dewy, but on cloudy, mild evenings odd specimens crawled up on to the grass stems but four only were seen in flight, in two such evenings.

Zenobia subtusa Fabr.—A single specimen was taken at Chandler's Ford, where it seems to be scarce, on August 8th.

Gypsites leucographa Hübn.—Little seems to be known of this interesting species in Hampshire, but a few were taken at light near Alton by Mr. H. S. Robinson in April 1954.

- Lithophane semibrunnea* Haw.—Several at sugar, Hurn, in the autumn (A C R).
L. socia Rott.—Few at Hurn, autumn (A C R).
Cucullia lychnitis Ramb.—Several larvae on *Verbascum nigrum* at Shawford, August 28th.
Eustrotia uncula Clerck.—Two caught in a marshy field at Chandler's Ford, June 26th—the first I have seen in the district.
Plusia gamma L.—Far fewer than usual, May 28th—October 30th, with no evidence of any major immigration.
Brephos parthenias L.—First at Chandler's Ford on March 12th, subsequently fairly common but flight erratic owing to variable weather conditions.
Sterrha trigeminata Haw.—Fairly common at Chandler's Ford.
Acasis virescens Hübn.—One at Rufus Stone, April 17th. Few at Chandler's Ford, both broods.
Triphosa dubitata L.—One at heather bloom, Hockley Downs, August 23rd.
Thera variata Schiff.—More common in the garden at Chandler's Ford during October than I have ever known it.
T. obeliscata Hübn.—Always outnumbers *variata* at Chandler's Ford. Particularly abundant during the autumn.
Euphyia unangulata Haw.—One at light, Chandler's Ford, July 24th; only the second seen in the district.
Eupithecia linariata Fabr.—Larvae on *Linaria* on waste ground near the New Docks, Southampton, September.
Semiothisa notata L.—Few at Chandler's Ford.
Erannis aurantiaria Esp.—In recent years this insect has been much less common in Chandler's Ford. One only was seen in 1954.
E. defoliaria Clerck.—Very few, after great abundance in the autumn of 1953.
Crocallis elinguaris L.—Particularly abundant at the beginning of August, with a peak on August 8th.
Pachy-nemia hyppocastanaria Hübn.—Common at light on heaths between Lyndhurst and Beaulieu Road station (A C R).
Cleora cinctaria Schiff.—On April 28th, in cloudy conditions and with a N.E. wind, many were found at rest on stunted pines along Matley Passage; males outnumbered females by eight to one. On the following day, which was warm and sunny, only two were found after a prolonged search.

B. GOATER.

Other Insect Orders.

Unfortunately, few records have again been forthcoming for insect Orders other than Lepidoptera. The following are representative of a few localities only.

ODONATA (Dragonflies).

Dr. C. Suffern reports a poor year at Hill Head, Fareham. Apart from a few *Pyrithosoma nymphula* (also recorded by Mrs. E. M. Haines from Linwood Heath on June 3rd), also one *Agrion virgo* and a probable *Libellula* sp., there were no dragonflies about until the middle of June, when a fair number of half a dozen species were seen—*Ischnura elegans*, *Coenagrion puella*, *Libellula quadrimaculata*, *P. nymphula*, *Agrion splendens* and *Anax imperator*. Very few

of only three species (*A. splendoris*, *I. elegans* and possibly *A. imperator*) were seen in July. The first *Sympetrum strolatum* was seen on August 8th—a remarkably late date for the first of the year. *Aeschna mixta* was seen on August 29th and October 2nd.

Further to Dr. Suffern's note on the rare species *Sympetrum flaveolum* in 1953 (Field Club *Proceedings* XVIII, 3, 365), some forty-five males were present at Woolmer Pond, N. Hants, on September 6th, 1953. All these, together with a single male taken at Studland, Dorset, in August 1953, had been preceded, so far as is known, by only a single record of three in Kent in June 1953 (see Longfield, C. ; *Entomologist*, 1954, 87, 89).

COLEOPTERA (Beetles).

Mrs. E. M. Haines has supplied the following records from Linwood. *Amara aenea*—several seen on Linwood Heath on March 10th. *Cylindronotus laeviostriatus*—a very large number found on the trunks of oak trees near an old wood stack throughout the hours of darkness from April 30th to May 5th. There must have been many thousands altogether. The first *Melanotus rufipes* was seen at Linwood on April 28th. *Elator sanguinolentus*—first seen on Linwood Heath on May 12th and common throughout the year. Many *Melolontha vulgaris* were attracted to light on May 23rd and 25th. One *Byrrhus fasciatus* was found on Linwood Heath on May 27th, also many *Cicindela campestris*. *Telephorus fuscus* was first recorded on May 30th and proved to be very common at Linwood all the summer. *Rhagium fasciatum*—one found on a woodstack near the house on June 1st and several others seen during the month. Two female *Lampyrus noctiluca* were found in the garden on June 21st and several males were attracted to light during the summer evenings; but not as many as usual.

Dr. C. Suffern has sent the following records from Fareham. One *Meloe proscarabeus* (Oil Beetle) on May 30th ; *Coccinella septempunctata* (Seven-spot Ladybird)—one newly emerged on June 26th and another seen on June 29th. *Strangalia elongata*—one specimen on July 31st ; also *Gyrinus natator* (Whirligig Beetle) on August 8th.

HEMIPTERA (Bugs).

Records are very scarce. Mrs. E. M. Haines reports *Piezodorus lituratus* found in a comatose state on Linwood Heath on April 26th. The first *Cercopis sanguinea* (Scarlet Hopper) was recorded from Linwood on May 30th but not as common as usual. *Aphrophola spumaria* (Cuckoo-spit) was unusually common on the willows in marshy ground from May 30th onwards. Dr. C. Suffern notes the first *A. spumaria* at Fareham on May 23rd and *C. sanguinea* on May 7th.

HYMENOPTERA (Sawflies, Ichneumons, Ants, Bees, Wasps, etc.).

Mrs. E. M. Haines has supplied the following notes from Linwood. *Bombus terrestris* flying on Linwood Heath on February 24th ; *Salix exaltatus* on May 9th in the same locality. *Chrysis ignita* at a window on May 17th and *Amophila hirsuta* flying on May 31st. A queen hornet (*Vespa crabro*) was seen flying on June 3rd, but the species was scarce in 1954.

Dr. C. Suffern reports the following species from Hill Head. *Ammophila sabulosa* (Sand Wasp) on June 15th and July 2nd. *Vespa vulgaris* (Common Wasp) queen on April 4th and the ichneumons *Ophion luteus* and *Ichneumon suspiciosus* on June 28th and September 18th respectively.

DIPTERA (Flies).

I am most grateful to Mr. J. E. Collin of Newmarket for the following notes on Hampshire Diptera. He writes : " It must be admitted that the neighbouring county of Dorset scored ' one up ' on Hampshire in 1953 by producing a genus and species of Empididae new to the British fauna. Therefore, when, in 1954, by kind invitation of Mrs. Haines of Linwood, I again had the pleasure of spending two separate weeks, one about the middle of July, and the other about the middle of August, in collecting Diptera in the Forest, I felt that here, at least, was the opportunity to get ' all square '. I was strengthened in my hope of being able to do so by the fact that Mr. E. A. Fonseca of Bristol (who discovered this interesting empid when collecting with Dr. C. D. Day of Dorchester, at The Moors, near Wool) and Mr. J. Cowley, another well-known West Country entomologist, were joining me in the Forest.

" Actually I had some success much sooner than I anticipated. By starting early in the morning of July 15th I was in the Forest by mid-day, and went straight to the Mark Ash Enclosure in order to search for further specimens of the *Tipula*, new to Britain, discovered there in 1953, and since identified as the very little-known *Tipula siebkei* Zett. (v. *Journ. Soc. Brit. Ent.* 1954, p. 72), and though failing in my search for that particular species, was rewarded by the capture of a male of the rare *Tipula yerburyi* Edw., originally described from a specimen taken in the Forest. Then I found in my net a small Empid which I felt certain was *Syndyas nigripes* Zett., the only European species of this genus, and one which certainly had not previously been recorded from Britain. It proved to be present in some numbers, and was still there four days later when my two dipterological friends were able to help themselves to some specimens. Our objective, that Hampshire should become ' all square ' with Dorset, had been achieved.

" In spite of much unseasonable weather we were able during our two visits to find a number of interesting species, including several certainly not previously recorded from Hampshire, as follows :—

" Of the Scatopsidae, a family of very small flies allied to the Bibionidae, the following were taken : *Aldrovandiella halterata* Mg., *Scatopse nigripennis* Mg., and *S. pulicaria* Lw.

" In that remarkable family of the Cyrtidae with their humped thorax and swollen abdomen, both *Acrocera globulus* Pnz., and *Oncodes gibbosus* L. were taken.

" In addition to the discovery of *Syndyas nigripes* Zett., in the Empididae, a single male of *Rhamphomyia physoprocta* Frey was found at Aldridge Hill, this being the second British specimen to be recorded, both from the Forest. In addition *Hilara griseifrons* Coll. was found at Buckler's Hard, *H. fulvibarba* Strbl. was taken on the Oberwater near Burley, and *H. lurida* Flin. at Bank, while *Trichina pallipes* Zett. was taken near the Beaulieu River on Yew Tree Heath.

" Considerable attention was paid to the Dolichopodidae in the hope of finding *Dolichopus melanopus* Mg., of which the last certain capture was that of two males by G. H. Verrall at " Lyndhurst " in 1872. I am afraid, however, it was a little too late in the season for that species, but among some of the less common species found were *D. strigipes* Verr., *virgultorum* Wlk. and *wahlbergi* Zett. at Buckler's Hard, and *D. andalusiacus* Strbl. at Hatchet Pond. Several coastal species of the family were found at Buckler's Hard, such as *Sciopus laetus* Mg., *Eutarsus aulicus* Mg., *Poecilobothrus principalis* Lw. and *ducalis* Lw. *Medeterus saxatilis* Coll., the very striking-looking *Syntormon miki* Strbl., also *S. monilis* Wlk. and *sulcipes* Mg. and *Aphrosylus mitis* Verr.

" In the Phoridae a male of the very little-known *Woodiphora retroversa* Wood was found near Brockenhurst on August 18th.

"Some interesting Tachinidae were found, namely, *Phorcida lota* Mg., *Diplostichus jamithrix* Hart., all near the Beaulieu River on Yew Tree Heath. Also *Leucostoma simplex* Flin. at Aldridge Hill and *Gonia capitata* Deg., *Zenillia fimbriata* Mg. and *Blaesoxipha gladiator* Pand. at Breamore.

"Among the Muscidae and Anthomyiidae the handsome *Dendrophaonia setifemur* Stein, *Phaonia erronea* Schnbl., *goberti* Mik. and *fuscata* Flin. were found on tree trunks. *Spilogona demigrata* Mg., *vana* Zett., and *Helina marmorata* Zett. in boggy places. Other species worthy of mention are *Hydrotaea tuberculata* Rnd., *Fannia atra* Stein, *pretiosa* Schin. and *carbonaria* Mg., *Pseudocoenosia longicauda* Zett. and *abnormis* Stein, while the coastal *Coenosia salinarum* Stein occur at Buckler's Hard.

"An interesting capture among the Acalyptrate Muscidae was that of *Drosophila acuminata* Coll., in company with *D. forcipata* Coll., *Scaptomyza montana* Wheel. and *flaveola* Mg. at Bank, while the little-known *Drosophila histrio* Mg. was taken at Mark Ash.

"The scarce (though perhaps overlooked) Ephydrid *Philotelma defecta* Hal. was found at Buckler's Hard, together with *Psilopa leucostoma* Mg. and *Scatella paludum* Mg., while the coastal Oscinellid *Elachiptera pubescens* Thal., and the Trypetids *Ictericia westermanni* Mg., and *Hoplochaeta pupillata* Flin. also occurred there, and *Ditricha guttularis* Mg. and *Chaetostomella onotrophes* Lw. at Breamore. In conclusion I gratefully acknowledge the help given to me by Mr. E. A. Fonseca and Mr. J. Cowley in supplying the names of some of their captures."

Mrs. E. M. Haines records *Syrphus ribesii* on crocuses at Linwood on March 9th, also *Bombylius minor* flying in a hazel copse on April 11th.

Dr. C. Suffern has supplied the following records from Hill Head. *Leptis scolopacea* on May 7th and 15th; also June 15th; *Syrphus ribesii* on June 15th; *Leucozona incorum* on June 15th; *Bombylius major* (Bee-fly) on April 10th and 16th, also May 1st; *Melanostoma scalare* on May 16th; *Chrysops caecutiens* on June 20th. In addition, a male *Cimbex femorata* was caught by Mr. Richard Houghton at Durley on April 23rd, and a single female *Volucella zonaria* was taken near Woolston on August 13th.

W. H. DOWDESWELL,
Biological Secretary.

4. Plants, 1953/54.

The following botanical records have been sent by Mrs. J. W. Ash of Fordingbridge.

EQUISETACEAE.

Equisetum sylvaticum L., Sandyballs Wood, Fordingbridge, June 21st, 1954.

POLYPODIACEAE.

Asplenium ruta-muraria L., Alderholt Mill (MR 120142), August 19th, 1954.

MARSILEACEAE.

Ptilula globulifera L., nr. Fritham, New Forest, 1953, July 7th, 1954.

RANUNCULACEAE.

Adonis annua L., common in Damerham area, 1953, 1954.

HYPERICACEAE.

Hypericum androsaemon L., Amberwood Inclosure (New Forest), one specimen, July 10th, 1954; Sandyballs Wood, Fordingbridge, two specimens, June 21st, 1954; Boldre Wood (New Forest), July 18th, 1954.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE.

Silene anglica L., Alderholt Mill, August 29th, 1953.

Cerastium arvense L., Damerham, May 20th, 1953.

LINACEAE.

Linum usitatissimum L., Fordingbridge, August 3rd, 1954.

GROSSULARIACEAE.

Ribes uva-crispa L., Damerham, April 17th, 1954.

R. nigrum L., Avon Tyrrell, April 19th, 1954.

PRIMULACEAE.

Lysimachia nummularia L., Damerham, July 20th, 1954.

SOLANACEAE.

Hyoscyamus niger L., Damerham, 1953.

Datura stramonium L., c. 12 plants grown from seed from wild plant found in village garden, Damerham, September 8th, 1953.

LENTIBULARIACEAE.

Pinguicula lusitanica L., numerous, Looschangers Copse, New Forest, July 8th, 1954.

LABIATAE.

Calaminta ascendens Jord., Damerham, September 8th, 1953.

VERBENACEAE.

Verbena officinalis L., Damerham, July 14th, 1954.

LILIACEAE.

Colchicum autumnale L., c. 120 nr. Damerham, September 7th, 1954.

IRIDACEAE.

Gladiolus illyricus Koch, Pitts Wood, New Forest, four specimens, July 7th, 1954.

ORCHIDACEAE.

Coeloglossum viride L., 10 specimens nr. Damerham, July 5th, 1954 ; two dead specimens, Whitsbury Down, September 16th, 1954.

CYPERACEAE.

Eleogiton fluitans L., nr. Pitts Wood, New Forest (MR 102148), June 30th, 1954.

GRAMINEAE.

Hordeum marinum Huds., dead specimens, Lymington, August 21st, 1954.

Milium effusum L., abundant, Sandyballs Wood, Fordingbridge, May 22nd, 1954.

Phalaris canariensis L., three specimens in garden, Fordingbridge, September 16th, 1954.

BOTANICAL OUTINGS.

Hatchet Pond and Crockford Bridge.

Leader : BRIGADIER F. E. W. VENNING.

ON August 17th a party of about 40 members journeyed by coach and car to Hatchet Pond and Crockford Bridge on the Beaulieu—Lymington road to examine some of the botanical specialities of those two areas. Before starting on the Hatchet Pond flora a short visit was paid to East Boldre to look at a large and flourishing colony of *Ludwigia palustris* growing in a small pond together with White Waterlilies, Water Plantain and Lesser Water Plantain, Buckbean and Bur-Marigold, Bur-reed and Reed-mace, Marsh St. John's Wort and a number of other water-loving plants, but the dominant vegetation among all these common and strong-growing water plants was the rare *Ludwigia*. *Cicendia filiformis* was found near this pond, but was more plentiful by Hatchet Pond, the north-east or "beach" end of which was explored before lunch. Here some spikes of Autumn Lady's Tresses were seen, not yet quite open, and the little Birdsfoot Fenugreek and the commoner Birdsfoot were found on the drier ground, while in the shallower margins of the pond where the Water Horsetail thinned out were several spikes of Marsh Arrowgrass and the Common Spike-rush. The Slender Marsh Bedstraw was identified and the Bristle Scirpus and a number of other commoner plants, a list of which is given below. After lunch the rain began and continued most of the afternoon, but the enthusiasm of the party was undiminished and the south shore of the pond and the large borrow-pits were explored. These yielded, among other things, Whorled Knotgrass, Floating Bur-reed, Bog Orchid, Lesser Bladderwort, Pale Butterwort, Bog Pimpernel and the Marsh Club-Moss.

The next move was to Crockford Bridge where a pool full of Lesser Reedmace and the remains of some very tall Marsh Orchids proved interesting. A bush of Alder Buckthorn on one side of the road and some straggling Wild Madger on the other were the prelude to a pool full of White Waterlilies, unfortunately nearly over, surrounded by about 100 flowering stems of Great Spearwort. Water Dropwort, Brookweed and Marsh Speedwell were also seen but the time had come to go back to Beaulieu for tea and so home after a thoroughly wet but very interesting day.

List of plants found :—

- Marsh Club-Moss (*Lycopodium inundatum*).
 Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*).
 Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*).
 Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*).
 Wall Rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*).
 Great Spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*).
 Water Crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis* ssp. *peltatus* (?)).
 Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*).
 Marsh St. John's-wort (*Hypericum elodes*).
 Whorled Knotgrass (*Illecebrum verticillatum*).
 Blinks (*Montia fontana* (agg.)).
 Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*).
 Birdsfoot Fenugreek (*Trigonella ornithopodioides*).
 Birdsfoot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*).
 Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*).
 Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*).
 Long-leaved Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*).
 Water-Purslane (*Peplis portula*).
 Ludwigia (*Ludwigia palustris*).
 Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*).
 Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*).
 Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*).
 Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*).
 Brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*).
 Cicendia (*Cicendia filiformis*).
 Buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*).
 Tufted Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis caespitosa*).
 Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*).
 Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*).
 Eyebright (*Euphrasia nemorosa*).
 Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*).
 Lesser Bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*).
 Skull-cap (*Scutellaria galericulata*).
 Lesser Skull-cap (*Scutellaria minor*).
 Shore-weed (*Littorella uniflora*).
 Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*).
 Slender Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium debile*).
 Wild Madder (*Rubia peregrina*).
 Tripartite Bur-Marigold (*Bidens tripartita*).
 Chamomile (*Anthemis nobilis*).
 Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*).
 Lesser Water Plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*).
 Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*).
 Marsh Arrow-grass (*Triglochin palustris*).
 Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*).
 Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*).
 Autumn Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*).
 Bog Orchid (*Hammarbya paludosa*).
 Bur-reed (*Sparganium ramosum*).
 Floating Bur-reed (*Sparganium angustifolium*).
 Great Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*).
 Lesser Reedmace (*Typha angustifolia*).
 Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).
 Bristle Scirpus (*Isolepis setacea*).
 Floating Scirpus (*Eleogiton fluitans*).
 White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*).
 Yellow Sedge (*Carex serotina*) (= *C. oederi*).
 Smooth Sedge (*Carex laevigata*).

F. E. W. VENNING.

Visit to Micheldever Forest.

Leaders : MR. F. WESTON.

MR. W. H. DOWDESWELL.

A party of 36 members assembled at Lunways Inn on the morning of the 11th September, 1954, and arrangements had been made to visit Micheldever Wood before lunch and Blackwood in the afternoon. Both woods comprise part of a Forestry Commission area of some 2,350 acres situated on either side of the main Basingstoke road about seven miles from Winchester. The area was acquired in 1927 with additions in 1945, 1950 and 1953. The surface soil varies from a thin chalky loam to deep clay with flints overlying a parent material of chalk. Early plantings were mainly of oak on ground which had been completely cleared, but this procedure was abandoned in the early thirties in favour of beech introduced under a suitably thinned overwood. Conifers were also planted in certain areas exposed to frost.

Our morning tour showed beech at all stages of growth and subjected to different degrees of thinning. Mr. Weston explained the principles on which the various plantations were operated and the stages at which pruning was carried out. It was particularly interesting to see oak growing on ground which, although previously cleared, was now heavily colonised with hazel, birch and broom.

In the afternoon we visited the nursery and saw something of the procedure in raising birch seedlings. Afterwards a short tour of Blackwood showed beech plantations of different ages in hazel coppice subjected to various degrees of thinning.

On the botanical side, the typical woodland plants were all in evidence. Two of the most striking features were the effect of shade on the flowering of certain species and the late flowering season in general. In oakwood, with competition from birch and hazel, it was interesting to find that, while heavy colonisation by bramble and rosebay willow-herb had occurred, the extent of shading had prevented both these species from flowering.

Many common wild plants growing in the rides were still in full flower, notably rosebay willow-herb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), common St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*), while in one section of Blackwood the ground was carpeted with the flowers of the dog violet (*Viola canina*), reminiscent of Spring!

W. H. DOWDESWELL.

Fungus Foray in Ampfield Wood.

Leader : DR. F. B. HORA.

Some 30 members assembled in the afternoon of the 14th October, 1954, for a foray directed by Dr. F. B. Hora of the Botany Department, Reading University. The weather was perfect with brilliant sunshine and 45 minutes' collecting produced a large assortment of fungi, including some 50 species. We then returned to the Winchester College Science School where an impressive display was laid out in the Biology Laboratory under the able guidance of Dr. Hora. The exceedingly wet weather of the preceding weeks may well have had an adverse effect on some species. The Genera *Amanita* and *Boletus* seemed particularly scarce and only *A. mappa*, *A. muscaria* and *B. scaber* were recorded. On the other hand, nine species of *Lactarius* were found. Perhaps one of the most interesting finds was a large specimen of the fine wood mushroom *Psalliota augusta*.

A complete list of the species found is as follows :—

<i>Amanita mappa</i> .	<i>Tricholoma nudum</i> .
" <i>muscaria</i> .	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i> .
<i>Armillaria mucida</i> .	" <i>sublateritium</i> .
<i>Clitocybe infundibuliformis</i> .	<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i> .
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	" <i>saccharolicus</i> .
" " var. <i>amethystina</i> .	<i>Entoloma nidorosum</i> .
<i>Lactarius turpis</i> .	<i>Bolbitium vitellinum</i> .
" <i>tabidus</i> .	<i>Paxillus involutus</i> .
" <i>camphoratus</i> .	<i>Coprinus comatus</i> .
" <i>quietus</i> .	<i>Inocybe hirtella</i> .
" <i>torminosus</i> .	<i>Flammula sapinea</i> .
" <i>rufus</i> .	<i>Boletus scaber</i> .
" <i>blennius</i> .	<i>Daedalea quercina</i> .
" <i>glyciosmus</i> .	<i>Phallus impudicus</i> .
" <i>vietus</i> .	<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>
<i>Russula emetica</i> .	" <i>saccatum</i> .
" <i>ochroleuca</i> .	<i>Scleroderma aurantiacum</i> .
<i>Pholiota aegerita</i> .	<i>Polystictus versicolor</i> .
<i>Psalliota augusta</i> .	<i>Clavaria stricta</i> .
<i>Cortinarius sanguineus</i> .	<i>Polyporus betulinus</i> .
" <i>hemitrichus</i> .	<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i> .
" <i>flexipes</i> .	<i>Merulius tremellosus</i> .
<i>Mycena galericulata</i> .	<i>Calocera viscosa</i> .
" <i>pura</i> .	<i>Tremellodon gelatinosum</i> .
<i>Marasmius personatus</i> .	

It is interesting to compare this list with that compiled from a similar meeting at Ampfield Wood in October 1951 when some 64 species were collected. The deficiencies in 1954 were chiefly among the genera *Russula*, *Cortinarius* and *Boletus*.

W. H. DOWDESWELL.

REPORT ON POTTERY, 1953-54.

IN May 1953 a workman digging a trench for a water-pipe in Rowlings Road, on the new housing estate at Weeke, Winchester, came across a skeleton buried with a beaker, a type of vessel until recently attributed to the Early Bronze Age but now thought to belong to the end of the Neolithic period (Nat. Grid Ref. 41/466313). Facilities for investigation were given by the City Engineer. The grave, cut in the chalk, was 6ft. long and 4ft. 6ins. wide; apparently the body had been laid in the position typical of the beaker culture, lying crouched on its side. The beaker was recovered in fragments but it can be reconstructed, and it is a fine example of the type usually known as the 'A' beaker. It is 8½ ins. high, of pinkish buff ware and decorated with the typical bands and panels of impressed hyphenated lines. 'A' beakers are not as common in Hampshire as the earlier 'B' beakers, and this is the first one to be found in the Winchester district.

Trial excavations were carried out on sites in the centre of Winchester that became available by demolition of property, these excavations being in addition to the main excavation on the site at the corner of Middle Brook Street and St. George's Street. The results included the following discoveries: (1) on the north side of St. George's Street, west of Upper Brook Street (opposite the back of Messrs. Woolworth's), a layer producing Roman pottery of the second century; (2) at Nos. 49-55 Upper Brook Street, medieval pottery, including an almost complete decorated pitcher; (3) on the north side of St. George's Street, immediately west of the slaughterhouse, pottery and china of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, also tobacco-pipes and a complete glass wine-bottle; (4) under the foundations of Nos. 8 and 9 St. George's Street (between the two wings of the slaughterhouse), a dump of nineteenth century china.

Two late Roman pots were found together in an excavation for a cesspit in one of the gardens of Waterloo Cottages, in the village of Micheldever (Nat. Grid Ref. 41/513393). They were about 5 feet below the surface in dirty gravel. Both are of grey ware with a black coating. One is a jug, recovered in perfect condition, 5½ ins. high, of the same type as a jug from the Middle Brook Street excavation in Winchester and another from the Chilbolton Down hoard (*Proceedings*, H.F.C., XVIII, 322; XV, 212). The other is an olla or jar of Collingwood's Type 73, decorated with a zone of trellis pattern on the body; the diameter of the rim is greater than that of the body.

All the pottery is in Winchester City Museum, except the jug from Micheldever which is in private possession.

F. COTTRILL.

REVIEWS.

"The Conquest of Wessex in the Sixth Century." By Gordon J. Copley. 240 pp. 12 plates. 10 maps. (Phoenix House Ltd., 1954. 30s.)

The story of how the English nation began must always appeal to us. In the present state of knowledge those who would know something of it find that they have to consider a diversity of materials, each with its own special fascination. For instance, the study of place-names can supplement the literary sources concerning the relations of Romano-British provincial and English invader, while the many ornaments, utensils and weapons which have come to museums from the burial-grounds of our earliest English forebears who were dwellers in this island not only are evocative in themselves, but also can be made to yield historical information. Much has been written on the period as a whole and on particular aspects of it, but research can still usefully continue, especially in detailed regional studies such as are to be found in the book under review.

Dr. Copley has made a thorough survey of the historical, toponymic and archaeological evidence for the Teutonic invasion and settlement of those parts of southern England which formed the core of the kingdom of Wessex. His narrative ends with the death of Ceawlin in 593, which can be regarded as closing the era of primary settlement and of "Saxon prehistory, illumined by an occasional gleam from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle". The geographical basis for the consideration of the various problems is the division of the area into the valley of the middle and upper Thames in the north and Salisbury Plain with the Hampshire basin in the south; these are referred to as the Abingdon region and the Salisbury region respectively, and the earthwork known as the Wansdyke is accepted as a frontier between the two in the late fifth century, when only the northern region was in English occupation.

It has long perplexed students of the period that while the Abingdon region produces abundant archaeological evidence of early settlement, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle only concerns itself with the invasion of the Salisbury region. Dr. Copley considers this problem in his Chapters XII to XV, which are of especial interest for Hampshire readers. There is hope that the material traces in our county of the founders of Wessex—whether we call them Jutes, "Gewissi" or people of mixed Teutonic and Celtic descent such as Cerdic, to judge by his name, may have been—will not always be as meagre as they have hitherto appeared. Several Anglo-Saxon

burials have come to light in Hampshire in recent years ; the Horndean cemetery, for instance, which is to be published by Captain Knocker, adds considerably to the total. Meanwhile, the relevant chapter in the *Victoria County History* is inadequate even for the older discoveries. It may be said, however, that the graves of men buried with their weapons are now numerous enough in central and southern Hampshire to provide a not unacceptable archaeological counterpart to the Chronicle's story of war-bands under aristocratic leaders landing at Portsmouth and Southampton Water.

County lists of early English place-names (including those, such as Weyhill, which refer to pagan Saxon shrines), of pre-English river-names and place-names and of pagan burials are given in an appendix. It may be noted that the list of burials for Hampshire does not include those at Sutton Scotney, Farley Chamberlayne and Winchester (St. Giles' Hill), although symbols for these appear on Map 7, and a wrong reference (to the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, XIX) is given for the Winnall cemetery. Most of the photographic illustrations are of earthworks and of landscape and they give a good idea of the setting of the events narrated in the text.

F. COTTRILL.

"The Smith : the traditions and lore of an ancient craft."

By F. W. Robins, F.S.A., F.R.G.S. 12 plates. 12 line illustrations. (Rider, 1953. 15s.)

This interesting volume is the work of a member of the Hants Field Club, Mr. F. W. Robins, already known for his books on lamps, water-supplies, and bridges. He has here collected a wide variety of information of all kinds, including a number of legends. Part of his book therefore belongs to the realm of tradition and fancy rather than to that of the more academic historian. There is no real evidence to suggest that the Smiths' Guild at Winchester (mentioned on p. 92, when the reference is presumably to the *Black Book* and the date should be 1457), was of much importance : the city account rolls include a few examples of payments made by smiths joining the Winchester Merchant Guild. However, so wide a subject offers a wide possibility of treatment, and Mr. Robins' volume can be thoroughly recommended to those who want a readable, and well-illustrated book.

B. C. T.

EDITORIAL.

THE Editor reminds intending contributors that articles intended for publication in the *Proceedings* must reach her before 31 December of the previous year. At present there is an average of two years' delay. Incomplete contributions cannot be accepted. Readers of the present volume will recall that the Club has recently visited the Winchester Excavations, St. John's House, and Hurst Castle.

All exchange volumes and books for review should be sent to the Editor and *not* to the Honorary Secretaries.

FIELD MEETINGS, 1954.

On 27 March, 1954, Mr. P. G. Suggett, M.A., gave a lecture in Winchester College Museum (by kind permission of the Warden and Fellows) on "The Brockley Hill Excavation—Middlesex". Mr. Suggett's lecture was fully illustrated and showed the way in which a site might be excavated by volunteers. Brockley Hill is the reputed site of Sullonicae.

On 29 May the Club met at Rookley House, Up Somborne, a building of the eighteenth century with Gothic facade, and visited by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. G. Makin. This was an architectural meeting directed by Mr. W. J. Carpenter Turner, A.R.I.B.A., and later on visits were paid to Houghton Lodge, by kind permission of Colonel and Mrs. C. Parker, and to Marsh Court, by permission of Mr. C. Wright, one of Sir Edwin Lutyens' most important early houses.

On 12 June, 1954, the Club met in pouring rain at Hod Hill, Dorset, and were given an admirable tour of the Roman Fort by Professor I. A. Richmond, M.A., LL.D., F.B.A., F.S.A. Unfortunately the extreme bad weather brought the meeting to a premature close, but Professor Richmond's exposition was masterly as was his admirable marshalling of members.

An archaeological and architectural meeting was held at Bishop's Waltham on 29 June, 1954, under the direction of Miss M. Wood, M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A., Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt and Mr. F. Cottrill, M.A. A report on the large Bronze Age barrow at Bishop's Waltham, excavated in 1953 by Mr. Paul Ashbee, will, it is hoped, appear in the next volume of the *Proceedings*. The ruins of the Palace were visited by kind permission of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cunningham of Hyndhope, K.T., G.C.B., D.S.O., and were described by Miss Margaret Wood. The meeting closed with a visit to the church under Mr. Jowitt's direction.

A long day but a much appreciated meeting was that arranged for 12 July, 1954, when Mr. John Simpson took a large party on a tour to instruct them in nineteenth century styles and planted landscapes. Visits were paid to Stratton House (by kind permission of Baring Brothers & Co. Ltd.) and the Grange (by kind permission of Mr. L. C. Wallach).

The Isle of Wight meeting this year was directed by Mr. A. G. Steavenson and Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt. Mr. Steavenson dealt with geology at Alum Bay and Headon Hill, Mr. Jowitt with the churches of Freshwater and Cowes. . .

On 11 August the Club met at Selborne under the direction of the Rev. Dr. W. S. Scott and the Rev. G. E. C. Knapp. The churches of East Worldham and Hartley Mauduit were visited and the recent excavations on the site of Selborne Priory examined. Members will know Mr. Knapp's article on the Selborne tiles in a recent number of the *Proceedings*.

The Club met at Winchester on 9 September, 1954, for an afternoon visit to the excavations in Upper Brook Street and St. George's Street. The directors were Miss S. Butcher, B.A., and Mr. F. Cottrill, M.A. Miss Butcher's report on the year's work appears elsewhere in this volume.

The last archaeological meeting of the year took the form of a Lecture at Winchester on 6 November when the Club heard Mr. Norman Cooke, M.A., F.S.A., speak on "Recent Excavations in the City of London".

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1954.

OBITUARIES.—In the past year the Club has suffered several losses from death, including Col. C. R. Satterthwaite (a trustee and hon. treasurer of the Jane Austen Society), Mr. C. F. Fox (for many years the Club's oldest member), Miss Darnell (founder of the Jane Austen Society) and Mr. M. H. Horn, of Stoke Charity.

EXCAVATIONS.—The excavations in Saxon Southampton were continued last July; three weeks' hard work produced disappointing results. Few sites were dug, and much spread material and modern foundations were excavated. But fragments of hard white pottery suggested Saxon occupation and gave indications for further work in the area of the mediaeval castle.

The excavation of the Bats Hog Styte site under the direction of Lieut. J. P. C. Kent has been suspended owing to his being posted away from Aldershot. Another member has, however, come forward, and it is hoped it may be possible to continue.

During the year Winchester City Council undertook excavations on sites affected by the redevelopment schemes in the centre of Winchester. On one of these, at the north-west corner of Middle Brook Street and St. George's Street, part of a Roman building with a mosaic floor was found and full excavation was undertaken. This also was financed by the City Council but many members of the Society were volunteer diggers, and a Club meeting was held on the site on August 24th. An interim report on the work will appear in the Society's *Proceedings*. Arrangements are being made for further excavation on this site this year, and adjoining sites may also be investigated.

At Worthy Park the squatters are still in occupation. Generally speaking excavation has always been regarded as the most fruitful work the Society can undertake. Owing to the certainty that sites in Southampton where excavation can be done at the moment will not be available indefinitely, it is considered that work there should be given first priority.

THE HONORARY SECRETARYSHIP.—This had to be reorganised as a result of the much regretted resignation of Mr. Frank Warren, F.S.A., on account of ill-health. Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt has become Joint Honorary Secretary. It was considered that owing to the growing number of members and the ensuing correspondence some form of clerical assistance was necessary, and that this would also provide an opportunity for the filing of more detailed records of the Society's correspondence. With the kind help of Messrs. Warren the problem was solved. The annual cost to the Society will certainly not be large, but at the moment no figure can be given.

MR. F. WARREN, F.S.A.—The loss of Mr. Frank Warren as Joint Honorary Secretary is an immeasurably great one. He did this work for thirty years, and has been a member in all for fifty-four years. The whole character of the Society has been moulded by his influence and his keenness, knowledge, experience, and personality have always been a major factor in drawing together the many distinguished people who have been amongst its active members and helpers. He remains Subject Secretary for Numismatics and it is hoped that his experience and advice will be at the service of the Society for many years to come.

THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December, 1953

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		£	s	d	£	s	d
To	Balance from last Account	...	...	...	892	5	6
"	44 Entrance Fees at 5s.	...	...	...	11	0	0
"	504 Subscriptions for 1953 at 15s.	378	0	0			
"	16 " " 1953 at 10s. 6d.	8	8	0			
"	9 " " 1952 at 15s.	6	15	0			
"	2 " " 1951 at 15s.	1	10	0			
"	1 " " 1952 at 10s. 6d.	10	6				
					395	3	6
"	Interest for 1952 on deposit in Post Office Savings Bank	...	...	...	7	5	6
"	Interest for 1953 on Deposit Account in Lloyds Bank	...	...	...	9	1	
"	Visitors' Fees	...	...	...	6	8	6
"	Surplus on Coach Fares, etc.	...	...	...	5	7	9

£1317 19 10

PAYMENTS.		£	s	d	£	s	d
By	Subscriptions :—						
	English Place Name Society	15	0				
	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	1	1	0			
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	1	1	0			
	Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society	1	1	0			
	South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies	12	6				
	Council for Promotion of Field Studies	10	0				
	Council for British Archaeology	2	2	0			
							7 2 6
"	Expenses of Hon. Secretaries	...	...	...	1	18	10
"	Expenses of Hon. Treasurer	...	...	...	3	1	0
"	Printing, Stationery, Hire of Rooms and Miscellaneous	...	...	...	25	15	0
"	Expenses of Field Meetings	...	...	...	88	6	11
"	Printing and Dispatch of <i>Proceedings</i> , Vol. XVIII, Part 1	...	...	...	245	2	9
"	Expenses of Photographic Section	...	...	...	15	0	
"	Transferred to Excavations Account	...	...	...	100	0	0
"	Balance to next Account	...	...	...	845	17	10

£1317 19 10

TROKE LEGACY.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Legacy from Mrs. Troke in memory of her son, the late W. E. Troke	50	0	0	Balance to next Account	50	0	0
	<u>£50</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£50</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

EXCAVATIONS FUND.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Balance from last Account	24	6	6	Southampton Saxon Excavations Fund	75	0	0
Donation from Professor Sir Ellis Minns	1	0	0	Balance to next Account	50	6	6
From General Fund	100	0	0		<u>£125</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>£125</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>				

					£	s	d						£	s	d	£	s	d
Balances :—								Balance in Lloyds Bank Current Account, 31st December, 1953					533	13	4			
General Fund	...	...	...	...	845	17	10	Less—Cheque outstanding					£ 1	18	10			
Troke Legacy	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	Subscriptions paid in advance					3	15	0			
Excavations Fund	...	...	...	...	50	6	6								5	13	10	
																		527 19 6
																		25 1 8
																		348 9 3
																		44 13 11
									</									

C. BETTON ROBERTS,
Hon. Treasurer.

ALFRED E. PALMER,
Hon. Auditor.

I certify that I have examined the above accounts with the books and vouchers of the Society and that they are in accordance therewith.
Twyford.
Hants.
21st January, 1954.