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THE WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1853. Its activities include the promotion of archaeological and historical work and the study of all branches of natural history within the County; the safeguarding and conservation of the antiquities and the flora and the fauna of the region; the issue of a *Magazine* and other publications; excursions to places of archaeological and historical interest; and the maintenance of a Museum and Library.

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The object of this Section is to promote the study of all branches of natural history in the County by encouraging field observations, maintaining records, arranging field and other meetings and by putting observers in touch with each other. Particulars of the Section are available from the Honorary Treasurer. The subscription rate for membership of the Section is as follows: Single £3, Family £4.

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A PRELIMINARY ACCOUNT OF THE SPIDERS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL RANGES AT PORTON DOWN IN WILTSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE

by R.B. COLEMAN

In 1973 a party of eight Arachnologists, under the leadership of Dr. Eric Duffey collected in three localities at Porton Down and completed about 70 hours hand collecting in one hour units during three days.

Many interesting spiders were found during this survey and through the support of Dr. Duffey and the Nature Conservancy Council (Southern Region) further studies of twelve and six months duration were carried out by me in 1973-74 and 1976-77 using 10 pitfall traps in each of the three original areas.

These studies have shown the remarkable arachnological potential of this area which consists of 6800 acres of grass/downland, scrub and deciduous woodland (Nature Conservancy Council 1973).

The nature of the terrain and the fact that large areas are not disturbed by agriculture, nor by sheep and cattle grazing make these ranges an area of special scientific interest in Wiltshire/Hampshire.

Localities

A detailed description of the vegetation, soils and land-use history of the Porton Ranges is given by Wells et al (1976) and the notes which follow only describe in general terms the main characteristics of the vegetation of the sites studied.

The three sites studied since 1973 are:—

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| (a) The 'Breck' area in Hampshire (Grass Heath) | SU 253 379BA |
| (b) Roche Court Down, Wiltshire/Hampshire Border | SU 246 366RCD |
| (c) Battery Hill in Wiltshire | SU 198 344BH |

The 'Breck' area is a grass heath rich in Lichens and has shallow nutrient-poor soil with numerous flints, chalk rubble and stones on the surface. The vegetation is predominantly short (2-8 cms) and open with approximately 80% cover of Lichens and flowering plants. Amongst these are also interspread small tufts of Sheeps Fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Golden Oat Grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and other grasses. Herbs such as Mouse-Ear Hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and colourful annuals such as Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythaea*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) and Purgings Flax (*Linum catharticum*) are plentiful. During July large patches of Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) and Birds Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) provide a brilliant yellow carpet. The Lichen Mat is, however, predominant and may occupy up to 60% of the ground vegetation. Rabbit grazing is very evident throughout this area.

At Roche Court Down the soil is fairly shallow with quantities of chalk rubble in the upper soil layer. Typically in the area studied the vegetation is a close turf of Sheeps Fescue/Red Fescue (*Festuca ovina*/*F. rubra*) and a variety of other grasses. Herbs such as Stemless Thistle (*Cirsium acaulon*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and Birds Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) are also common here. A feature of this area is the large number of mounds of the Yellow Hill Ant (*Lasius flavus*) which support predominantly Thyme (*Thymus drucei*) and Common Rock Rose (*Helianthemum chamaecistus*). These plants also occur in the intervening grassland between the mounds. Rabbit grazing is also in evidence in this area.

At Battery Hill a Beech Hanger was studied together with an area of tall grasses (20-60 cms) with quantities of Horse-Shoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*) growing within the field layer, scattered bushes and Yew Trees (*Taxus baccata*) are also present. The plants of Horse-Shoe Vetch (*H. comosa*) are restricted to one area on the ranges and it is an important food plant for the colonies of Chalkhill Blue (*Lysandra coridon*) Butterflies which are found locally in such habitats in Wiltshire. On the north facing scarp of this study area there are grasslands for which no records of cultivation exist. Of the grasses which grow generally in the study area Sheeps Fescue (*Festuca ovina*) Meadow Oat Grass (*Helictotrichon pratense*) and Hairy Oat Grass (*Helictotrichon pubescens*) are the most common.

Collecting Methods:—

The following methods were used when collecting spider material from the various habitats:

Methods 2–6, initial 3 day survey:

E. Duffey & Party (1973)

Method 1 twelve and six months survey:

R.B. Coleman 1973/74 & 1976/77

1. *At Ground Level:*

Collecting by means of pitfall traps which consisted of burying a series of glass jars in a straight line with their rim just below the surface level. The jars were spaced approximately one metre apart and ethylene glycol 4 cm. deep was placed in each jar. All the jars were emptied of specimens and replaced at one month intervals.

2. *Beech Litter & Dead Wood:*

Specimens were taken by shaking handfuls of leaves into a plastic sheet. Bark was also removed and replaced from deadwood, all spider material being retained. Hand collecting from crevices and spaces in tree stumps and large fallen branches were also carried out.

3. *Short Turf, Herbs, Lichens & Stones:*

Collections were made by hand, by turning over stones, and then by cutting out pieces of turf and shaking these over a plastic sheet.

4. *Medium Tall Grasses:*

Specimens were collected by shaking handfuls of vegetation over a plastic sheet and also by grubbing and handsorting amongst the detritus in the ground layer.

5. *Tall Grasses and Shrubs:*

These were swept with a collecting net. Collections were also made by hand in the vegetation and debris in the field layer.

6. *Juniper, Pine and Yew Trees:*

Collections were made by beating the foliage of branches onto a collecting tray and then extracting the spider material by use of a pooter.

Key to Site Habitats:

The following habitat abbreviations are used to indicate the occurrence of various spiders given in the annotated list for Porton Down. These distribution records are supplementary to those given by Locket, Millidge & Merrett (1974).

Breck Area:—

- (a) Pitfall traps in short turf with herbs, lichens and stones.
- (b) Small Juniper trees.
- (c) Tall grasses with plants and shrubs.
- (d) Medium tall grasses interspread with short turf and some ant hills.
- (e) Short turf with herbs, lichens and stones.

Roche Court Down:

- (f) Pitfall traps in tall grasses interspread with short turf and many ant hills.
- (g) Mature Juniper trees.
- (h) Pine and Yew trees.
- (i) Tall grasses with few ant hills.
- (j) Short turf with Thyme and Rock Rose.

Battery Hill:

- (k) Pitfall traps in tall grasses with Horse-Shoe Vetch.
- (l) Tall grasses with shrubs.
- (m) Beech litter and deadwood.
- (n) Yew trees.

ANNOTATED LIST OF THE SPIDERS OF PORTON DOWN IN WILTSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE

SPECIES	SITE OCCURRENCE	SEXES TAKEN AND MONTHS OF OCCURRENCE	HABITATS	TOTAL NUMBER OF SPIDERS TAKEN			
				♀	♂	♀	♂
ATYPIDAE							
<i>Atypus affinis</i> * Eichwald	B.A. R.C.D.	♀'s vii-x ♂'s vii-ii	a e f i j	14	2	2	76
DICTYNIDAE							
<i>Dictyna arundinacea</i> (Linn.)	R.C.D.	♀'s vii	g	3			
<i>Dictyna latens</i> (Fabricius)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s, ♂'s vii	c d g h i n	18	17		
<i>Dictyna pusilla</i> Thor.	R.C.D.	♀'s vii	g h	9			
<i>Lathys humilis</i> (Bl.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii	g h l n	199			
DYSDERIDAE							
<i>Dysdera crocata</i> C.L. Koch	B.A.	♀'s iii-v vii-x ♂'s iv-v, x	a c	1	11		8
<i>Harpactea hombergi</i> (Scopoli)	B.H.	♂ vii	m		1		
GNAPHOSIDAE							
<i>Drassodes lapidosus</i> * (Walck.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv, vii	j k m	2	2		
<i>Drassodes cupreus</i> (Bl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v-ix ♂'s iv-viii	a f k		43		71
<i>Drassodes pubescens</i> (Thor.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v-ix ♂'s iv-viii	a c f i j k	3	16		29
<i>Haplodrassus signifer</i> (C.L. Koch)	B.A. R.C.D.	♀'s v-vii ♂'s iv-vi	a e f	1	7		24
<i>Phaeoedus braccatus</i> (L. Koch)	B.A.	♀'s vii ♂'s vi-vii	a e	1	1		4
<i>Zelotes pedestris</i> * (C.L. Koch)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v-viii ♂'s v-vii	a f k		24		38
<i>Zelotes pusillus</i> (C.L. Koch)	B.A. R.C.D.	♀'s v-vii ♂'s iv-v	a e f	1	5		12
<i>Zelotes praeficus</i> * (L. Koch)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v-viii ♂'s v-vii	a d f j k	3	1		56
<i>Zelotes latreillei</i> (Simon)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-ix ♂'s iii-ix	a f i k	1	30		41
<i>Zelotes apriconum</i> * (L. Koch)	B.A.	♂ v	a				1
<i>Micaria silesiaca</i> (L. Koch)	B.A.	♂ vi	a				1
CLUBIONIDAE							
<i>Clubiona terrestris</i> Westw.	B.H.	♀ ♂ vii	m	1	1		
<i>Clubiona brevipes</i> Bl.	B.H.	♀'s vii	l n	2			
<i>Clubiona diversa</i> O.P.-C.	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vi-vii	b d e j k l m n	9	5		1
<i>Cheiracanthium erraticum</i> (Walck.)	B.A. B.H.	♀'s vi-vii, ix ♂ vii	a l	2	1		2
<i>Agroeca proxima</i> (O.P.-C.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s viii-iii ♂'s viii-x	a f k		10		57
<i>Scotina celans</i> * (Bl.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ii, v, xi-xii ♂'s xi	f k		14		11
<i>Scotina palliardi</i> * (L. Koch)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s i-xii ♂'s ix-iv	a f k		68		183
ZORIDAE							
<i>Zora spinimana</i> (Sundevall)	B.A.	♀'s vii	c	2			
THOMISIDAE							
<i>Xysticus cristatus</i> (Cl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-ix ♂'s iii-viii	a c d e f g j k l	19	4		78
<i>Xysticus kochi</i> (Schenk)	B.A.	♂'s vi-vii	a c h	2			535

<i>Xysticus bifasciatus</i> C.L. Koch	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vi-vii ♂'s v-vi	1	f j k	1	5
<i>Oxyptila nigrita</i> * (Thor.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s i-viii, xii ♂'s iii-ix	1	a f j k	1	44
<i>Oxyptila sanctuaria</i> (O.P.-C.)	B.A.	♀ iii ♂ ix		a	1	1
<i>Oxyptila atomaria</i> (Panzer)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iii-xi ♂'s iii, vii-x	2	a f k	9	17
<i>Philodromus dispar</i> (Walck.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii	42	h l		
<i>Philodromus aureolus</i> (Cl.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	16	g h l n	3	
<i>Philodromus cespitum</i> (Walck.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii		b c g h n		
<i>Thanatus striatus</i> C.L. Koch	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v, vii	2	f k	2	
SALTICIDAE						
<i>Salticus cingulatus</i> (Panzer)	R.C.D.	♀ vii	1	l		
<i>Euophrys frontalis</i> (Walck.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v, vii ♂'s vii-viii	4	b c e f i j k l m	9	3
<i>Euophrys aequipes</i> (O.P.C.)	B.A. R.C.D.	♀ vii ♂'s v-vii	1	a e f		3
<i>Heliophanus flavipes</i> C.L. Koch	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v, vii ♂'s v-vii	7	a f i j k l	2	3
<i>Heliophanus cupreus</i> (Walck.)	B.H.	♂'s vii	1	l	3	
<i>Neon reticulatus</i> (Bl.)	R.C.D.	♀ vii	1	j		
LYCOSIDAE						
<i>Pardosa monticola</i> (Cl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-ix ♂'s iv-vii, ix	14	a c e f j k	1	238
<i>Pardosa pullata</i> (Cl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-ix ♂'s iii-viii	6	a c f i k l	2	134
<i>Pardosa prativaga</i> (L. Koch)	B.A.	♂ vii		e	1	
<i>Pardosa amentata</i> (Cl.)	R.C.D.	♂'s v		f		7
<i>Pardosa nigriceps</i> (Thor.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-viii ♂'s iv-v, vii	15	a b c f i k l n	2	51
<i>Xerolycosa nemoralis</i> (Westr.)	R.C.D.	♀ vii	1	j		
<i>Alopecosa nemoralis</i> (Westr.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-viii ♂'s iv-vi		f k	37	261
<i>Alopecosa puberulenta</i> (Cl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-x ♂'s iv-vii	2	a c f j k	156	352
<i>Alopecosa cuneata</i> (Cl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iii-ix ♂'s iii-iv, x		a f k	13	40
<i>Alopecosa accentuata</i> (Latr.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iii-x ♂'s iii-v, viii-x	1	a f j k	58	144
<i>Trochosa terricola</i> Thor.						
PISAURIDAE						
<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i> (Cl.)	B.H.	♀ vii	1	l		
AGELENIDAE						
<i>Tegenaria saeva</i> Bl.	B.H.	♀'s vii	4	m		
<i>Tegenaria silvestris</i> L. Koch	B.H.	♀'s vii	2	m		
<i>Coelotes atropos</i> (Walck.)	B.H.	♀ vii	1	m		
<i>Cicurina cicur</i> (Fabricius)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ix-iii ♂'s ix-i		a f k	14	11
<i>Hahnina montana</i> (Bl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂s vii	7	c i l	2	
<i>Hahnina nava</i> (Bl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iii, v, vii ♂'s iv-vii	7	a c e f j k	1	76
THERIDIIDAE						
<i>Diploena prona</i> * (Menge)	B.A.	♂ vii		b	1	
<i>Steatoda phalerata</i> (Panzer)	B.A. R.C.D.	♂'s iv-ix		a f j	3	
<i>Anelosimus vittatus</i> (C.L. Koch)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii	2	h l		
<i>Achaearenea lunata</i> (Cl.)	B.H.	♀ vii	1	m		
<i>Achaearenea riparia</i> * (Bl.)	B.H.	♂ vii		m	1	
<i>Theridion sisyphium</i> (Cl.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	16	g h l	4	
<i>Theridion impressum</i> L. Koch	B.A.	♀ ♂ vii	1	b j	1	
<i>Theridion tinctum</i> (Walck.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	16	g h n	5	

<i>Theridion simile</i> C.L. Koch	R.C.D.	♀'s ♂ vii	h	5	1
<i>Theridion varians</i> Hahn	B.A. R.C.D.	♀'s ♂ vii	cgh	7	1
<i>Theridion bimaculatum</i> (Linn.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	b c d g l m	5	4
<i>Theridion pallens</i> Bl.	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii	g h l n	5	
<i>Enoplognatha ovata</i> (Cl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	c g h m n	45	23
<i>Enoplognatha thoracica</i> (Hahn)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s v, vii	d f i j k	3	2
<i>Robertus lividus</i> (Bl.)	B.H.	♀'s ♂ vii	m	3	1
<i>Pholcomma gibbum</i> (Westr.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii ♂ i	c i k	2	
TETRAGNATHIDAE					
<i>Pachygnatha degeeri</i> Sundevall	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iii-xii ♂'s iii-xi	a f k	52	114
<i>Meta mengei</i> (Bl.)	B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	l m n	7	3
ARANEIDAE					
<i>Araneus diadematus</i> Cl.	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii, x	b c g h k l	34	1
<i>Araneus cucurbitinus</i> Cl.	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	c h l n	21	5
<i>Araneus gibbosus</i> (Walck.)	R.C.D.	♀'s vii	h	2	
<i>Hyposinga albovitata</i> * (Westr.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-vii ♂'s iv-v	a c e f k	2	12
<i>Hyposinga pygmaea</i> (Sundevall)	B.H.	♀'s vii	l	3	29
<i>Zygiella X-notata</i> (Cl.)	R.C.D.	♀'s vii	h	2	
<i>Cercidia prominens</i> (Westr.)	B.A. B.H.	♂'s vii	c l	2	
LINYPHIIDAE					
<i>Walckenaera acuminata</i> Bl.	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv-v, x ♂'s xi-xii	a f k	3	2
<i>Walckenaera antica</i> (Wider)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iii, v-viii ♂'s ii-iii	f i j k	2	7
<i>Walckenaera cucullata</i> (C.L. Koch)	B.H.	♀ vii	m	1	
<i>Walckenaera monoceros</i> (Wider)	B.H. R.C.D.	♀'s i, iii, v, vii-xii ♂'s xi-i, v, ix	a f	9	11
<i>Walckenaera unicornis</i> O.P.C.	R.C.D.	♀ vii	g	1	
<i>Entelecara flavipes</i> (Bl.)	R.C.D.	♀ vii	g	1	
<i>Erigonidium graminicola</i> (Sundevall)	B.H.	♂ vii	n	1	
<i>Dismodicus bifrons</i> (Bl.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii	g h l	13	
<i>Hypomma cornutum</i> (Bl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii	c g h l n	72	
<i>Metopobactrus prominulus</i> * (O.P.-C.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vi-vii ♂'s v, vii	b c d f i j k	19	2
<i>Gonyglidium rufipes</i> (Sundevall)	B.A. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	c m n	2	2
<i>Gonatium rubens</i> (Bl.)	B.H.	♂ xi	k	1	
<i>Maso sundevalli</i> (Westr.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂'s vii	h m	14	6
<i>Peponocranium ludicrum</i> (O.P.-C.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s iv, vii ♂'s iv-v	d f g h i j k l	41	3
<i>Pocadicnemis pumila</i> (Bl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii ♂'s vi-vii	d f l	4	1
<i>Trichopterna thorelli</i> (Westr.)	R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v-viii ♂'s iv-v	f i j k	3	14
<i>Pelecopsis parallela</i> (Wider)	B.A. B.H.	♀ vii ♂ ii	a l	1	1
<i>Pelecopsis nemoralis</i> * (Bl.)	B.A.	♀'s iii-iv, xi ♂'s xii, i	a	3	2
<i>Cnephalocotes obscurus</i> (Bl.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s ♂ vii	b c d j k	7	1
<i>Trichonus saxicola</i> * (O.P.-C.)	B.A. R.C.D. B.H.	♀'s vii ♂'s vi-vii	c d j k l	4	1
<i>Ceratinopsis stativaa</i> * (O.P.-C.)	B.C.D. B.H.	♀'s v-vi ♂'s v, vii	g k	1	2
<i>Minyrtolus pusillus</i> (Wider)	R.C.D.	♀ ♂ vii	g i	1	1
<i>Monocenthalus fuscipes</i> (Bl.)	B.H.	♀'s vii	m	3	

NOTE: The county records additional to those listed by Locket Millidge and Merrett (1974) are marked with an asterisk (*). Brief notes concerning these spiders are given as follows.

NEW RECORDS FOR WILTSHIRE

Atypus affinis Eichwald:— The period of activity for the adult males is from August through to February, they are, winter active and were taken in November, December and January in pitfall traps. This spider is common on the 'Breck' area and Roche Court Down sites.

Drassodes lapidosus (Walckenaer):— Is widespread and common throughout the British Isles but its distribution records are incomplete as it was formerly grouped with *D. cupreus* (Blackwall). It occurred on the Roche Court Down and Battery Hill sites.

Zelotes pedestris (C.L. Koch) and *Zelotes praeficus* (L. Koch):— Are both rare and their distribution records are mainly located in Southern Counties. They are usually found under stones and pieces of chalk. Their occurrence on the Porton Ranges is however widespread and they were found on all three study areas in the summer months.

Scotina celans (Blackwall):— Is rare and was found only on the grassland habitats of Roche Court Down and Battery Hill sites. The males of this species occurred only in November, whilst the females were active from November to June.

Scotina palliardi (L. Koch):— Since the time this spider has been distinguished as a separate species from *S. celans* (Blackwall) authentic records have been scarce in Britain, and, so far, from a few Southern Counties. It occurs on all three study areas at Porton and is common especially in spring and early summer.

Oxyptila nigrita (Thorell):— Is rare and occurs mainly on chalk grassland in the South of England. It was found on all three study areas at Porton. The adult females had a very early appearance on the 'Breck' area in January, February and March. This feature has not previously been recorded for this spider.

Achaearanea riparia (Blackwall):— A single male of this species was recorded in July at the Battery Hill site amongst grasses and leaf litter. It is a rare spider and does occur in Southern Counties of England.

Hyposinga albobittata (Westring):— Has been recorded from a few Southern Counties, two Midland Counties, Suffolk, Cumberland and one county in Scotland. It is widespread at Porton and occurred at all three study areas and was particularly abundant at the Battery Hill site.

Metopobactrus prominulus (O.P.-Cambridge):— Although uncommon has a widespread and general distribution in Britain and occurs in undergrowth and moss. At Porton it has a widespread distribution over all three of the study areas.

Trichonus saxicola (O.P.-Cambridge):— Has a general distribution pattern amongst the grassland at Porton and was scarce. In Britain it has a limited distribution in the Southern Counties.

Ceratinopsis stativa (Simon):— Was taken only in the tall grass sites at Battery Hill and Roche Court Down. In recent years it has been found not infrequently on chalk grassland in the Southern Counties of England.

Panamomops sulcifrons (Wider):— Recorded from the Southern Counties and as far north as Northumberland, this spider is very local. Its usual habitat seems to be chalk or limestone grassland, and a single male was recorded from the Battery Hill site.

Agyneta subtilis (O.P.-Cambridge):— Is frequent and widespread, common in the Southern Counties, it is usually found in grass in the undergrowth of woods. But only one female was recorded from Battery Hill.

Agyneta decora (O.P.-Cambridge):— Females were found very locally in grass at Battery Hill. An uncommon spider occurring more in the North than the South of England.

Meioneta simplicatarsis (Simon):— Is recorded from Beauliea Road in Stockbridge (Hampshire); is frequent on the coast near Langton Matravers (Dorset) in limestone grassland, and in marshy grassland near Seasalter, Whitstable (Kent). This spider has a local but widespread distribution on the Porton Ranges and both sexes were found at all three study sites.

Centromerus serratus (O.P. Cambridge):— Is rare and recorded from the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Dorset, Berks, Surrey and Devon. Three females and a single male were taken at Battery Hill at Porton.

Centromerita concinna (Thorell):— Is a common spider, but surprisingly, not previously recorded from Wiltshire. It occurs in great abundance at all three study areas on the Porton Ranges, and can be found during most months of the year. It is particularly common in the winter months.

New Records for Hampshire

Zelotes apricorum (L. Koch):— Is widespread and common throughout the British Isles, but, not previously recorded for Hampshire. A single male was recorded at the 'Breck' area at Porton.

Scotina palliardi (L. Koch):— (See previous notes in the Wiltshire records).

Dipoena prona (Menge):— Is a rare spider with a very local distribution in some Southern Counties of England, but, frequent in Breckland in Suffolk and Norfolk. A single male was recorded at the 'Breck' area at Porton.

Pelecopsis nemoralis (Blackwall):— Probably widespread in Britain but relatively few reliable recent records. Males and females were recorded at the 'Breck' area at Porton from pitfall traps.

Typhochrestus simoni (de Lessert):— Males of this spider were recorded from the 'Breck' area in December 1973 and February 1974. This was the second British locality record for this species. The first being from Snowdon in Wales in 1966; Goodier (1970). Only the male sex was then known. A subsequent study of the 'Breck' area in 1977 yielded further males together with females, there was a gradual build up of the number of adults from December to March. The female sex is described for the first time in a recent paper Parker and Coleman (1978).

Lepthyphantes insignis O.P.-Cambridge:— Is rare in Britain and known only from a few counties in England. A male and female were recorded at the 'Breck' area at Porton. In Norfolk and Suffolk it also occurs on dry heath grassland.

Acknowledgements

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WILTSHIRE WEEVILS (COLEOPTERA, CURCULIONOIDEA): ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

by M.G. MORRIS

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Since the publication of my preliminary account of the weevils of Wiltshire (Morris 1974, 1975a), several new records have accumulated. Nearly all the species listed here were taken during the period 1974–1978, and several local and uncommon ones are included. The form of presentation follows the earlier accounts, in that dates and methods of collecting have been omitted, for the sake of brevity. However, a succinct summary of the larval feeding biology, where it is known, is included for the species not previously recorded from the county and indicated in the list by an asterisk, *. Almost all my recording has been done in the south-east of Wiltshire and only one record from the northern vice-county is included. A high proportion of the species listed was taken on the Experimental Ground of the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton. This area, of equivalent importance to a formal SSSI, is much too large to figure as a single locality, yet continual reference to Porton Experimental Ground would be repetitious. To shorten this account, only the actual localities within the Range have been listed. In alphabetical order these are: Allington Farm, Battery Hill, Blake's Firs, Happy Valley, Idmiston Down, Porton Down, Rochecourt Down, Thorny Down and Tower Hill. All these localities are, of course, not generally accessible to the public. I acknowledge here my indebtedness to the authorities of the Chemical Defence Establishment for facilities to record on the Experimental Ground.

The establishment of a Wiltshire Biological Records Centre, and the fact that several coleopterists are now regularly working in the county, either as residents or frequent visitors, promise to ensure that the weevils, and other beetles, of Wiltshire will become much better known over the next few years. Although the small-scale mapping in the county of relatively obscure groups, such as weevils, is not likely for some time, it should be made clear that all my own records are localised to at least a 1 km square of the National Grid and are consequently suitable for mapping at various scales, should this ever become desirable and feasible. Grid references are omitted here, as in the previous accounts, to save space.

It should be clear in the context of this account and the earlier ones that Wiltshire means the vice-counties of North Wilts. (7) and South Wilts. (8) The boundaries of these areas differ slightly, but in places significantly, from that of the administrative county. One particular feature of importance of the vice-county system is its stability: The frequency with which the boundaries of administrative counties have changed, and their very unequal areas, are two of several features which make them unsuitable as biological recording units. However, because many Record Centres are administered by County Councils, administrative counties will undoubtedly continue to feature in the recording and mapping of plants and animals, and this will be true of Wiltshire. No great difficulties in recording or interpretation should ensue, provided it is remembered that the boundaries of administrative county and Watsonian vice-counties do not invariably coincide. The boundaries of the vice-counties are clearly set out in Dandy (1969).

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ATTELABIDAE

- **Attelabus nitens* (Scop.), larvae in leaf-rolls on *Quercus* spp. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Apoderus coryli (L.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Lasioryhynchites cavifrons Gyll. SOUTH: Thorny Down.
 **Caenorhinus interpunctatus* Steph., on *Quercus* spp., but larval biology unknown. SOUTH: Thorny Down; Whiteparish Common.
 **C. nanus* (Payk.), larvae in buds of *Betula*, *Salix* and perhaps *Alnus* spp. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
C. tomentosus Gyll. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
 **Byctiscus betulae* (L.), larvae in leaf-rolls of various trees, especially *Corylus*, *Betula* and *Populus*. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common (recorded in Morris (1975b) but repeated for convenience).

APIONIDAE

- Apion hydrolapathi* (Marsh.). SOUTH: Idmiston Down; Salisbury.
A. ebeninum Kirby. SOUTH: Barnridge Copse, Farley.
A. meliloti Kirby. SOUTH: Allington Farm.
 **A. reflexum* Gyll., larvae in stem galls on *Onobrychis* spp. SOUTH: Bratton Castle; Martin (Hants.)

CURCULIONIDAE

- **Otiorhynchus ligneus* (Oliv.), larvae probably polyphagous on roots of various plants. SOUTH: Winterbourne Gunner.
Phyllobius calcaratus (F.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
 **Polydrusus flavipes* (Deg.), larvae probably polyphagous on roots, the adults often on *Populus tremula*. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
 **P. mollis* (Ström), larvae probably polyphagous on roots, the adults usually on young *Quercus* and *Fagus* spp. SOUTH: Thorny Down.
 **Barypeithes pellucidus* (Boh.), larvae root-feeders on *Medicago lupulina* Scherf, (1964) but almost certainly on other plants as well. SOUTH: Bratton Castle.
Strophosomus capitatus (Deg.) (= *subrotundus* (Marsh.)). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
S. melanogrammus (Forst.) SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Sitona macularius (Marsh.). SOUTH: Bratton Castle.
 **Larinus planus* (F.), larvae in inflorescences of *Cirsium*, *Carduus* and *Carlina* spp. SOUTH: Porton Down (Morris 1975b – repeated for completeness); Battery Hill; Tower Hill.
Hypera (= *Phytonomus*) *arator* (L.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
Cionus scrophulariae (L.), larvae feeding externally on *Scrophularia* spp. This species was inadvertently omitted from my earlier list (Morris 1975a). NORTH: Marlborough, Mildenhall (Anon. 1939). SOUTH: Salisbury.
Magdalis armigera Fourc.). SOUTH: Porton Down.
 **M. cerasi* (L.), larvae in dead twigs of rosaceous trees and shrubs and perhaps also of *Quercus* spp. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Dorytomus dejeani Faust. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
D. rufatus (Bedel). SOUTH: Barnridge Copse, Farley.
D. tortrix (L.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
 **Coeliodes ruber* (Marsh.). Scherf (1964) states that the larvae feed in male catkins of *Corylus*, but in Britain the species is associated with *Quercus*. SOUTH: Thorny Down.
Ceutorhynchus asperifoliarum (Gyll.). SOUTH: Idmiston.
 **C. cochleariae* (Gyll.), larvae in fruits of *Cardamine* spp.; Scherf (1964) gives only *C. pratensis*, but my Wiltshire weevils were swept from *C. flexuosa*. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
C. pollinarius (Forst.). SOUTH: Porton Down.
 **Poophagus sisymbrii* (F.), larvae in stems of *Nasturtium officinale* and *Rorippa amphibia*. SOUTH: Winterbourne Gunner.
Curculio nucum L. SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
C. venosus (Gravenh.). SOUTH: Thorny Down; Whiteparish Common.

ADDITIONAL LOCALITIES

ATTELABIDAE

- Deporaus betulae* (L.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.

APIONIDAE

- Apion violaceum* Kirby. SOUTH: Idmiston Down.
A. ulicis (Forst.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
A. miniatum Germar. SOUTH: Idmiston Down.
A. carduorum Kirby. SOUTH: Battery Hill.
A. tenue Kirby. SOUTH: Allington Farm.
A. pomonae (F.). SOUTH: Thorny Down; Porton Down.

CURCULIONIDAE

- Otiorhynchus clavipes* (Bons.). SOUTH: Battery Hill; Porton Down.
O. singularis (L.). SOUTH: Thorny Down; Whiteparish Common.
Phyllobius argentatus (L.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
P. oblongatus (L.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
P. pomaceus Gyll. SOUTH: Porton Down; Whiteparish Common.
P. pyri (L.). SOUTH: Battery Hill.
Polydrusus cervinus (L.). SOUTH: Thorny Down; Blackmoor Copse.
Sciaphilus asperatus (Bons.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Liophloeus tessulatus (Müll.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Barynotus obscurus (F.). SOUTH: Happy Valley.
Sitona cylindricollis Fahr.). SOUTH: Allington Farm.
S. suturalis Steph. SOUTH: Barnridge Copse, Farley.
Hypera (= *Phytonomus*) *nigrirostris* (F.). SOUTH: Whiteparish.
H. plantaginis Deg.). SOUTH: Martin (Hants.).
H. postica (Gyll.). SOUTH: Martin (Hants.).
H. rumicis (L.). SOUTH: Idmiston Down.
H. venusta (F.). SOUTH: Bratton Castle.
Cionus alauda (Herbst). SOUTH: Happy Valley; Winterbourne Gunner.
C. hortulanus (Fourc.). SOUTH: Happy Valley; Rochecourt Down; Winterbourne Gunner.
C. tuberculatus (Scop.). SOUTH: Happy Valley.
Coeliodes dryados Gmel.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
C. erythroleucos Gmel.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
Cidnorhinus quadrimaculatus (L.). NORTH: Bishopstone. SOUTH: Porton Down.
Ceuthorhynchidius troglodytes (F.). SOUTH: Barnridge Copse, Farley.
Ceutorhynchus assimilis (Payk.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
C. contractus (Marsh.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
C. floralis (Payk.). SOUTH: Thorny Down; Winterbourne Gunner.
Rhinoncus pericarpus (L.). SOUTH: Idmiston Down; Whiteparish Common.
Amalorrhynchus melanarius Steph.). SOUTH: Winterbourne Gunner.
Druperatus nasturtii (Germ.). SOUTH: Winterbourne Gunner.
Curculio pyrrhoceras Marsh. SOUTH: Thorny Down.
C. salicivorus Payk. SOUTH: Barnridge Copse, Farley.
Miccotrogus picirostris (F.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.
Miarus graminis (Gyll.). SOUTH: Blake's Firs.
Mecinus pyraster (Herbst.). SOUTH: Idmiston Down.
Gymnetron pascuorum (Gyll.). SOUTH: Winterbourne Gunner.
G. villosulum Gyll. SOUTH: Winterbourne Gunner.
Rhynchaenus pilosus (F.). SOUTH: Blackmoor Copse.
R. quercus (L.). SOUTH: Thorny Down.
R. rusci (Herbst.). SOUTH: Whiteparish Common.

CORRECTIONS

- Apion violaceum* Kirby. The record from Salisbury (Morris 1974) should be deleted.
Apion loti Kirby. The record from Bratton Castle (Morris 1974) should be deleted. Re-examination of the specimen showed it to be *A. reflexum*, which was subsequently found in numbers at the site.
Polydrusus sericeus (Schall.). My note on the occurrence of this rare weevil in Wiltshire (Morris 1978) contains an unfortunate error. The Folly Farm locality recorded for the species (Anon. 1939, Morris 1975a) is in the southern vicecounty, not the northern, as stated in the note, *passim*. *P. sericeus*, whether the Folly Farm record is valid or not, has been found in Wiltshire only in vicecounty 8, South Wilts.

SOME FUNGI OF SOUTH-WEST WILTSHIRE PART V

by

J.B. HINDLEY

Rather a miscellaneous collection of fungi appear in this article, comprising (a) Basidiomycetes found 1977–78; (b) all other groups 1974–78; (c) a few earlier finds previously overlooked. The fungi now listed are complementary to the list of the Dunston Brothers of Donhead St. Mary, published in this Magazine, and covering roughly the same area.

As on previous occasions, the list has been annotated by the Staff of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the present writer wishes to place on record his gratitude for this service. In particular, mention must be made of Dr. D.A. Reid, Dr. R.W.G. Dennis, Dr. D.M. Pegler, and Mr. B.M. Spooner, all of whom have been concerned in determinations and annotations.

All fungi listed have been determined at Kew, either at the Herbarium, or at The Commonwealth Mycological Institute.

AGARICALES

LACTARIUS BLENNIUS f. *VIRESCENS* Lange 17/10/77, Grovely Wood. This form is recognized by its olive-green colour.

LACTARIUS LILACINUS (Lasch) Fries. 31/10/78, Quidhampton Folly, Salisbury. A small lilac-pink fungus with mild watery milk. The cap is minutely pubescent with small concentric scales. It occurs under alder.

MARASMIUS GRAMINUM (Libert) Berk. 30/7/74 Chilmark M.O.D. Recognized by its small reddish or orange-fawn cap, with 5–7 white gills united in a collar around the stem, and large spores $8.5-13.0 \times 2.5-5.5$ μm . It is found on dead grass.

NAUCORIA LUTEOLO-FIBRILLOSA (Kuhn) K & R 31/10/78 Quidhampton Folly, Salisbury. Distinguished by its whitish then yellowish cap with fibrillose-tomentose surface and cortinate margin, marginal cystidia with long narrow necks, and spores $9.5-10.0 \times 5.5-6.2$ μm . It occurs in alder swamps.

NAUCORIA SUBCONSPERSA Kuhn 1/9/77 Quidhampton Folly, Salisbury. Similar to the above but less yellow. The cap is more ochraceous or russet-coloured.

NOLANEA HEBES (Romagnesi) Orton 17/8/78 Bishopstone Down, Wilton. A small, cystidiate species with smell of meal when cut.

PSATHYRELLA FUSCA (Schum. ex. Lange) Moser 5/9/77 Grovely Wood. This large species has distinctive violet-brown gills and a conspicuous marginal veil on the cap.

PSATHYRELLA PYGMAEA (Bull. ex. Fr.) Singer 6/11/78 Quidhampton Folly. Very similar to *COPRINUS DISSEMINATUS* in growing in dense troops on wood or soil, but easily recognized by its much smaller spores, $5.0-6.5 \times 3.5-4.0$ μm .

APHYLLOPHORALES

TYROMYCES ALBELLUS (Peck) Bond. & Sing. 5/9/77 Grovely Wood. Distinguished from other white species of this genus by its trimitic hyphal structure.

PHLEBIA GIGANTEA (Fr. ex. Fr.) Donk 25/12/75 Wardour High Wood. This species forms extensive sugary coating over conifer stumps and surrounding debris.

UREDINALES

PUCCINIA CALCITRAPAE DC. 12/10/78 Woodford, Salisbury. II on leaves of *CENTAUREA SCABIOSA* forming minute brown hypophyllous pustules.

PUCCINIA MACULOSA (Str) Röhl. 1/10/78 Little Durnford, Salisbury. II on leaves of *MYCELIS MURALIS*. A common rust forming minute, punctiform, pulverulent pustules of a pale brown colour, on pallid, irregular spots on the under surface of leaves.

TRANZSCHELIA DISCOLOR (Fckl.) Tranz. & Litv. September, 1977, Salisbury. III on underside of plum-leaves forming conspicuous and often crowded blackish-brown pustules.

USTILAGINALES

USTILAGO HYPODYTES (Schlecht.) Fries. Sor in the stems surrounding the internodes and often extending from one node to the next. Spore mass powdery and dark brown. On *BROMUS ERECTUS* (?) but there are many other grass hosts.

CALOCERALES

DACRYMYCES CAPITATUS Schw. April 1977, Salisbury. Similar to *D. STILLATUS* but distinguished by its tough, gelatinous, stoutly stipitate, turbinate fruitbodies with prominent rooting base.

ASCOMYCETES

PEZIZALES

PEZIZA EMILEIA Cooke 27/10/76 Ansty Down. A brown fleshy cup fungus found especially in grassland and distinguished mainly by its rather large finely warted ascospores.

SOWERBYELLA RADICULATA (Sow. ex. Fr.) Nann 24/10/74 Swallowcliffe Churchyard. A rather large bright yellow cup fungus with white rooting stalk found mainly in hedge bottoms and amongst litter under trees.

LEUCOSCYPHA ROZEI Boud. 20/10/74 Wardour High Wood. This white fungus of burned ground is referred to *LEUCOSCYPHA* because of its lack of red pigment but in all other features it resembles *MELASTIZA*.

SCUTELLINIA SETOSA (Nees & Fries) Kuntz. 3/11/74 Wardour 13 acre Wood. Distinguished from other members of the genus by its orange (not red) disc and smooth-walled ascospores.

MELASTIZA CHATERI (W.G. Smith) Boudier 20/10/74 Wardour High Wood. Bright orange and occurring in swarms on damp, bare soil. Locally abundant, though not common.

GEOPYXIS CARBONARIA (Alb. & Schur. ex. Fr) Saccardo 7/9/75 Wardour 13 acre Wood. A small pinkish cup fungus common on burnt soil or attached to charred twigs.

INERMISIA FUSISPORA (Berk.) Rifai 8/19/75 Fonthill Lake. Gregarious on peaty soil or burnt ground, often on a white subiculum. Quite common, throughout the year.

SPHAERIDIOPHOLUS ALBOFUSCUS (Crouan) Boudier = (*SPH. BRASSICAE* Boud.) 31/1/77 Swallowcliffe, in allotment. A small, whitish species with globose spores. It occurs on dung, especially of rodents, and on rotting stalks of *BRASSICAE*. Apparently uncommon.

PYRONEMA OMPHALODES (Bull. ex. St. Amams) Fuckel 6/7/78 Quidhampton Folly. A common species on burnt ground throughout the year. Light red in colour, often becoming confluent in large patches.

IODOPHANUS CARNEUS (Persoon) Korf. 4/10/76 Dunworth Wood. A minute pale pink disc, seldom more than 1mm. across, common on dung of domestic animals and rotting vegetable matter.

HELOTIALES

CIBORIA AMENTACEA (Balbis ex. Fr.) Fuckel. 28/2/77 Fonthill Lake. A common species occurring on fallen male catkins of *ALNUS* and *SALIX* in Spring.

CIBORIA VIRIDI-FUSCA (Fuckel) Von Höhnell. 19/11/75 Tisbury Row. A very tiny greenish-brown short-stalked cup fungus, very common on old fallen female catkins of Alder.

ROESLERIA PALLIDA (Fries) Saccardo. 8/2/64 Swallowcliffe. A widespread species on bark, particularly of dead roots well below soil level. Stipitate, with the head becoming a powdery spore mass when mature.

NEO-BULGARIA PURA (Fries) Petrak. 12/10/72 Grovely Wood. Common on fallen trunks of beech and unmistakable on account of its watery gelatinous texture and colourless ascospores.

NEO-BULGARIA PURA var. *FOLIACEA* (Bres.) Dennis and Gamundi. 21/1/73 Fonthill Terraces. Perhaps merely a luxuriant growth-form of the preceding in which the normal flat disc has become enlarged and convoluted.

CUDONIELLA TENUISPORA (Cooke and Masee) Dennis 18/7/75 Wardour High Wood. Closely allied to the common *C. CLAVUS* but found in dryer situations.

HYMENOSCYPHUS SCUTULA var. *SOLANI* Karsten. 4/10/76 Dunworth Wood. Differs from typical *H. SCUTULA* in its smaller ascospores with no appendages.

HYMENOSCYPHUS ALBIDUS (Rob.) Phill. 17/11/76 Fonthill. A minute stalked white cup fungus common on blackened patches of fallen leafstalks of ash.

CYATHICULA DOLOSELLA (Karst.) Dennis 4/10/76 Dunworth Wood. Distinguished from the common *C. CORONATA* by its much shorter marginal teeth.

PEZIZELLA CHRYSOSTIGMA (Fries) Saccardo 28/9/75 Ansty Down. A minute, white, downy, cup-shaped, stalked species, found scattered over dead petioles of *NEPHRODIUM FILIX-MAS*.

PEZIZELLA CHIONEAE (Fries) Dennis 10/3/75 Wardour 13 acre Wood. Similar to the above but sessile and found on fallen cones and needles of *PINUS* in Spring.

VELUTARINA RUFO-OLIVACEA (Alb. & Schir) Korf. 7/12/75 Squall's Lane, Tisbury. The olive-green cup-shaped fruitbodies up to 3mm. across occur on wood, and are covered on the outer surface with a rusty-brown or tan coloured powder formed of thick-walled, loose, irregularly-lobed cells. The ascospores, at first hyaline, become pale brown.

CENANGIUM FERRUGINOSUM Fries. 23/2/75 Wardour High Wood. Erumpent singly or in small groups from twigs of *PINUS* as closed globular fructifications which eventually open irregularly. The exterior is dark brown and mealy-pruinose, while the disc is ochraceous and often completely concealed by the enrolled margin when dry.

DURELLA CONNIVENS (Fries) Rhem. 19/11/74 Dunworth Wood. A small, saucer-shaped, sessile black fungus.

HETEROSPHAERIA PATELLA (Tode ex. Fr.) Grev. 13/1/75 Common on old umbellifer stems, forming minute black globose structures about 1 mm. across, which open by a pore but later become cup-shaped with a strongly enrolled margin when dry. The disc is yellowish or grey.

DASYSCYPHUS ACUTUS (Vel.) Dennis 23/11/76 Swallowcliffe. Minute, white, short-stalked apothecia growing in swarms on rotting grass. Uncommon, or perhaps overlooked.

DASYSCYPHUS MINUTISSIMUS (Crouan) Le Gal 18/9/75. Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. A tiny, white, cupulate, stalked species on fallen leaves, with a covering of cylindrical septate hairs, each tipped with a globular mass of small crystals.

LACHNELLULA SUBTILLISSIMA (Cooke) Dennis 23/2/75 Wardour High Wood. The minute cups, which have a white exterior contrasting with an orange disc, occur on pine twigs. They are distinguished from the very similar *L. HAHNIANA* in having spores 6–11 x 2–2.5 μ .

HYALOSCYPHA HYALINA (Persoon) Boudier 19/11/75 Tisbury Row. An extremely minute, sessile, whitish cup fungus, clothed with slender, pointed, thin-walled non-septate hairs, occurring in swarms on decorticated wood, especially *QUERCUS*.

HYALOSCYPHA LACHNOBRACHYA (Desm.) Nannf. 17/11/76 Fonthill. Similar to the above, but occurring on fallen leaves, and in having narrower, fusiform spores produced in 4-spored asci.

HYALOSCYPHA (Aff) *PUBERULA* (Lasch) Nannf. 20/10/76 Swallowcliffe, on dead oak leaf. Found typically on oak leaves. Distinguished from previous species by the pale yellow disc, 8-spored asci, and broader spores.

UNGUICULARIA SCRUPULOSA (Karsten) Von Höhnel 6/11/76 Tisbury Row. A very minute sessile cup fungus found in swarms like tiny grains of sand on rotting wood and distinguished by the thick-walled glassy hairs clinging to its flanks.

ARACHNOPEZIZA OBTUSIPILA Grelet. 26/1/75 Wardour High Wood, on fallen cone of *LARIX*. Differs from the common species of *ARACHNOPEZIZA* in being white and in ascospore characters.

ORBILIA XANTHOSTIGMA (Fries.) Fries 7/9/76 Ladydown. Minute yellow waxy discs common in swarms on rotting wood.

PEZICULA ACERICOLA (Peck) Sacc. 15/12/75 Chilmark M.O.D. The species of *PEZICULA* are externally much alike and distinguished by microscopic characters and by their distinctive hosts, in this case the common maple.

PEZICULA CINNAMOMEA (Dc Ex. Persoon) Sacc. 7/11/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Small light brown sessile discs with pruinose surface found typically on dead twigs of oak.

OCELLARIA OCELLATA (Pers) Schroet. 13/1/75 Fonthill Lake. Like a *PEZICULA* but erumpent from bark instead of being superficial and confined to willow.

CATINELLA OLIVACEA (Batsch ex. Pers.) Boudier 8/9/76 Chilmark M.O.D. A flat almost black disc fairly common on rotting wood, in this case of Ash.

TAPESIA ROSAE (Persoon ex. Fries) Fuckel 18/9/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. A minute, finely downy brown cup fungus fruiting in swarms on a dark brown web of mycelium over dead twigs of Rose or allied shrubs.

MOLLISIA ESCHARODES (Berk. & Br.) Gremmen 13/10/76 Whitmarsh Wood. Differs from most *MOLLISIA* species in the rather downy margin of the gray-brown cup.

MOLLISIA LIGNI (Desm.) Karsten. February 1976 Swallowcliffe – on oak log in writer's garden. Small, dark gray-brown to almost black, sessile cups common on dead wood of all kinds.

MOLLISIA MELALEUCA (Fries) Saccardo 9/1/78 Grovely Wood. On rotting, decorticated wood. Differs from the more abundant *M. CINEREA* largely by colour.

PYRENOPEZIZA (Fr.) SALICIS (Fettg.) Nannf. 23/10/76 Dunworth Wood. An extremely minute cup fungus sunk in the bark of willow twigs.

LEPTOTROCHILA RANUNCULI (Fries) Schuepp (previously *FABRAEA RANUNCULI* (Fr.) Karsten. 22/10/78. Very common in summer and autumn on living leaves of various species of ranunculus. Harnham, Salisbury.

PHAEHELOTIUM SUBCARNEUM (Schum. ex. Sacc) Dennis 5/12/74 Haredene Lane. A tiny pink saucer-shaped fungus on dead wood.

TROCHILA CRATERIUM Fries. 17/8/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Immersed in dead leaf-tissue of ivy. Opening by a variable number of teeth to expose the flat dark brown disc up to 0.4 mm. across.

TROCHILA ILICINA (Nees ex. Fr.) Green & Morgan-Jones July 1975. Swallowcliffe Churchyard. Similar to the above, but found on fallen holly leaves and opening by shedding a circular patch of host epidermis.

TROCHILA LAUROCERASI (Desm.) Fries. 17/8/75 Swallowcliffe Churchyard. Similar to the above species but found on dead leaves of *PRUNUS LAUROCERASUS*.

PHACIDIALES

COLPOMA QUERCINUM (Pers.) Wallr. 13/2/74 Ladydown. Gregarius, erumpent from beneath bark of dead but often attached twigs of oak usually as elongated black structures developed transversely to the long axis of the twig. When moist the fruitbodies open revealing a light yellow disc up to 15mm. long and 2mm. wide.

LOPHODERMUM JUNIPERINUM (Fries) de Not. 16/2/75 Baverstock. Forming black, lister-like, elliptical fruitbodies up to 1 mm. long and 0.4 mm. wide beneath the cuticle on the outer surface of the leaves.

LECANORALES

KARSCHIA LIGNYOTA (Fries) Saccardo. 27/10/76 Crockerton Firs. Common on decorticated wood forming shallowly-cupshaped black fruitbodies up to 1 mm. across with flat or slightly convex disc.

OSTROPALES

STICTIS STELLATA Wallroth 6/12/75 Tisbury Row. The minute fruitbodies are at first deeply sunken in herbaceous stems (especially of *EPILOBIUM HIRSUTUM*) Then erumpent, opening to expose a pale yellow disc surrounded by a white sterile border split into stellate lobes.

CLAVICIPITALES

EPICHLÖE TYPHINA Pers. ex. Fr.) Tulasne 6/6/76 Ladydown. Stroma sheathing the stems of various grasses, at first smooth and white and usually up to 1.5 cm. in length, becoming golden yellow and minutely roughened with the tips of the perithecia when mature.

SPHAERIALES

HYPOCREA RUFÄ (Persoon ex. Fries) Fries 10/11/76 Squall's Lane, Tisbury. Common on dead wood, forming light reddish-brown pustules, up to 10mm. across, minutely dotted with the darker ostioles of the immersed perithecia.

HYPOCREA PULVINATA Fuckel 21/9/76 Haredene Wood. Similar to the above but occurring on old brackets of *PIPTOPORUS BETULINUS*.

NECTRIA BRASSICAE Ellis and Saccardo 23/11/76 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. A rather rare species, occurring in Spring and Autumn on rotting stems of cultivated *BRASSICAE*.

NECTRIA EPISPHAERIA (Tode ex. Fries) Fries December 1975 Swallowcliffe, on *DIATRYPE STIGMA*. Perithecia minute, scattered, bright red, ovoid with an apical papilla, on effete stroma of other Ascomycetes.

NECTRIA FÜCKELIANA Booth 20/2/75 Fonthill Terraces. Similar to the above, but perithecia developed on a stroma erumpent through bark of various conifers.

NECTRIA LEPTOSPHAERIAE Niessl. 4/12/75 Tisbury Row. One of the smaller species of red *NECTRIA* found typically growing on old perithecia of the common *LEPTOSPHAERIA ACUTA* on dead stinging nettle stems.

NECTRIA SINOPICA Fries (conidial state) 16/12/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. A light red *NECTRIA* found in clusters on dead stems of Ivy.

NECTRIA VIRIDESCENS Booth February 1976 Swallowcliffe. The perithecia are red when ripe and the fungus gets its name for a green pigment it produces when grown in artificial culture.

SPHAEROSTILEBE AURANTIACA Tulasne 22/9/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Distinguished from red species of *NECTRIA* by the associated pin-headed conidial fructifications, up to 2mm. tall, on dead bark of Elm.

LASIOSPHAERIA SPERMOIDES (Hoffm. ex. Fr) Ces & de Not. 19/10/76. Dunworth Wood. One of the commonest Pynenomyces, with small smooth black perithecia crowded in swarms over old logs.

HYPOXYLON FRAGIFORME (Pers. ex. Fr.) Kickx. (conidial state) 29/9/76 Swallowcliffe. This is the conidial state of the common red *HYPOXYLON* found everywhere on dead branches of Beech.

HYPOXYLON FUSCUM (Pers. ex. Fr.) Fries 19/11/75 Tisbury Row. Alder and Hazel are the hosts of this common purplish-brown *HYPOXYLON*, with rather flat fructifications up to 4 mm. across, on dead branches.

HYPOXYLON MAMMATUM (Wahl.) Miller 2/2/75 Tisbury. One of the larger, black species of *HYPOXYLON*, found on old dead willow trunks.

HYPOXYLON MULTIFORME (Fr.) Fr. 30/10/74 Grovely Wood. Characteristic of dead Birch branches, with a black, shiny pimply crust.

HYPOXYLON SERPENS Var. *EFFUSUM* (Nits.) Miller 17/2/75 Fonthill Lake. Differs from typical *H. SERPENS* in its smaller ascospores.

ROSELLINIA AQUILA (Fries) de Notaries 8/9/76 Chilmark M.O.D. Rather large, smooth, shiny black perithecia seated in a mat of dark hyphae on rotting branches.

ROSELLINIA MAMMAEFORMIS (Pers. ex. Fr) Cesati & de Notaris 18/9/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Distinguished from the preceding by its smaller perithecia, without a surrounding mat of mycelium.

EUTYPA ACHARII Tulasne 28/12/75 Wardour 13 acre Wood. A thick black crust on bare dead wood, dotted with minute openings from the underlying perithecia.

DIATRYPE BULLATA (Foffm. ex. Fr) Fries 13/1/75 Fonthill Lake. Small, round black crust, bursting from bark of dead willow branches.

DIATRYPELLA FAVACEA (Fries) Saccardo 27/10/76 Crockerton Firs. Resembles a *DIATRYPE* but contains asci with many more than 8 ascospores. It occurs commonly on dead branches of Alder and Birch.

EUTYPELLA PRUNASTRI (Pers. ex. Fr.) Sacc. 19/11/75 Tisbury Row. Distinguished among the hard, black-crustured perithecial fungi by the long, conical, free necks of the perithecia, and found on dead branches of sloe.

QUATERNARIA QUATERNATA (Pers. ex. Fri) Schroet 9/1/78 Grovely Wood. Very common in winter and spring in dense swarms on dead branches of Fagus.

VALSA SORDIDA Nits 6/12/78 Harnham, Salisbury. The perfect stage of the more frequently encountered *CYTOSPORA CHRYSOSPERMA*, on *POPULUS*.

PERONEUTYPA HETERACANTHA (Sacc.) Berk 16/12/74 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Found on dead branches of all kinds and recognised by the protruding, hair-like necks of the perithecia.

DIAPORTHE ERES Nits 18/9/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Though first described on twigs of Elm this very common fungus may occur on dead wood of almost any kind. The perithecia occur in small clusters beneath the bark through which their black short necks protrude.

MELANOPSAMMA POMIFORMIS (Pers. ex. Fr) Sacc. 14/12/75 Tisbury Row. Small smooth black perithecia which typically shrink to become cuplike when dry, but otherwise resembling a *NECTRIA* on dead wood.

PLECTASCALES

SPHAEROTHECA FULIGINEA (Schlect. ex. Fr) Pol. 10/7/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. This mildew was collected on *TARAXACUM* sp., a common host for the fungus.

SPHAEROTHECA MACULARIS (Wallr. & Fr.) Jacy. (oidium) 6/6/76 Ladydown. This mildew was collected on *FILIPENDULA ULMARIA*, a common host for this fungus.

SPHAEROTHECA MORS-UVAE (Schw.) Berk & Curtis 10/7/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. The common American Gooseberry mildew.

SPHAEROTHECA PANNOSA (Wallr. ex. Fr) Lev. 16/9/76 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. The common mildew of roses.

ERYSIPHE AQUILEGEI Dc ex. Merat. (Syn. *E. POLYGONI* DC ex. Merat) 19/9/76 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Mildew of columbine.

ERYSIPHE CICHORACEARUM DC ex Merat. (syn. *E. MONTAGNEI*) (also syn. *E. DEPRESSA*) 8/9/76 Chilmark M.O.D. The common mildew of thistles. Also found on Burdock.

ERYSIPHE POLYGONI Dc ex. Merat (syn *E. Heraclei*) 4/9/76 Swallowcliffe Churchyard. The common mildew of hogweed.

DOTHIDEALES

DOTHIORA RIBESIA (pers. ex. Fr) Burt. (Syn. *PLOWRIGHTIA*) 7/2/77 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Flat, cushion-shaped stromata erumpent from bark of dead twigs of *RIBES*, not uncommon.

LOCULOASCOMYCETES

PLEOSPORALES

VENTURIA RUMICIS (Desm.) de Wint. 16/6/76 Tisbury Row. Cause of a very common leaf spot on Dock.

LEPTOSPHAERIA ACUTA (Fr.) Karsten 7/5/74 Tisbury Row. Common everywhere at the base of last year's dead stems of stinging nettle.

MELANOMMA PULVIS-PYRIUS (pers. ex. Fr.) Fuckel. 16/12/74. One of the commonest of fungi, forming swarms of tiny smooth black perithecia on dead bare wood of all kinds.

PLEOSPORA HERBARUM (Fr) Rabenh. 20/10/76 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Common everywhere on all kinds of dead herbaceous plants.

PERISPORIUM VULGARE Corda. 15/9/76 Swallowcliffe. Black, subglobose ascocarps occurring quite commonly on many kinds of vegetable debris.

HYSTERIALES

HYSTERIUM ANGUSTATUM Alb. & Schw. ex. Merat. 3/2/78 Quidhampton Folly, Salisbury. A common species on wood and bark of various deciduous trees.

HEMISPHAERIALES

LOPHIUM ELATUM Greville 15/5/75 Horwood. A rare fungus with thin, erect, flat ascocarps projecting from dead bark, in this instance willow.

MICROTHYRIUM CILIATUM Gremmen & De Karn. 5/10/75 Swallowcliffe.

AULOGRAPHUM HEDERAE Libert. 5/10/75 Swallowcliffe. These two minute "fly-speck" fungi occurred together on dead fallen leaves of Holly.

MICROTHYRIUM fructifications are circular, those of *AULOGRAPHUM* are elongated.

FUNGI IMPERFECTI

ACROSTALAGMUS CINNABARINUS Corda. 15/9/76 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. A very common reddish-brown mould found on all kinds of rotting vegetable matter.

AEGERITA CANDIDA Persoon ex. Fries. 13/12/70 Ladydown. Superficial white subglobose sporodochia on wood. Quite common. The conidial state of *PENIOPHORA CANDIDA* Lyman.

CERCOSPORA MERCURIALIS Passerini. 24/2/75 Ridge. A common mould on Dog's mercury leaves.

CLADOTRICHUM TRISEPTATUM Berk. & Br. 3/11/76 Alec's Shade. The conidial state of the common *CHAETOSPHAERELLA PHAEOSTROMA* forming mats of hairy black mycelium on dead bark.

COLLETOTRICHUM DEMATIUM Pers. ex. Fri Grove 28/9/75 Ansty Coombe. A minute black pustule set with tiny pointed bristles, common on dead herbaceous stems of all kinds.

COLLETOTRICHUM DEMATIUM f. *CIRCINANS* (Berk.) Von Arx. 2/9/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. A form of the preceding found on onions.

COLLETOTRICHUM GLOEOSPOROIDES October 1976 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden on *OSMARONIA*. Appears to have a wide host range, but is most common on leaves of *CITRUS*. It is infrequently collected in Britain.

CRISTULARIELLA DEPREMANS (Cooke) Von Höhnel.

18/10/78 Grovely Wood. On leaves of *ACER*. Sometimes parasitic, causing greyish leaf-spots, though rarely causing serious damage in Britain.

CYLINDRIUM FLAVOVIRENS (Ditm. ex. Fr.) Bon. 8/12/71 Whitmarsh Wood. A yellowish-green mould on fallen leaves of deciduous trees.

CYLINDROCARPON MALI (Allesch.) Wallen. Tiny white pustules on dead apple twigs, the conidial state of the canker fungus *NECRIA GALLIGENA* Bres. In writer's garden 1975.

CYTOSPORA AMBIENS SACC. January 1976. Writer's Garden. The conidial state of the common *VALSA AMBIENS*.

CYTOSPORA CHRYSOSPERMA Fries. 6/12/78 Harnham, Salisbury. Very common on bark of various species of poplar, the pycnidial stage of *VALSA SORDIDA* Nits.

DACTYLIUM DENDROIDES (Bull.) Fries 19/11/73 Haredene Wood. A common hyphomycete, most frequently occurring on fleshy fungi, and the conidial state of *HYPOMYCES ROSELLUS*.

DENDROSTILBELLA PRASINULA von Höhnel 19/10/76 Dunworth Wood. The conidial state of *CORYNELLA PRASINULA*.

DIPLODIA MELAENA Lév. 8/12/75 Wardour, spinney near shop. Small black pycnidia in Elm bark.

DIPLODIA PINASTRI (Lév.) Grove 9/2/75 Wardour High Wood. A common pycnidial fungus on dead twigs of conifers.

ENDOSTILBUM ALBIDUM (Berk.) Reid 20/1/74 Fonthill Lake. Uncommon, forming small, drum-stick like fructifications about 1mm. high on dead wood. Conidial state of a *CORYNE* sp.

EPICOCCUM PURPURASCENS Ehrenb. 6/12/75 Place Farm, Tisbury. A common black mould forming dots of conidia, often surrounded by a purple stain, on vegetable matter of all kinds.

FUSARIUM LATERITIUM Nees. 23/2/77 Swallowcliffe. Conidial state of *GIBBERELLA BACCATA* (Wallr.) Sacc. It has a wide host range, and may cause wilt, die-back and canker in Woody plants. Widely distributed in temperate and tropical climates.

FUSARIUM SAMBUCINUM Fuckel. 18/12/75 Swallowcliffe. The conidial state of *GIBBERELLA PULICARIS* (Fr.) Sacc. May cause cankers.

FUSICLADIUM FRAXINI Aderh. 17/10/76 Ansty Coombe. Dark grey mould associated with dead brown spots on living ash leaves.

FUSICOCCUM GALERICULATUM Saccardo. April 1977 Salisbury. On branches and twigs of *FAGUS*. Infrequently recorded, but probably overlooked.

LINODOCHIUM HYALINUM (Lib.) Von Höhn. 9/2/75 Wardour High Wood. Gelatinous globules on fallen needles of Scots Pine.

NODULISPORIUM GREGARIUM (B & C) Meyer 7/1/75 Dunworth Wood. Tiny cushions of shaggy beige-coloured mould on dead Ash bark.

PERICONIA BYSSOIDES Persoon ex. Corda. 15/12/75 Chilmark M.O.D. A common pin-head black mould on herbaceous stems of all kinds.

PHAEOSARIA CLAVULATA (Grove) Mason & Hughes 2/2/75 Tisbury Row. Minute dark-brown coremia dusted with white spores found in swarms on rotting decorticated wood.

PHLEOSPORA ACERIS (Berk & Br.) Sacc. 18/10/78 Grovely Wood. Pycnidia in small clusters, on living or fading leaves of species of *ACER*. Common throughout the British Isles.

PHOMA ULICIS Sydow. 21/10/76 Downs. Forming minute black pycnidia on the spines of gorse.

PHOMOPSIS EUPHORBIAE Trav. 18/12/75 Ladydown. Small black pycnidia on stems of *EUPHORBIA AMYGDALOIDES*.

PHYLLOSTICTINA (PHOMA) HYSTERELLA (Sacc.) Petrak. 7/1/78 Shearwater (Warminster). Pycnidia on dead leaves of *TAXUS BACCATA*, often aggregated into short lines and erumpent through a slit in the epidermis.

PYCNIDIELLA RESINAE (Fr.) Von Höhn. 30/11/75 Wardour High Wood. Small orange pycnidia, the conidial state of *BIATORELLA RESINAE*, common on resinous exudations on the bark of conifers.

RAMULARIA KNAUTIAE (Messek) Bul. 12/10/78 Woodford (Salisbury). On *KNAUTIA ARVENSIS*. Throughout Europe, causing irregular purplish leaf-spots.

RAMULARIA URTICAE Cesati 8/12/75 Wardour, Spinney near shop. A common white mould on fading leaves of Stinging Nettle in autumn.

RHINOTRICHUM SUBALUTACEM Peck 3/12/75 Fonthill Lake. A rather shaggy pinkish-brown mould found near the base of last year's dead stems of Rosebay and other herbaceous plants.

SPADICOIDES GROVEI M.B. Ellis 7/9/76 Chilmark M.O.D. On dead wood of *FAGUS* and other trees, at present known from Britain, Canada and North America. Apparently uncommon, but probably just unrecorded.

STILBELLA ERYTHROCEPHALA (Ditton. ex. Fr.) Lindau. 21/9/76 Haredene Wood. A tiny pin-headed mould, common on dung, especially of rabbit.

TRICHOTHECIUM ROSEUM Link ex. Fries. 11/12/75 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. The common pale pink mould on decaying vegetable matter of all kinds.

TRIMMATOSTROMA BETULINUM (Corda) Hughes 27/10/76 Swallowcliffe. Common throughout Europe on twigs, branches, and occasionally leaves of *BETULA*.

TRIMMATOSTROMA SALICIS Corda. 13/1/75 Fonthill Lake. Little Black powdery pustules common on dead willow twigs.

TUBERCULARIA VULGARIS Tode ex. Fries. February 1976 Swallowcliffe, writer's garden. Commonly called "Coral Spot" from the colour of its pustule, the conidial state of the ubiquitous *NECTRIA CINNABARINA*.

VOLUTELLA BUXI (Dc ex Fr.) Berk. TBR 8/2/76 Swallowcliffe Churchyard. A tiny whitish hairy pustule on dead BOX leaves and twigs.

PERONOSPORALES

CYSTOPUS CANDIDUS (Pers) de Bary 8/5/74 Swallowcliffe Churchyard. Conspicuous white pustules which burst to liberate dusty white spores, common on many species of *cruciferae*.

MYXOMYCETES

ARCYRIA FERRUGINEA Sauter 5/12/74 (New for U.C.8) Castle Ditches, Tisbury. Differs from the common *A. DENUDATA* in its larger spores 8–11 μ diam., the more ovoid, orange-red sporangia and the free capillitium consisting of threads with a different ornamentation.

ARCYRIA INCARNATA Persoon 17/2/75 Fonthill Lake. Similar to *A. DENUDATA* but with pink sporangia in which the capillitium is free from the cup.

CERATIOMYXA FRUTICULOSA (Müll) Macbride 28/9/76 Wardour 13-acre Wood. Distinguished from other Myxomycetes by having the spores borne on the outside of white gelatinous threads.

COMATRICHA NIGRA Schroet. 25/10/76 Chilmark M.O.D. A small stipitate myxomycete, 1–6mm. high, consisting of a black, shiny stalk, and a fertile, purplish-brown head, varying in shape from cylindrical to globular.

CRATERIUM MINUTUM (Leers) Fries. 15/12/74 Ansty Down. A common myxomycete, up to 1.5mm. high, forming characteristic ochraceous, goblet-shaped sporangia with a well-differentiated pale lid and dark stalk.

DIDERMA HEMISPHERICUM Hornem. 20/10/76 Swallowcliffe. Recognised by its flat, chalk-white disc-shaped sporangia about 1mm. wide seated on a short ochraceous or brownish stalk.

LAMPRODERMA SCINTILLANS (Berk. TBR.) Morgan 13/10/76 Whitmarsh Wood. Distinguished by the iridescent metallic sheen of the minute globular sporangia up to 0.5mm. across, borne on long slender black stalks.

Editor's note: the presentation of this paper conforms with earlier papers in the same series.

THE WEATHER FOR 1978

by

T. E. ROGERS

On the whole, 1978 was a pleasant year, being a little drier and warmer than average, but, as is usually the case, there were one or two really noteworthy features. Foremost amongst these was the dryness of the late Summer and Autumn, only 37.5 mm (1.47 inches) of rain being recorded for the spell August–October, compared with the average of 225.2 mm (8.86 inches) for this period. Indeed, it was the driest such period at Marlborough since records were first started at the College in 1865 and the Meteorological Office estimate that, over the country as a whole, there has not been a drier Autumn since 1752.

The year opened with a very unsettled, wet period, although Wiltshire was fortunate to escape the mini-tornado which struck Newmarket and East Anglia on January 3rd. Snow was recorded on about half a dozen occasions, the biggest fall being of about 5 cms on February 18/19th, though some areas of the South-West and South Wales recorded heavier blizzards. Rapid thawing brought some flooding, but, otherwise, precipitation was not exceptional.

After a cool and dull April, May and June were distinctly dry apart from local thunderstorms. In contrast, 1978 brought the wettest July in Marlborough since 1950 with 94.7 mm of rain (3.7 inches), much of which came as a result of heavy storms at the end of the month. Then the dry spell followed and from August 15th to the end of October rain was only recorded on 14 occasions. In addition to being dry the Autumn was also the warmest since 1969 though, surprisingly perhaps, sunshine totals were not comparably high. The end of November brought the first cold snap of the Winter and thereafter the weather broke. A lot of rain fell in the second week of December and was followed on the 21st/22nd by moderate falls of snow, and although Christmas was a little warmer, the Year ended with the mercury falling rapidly and Country-wide easterly blizzards to greet the New Year.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Temperature</i>	<i>Rainfall</i>	<i>Sunshine</i>
J	0	++	+
F	--	0	0
M	++	0	+
A	--	0	--
M	+	—	0
J	0	—	—
J	—	++	—
A	—	--	0
S	0	---	+
O	++	---	0
N	++	--	+
D	0	++	0
<hr/>			
Totals for 1978:	8.94°C (48.1°F)	685.7 mm (27.0 ins)	1384 hours
<hr/>			
Yearly average figures: (Marlborough)	8.79°C (47.8°F)	826.2 mm (32.5 ins)	1431.6 hours
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N.B. In all three columns: 0 signifies 'average'; — means 'distinctly below average'; -- means 'very much below average'. The + and ++ signs have comparable positive meanings.

THE WEATHER FOR 1978

<i>Month</i>	<i>Av. Max.</i>	<i>Av. Min.</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Days of Air Frost</i>	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Mean for 114 years</i>
J	5.8°C	-0.1°C	2.9°C	18	10.2°C	-9.4°C	3.41°C
F	5.1	-0.6	2.3	18	12.3	-9.0	3.62
M	10.2	2.6	6.4	8	15.1	-3.9	5.04
A	9.8	2.6	6.2	7	17.5	-4.0	7.44
M	16.5	5.4	11.0	0	25.9	1.2	10.46
J	18.3	7.8	13.1	0	24.6	2.8	13.68
J	18.8	10.2	14.5	0	25.3	4.1	15.16
A	19.6	9.5	14.5	0	23.5	4.1	15.10
S	18.1	8.1	13.1	0	22.0	1.5	12.77
O	15.8	6.6	11.2	2	22.9	-0.3	9.12
N	11.3	4.6	8.0	8	15.9	-8.1	6.04
D	6.8	1.3	4.1	15	13.7	-6.6	3.65
<i>Whole Year: Mean:</i>			8.94°C	76	25.3°C	-9.4°C	8.79°C

<i>Month</i>	<i>Days of Rain</i>	<i>Rainfall</i>	<i>Mean for 114 years</i>	<i>Sunshine</i>	<i>Mean for 95 years</i>
J	19	106.8mm	78.6mm	(64)*	41.7
F	15	63.1	61.5	(62)	63.6
M	20	72.4	58.4	(130)	112.0
A	18	56.7	56.1	107.2	149.0
M	10	30.8	58.6	185.5	186.9
J	10	33.9	56.0	161.5	190.0
J	15	94.7	62.7	137.8	185.8
A	13	25.0	71.7	168.8	176.6
S	9	7.9	69.8	(170)	138.7
O	5	4.6	83.7	(88)	94.5
N	13	41.2	83.3	(77)	53.3
D	23	148.6	85.8	(36)	39.5
<i>Whole Year:</i>	170 days	685.7mm	826.2mm	1384 hrs	1431.6 hrs

*Sunshine figures in parentheses estimated with the help of R.A.F. Lyneham

WILTSHIRE PLANT NOTES (30)
Compiled by JOAN SWANBOROUGH
 (All records for 1978 unless otherwise stated)

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Bath Nat Hist Socy	BNHS	F.W. Merritt	FWM
C. Bindon	CB	A. Newton	AN
Mrs. B. Burt	BB	Mrs. E. Norman	EN
C. Caistor	CC	C. Quest-Ritson	CQR
E.J. Clement	EJC	R. Randall	RR
Mrs. E. Curtis	EC	M. Rebane	MR
Miss M. Compton	MC	D. Rice	DR
Miss W. Compton	WC	Mrs. F. Richardson	FDR
Miss B. Gillam	BG	C. Roberts	CR
D. Green	DG	E. Smith	ES
T. Harrison	TH	G. Smith	GS
Mr. & Mrs. Hook	J & NH	Mrs. O. Stewart	OS
Miss A. Hutchison	AMH	Rev. I. Stratton	IS
G.A. Mathews	GAM	Mrs. J. Swanborough	JS
Dr. R. Melville	RM		

- Eranthis hyemalis* (L.) Salisb. Winter Aconite. 2. Trackside at Blacklands FWM
Delphinium ambiguum L. Larkspur. Casual 2. Arable field near Bradford-on-Avon. DG
Thalictrum flavum L. Common Meadow-rue. 7. Nr. Marden Mill. TH. 5. Winterbourne Earls. 8. By River Wylde at Stockton. BG
Papaver rhoeas var. *hoffmanianum* L. Field Poppy. 1. Trowbridge Trading Estate. EC
Erucastrum gallicum (Willd.) O.E. Schulz. 1. Trowbridge Trading Estate EC. 2. Seend Old Station. JS
Sinapis alba ssp. *alba* L. White Mustard. 2. Derry Hill School. JS
Lepidium sativum L. Garden Cress. 2. Garden at Biddestone. MC. WC. JS. 1. Canal side Devizes. CB & JS. (Det EJC)
Barbarea vulgaris R. Br. Winter Cress. 7. Nr. Marden Mill. TH (Det. GAM)
Rorippa islandica (Oeder) Borbás. Marsh Yellow-cress. 2. Casual in rose-bed at Lackham. JS
Silene noctiflora L. Night-flowering Catchfly. 2. Nr. Great Chalfield. DG
Geranium columbinum L. Small Scabious. 8. Nr. Little Cheverell. TH
Genista tinctoria L. Dyer's Greenweed. 2. Lye's Green. DG
Medicago sativa L. Lucerne. 7. Waste ground near Castle Hill, Salisbury. AMH, FDR
Medicago arabica (L.) Huds. Spotted Medick. 2. Staverton. EC. Netherstreet. DG
Melilotus officinalis (L.) Pall. Melilot. 8. Imber Ranges. BG
Trifolium arvense L. Hare's-foot Trefoil. 2. Large colony by rail track at Freshford. DG
Filipendula vulgaris Moench. Dropwort. 2. Kingsdown. DG
Rubus bercheriensis 2. Edge of track in Webb's Wood. OS. Det. AN
Geum rivale x urbanum = *G. x intermedium* Ehrh. 4. Cakewood. EN
Rosa dumetorum Thuill. Wild Rose. 1. Canal path Devizes. BB
Rosa arvensis Huds. f. *bladensis* (Kern) Keller. 2. Edge of track in Webb's Wood. OS. Det. RM
Sorbus torminalis (L.) Crantz. French Hailes. 1. Westwood (1976) DR. N. Bradley, CC. 2. Great Wood, Grittenham. Easton Piercy and Upper Shaw Farm, DR.
Umbiliciscus rupestris (Salisb.) Dandy. Wall Pennywort. 2. Parsonage Farm at Winsley. DG
Epilobium roseum Schreb. Pale Willowherb. 1. Cheverell Wood. TH
Viscum album L. Mistletoe. On *Acer pseudoplatanus*. 1. Iford. RR & DG
Euphorbia lathyris L. Caper Spurge. 1. Trowbridge Trading Estate. EC
Polygonum bistorta L. Snakeweed or Bistort. 1. Nr. Chancefield Farm. DG
Fagopyrum esculentum Mill. Buckwheat. 1. Cheverell Wood. TH
Cyclamen hederifolium Ait. Cyclamen. 4. Alton Barnes ES & GS
Anagallis foemina Mill. 2. Bury Camp, Colerne. DG & RR
Atropa bella-donna L. Deadly Nightshade. 1. Garden weed at Devizes CB. 7. Three areas in Salisbury. AMH
Veronica agrestis L. Green Field Speedwell. 2. Melksham. CB. 2. Lackham. JS. Biddestone. JS.MC.WC
Lathraea squamaria L. Toothwort. 2. Warleigh Wood on *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Including a yellow form) RR

Calamintha ascendens Jord. Common Calamint. 1. Iford. DG
Prunella vulgaris L. Self-heal. Form with pink flowers. 8. For some years on Warden Down. JS
Lonicera xylosteum L. Fly Honeysuckle. 2. Seend Old Station. JS
Dipsacus pilosus L. Small Teasel. 2. Nr. Sandridge. CB.
Galinsoga ciliata (Raf.) Blake. Shaggy Soldier. 7. Woodborough. ES & GS
Senecio squalidus L. Oxford Ragwort. 1. One large plant in bridge kerbstone at Dewey's Water. BG
Solidago gigantea var. *serotina* Ait. 8. Roadside high above Bratton. JS Det. EJC
Artemisia biennis Willd. Mugwort. 1. Farm track at Dilton Marsh. EC
Cirsium dissectum (L.) Hill. 2. Meadow Thistle. 2. Bowden Hill. CB. JS
Crepis setosa Haller f. A rare casual of cultivated ground. 1. Disturbed ground near Westbury Station.
 TH
Ornithogalum pyrenaicum L. Spiked Star of Bethlehem. 1. Wood Nr. Vagg's Hill. BNHS & RR.
Allium paradoxum (Bieb.) G. Don. Few-flowered Leek. 1. Patch at edge of Poulshot Common. J &
 NH. JS
Allium vineale var. *vineale* L. Crow Garlic. 2. Nr. Alderton. DG
Coeloglossum viride (L.) Hartm. Frog Orchis. 1. Nr. Coulston Hill Erlestoke. TH
Plantanthera chlorantha (Custer) Reichb. Greater Butterfly Orchid. 2. At M.O.D. Nr. Monkton
 Farleigh (2 spikes) DG & RR
Dactylorhiza incarnata (L.) Vermeul ssp. *incarnata*; *D. strictifolia* Opiz. Meadow Orchid, Early Marsh
 Orchid. 7. One fine plant in river meadow below Stratford-sub-Castle. IS, Det. AMH
Dactylorhiza pratermissa (Druce) Soo. Marsh Orchid. 5. Hurdcott, 6. Stanton St. Bernard. 8. Imber
 Clump and Berwick St. James. BG
Anacamptis pyramidata Rich. Pyramid Orchid. 8. Imber Clump, Brouncker's Down and Honeydown.
 BG
Sparganium erectum ssp. *erectum* L. 2. Pond on Kingsdown. DG
Carex humilis Leyss. Dwarf Sedge. 8. Single clump NW side of road opposite Tilshead Down. BG
Gaudinia fragilis (L.) Beauv. 2. In several fields near Bowden Hill CB & JS. Det. EJC
Setaria viridis (L.) Beauv. Bristle Grass. 2. Derry Hill. JS
Zea Mais. Maize. 2. By drain on Bristol Road, Chippenham. JS

WHITE FLOWERED VARIETIES

Malva moschata L. Musk Mallow. 2. Devizes. MR
Geranium robertianum ssp. *robertianum* L. Herb Robert. 4. Ogbourne St. George. CB
Thymus drucei Ronn. Wild Thyme. 8. White Sheet Hill. EC. By Imber Clump. BG
Prunella vulgaris L. Self-heal. 2. Morgan's Hill. CQR. 4. Knapp Hill. JS
Scabiosa columbaria L. Small-flowered Scabious. 8. Butler's Cross. MR
Centaurea scabiosa L. Greater Knapweed. 2. Biddestone. MC
Anacamptis pyramidata Rich. Pyramid Orchid. 2. Biddestone. MC

ENTOMOLOGICAL REPORT 1978

by JOHN d'ARCY

Although the poor summer of 1978 boded ill for the annual report, some unusual sightings, an autumn good for moth migrants and some very comprehensive reports from new recorders have greatly improved the records.

The Wood White butterfly was reported as common in Wiltshire a hundred years ago; by the turn of the century it was local and widespread over many counties in the South and Midlands, although not in Wiltshire. In recent years besides one sighting at Whiteparish in 1945, the species was confined to Surrey, Sussex, Northamptonshire and the south-western counties; it was seen in Dorset in 1976 in four localities and with a record in the north of this county it may be extending its range, perhaps in a similar fashion to the Comma. The Wood White is widespread and quite common in Ireland.

The Barred Chestnut Clay is generally found on heaths and moorlands from the North Midlands to Cumberland, although it has occasionally been seen in some counties neighbouring Wiltshire; thus the sighting at Whaddon near Salisbury is not unexpected and it may previously have been overlooked being not easy to identify.

It is always a noteworthy event to see a Brown Hairstreak since it is such an elusive and local insect. It was not a particularly good year for butterfly migrants, but in October there was an exceptional flight of unusual moths over Wiltshire and the South of England generally; the Bordered Straw, the Delicate Wainscot and the Gem or Narrow-barred Carpet are all rare migrants to the county and large numbers of the common Angle Shades were seen. The Blair's Pinion – first recorded in Wiltshire in 1969 – seems to be spreading all over the county.

The opportunity has been taken to recast the format of this report and, in an effort to make it more useful and readable, locations of sightings have been given. It might help to list a few points for entomological recorders for use in the course of their observations – always note the precise location, the appearance of all migrants, the first dates of sighting even common species, any unusual behaviour or large number of specimens and any species not generally encountered or requiring specialised habitats as the blues or the hairstreaks.

I would like to thank all the contributors of these records, whose work particularly amongst the moths has so improved what promised to be a dull year.

CONTRIBUTORS

DB	Mr. David Brotheridge, Wroughton	FM	Mr. Frank Mead, Devizes
MB	Mrs. Marion Browne, West Kington	JP	Mr. Jack Pile, Edington
JB	Mr. John Buxton, East Tytherton, Chippenham	SR	Mrs. S.J. Rawlings, Box
JdA	Mr. John d'Arcy, Edington	SNHS	Salisbury and District Natural History Society
HE	Mr. Henry Edmunds, Cholderton	BGS	Mr. B.G. Smith, Ashton Common, Steeple Ashton
AG	Mr. Alan Gange, Whaddon, Salisbury	AS	Mr. Alan Stonell, Devizes
BG	Miss Beatrice Gillam, Devizes	RT	Mr. Robert Turner, Bratton
TDH	Mr. T.D. Harrison, West Lavington	JMW	Miss J.M. Ward, South Wraxall
AH	Mr. A. Hulme, Frome, Somerset	GW	Mr. Geoffrey Webber, Swindon
CGL	Major-General C.G. Lipscomb, Knook	BW	Mr. B.W. Weddell, Trowbridge

Melanargia galathea Linn.

Pear Tree Hill	7.7	AS
Porton Ranges	25.6	JdA
Calstone	10.8	JdA
Roundway Down	9.7	FM
Imber, abundant	12.7 to 19.8	BG, BGS, JP
Red Lodge	5.8	

Leptidea sinapis L.

Not seen in Wiltshire since 1945	Wood White	
North Wiltshire	26.5	DB

<i>Vanessa cardui</i> L.	Painted Lady	
Heddington	11.8	FM
Imber	26.8	EGS
<i>Polygonia c-album</i> L.	Comma	
Pear Tree Hill	13.8	FM
Somerford Common	15.8	DB
Whaddon, near Salisbury	20.10	SNHS
Heywood	27.7	JP
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> Linn.	Red Admiral	
Salisbury, visiting ivy blossom	16.11	SNHS
Pear Tree Hill	3.11	FM
Bromham	6.4	AS
West Kington	20.7	MB
Bratton	25.10	RT
<i>Limenitis camilla</i> L.	White Admiral	
Collingbourne Woods	16.7	FM
Red Lodge Wood, in some numbers'	16.7 to 13.8	BG, GLW
Heywood	27.7	JP
<i>Apatura iris</i> L.	Purple Emperor	
Somerford Common	27.7	DB
Blackmore Copse, more numerous than 1977 and spreading as far as Farley	July	SNHS
<i>Argynnis aglaia</i> L.	Dark Green Fritillary	
Imber	from 4.7 to 17.8	EGS, JP
Calstone	10.8	JdA
Porton Ranges	25.6	JdA
Grims Ditch	28.7	GLW
<i>Argynnis paphia</i> L.	Silver-washed Fritillary	
Collingbourne Woods	16.7	FM
Red Lodge and Somerford Common	15.8	DB
Great Ridge Wood	13.8	TDH
Imber	from 10.8 to 13.8	EGS
<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i> L.	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	
Somerford Common	4.6	DB
Great Ridge Wood	June	AH
<i>Clossiana selene</i> Schiff.	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	
Great Ridge Wood	9.6	DB
Savernake Forest	9.6	DB
<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> Rott.	Marsh Fritillary	
Imber	from 3.6 to 18.6	EGS, BG, JP
<i>Lysandra Coridon</i> Poda.	Chalkhill Blue	
Imber, chasing other species away	from 13.8 to 19.8	BG, EGS
Heddington, scarce	11.8	FM
Kingsplay Hill	23.8	BG
Barbury	27.8	DB
Sidbury Hill, numerous	28.8	GLW
Calstone	10.8	JdA
Bratton	8.8	JP
<i>Lysandra bellargus</i> Rott.	Adonis Blue	
Bratton	24.6	JdA
Imber	from 28.5 to 11.6	EGS
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i> Linn.	Holly Blue	
Heddington and Devizes, numerous	19.5	FM
West Kington	10.5	MB
Devizes	23.5	BG
Cole Park, Malmesbury	29.5	JB

<i>Aricia agestis</i> Schiff.	Brown Argus	
Roundway	2.6	FM
Calstone	10.8	JdA
Fyfield, Marlborough	20.8	DB
Barbury	20.8	DB
Imber	from 11.6 to 25.6	BG, EGS
<i>Cupido Minimus</i> Fuessl.	Small Blue	
Cotley Hill	June	AH
Imber	from 18.6 to 14.7	BG, RT
<i>Hamearis lucina</i> Linn.	Duke of Burgundy Fritillary	
Pear Tree Hill	4.6	FM
Cotley Hill	June	AH
Somerford Common	4.6	DB
Grovely Wood	3.6	RT
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i> Ochs.	Essex Skipper	
Little Cheverell	from 9.8 to 19.8	TDH, JdA
Imber	from 30.7 to 2.8	EGS
Bratton	12.8	BW
<i>Thecla quercus</i> Linn.	Purple Hairstreak	
Blackmore Copse, scarce	27.8	FM
Red Lodge and Somerford Common	13.8	GLW
Red Lodge	5.8	BG
Alderbury	4.8	SNHS
<i>Thecla betulae</i> Linn.	Brown Hairstreak	
An insect rarely seen. Coate Water	9.9	GLW
<i>Strymonidia w-album</i> Knoch.	White-letter Hairstreak	
Heddington	19.8	FM
Blackmore Copse	16.7	CGL
Heywood	27.7	JP
<i>Sphinx ligustri</i> L.	Privet Hawk	
Imber	29.7	EGS
Devizes	14.7	AS
Edington	29.6	JdA
<i>Hyloicus pinastris</i> L.	Pine Hawk	
Cholderton	20.6, 7.7	HE
Landford	30.7	AG
<i>Gastropacha quercifolia</i> Linn.	The Lappet	
Imber	from 20.7 to 5.8	EGS
Edington	4.8	JdA
West Lavington	12.7	TDH
Landford	30.7	AG
Whaddon, Salisbury	24.7	AG
<i>Stauropus fagi</i> L.	Lobster Prominent	
Whaddon, Salisbury	1.7	AG
<i>Chaonia ruficornis</i> Hufn.	Lunar Marbled Brown	
Whaddon, Salisbury	27.5	AG
<i>Odontotia carmelita</i> Esp.	Scarce Prominent	
Whaddon, Salisbury	30.4, 13.5	AG
<i>Cybosia mesomella</i> L.	Four-dotted Footman	
Somerford Common	20.6	DB
<i>Cycnia mendica</i> Clerck.	Muslin Ermine	
Ashton Common, a very late sighting	22.10	EGS
<i>Panaxia dominula</i> L.	Scarlet Tiger	
Whaddon, larvae	from 23.4 to 13.5	AG
<i>Hepialus fusconebulosa</i> Deg.	Map-winged Swift	
Ashton Common	5.8	EGS
<i>Lymantria monacha</i> L.	Black Arches	
Landford	30.7	AG
Whaddon, Salisbury	26.8	AG

<i>Apatele aceris</i> L.	The Sycamore	
Box	14.7	SR
Landford	30.7	AG
Whaddon, Salisbury	5.8	AG
<i>Craniophora Ligustri</i> Schiff.	The Crown	
Whaddon, Salisbury	3.6	AG
<i>Pyrria umbra</i> Hufn.	Bordered Sallow	
Box	24.8	SR
<i>Heliothis peltigera</i> Schiff.	Bordered Straw	
An occasional migrant to Wiltshire		
Edington	13.10	JdA
<i>Agrotis denticulatus</i> Haw.	Light Feathered Rustic	
Whaddon, Salisbury	27.5	AG
<i>Polia Nitens</i> Haw.	Pale Shining Brown	
Cholderton	6.7	HE
<i>Euxoa tritici</i> L.	White Line Dart	
Whaddon, Salisbury	12.8	AG
<i>Amathes Glareosa</i> Esp.	Autumnal Rustic	
Cholderton	20.9	HE
<i>Diarsia dahlia</i> Hübn.	Barred Chestnut Clay	
A new record for Wiltshire		
Whaddon, Salisbury	29.8	AG
<i>Hadena conspersa</i> Schiff.	Marbled Coronet	
Imber	10.7	EGS
<i>Peridroma porphyrea</i> Schiff.	Pearly Underwing	
Ashton Common	10.10	EGS
Edington	14.10	JdA
<i>Euschesis orbona</i> Hufn.	Lunar Yellow Underwing	
Whaddon, Salisbury	24.7, 10.8	AG
<i>Apamea ophiogramma</i> Esp.	Double-lobed	
Whaddon, larvae	23.4	AG
<i>Apamea sublustris</i> Esp.	Reddish Light Arches	
Imber	10.7, 28.7	EGS
West Lavington	12.7	TDH
<i>Cosmia affinis</i> L.	Lesser Spotted pinion	
Imber	5.8	EGS
Whaddon, Salisbury	28.7	AG
<i>Panameria tenebrata</i> Scop.	Small Yellow Underwing	
Somerford Common	1.6	DB
<i>Procus literosa</i> L.	Rosy Minor	
Wroughton	29.7	DB
Imber	29.7	JdA
Edington	4.8	JdA
<i>Orthosia populeti</i> F.	Lead-coloured drab	
Whaddon, Salisbury	22.4	AG
<i>Orthosia advena</i> Schiff.	Northern Drab	
Whaddon, Salisbury	30.4	AG
Edington	17.4	JdA
<i>Eremobia ochroleuca</i> Schiff.	Dusky Sallow	
Imber	from 28.7 to 9.8	EGS
Ashton Common	3.8, 5.8	EGS
Fyfield, Marlborough	20.8	DB
Landford	30.7	AG
Whaddon, Salisbury	29.8	AG
Edington	4.8, 11.8	JdA
<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i> L.	Angle Shades	
Cholderton	300 on 15.10	HE

<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i> Hübn.	Large Wainscot	
Wroughton	22.10	DB
Cholderton	15.10	HE
Whaddon, Salisbury	14.10	AG
<i>Leucania straminea</i> Treits.	Southern Wainscot	
Trowbridge	14.8	BW
<i>Leucania vitellina</i> Hübn.	Delicate Wainscot	
Very few County records		
Edington	13.10	JdA
<i>Oria musculosa</i> Hübn.	Downland Wainscot	
Edington, on Salisbury Plain	3 on 10.8, 4 on 17.8	JdA
<i>Aporophyla lunula</i> Stroem.	Black Rustic	
Ashton Common	30.8, 18.9	EGS
Wroughton	10.10	DB
Cholderton	70 on 15.10	HE
Whaddon, Salisbury	from 9.9 to 30.10	AG
Edington	from 21.9 to 13.10	JdA
<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i> Schiff.	Deep Brown Rustic	
Ashton Common	20.9	EGS
Edington	21.9	JdA
<i>Eumichtis adusta</i> Esp.	Dark Brocade	
Whaddon, Salisbury	9.9, 16.9	AG
<i>Graptolitha ornitopus</i> Hufn.	Grey Shoulder Knot	
Ashton Common	9.10	EGS
Whaddon, Salisbury	29.3	AG
Edington	19.10	JdA
<i>Lithophane semibrunnea</i> Haw.	Tawny Pinion	
Cholderton	23.10	HE
<i>Lithophane socia</i> Hufn.	Pale Pinion	
Edington	17.4	JdA
<i>Lithophane leautieri</i> Boisd.	Blair's Pinion	
Wroughton	12.10	DB
Cholderton	23.10	HE
Whaddon, Salisbury	26.9, 26.10	AG
Edington	13.10, 19.10	JdA
<i>Catocala sponsa</i> L.	Dark Crimson Underwing	
Landford	30.7	AG
<i>Chlorissa viridata</i> L.	Small Grass Emerald	
Ashton Common	16.7, 30.7	EGS
<i>Scopula immutata</i> L.	Lesser Cream Wave	
Whaddon, Salisbury	28.7	AG
<i>Acasis viretata</i> Hübn.	Yellow Barred Brindle	
Imber	10.8	EGS
Cholderton	3.6	HE
Whaddon, Salisbury	20.5, 26.8	AG
Trowbridge	14.8	BW
<i>Trichopteryx polycommata</i> Schiff.	Barred Tooth-striped	
Whaddon, Salisbury	30.3, 3.5	AG
<i>Rheumaptera undulata</i> L.	Scallop Shell	
Landford	30.7	AG
<i>Chesias legatella</i> Schiff.	The Streak	
Cholderton	15.10	HE
Whaddon, Salisbury	13.10	AG
<i>Orthonama lignata</i> Hübn.	Oblique Carpet	
Trowbridge	4.6	BW
<i>Thera firmata</i> Hübn.	Pine Carpet	
Whaddon, Salisbury	14.10, 4.11	AG
<i>Colostygia olivata</i> Schiff.	Beech-Green Carpet	
Whaddon, Salisbury	9.9	AG

<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i> Haw. Whaddon, Salisbury	Mottled Grey 8.4	
<i>Colostygia didymata</i> L. Whaddon, Salisbury	Twin-spot Carpet 27.5	AG
<i>Melanthia procellata</i> Schiff. Whaddon, Salisbury	Pretty Chalk Carpet 12.8, 17.8	AG
<i>Deuteronomos erosaria</i> Schiff. Ashton Common	September Thorn 3.8	EGS
<i>Selenia lunaria</i> Schiff. Somerford Common	Lunar Thorn 1.6	DB
<i>Semiothisa notata</i> L. Cholderton	The Peacock 20.6	HE
<i>Semiothisa alternata</i> Schiff. Ashton Common Cholderton Landford Whaddon, Salisbury Trowbridge	Sharp-angled Peacock 1.7 6.6 30.7 1.6 14.7	EGS HE AG AG BW
<i>Angerona prunaria</i> L. Somerford Common	The Orange 15.7	DB
<i>Eupithecia intricata</i> Zett. Ashton Common Trowbridge	Edinburgh Pug 10.6 6.6	EGS BW
<i>Eupithecia insigniata</i> Hübn. Cholderton	Pinion-spotted Pug 6.6	HE
<i>Eupithecia venosata</i> L. Cholderton	Netted Pug 5.6	HE
<i>Eupithecia tripunctaria</i> H.S. Cholderton Whaddon, Salisbury	White Spotted Pug 5.6 3.6	HE AG
<i>Eupithecia punchellata</i> Stephn. Whaddon, Salisbury	Foxglove Pug 1.6	AG
<i>Eupithecia succenturiata</i> L. Whaddon, Salisbury	Bordered Pug 19.8, 26.8	AG
<i>Eupithecia nanata</i> Hübn. Whaddon, Salisbury Landford	Narrow-winged Pug 26.8 30.7	AG AG
<i>Eupithecia dodoneata</i> Guen. Whaddon, Salisbury	Oak-tree Pug 6.5	AG
<i>Odezia atrata</i> L. Bratton Imber	Chimney Sweep 14.7 3.7, 16.7	BW EGS
<i>Lygris testata</i> L. Whaddon, Salisbury	The Chevron 3.9	AG
<i>Lygris prunata</i> L. Imber Trowbridge Cholderton	The Phoenix 9.8 3.8, 9.8 7.6	EGS EGS HE
<i>Euphyia rubidata</i> Schiff. Ashton Common	The Flame 28.6	EGS
<i>Rhodomtria sacraria</i> L. A rare migrant Cholderton	The Vestal 2 on 15.10	HE
<i>Nycterosea obstipata</i> F. Ashton Common Cholderton Whaddon, Salisbury	Narrow-barred carpet 19.7 15.10 26.10	EGS HE AG

<i>Apocheima hispidaria</i> Schiff. Whaddon, Salisbury	Small Brindled Beauty 8.3	AG
<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i> F. West Lavington	Gold-fringed Tabby 12.7	TDH
<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i> Treits. Somerford Common	Brown Grey 20.6	DB
<i>Myelois cribrumella</i> Hübn. Imber	Large Ermine Knot-horn 29.7	JdA
Box	24.8	SR
Wroughton	29.7	DB
<i>Laodamia fusca</i> Haw. Trowbridge	Brown Knot-horn 6.7	BW
<i>Pempellia dilutella</i> Hübn. Trowbridge	Powdered Knot-Horn 28.7	BW
<i>Platyptilia ochrodactyla</i> Schiff. Imber	Hoary Plume 29.7	JdA
<i>Acentropus niveus</i> Ol. Wroughton	False-caddis Water Veneer 29.7	DB
<i>Eudorea resinea</i> Haw. Wroughton	Resin Grey 29.7	DB
<i>Crambus pascuellus</i> L. Somerford Common	Inland Grass-veneer 19.6	DB
<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i> L. Somerford Common	Common Crimson-and-gold 1.6	DB
<i>Crambus pratellus</i> L. Somerford Common	Dark-Inlaid Grass-veneer 1.6	DB
<i>Crambus perlellus</i> Scop. Somerford Common	Yellow Satin Grass-veneer 1.6	DB
<i>Agriphila inquinatellus</i> Schiff. Trowbridge	Barred Grass-veneer 8.8	BW
<i>Caruna quercana</i> F. Trowbridge	Oak Long-horned Flat-body 4.8	BW
<i>Archips oporana</i> L. West Lavington	Great Brown Twist 12.7	TDH
<i>Amelia paleana</i> Hübn. Trowbridge	Plain Yellow Twist 26.7	BW
<i>Notocelia uddmanniana</i> L. Trowbridge	Uddman's Bell 6.7	BW
<i>Laspeyresia pomonella</i> L. Trowbridge	Codlin Piercer 10.7	BW
<i>Ancylis achatana</i> Schiff. Trowbridge	Marbled Tooth Roller 12.7	BW
<i>Acleris cristana</i> Schiff. Trowbridge	White-tufted Button 3.9	BW
<i>Telphusa fugitivella</i> Zell. Trowbridge	Suffused Groundling 10.7	BW
<i>Yponomeuta padella</i> L. Trowbridge	Common Hawthorn Ermel 26.7	BW
<i>Yponomeuta cognatella</i> Hübn. Trowbridge	Allied Ermel 8.8	BW
<i>Ypsolophus xylostellus</i> L. Trowbridge	Tooth-streaked Hooked Smudge 4.8	BW
<i>Ypsolophus scabrellus</i> L. Trowbridge	Wainscot Smudge 23.8	BW
<i>Nemotois metallicus</i> Poda. Bratton	Metallic Long-horn 18.7	JP

WILTSHIRE BIRD REPORT FOR 1977

Recorder: G.L. WEBBER

Compiled by: E.T. SMITH

These notes are a summary of the report for 1977 published in the 1978 Edition of *Hobby*, the magazine of the Wiltshire Ornithological Society, to whom readers should refer for further details. The report for 1978 was not available at the time of writing.

Unusual Spring records for 1977 were the Golden Oriole and Red-backed Shrike. A pair of Marsh Warblers bred in the North of the County, and at Tockenham Reservoir Ruddy Duck reared young. Autumn migration brought a Broad-billed Sandpiper to Swindon Sewage Farm, and a Pectoral Sandpiper to the Cotswold Water Park. Raptors seen included Rough-legged Buzzard and Goshawk on Salisbury Plain. During December, a Great Northern Diver was at Fonthill, and a Red-throated Diver was stranded in Chippenham.

Abbreviations: SF, Sewage Farm. SP, Sand Pit. CWP, Cotswold Water Park. Res., Reservoir.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

2. **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*. One adult at Fonthill Lake 10 Dec. until end of month.
4. **Red-Throated Diver** *G. stellata*. One found on a playing field in Chippenham 8 Dec. was released on a pond near Purton.
9. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Bred on a recently dredged lake at Lydiard Park and on the "new lake" at Coate Water.
16. **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*. One picked up from a gutter in Salisbury 2 Oct. was released near Christchurch.
28. **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Many records especially for Coate Water and CWP.
30. **Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. Bred at Semley for the first time since 1960.
46. **Teal** *Anas crecca*. Many records from Swindon SF, Coate Water, CWP, Corsham Lake and Axford. Highest number was c. 150 at Britford.
47. **Garganey** *A. querquedula*. Spring records: single males CWP 7/14 May, and Coate Water 22/25 June. Late summer: 2 CWP 15 Aug.
49. **Gadwall** *A. strepera*. Small numbers Coate Water Jan.; Chilton Foliat and Fonthill Lake Feb.; Steeple Langford and CWP Dec.
50. **Wigeon** *A. penelope*. Many records of small numbers during winter months from Britford, CWP, Chilton Foliat, Coate Water, Fonthill, Corsham Lake, Longleat and Steeple Langford.
52. **Pintail** *A. acuta*. Single males on R. Avon, Salisbury 22 April, Fonthill Lake 10 Dec. and Steeple Langford 24 Dec.
53. **Shoveler** *A. clypeata*. Winter records from Coate Water, Corsham Lake, CWP, Steeple Langford and Fonthill Lake. Single male seen until late July CWP.
54. **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*. A pair CWP Feb.—May, single male until Dec.; pair in nearby pit May/Oct.; 2 males during March and 2 immature males June.
56. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*. Bred at Coate Water, Corsham Lake, Shalbourne cress beds, R. Kennet, Wilton Water and CWP. Winter flocks at Fonthill, Coate Water, Froxfield, Steeple Langford and CWP.
57. **Pochard** *A. ferina*. A pair May and a male June Coate Water. Winter flocks: over 600 CWP Nov., 163 Steeple Langford 24 Dec., 54 Corsham Lake 8 Dec., 90 Fonthill Lake 9 Jan., 58 Coate Water 22 Oct., 20 Wilton Water Dec.
60. **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*. 3 immatures Coate Water Jan.—April 26; Nov.—Dec. usually one, occasionally two. Singles Corsham Lake, 7/27 Nov., CWP Feb./March/Nov.; 2 Steeple Langford 24 Dec.
64. **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*. Adult male Corsham Lake 7 Aug.
Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*. First breeding record for the County from Tockenham Reservoir. 2 Corsham Lake Dec.; 5 Coate Water 8 Jan.; female Braydon Pond 29 Sep.
70. **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*. Up to 2 CWP Jan./March/Nov.; one female Frogmore Ponds, Westbury 26 Jan.; up to 7 Coate Water Feb./Nov./Dec.
71. **Smew** *M. albellus*. One Coate Water 23/24 Nov.; one CWP 3/10 Dec.
73. **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. Coate Water throughout year; Wilton Water Feb./March, Corsham Lake 19 April; CWP April/May; Wilton Water 18 Sept. Maximum number 2.
75. **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*. One Wilton Water all year. Up to 9 CWP with a pair breeding. One Coate Water 16 June.

76. **White-Fronted Goose** *A. albifrons*. One Wilton Water Feb./March; Coate Water 1 April. One Stratford-sub-Castle Feb.—April; 2 Standlynch in March.
81. **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*. One Coate Water 17 May, Chilton Foliat 30 Aug., Wilton Water 24 Aug. All could be the same bird. perhaps an escape.
82. **Canada Goose** *B. canadensis*. Bred at Bowood Lake, Coate Water, Lacock GP, Littlecote and R. Marden.
86. **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus bewickii*. 23 flew into Wiltshire from Shorncliffe SF 9 Jan.; 12 Standlynch 5 Mar., 8–12 Mar. One in flight CWP 27 Nov.
91. **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*. 2 successful breeding records.
92. **Rough-legged Buzzard** *B. lagopus*. 2 records of birds in flight: Hippenscombe 11 Oct., Woodfalls 5 Nov.
93. **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*. Many records; 2 of successful breeding.
94. **Goshawk** *A. gentilis*. Norton Down 21 Feb./5 Sept.
99. **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Immature in flight Roundway Hill 5 Sept.
100. **Hen Harrier** *C. cyaneus*. 12–20 probably present in open areas. Extreme dates 8 April/8 Oct. Two roosts located, one in the South and one near Imber.
103. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. One in Salisbury area, one Coate Water: both seen late May.
104. **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*. Over 70 records, at least two breeding. Earliest 25 April, latest 3 Oct.
107. **Merlin** *F. columbarius*. 30 records, most Nov.—Feb. Extreme dates. 7 May/24 Sept.
110. **Kestrel** *F. tinnunculus*. Numbers probably now near maximum.
115. **Red-Legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*. Widely reported.
116. **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*. Widely reported.
117. **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. Over 30 records of calling birds 25 May–21 Aug.
120. **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*. Last in Spring near Norton Bavant 20 March. First in Autumn Fyfield Down 17 Sept.
125. **Corncrake** *Crex crex*. One on allotments Bromham 8 May.
131. **Oyster Catcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*. Singles Bishopston 6 Mar., Swindon 10 Mar., CWP 15 May/4 Aug., Salisbury 12 July.
134. **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. Singles CWP April/May, Neston 28 Aug., Calne SP 20 Aug.
135. **Little Ringed Plover** *C. dubius*. 4 pairs attempted to breed. CWP, Coate Water, Swindon SF April–Aug.
136. **Kentish Plover** *C. alexandrinus*. One CWP 1 May.
139. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. 2 CWP 30 May.
140. **Golden Plover** *P. apricaria*. Winter flocks c. 1,000 Keevil 9 Jan., Broad Hinton 6 Feb., Wilsford 20 Feb., Barbury 17 April, Broad Hinton 23 April.
142. **Dotterel** *Eudromias morinellus*. One Fosbury May.
143. **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. One Liden Lagoon, Swindon 22 Aug.
145. **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*. Up to 60 Swindon SF, 36 Coate Water during winter months.
147. **Jack Snipe** *Limnocryptes minimus*. Singles Swindon SF 12 Mar., CWP 15 April, Longbridge Deverill 16 Apr., Rood Ashton 20 Nov. Up to 5 Lacock GP Oct.
148. **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*. Roding at Grovely Wood, Gare Hill, Chilton Foliat, Dilton Marsh, Shalbourne, Somerford Common, Shearwater. 16 flushed at Blackball Firs 26 Dec.
150. **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*. Breeding near Wedhampton, Lydeaway, Ravensroost, Blunsdon and Somerford Common.
151. **Whimbrel** *N. phaeopus*. In flight: 3 Swindon 16 Apr., one Coate Water 26 Apr., one Old Sarum 14 July, 9 Swindon 2 Aug., 5 CWP 20 Aug.
154. **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. Singles Coate Water 27 Mar./11 Sept. 2 at Britford 2 Oct.
156. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. Wintering birds Chilton Foliat, Fonthill, Kingston Deverill, CWP, Britford, Steeple Langford. 12 Swindon SF 26 Aug. up to 9 CWP July/Aug.
157. **Wood Sandpiper** *T. glareola*. Singles Coate Water 20 May, Calne SP 12/14 Aug., CWP 15/18 Aug., Swindon SF 18/21/26 Aug.
159. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*. Spring passage late Apr., early May; Autumn passage July–Oct. Many records.
161. **Redshank** *T. totanus*. Bred at Eysey Farm (Cricklade), Coate Water, Littlecote, CWP.
162. **Spotted Redshank** *T. erythropus*. Singles CSP 17 Apr., 12/21 May 2 19 June.
165. **Greenshank** *T. nebularia*. CWP, Coate Water Swindon SF mainly May/Aug.
176. **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*. First County record CWP 6–16 Oct.
178. **Dunlin** *C. alpina*. Many records Coate Water, Liden Lagoon (Swindon), CWP.
181. **Sanderling** *C. alba*. 3 Liden Lagoon 7 June; one Coate Water 14 Aug.
184. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. 2 Chiseldon 3 Jan.; singles CWP 6 Mar/26 Sept.; Coate Water 20 Aug.; Swindon SF 21 Sept.
189. **Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedipnemus*. Only 2 breeding records.

207. **Little Gull** *Larus minutus*. 2 adults Coate Water 3 Jan.; one immature CWP 8–16 Oct.
212. **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*. Coate Water, CWP, Corsham Lake May/Aug.
217. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. Coate Water Apr./May/Aug.
218. **Arctic Tern**. *S. paradisea*. 2 Coate Water, 2 in CWP 20 Aug.
223. **Sandwich Tern**. *S. sandvicensis*. 3 Coate Water 12 June.
235. **Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*. First Roundway 29 April; last Erlestone 9 Oct.
237. **Cuckoo**. *Cuculus canorus*. First Gutch Common, Steeple Langford 16 April; last Imber 10 Sept.
241. **Barn Owl** *Tyto laba*. Only 2 definite breeding records. Much commoner in central and southern areas than in North.
248. **Long-Eared Owl**. *Asio otus*. 6 Swindon SF 5 Jan.; one Fyfield Down 13 Feb.
249. **Short-Eared Owl** *A. flammeus*. Everleigh, Beckhampton, Fyfield Down, Bishopstone, Larkhill, Imber, Beckhampton Jan.–April; Oct.–Dec.
252. **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*. One Grovely Wood.
255. **Swift** *Apus apus*. First Coate Water 18 Apr.; last also there 28 Sept.
261. **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. Singles West Ashton 1/5 May, Norton 6 May.
264. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*. A large number of new sites reported.
265. **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*. One Sidbury Hill 4 Sept.
271. **Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*. One Coate Water 22 Jan.
274. **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. First Coate Water 19 March; last Steeple Langford 23 Oct.
276. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*. First Coate Water 2 Apr.; last South Wraxall 2 Nov.
277. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*. First on R. Wylye 4 Mar.; last Calne SP 29 Sept. Bred CWP c. 35 holes, Calne SP c. 80 holes, R. Avon at Chippenham c. 20 holes, R. Avon at Salisbury City Centre c. 20 holes.
278. **Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*. One male Southwick 4 Apr.
281. **Hooded Crow** *Corvus corore cornix*. One West Ashton 14 Dec.
300. **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*. Bred on By brook and Fonthill Lake.
302. **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*. Last in Spring c. 30 Longbridge Deverill 19 Apr. First in Autumn 4 Great Ridge Wood 8 Oct.
304. **Redwing** *T. iliacus*. Last in Spring 4 Great Bedwyn 16 Apr. First in Autumn Bradford-on-Avon, Swindon 2 Oct.
307. **Red Ouzel** *T. torquatus*. Singles Sutton Veny 22 Mar., Beacon Hill 8 Apr., Swindon 14 Apr., Fyfield. One autumn record Clearbury Down 7 Sept.
311. **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*. First Albourne 19 Mar. Last Westdown Ranges 14 Oct.
317. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*. Widespread up to March and from late Sept. Two known breeding pairs.
318. **Whinchat** *S. rubetra*. First Imber 24 Apr.; last Steeple Ashton 2 Oct. Bred at Imber (6 pairs), Aldbourne, Water Dean Bottom, Everleigh and near Stonehenge.
320. **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. First Grovely Wood 9 Apr.; last Westbury 19/24 Oct. Bred Imber and Maiden Bradley.
321. **Black Redstart** *P. ochruros*. Breeding site at Bulford only occupied by a female which laid 4 eggs, but failed to hatch. Autumn records from Littleton Down 23 Oct., Greenland Camp 29 Oct. central Swindon 6 Nov., Trowbridge 6/17 Nov.
322. **Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*. First Shalbourne 19 Apr.
327. **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*. First Chippenham Golf course 17 Apr., last Swindon SF 30 Aug.
333. **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. First Coate Water 26 Apr., last Liddington 12 Sept. Bred Coate Water c. 30 pairs, Corsham Lake c. 7 pairs, Tockenham Res. c. 4 pairs, R. Nadder at Salisbury c. 6 pairs.
334. **Marsh Warbler** *A. palustris*. One N. Wiltshire 7 July, later adult seen feeding nearly fledged young.
337. **Sedge Warbler** *A. schoenobaenus*. First Bradford-on-Avon 18 Apr.; last Swindon SF 25 Sept.
343. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. Many wintering birds feeding on honeysuckle, cotoneaster and pyracantha throughout the County.
346. **Garden Warbler** *S. borin*. First Lydiard Park 30 Apr.; last Lavington 11 Sept.
347. **Whitethroat** *S. communis*. First Kingston Deverill 17 Apr.; last Lacock 13 Oct. The recovery of this species is continuing.
348. **Lesser Whitethroat** *S. curruca*. First Imber 3 Apr.; last Swindon SF 29 Sept.
354. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*. First Longbridge Deverill 24 March; last Liddington 23 Sept.
356. **Chiffchaff** *P. collybita*. Westbury SF 29 Jan., Ramsbury 6 Feb., Longbridge Deverill 3 Mar. Latest date Holt and Swindon 8 Oct.

357. **Wood Warbler** *P. Sibilatrix*. First Coate Water 28 Apr., noted in song at Stourton and Maiden Bradley May/July. 2 Bedwyn Common 22 May, Gutch Common 26 June.
366. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*. First Kingston Deverill 28 Apr., last Corsham, Liddington, Swindon SF 25 Sept.
368. **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Spring records Imber 16/17 Apr., Turleigh 17 Apr., Eastleigh Wood 19 Apr., Bradford Leigh 20 Apr., Bradford-on-Avon 24/27 Apr., Shalbourne 26 Apr., Steeple Ashton 23 May. Autumn records Imber 28 Aug., Middle Winterslow 29 Aug.
376. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*. First Coate Water 8 Apr.; last Longleat 7 Oct. Bred at Maiden Bradley, Semley and Somerford Common.
379. **Rock/Water Pipit** *A. spinoletta*. One CWP 10 Oct. of race *A.s. petrosus*. 2 at Longbridge Deverill 9 Jan./5 Mar., one Britford 28 Dec. of race *A.s. spinoletta*.
380. **White Wagtail** *Motucilla alba alba*. Axford 17 Apr., Shalbourne 19 Apr., CWP 24 Apr., Coate Water 26/29 Apr.
382. **Yellow Wagtail** *M. flava*. First Axford 8 Apr.; last Swindon SF 2 Oct.
384. **Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*. Singles Westbury 1 Jan., Swindon SF 3 Jan., Shalbourne 8 Apr., Nunton 27 Nov.
388. **Red-backed Shrike** *L. collurio*. A nest in Swindon area was robbed where a pair had been seen late June/July. A female Durnford Valley 28 Aug.
391. **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. 2 Hare Warren, Wilton 11 July.
394. **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*. Many records Jan.—Mar. and Sept.—Dec.
397. **Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*. Site at Somerford Common occupied during breeding season.
404. **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*. Up to 7 Shearwater/Longleat area Jan.—Mar.; c. 15 Grovely Wood 9 July.
408. **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*. Largest party c. 15 Marlborough Downs Nov.
415. **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*. Kingston Deverill area May. Bred at Winterslow.

Certain common species, escapes from captivity and unusual or rare species, for which evidence was insufficient for positive identification, have not been included.

ERRATA TO W.N.H.S. MAGAZINE VOL. 73 1978 BIRD NOTES FOR 1976

134. should be 135. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadius dubius*
 380. **Pied/White Wagtail**
 423. **Snow Bunting** One seen.

MAMMAL REPORT 1978

Compiled by MARION BROWNE

The survey of Wiltshire Reptiles and Amphibians continues, and work on material for publication is in progress. Records are still required, please send as many as you can to Mrs. M. Browne, Latimer Lodge, West Kington, Chippenham SN14 7JJ.

During 1978 a total of more than 1159 mammal records was received and these have been plotted on the distribution maps of the county. The records are summarised in the following pages and the number received for each species is given, but no individual details are included.

Many species, especially those generally regarded as common, are too often overlooked and are therefore under-recorded. It also happens that some species are not recorded because they are thought to be "vermin", a term applied by the user to any animal whose interests are in conflict with his own; thus the term is not used by a farmer and a forester, for example, to describe the same species. It is to be hoped that naturalists will be more objective and try to observe all species with equal and impartial interest.

Where relevant, in the Summary of Mammal Records 1978, a list is given for each species of the 10 km. squares lying wholly or partially within Wiltshire for which no records at all have been received. It would be much appreciated if contributors living in or near, or travelling through, these squares would make a special effort to record mammals in them. Without these records the distribution maps are incomplete and it will not be possible to determine the status of most Wiltshire mammals.

Mammals and the Law

From the first day of January 1978 it is an offence to kill, injure or take an otter (*Lutra lutra*), which is now protected in England and Wales under The Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975.

Surveys are in progress, but the outlook for the future of the otter as a breeding species in Wiltshire does not look very promising at the moment. Any-one finding otter signs, possible sightings, or dead otters, please contact Mrs Browne at Castle Combe 782 222 without delay so that the information can be followed up before the evidence disappears.

1978 otter records have been included in the summary, but the areas concerned have all since been surveyed and no evidence found of resident otters on the river systems.

Mammals and the Weather

The exceptionally heavy and prolonged rain during June and early July caused a severe shortage of insects. All the British bat species are insectivorous and feed on the wing: they were adversely affected by the shortage of flying insects to such an extent that, although giving birth to their young normally, the females were unable to produce sufficient milk to suckle the babies, many of which were therefore abandoned. This problem was not confined to Wiltshire. As far as was known, only the pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) was affected and other bat species, which breed later in the year, were successful in rearing their young.

Efforts were made to rear several baby pipistrelles and will be described in detail in a later bulletin.

Other orphaned mammals, which can normally be reared for return to the wild without too much difficulty, suffered from exposure to the wet weather before rescue and this resulted in respiratory troubles later; dry cold is less of a hazard to mammals than exposure to wet cold. The histories of some 1978 orphans other than bats will be reported in later bulletins. This report is written with a baby weasel asleep in one cardigan sleeve, which makes a good hammock; hopefully, 1979 will be a better year for orphans than 1978.

Abbreviations: KAC, Kennet and Avon Canal; juv., juvenile; km., kilometre; R., River; ♂, male; ♀, female

A Summary of Mammal Records 1978

Order Insectivora – insectivores
Family Erinacidae

Erinaceus europaeus

Hedgehog

212 records from 24 10 km. squares

Live: 33 April to December inclusive, 9 undated.

Signs: 25 droppings April to October, several undated. Dead: 195.

TABLE I. ROAD CASUALTIES

February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	2	16	32	21	34	26	28	22	15	4

Unrecorded 10 km. squares: ST 99, 77, 73, 82, 91; SU 28, 37, 35, 22, 21.

Family Talpidae

Talpa europaea

Mole

69 records from 21 10 km. squares

Live: 2. Signs: spoil heaps at 61 sites. Dead: 6

Unrecorded 10 km. squares: ST 99, 77, 91.

Family Soricidae

Sorex araneus

Common shrew

66 records from 11 10 km. squares

Live: 11. Dead: 55 in milk, lemonade, beer, Schweppes bottles, Longworth and mouse traps.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 77, 97, 82, 92, 91; SU 09, 29, 18, 28, 37, 36, 04, 02.

Sorex minutus

Pygmy shrew

10 records from 5 10 km. squares

Dead: in milk and medicine bottles, in traps, on road, and killed by cat.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 88, 77, 97, 84, 73, 82, 92, 91; SU 09, 29, 08, 18, 28, 07, 37, 26, 04, 24, 12, 21.

Neomys fodiens

Water shrew

16 records from 8 10 km. squares

Live: 12. Dead: 3 in pint and ½ pint milk bottles, 1 on road.

Unrecorded: St 99, 77, 97, 94, 73, 83, 82, 92; SU 19, 29, 08, 18, 28, 37, 06, 25, 35, 04, 24, 03, 02, 12, 21.

Order Chiroptera – bats

Family Rhinolophidae

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum

Greater horseshoe bat

Winter roosts: 2 records from 2 10 km. squares

Rhinolophus hipposideros

Lesser horseshoe bat

Live: 2 records from 2 10 km. squares

Family Vespertilionidae

Myotis bechsteini **Bechstein's bat**
Live: 1 record

Myotis daubentoni **Water bat**
Live: 2 records from 2 10 km. squares

Eptesicus serotinus **Serotine**
2 records from 1 10 km. square

Breeding colony: 1 Dead: 1

Pipistrellus pipistrellus **Pipistrelle**
12 records from 6 10 km. squares

Breeding colony: 2. Live: 8. Dead: 3.

Plecotus auritus **Common long-eared bat**
7 records from 6 10 km. squares

Breeding colonies: 2. Roosts: 2. Live: 2. Dead: 1

Order Lagomorpha – Lagomorphs
Family Leporidae

Lepus capensis **Brown hare**
77 records from 30 10 km. squares

Live: 138 Signs: 2 tracks. Dead: 18 on road, 8 elsewhere.
Unrecorded: ST 99; SU, 08, 37, 24, 02, 22, 21.

Oryctolagus cuniculus **Rabbit**
178 records from 32 10 km. squares

Live: + 252. Signs: droppings at 25 sites. Dead: 38 on road, 2 shot, 1 killed by dog.
Myxomatosis: summer, Shalbourne; April and August, Southcott.
Unrecorded: ST 99, 73, 91; SU 09, 28, 04, 02.

Order Rodentia – rodents
Family Sciuridae

Sciurus carolinensis **Grey squirrel**
60 records from 19 10 km. squares

Live: 50, all months. Signs: 4 opened nuts, 2 dreys. Dead: 6 on road, 3 on gibbets, 1 shot.
Unrecorded: ST 99, 73, 91; SU 09, 28, 04, 02.

Family Cricetidae

Clethrionomys glareolus **Bank vole**
26 records from 11 10 km. squares

Live: 113. Signs: open nuts at 8 sites. Dead: 3 in milk bottles and traps, 1 killed by cat.
Unrecorded: ST 99, 88, 77, 73, 82, 92, 91; SU 29, 28, 37, 25, 24, 12, 21.

Microtus agrestis

Field vole

36 records from 13 10 km. squares

Live: 29 Signs: runs at 9 sites. Dead: 46 in milk and beer bottles, mouse traps, 1 caught by cat.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 77, 95, 73, 82, 92, 91; SU 29, 08, 18, 28, 35, 04, 24, 02, 21.

Arvicola terrestris

Water vole

22 records from 10 10 km. squares

Live: 24 Signs: droppings at 2 sites.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 88, 84, 94, 73, 83, 91; SU 08, 28, 25, 35, 04, 23, 02, 12, 21.

Family Muridae

Apodemus sylvaticus

Wood mouse

35 records from 13 10 km. squares

Live: 31. Signs: opened nuts at 5 sites. Dead: 33 in milk bottles and mouse traps.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 77, 73, 93, 82, 92; SU 09, 29, 18, 28, 37, 35, 04, 24, 03, 12, 21.

Apodemus flavicollis

Yellow-necked mouse

3 records from 2 10 km. squares

Dead: 11 in mouse traps.

Microymys minutus

Harvest mouse

8 records from 6 10 km. squares

Live: 1. Nests: 16 in hedge, reed bed, stooked corn. Dead: 1 on road, 1 trapped in bedroom.

Unrecorded: ST 76, 82, 91; SU 21.

Mus musculus

House mouse

10 records from 8 10 km. squares

Live: 7. Dead: +6 in water butt and trapped in jam cupboard.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 88, 77, 76, 84, 73, 83, 93, 92, 91; SU 29, 18, 37, 35, 04, 24, 23, 02, 12, 21.

Rattus norvegicus

Common rat (Brown rat)

40 records from 18 10 km. squares

Live: 9. Colonies: 2. Swimming: several in KAC, Clacton Brook, R. Biss. Dead: 24 on road.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 77, 74, 73, 83, 93, 91; SU 09, 29, 08, 35, 04, 21.

Family Gliridae

Muscardinus avellanarius

Dormouse

5 records from 4 10 km. squares

Live: 3. Nests: 1 in brambles, 6 in nest boxes.

Order Carnivora – carnivores
Family Canidae

Vulpes vulpes

Fox

90 records from 28 10 km. squares

Live: 56 including 3 chasing hares, 1 killing goose, several with cubs, several rabbiting.

Signs: 31 scats, earths, scent, calls, tracks in snow. Dead: 15 on road, 1 on gibbet, 1 shot.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 74, 91; SU 09, 24, 02, 22.

Family Mustelidae

Mustela erminea

Stoat

36 records from 14 10 km. squares

Live: 22, 4 carrying prey, 1 in Longworth trap, 1 chased by rabbit.

Dead: 6 on road, 1 on gibbet.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 76, 73, 92, 91; SU 29, 08, 18, 28, 07, 04, 02, 22.

Mustela nivalis

Weasel

46 records from 14 10 km. squares

Live: 34, 1 carrying prey, 1 orphan juv. ♂, 1 ♀ in Longworth trap and recaptured 3 hours later.

Signs: 1 scat. Dead: 1 on road.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 77, 73, 92; SU 28, 35, 14, 02, 12, 22.

Mustela vison

Mink

16 records from 3 10 km. squares

Live: 1 on Corsham Lake, 14 on Bristol Avon, 3 on R. Lodden.

Meles meles

Badger

32 records from 17 10 km. squares

Live: 9. Active setts: 9. Signs: tracks at 7 sites. Dead: 8 on road. Destroyed: 1 sett during road works at Knook.

Unrecorded: ST 91; SU 09, 29, 37, 36, 35, 24, 22.

Lutra lutra

Otter

5 records from 4 10 km. squares

Live: 3. Signs: Tracks at 1 site. Dead: 1 ♂ on road.

Order Artiodactyla – even-toed ungulates
Family Cervidae

Cervus elaphus

Red deer

Live: 1 ♂ seen grazing with cattle on downland.

Dama dama

Fallow deer

14 records from 6 10 km. squares

Live: +13. Signs: Slots at 8 sites.

Capreolus capreolus

Roe deer

25 records from 13 10 km. squares

Live: 2. Signs: slots at 12 sites.

Unrecorded: ST 99, 88, 77, 76, 86, 91; SU 09, 19, 29, 18, 28, 07, 36, 35, 04, 14, 24, 13.

Muntiacus reevesi

Chinese muntjac

5 records from 5 10 km. squares.

Live: 3. Signs: slots at 2 sites

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REPORTS

Chairman's Report

by

C.E. Jennings

This last year has seen the Natural History Section continue to provide opportunities for members to participate in a good varied programme of indoor and field meetings. However, it also marked the sudden death of Mr. Richard Sandell, 'Dick' to all his friends, and whilst we mourn his loss the Section is greatly indebted to him for all his work on its behalf, not least in his efforts to achieve the publication of the *Supplement to the Flora of Wiltshire*.

It is with this in mind that I am pleased to report that the reprint of Mr. Grose's *Flora of Wiltshire* will be published early in the autumn of this year. A book on the reptiles and amphibians of the county is being prepared under the editorship of Mr. Patrick Dillon and publication of this is anticipated for early 1980. Work continues on the manuscript for 'The Mammals of Wiltshire' and I hope we can shortly predict a likely publishing date.

The Committee has met regularly to consider the Section's activities and in particular its with similar adjustments for other categories of membership. We have an increasing number of claims from members of the Parent Society which we welcome but we do need actively to promote membership – if each member could introduce at least one new member this year it would considerably strengthen our Section.

The Biological Species Records are now housed at the Museum and this work is being carried out by an assistant employed through the Manpower Services Scheme in close liaison with Mr. Stewart Lane of the Nature Conservancy Council and Mr. Patrick Dillon representing our Section.

The Section has continued to work closely with the Parent Society with representatives serving on the Council and on most Committees. We have been privileged to be able to hold most of our indoor meetings at the Museum and this has seemed to be a popular venue. However, with the ever increasing cost of heating and lighting it would seem reasonable to make a donation for the use of this room. Therefore, the Committee recommend that we make a small charge for each indoor meeting, this to include the provision of coffee and to enable a donation to be made for the use of the lecture hall. I hope members will consider this reasonable and continue to support all the lectures. Attendance at some field meetings has been rather low and with the increase in travel costs we will plan a few meetings where a coach or a mini-bus will be provided.

In closing may I thank all my fellow Officers and Committee for their help in many ways, particularly Mr. Barron for his work on the *Magazine* and Mr. Dillon for his efforts in producing the *Bulletins*. Regrettably we say farewell to Mr. J. Stevenson from the Committee and wish him well as he takes up his new post with the Wildfowl Trust.

Librarian, Programme Secretary and Bulletin Editor's Report

by

Patrick J. Dillon

Library

The Natural History Section Library has been considerably expanded following the bequest of the natural history volumes from the library of the late Mr. Richard Sandell. Dick was primarily a botanist and during his lifetime he put together a comprehensive library on the subject, including many county and local floras. We are very fortunate to have this collection which now makes our botanical section the finest in the county. All of Dick's volumes will be marked with a special commemorative label.

Programme

We have had nine field meetings: Savernake Forest, Lacock, Pewsey Downs, Buckland Warren (Oxfordshire), Lavington, Brown's Folly, West Woods, the Cotswold Water Park and Chute Standen. The recently established tradition of arranging joint meetings with other societies was continued; the Buckland meeting was held in conjunction with the Abingdon Naturalists' Society and was rather poorly attended by our members; we had a successful meeting at Brown's Folly with the Junior Section of the Mammal Society; the meeting at West Woods was held with members of an Adult Education Course on Mammals that I was running and the Cotswold Water Park meeting was held with the Wiltshire Ornithological Society.

We reduced the number of field meetings from last year and compensated by increasing the number of indoor meetings from five to eight. In September Marion Browne gave us an illustrated talk on the hunted fox, an interesting follow up to David Macdonald's talk on foxes last year. Mr. and Mrs. E. Burt came in October to show us slides of habitats in Kent and Sussex; it was a refreshing change to hear about somebody else's corner of the country. Another Mr. Burt (Mr. Ron Burt on this occasion) brought us back home again in November with slides on Savernake Forest. In February Charles Quest-Ritson and John d'Arcy gave us an illustrated lecture on the Flowers of the Caucasus. In March we were fortunate enough to have Sir Christopher Andrewes to talk on Ichneumons and other insects that parasitise their close relatives. Unfortunately, a delay in the production of the programme card meant that this meeting received very little publicity and as a result it was poorly attended. The most recent indoor meeting was my evening of slides of reptiles and amphibians which aimed to provide information on identification to assist people with the county-wide survey of reptiles and amphibians which is currently underway.

Bulletin

Once again I have produced two *Bulletins* in the last year, each carrying a Programme of Meetings, Reports of Meetings, Section Notices and other notices extracted from journals and, of course, members articles.

The quality of material submitted for publication has shown a steady improvement since the Bulletin has been produced in its present form and members will have noticed that the quality of reproduction has also improved with the last issue; this is because the stencils are now typed on the new electric typewriter here at the Museum as opposed to my portable which coped with the job for three years.



