

THE VASCULUM (SUBSTITUTE)

March 1945

Vol. XXX. No. 1.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free.

Edited by

J. W. HESLOP HARRISON, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
KING'S COLLEGE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

BY THE WAY

Secretaries of our Societies are requested to send us reports of their various activities by January 15th, April 16th, September 15th and November 15th for insertion in the appropriate quarterly issue. Notes and records maybe sent to Professor Heslop Harrison at any time.

PUBLICATIONS DEALING WITH LOCAL NATURAL HISTORY

Several times during recent years, owing to the value of certain of the papers published by the Vale of Derwent Naturalists' Field Club, we have been asked about the possibility of obtaining copies of its Transactions. In the early days, this Society had its headquarters at Burnopfield, and its publications appeared in two forms. The first volumes, bearing the title *Notes on the History, Geology and Botany of the Vale of Derwent* began to appear about the year 1890, whilst the more orthodox *"Transactions"* flourished in the first decade of the present century. We ourselves have only seen odd volumes of both of these series, and have had to inform applicants that no easily accessible complete run seems to exist. Might we therefore suggest that anyone possessing spare copies of volumes of this important periodical would confer lasting benefit on local and other naturalists if they would present them to the library of King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, where research workers from all parts of the country could consult them?

Again in a paper written in 1896, the late Mr. J. R. Johnson refers to the *"Newcastle Naturalists' Annual."* Can our readers assist us in tracing this, and, if possible, in securing copies?

A FORGOTTEN PAPER BY NATHANIEL JOHN WINCH

Recently, whilst burrowing into old copies of the *"Newcastle Magazine"*, we were astonished to discover a somewhat important, but overlooked, paper from the pen of one of the most famous of our local botanists, Mr. Nathaniel John Winch. This somewhat lengthy paper occupies portions of several numbers of Vol. III, 1824. Its title, *"Remarks on the Flora of Cumberland, as published in Hutchinson's History of that County, and in Turner and Dillwyn's Botanist's Guide through England and Wales"*, gives

some indications of its scope, but few of its real value. The main purpose of the work seems to have been to draw attention to gross inaccuracies in a plant list supplied by Hutchinson's History of Cumberland for which, in the main, its author was indebted to Hutton, a Keswick guide. In their turn Turner and Dillwyn, influenced by Hutchinson's book, recorded in their Botanists' Guide plants reported from Keswick and district which Winch regarded as impossibilities for the area, and therefore unacceptable.

In addition to carrying out its declared purpose, the paper sets out an interesting and reliable account of Winch's own numerous discoveries in the Lake District, both of flowering plants and cryptogams. It is thus of great historical interest, and should certainly not be allowed to sink into oblivion.

THE FLORA OF UIG (LEWIS)

Our attention has been directed to a blurb appearing in the advertisement columns of the Entomologists' Monthly Magazine. It concerns a paper with the above title, and contains the following remarks: "Although botanical exploration in the British Islands might be considered a thing of the past, there are certain areas in outlying districts which are still virtually unknown. This volume, which concerns one such area, consists of an account of a botanical expedition in the parish of Uig". Whilst, for ordinary purposes, a certain latitude of expression is allowable in such puffs, it is quite out of place in connexion with scientific investigations where strict accuracy is of paramount importance. Such scientific accuracy demands a modification of the statements just set out, for three papers, written by members of the Northern Naturalists' Union, have already dealt with the Flora of Uig. The first of these, "Botanical Investigations in the Hebrides", (Proc., King's Coll. Agric. Students' Assoc. Vol. 6, pp. 20-23, 1939) supplies the first record of *Polygonum viviparum* from Lewis, whilst the second, "Noteworthy Plants from Great and Little Bernera (Lewis), Pabbay and Berneray (Harris) and the Uig District of Lewis" (Proc., Univ. Durham Phil Soc. **10**, Pt. 3, pp. 214-221, 1939) lists the more important plants of Uig Parish. The third, "A Preliminary Flora of the Outer Hebrides" (Ibid. **10**, Pt. 4, pp. 228-273, 1941), includes all the numerous plants known to us from the same area—both common and rare. Clearly, the use of the phrase "virtually unknown" in the advertisement is quite unwarranted.

OBITUARY NOTICE

C. P. NICHOLSON

News of the death of C. P. Nicholson on May 4th, 1944, came as a great shock to his many friends. He had been ill for a short time, but was showing so much improvement that every hope was entertained for his complete recovery. But this was not to be, and the end came suddenly; he passed on into fuller life, as

he had lived here, serene, confident and full of hope.

He was a man of deep understanding and sympathy, reserved yet never unapproachable, and those who knew him well must surely feel their lives enriched by the privilege of his friendship.

His thirty years association with the Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club enabled him to give expression to his deep and vital interest in the countryside — its beauty, its history and its people. He joined the Club in 1944, and was soon playing a leading part in its affairs. He became President in 1921, and he held this office again on three subsequent occasions.

It was owing to his initiative that in 1924 a Footpaths Section was formed in the Darlington Club to safeguard the rights of way in the district. He brought to this work an enthusiasm and a knowledge (he was an accepted authority on rights of way) which inspired many members to take part with interest in walks which helped to keep open public footpaths. Over a period of years much valuable information was carefully collected, and arranged for future reference. Under his expert yet unassuming leadership, members were also helped to an interest in many things not immediately concerned with the maintenance of our footpaths. As an indication of the extended scope of its activities the section was in 1938 re-named the Topographical Section.

Local history constantly claimed C. P. Nicholson's attention, and our knowledge has been greatly enriched by his many original contributions. His lectures on such topics were a delight. In his talks, people and places came to life, and the history of our district became a very real and interesting thing. He gave more than thirty lectures to the Club, but these represent only a part of that which he had to give. The Darlington Club hopes to publish, after the war, a volume of his writings — a tribute to the memory of one to whom we owe so much. His Guide Books, "Teesdale" and "In and around Darlington", which were first published in 1920 and 1921 respectively, are widely known and used by all lovers of the country in the Darlington and Teesdale districts.

C. P. Nicholson's influence has done much to make the Darlington Club in a real sense of the words a "Field Club". He always stressed the importance of fieldwork and experience, and planned and carried through many expeditions for biological, geological and historical work.

He realised that the value of a field meeting can be greatly enhanced by bringing together, in the form of a report, the outstanding and interesting discoveries which have been made. With this in mind, and believing as he did that the Club should express the interests of all its members and not only those of a few leaders, he persuaded different members to report on these field meetings. He was not slow to appreciate that a great deal of care and thought was given to the preparation of these reports, and that they were of more than passing interest, and he conceived the idea of collecting and arranging them in the form of bound typescript volumes.

These "Local Records" reflect the activities of the Club as seen by various members, but his was the mind and hand that controlled and completed the plan. Thus he fostered and developed a spirit of co-operative effort which is apparent today in lecture programmes provided largely by the members themselves. He was entirely responsible for the fourth volume of the "Records" in which he tells the story of the Club's past fifty years, and points the way confidently to the future.

His interests ranged beyond our own Club. He had been a member of the Northern Naturalists' Union since its foundation and was its first Hon. Treasurer. He always took a keen interest in the work of the Union and fully appreciated the opportunities which it affords for co-operation and the exchange of ideas between members of affiliated clubs. No prosaic list of the offices C. P. Nicholson has held, or of the things he has done, can convey any real idea of the immense amount of thought and work which he gave to the Club; nor can it record the sense of deep affection felt by members, collectively and individually, for one whose life was devoted, quietly and unassumingly, to helping others. He is, as he himself once wrote of another "one who stays in the mind".

THE SOCIETIES

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The opencast coal workings near Shildon were visited on November 4th, the President (Mr. C. Walker) explaining the relationship of the Main Coal seam here being worked to the strata seen at East Thickley quarry earlier the same afternoon.

On November 14th, Mr. A. S. Umpleby gave an original address on "Living Northern Dialect Poets", with some fifty of whom he had been in correspondence. Most of these were from Yorkshire, a few from Cumberland, but none from Durham or Northumberland. He would be very pleased to get into touch with any dialect writer in our two counties.

On November 21st, the President discussed the nature of Radioactivity and the following week we had an interesting paper, "Notes from Orkney", from a member, Flight-Lieut. Ferguson, who has been stationed for sometime on Shapinsay.

On December 5th, Mr. H. Sowerby, speaking on "The Countryside and Post-War Reconstruction", dealt with the numerous problems to be solved if our rural areas are to be both prosperous and attractive.

At the Annual Conversazione on January 20th, we enjoyed a talk by Mr. W. K. Richmond entitled, "From Cross Fell to South Gare — a Bird Watcher in Teesdale". Mr. Richmond dealt in turn with the birds of the Teesdale moors, those of the lower valley and those of the Tees-mouth area. He had many interesting experiences to relate regarding encounters with such birds as the Short-eared Owl, Dotterel, Shore Lark and Goshawk. The attendance was just over 80.

"Some Notes on Local History" was the title of a paper read by Mr. S. Cardwell on January 16th. On the 23rd the President gave an address on "The Significance of Fossils", illustrated by numerous specimens from the Club's collections. January 30th was devoted to the discussions of a series of questions submitted by members — a popular innovation.

Dr. R. W. Butcher gave an address of exceptional interest on "Our Changing Flora" on February 6th. Amongst other interesting points, he stated that the distribution of the Bog Sandwort (*Arenaria uliginosa*) on Widdy Bank Fell varied in accordance with the extent to which winter floods created the bare patches of limestone which it favoured, and he expressed a desire that part of Cronkley Fell should be protected by a sheep-proof fence to enable the Mountain Avens (*Dryas octopetala*) and Hoary Rockrose (*Helianthemum canum* var. *vineale*) to bear fruit, and establish themselves more firmly.

The Club's collections have received a notable addition in the form of a Cabinet of Minerals collected by the late James Broadhead, and now presented by Mrs. Broadhead in memory of her husband.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY NATURALISTS' CLUB

The second annual meeting of the Annfield Plain and Stanley Naturalists' Club was held on January 17th, 1945, when the Secretary, Mr. F. Wade, was able to report a very successful year.

Dr. W. M. Morison was elected President for the ensuing year, along with the Secretary and all the other officers, with the exception of Mr. J. W. Lawson, Organizer for Summer Field Meetings, who resigned, owing to ill health. Mr. Lawson's resignation was accepted with regret, for we realise fully how well he has carried out his duties. Mr. W. Richards and Mr. J. Bailes were chosen to fill the vacancy.

The Treasurer, Mr. J. Atkinson, reported a satisfactory year which ended with a credit balance of £15 8s. 1d. The membership, 92, showed a decrease of seven owing to deaths and removals.

Our outings, despite the weather, were well attended, and none was cancelled. We held ten rambles, including two joint excursions with our good friends of the Consett Field Club who have done so much to get our Club firmly established.

To save unnecessary travel, our expeditions have all been held in our own area, and have proved both revealing and informative to our members.

Thirteen indoor lectures were given by Mr. D. Scott, "Historical Snapshots"; Mr. J. W. Simpson, "Holiday in the Broads"; Mr. A. S. Davison, "The Great Ice Age"; Dr. K. B. Blackburn, "Plants through the Ages"; Miss E. Kennedy, "Founders of the Hancock Museum"; Mr. J. J. McKinney, "Wisdom and Nature"; Dr. D. Clay, "Travelling amongst the Chinese"; Mr. C. Holmes, "Racial Origins of Blondes and Brunettes"; Mr. J. J. Robson, "Fame Islands and their Inhabitants"; Miss C. Nichol

"Holland, its People and Customs"; Miss E. Kennedy, "Dipton, Past and Present" Prof. H. G. Hickling, "Nature's Battle of the Coasts"; Mr. C. Cook, "The Poetry of Plants". In addition, there was a "Brains' Trust" night.

It is intended to restrict our rambles during the coming season to our own district.

BOOK REVIEW

"Flowers in Britain", by L. J. F. Brimble, B.Sc., F.L.S., published by Macmillan and Co., 2/6.

This book deals with wild and ornamental plants of Great Britain as well as with some of economic importance, and is therefore intended for readers possessing such interests. Although developed on botanical lines, it is not written primarily for botanists. The introductory chapters are concerned with the classification and structure of flowering plants whilst the subsequent chapters deal with the families in evolutionary sequence. The accounts are interesting, but brief, yet space is found for apt quotations from literature. Mr. Brimble has written copiously during recent years, and he states that a similar book on trees will follow. From the present work one gains an impression of haste here and there, e.g., the illustration of the Common Mallow seed is referred to Plate 2 instead of to Plate 5, the Bur-reeds (Sparganiaceae) are called Burweeds and so on.

E.L.D.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES.

Observations on the Birds of Whitburn Bay.—Intermittent observations on the North Durham coasts have served to show that an unpromising district may yield an unexpected result. The smaller waders are particularly numerous during the winter months, and we rarely walk along this stretch of beach without seeing small parties of dunlin, ringed plover or sanderling. The two latter usually outnumber the dunlin and the ringed plover is almost invariably present. The sanderling, although less regular in its appearance, usually occurs in good numbers. On three occasions we have seen the purple sandpiper amongst the seaweed-covered rocks at the north end of the bay. It is by far the tamest of the waders and allows close scrutiny. Indeed, it will permit itself to be almost submerged by the incoming waves rather than have its feeding disturbed by flight. The larger knot we have only seen once, despite the fact that it is supposed to be common on all English coasts. Another species which we have only met with once on the shore, although more frequently inland, is the curlew-sandpiper. On November 17th it was in full winter plumage. The redshank is extremely numerous, especially among the rocks at both north and south end's of the bay. Oystercatchers appear spasmodically in varying numbers. Single birds and pairs are frequent, but we have seen them in parties of 15-20 on several occasions. Curlew appear erratically, whilst golden and green plover have only been seen on one occasion, although in fair numbers. Similarly, we have only met with the common snipe once, when we flushed a single bird from the rocks. —W. Hay and F. White.

The Ringlet Butterfly (*Aphantopus hyperanthus*) in North Northumberland.—A manuscript compilation of butterfly records in Essex came to my hands some time ago which suggests that the Ringlet butterfly makes a practice of leaving a locality and returning to it after a considerable

lapse of time. It will be remembered that when I took the butterfly at Kirknewton the year after Clegg captured it on the North Tyne it had not been recorded for Northumberland for many years; this hints at the same possibility. When my Northumberland examples were announced, I believe I did not state that all the specimens seen and examined were defective in respect to the rings.—J. E. Hull.

Further Observations on Potamogetons.—In the autumn of last year, large numbers of seeds belonging to many Potamogeton species were planted under what were considered satisfactory conditions. Of these seeds, representatives of two species only, *Potamogeton pectinatus* and *P. filiformis* have germinated. The former commenced to do so on January 3rd, before the great frost, when five seedlings were observed. Soon after this, the whole of the seeds of all the species were frozen solid. When the ice melted finally, the young *P. pectinatus* were quite healthy and commenced to grow again. One seedling in particular showed very vigorous growth. In a short time a very few additional seeds began to move, but the great majority seem to be lying dormant. The only *P. filiformis* to show signs of life germinated on February 5th, 1945. Of the stock of plants representing these species now in my possession, all the *P. filiformis*, both in the pond and in the aquarium, are showing good growth as are also my plants of the hybrid *P. suecicus*. On the other hand, I can only see the white tips of the rhizomatose turions of *P. pectinatus* peeping above the surface at the bottom of the water. These observations no doubt yield an explanation of the early flowering of *P. filiformis* and the lateness of appearance of flowers of *P. pectinatus*. Nevertheless, it should be noted that I saw examples of 1941 plants of *P. pectinatus* still living in 1942 in Loch Ceann a Bagh, on Loch Eynort, South Uist.—J.W.H.H.

Asplenium septentrionale L. in Vice-county 67.—In a very sound paper on the ferns of the Derwent Valley which appears in the "Notes on the History, Geology and Botany of the Vale of Derwent" Vol. II, pp. 1-16, 1892), the Rev. W. Featherstonehaugh makes the following remarks on this species: "It was an inhabitant of our district, growing at one time in considerable quantity on a bare dry rock fully exposed to the sun, at Beldon, above Blanchland. Unfortunately, when workings for a lead mine were opened at that place, the pumping engine was set down there, and a great part of the rock on which, the Forked Spleenwort grew was removed to make room for it. Still, a considerable part of the rock remained, holding many plants; but its existence there having become known, to "collectors" it has been entirely exterminated, and not a plant is now to be found. . . . Probably out of the hundreds of plants removed not five per cent. have survived the operation". This, of course, supplies a new county record for the species. —J.W.H.H.

Illecebrum verticillatum L. in Vice-county 67.—In our last issue the fact that the station was situated in v.-c. 67 was not noted. Further, it should be emphasised that the plant was flourishing on the 1,000 foot contour line. Plants removed from their native habitat in September, 1944, have withstood the frosts of 1945, and are still alive.—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS.

FLOWERING PLANTS

Potamogeton polygonifolius Pourr.

104 and 110

The typical form of this species is widely scattered on the moorlands of Rhum, but, in a very deep stretch of a stream just south-east of Bloodstone Hill, there occurs a huge quantity of the form *cancellatus* Fryer. This remarkable plant is best placed with *P. polygonifolius* in the light of our present knowledge, but still the possibilities that it may be a form of *P. coloratus*, or even a hybrid, must not be cast aside lightly. Perhaps it should be stated that we have equally remarkable, but very different forms, from a lochan on-South Uist; they are still being studied.—J.W.H.H.

Typha latifolia L. Reedmace. 66
 With the destruction of the old Tile Sheds Pond, it was thought that this plant had vanished from the Team Valley. It has just appeared in the old brick pond south of Birtley station, and, seems well established there.—J.W.H.H.
Epilobium roseum Schreber. 66
 Growing near Sunderland with white forms.
Viola sylvestris Lam. Wood Violet. 66
 Seaton, near Sunderland.—J.W.H.H.

LEPIDOPTERA

Cryphia perla L. Marbled Beauty. 66
 Observed on the Railway Bridge, the brick yard wall and near the church, Birtley.—J.W.H.H.
Euchloe cardamines L. Orange Tip. 66
 Very common in June near Wolsingham.—D.B.B.
 A single female was taken at the flowers of the bluebell in Urpeth Woods on Whit Monday.—J.W.H.H.
Vanessa atalanta L. Red Admiral. 67
 First seen at Gosforth on August 24th, followed by large numbers at Buddleia, near Blagdon, Northumberland, on August 29th. This is the first time I have seen as many as a dozen together for some years.—J. S. Ash.
Gortyna flavago Esp. Frosted Orange. 66, 67
 A number of pupae was taken from the stems of the Marsh Thistle in Gosforth Park-on August 22nd; these commenced to emerge on August 31st. South states that these pupae are usually found low down near the ground, but my specimens were found a few inches from the top.—J. S. Ash.
 (This species is common enough along the Wear banks and in the Team Valley on all kinds of thistle, on mugwort, ragwort, and my experiences are in general harmony with South's statement, although much depends on the diameter of the affected stem.—J.W.H.H.)
Sphacia bembeciformis Hb. Lunar Hornet. 67
 A male was captured at Gosforth, July 20th.—J. S. Ash.

COLEOPTERA

Saperda scalaris L. 66
 This fine beetle was taken at Hookergate on June 22nd. A pair which were flying in bright sunshine were taken as they alighted on birch. I found the beetle rare but widely distributed.
Notonus monoceros L. 67
 Captured at Styford, August 16th.
Ptilinus pectinicornis L. , 67
 Occurred at Wylam, June 24th.
Attelabus nitens Scop. 66
 Taken at Hookergate, June 22nd.
Tetratoma fungorum F. 66
 Hookergate, October 23rd.
Leptura tabacicolor de Geer. 67
Clytra quadripunctata L. 67
 Both of these species were taken at Healey on June 25th, 1944.—Frank O'Neill.

ACARI—MITES.

Molpus capillata Kramer. 66
 Several of these scarlet snout-mites were noticed on the slag-wall of Greenabella Marsh.—J. B. Nicholson

THE VASCULUM

(SUBSTITUTE)

July 1945

Vol. XXX. No. 2.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free.

Edited by

J. W. HESLOP HARRISON, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
KING'S COLLEGE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

BY THE WAY

We have to apologize for the lateness of the publication of our last issue. The delay was caused by circumstances beyond our control, for our printers were engaged in priority work for the Government. However, we trust that this fact will not prevent the Secretaries of our Societies from sending in reports of their activities as usual. As we have remarked before, notes and records may be sent to Professor Heslop Harrison at any time.

JUNIOR OUTINGS

During the present season, a series of outings specially arranged for the instruction of our junior members in field methods, has been commenced. These have been extremely successful, not only from the standpoint of attendance, but also when tested by the enthusiasm of our younger recruits and the amount of work done. As these meetings represent a considerable sacrifice of spare time on the part of those responsible for conducting them, we trust that every endeavour will be made to maintain this success, and to utilize them to the full. Such opportunities as they offer for gaining field knowledge are almost unique.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

It was with considerable pleasure that we received a copy of Vol. VII, Part III of the Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne. This publication has for many years been held in high repute by all, and has served to keep the flag of north-country natural history flying in many centres, both at home and abroad. Its temporary suspension, therefore, has been a source of great disappointment, not only to local naturalists, but to others far away from us.

The present part includes two papers, one by our old friend the late Dr. W. T. Fordham, bearing the title "A Preliminary

List of the Diptera of Northumberland and Durham (excluding the Cecidomyiidae)" and the second by Mr. R. H. Harper Gray and J. P. Rogerson setting forth "An Annotated List of Aphididae Commonly Occurring in Northumberland".

The former paper is a good, useful paper in which records of Diptera in our counties have been assembled and made available to naturalists everywhere. However, one wonders why, since possibly the Cecidomyid fauna of our counties is better known than that of any other area in Britain, the Editor of the Transactions missed the opportunity of including them, and so offering as complete a picture of our two-winged flies as was available. In the case of the second paper, Messrs. Harper Gray and Rogerson are to be congratulated on their successful entry into a field of research so little explored by local workers. We hope that both will expand their labours in Northumberland, and extend them to Durham.

THE EYEBRIGHTS OF RHUM

In the April-June number of our contemporary, the "Naturalist", appears a paper with the above title, from the pen of Mr. H. W. Pugsley. It deals at some length with collections of Eyebrights (*Euphrasia*) made by expeditions sent out by the Department of Botany, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, to study the Natural History of the Inner and Outer Hebrides. In it, no fewer than three new species, *Euphrasia rhumica* with a variety *fionchrensis*), *E. eurycarpa*, and *E. heslop-harrisonii* are described, whilst, in addition, there are discussed two other important rare forms, *E. curta* var. *piccola* Towns, of which little British material exists other than Beeby's original gathering from the Shetlands, and *E. curta* var. *ostenfeldii* Pugsley, based on plants from the Faeroes, and later detected by us in the Isle of Harris (v.-c. 110). The occurrence and discovery of these new and rare forms should encourage botanical explorations in other little-worked areas in the British Isles.

A NEW WORK ON POTAMOGETONS

From the Gray Herbarium, of Harvard University, there has lately come to hand, after a considerable delay owing to war conditions, a copy of Dr. E. C. Ogden's paper "The Broad-leaved Species of Potamogeton of North America North of Mexico" (*Rhodora*. Vol. 45, March-May, 1943). This is an admirable production supplied with usable keys leading readily to the determination of the various species, as well as with ample and useful discussions dealing with critical points connected with all of them. Moreover, it contains a valuable and instructive general introduction and large, clear, illustrative diagrams. It does not include the personalities considered fashionable nowadays in papers dealing with pondweeds!

As so many of the species with which it is concerned are common to the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, the paper will be found to be invaluable to British workers in the group, and all interested should, if possible, secure a copy.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

Once again, through the kindness of the Natural History Society, our annual meeting was held on March 3rd, 1945, in the Hancock Museum, when the chair was taken by our President, Mr. D. R. Hughes. The attendance was again impressive and testified, in no uncertain way, to the strength of the Union.

The usual reports were read by the Treasurer, Mr. Ruxton, and the Secretary, Dr. K. B. Blackburn, and both were deemed extremely satisfactory. Again, the continuing success of the Vasculum was emphasised, and recognition was given to the place it filled in the Union's activities. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the various officials concerned.

The election of officers followed, when Mr. E. L. Davison was chosen President to succeed Mr. Hughes. Following this, further gratifying signs of the value and progress of the Union were seen in the addition to our ranks of a number of junior societies, in the election of a number of individual juniors as members, and in the planning of a series of field outings confined to our younger workers.

When the preliminary business was finished, Mr. D. R. Hughes gave a very instructive lecture entitled "Geology and the Naturalist". This was illustrated by a number of lantern slides of his own making, and not only aroused great interest but was, in addition, followed by a useful discussion. The acclamation which ensued showed how fully members and associates appreciated Mr. Hughes' valuable talk.

When the lecture was finished, we partook of a tea provided by the ladies, who in previous war years have so carefully looked after us. It was fully up to the standard of excellence seen on previous occasions, and well merits the thanks we now offer them.

The meeting ended with an informal conversazione and an inspection of exhibits brought by members. Of these, one must confess once more that Mr. Cooke's display of spring flowers attracted most attention because of its completeness and beauty. Next, the collections of local plants brought by Frank White and Derek Robertson showed what our enthusiastic younger botanists can do. The latter also had on display his insect captures of the preceding season. Similarly, on the insect side, Professor Heslop Harrison exhibited an almost complete collection of lepidoptera known to be immigrants in the British Isles. This was supplemented by George Pallister, who brought along specimens of the

Black-veined Brown Butterfly. Miss, E. Joyce and Mr. G. N. Robinson produced a group of interesting natural history books whilst Mr. Hughes and Mr. Hudspeith had laid out collections of minerals for our inspection. On the agricultural side, we were shown a number of potato varieties from King's College, and a series of wheats by Miss Flynn. Of a different type, but equally interesting and instructive, was an exhibition of specimens illustrating local marine zoology for which Professor A. D. Hobson was responsible. On this occasion, Dr. Blackburn had arranged for us a number of important plant fossils.

The Fiftieth Field meeting was held at Billingham on Saturday, May 26th, when, by the kindness of Mr. Dixon, we were able to renew our acquaintance with the marshes so rich in rare plants.

We had planned to work the area as systematically as possible, but the weather was against us. The marshes were very wet, and it rained. Nevertheless, much good work was done, especially by the more venturesome members who did not object to wet feet. We were delighted with the magnificent display of Globe Flowers which were in greater profusion than ever, as was also the Yellow Rue. On this occasion, too, we saw large numbers of *Orchis latifolia (incarnata)* as well as several of its hybrids. In addition to these, we found most of the plants recorded by Professor Heslop Harrison and also those appearing in the list in the *Vasculum* (Vol. XI, 1925) which recorded our finds at an earlier meeting. To our regret, however, we had to confess that, as far as we could determine, the Red Sandstone colony of the Bird's Eye Primrose was now extinct. In compensation for this, additions to our lists were detected in the form of *Carex ovalis*, *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Eleocharis uniglumis*. The latter find was due to Dr. K. B. Blackburn, and provides a new county record for v.-c. 66.

Although the outing was intended primarily for botanists, the entomologists worked hard, and made reasonably good bags; these included nothing new to the area.

When, our labours were ended, we proceeded to Middlesbrough where the Mayor, Councillor Kitching, J.P., had kindly provided tea for us in the Mayor's Parlour in the Council Chambers. The Mayor gave us a speech of welcome in which he outlined the work of the Union, its value to local societies, and to the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club in particular. Professor Heslop Harrison replied, thanking the Mayor for his useful remarks, and expressing our thanks for his hospitality.

For our second field meeting, we visited Juniper Valley on June 16th, when Mr. T. Hutton acted as leader. In this novel locality, wandering over moorlands, in woodlands and along streamsides we had a wonderful time, thanks to our Consett friends. Nothing, however, caused more interest than the splendid growth of junipers, in the Valley, with the juniper rust obtained from the

alternate host, hawthorn. Orchids abounded everywhere, and those collected included the Butterfly Orchid, the Frog Orchid, several Marsh Orchids (*Orchis purpurella*, *O. fuchsii* and *O. ericetorum*) with hybrids, and the Twayblade. With the latter was also noted the Adder's Tongue Fern. Additional plants observed by our workers included Chickweed Wintergreen, Cowwheat, Butterwort, Cranberry, White Lousewort, Shining Cranesbill and many species of *Salix* and *Rosa*.

The entomologists, too, were well rewarded, for butterflies were in plenty; of these *Brenthis selene* was the most important. Amongst the moths, the Mother Shipton Moth, the Small Purple Bar, the Common Heath, Grass Rivulet, the Purple-barred Carpet, the Small Argent and Sable and the Grey Scalloped Bar, were all netted, the last named being noteworthy inasmuch as it has not been captured in our counties for many years. Another very interesting find was the Wasp Beetle.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the above Club was held on the 14th April, 1945.

The Secretary, Mr. Wm. Ellerington, reported a satisfactory year, both at Summer Outings and Winter Lectures.

The Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Robson, gave an encouraging financial report, showing the Club to have a credit balance of £37 9s. 4d.

Mr. T. Hutton, the retiring President, thanked all members for their help during the year, with a special word for Mr. Wm. Ellerington.

Mr. Harry Scott, a member of the Club for 27 years, was elected President for the ensuing year. All other officials being re-elected. It was decided at this meeting to hold two Summer Outings for Juniors only, to be in charge of Mr. J. J. Robson.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

At the Annual Meeting on April 24th, it was reported that 47 new members, of whom 25 were juniors, had been elected during the year, and the membership had, for the first time, attained 200. In addition to 28 excursions and rambles, 46 indoor meetings had been held with an average attendance of 40, which approaches the highest pre-war level. During the six war winters, 126 lectures had been given, 101 of these by members, 28 of whom had given more than one address. There had been an excellent response to the "C. P. Nicholson Memorial Fund", and it was hoped to publish a volume of Mr. Nicholson's writings on bygone Darlington. Miss E. I. J. Martineau was elected President for the ensuing year.

A Rook Census was again undertaken in April. Owing to the exceptionally early leafing of the trees, the period available

for counting was very restricted, but we succeeded in covering an area of 103 square miles. linking up with Mr. Bentley Beetham's extensive Teesdale census. Our total of 5,122 nests indicates a high density of rook population—50 nests to the square mile.

Durham's only heronry was visited on April 28th and good views were obtained of the birds in flight and at the nest, where young were being fed. 12 nests were counted.

On May 5th, a visit was paid to the Black-headed Gullery near Croft, but nesting operations had not yet begun. Frost damage to the foliage of Chestnuts, Elms and other plants was very evident on this walk. A keeper's larder at Halnaby contained three Grey Squirrels.

Some unusually early "first dates" have been recorded by members this spring, among them Frog spawn on February 26th; Small White Butterfly on March 23rd, Orange Tip on April 15th, Garlic Hedge-Mustard (*Sisymbrium alliarica*) in flower on April 5th. Purple Lilac and Horse Chestnut on April 10th, Hawthorn on April 17th and Laburnum on April 20th.

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The second half of the last winter's session has been characterized by more meetings being arranged than we have had during previous war years. In addition, we have had a field meeting. On Jan. 18th, Mr. A. S. Umpleby, J.P., Honorary Secretary of the Yorkshire Dialect Society, gave us an interesting lecture on "Our Northern Dialects", in which he traced these to their origins, not only in this country but abroad. On Jan. 24th, we had a members' night, when we had several valuable addresses. Mr. T. H. Brown dealt with the Blackiston coat-of-arms on the effigy in Norton Church, Mr. O. C. Hill referred to the reports brought to him concerning waxwings and other birds. Miss M. M^cCombie discussed plants collected by herself in Greece, Mr. R. D. Sisters reported on recent occurrences of birds at Teesmouth, whilst the Secretary referred to relics of local history. On Feb. 23rd, Mr. J. B. Nicholson, M.A., repeated his valuable lecture on the Royal Meteorological Society's Phenological scheme. March 10th saw us set out for a walk through Fairy Dell and Primrose Valley to look for early signs of spring, and we found that, owing to the recent good weather, we were too late for many spring flowers.

On March 24th, we held our Annual Meeting, when Mr. R. Wagstaff, M.B.O.U., Keeper of the Yorkshire Museum, lectured to us on "Some Aspects of British Wading Birds". The Mayor of Middlesbrough, Councillor R. R. Kitching, was elected President of the Club, whilst Mr. W. R. Dixon was selected as Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. E. L. Davison as Honorary Secretary.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES.

The Adder's Tongue Fern on the Fame Islands.—I do not think I have placed it on record previously, but, when I was on the Fame Islands in 1911-1914, I discovered this fern growing in two places on the Brownsman. This is the only fern recorded from these islands.—Edward Miller.

A Rare Immigrant Moth at Darlington.—On April 29th, I captured a very fine specimen of the Striped Hawkmoth (*Celerio livornica* Esp.) as it was sitting on a doorpost leading from a yard into the Friends' School premises in the centre of the town. The insect seems quite fresh and undamaged and looks almost like a freshly emerged example.—J. E. Nowers.

Early Butterflies in Northumberland.—A single specimen of the Orange Tip Butterfly (*Euchloe cardamines* L.) was observed on the wing near Bardon Mill on May 6th. The day previous to this an odd specimen of the Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Brenthis euphrosyne* L.) was captured on West Dipton Burn.—C. J. Gent.

The Earliness of Butterflies in Durham.—Quite recently I discovered that the Dingy Skipper Butterfly (*Erynnis tages*) was quite common near Birtley. This season it made its first appearance, accompanied by the Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas* L.) at the early date of May 9th. Later, I saw it on May 18th, June 2nd (in a new station near Bewicke Main) and, finally, in the last week of June. The Common Blue first emerged on June 2nd, but it has been continuously on the wing since that date. Even today, July 25th, what I consider to be belated female examples of the first brood are still on the wing accompanied by many *Coenonympha pamphilus*, which have also had a similarly prolonged emergence. On the other hand, specimens of *Lycaena phlaeas*, plentiful enough this afternoon, most certainly represent a second brood. The first Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) was noted on March 16th and its congener, the Painted Lady (*V. cardui*) on May 10th.—J.W.H.H.

Correction of a Mite Note.—Some time ago, I sent a record for the Vasculum of the occurrence of the mite *Molgus capillata* at Greenabella. I have now received a note from Mr. E. Browning of the British Museum which reads as follows: "Will you please correct the name of the mite I gave in my letter of June 16th from *Molgus capillata* Kramer to *Molgus littoralis* L. I have just received both species from Cornwall. The former is smaller than *M. littoralis*, and there are other specific differences. Hull, in his "Terrestrial Acari of the Tyne Provinces", says in respect to his *Bdella capillata* "those taken by me on the Dee-estuary and local specimens hardly appear to be anything more than a variety of *littoralis*" —J. B. Nicholson.

Further Notes on the Germination of Potamogeton Seeds.—In my note in the last number of the Vasculum I dealt with seeds of *Potamogeton pectinatus* and *P. filiformis*. Now, I can record the germination of seeds of *P. coloratus*, of which four seeds commenced to grow on February 4th, to be followed by others in the period March 30th—April 8th and, after a break, from April 15th onward. Only one additional seed of *P. pectinatus* produced a seedling, and that on April 5th. On the other hand, seeds of *P. filiformis*, apparently checked by the frost, commenced to germinate on March 26th, and new seedlings kept appearing until the end of April. These included individual seeds which remained attached to the flower stalk.—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS.

FLOWERING PLANTS.

Eleocharis uniglumis Schultes.

66

The present seems to be new county record for v.-c. 66. The plant was found in company with *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Triglochin palustre* and *Cardamine pratensis* in the water meadows between Billingham and Norton. Search in sandy localities nearer the coast may reveal that it is more over-looked than rare.—K.B.B

Lathraea squamaria L. Toothwort.	66
In the woods near Finchale Abbey.—H Bennett	
Viola silvestris Lam. Violet.	66
Near Seaham Harbour.—E. T. Wanless	
Daboecia cantabrica K. Koch.	67
Clearly an escape from some garden, but in that case it must have travelled far, as it was found by a student in one of the Training Colleges (St. Hild's) on the side of a path in West Dipton Wood, Hexham, and shown to me in an examination exercise.—J W H H.	
Fumaria micrantha Lag. Fumitory.	67
Field edge near Hexham.	
Ophioglossum vulgatum L. Adder's Tongue Fern.	66
Specimens showing variations in the shape of the sterile frond were found in a field. North End, Durham City.—A Roberts	
Lastrea aernula Brackenridge.	66
This fern has not been recorded previously for Durham (v.-c. 66), although it has been reported from Cleveland and Cheviotland. Found on shady, grassy banks near Quarrington Hill although in no great quantity.—J.W.H.H.	
Melilotus altissima Thuill.	66
Melilotus officinalis Lam.	66
Both of these species have turned up once again near Birtley.—J.W.H.H.	
Alchemilla hybrida Mill. Lady's Mantle.	66
Another plant new to the Durham list, and found growing on a hilly pasture on the Magnesian Limestone just south of Cassop Vale; on record however, from the two Yorkshire v.-cs 62 and 64. This may be much more widely spread with us than this.—J.W.H.H.	
Vicia sepium L. Bush Vetch.	66
The form with the yellowish flowers (var. <i>ochroleuca</i> Bast.) was detected growing along the side of the road leading from Bowburn to Quarrington Hill.—J.W.H.H.	
Galium mollugo L. Great Hedge Bedstraw.	66
Now gone from its old locality near Chester-le-Street, but discovered recently growing along the Wear in Lambton Park.—J.W.H.H.	
Centaurea scabiosa L. Greater Knapweed.	66
This used to grow in Birtley Parish about 40 years ago, but it has long been extirpated; in flower on the slag tip, Birtley.—J W H H.	
Typha latifolia L. Reedmace.	66
In a second Birtley station in a claypit just south of the town.—J.W.H.H.	

LEPIDOPTERA.

Nymphalis antiopa L. Camberwell Beauty.	67
This fine immigrant was caught in the Whitley Bay area by a pupil of the Park Junior School, named George Wraith, who brought it to the school in a jam jar. It was taken at Buddleia flowers on the evening of July 17th.—Donald Ash.	
Acherontia atropos L. Death's Head Hawk.	67
Another immigrant of which a good specimen was taken in Monkseaton on June 17th, 1945, by two pupils of the same school, Alfred Wright and Laurence MacKenzie. Both this insect and that recorded in the previous note are in my possession.—Donald Ash.	
Arctia villica L. Cream Spot Tiger.	66
A very fine and interesting addition to the list of our local lepidoptera and captured in Durham City by D. M. Turnbull. Shown to me and identity confirmed.—J.W.H.H.	

THE VASCULUM (SUBSTITUTE)

October 1945

Vol. XXX. No. 3.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free.

Edited by

J. W. HESLOP HARRISON, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
KING'S COLLEGE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

BY THE WAY

Once again we have to apologise for the delay in publication of our last issue. It was caused by circumstances beyond our control of much the same order as those leading to the lateness in appearance of our March number. In spite of these happenings, Secretaries should be as punctual as they can in sending their reports, for the material will be published at the earliest possible moment. Notes and records from all sources will be welcomed at any time. In this connexion, we have to report a considerable increase in the number of records sent; nevertheless, we should be delighted to see more of our members providing them.

IMMIGRANT BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

This season, immigrant butterflies and moths, more especially the Red Admiral, have been so plentiful that letters and notes drawing attention to their presence have appeared in many newspapers. Whilst we have had neither the numbers nor the rarities such as have occurred in the south-western counties, we have had our fair share of noteworthy forms. Of the species favouring us, the Red Admiral put in a very early appearance at Gateshead on March 16th, to continue more or less abundant until October 8th. The next to follow was the Humming Bird Hawk, first noted at Birtley on April 8th, and subsequently throughout the two counties.

Just as plentiful as these was the Silver Y, although it was netted first on June 22nd. The subsequent brood became evident early in September, and increased in numbers so rapidly that it has literally swarmed. It, no doubt, afforded the basis of reports that the Red Admiral was accompanied by a brown butterfly. In addition, although the actual invasion was not observed, there can be little doubt that we have had a heavy influx of the Large White in our area, if one may be permitted to judge from the ravages of the larvae amongst turnips, cabbages and the like.

On the other hand, the Painted Lady has been seen twice only, firstly on May 10th, and, secondly, on July 17th, in both cases at Birtley.

Of the rarer visitors, there have already been recorded in the Vasculum the Striped Hawkmoth (Mr. Nowers), the Camberwell Beauty and Death's Head Hawkmoth (Mr. D. Ash), whilst in the present number Mr. G. Pallister not only notes a second "Death's Head", but also adds the *Convolvulus* Hawk to the count.

As will be seen, our list is not too bad; nevertheless, many more of these interesting wanderers must have been observed by our readers. If these counties are to play a satisfactory part in the work of the Insect Immigration Committee every possible record is needed. May we appeal once more for the help of members in this connexion?

SQUIRRELS IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM

Mrs. K. S. Strong reports the occurrence of the Gray Squirrel in the grounds of Kenton Lodge Training College. As this is a very noteworthy observation, it seems of paramount importance that every possible effort should be made to record the stages in the spread of this animal locally. Furthermore, in view of the apparently discontinuous distribution of the Red Squirrel with us, and its total disappearance in many areas it, too, should be kept under observation, and its present range determined. We therefore ask the help of our Societies, and should welcome notes dealing with the distribution of these two species in Northumberland and Durham.

VANDALISM

The problem of juvenile delinquency has been increasing in gravity during the past few years, and in the Vasculum for May 1944 we urged our Societies to tackle the matter in directions in which it concerned them. A year and more have passed with no apparent improvement. If one may judge by the state of affairs in the Team Valley, North Durham, matters have become worse if that is possible. Huge numbers of trees have been felled or barked, in one case the delinquents employing a crosscut saw for their destructive purposes. However, it is the attacks on the vegetation on old pit heaps which seem most regrettable. In almost every instance, these formerly unsightly masses of shale and other rubbish have become clad naturally with pleasing looking copses, with a canopy composed sometimes of birch, and sometimes of hawthorn, wild rose, elder and the like. Almost uniformly, whether within easy access or not, these miniature woodlands have been fired or cut down, and so injured that recovery seems impossible.

We have been tempted to return to our own local problem by the fact that a special correspondent of the Glasgow Herald has recently been emphasising the appalling nature of the position in many Scottish areas. He actually reports that in the Hall of Heroes of the Wallace Monument at Stirling no fewer than fifteen busts of famous Scots have been defaced or disfigured!

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

Our last meeting for the summer was held in the fields and woods adjoining the Devil's Water, on Saturday, July 14th. As the day was exceedingly fine, the attendance was large and enthusiastic. Entering the area near the bridge, we were hard at work almost immediately for we struck a fine patch of Musk Mallow, a plant none too plentiful with us nowadays. Not far away, too, we admired the crowds of Red Admirals and Silver Y's busily engaged in ovipositing on the nettles and occasionally jostling at flowers with the newly-emerged broods of Small Tortoiseshells, Heaths and Meadow Browns. Proceeding up the valley with considerable difficulty, we viewed with sorrow the wreckage of the fine old woodlands, once graced by noble wych elms, oaks, ashes and birches, now ruthlessly felled and removed for war purposes.

In spite of this, the floor of the woods (when passable!) was opened for an inspection previously forbidden. Amongst the finds thus rendered possible were lovely patches of Lily of the Valley now very rare in Northumberland, and not encountered by us on any former expedition locally. Other plants collected in wood and field included the Columbine, the Monkey Flower, Foxglove, Betony, Beautiful St. John's Wort, Square-stalked St. John's Wort, Bird Cherry, Pellitory on the Wall, Centaury, Great Hedge Bedstraw, Marsh Bedstraw, Ladies' Bedstraw, Hemlock Water Dropwort, Yellow Loosestrife, Enchanter's Nightshade, Mountain Speedwell, Small Butterfly Orchid, with endless roses representing various segregates of *Rosa mollis*, *R. sherardi*, *R. glaucophylla*, *R. coriifolia*, *R. canina*, and *R. dumetorum*.

In our wanderings, we added further insects to our bag like the Common Carpet, Small Emerald, the Belle, Green-veined White, the Yellow Underwing and last, but not least, the Dark Green Fritillary, once regarded as extremely abundant in the Corbridge district, but deemed a few years ago to be extinct hereabouts. All of the commoner bumble bees and wasps were noted, as well as the Giant Sawfly, *Sirex gigas*. Another important insect captured was the green Pentatomid bug, *Pentatoma frasinum*, known to have its headquarters further up the Devil's Water. Only the usual birds came under notice except for the Green Woodpecker, which is sufficiently rare to warrant special mention.

Owing to their special rarity, a close search was made for certain snails, with considerable success, for both *Vertigo pusilla* and *V. pygmaea* were discovered on an ivy-covered wall top accompanied by the usual *Lauria cylindracea*. After we had reached the proposed limits of our excursion, we returned through the woodland and moorland on the east bank of the stream, adding as we did so many other flowers, and the Foxglove Pug, to our collections.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Two All-Night Rambles have been conducted by Mr. Stainthorpe, the first on May 26/27th, in Swaledale, and the second on June 2/3rd in Gretadale. On each occasion. Lapwing, Curlew, Woodcock and Redstart, in that order, were the first birds to be heard calling. Song Thrushes were fewer than in previous years and, for the first time, played only a minor role in the dawn chorus; and Larks were even scarcer, only one being heard on the two rambles.

On June 9th, a "farm tour" in the Manfield district gave members a welcome opportunity of studying present-day farming methods. Mr. G. H. Burdon, who was in charge, also drew attention to evidence of an ancient field-strip system of cultivation at Manfield.

A visit to Huntcliffe (Saltburn) with the Cleveland Naturalists on June 16th, provided a variety of interest. Particular attention was paid to the Fulmars and Cormorants nesting on the cliffs in good numbers.

On June 23rd, the riverside was followed from Winston Bridge to a point opposite Ovington, where the varied flora of the shingle islands provided many interesting finds. The following week, the Swale was followed from Richmond upstream to Clapgate Beck, the return being made by Applegarth and Whitcliffe Woods.

On July 7th, rights-of-way were followed from Heighington to West Auckland, under the leadership of Mr. Cardwell, the route taking us through Bolam Quarry.

On the 14th, we re-visited Gainford Island and by diligent searching, increased our list of its flora by twenty-two plants, making the present total one hundred and sixty eight.

Upper Teesdale provided both botanists and geologists with much of interest on a whole-day excursion under Mr. C. Walker, on July 21st. Unfortunately, field work was curtailed by heavy rain.

In addition to the foregoing, a number of sectional and informal rambles have been arranged on which useful work has been done.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

The Reedmace (Bulrush) in the Team Valley.—In the July number of the *Vasculum Prof.* Heslop Harrison records another station for *Typha latifolia* near Birtley. To this I can add a third. Whilst exploring an old clay pit between Birtley and Brown's Buildings, I came across another well-grown patch of the same species. It would seem that the plant is spreading with some rapidity in the Team Valley—Alan Richardson.

Immigrant and other Butterflies and Moths.—The Red Admiral has been present in great crowds at Old Ridley, Stocksfield, this season, for forty or more .were counted on four clumps of red Michaelmas Daisies. Of the Peacock, several have been seen here today on the same plant, with two others at Ridley Mill; the insect had also been observed previously both at Old Ridley and also at Sunderland. The Small Copper has been about in its usual numbers whilst *Plusia gamma* has been in quantities.—Mrs. C. Hodgkin.

Hawkmoths at Birtley—On August 23rd, I had a *Convolvulus* Hawkmoth given to me, followed a week or two later by a grand female Death's Head Hawkmoth. Other examples of the *Convolvulus* Hawk have been reported here by several observers.—G. Pallister.

The *Convolvulus* Hawkmoth at Dunston.—A pupil at school has brought me a hawkmoth caught at Dunston Power Station, which I have identified as a *Convolvulus* Hawkmoth; I believe this insect is considered rare in our district.—Dorothy A. Hall.

Bird Notes.—Mr. S. A. Jackson, of Dipton, reports that this year he has found the nests of Swift, Swallow, House Martin and Sand Martin, all within a small area in the vicinity of Allansford Bridge, Castleside. In addition, a Rock Dove's nest with two eggs was seen by Mr. J. J. Robson at Graham Haugh, near the Sneap, on June 30th.—Consett Naturalists' Field Club.

Plant Notes.—Mr. J. T. Raine, of Castleside, records fine specimens of the Broomrape growing in the Vicarage Garden. Five spikes, one to one and a half feet high, were noted growing on broom brushes on June 21st.

Elecampane was detected in flower near Dene Howl on July 19th by Mr. W. J. Dixon. Plants two to five feet high were examined.

The Greater Skullicap was seen by E. Caswell on the right bank of the Derwent, opposite the ruins of Allendale's Paper Mill, on July 14th.—Consett Naturalists Field Club.

The Pupation of the Frosted Orange.—Last year I took a number of pupae of the Frosted Orange, *Gortyna flavago*, on the stems of the Marsh Thistle. In recording them, I stated that the pupae were found at the very tops of the stems. This season I have once again taken the insect in plenty on the same food plant, but on this occasion the pupae were situated about half way up. It seems probable that environmental circumstances, depending upon the season, are responsible for the difference. The pupae were taken in Gosforth Park and near Dinnington. In the former case eighty per cent. of the pupae were parasitized and thirty per cent. in the latter.—J. S. Ash.

The Shining Cranesbill (*Geranium lucidum* L) flowers twice in 1945. In the last weeks of May, the colony of the Shining Cranesbill which I have noted as occurring on the old slag heap at Birtley was flourishing well, and displaying an abundance of flowers and seeds. Later in the season, in July, the species seemed to disappear completely; repeated searches failing to reveal the presence of a single plant in the favoured nooks. However, on October 1st, whilst exploring the same area, I was astonished to discover crowds of young plants; some were seedlings in the cotyledon stage, but others, although small, carried numbers of flowers and seeds. At the same time, a sharp look out was kept for the Maiden Pink which I had discovered on the same place; it has apparently been eliminated by the erection of temporary huts, as none was seen.—J.W.H.H.

Pug Moths in the Tyne Valley and Elsewhere.—A week or two ago I discovered amongst my papers a series of short notes in the handwriting of my old friend Mr. J. R. Johnson dealing with our local "Pugs". As the list is quite interesting I think it will be useful to local workers to have it printed in the *Vasculum*.

Eupithecia tenuiata: throughout the Derwent and Tyne" Valleys on Sallows.

E. pulchellata: Team and Derwent Valleys and also at Hexham.

E. valerianata: on valerian, Prestwick Carr in July.

E. indigata: larvae on pine and larch in Dipton Woods on August 27th.

E. abbreviata: larvae on oak on June 28th in Dipton Woods.

E. juniperata: larvae on junipers in Dipton Woods on May 16th.

E. exigua: larvae on heather in September at Heddon and Prestwick Carr.

E. lariciata: larvae wherever larch is abundant in September.

E. venosata: larvae in campion pods at Heddon and elsewhere.

—J.W.H.H.

Observations on Durham Butterflies.—As is well-known to our older entomologists, most of our butterflies suffered an eclipse in 1903, more especially in Durham and South-east Northumberland. Of the butterflies so effected, two, the Northern Brown (*Erebia aethiops*) and the Grayling (*Eumenis semele*), have never returned to their old Durham habitats. On the other hand, the Small Heath and the Meadow Brown, which vanished from the middle zones and seemed to be restricted subsequently to the coast and more westerly regions, have progressively re-colonized the lost territory, the latter more or less rapidly, and the former quite slowly. As a result this season they have completely regained the lost areas, and have appeared in great numbers where they have never been seen for years.

In the July number of the *Vasculum*, I drew attention to the earliness of some of our butterflies; now I can report a goodly number of late appearances. The Common Blue was last seen on October 1st, and the Small Copper on October 8th, the Small Tortoiseshell on October 9th and the Small and Large Whites on October 9th.—J.W.H.H.

Variation in the Bird's Eye Primrose.—Early in June, I visited the Quarrington Hill station for *Primula farinosa* with the hope of finding the rare sedge, *Carex ericetorum*, which has been discovered recently on similar geological formations in Yorkshire. For that species my quest was a total failure, but I did find two separate new colonies for the Primrose. In one of these, I found a plant with remarkable flowers in which the petals were very broad, short and cordate, almost lacking the notch characterizing normal flowers. In addition, I collected flowers of a lovely deep ruby hue, and others forming a complete transition from these to the paler typical forms. Both of the new stations were in marshy places in Cassop Vale and each, like the old Red Sandstone colony at Billingham, supported the Globeflower.—J.W.H.H.

A Local Record of the Gray Squirrel.—On October 2nd and October 3rd, a single specimen of the Gray Squirrel was seen in the grounds of Kenton Lodge Training College by the gardener and two students. It has not reappeared since.—Kathleen S. Strong.

The Distribution of *Leontodon leysseri* (Wallr.) Beck. This plant, more commonly known as *Thrinicia hirta* Roth., is recorded by Baker and Tate from many stations on sandy ground near the coast. At Seaton Sluice, it grows in a damp slack with *Leontodon autumnalis*, whereas *L. hispidus* grows on the drier slopes above. Searches inland have revealed its occurrence in a number of places: Cassop Vale and Frosterley in v.-c 66, Hexham in v.-c. 67, and in Cumberland (v.-c. 70) near Talkin Tarn. In all these localities it grew on well-drained sites on very steep slopes and, where tested, the soil was found to be alkaline in reaction (pH 7.2—7.4). *L. autumnalis*, on the other hand, will grow in soil as acid as pH 4.5—K.B.B.

A New Hybrid Plant.—The Seaton. Sluice locality mentioned above, yielded the hybrid between *L. leysseri* and *L. hispidus* which does not seem to have been recorded before. Numerous attempts had been made to produce this cross artificially without success, but a plant brought in as *L. hispidus* proved to have the parentage stated for, although it flowered profusely, it set no seed, and the aborted fruits were clearly of the *L. leysseri* type. In addition, the plant had 11 chromosomes which is what would be expected from parents with 8 and 14 chromosomes respectively. Miss Eveline Elliott is making a more detailed study of this plant as part of her investigations in the genus *Leontodon*.—K.B.B.

RECORDS.

LEPIDOPTERA.

- Lycaena phlaeas** L. Small Copper. 67
A further north country specimen of the melanochroic form known as var. *elus* has come into my possession; it was taken at Seaton Sluice in 1938 or 1939.—T. S. Ash.
- Euchloe cardamines** L. Orange Tip. 67
Common at Allendale.—J. S. Ash.
- Venusia cambrica** Cuirt. Welsh Wave. 67
Several at Allendale in the first ten days of July.—J.S.A.
- Abraxas sylvata** Sc. Clouded Magpie. 66
Taken for the first time in the Team Valley area in Urpeth Woods.—George Pallister.
- Deilephila elpenor** L. Elephant Hawk. 66
First record from the Birtley District when a single capture was made here.—George Pallister.
- Larentia clavaria** Haw. Mallow Moth. 66
This fine moth has not been seen in our counties for many years; five larvae, however, were collected from mallow, *Malva sylvestris*, on the roadside between Birtley and Urpeth.—George Pallister.
- Aegeria tipuliformis** L. Currant Clearwing. 66
Except *Aegeria formiciformis*, clearwings have rarely come under observation in Durham. An odd specimen and workings in the currant bushes, were observed in a garden in the Avenue, Birtley. —George Heslop Harrison.
- Nola confusalis** Hub. Least Black Arches. 67
In his list of the Lepidoptera of Northumberland and Durham, Robson states that he has no records of the occurrence of this species in Northumberland. I used to take a few specimens from tree trunks in Dipton Wood, but have not observed it there for many years. However, it still comes to light at Riding Mill.—F. W. Gardner.
- Sarothripa revayana** W.V. 67
In this instance, Robson could only record a single specimen in his list. I have taken it at Corbridge and Riding Mill.—F.W.G.
- Brachionycha sphinx** Hufn. Sprawler. 67
Comes freely to light at Riding Mill on suitable nights in late October and November, but suitable nights at this season are not very frequent!—F.W.G.
- Hydroecia petasitis** Dbid. Butter-bur Moth. 67
Taken occasionally at light at Riding Mill. The idea that this species does not visit light is erroneous, but it appears to settle in the shadow where it would normally escape detection.—F.W.G.
- Taeniocampa opima** Hb. Northern Drab. 67
Common some seasons in Dipton Woods but scarce at others.—F.W.G.
- Atethmia xerampelina** Hb. Centre Barred Sallow. 67
Appears at light regularly at Riding Mill in the second half of August.—F.W.G.

Plusia bractea Schiff. Gold Spangle.	67
This species visits flowers in the garden at Riding Mill regularly, and is also attracted to the window light. Inside, it will hover over a vase of cut flowers whilst I have observed it flying like <i>Plusia gamma</i> in the sunshine. Except for <i>P. chrysitis</i> , and in some years <i>P. gamma</i> , it is always more in evidence than the other members of the genus.—F.W.G.	
Apocheima hispidaria F. Small Brindled Beauty.	67
Never observed at rest in the day time, but captured at light and as larva at Riding Mill.—F.W.G.	
Selenia lunaria Schiff. Lunar Thorn.	67
The male comes freely to light at Riding Mill, but as in the case of most other Thorns the females seem little attracted by it and are not often seen.—F.W.G.	
Evetria resinella L. Pine Resin-Gall Moth.	66
One old gall noted on Scots Pine at Dyance Wood, near Gainford.—J. B. Nicholson.	
Dyscia fagaria Thunb. Grey Scalloped Bar.	67
At Gibbet Road near Elsdon.—J. S. Ash.	
Nonagria typhae Thunb. Bulrush Moth.	67
Pupae were plentiful in Bulrush stems near Brenkley and Seaton Burn. The first moth emerged on August 8th; typical, red and brown forms resulted. Of 36 pupae, none were parasitized.—J. S. A.	
Ourapteryx sambucaria L. Swallow Tail Moth.	67
Common at Gosforth each year in July.—J.S.A.	
Aporophyla lutulenta Borkh.. Deep Brown Dart.	67
Occasional at light near Gosforth in August, but usually rubbed.—J.S.A.	
Eupithecia icterata Vill. Tawny Pug.	66
This none-too-common pug was taken at Birtley on the very early date of April 20th.—J.W.H.H.	
Alucita pentadactyla L. White Plume.	67
Taken in King's College garden at Spital Tongues.—J.W.H.H.	
Platytilia pallidactyla Haw. Pale Plume.	66
Noted in fair numbers on yarrow at Bewicke Main.—J.W.H.H.	
Orneodes hexadactyla L. Twenty Plume.	67
Common at light at Gosforth in August and September.—J.S.A.	

FLOWERING PLANTS.

Veronica beccabunga L. Brook-lime.	66
The remarkable var. <i>repens</i> Bosch of this common plant was found in some plenty in a clay pit near Birtley.—J.W.H.H.	
Potamogeton pusillus L.	66
This pondweed, added to the Durham list on the basis of plants collected and determined by me at Birtley, has disappeared from its original station, having been stifled by duckweed. It has, however, been discovered in enormous masses, in almost pure culture, in an adjacent claypit.—J.W.H.H.	
Hesperis matronalis L. Dames' Violet.	66
On waste places at Birtley, and obviously spreading.—J.W.H.H.	
Orchis purpurella Steph. Marsh Orchid.	66
In very great quantities around an old pond at the top of the Fell Bank, Birtley.—J.W.H.H.	
Erysium perfoliatum Crante.	66
At Bolam Whinstone Quarry.	
Coronopus procumbens Gilib. Swine's Cress.	66
At Bolton Garths, near West Auckland.—J.B.N.	
Andromeda polifolia L.	67
Three new localities for this plant of deep bogs have been noted recently in the N, Tyne area: it is rare on Wellhaugh Flow and Byersfield bog, but on Bellcrag Flow it was noticed in fair quantity.	

THE VASCULUM

(SUBSTITUTE)

December 1945

Vol. XXX. No. 4.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free.

Edited by

J. W. HESLOP HARRISON, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
KING'S COLLEGE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

BY THE WAY

As in our last number we have once more to apologize for delays in publication, none of which are due to us. They arise from circumstances affecting the times of appearance of many scientific periodicals and need no further emphasis here. It is to be hoped that Secretaries and readers alike will have patience and continue to supply us with material as regularly as possible. Moreover, we shall welcome notes and records, of which a good supply has come to hand, from all sources; we wish to extend as widely as possible the list of those providing them. Owing to the late appearance of our October number, some of our readers have not yet sent their subscriptions for 1945 to Dr. K. B. Blackburn. These, as well as those for 1946, which are now due, should be remitted to her at an early date.

CHANGES IN OUR INSECT FAUNA

Since the last war, very noteworthy changes, affecting both butterflies and moths, have taken place in our lepidopterous fauna. The Small Heath and Meadow Brown butterflies, which had vanished from considerable areas in our counties, have now re-established themselves in the deserted zones and invaded others from which they had been absent previously. The same remark applies to the Fritillaries, more especially the Dark Green, which seems likely to reach its old coast stations in the very near future. Similarly, the Peacock, Comma, Wall Brown, Speckled Wood, Dingy Skipper and Large Skipper seem to be extending their ranges with us for all have been recorded from habitats from which they had been long absent. Further, many moths, including the Large Elephant Hawk, the Mullein Shark, the Dusky Lemon Sallow, the Golden Ear and the Bordered Pug, are displaying similar tendencies.

In view of these facts, entomologists and our Societies generally, will render a great service by reporting such range

extensions as soon as they are noted both in the cases of the insects listed above and of other groups. In particular, of the less studied families, our dragonflies seem to be increasing in numbers and in species, for at least three additions to our lists have been made recently.

PUBLIC LECTURES AT KING'S COLLEGE

During the current session, there has been a resumption of the public lectures which formed such a prominent feature of the activities of King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne in pre-war days. Although the first of the series, in which Wing Commander D. C. McKinley gave a thrilling account of his "Flights over the North Pole", was very well attended, we still feel that a considerable section of the community is still unaware that such valuable lectures are available to all. We therefore trust that the Societies will do their best to give them wide publicity.

The second lecture arranged for the present term will be delivered by Major W. B. Kennedy on March 1st, at 6 p.m. His subject will be "The Libyan Desert in Peace and War" and his ability to deal adequately with his subject needs no advertisement from us.

In addition to this course, other lectures, also open to the public, have been arranged by the University of Durham Philosophical Society. The inaugural lecture was given by Mr. I. A. Richmond who took as his subject "Roman Military Engineering". The lecturer held the attention of everyone by an interesting discourse which revealed the expert and enthusiast in every word and with every picture. The second lecture in this series will be given by Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison in King's College, at 5-15 p.m. on Friday, March 15th.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM RACES OF THE COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY.

For over a hundred years local entomologists rejoiced in the possession of a butterfly, the so-called Castle Eden Argus, supposed to occur in no other stations than those from which it was reported in our counties. Now, owing to the prolonged researches of local workers, it is well known that, in reality, no such butterfly exists, and that what we do possess is a marvellous range of variations brought into being by the overlapping and interbreeding of the common English Brown Argus and the Scotch Argus. Throughout the period in which the "Argus" has been studied, no one seems to have observed that a similar clash of two diverse races of the Common Blue butterfly occurs in precisely the same areas. The present position is being subjected to intensive study by some of us, and we suggest that the

many entomologists attached to our Societies should assist in the work. They can help by procuring series of the Common Blue from as many local colonies as possible for exhibition at one of the annual meetings of the Northern Naturalists' Union. The results should prove of extreme interest, as the Western Scottish form of the "Blue" seems to prevail on the Durham coast whilst at many points in the Tyne, Wear, Derwent and Team Valleys the ordinary English form, with intergrades, forms the bulk of the population. We trust that this appeal will not be made in vain!

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

By the kind invitation of the Consett and District Naturalists' Field Club the Autumn Meeting of the Union was held at Consett on Saturday, October 13th, when once again the occasion was marked by the presence of a large and enthusiastic audience.

The chair was taken by Mr. T. Hutton and the lecture was given by Mr. M. F. Adams who took for his subject "Forestry in Relation to Natural History". He began by dealing with the evolution and general conditions of moorlands and indicated how the character of the moorlands determined the types of trees to be planted. In this connexion he discussed other reasons for choices, and pointed out the manifold pitfalls which beset the work of the forester. In particular, he described the afforestation operations on the Culbin Sands lying along the Moray Firth, and stressed the intricacy of the reclamation work necessary before trees could be planted. He then supplied an interesting account of the changes in the bird life of such an area and closed by discussing the natural history of the friends and foes of the forester, taking as his examples deer, rabbits, badgers, etc.

The usual note of thanks was given to mark our appreciation of a very useful lecture, after which we adjourned to an excellent meal for which our hosts were responsible.

A very comprehensive series of exhibits had been prepared for our inspection. Amongst these Mr. J. J. Robson had on view photographs of British flowers and birds whilst Mr. A. E. Hart had brought the results of his labours with his Exakta. They comprised magnificent close-ups of butterflies, moths, bees and flowers. Mr. G. A. Bellam showed us some lovely West African butterflies and a number of pre-historic axes. For an instructive set of well prepared specimens of *Juncus bulbosus* and of *Galeopsis speciosa* we had to thank Dr. K. B. Blackburn, and Dr. Varlev was similarly responsible for an exhibit of solitary

bees of the genus *Andrena* which included examples showing the phenomenon of stylopization. Demonstrating the lateness of some of our local plants, Mr. J. J. McKinney interested us with specimens of heather and heaths from Pontop Pike. Professor Heslop Harrison brought, in order to illustrate notes in the current *Vasculum*, a long series of British immigrant lepidoptera. Lastly, but certainly not the least in importance, were displays of insects and plants by Mr. J. K. Morton; these included a remarkable series of local varieties of the Small Copper butterfly and the rare sandwort *Arenaria uliginosa*. Derek Robertson also showed us the fine results of his season's work. The proceedings concluded with a number of lecturettes in which each exhibitor dealt with the specimens concerned.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

On September 1st, the Excursion Programme was resumed with a visit to Sockburn, where the sculptured stones and brasses in the Conyers Chapel were examined, under the guidance of Mr. S. Cardwell.

The following week, Mr. G. H. Burdon led a party from Heighington by Shackerton Hill and through Redworth Park to Church and Middridge Grange. In the south aisle of Heighington Church, Mr. Burden drew attention to an error in the portrayal of the Crosier coat-of-arms in two monuments. Near Shackerton, a patch of open ground amongst the woods attracted attention by reason of its low-growing vegetation, characterised by Carnation Sedge, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Cathartic Flax, Eyebright and Autumn Gentian, much of the latter dwarfed by a gall-mite.

The annual Fungus Foray was held at Hurworth Moor on September 29th. The party returned to the Club Room for tea, following which an evening meeting was held for the display and inspection of the specimens collected, 56 species being identified. In his report the following Tuesday, the Secretary recalled the regular visits paid to this estate in 1929-30 and, with the help of lantern slides, stressed the changes which had since taken place in the vegetation, due principally to tree-felling-, re-planting and some natural regeneration.

The Autumn Session opened on October 9th, when a record attendance of 100 gathered to hear a most valuable lecture by Mr. Bentley Beetham on "Bird Life in Teesdale", profusely illustrated by lantern slides from the speaker's own photographs. These included pictures of the first Woodcock's nest recorded in Teesdale; of many moorland birds, including some excellent views of the Curlew; of Herons at the Gainford heronry, when

this was located in the Great Wood; and of the Little Grebe and its nest at Branksome Mere, Darlington.

On October 16th, under the title of "From Sea to Skyscraper", Dr. James Watson related our knowledge of the conditions of formation of our chalk deposits to the present commercial utilization of chalk, and particularly to the growth of the cement industry.

Two evenings were devoted to the presentation and discussion of reports on our phenological work, in which 39 members have taken part during the past year. The Secretary dealt with Plant Flowering, which, almost throughout the season, was much ahead of normal, nearly a month or so in mid-April. Mr. Burden's report on Farm Crops referred to these as generally satisfactory, and harvested in good condition, especially barley, root crops and second crops of clover. Speaking of birds, Mr. Stainthorpe was able to report a favourable nesting season, though Grouse and Golden Plover had been scarce on the moors, and a marked decrease had been noted in the numbers of Lapwings and Song Thrushes. Mr. Nowers contributed an account of insects; 23 of the lepidoptera scheduled by the Royal Meteorological Society had been recorded, many of them much earlier than usual.

"Peacocks" was the subject of Miss E. I. J. Martineau's presidential address on November 20th, and her delightful account of their ways was greatly enjoyed.

Particularly topical was Mr. C. Walker's talk on December 4th on "Atom Disintegration" in the course of which he traced the growth of our knowledge of the structure of atoms and the recent development of methods for the explosive release of atomic energy.

November 27th, was a Book Night, when members exhibited some of their Natural History books; an enquiry as to the favourite authors of those present elicited 21 nominations, of whom "Romany" and Robert Gibbings proved to be the most popular. Another evening was devoted to the discussion of six questions submitted by different members. At this meeting, Miss R. E. Dowling demonstrated a strip-film projector, a means of lecture illustration which may prove to be of great utility on occasion.

On Boxing Day, a party of 19 visited the Teesmouth, walking from Grangetown along the south side of the estuary to the South Gare lighthouse and then along the sands to Redcar. Many birds characteristic of the mud-flats and seashore were seen, including Bar-tailed Godwits, Oystercatchers, Purple Sandpipers and Snow Buntings.

On January 22nd, we had a most valuable account of the bird-life of the Tees estuary from Mr. R. D. Sintern, who has been stationed at Seaton Snook for over two years. Under the

title of "Teesmouth Calendar" he described the characteristic birds of each month in turn, their haunts and movements, their approximate numbers and distinguishing features, their food and habits.

At the Annual Conversazione on January 26th, we had the privilege of an address by Prof. L. R. Wager on "A Scientific Expedition to East Greenland". Some excellent exhibits included an extensive collection of photographs of old Darlington, arranged by Miss D. M. Clough; a series of pressed plants collected in Southern Rhodesia and the Cape Province by Mr. R. A. S. Martineau; pellets of Owls and other birds, and various objects grouped under the title of "Nature Tracking", shown by Miss R. E. Dowling, who also exhibited an Axolotl, and a geological exhibit arranged by Mr. C. Walker to demonstrate the directions taken by the various glaciers from Scotland and N.W. England which converged upon the Darlington district during the last Ice Age, with rock samples characteristic of the several ice-flows.

The Junior Section has elected a committee to arrange its own programme of field and indoor meetings. Following a visit to Dinsdale Woods, a varied collection of Wild Fruits, arranged according to their mode of dispersal, was exhibited by the Juniors and aroused much interest.

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

During this session the Club has had the misfortune to lose the services of its Secretary, Mr. E. L. Davison, who has acted in that capacity for many years and has worked so hard to keep the Club going during the war. We should like to thank him, and to give him our heartiest wishes for success in his new work. His successor, Mr. A. Bastiman, also, unfortunately for us, was compelled to resign, and Mr. J. R. Thomas was appointed to act until the annual meeting.

A full programme of excursions was carried out during the summer. Amongst the most notable were the N.N.U. meeting in the Billingham Marshes on May 26th, a visit to Guisborough Church and Priory under the leadership of Mr. T. H. Brown on June 7th, and a similar visit to Kirkleatham Mausoleum on June 27th; joint meetings with the Darlington Field Club at Saltburn on June 16th, when, on a brilliant afternoon, botanists, ornithologists and geologists all had a busy time; an excursion to Hurworth Moor on Sept. 29th for a fungus foray, and an enjoyable trip to Teesmouth (South Gare) on Sept. 1st.

The winter session opened on Oct. 18th with a lecture by Mr. G. A. Ewbank on "How to know the Countryside" in which he illustrated his remarks by many incidents from his own

observations. A small party visited Greatham Creek on Oct. 27th, and on Nov. 28th Mr. B. S. Cran gave some "Observations on Wild Life in the Western Highlands"; his descriptions of the habits of a variety of mammals were much appreciated by members. On Dec. 12th, Dr. A. E. J. Vickers lectured on "A Chapter in Geological History" when he gave a most interesting account of the new methods which have become available for determining the conformation of the rocks beneath the earth's crust.

An encouraging number of new members joined in 1945, and it is hoped that, as war-time difficulties pass, there will be a considerable increase in the Club's general activities.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES.

Squirrels in Northumberland.—On January 2nd, a single specimen of the Red Squirrel was seen by myself and two companions in a tree by the side of the Chineley Burn at a point about one and a half miles from Bardon Mill.—J. A. Richardson.

The Psyllid, *Aphalara pilosa*, in the Birtley area.—This local jumping plant louse, reported but rarely from any station in the British Isles, was discovered in some plenty on the railway bank near the Target Heap over ten years ago. After an absence abroad for over seven years, I visited the old stations only to find that ballast tipped over the food plant, wormwood, had destroyed most of the colonies. However, in a field over a mile away and also on the railway near the Lamb Pit on Birtley Fell, I detected the insect in some plenty once more on *Artemisia absinthium*. The methods of dispersal of this insect must be very efficient because only one wormwood plant occurred in the field and two on the railway.—George Heslop Harrison.

Swarms of Ladybirds.—Whilst I was out for a walk in the Birtley area in autumn, I was struck by the great numbers of Seven Spot Ladybirds crawling about vegetation everywhere. They were just as plentiful in gardens inside the village.—G. Pallister.

(Many reports of large swarms of immigrating ladybirds have been made in the South of England and these in all probability, had a similar origin. Caution, however, is necessary, as in certain localities like Waldrige Fell, *Coccinella septempunctata* normally occurs in great numbers.—J.W.H.H.).

Immigrant Butterflies and Moths.—In connexion with the notes on immigrant lepidoptera in the October number of the Vasculum, it seems worth while placing my own observations on record.

Painted Ladies appeared both in my own garden at Coupland and in Lord Joicey's garden at Etal in June, whilst a single specimen of the Humming Bird Hawk was seen at Coupland in each of the years 1944 and 1940. On the other hand, although the Silver Y has been plentiful at Coupland in recent years, it failed to put in an appearance in 1945. In the same way, Red Admirals were less abundant in the Coupland garden in 1945 than in 1944. Of the

Peacock Butterfly it can be said that they were plentiful at Coupland in August and September, 1944, on Buddleia flowers whilst they failed entirely in 1945.

A Small Elephant Hawk, in "mint" condition, was taken off groundsel at Coupland in May 1943.—W. de L. Aitchison.

Abundance of the Mottled Umber Moth, *Erannis defoliaria*, at Hookergate.—In the first week of December, I saw over forty moths, mostly *Erannis defoliaria*, on a whitewashed wall in a sunny corner at Hookergate. I was so struck by the wide range of variation amongst them that I took nearly twenty and set them.—Frank O' Neill

Pug Moths in the Tyne Valley.—In Mr. Johnson's list of Pug Moths in this area, which appeared in our October number, the Latin name of the Juniper Pug appears as "*Eupithecia juniperata*" this ought to be *Eupithecia sobrinata*. Perhaps this is a suitable occasion to emphasize the fact that this insect occurs sparsely on Waldrige Fell.—J.W.H.H.

The Toadflax Pug (*Eupithecia linariata*) in the Team Valley.—Just a few years ago, this beautiful little pug was supposed to be very rare in our counties. Now, it can be recorded as being of common occurrence both as larva and imago, wherever its food plant *Linaria vulgaris* grows in the Team Valley. This season it was plentiful on fences near the Birtley Iron Works during the first week in July. Moreover, I observed it near the railway station about the same time. Later, on September 5th, two perfectly fresh females were seen on the same fences. Does this mean that the insect is double-brooded with us or that we are concerned with a long drawn out single brood? I lean to the former view as the Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*, usually single-brooded with us, produced a fairly complete second at the same time. This second brood was still flying along the Vigo Railway at the middle of October.—J.W.H.H.

Late Butterflies.—Early in October, the two Common Whites, the Common Blue, the Small Copper, the Red Admiral and the Small Tortoiseshell were still flying on Birtley Fell.—J.W.H.H.

An Additional Note on the Occurrence of the Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) near Newcastle.—This year I had once more the good fortune to be able to observe some of these rare waders close to Newcastle. On September 26th, a group of these birds, including one adult and two juveniles, was watched feeding and preening in a flooded field within twenty yards of the road, between Gosforth Park Lake Lodge and South Gosforth. They were kept under observation for some time and allowed close approach—a very strange circumstance in the case of such a shy species!—J. S. Ash.

The Curlew in the Team Valley.—In my younger days the Curlew was rarely, if ever, seen in the Team Valley. In 1944 and 1945, however, a pair was successful in rearing their young in the Urpeth Bottoms on the made ground just above Bewicke Main and east of the burn.—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Parage megaera L. Wall Butterfly.

One at Penshaw, August 30th, 1945 and another at Seaburn, Sunderland in August 1942; both were males.—J. K. Morton.

(These records are very important as showing that the "Wall" is attempting to regain lost ground; they are in agreement with reports from Yorkshire stations.—J.W.H.H.)