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BY THE WAY

We should like to draw the attention of correspondents to the fact that exchanges, and publications for notice or review, should be sent to the Editor at the above address.

As far as our Societies are concerned, there has been an increased response to our request for a punctual supply of news about their various activities; nevertheless, even now, our material is far from complete and we should like to see deficiencies made up.

Notes and records from members and associates are always useful.

THE. BIOLOGICAL FLORA OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Several instalments of this excellent publication have appeared recently. These deal with *Melandrium album* (the white campion) *M. dioicum* (the red campion) and the genus *Suaeda*. Although these monographs are of unequal value, speaking generally, they are good and very useful.

However, in respect to the campions, readers in our areas will receive some very surprising information. On the map supplying the range of the white campion, this very common plant is indicated as being of rare to occasional occurrence in Northumberland and Durham! On the other hand, as if to balance this, in the Skye Isles and in Coll and Tiree, the red campion is figured as "frequent to abundant." In this connection, too, it should be emphasized that, in our counties, hybrids between the two are often very plentiful indeed, especially on railway embankments, pitheaps and in cornfields.

Two points concerning *M. dioicum* need criticism. This species, especially var. *zetlandicum*, is stated to be rather susceptible to frost damage. All that can be said about that statement is that large numbers of well-grown plants, as well as numerous self-sown seedlings, belonging to this Pleistocene race, and originating in the

Shetland Isles (Unst), South Uist (two localities) and Rhum (two localities), came through the hard winter of 1946-47 quite unscathed in the Birtley district.

Moreover, we think that some confusion has arisen in respect to the figures of capsules on Fig. 5, for (e) certainly does not resemble, even remotely, the capsules produced by any of our plants either from the Shetland Isles or from the Hebrides. The plants included in our cultures which develop capsules nearest to Fig. 5 (e) are from the Isle of Skye, and these are decidedly not representatives of var. *zetlandicum*.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

By the kind invitation of the Natural History Society of Northumberland and Durham, the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Union was held in the Hancock Museum on Saturday, March 6th, 1948. In contrast to our last year's experience at Durham, the weather conditions were ideal, and we had the largest attendance we have ever been able to record.

After the election of new societies and members, the usual reports were read by the Treasurer, Mr. J. E. Ruxton, and the Secretary, Dr. K. B. Blackburn. Both showed that the Union was in a very sound position financially and otherwise. Due recognition of these facts was tendered to the officers concerned, and to Prof. J. W. Heslop Harrison, Editor of the *Vasculum*.

The election of the officers for the years 1948 - 1949 then followed. On the proposal of Prof. Heslop Harrison, seconded by Mr. N. Britten, Dr. W. M. Morison, President of the Annfield Plain and Stanley Naturalists' Club, was chosen as successor to Dr. W. A. Clark.

After the general business was concluded, the retiring President gave a lecture with the title "Relict Woodland Floras in the Isle of Rhum and Other Hebridean Islands". In this address the lecturer dealt with the general results of observations made by members of King's College Biological Expeditions to the Hebrides during the past fifteen years, and illustrated it with a selection of his own and other lantern slides. He began by stating that the topic of past Hebridean woodlands could be approached in three ways: (1) by pollen analysis methods applied to Hebridean peats, (2) by a consideration of the actual remains of trees in the peat and (3) by a study of the flora of recognized relict stations in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. He indicated that he proposed to confine himself more especially to the Isles of Rhum, South Uist and Mingulay. Amongst such stations worked most closely by King's College parties he selected cliffs and gorges, where hazel, birch, aspen, mountain ash, holly and oak still survive, on the Isle of

Rhum; of these he showed numerous slides. On South Uist, he dealt with the Allt Volagir ravine in which a flourishing hazel-birch-aspen wood, with an appropriate ground flora grows. Finally he discussed the cliff floras of Mingulay. The lecture concluded with a short summary citing some of the agencies which had combined to reduce island woodlands to their present conditions.

At 4.30 p.m. we adjourned for tea, which contrary to our usual practice, had, on this occasion, been provided by outside caterers; we pay the tea a high compliment when we assert that it was just as good as those supplied by our own workers!

An inspection of the usual exhibits followed. Of these Mr. R. B. Cooke had on display a collection of living garden flowers of many varieties, whilst Miss Yolande Massey brought a splendid collection of bramble forms to illustrate her own researches in the genus *Rubus*. Mr. N. Britten produced a range of specimens of the two British *Agrimonia* species again to show us the material with which he was working. Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison had on view a series of the water beetle *Dytiscus lapponicus* from the Isle of Soay, the *Convolvulus* Hawk, bred Bedstraw Hawks from Birtley, and melanic Early Thorns with a number of Geometrical hybrids as yet undescribed. In addition, he brought living examples of the moss *Myurium hebridanum* from the Isle of Tiree, a species also shown from the Isles of S. Uist and Harris by Dr. W. A. Clark. Mr. T. R. Milburn had set out a nice series of plants from Upper Weardale. Mr. T. K. Morton, in addition to a fine lot of plants belonging to the genera *Juncus* and *Petasites*, interested us with a well-set lot of the butterflies *Erebia epiphron* and *Colias croceus*, the latter including a fine specimen of the aberration *electra*. Mr. Jefferson had some interesting blues, one, which he considered possibly gynandrous, showing a curious rayed appearance on the outer margin of the upper side of the hindwings.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The Club has suffered a grievous loss by the death, at the age of 83, of Mr. J. E. Nowers. A naturalist of wide experience, Mr. Nowers was a pillar of the Club for over 30 years, for 22 of which he was its most conscientious secretary.

The Autumn Session was opened by A. Stainthorpe with a talk on "The Call of the Birds", illustrated by his own realistic renderings of the songs and call-notes of many species.

Dr. James Watson recounted some of the interesting associations of the valley of the River Lea, referring especially to Waltham Abbey, Epping Forest, and the Research Station at Cheshunt. Under the title of "Golden Galway", Mr. F. W. Cooke gave an account of a cycling holiday in the West of Ireland.

Mrs. A. E. Wallis spoke of "Some Homes of Old Darlington", dealing particularly with the residences of the Backhouses, Peases and Robsons in the 18th and early 19th centuries. A list of birds seen at Beechwood in 1831 included such species as Nightjar, Wryneck, Corncrake and Ring Ousel.

Mr. Michael Rowntree gave an account of "Bird Migration in the Middle East", based on his wartime experience of two spring migrations at Tobruk and one autumn migration near Alexandria. An address on "Heredity" by Miss M. Andrews, who gave numerous examples illustrative of the mechanism of inheritance, concluded the session.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY NATURALISTS' CLUB

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Public Library, Annfield Plain, on Wednesday, January 14th, 1948, with the President, Dr. W. Morison, in the chair. There was an excellent attendance when the Secretary, Mr. F. Wade, read his report. In it he stated that the club was maintaining its satisfactory condition, and that the value of its activities were becoming more and more recognized by the general public who read with interest the reports of the club's work as they appear in the local press. During the year, twelve new members were enrolled so that at the end of the year it had a membership of 114, attracted from a wide area. This would seem to indicate that there are openings for similar clubs elsewhere if suitable organizers can be found.

In the course of the preceding season, eleven rambles have been arranged, as well as twelve lectures, five given by our own members. The average attendance at the field meetings was fifty, a circumstance depending to no small extent on the glorious summer weather which prevailed in 1947. Our visits were paid to the following places; Lumley and Lambton, Dryderdale, Ravensworth Castle and Park, Cocken Woods, Brasside Ponds, Cauldron Snout and Birkdale, Medomsley, Pan Burn, Satley and Stanhope Dene. Further we had a trip down the Tyne and to Durham City where we visited the more unusual historical points of interest.

Turning now to the winter session, the Secretary announced that, despite the arctic conditions, an average of 52 was kept up in attendance. With great masses of snow blocking the roads early in 1948, it says much for the enthusiasm of members that so many turned up. The lectures were of high standard as were also the discussions they provoked. They are listed as follows:

"A Holiday in the Highlands", Mr. F. A. Wills; "Six Nature Study Talkie Films", Mr. M. Strong; "A Wayfarer in Weardale", Mr. F. Wade; "The Parish of Whickham", Mr. J. Finney; "South Africa", Mr. W. R. Brookes; "Fifty Miles in Upper Weardale", Mr. F. Wade; "The Biology of a Garden",

Mr. M. V. Bell; "Afoot in Anglo-Saxon Durham" Mr. F. A. Wills; "The Psychology of Christmas", Mr. D. C. Russell; "The English Legal System", Mr. H. Boyden; "The Romantic Tyne", Mr. F. A. Wills.

The Treasurer, Mr. J. Atkinson, made his financial statement which revealed the club to be in a healthy condition. He reported a balance of £33 19s. 71/2d. In addition, the Excursion Secretary, Mr. J. Finney, also gave a detailed and very satisfactory report of his side of our activities.

The President, Dr. W. M. Morison, also reviewed the year's work and gave unstinting praise to those officers upon whom the burdens of the year's working had fallen.

In the ensuing elections, all the officers were re-elected.

At present, a strong summer programme is being arranged.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Notes on an unrecorded Mesolithic Site from Upper Weardale—In 1931 Temperley and Gibbs described flints from the Wager Head and Whifield Brow sites on Bollihope Common in Weardale (*Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. of Northumberland and Durham and Newcastle-on-Tyne*, Vol. 7, Pt. 2).

Another Weardale site has been added by a discovery: made by Mr. J. H. Walton of Corn Riggs, Wearhead. In 1938 he found Mesolithic flints in a pasture near Greenfield Farm on the road from Upper Weardale to Allenheads. These are similar to those described from the Lyne Hill site on the Northumberland coast by Raistrick (*Pro. Prehist. Soc. Of East Anglia*, Vol. 7, Pt. 2, .1933), an. to those mentioned above from the Wager Head and Whitfield Brow sites.

One preliminary visit to the site yielded specimens from an area of about three hundred square yards. Quarrying operations have destroyed part of the original site, but fortunately at the present time, quarrying, is proceeding in a direction away from where the flints have been found most abundantly. The finding of specimens has not proved difficult as they present a characteristic appearance after weathering which renders distinction from the limestone chippings easy. They can be collected on the soil of the quarry tippings and from the many molehills in the pasture outside the quarry.

During one visit to the site, three collectors found twenty specimens in three quarters of an hour. Eight of these showed secondary chipping and included a good specimen of a flake knife with point similar to one figured by Temperley and Gibbs from Wager Head. Also included are good specimens of a core, a flake blade and an imperfect microlith.

Since the discovery of the site over three hundred specimens have been collected at intervals by Mr. Walton, but the writer has only seen a few of these.

All the material so far collected has simply been picked from the surface. As the soil is only about nine inches deep near the quarry, it is hoped that digging will result in more interesting finds.

Finally, it is decided to record the finding of a Neolithic axe of Lakeland lava, near Stanhope in Weardale. This will be fully described in the next issue.

I am much indebted to Mr. Walton for informing me of his discovery and for helpful discussion. My thanks are also due to Dr. K. B. Blackburn and Dr A Raistrick for the interest which they have shown in this work.--T. R. Milburn.

Bird Life near the Brasside Ponds.—We have been requested to point out that, in the list appearing in our October number (page 22), the Reed Warbler was included by an oversight.

A Gynandrous Example of the Poplar Hawk Moth.—Last season I bred a considerable number of this hawk moth and amongst them was a gynandromorph with the right side female and the left side male.—Derek Robertson.

Calcite-quartz Veins containing Galena and Plant Remains from Cottonshope Burn, Northumberland.—For the purpose of obtaining road metal for the new road built by the German prisoners of war in Cottonshope Burn (a northern tributary of the River Bede) two quarries have been opened in the Cottonshope basalt lavas of the Lower Carboniferous age (base of Cementstone group). One of these quarries is situated to the south-east of Cottonshope Head House, the other at the bridge immediately to the south of Cottonshope House. These lavas consist of three flows, which, in descending order, are 20, 20 and 40 feet thick (Tomkeieff, *Proc. Geol. Ass.*, 1931, vol. 42, p. 259). The second flow has apparently been erupted into a soft calcareous mud, covering the floor of the lagoon, as in its lower part it is crowded with lumps of bedded limestone. This limestone is, in places, moulded on fragments of scoriaceous lava, in such a way as to suggest that both the lava and the mud were liquid at the time of the eruption. The lavas are traversed by numerous east-west veins composed either of calcite alone or of calcite and quartz. In the Cottonshope Head quarry the veins are up to six inches in thickness but they are extremely irregular.

Quartz, the last mineral to crystallise out, occupies the central zone of each vein, if there is such a central zone, and lines the numerous cavities in the veins. One vein was found to contain isolated crystals and crystals aggregates of galena embedded in the calcite of the central zone. Galena was also found in the narrow veins, composed entirely of calcareous material, cutting the second basalt flow near Cottonshope House. One of these veins, one inch in thickness, was found to be composite, the outer zones, some 1/5 inch in thickness, being made of cementstone paste, while the central part of the vein was sealed up by radial-crystalline and crustiform calcite. In the cementstone paste were embedded numerous small twigs some 1 to 2 mm. in diameter. In transverse sections the plant remains show: (1) a carbonised cortex in which the cellular texture is completely destroyed, (2) a zone with the organic material completely replaced by granular calcite, and (3) a well-preserved stele in which the walls of the xylem although carbonised are distinct. This stele consists of a small triangle of primary wood and three adjoining wedges of secondary wood. The structure strongly suggests that of the stem of *Sphenophyllum*. This plant is fairly abundant in the Carboniferous beds, but it is interesting to record its occurrence in rather unusual circumstances in a fissure of a lava and in association with galena, which occurs embedded in the calcite of the inner zone and in one place is moulded on a plant stem.

There is hardly any doubt that the plant remains were washed down, together with the calcareous mud, into the joint cracks of the lava, probably soon after its solidification. One may also assume that the precipitation of calcite and galena, infilling the middle zone of the vein, followed on soon after the first event.

The occurrence of galena in the regions of Redesdale, North Tynedale and the Cheviot Hills is comparatively rare, but several localities are

noted by the geologists of the Geological Survey, namely by H. Miller (*Otterburn Memoir*, 1887, p. 124) and by C. T. Clough (*Cheviot Memoir*, 1888, p. 33 and *Plashetts and Kielder Memoir*, 1889 p. 25). What is new and interesting in the present case is the association of plant remains with galena in a fissure in a lava flow.—S. I. Tomkeieff.

Odd Notes from Seaton Sluice.—Early in August, the Hummingbird Hawk put in an appearance on the dunes, to be replaced in early September by numbers of Red Admirals and, later, by the Silver Y moth at Red Valerian. Earlier in the season I found a pure white form of the Bloody Geranium *Geranium sanguineum* in bloom, also in the Dunes.—J. Russell.

More immigrants in 1947.—On August 28th I saw six Painted Ladies in perfect condition at Whittington whilst its ally the Red Admiral was fairly common at Bingfield. I took larvae in all stages of growth on August 21st. In the school garden at Bingley a perfect example of the Hummingbird Hawk was noted hovering over flowers the same day. Similarly, at Stagshaw on September 9th, I observed two specimens of the Clouded Yellow, one of which I was so fortunate as to capture.—J. G. Coggon.

RECORDS

BIRDS

- Motacilla flava flavissima** L. Yellow Wagtail. 66
Four were seen on Hebburn Ponds on April 28th, whilst one pair was present throughout the summer. A party of eight, detected on August 18th, would suggest breeding
- Nyroca fuligula** L. Tufted Duck. 66
A pair was resident at Hebburn Ponds, and nine young were observed on July 20th.
- Pluvialis apricarius** L. Golden Plover. 66
A party of five was noted at Hebburn Ponds on August 10th. -C. J. Gent.

LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

- Atethmia xerampelina** Hb. Centre-barred Sallow. 66
Common on ash trunks near Barnard Castle in August 1946 and 1947.—J. P. R.
- Plusia bractea** Fabr. Gold Spangle. 66
A single specimen was taken at valerian flowers, Barnard Castle on August 9th, 1932.—J.P.R.
- P. festucae** L. Gold Spot. 66
Half a dozen of this species were netted, also at valerian flowers, between 1933 and 1941.—J.P.R.
- Pachys betularia** L. Peppered Moth. 66
Both typical and melanic forms still occur at Barnard Castle but the latter seem to predominate.—J.P.R.
- Hipparchus papilionaria** L. Large Emerald. 66
One or two larvae were beaten from alder in 1944 and again in 1945, but several were secured in 1946 and 1947. Many of the latter were "Stung".—J.P.R.
- Eupithecia tantillaria** Boisid. Dwarf Pug. 66
In 1940 I discovered this species in a very restricted area amongst spruce fir near Barnard Castle and have taken it each year since. This, I believe, is the first record for the species in Co. Durham.—J.P.R.
- E. palustraria** Doubl. Marsh Pug. 66
An odd specimen was taken near Barnard Castle in 1941 and two in 1944n.; l: All were flying in the daytime.—J.P.R.

Calocalpe cervinalis Scop. Scarce Tissue.	66
In 1941, on May 25 th , I took a single specimen of this species and another on June 6th, 1942. From the latter sample I obtained ova and bred a fine series.—J.P.R.	
Triphosa dubitata L. The Tissue.	65,66.
Two specimens have been netted near Barnard Castle, one on the Yorkshire side of the river, on October 21st, 1917, and the second in Durham in October 1945.—J.P.R.	
Lithina chlorosata Scop. Brown Silverline.	66.
First noted near Barnard Castle on June 1st, 1938. Now known to be quite plentiful in areas where bracken grows freely.—J.P.R.	
Diasemia litterata Scop.	67.
A very rare Pyralid, in the form of this species, came to light at Riding Mill in September; it has not been recorded north of Suffolk previously.	
Phlyctaenia ferrugalis Hubn.	67.
Also at light near Riding Mill.—F. W. Gardner.	
Amathes c-nigrum L.	66.
Several specimens at light near Barnard Castle.—J. P. Robson.	
Diarsia rubi View. Small Square Spot.	65.
Taken at Barnard Castle in 1914.—J.P.R.	
Hadena thalassina Rott.	66.
A single specimen was taken here in June, 1914.—J.P.R.	
(These three species were accidentally omitted, from my earlier lists—J.P.R.)	
Panotis amimea Schiff. ineBeauty.	66
Larvae of this species were not uncommon on pine near Barnard Castle in the years 1944-1947.—J.P.R.	
Cirrhia gilvago Esp. Dusky Lemon Sallow.	66.
I bred 25 specimens from larvae beaten from wych elm in 1942. They were scarcely distinguishable from those of <i>Agrochola circellaris</i> .—J.P.R.	
Tiliacea citragon L. Orange Sallow.	66.
An odd specimen came to light on September 1st, 1929.—J.P.R.	
Larvae of this species are far from rare on lime trees in June in Lambton Park.—J.W.H.H.	
Cucullia umbratica L. The Shark.	
Half a dozen specimens were captured at Barnard Castle between 1933 and 1941.—J.P.R.	
C. verbasci L. Mullein Shark.	66.
Larvae were collected at Barnard Castle in 1937 and 1939. They were very common in 1943.—J.P.R.	
Plusia interrogatilis L. Scarce Silver Y.	66.
Only taken once in this district and that was on July 23rd, 1945.—J.P.R.	
Sterrhia dimidiata Hufn. Single Dotted Wave.	66.
Rare at Barnard Castle; taken on July 5th, 1942.—J.P.R.	
Eupithecia tenuiata Hb. Slender Pug.	66.
Two specimens were taken near Barnard Castle in 1945.—J.P.R.	

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BY THE WAY

Once again, we should like to impress upon correspondents that exchanges, and publications for notice or review, as well as notes and records, should be sent to the Editor at the above address. Secretaries of our Societies are requested to supply us with an account: of their summer activities as early as possible in September so that they may be included in our October issue.

THE BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This important and active society held its 1948 Summer Meeting, with Newcastle upon Tyne as its headquarters, under the Presidency of Mr. Charles Elton. Its visit lasted from Monday, July 5th to Friday, July 9th.

A very full programme had been prepared, including a Soiree in the Department of Botany, King's College, on Monday, July 5th, followed by a series of excursions to well-known local areas famous for the richness of their floras and faunas. Although the weather was far from being at its best, successful visits were paid to the Fame Islands on Tuesday, to Butterby Marshes and Quarrington Hill on Wednesday and to Upper Teesdale on Thursday, where halts were made at the Winch Bridge and High Force before the main objective, Cronkley, was reached and explored. The meeting closed on Friday with visits to the Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, in the morning, and to Seaton Sluice sand dunes in the afternoon.

OUR JUVENILE MEMBERS

Once again we wish to draw attention to the services provided for the Union for its junior members and associates. In addition to encouraging and assisting them at its various indoor meetings, the Union arranges occasional field excursions to localities within easy reach where interesting floras and faunas are available for study. These outings have generally been conducted by Dr. K. B. Blackburn, with the aid of local teachers of biology. For this year's

May meeting, a visit was paid to Wylam, when Dr. Blackburn and Professor Heslop Harrison, directed the party. The attendance was good and the enthusiasm great. In consequence much good work was done.

It seems worthy of emphasis that such excursions break the routine of purely laboratory work, and serve to direct the energies of the younger generation toward field studies, thereby assisting to ensure a future supply of field workers in an area famous for its field naturalists.

THE BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Owing to the success of our Societies at Consett and Annfield Plain; an effort was made in April to establish a natural history society at Birtley. It proved too late to arrange a field programme, but, instead, a series of lectures, intended to arouse local interest, was given by enthusiasts. These were very successful, and two delivered by Mr. J. Walton, dealing with the natural history of Lambton Park, and illustrated by lantern slides of his own making, broke entirely new ground. Members were greatly astonished at the variety of the wild life which found sanctuary in the Park.

Professor Heslop Harrison was appointed President, Miss Sheila Rice, Secretary, and Mr. A. Macnamara, Treasurer.

The Society has not yet been admitted to the Union, but will, no doubt, join us at our October meeting.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

The first field meeting for 1948 was held at Ravensworth on May 22nd. The morning was wet, but it cleared up in the afternoon when a party of 20 assembled to work the woods under fairly dry conditions. We found the Castle rapidly crumbling to ruin, and the various cultivated plants, with which it was formerly surrounded, almost gone. The hardy yellow jasmine, however, was still holding its own. To the north of the Castle, the trees were still unspoilt, in particular, the cedars forming a source of delight. However it was too wet to study the oak gall wasps although we did note the Oak apple gall, *Teras terminalis*, on one of them. The arboretum was in fairly good condition, with two species of horse chestnut in full bloom accompanied by copper beeches, weeping willows, and various species of Rhododendron. We studied the flowers in the undergrowth as well as commoner shrubs like the holly and dogwood. More especially, we were interested in a white flowered member of the rose family which proved to be a medlar. Amongst the insects, but few were seen, and these comprised many larvae of the Oak Tortrix, several species of Winter moths and the November moth.

By contrast, the Hamsterley Hall excursion on June 12th was favoured with a beautiful sunny day, and almost a hundred people were present.

Mr. T. Hutton gave an account of the Hall and its owners as we rested before dispersing to our labours. The botanists found the trees and shrubs greatly damaged by late frosts. Further, the giant horsetail, had also been caught badly, but much of the ground vegetation remained unharmed. The most interesting plants seen were the Climbing Fumitory (*Corydalis claviculata*) and the Millet Grass (*Milium effusum*). The Wood Sedge, with the Cuckoo Flower and the large flowered Bitter Cress, were seen in fair quantity whilst the meadows nearby yielded the Great Burnet, the Mouse-eared Hawkweed and the Strawberry. The area proved to have a rich insect fauna. Amongst those noted were two species of dragonfly, the common blue *Coenagrion puella* and the red *Pyrhosoma nymphula*. Beside the streams were the pale green stonefly *Isoperla grammatica* and several *Nemoura* species whilst from the herbage were beaten numbers of scorpion flies. From sycamores were secured crowds of Aphids and lace-wing flies. Although the oaks were badly affected by frost damage, they still produced winter moth larvae in considerable numbers. Many of these were collected and examined for parasites when two kinds of ichneumon and one species of Tachinid were found in their bodies. Of the two-winged flies, many examples of *Leptis scolopacea* were found on the tree trunks which perhaps explains why the Pied Flycatchers, photographed by Mr. Park, had caught so many of them. In addition, *Empis tessellata*, with innumerable *Hilarae* swarmed on the streams, the males often carrying their prey in the form of small flies. Perhaps the most surprising capture amongst the insects was the large black and red daddy-long-legs, *Tanyptera atrata*, the larvae of which live in birch trunks. This fly, when first seen, was mistaken for a large ichneumon fly of which it seems to form a fair mimic.

The sixty-first field meeting of the Union was held at the Blackhall Rocks on July 10th, when the area to the south of the rocks was explored under the guidance of Professor Heslop Harrison. The weather, very fortunately, was good, and a really representative party worked the denes and hollows on top of the cliffs. Despite the fact that much of the vegetation had been blasted by cold easterly winds, the rare plants for which the rocks are noted, were seen in some abundance. More especially it was a pleasure to find that, this season, the colonies of the Round-leaved Wintergreen and the Bird's Eye Primrose were in very good order. However, although a few plants were seen, the Marsh Helleborine Orchid had been badly damaged by fire. Other orchids observed were the Fragrant Orchid, the Spotted Orchid, the Tway Blade and *Orchis majalis*. Of the usual plants proper to Magnesian Limestone cliffs, we collected the Greater Knapweed, Small Field

Scabious, Small Burnet, Saw-wort, Rockrose, Marjoram, Kidney Vetch, Thyme, Burnet Saxifrage, Hoary Ragwort, Bloody Cranesbill and Juniper. To most of us, the occurrence of the Viper's Bugloss near the rocks was unexpected, for it has not been recorded previously from the locality. Other plants noted included Iris, Grass of Parnassus, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Wood Groundsel, Butterwort, Fleabane, Hemp Agrimony, Common Agrimony, Dusky Sallow, etc.

Naturally, the insects had been adversely affected by the weather, but we did see amongst the butterflies the Small Heath, the Meadow Brown, the Castle Eden Argus, the Common Blue, the Dingy Skipper and the Large Skipper, whilst the moths included the Six Spot Burnet, the Yellow Shell, the Small Rivulet, the Chalk Carpet, the Silver-ground Carpet and the Latticed Heath.

In other groups we were able to make interesting records of the Viviparous Lizard and the Kestrel and Rock Dove.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The Annual Conversazione was held on January 31st, when an audience of 85 enjoyed a stimulating address by Dr. W. A. Clark, President of the Northern Naturalists' Union, on "Botanising in the Western Isles". The exhibits included a series of minerals to illustrate the different forms in which silica, lime and iron occur naturally; a collection of seeds, inaugurated by the late J. E. Nowers, and numerous sketches of birds by a junior member, Alan Baldrige.

Lectures were given during the session by the President, Miss N. B. Glendinning, on "St. Colme's Inch" (the island in the Forth), by Mr. James Morrison on "The South Park", by Mr. A. D. Thompson, on the subject "With Microscope and Camera", by Mr. S. Cardwell on "The North Yorkshire Coast and Moors", by Miss E. Dennis on "British Wild Flowers" by Mr. G. H. Burdon on "English Church Architecture", by Mr. W. W. Allen on "Respiration in Animals", by Mr. A. Howe on "Reminiscences of Teesdale", and by Mr. A. Stainthorpe on "The Scottish Highlands" and "Dawn Chorus". This last address was illustrated by lantern slides, gramophone records and the speaker's own excellent renderings of the songs and call-notes of numerous species.

A "Nature Quiz" between teams of Juniors and Seniors, won by the former, was so successful that a return contest was arranged; on this occasion, the Seniors just managed to hold their own.

On April 10th, a party of 36 visited Farndale, under the leadership of Mr. T. N. Scaling. A two mile walk along the banks of the Dove enabled us to enjoy to the full the profusion of wild daffodils for which the dale is famous.

The following week, a party of 60 paid an "official" visit to Richmond, being received on arrival by the Mayor and Mayoress. The Town Clerk (Mr. David Brooks) gave a most interesting address on the story of Richmond, illustrated by the Corporation plate and old charters and seals, and later acted as our guide on a tour of the Castle, the Parish Church and the Old Theatre.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

The Badger in Co. Durham.—On Monday, April 26th (4.50 p.m.) I was on the top of a No. 40 Northern Bus going home to Sunderland. After we had passed Heworth, near the electric pylons, about two fields past the farm on the right side of the road, and not far from the junction of the main road and that leading to Washington, the bus had to slow down on account of heavy traffic. I was on the near side (left hand side of the road), and almost immediately opposite to me, I caught first a glimpse, and then a good view, of a badger scrambling up the hedge side. The stripe first attracted my notice, and then the animal moved a little and raised its head as the bus pulled up. It appeared to be about 25 inches long.—M. E. Richardson.

Orchis majalis Reichb. an Orchid new to the Durham list.—In 1925, (*Vasculum*, XI, p. 124) in my list of Durham orchids I applied the name *Orchis purpurella* to an orchid which was of common occurrence in damp hollows in the clayey slopes north of the Blackhall Rocks, as well as in the depressions on the tops of the cliffs southward. However, I have known for a considerable number of years that this determination was incorrect. In fact, in 1930 (*Vasculum*, XVI, p. 118) my brother, dealing with a batch of orchids we had collected on the cliffs on July 2nd, expressed my views on the matter by quoting what I said to him about the plant when I was working at the material later. The words I used to describe it were "a Spotted Orchid allied to Stephenson's *Orchis purpurella*". Unfortunately other work, as well as the war, interrupted my studies on the Durham orchids for many years, until the plants at the Brasside ponds attracted my attention. Some of these were so like *Orchis majalis* that I sent examples to my friend, the late H. W. Pugsley, for critical examination. Moreover, I subjected many other forms collected in our area, and formerly regarded as true *O. purpurella*, to careful study. In every case except that of the Blackhall Rocks specimens, and others from dune slacks at Seaton Sluice, I found my original determinations justified. This season, I have made three journeys to the Blackhalls to work the orchids, more especially the anomalous form. As a result, I find that the plant belongs to the species *Orchis majalis* Reichb. In particular, it approximates very closely indeed to *O. majalis* subsp. *traunsteinerioides* Pugsley described by that author from Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

This form has been raised by Wilmott to the rank of a full species but, as in the case of many of that writer's orchid "species", the position is quite untenable. Its rank cannot be fixed at a higher level than that of a sub-species. Here it seems well to state that, although I am cited as being responsible for the orchids in the British Ecological Society's *Check-list of British Vascular Plants*, at least five orchids appear as full species the specific rank of which I cannot accept. They were certainly not listed as species by me. Furthermore, recent investigations in the Hebrides have only served to strengthen my views.—J. W. Heslop Harrison.

The Flora of an Engine Pond.—For many years the pond at Ouston E pit had no plant occupant except the pond weed, *Potamogeton natans*, to which was added as a companion, a few years ago, the Water Milfoil,

Myriophyllum spicatum. These two lived for a considerable period with the latter plant held in check by the pond-weed. Later a second pondweed *P. pectinatus*, put in an appearance to shoot its branches about the pond like arrows, but, nevertheless, not greatly upsetting the balance between the two earlier colonists. Three years ago, they were joined by a third pondweed *P. friesii*, which last season produced a dense tangle which, almost immediately, melted away under the influence of some bacterial disease. In fact, it seemed as if *P. friesii* had vanished completely. This season, however, it has reappeared, but the balance of power has been changed. Everywhere the Milfoil dominates the position. *Potamogeton pectinatus* is now restricted to one or two patches in the middle of the pond whilst *P. natans* has been greatly reduced in numbers. Curiously enough, a band of clear water surrounds the *P. friesii* and, up to the present, July 20th, it has in no way been repressed by the Milfoil. The outcome of the struggle at the end of the year is awaited with interest. —J.W.H.H.

RECORDS

FLOWERING PLANTS

- Typha latifolia** L. Bulrush. 110
This interesting plant, new to the Outer Hebrides, was discovered in a stream running into a loch at Shawbost, Isle of Lewis, and later at Bragar in the same island.—J.W.H.H.
- Sibthorpia europea** L. Cornish Moneywort. 110
In the *Scottish Naturalist* and elsewhere, there have appeared records of this plant from the woods around the Lewis Castle, Stornoway. The plant, undoubtedly, grows there, but only as an escape from the derelict greenhouses. It cannot, therefore, have any phytogeographical significance. —J.W.H.H.
- Poa chaixii** Vill. 110
Not at all rare in one of the sections of the Castle Woods on the side facing the Harbour.—J.W.H.H.
- Carex maritima** Gunn. 110
In countless thousands on the barer and flatter areas adjoining the dunes at Barvas and Eoropie, Isle of Lewis.—J.W.H.H.
- Trifolium striatum** L. Soft Knotted Trefoil. 66
On a bank near the river at Low Coniscliffe, in small quantity, but in three distinct patches. Probably var. *erectum*, as the larger plants have three or four stiff, spreading-erect branches. Typical associates are *Trifolium dubium* Sibth. and *Arenaria serpyllifolia* L.—J.B.W.
- Anacamptis pyramidalis** L. Pyramid Orchid. 66
Two specimens of this orchid were found on Saturday, July 17th, between a wheat field and a hedge on the top of the cliffs at Marsden.—Eileen Jennison.
(I have seen these specimens, and they form an interesting comment on the fact that Baker and Tate reported the species from the same locality eighty years ago.—J.W.H.H.)
- Spergularia rupicola** var. *glabrescens* Lebel. 66
Cliffs between Marsden and S. Shields.—T. K. Morton
- Sisymbrium orientale** L. 66
Abundant in gravel pit at Ryhope Dene.—J.K.M.
- Geranium versicolor** L. 66
A patch at Barnard Castle. Differing from the description in "Further Illustrations of the Brit. Flora" in having a hispid fruit. Probably an escape from cultivation.—J.K.M.
- Sparganium simplex** Huds. 67
In Crag Lough.—J.K.M.

- Viola calcarea** Grey. 66
 When I saw this plant in June, 1946, in its Quarrington Hill locality, it was flowering freely, but all the plants were within a few feet of the edge of a rapidly extending quarry. It is to be hoped that the plant will not be exterminated with us in this, its only, locality.—J.K.M.
- Dipsacus fullonum** L. Teasel. 68
 Odd plants were seen at Kielder when a party from King's College Dept. of Agriculture was there on May 31st.—J.W.H.H.
- Trollius europaeus** L. Globeflower. 68
 Not rare in a field just south of Kielder.—J.W.H.H.
- Rosa mollis** Sm. Downy Rose. 68
 As this rose species fails quite unaccountably in many of our western districts, the fact that it occurs at Kielder and in the adjoining areas seems worthy of note.—J.W.H.H.
- Salix nigricans** Sm. Dusky Sallow. 67
 As is well-known, this species descends to Wylam, etc., on the Tyne. It seems worthy of record that two of the bushes seen this year were producing intersexual catkins.—J.W.H.H.
- Melandrium dioicum** L. Red Campion. 66
 This year a form of this plant, not observed before, was collected on May 15th, in Lambton Woods; if bore light purple flowers. Subsequent visits demonstrated that several similar plants flourished not far away.—J.W.H.H.
- Genista anglica** L. Needle Greenweed. 67
 This plant occurred in great quantities on May 17th on the moors just a mile or two to the east of Blanchland.—J.W.H.H.

BIRDS

- Phylloscopus collybita** Vieill. Chiffchaff 67
 One was heard in song at Beltingham on June 12th.—C. J. Gent.

LEPIDOPTERA — BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

- Argynnis aglaia** L. Dark-green Fritillary. 68
 On August 9th, 1946, I captured a specimen of this species at Kyloe in North Northumberland. This was one of four specimens noted by me, although my brother had seen a large number previous to that date.—J. S. Ash.
 (This, again, is a very welcome record, for it certifies that the species has a strong colony in a part of our area from which it has not been recorded previously.—J.W.H.H.)
- Pachys strataria** Hufn. Oak Beauty. 66
 A pair of this species was taken *in cop.* on a fence post on the outskirts of Flatt's Woods, Barnard Castle, on March 22nd. This species is not in J. E. Robson's List of Northumberland and Durham Lepidoptera and is, therefore, new to the county.—J. P. Robson.
- Colias croceus** Fouc. Clouded Yellow. 66,67,61,69
 Some 30 freshly emerged individuals, all except 3 being males, were netted in Ryhope Dene on and around 26/8/47. One male was a very pale lemon colour and appears to be referable to var. *electra*. Single specimens were also seen at Whittledene Reservoirs, 9/9/47; Flamborough Head, 20/9/47; Brough, end of Sept.—J. K. Morton
- Lycena phlaeas** L. Small Copper. 66
 A specimen with the band on the hind wings almost absent and a fine var. *lacticolor* (*Schmidtii*) were taken 66
 near Sunderland this summer.—J.K.M.

- Zygaena trifolii** L. Five Spot Burnet 66
 Last year, for the first time for over a hundred years, the capture of the Five-spot Burnet in the Birtley area supplied a welcome Durham record. During July this year, in spite of heavy calls upon my time, I kept watch for the insect. As a result, on July, 22nd, I saw and caught one specimen, and, what was more satisfactory, I discovered cocoons from which I bred the insect. All but one of the insects reared were taken back to the colony and liberated. The colony is mixed, more or less, with Six-spot Burnets. Last year, I formed the impression that the latter species was dominant. This season's investigations have shown that *Z. trifolii* is much the commoner insect.—J.W.H.H.
- Eucheli jacobaeae** L. The Cinnabar. 67
 Captured by one of our junior members at Wylam, the first inland record for Northumberland.
- Callophrys rubi** L. Green Hairstreak. 67
 Flying over bilberry on the moors near Edmondbyers; this is a new locality for this interesting little butterfly.—J.W.H.H.
- Thera cognata** Thubg.
 Larvae beaten from juniper at the Blackhall Rocks on May 16th prove that the insect is still there. In June, the plants already decadent, received much damage from cold east winds, and no larvae were then present.—J.W.H.H.

COLEOPTERA — BEETLES

- Cychrus rostrata** L.
 One under rotten tree trunk on Penshaw, 22/9/46. One in refuse in Ryhope Dene, 13/4/48.—J. K. Morton.
- Carabus nitens** L. 68
 One running amongst heather on Shielcleuch Edge, Cheviot, 28/3/48. —J.K.M.
- Rhagium bifasciatum** P. 66
 One beaten from Oak in Urpeth Bottoms, 2/6/44.—J.K.M.
- R. mordax** De G. 66
 One on larch at Blanchland and very abundant in a rotten elm trunk in Stanhope Dene in May.—J.K.M.
- Pterostichus aethiops** Pz. 66
 Not uncommon under loose bark in Upper Browney Valley in winter.—J.K.M.
- Laemostenus terricola** Hbst. 66
 One in dung on Hastings Hill, Sunderland, in Sept.—J.K.M.
- Calathus micropterus** Duff. 66
 One under loose bark in Upper Browney Valley, 31/10/43.—J.K.M.
- Asaphidion flavipes** L. 66
 One under bark on rotten tree at Finchale Abbey, 10/10/43.—J.K.M.
- Amara consularis** Duft. 66
 Two in haystack refuse at Whitburn, 4/3/44, and one under grass cuttings at Sunderland, 20/10/43.—J.K.M.
- Leistus ferrugineus** L. 66
 One under loose bark on Penshaw, 21/9/46, and one in rotting clover hay at Finchale Abbey, 19/4/46.—J.K.M.

HYMENOPTERA — SAWFLIES

- Pontania phyllicifoliae** Forsius. 68
 On *Salix phyllicifolia* at Kielder, the first record for this rare British species in North Northumberland.
- P. femoralis** Cam. 67, 68
 Very common on *Salix nigricans* at Wylam and rather rare on *S. phyllicifolia* at Kielder.

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BY THE WAY

Whilst we must apologise for the delay in issuing our July number, we wish to point out that we are in no way responsible for it. Copy was sent in to our printers at the usual time. However, it should be made clear that Secretaries of our Societies can always lessen the chances of such occurrences by sending us accounts of their various activities as punctually as possible. Notes and records from our readers are welcome at any time.

PETERLEE

As is well known, work at the new town of Peterlee, planned to be erected in South East Durham, will commence in the very near future. However, it is not generally realised that, included in the Designated Area, are Castle Eden and Blunt's Denes. The former, of course, constitutes "classical" ground for local naturalists, and many famous workers from all parts of the country have made pilgrimages to it during the past hundred years. Its importance will be recognised further when it is stated that such rarities as the so-called Castle Eden Argus butterfly, the Northern Brown butterfly and the Lady's Slipper Orchid were first discovered in Britain there.

Although parts of the town will be built astride Castle Eden Dene, the Corporation responsible for the new venture wish to preserve it as an open space amenity. Unfortunately, due to lack of supervision during the war years, the denes are not in a good state of preservation. Much of the woodlands are overgrown and impeded by fallen trees. Moreover, the mouth of Castle Eden Dene, on the seashore, is hopelessly fouled by deposits washed up from the refuse of local coastal collieries.

Naturalists have long desired to have these areas preserved as nature reserves accessible, with certain obvious restrictions, to the general public. Now that opportunities for securing these

privileges have arisen, it behoves us as members of the Northern Naturalists' Union to utilise them to the full. Those interested are therefore invited to send any suggestions likely to further our aims to Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison at the above address. Even the smallest suggestion will receive most careful consideration, and no one should hesitate in writing.

INSECT IMMIGRANTS IN 1948

During the past season, throughout the British Isles, immigrant Lepidoptera have been unusually scarce, a circumstance which seems the more remarkable when the extent of the immigrations of the past three or four years is taken into account. In our district, the fall has been even more conspicuous than elsewhere. So far, we have received records of only two species, the Red Admiral and the Painted Lady butterflies, although we ourselves have observed the Silver Y moth in very small numbers in widely separated stations.

It may be, of course, that the paucity of observers is responsible for the lack of records. If so, we trust that existing recorders will make up for this by reporting all they see to us as soon after the observations are made as possible.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

By the kind invitation of our Annfield Plain and Stanley friends, the Autumn Meeting of the Union was held in the rooms of the Public Library, Annfield Plain, on Saturday, October 16th, 1948, with our President, Dr. W. M. Morison, in the chair. The attendance was exceedingly large and enthusiastic.

Our lecturer was Dr. S. T. Nadel of King's College, and he took for his subject "Races of Mankind". Dividing his subject into three sections, he dealt with the problem of what constitutes a race first, and pointed out, with pertinent illustrations, the fallacy underlying the assumption that race and language necessarily coincided. He then proceeded to show us a long series of lantern slides depicting representatives of the main races of mankind, and emphasised their differences and resemblances. He concluded with a broad survey of the mental and other characteristics of the groups with which he dealt. At the end of his lecture, the speaker replied to various questions put by members of the audience.

Dr. W. M. Morison expressed the feelings of the audience when he congratulated Dr. Nadel for one of the clearest and best lectures the Union has heard.

At 4.30 p.m. we partook of tea, and, although this was provided by caterers, we have to thank the whole of the Annfield Plain, Stanley and Consett ladies who looked so carefully after our needs.

After tea we proceeded to examine various exhibits. Dr. Morison had on view a series of shells and minerals whilst Mr. Pigg brought a nice specimen of witherite. Once again Mr. J. K. Morton showed us his summer's collections of plants and insects, as also did Derek Robertson. Mr. Wade had on display a fine collection of butterflies from Ceylon, as well as a natural history scrap book. Miss V. M. Lomas interested us with a novelty in the form of the common butterbur with fruits. Professor Heslop Harrison produced a number of Hebridean and other plants including *Carex maritima* from Lewis, *Ononis arvensis* from Ensay, *Rosa canina* var. *biserrata* and *Arenaria serpyllifolia* subsp. *Lloydii* from Killegray, *Briza media* from Northton, South Harris, and *Orchis majalis* from the Blackhall Rocks, Co. Durham. Dr. W. A. Dark showed an example of the hybrid grass, *Ammophila baltica*, from Ross Links, Mrs. Gibby a series of simple French botanical textbooks and Mr. Matthewson a local dragonfly. A very interesting exhibit was brought by Mr. T. B. Williams in the form of freak tomatoes and flowers reared by him from an imported variety, Canadian Strike. In all there were redundant parts. Of the same nature were curious fruits of the sycamore exhibited by Mr. R. Harris.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Durham Cathedral was visited on May 8th, under the leadership of the President (Mr. G. H. Burdon). Most of the afternoon was spent in the Library, where special interest attached to the newly acquired Conyers Falchion from Sockburn.

Two All-Night Rambles have been held, the first on May 22nd/23rd, from Richmond via Aske and Hartforth to Scotch Comer. This was our 21st annual walk with the object of listening to the dawn chorus under Mr. Stainthorpe's leadership, a notable anniversary which it is hoped to celebrate by the production of a typescript volume commemorative of the series. The second ramble was arranged for the benefit of junior members, who greatly enjoyed their walk from Barnard Castle via Barningham and Brignall Banks, with breakfast at the Abbey Bridge.

On June 5th Mr. Stainthorpe led another of our more strenuous excursions, when he took a party of 58 over High Cup Nick. A strong head-wind and squally showers somewhat restricted fieldwork, though records were obtained of most of the birds and plants one expects to encounter on this route.

On June 12th. Miss M. S. Carmichael conducted a Teesdale Tour, arranged with the object of studying certain aspects of the scenery of the dale. For example, Langleydale was considered as a former route of the Tees, and the Tutta Beck as now following the old course of the Greta. High Force was viewed as an instance of the cutting back of a deep gorge due to the undercutting of the softer limestone overlaid by more resistant basalt. Attention was also given to scars caused by hushing (the old lead-mining process of damming-up a stream and then releasing a burst of water).

On June 19th, a long day was devoted to an excursion to Fountains Abbey and Nidderdale. The President pointed out the chief features of interest of the Abbey ruins, while Mr. T. N. Scaling had charge of the subsequent route by Pateley Bridge to Gowthwaite Reservoir and How Stean Gorge. After tea at Middlesmoor, the party continued up the Nidd valley to Scar House Reservoir, before making the return journey, which was interrupted at Ripon to hear the blowing of the Horn at 9 p.m.

A party of juniors spent a very enjoyable week-end at Saltburn under Miss F. M. Spencer. They were joined by parties of seniors for visits to Tees-mouth (south side) and Huntcliffe. On the former occasion, 90 plants were recorded, including the Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata* (L.) Huds. On the latter, interest centred on the nesting of Cormorants (36 nests counted) and Fulmars (14 apparently sitting).

July 3rd was perhaps the climax of the summer's excursions. Starting at 7 a.m. a party of 36 travelled to Seahouses for a visit to the Fame Islands under Mr. Stainthorpe. Close-range views of Puffins, Kittiwakes, Arctic Terns, Eider Ducks and other sea-birds contributed to a memorable day.

BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The first meeting of the season was held in the rooms of the County Library on Tuesday, September 21st, when Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison, F.R.S., was elected President, Miss Joyce Cooke, Secretary, and Mr. T. H. Ward, Treasurer. After the election of officers and an informal discussion concerning the rules governing the Society, Professor Heslop Harrison gave an illustrated lecture on the "Origins of Mankind".

On October 5th, Mr. James Walton delivered a very interesting lecture entitled "Glimpses of Local Natural History" in which he discussed little known phases of local natural history, aided by a fine series of lantern slides of his own photographing and making. On October 19th, we had a change when Mrs. H. H. Clark dealt with "Local Folklore". She covered a very wide field in a very informative talk which provoked great interest and a large number of questions.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

An Unusual Form of the Common Thistle.—On July 28th, I discovered a small colony of about a dozen plants of the non-prickly form of the common thistle *Cirsium arvense* growing on the banks of the Wear at Chester-le-Street. This is the plant called by Bentham and Hooker var *setosum*, but which is now more generally known as var. *mite* Koch. T. C. Dunn

The Scarcity of Insects during the Past Season.—During the past year, the dearth of insects has been very marked. Visits paid to Newham Bog in search of Psyllids have proved almost fruitless, only the common *Psylla nigrita*, *P. dudai* and *Livia juncorum* being captured. A similar journey to the coast for grasshoppers was equally unsuccessful, although the same localities had been very productive in 1947.—G.H.H.

A Visit to the isles of Lewis and Harris.—This season, in order to determine more precisely the distribution of the less common of the plants of Lewis and Harris, visits were paid to the islands in June, July and August. For the first part of our work on Lewis, we made our head quarters at Stornoway, around which stretch the magnificent woods of the Lews Castle grounds. We paid considerable attention to these woods and, in addition, examined with interest the complicated fishing operations conducted from the port. Later, we moved on to Barvas in the west where we took the opportunity of coming into close contact with the manufacture of "Harris" tweed. This industry seemed to be in a very flourishing condition, for everywhere we went, from dawn till dusk, one could hear the tap-tap of the looms. In some townships nearly every croft had an "annexe" in which home-weaving was proceeding. Needless to say, only hand or foot power was employed for that hallmarks real Harris tweed, the workers were very obliging, stopping their work repeatedly to show the "visitors" how it was done. Moreover, no matter where we went, we were received with real Hebridean courtesy and hospitality.

During the course of our biological work, we explored the whole of the coastal areas of Lewis from Stornoway to North Tolsta in the east, and from Callanish to the Butt of Lewis in the west, whilst on Harris the areas lying in the extreme south were investigated. As a result, many gaps in our knowledge of the flora of the islands were filled. In the area between the Coll sands and North Tolsta the plants new to Lewis, or noted in additional stations, included the Ivy-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*), the Rose-root (*Sedum rosea*), the Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*), the Water Cress (*Nasturtium officinale*), the Vernal Whitlow Grass (*Erophila spathulata*), the Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), the Water Speedwell (*V. anagallis-aquatica*), the Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), the Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), the Monkey-flower (*Mimulus guttatus*), the Pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), the Clubrush (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*), the Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), the Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*), the Hebridean Orchid (*Orchis fuchsii* var. *hebridensis*) and the Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*), whilst the Stornoway woods yielded the Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) the Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), the Wood Geranium (*Geranium sylvaticum*), Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Earthnut (*Conopodium majus*), the Marsh Bird's foot Trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysoplemium oppositifolium*), Garlic (*Allium ursinum*) and the Bluebell (*Scilla non-scripta*).

In the west the fringing zones were extremely prolific for we were able to study not only the whole of the orchids found in the east, but also such interesting plants as Allseed (*Radiola linoides*), Water Purslane (*Peplis portula*), the two Skullcaps (*Scutellaria galericulata* et *S. minor*), the Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*), the Aspen (*Populus tremula*), the Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), the Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), the pondweeds, *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, *P. gramineus* and their hybrid *P. niens*, the Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), the sedge, *Carex maritima*, the rushes, *Juncus balticus*, *J. maritimus*, et *J. gerardi*, Adders Tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgare*) and the Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

The Isle of Harris produced the Rasp (*Rubus idaeus*), the Stone Bramble (*R. saxatilis*), the Yellow Water Cress (*Nasturtium sylvestris*), the Brookweed (*Sarnolus valerandi*), the Ivy (*Hedera helix*), the Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica* subsp. *hyperborea*), the Marguerite (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), the Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), the Starry Saxifraga (*Saxifraga stellaris*), the Spiked Wood Rush (*Luzulu spicata*) and the two Junipers (*Juniperus communis* et *J. sibirica*). In addition to the main islands, we worked three of the smaller ones in the Sound of Harris, Ensay, Killegray and Saghay Beg. These produced an unexpectedly rich flora and fauna, and with these we propose to deal at length in a future publication. —J.W.H.H.

Notes on the Moths of Newham Bog.—On September 20th, an expedition was made to Newham Bog, and advantage was taken of the chance to beat the birches and sallows for lepidopterous larvae. Notwithstanding the poor season, reasonably satisfactory bags were made. From sallows we secured a number of the Poplar Hawk (*Laothoe populi*), the High-flier (*Hydriomena ruberata*), the Autumnal Green Carpet (*Chloroclysta niata*) and the Buff-tip (*Phalera bucephala*). On the other hand, from the birches were obtained the Iron Prominent (*Notodonta dromedarius*) the Coxcomb Prominent (*Lophopteryx capucina*), the Gray Dagger (*Apatela psi*), the Miller (*A leporina*) and the White Wave (*Cabera pusaria*).

The caterpillars of the Coxcomb Prominent included pink examples as well as the more usual green forms.

RECORDS

MOSESSES

Bartramia ithyphylla Brid. 66
A small patch of this beautiful moss was noted last Easter in full fruit under an over-hanging rock on Falcon Clints, Upper Teesdale.—J. K. Morton.

FLOWERING PLANTS

Equisetum pratense Ehrh. 104
This rare horsetail was discovered in a little gorge on the burn flowing down Glen Shellesder, Isle of Rhum. The locality is just after the point at which the stream begins to flow west. No previous record for v.-c. 104 exists.

Subularia aquatica L. Awnwort. 104
Although we have examined Loch Fiachanis and its shores on many former occasions, this plant was not detected in the loch until this year. It proved to be far from rare. New to the Isle of Rhum but not to v.-c. 104.—J.W.H.H.

Briza media L. Quaking Grass 110
We have not previously observed this grass in the Outer Hebrides although we have recorded it from the Isle of Tiree. Now it is reported from swampy ground adjoining the dunes at Northton, Isle of Harris.—J.H.H.

Geranium pyrenaicum Burm. f. Mountain 66
Cranesbill.

Near Low Coniscliffe, in the shelter of small hawthorns; also on the banks of the Baydale Beck not far away.

Petasites ovatus Hill. Butterbur. 66
The fruiting form by the Wear at Witton Park.

Silybum marianum (L.) Gaertn. Milk Thistle. 66
One fine plant has sprung up this year in a bed of nettles at Piercebridge.

Campanula rapunculoides L. Creeping Bellflower. 65
Amongst dense vegetation in the middle of an island in the Tees at Ovington.—J. B. Nicholson.

- Carex diandra** Schrank. 68
 Whilst we were working in Newham Bog in order to decide whether the Psyllid *Livia crefeldensis* occurred there, the sedges naturally underwent careful examination. Amongst them this sedge was found in considerable numbers. I have not seen it elsewhere in our two counties.—J.W.H.H.
- Salix nigricans** Sm. Dusky Sallow. 68
 This sallow, although not on record for Newham Bog in Baker and Tate, abounds there and supports a colony of a gall-making saw-fly. In view of the relationship existing between *S. nigricans* and *S. phylicifolia* it was anticipated that the sawfly would be the rare *Pontania phylicifoliae*. However, close examination suggests that the insect concerned is simply the common *P. salicis*.—J.W.H.H.
- Typha latifolia** L. Bulrush. 66
 It is only a few years since the bulrush put in an appearance in the slagheap ponds at Birtley. Nevertheless, both in these ponds and in the adjoining claypits, the plant has spread so rapidly that considerable areas have been occupied. In addition, new colonies have been established, and it seems likely that in the very near future many rather rare water plants will be entirely replaced by these vigorous invaders.
- Solidago virgaurea** L. Golden Rod. 66
 This plant has also appeared recently in Birtley Parish and is increasing rapidly.—J.W.H.H.

LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

- Pyrameis atalanta** L. Red Admiral. 67
 This immigrant was noted in Gosforth Park on 11th September, 1948.—C.J.G.
 (Also seen by myself at Felton, Northumberland, and at Birtley, Co. Durham, the same month.—J.W.H.H.)
- Pyrameis atalanta** L. 67
 One at Dinnington on June 15th.
- P. cardui** L. Painted Lady. 68
 One at Beadnell on June 20th, and a second at Craster on the 28th of the same month.
- Deilephila elpenor** L. Elephant Hawk. 67
 For several summers I have noticed hawk-moths at honeysuckle in a local garden, but until the present season these have evaded capture. On July 27th one was netted at Gosforth and proved to be the present species.—John Ash.
- Campaea margaritata** L. Light Emerald. 67
 From pupae dug from the base of an oak tree in Gosforth Park an example of this species emerged on July 17th; it had a wing expanse of nearly two inches.
- Plusia festucae** L. Goldspot. 67
 One at light in Gosforth on July 7th and a second on July 26th.—J.A.
- Cleora rhomboidaria** L. Willow Beauty. 67
 A fine coal-black "industrial" melanic form of this species was taken at light at Gosforth on August 3rd.—J.A.
 (At Birtley, Co. Durham, the bulk of the specimens captured are still more or less typical.—J.W.H.H.)
- Tiliacea citrago** L. Orange Sallow. 67
 Larvae were not uncommon on Tilia in Gosforth Park this year. The first imago emerged on August 27th.—J.A.
- Mesoleuca albicillata** L. Beautiful Carpet. 67
 One was taken at rest on oak in Gosforth Park on June 30th.—J.A.

- Griposia aprilina** L. Merveille du Jour. 67
 Pupae of this species were quite common under oak in Gosforth Park in July. The first emergence took place on September 9th.—J.A.
- Parasemia plantaginis** L. Wood Tiger. 68
 Common at Beadnell; first seen on the wing June 20th.—J.A.
- Abraxas sylvata** Scop. Clouded Magpie. 67
 Captured in Ridley Woods on June 12th, and in Gosforth Park on June 13th—C. J. Gent.
- Cupido minimus** Fuessi. Small Blue. 68
 This blue was seen on the wing at Davidson's Lynn (head of Usway Bum, Cheviot) on July 24th, 1948.—Walter de L. Aitchison.
 (This record is a very valuable one, for no one has seen local specimens for many years. The last I have noted personally occurred at Corbridge in June, 1903!—J.W.H.H.)
- Lycænoopsis argiolus** L. Holly Blue. 66
 In connection with this record, it should be noted carefully that I did not capture the insect concerned. On October 7th, as I was pressing through some birches on a pit heap just south east of Birtley, a "blue" flew out and sought the shelter of other birches a short distance away. From these I disturbed it, but it then penetrated a mixed thicket of birch and privet, and I lost sight of it. From its general appearance, the style of its flight and the date of the occurrence I have considerable confidence in regarding it as a Holly Blue. It is significant that Yorkshire records have been made of the butterfly both in 1947 and 1948. It seems that in hunting it down in our counties lies a task for our younger entomologists. Mr Arthur Brennan once told me that he had seen the species in Ravensworth Woods in 1900.—J.W.H.H.
- Deilephila elpenor**: Elephant Hawk. 66
 During September, larvae of this species were very plentiful in the Birtley area judging from the number of larvae brought to me in the usual match box by various people. All of these specimens were of the black form. However, in the last week in the month I discovered a strong colony on the slag heap, the bulk of which were dark coloured, but amongst them I observed a very light green specimen with practically the whole of the usual markings obsolete except the false eyespots. In spite of this colouration, the caterpillar was as conspicuous at a distance as the blacker examples, and neither form appeared to be subject to the attacks of birds.—J.W.H.H.

HYMENOPTERA—SAWFLIES

- Euura amerinae** L. 66, 68
 This sawfly, although very irregular in its appearance, was found, not uncommonly, galling the Bay-leaved willow (*Salix pentandra*) on Waldrige Fell and in Urpeth Woods, Co. Durham, as well as at Kielder and in Newham Bog, Northumberland. The galls seem to be greatly attacked by birds,
- Pontania collactanea** Först. 68
 The Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*) forms the host plant of this sawfly and the insect is far from rare in Newham Bog.—J.W.H.H.

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BY THE WAY

Secretaries of our societies are requested to provide us with accounts of their various activities during the past three months as early as possible. If they are to appear in our March issue, they should reach us not later than March 1st. Notes and records from our readers may be sent at any time, but these should deal solely with natural history, folklore or allied topics. They should be written in the usual form on one side of the paper only.

NEGLECTED ANIMAL GROUPS

Notwithstanding the fact that we include within our ranks quite a number of young and enthusiastic workers, many insect orders and other animal groups remain, to all intents and purposes, untouched within our counties. Except in the case of the birds, even the vertebrates seem more or less unworked nowadays, for only Mr. G. W. Temperley and Mr. James Walton display continued interest in them.

As for the insects, the Trichoptera, or Caddis-flies, are practically unknown, only a few casual records testifying to the fact that they exist with us. Again, since the death of the Rev. W. J. Wingate forty years ago, and the departure of Dr. W. J. Fordham from our midst, no one has studied the Diptera, or Two winged Flies, save in the case of the Cecidomyiidae which attracted the attention of Bagnall and Heslop Harrison in the period between the wars. The Hymenoptera (Ants, Bees, Wasps, Sawflies, etc.) provide an interesting study in all their manifestations; only the late Mr. Charles Robson and Mr. J. E. Ruxton have tackled them seriously since J. T. Bold ceased his investigations nearly eighty years ago. Much the same holds true of the Orthoptera (Crickets., Grasshoppers), Plecoptera (Stoneflies), Ephemeroptera (Mayflies), Psocoptera (Booklice, etc.), the Hemiptera (Bugs, Leafhoppers, Greenflies, etc.), Neuroptera (Lacewing-flies, etc.), Mecoptera (Scorpion-flies), and other minor orders, although, thanks to the labours of Dr. G. Heslop Harrison, our Psyllidae (Hemiptera Homoptera) are possibly the best known in the British Isles.

Curiously enough, due to the energies of Dr. R. S. Bagnall, our local Diplura, Thysanura, Collembola, Protura and Thysanoptera, the most obscure and difficult of British insect orders, are nearly as well known as our butterflies, moths, beetles and dragonflies. In fact, if one takes the so-called Microlepidoptera into consideration, they are really better understood.

Can we not get enterprising volunteers to take up the study of our neglected forms, including the smaller moths or Microlepidoptera, in 1949?

LOCAL FOLKLORE

Recently, as was recorded in our last number, the Birtley Natural History Society enjoyed an interesting lecture by Mrs. H. H. Clark on the Folklore of Northumberland and Durham. Following the success of this talk, a night was set aside for a consideration of the History of Birtley. Whilst the discussion, open to the public, was proceeding, numerous interesting facts concerning the folklore were brought to light, and this provoked many requests for further opportunities for recounting similar reminiscences. As a result, an evening has been set aside for commenting upon a version of the Team Valley "Guisers" Play, and listening to accounts of how games now obsolete or obsolescent in the area, were played.

By breaking ground of this type, it is hoped to bring together, and preserve, valuable information concerning such subjects before it is finally forgotten and thus lost. Is it not possible for all of our Societies to interest themselves in such an attempt?

THE NEW NATURALIST JOURNAL

We should like to draw our readers' attention to the New Naturalist Journal which has been introduced to supplement the excellent series of New Naturalist books now so popular amongst British workers.

The first annual volume appeared on 12th November, and contains numbers for four quarters. As soon as conditions make it possible, it is planned to produce the separate parts quarterly, with each number specially devoted to some special topic of current interest to nature students. In conformity with this aim, the first section of the 1948 volume deals with Woodland; the second with the Scottish Western Isles; the third with Migration whilst the fourth concerns itself with Local Natural History.

The journal is produced on a lavish scale and is illustrated by a magnificent series of well selected coloured and other photographs, the whole thoroughly earning its position alongside the original New Naturalist productions.

The work is not without its blemishes, for we have noted several errors of the same irritating order as appeared so freely in Fraser Darling's "Natural History in the Highlands and Islands" and, to a less extent, in Ford's "Butterflies". Of these, we single out a few of interest to those of us who work in Northumberland and Durham for comment. On pages 48 and 49, for instance, the distribution maps which illustrate Ford's article on Woodland Butterflies, and purport to give the ranges of the Hedge Brown, the Scotch Argus and the Purple Hairstreak, are incorrect. Moreover, if the maps are intended to be of value to the zoogeographer, then the territory occupied, not so very long ago, by butterflies like the Speckled Wood, ought to have been indicated in some way. Again, it seems quaint to find on page 192 "Newcastle-upon-Tyne" (fully endowed with its incorrect hyphens!) assigned a place in the County of Durham. Lastly, it should be indicated that the map on page 200 is not in accord with fact; there is no society in Northumberland devoted solely to Botany.

In spite of these criticisms, we do not hesitate to recommend heartily this new venture to our readers as a very valuable addition to British natural history publications.

THE SOCIETIES

CONSETT AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB

The Annual Dinner and Conversazione of the Consett Naturalists' Field Club was held in the Cooperative Society's Small Suite on 1st December, 1948. In spite of the bad weather, the attendance was a very satisfactory one. The invited guests were Professor and Mrs. J. W. Heslop Harrison.

The President, Mr. J. J. Robson, was in the chair, and after a very satisfactory dinner had been disposed of he proposed the health of the King. Following this, Mr. T. Hutton, in a very felicitous speech, gave the toast of the guests. Professor Heslop Harrison, in his reply, recalled his long connection with the club, and emphasized the club's very great importance in maintaining the activities of the Northern Naturalists' Union. In addition, he congratulated the club on the general spirit of friendship and goodwill existing amongst its members, and thanked them all for extending these year after year to Mrs. Heslop Harrison and himself. After this, Mr. Tindle introduced the toast of the club, and stressed the gratitude it owed to Messrs. Robson, Ellerington and Hutton. Further, he singled out Mrs. Dixon for special thanks. The gentlemen replied suitably.

After this, the exhibits were inspected. Amongst them, Mr. Robson had a marvellous selection of photographs of birds and other interesting subjects taken by himself on the Fame Islands, the May Isle, the Orkney Isles and the Shetlands. In addition, he showed some beautiful pictures of a local nest of Montague's Harrier. Mr. Ellerington had on view the first volume of the Proceedings of the Vale of Derwent Naturalists' Field Club, from which the present club had sprung, and some very early photographs of its field meetings. Mr. A. E. Hart displayed a collection of local flowers and some splendid paintings of birds of his own production.

After the exhibits had been inspected by all, Mr. Horn showed a series of lantern slides, made by the late Mr. Alfred Cross, illustrating those present at many enjoyable field meetings of days long gone by. He also threw on the screen slides of local views of his own making, as well as a series of film strips depicting northern scenery.

Altogether the event was extremely successful and enjoyed by all.

BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

For the meeting on November 2nd a discussion on the History of Birtley had been chosen. The discussion was introduced by Mr. A. McNamara who traced, in a very lucid fashion, the history of the place from early Saxon times to the present day, giving as he did so the origin of its name and the various families who had been lords of the manor. Professor Heslop Harrison followed and added to the previous speaker's description by demonstrating that the district had been occupied by early man during the Late Stone and Bronze Ages. He recounted that there had been found in the area flint and bronze implements and weapons, a dug-out canoe and burial urns. In addition, he listed the stations and sites which had produced flint chippings. Other speakers who took part were Messrs. Charles Lawson, George Bolam and J. Bolam. These gentlemen dealt, in the main, with Birtley of the past seventy years.

On November 16th, Prof. Heslop Harrison gave a lecture on "British Butterflies" illustrating it by means of coloured lantern slides made by the late J. R. Johnson, as well as by specimens of various interesting species. He dwelt, in particular, on our local forms, and referred to the great importance of the so-called Castle Eden Argus in zoogeography.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Notes on the Ochreous Pug (*Eupithecia indigata*) and the Slender Pug (*E. tenuiata*). The Ochreous Pug is common on the old roadway which leads to the Hospital in Dipton Woods where I noted it on 29th May, 1910. Twelve flies in all, mostly in good condition, were taken. These were obtained by tapping pine trunks sharply with the net stick.

The insects were readily disturbed in this way, some dropping directly to the ground, and others flying speedily to other trees. Needless to say, a sharp look out has to be kept.

The larvae are common in the same place, and may be secured by beating (pine and larch about 27th August; they are greenish yellow in colour and carry a faint brown dorsal line. Once, whilst beating Scots Pine for larvae on 17th May, I knocked out a single pupa from which I bred *E. indigata*. This fact supplies evidence that the larvae spin up upon the food plant.

Newman states that the insect is double-brooded, a statement which I consider incorrect as far as our district is concerned.

The Slender Pug occurs freely in the Tyne and Derwent valleys as well as in Dipton Woods, south of Corbridge. The larvae feed in willow catkins in spring. A good bag of catkins should therefore be collected in April. The male catkins are favoured, and these should be gathered from various trees, solitary trees by road sides or wood edges being preferred. Although the insect feeds on *Salix atrocinerea*, *S. aurita* and *S. caprea*, the latter shrub is preferred.

The catkins should be kept in a roomy paper or linen bag and placed in a cool place. After a period of a fortnight, the contents of the bag should be examined by being turned out on a sheet of white paper when the larvae may be detected by their movements. After the examination is concluded, whether successful or not nothing should be thrown away; all should be returned to the receptacle for further inspections later. Once, out of a bag of catkins collected between the middle of April and May in Dipton Woods, a catch of over 100 pupae was obtained. In this case, the bag was undisturbed until a search for pupae was made on 9th June. The insects emerged between 24th June and 6th July.

Incidentally, it is worthy of mention that such collections of catkins will be certain to yield large numbers of Noctuid larvae, amongst which will be represented the Sallow, the Pink-barred Sallow and the Brick, as well as various Tortricids and beetles.—George Nicholson.

The Earliest Durham Record of the Birds-eye Primrose.—Druce, in his "*Comital Flora*" (page 196), states that the first British record for *Primula farinosa* is for "Harwood neere to Blackburne in Lancashire", the reference being to Gerard's Herbal, 639:1597. Clusius, however, remarks (*Rariarum Plantarum Historiae*, page 301:1601) upon the abundance of the plant in the county of Durham as long ago as 1581. He calls it "*Primula veris rubro fovea*"—M.C.

The Five-spot Burnet (*Zygaena lonicerae* L.) in the North.—My rediscovery of this species in County Durham, two years ago, has speedily been followed this year by its detection in North Yorks, just over the river. The facts concerning its occurrence in this station will be supplied later as soon as the colony can be subjected to careful study. In addition, the insect has been captured in a second Durham locality, near Langley Park, by Gerald White, who records his find elsewhere in this magazine.

It should be noted that, by a *lapsus calami*, the insects from the Birtley station were erroneously recorded in our July issue as *Z. trifolii*.—J.W.H.H.

The Viper's Bugloss on the Durham Coast.—I note in the July number of the "Vasculum" that the Viper's Bugloss has been found this summer near the Blackhall Rocks, and that no previous record exists of its presence there. Readers may be interested to know that I have often taken parties of school children to study the flowers between Hart and the Blackhall Rocks in pre-war years.

For several years we found a single specimen of the Viper's Bugloss in the course of our wanderings. Moreover, since the war, I have had it brought to school on two or three occasions by children who had collected the plant in the Crimdon Cut area.—(Miss) W. Thompson.

Introduced Plants and Insects in the Scottish Western isles.—For many years I have wondered about the occurrence in the Isle of Lewis of the Orange Sallow Moth (*Tiliacea citrigo*) and of the Scorched Carpet Moth (*Ligdia adustata*) which feed respectively on the lime tree and spindle tree. In fact, so unlikely did these records seem, that I once inserted a note in one of the entomological magazines asking if anyone could throw any light on the matter. No response was made to my enquiries. Now that I have thoroughly explored the woods around Stornoway, the explanation is obvious: both trees have been introduced there, and with them their insect tenants.

This interested me in introduced Hebridean species, and my interest was increased when I became cognizant of a series of recent Lewis records of the Cornish Moneywort (*Sibthorpia europaea*). My investigations revealed the fact that these reports were based upon plants which had escaped from derelict greenhouses in the Lews Castle grounds. However, it seems strange, that similar records have not been, made for the Ivy-leaved Toad-flax (*Linaria cymbalaria*) which is naturalized on walls close to the Moneywort station. Its history is much the same as that of the latter plant, for it has reached its present habitats from a rock garden which once flourished in a cool greenhouse now falling into ruins. No doubt, many other plants like the Dog's Mercury and Marjoram, are, likewise introductions, and these circumstances compel one to treat all Lews Castle records with extreme caution.

This state of affairs is paralleled on the Isle of Rhum, where similar conditions prevail around, and in, Kinloch Castle grounds. There also disused greenhouses and gardens, tree-planting and other human activities have been responsible for the introduction of a group of plants exemplified by *Viola cornuta*, *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*, *Cotoneaster simonsii*, *Rosa rubiginosa*, *Astrantia major*, *Carum carvi*, *Astilbe thunbergii*, *Saxifraga Geum*, *S. umbrosa*, *Linum perenne*, *Convolvulus sepium*, *Inula helenium*, *Filago gallica*, *Juncus macer*, *Poa chaixii*, *Carex brunnea*, *Polystichum setiferum*, and other ferns.

Strangely enough, on Rhum, there has been a reciprocal transgression of plants into the abandoned greenhouses and the grounds from the moors and marshes. In the greenhouses may be found magnificent examples of the Marsh Orchid, *Orchis purpurella*, whilst the same plant, with its near relatives, the Butterfly, Small Butterfly and Heath Orchids, and others, have invaded, and now flourish on the lawns in front of the Castle.

Two other introductions, one on the Isle of Eigg and the other on the Isle of Harris, concern the Lyme Grass, *Elymus arenarius*, which has been established on a sand binder on the dunes. On the former island it has been planted at Laig Bay and on the latter at Borve.—J.W.H.H.

The Elephant Hawkmoths in South-east Durham.—Readers of the *Vasculum* will be interested to learn that we found last June a beautiful specimen of the Small Elephant Hawkmoth (*Deilephila porcellus*) in Hart Dene. I do not know whether the moth is rare in this locality, but I have not previously noted it. In September, a girl brought a caterpillar of the Large Elephant Hawk (*D. elpenor*). It was not in very good condition, but it pupated. It had been captured by the girl's father whilst he was out on a brambling expedition. I shall be glad to learn the ranges of these species in our district.—(Miss) W. Thompson.

[Robson, in his Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Northumberland and Durham, states that the Small Elephant Hawkmoth extends all along the coasts of the two counties wherever the sandy banks produce the favourite foodplant of the larva, the Yellow Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Personally, I have only seen it from the Northumberland sand dunes, but Robson specifically mentions as Durham habitats the Hartlepool area and Seaton Carew. Of the Large Elephant Hawk, he asserts that it is an exceedingly rare visitor, and adds that he cannot amplify Wailes' list of occurrences. Wailes only supplies two records for the two counties! At the present time, due to the enormous spread of the Rosebay Willowherb in our district, the moth can be described as extremely common in every suitable place between Tweed and Tees. To put the matter in another way, the range of the insect depends upon the great increase of waste places left after the first war, for the plant to colonize.—J.W.H.H.]

RECORDS

LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Parasemia plantaginis L. Wood Tiger:	66
Although this insect is quite common at some points on the coast of Northumberland, it has not often been reported from Durham in recent years. A record from Whitesmocks, near Langley Park, is therefore welcome.	
Euclidia mi L. Mother Shipton.	66
Taken in the vicinity of Langley Park.	
Ourapteryx sambucaria L. Swallow-tail Moth.	66
This species seems to have been increasing in numbers with us recently and has been captured at Langley Park.	
Ourapteryx sambucaria L. Swallow-tail moth.	66
This fine moth is at the limits of its northern range with us, and it has never occurred freely in our area. Moreover, it has vanished from some of its former stations; reported now from Brasside.	
Nisionades tages L. Dingy Skipper.	66
The Dingy Skipper butterfly has been recorded in recent years from quite a number of new habitats. This, in all probability, does not mark an extension of range, but the presence of workers in new localities. The species was taken last year at Langley Park.	
Anthocaris cardamines L. Orange Tip.	66
Here again we have a butterfly not often seen nowadays: -captured in the vicinity of Crook.	
Nymphalis io L. Peacock.	66
Netted in two widely separated localities at High Force and Langley Park.	
Zygaena lonicerae Esp. 5-spot Burnet.	66
Another Durham station for this Burnet is at Caseburn, Langley Park	
—Gerald White.	

- Lycaena phlaeas** L. Small Copper. 66
 During the past season, the Small Copper, in spite of the vagaries of the weather, was out quite early in June and produced a succession of broods, difficult to define, from that month until the middle of October. Further, it showed very little diminution in its numbers. It appeared to be present at every point in the Team Valley in which its food plants, the two sorrels, grew.—J.W.H.H.
- Coenonympha pamphilus** L. Small Heath. 66
 I have recently discovered that the Hebridean form of the Small Heath butterfly is racially separable from our form, and to it I have applied the name *rhomensis*. In the course of my investigations, it has emerged that our form, i.e., the race flying in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire, has been called race *scota* by Verity because he imagined it originated in Scotland. Some of our younger entomologists should compare our specimens with others taken in the south to determine whether our insect is sufficiently distinct to warrant a special name.—J.W.H.H.
- Nymphalis io** L. Peacock. 66
 A rather worn specimen was captured resting low down on a fence post on October 6th, near Barnard Castle.—J.P.R.
- Hadena lepida** Esp. Tawny Shears. 66
 From four larvae found on white campion on an island in the Tees, near Bamard Castle, I bred two *Hadena bicurris* (*Dianthoecia capsincola*), one of this species (more familiarly known as *Dianthoecia carpophaga*) and an ichneumon on July 8th, 1948. This provides the first occasion on which I have found this insect in this part of the country. The specimen resembled the form occurring on the Durham coast.—J.P.R.
- Lasiocampa quercus** L. Oak Eggar. 66
 In early June, I took a few larvae of this species which I expected to yield insects of the race *callunae* (Northern Eggar). These began to spin up on June 18th, but, contrary to my expectations, one moth appeared in August.—J.P.R.
- Herse convolvuli** L. Convolvulus Hawk. 66
 An example of this immigrant was found on a window frame at Barnard Castle on September 9th.—J.P.R.
- Ethmia funerella** Fab. 66
 This pretty little black and white "micro" is recorded in J. E. Robson's "Catalogue" as a very rare and local species only reported from Barnard Castle by John Sang, who took it there on June 2nd, 1865. In 1918, I discovered a single specimen near Greta Bridge and later, in 1919, detected a colony on comfrey in Deepdale and, subsequently bred it from larvae taken there. On June 13th, 1948, I captured an odd example in the Barnard Castle woods, and this provides the first record on the Durham side of the Tees since Sang's time.—J. P. Robson.
- Chimabache phryganella** Hubn. 66
 On November 12th, this species was flying in some numbers in the old Folly Plantation lying between Birtley and Washington. This is the first time I have seen the species locally since it disappeared from the Quarry Woods about thirty years ago. It seems very strange that Birtley Parish should be the only locality in the county to produce its near ally *C. fagella* and the not far removed *Cheimophila salicella*. However, it differs from them inasmuch as it fails to produce the melanic form which characterizes these species. *C. fagella* and *C. phryganella* favour oak in this area and in point of fact, the latter insect is restricted to that tree. On the other hand, *C. salicella* is omnivorous, with bramble forming its chief food.—J.W.H.H.