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Edited by

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KING'S COLLEGE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

BY THE WAY

WINTER OUTINGS

We have already referred to the fact that one of our Societies has continued to hold field meetings, without intermission, even when snow lay on the ground. These excursions have been uniformly successful. Thus, one of them resulted in the discovery of a new hybrid rose involving the Burnet Rose and *Rosa sherardi*, of a new lowland station for the rapidly disappearing Black Spleenwort Fern, and, above all, in the finding of a goodly number of badger "sets". Perhaps other societies may emulate these successes by organising similar outings!

THE SNOWY FLY, TETRALICIA ERICAE H.-HARR

The Snowy Flies are tiny white butterfly-like insects best known as pests destructive to tomatoes, fuchsias and other greenhouse plants. However, a new species and genus was described in the *Vasculum*, Vol. III, p.60 (1917) on the basis of specimens taken from a colony attached to the Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) on Waldrige Fell (66). At that time, the study of the group was at a very low ebb. In fact, such investigations were almost at a standstill except for the labours of Dr. A. L. Quaintance in the United States National Museum at Washington. As that worker was preparing a monograph of the Snowy Flies of the World, the type specimens of *Tetralicia ericae* were deposited in that museum with Quaintance's material representative of other species.

Recently, enquiries have been made concerning the whereabouts of these types by workers interested in these insects. This note is intended to supply the information needed.

It should be added that, since the species was first detected on Waldrige Fell, it has been found to be extremely local, but abundant where it does occur. In England, it has been observed in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, and abroad in Sweden. Almost certainly, it will be discovered elsewhere.

THE RANGE OF ARICIA AGESTIS SCHF. IN DURHAM

Recently, in a wireless talk, it was asserted that the so-called Castle Eden Argus Butterfly (*Aricia agestis*), owing to some natural cause, was contracting its range with us.

It is quite true that the known colonies on the Durham coast are fewer than formerly, but this fact depends almost entirely upon the filling of coast dunes with shale and other debris from coal mines, the slipping of friable material lying above the Magnesian Limestone cliffs and, as in Crimdon Dene, the trampling by the feet of hordes of trippers.

In addition, the insect has been over-collected year after year in its more accessible stations. Moreover, there has been a preferential collecting of *artaxerxes* and other intermediate forms. This has undoubtedly upset the true balance amongst the components of the hybrid populations.

Nevertheless, in favour of the continued existence of this important insect and its various forms with us is the discovery of new colonies both north and south of what were regarded as the limits of its range.

BOOK NOTE

We have received a copy of Part XVI of Miss Stella Ross-Craig's *Drawings of British Plants*. This installment deals with the second part of the Compositae.

It attains the usual high standard set both by Messrs Bell and Miss Ross-Craig. We can, therefore, give it a hearty recommendation to our members.

OBITUARY NOTICE

WILLIAM ELLERINGTON

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Wm. Ellerington who died at the ripe old age of 93 as the result of a fall near his own home at Castleside, Consett.

To most of us, Mr. Ellerington was known as an enthusiastic naturalist. Nevertheless, he was a man of many parts, and, of these, he was proudest of his work as a journalist. Actually, he was a wellknown teacher. This work he commenced at Chevington and continued later at South Shields. As a result of ill-health, he was compelled to move into the country when he settled at Hunstanworth. There he taught miners and others as far afield as Rookhope. He also became head of the village school.

Later, he was appointed secretary of the Consett and District Naturalists' Field Club—a post he held for twenty years. As the outcome of his interests in Natural History, he helped in the founding of the Northern Naturalists' Union. Within that body, he not only held office continuously, but also, as a mark of special esteem, was given the unique position of Honorary Vice-President.

On May 10th, 1958, he resigned his secretaryship of the Club, and the event was marked by his receiving the gift of a fireside chair and a folding table. Expressions of esteem by Mr. Surtees-Armstrong, Mr. T. Hutton, Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison and Mr. Atkinson accompanied the gifts, and to these the recipient made a suitable reply.

Mr. Ellerington remained active to the end, and even attended meetings of the N.N.U. during the year 1961. His presence at these functions will be greatly missed by his many friends, both within the ranks of his own Club, and those of the Union.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

By the kindness of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne, the 38th Annual Meeting of the Union was held in the Hancock Museum on March 3rd, 1962. A very large number of members and associates from all parts of the Union's territory was present.

The reports of Mrs. Gibby and Mr. T. C. Dunn were read when Mr. Dunn was able to report, once again, that there had been an increase in the numbers of our full members.

In the election of officers for 1962-63, Miss Muriel H. Oates, B.Sc., was elected President whilst the only change amongst the VicePresidents was the inclusion of Mr. E. Hall.

As soon as the business was ended, Professor J. H. Burnett gave a very instructive address dealing with the "Balance of Nature". Prof. Burnett began his talk by explaining the meaning of a series of graphs illustrative of various points he wished to emphasize. He then took up various topics like the condition of vegetation on pitheaps, and showed how the balance was maintained there. Another subject, important locally, was the question of melanism in the Lepidoptera. He pointed out, with the aid of slides, the relation between black moths and lichen-free trees (or smoke blackened bark), and how it was supposed to result in the evolution of melanic varieties.

Other subjects dealt with included the spread of the Rosebay Willowherb, the Thread-like Speedwell and the New Zealand Burr-weed. He also dealt with the variation of the Common Snail, *Helix nemoralis*, and showed how the direction of variation at thrush stones depended upon the preferential selection of special forms by the birds.

The lecture ended with a hearty vote of thanks to Prof. Burnett. This was proposed by Mr. T. C. Dunn, and carried with acclamation.

After this, we partook of tea for which three members of the Birtley Natural History Society, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Weatherly and Mrs. Stock, were responsible. We then adjourned to examine

the various exhibits. Of these, Mr. R. B. Cooke's wonderful array of flowers, grown in his own garden at Corbridge, attracted most attention, not only for their beauty, but also for their numbers. Other exhibits included a collection of postage stamps, depicting various flowers, brought by Mrs. Gibby, a number of pressed local wild flowers belonging to Mr. L. P. Hird, a case of local microlepidoptera, the property of Mr. T. C. Dunn, a living example of the Filmy Fern from the Isle of Rhum and blocks, used to illustrate an article, brought by Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the Club was held in the Freemasons' Arms Hotel, Front Street, Consett when there was a very large attendance of members.

The President, Mr. A. Parry, took the Chair, and, after an excellent dinner had been taken, he proposed the toast of the Queen. Next, in a quietly humorous speech, Mrs. Ashworth proposed the toast of our guest, Professor J.W. Heslop Harrison. To this he replied by referring to the very close relationship and friendship that had existed between him and the ordinary members of the Club—a friendship extending to the members of both organisations, the Consett Field Club and the Birtley Natural History Society. Once again, too, he emphasized the great services our Consett colleagues had rendered in establishing the Northern Naturalists' Union; their efforts had undoubtedly contributed greatly to its success. His remarks ended with his strongly expressed thanks for all the kindnesses he had received from the Consett club and its members.

The evening closed with a display of beautiful lantern slides shown by Mr. J. E. Ashworth under the title "In Search of Sunshine". They depicted views of various points of beauty and interest visited by Mrs. Ashworth and himself during their summer holiday around the Mediterranean Sea.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY NATURALISTS' CLUB

The Annual Meeting and Social Evening of the above club was held on Saturday, January 27th, 1962; over 100 members were present.

The President, Mr. Jack Hall, welcomed such a great turnout, in itself a testimonial to the success of the club. The Secretary, Mr. Fred Wade, presented a very favourable report for the year, with a further increase in membership to announce, and a series of successful outings to describe. Thirteen rambles had been arranged, and these took us along the Yorkshire Coast, to the Cheviot Hills, Cleveland, Coquetdale, and the Northumberland Loughs. During one of these, we were trapped by the Helm Wind high up the slopes of the Great Dun Fell. Mr. Wade thanked the officers who had arranged these very successful

excursions. Mr. J. H. Atkinson was able, as Treasurer, to tell us that our funds were in a sound condition, and Mr. Reay, Excursion Secretary, had the same to say about the excursion finances.

In the election of officers, Mr. W. B. Toyn was chosen as President, Mr. Daley as Vice-President, Mr. F. Wade, Secretary, Mr. J. Hall, Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. H. Atkinson, Treasurer and Mr. A. Reay, Excursion Secretary. All other officers were re-elected whilst Mr. F. Bell, Mr. V. Richards and Miss Carr were added to the Committee. Mr. J. W. Lawson resigned from the Committee and received well-earned thanks for his long services to the Club.

The proposed outings for next summer were next discussed when, out of 34 suggestions, a series, representative of the many types of country available in our counties, was chosen.

Tea was taken in the adjacent Methodist school-room after which we returned to the Library where Mr. Reay showed a series of coloured slides taken in Portugal. Mr. R. Jackson gave examples of bird song by means of a tape-recorder, including one of the nightingale. He also showed many views of birds' nests, flowers, butterflies and the like.

Thanks, proposed by Mr. Toyn, was given to all who contributed to such a successful evening.

BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On November 28th, 1961, we had the pleasure of hearing a very instructive lecture by Dr. Ennis on "Aspects of Pathology". For a change, on December 12th we had a members' slide evening when Messrs. Wanless, Hall, Harris, Burns and Thompson showed the most interesting examples of their years' labours. In the New Year, on January 9th, Mr. L. P. Hird broke new ground by showing us slides of roses growing in his own garden. These, with his talk, were greatly appreciated.

For our Annual Dinner, we went once again to Hall's Cafe, Chester -le-Street. For our guests we had Mr. & Mrs. Toyn and Mr. J. Wilson. After the meal and toasts were over, Mr. Hall . showed a film depicting various happenings, humorous and otherwise, on our Field Excursions.

The lecture on February 6th was designed to throw light on various aspects of insect vision; for a very useful talk we have to thank Dr. Burt. The usual travel films for which the Northern Transport Co. was responsible, followed on February 20th. Mr. W. E. Gladstone continued the series with a splendid illustrated lecture on the "Roman Wall". We are to hear, and see, more about this topic from Mr. Gladstone later. On March 20th, Prof. J. W. Heslop Harrison gave us an illustrated lecture on "British Orchids". The slides shown were made in many cases by Mr. J. Thompson.

Throughout the winter, whether snow was on the ground or not, we have held our regular outdoor meetings without intermission.

The results have amply repaid all who attended the outings for any discomfort brought about by snow, ice or rain. Further, without any connection with formal outdoor meetings arranged officially, very many minor outings have been planned, with very little notice, and carried out successfully.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Recent Bird Notes.—The following ornithological observations may be of interest to our readers: Gadwall, on September 24th, two females of this rare species of duck were present on the Stanley-Tanfield ponds: Goldeneye, one bird was on the Tanfield ponds, Stanley, on September 24th, and also a party of nine birds was noted on Smiddyshaw Reservoir on December 18th: Teal, during December a flock of about 85 birds occupied the Tanfield Ponds: Mallard, on December 18th a large flock of about 125 birds was seen on the Smiddyshaw Reservoir: Tufted Duck, a party of four birds was on Sherburn pond on January 20th: Red Legged Partridge, a bird, which was shot near Haltwhistle on October 21st, turned up in a Jesmond butcher's shop: Fieldfare, on December 18th a large flock of about 200 birds was observed near Castleside, Consett. Another large flock of between two hundred and three hundred birds was observed near Shield Row, Stanley, on December 24th. R. Marsden Palmer.

Observations on Birds in Durham City.—On October 3rd, 1961, a Sparrowhawk was seen being vigorously mobbed by a number of small birds over a field bordering Quarry Heads Lane. It finally got away and flew to the top of a tree. A few days later, a Sparrowhawk (probably the same bird) was again seen, first perching on the hedge of the same field for a few seconds, before flying on to the top of a tall lamp standard a few yards away, where it remained motionless for about 12 minutes.

On Christmas morning, 1961, a Wren was seen fluttering along the pavement near the wall, on Prebends' Bridge, for several yards, remaining about six inches from my feet as I walked slowly along, before flying off into a drain hole on the opposite side of the road. On the same day, in the afternoon, when I walked into our front garden, I disturbed a Moor-hen which flew into the back garden, where it searched for food for a few minutes before returning to the river banks.

At the beginning of May, last year, I noticed a Jay constantly flying in and out of the back-garden and settling on trees for several minutes at a time. It was the first time I had seen this bird so near the house. A. N. Gibby.

A Preliminary Inspection of a Durham Wood.—During the third week in March, we made a short survey of a beech wood near Black House, Edmondsley, (66) in which, despite the early date, a few plants were observed on flower. These included the Hazel, Dog's Mercury and the Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage; in addition, the Hairy Woodrush, *Luzula pilosa*, was just expanding its flower buds. Amongst the other plants observed, but not in flower, were the Climbing Fumitory (*Corydalis claviculata*), Wood Sanicle, Herb Robert, Woundwort, Self Heal, Lesser Celandine (the black blotched variety), Red Campion, Wood Sorrel, Three-nerved Sandwort, Mountain Speedwell, Wood Avens, Honeysuckle and Ivy. Amongst the trees and shrubs observed were the Beech, Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Wych Elm, Mountain Ash, Holly, Goat and Grey Sallows, Elder, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose and various species of dogroses.

The abundance of the Holly was especially striking, and its seedlings were equally plentiful. Moreover, it attracted attention by the damage done to its leaves by a leaf-mining fly, *Phytomyza ilicis*. Similarly, the beeches bore numerous colonies of the Felted Beech Coccid, *Cyprrococcus fagi*. The ash likewise supported coccid colonies, but these belonged to the species *Fonscolombia fraxini*.

A few fungi were noted: these were *Polystictus versicolor*, *Collybia velutipes*, and *Rhytisma acerinum*. The last-named species was found in plenty on dead sycamore leaves. J. Thompson.

An Early Record of the Gallant Soldier, *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav. in Durham.—This plant was found bearing fruit and flowers in a field near Durham City in October 1940. The record was not published at the time owing to war-time difficulties and so forgotten. It antedates, by some twenty years, the more recent discoveries of the two species of *Galinsoga* in this area. A. N. Gibby.

Plants Observed around the Crookfoot Reservoir near Elwick.—Whilst searching old pastures near Elwick (66) in an endeavour to discover the Green-winged Meadow Orchid, we found them full of the Early Purple Orchid, and along the stream which intersected the meadows we detected several examples of *Rosa micrantha*, one of our least common roses. Here also the Trailing St. John's Wort, *Hypericum humifusum*, with strange companions like the False Brome Grass, Lady and Male Ferns, and Cowslips, flourished.

Further on, we came to woodland which had once been natural but now included many introduced species. It contained much wych elm accompanied by the usual denizens of such a wood. However, we were delighted to find in it the Hard Fern and the Oak Fern, the latter a real rarity generally with us, and the former a plant disappearing from Durham lowlands.

Near the reservoir grew Honeysuckle and, quite unexpectedly, the Downy Rose, *Rosa tomentosa*, a very rare species with us. In the water, many water plants, like the Great Water Grass, *Glyceria maxima*, the Water Plantain and the Amphibius Bistort, *Polygonum amphibium*, abounded.

Passing out from the woodland, and leaving the stream, we continued our search for the Green-winged Meadow Orchid, but here, as well as elsewhere in the two counties, we had no success. T. W. Wanless.

The Green Hairstreak Butterfly, *Callophrys nivi*, in our Counties.—In Robson's well known *Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Northumberland and Durham* this butterfly finds no place. Nevertheless, it seems to have been familiar to at least one of the early collectors for the late J. R. Johnson once told me that an entomologist, named Jack French, had captured it near Corbridge (67) in the 1880's.

No one seems to have taken the species after French's time until 1924, when as I was studying the moorland flora on Waldrige Fell (66), I was so fortunate as to discover a very strong colony of the butterfly attached to the bilberry which abounds there. Even today, when so many agencies threatening the insect exist, it still holds its own.

Soon after my discovery, Mr. Johnson himself captured the Green Hairstreak in the Dipton (67) pinewoods just south of Corbridge. Undoubtedly, from other facts known to Mr. Johnson, this was French's station. Next, it was detected on the moorlands near Shull (66) although the colony was not a very strong one.

More recently, I found a single specimen along the Vigo railway, near Fatfield. I searched diligently for more examples but without success. In all probability, the insect concerned had come along the railway from some unknown habitat to the west.

Finally, three years ago, a well-placed and established colony was found on the remains of what had once been Beamish Moor (66). Its habitat was very similar to those known elsewhere in Northumberland and Durham—a wellgrown stand of bilberry growing amongst heather and other moorland plants. J. W. H. H.

RECORDS

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

Humulus lupulus L.Hop	66
Very abundant and luxuriant on trees along the Wear at Cocken.—E. Hall.	
Saponaria officinalis L.Soapwort	66
Found along the Wear, between the stations already recorded, at Cocken and Cox Green: not rare.—E. Hall.	
Veronica montana L.Mountain Speedwell	66
Common enough in the woods between Cocken and Brasside.—E. Hall.	
Ribes alpinum L.Mountain Currant	66
Common in Lambton Woods, Lumley Woods and in the Cocken Woods— J.W.H.H.	
Epilobium pedunculare A. Cunn.	66
A rather large patch was seen growing our stones by the River Tees, below Falcon Glints, Upper Teesdale.A. N. Gibby.	
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum L. Black Spleenwort	66
On a Magnesian Limestone outcrop in Shadforth Dene.—T. C. Dunn.	
Sonchus arvensis L.Sow Thistle	66
Several examples of the narrow leaved var. <i>angustifolius</i> were noted near the Fishpond at East Rainton.	
Centaurea nigra L.Knapweed	66
The presence of the radiate form of this species growing near the preceding seems worthy of note, as that form seems to be western in its distribution with us.	
C. scabiosa L.Greater Knapweed	66
In enormous quantities on the old waggon-ways and pitheaps in the West Rainton area.Near Strawberry Hill a plant was found in which the inner florets were dark purple and the outer ones almost white.	
Melilotus altissima Thuill.Melilot	66
On the pitheaps near East Rainton.	
Salix repens L.Creeping Willow	66
In spite of the destruction of most of the colonies of this species on Birtley Fell, the presence of the plant on Birtley Little Fell is worthy of record.In addition to its coastal stations, <i>S. repens</i> still exists in the Lowlands in Cassop Vale, near Cornforth and on the pitheap near Haswell. The recent destruction of its hybrid with <i>S. phyllicifolia</i> in the Bishop Middleham station should be noted.	
x S. rubra Huds.Red Osier	66
This hybrid between <i>Salix purpurea</i> and <i>S. viminalis</i> occurs in many Durham localities probably as a relic of old osier beds. Most of these hybrids are of the short-leaved form. However, in the Team Valley near Bewicke Main, the long-leaved variety may be found.	
S. nigricans Sm.Dark Sallow	66
The occurrence of odd examples of this species the along Vigo Railway, on Waldrige Fell, near Bewicke Main and in Cassop Vale seems worthy of note.	
Acer campestre L.Field Maple	66, 67
Plentiful in a hedge just west of Birtley, in hedges near Bishopton, along Bollihope Burn, near Edmondsley (66) and along the Tyne, on the Northumberland side (67).	

CECIDIA

Rhodites rosae L. Robin's Pin-Cushion	66
This common gall insect is generally found with us to favour the commoner <i>Rosa canina</i> forms.However, on September 9th, I found it on <i>Rosa mollis</i> near Newton Hall.	
R. eglanteriae Hartig.	66
Now reported from <i>Rosa micrantha</i> , a rare species with us, also from Newton Hall.Noted in the garden at Birtley on the hybrid rose <i>R. spinosissimax rubiginosa</i> .—J.W.H.H.	

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BY THE WAY

CASSOP VALE

Last year, the draining of the artificial pool in Cassop Vale attracted considerable attention to the area. This pool, owing to the very nature of its origin, has never been a very rich one, the Bog Bean being the most interesting plant it produced; its fauna was equally poor.

Likewise linked with Cassop Vale recently, in an official statement urging the preservation of the area as a Nature Reserve, was the alleged occurrence there of a butterfly to which the English name Castle Eden Argus was applied. Actually, no such unit exists as the Castle Eden Argus, although Stephens, in 1830, supplied our coast forms, collectively, with the Latin name *Polyommatus agestis* var. *salmacis*. As Heslop-Harrison and Carter demonstrated in their paper "The British Races of *Aricia medon* Esp. with Special Reference to the Areas in which they overlap" (Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. N. D. and Newcastle upon Tyne, N.S., Vol. VI., Part 7, 1924), the name was applied loosely by entomologists to all the various forms produced by the natural interbreeding of the two British races of *Aricia agestis*, the true Brown Argus, *A. agestis*, and the Scottish Brown Argus, *A. agestis* subspecies *artaxerxes*.

Until 1918, the occurrence of more or less typical *A. agestis* in Durham was not suspected. That year, colonies of typical Brown Argus, uncontaminated by *artaxerxes*, were discovered by Heslop Harrison at Quarrington Hill and Strawberry Hill. Subsequently, other stations for the same insect were found at Old Quarrington, Bishop Middleham, Pitlington, Sherburn Hill, West Cornforth and Mainsforth. Of these, the Quarrington Hill locality lies nearest to Cassop Vale, but members of its Brown Argus population do not enter that area. Even if they did, since they do not belong to the hybrid swarm labelled "Castle Eden Argus", it would be wrong to apply that name to them.

We hope that this statement of the position of the more typical colonies of the Brown Argus in Durham will prevent ideas becoming current that protecting Cassop Vale will protect any form of that insect.

LEPIDOPTEROUS IMMIGRANTS

So far this season, lepidoptera of all groups have been of very sparse occurrence. Amongst the butterflies, only the three Whites and the Small Tortoiseshell have been observed locally. Of these, it is possible that the Large White and the Small White were genuine immigrants from abroad. On the other hand, the Green-veined White and the Small Tortoiseshell were almost certainly of native origin. Further, it should be emphasized that no immigrant moths have been observed, even the ubiquitous Silver Y failing to appear.

These facts bring us to the real purpose of these notes. Of recent years, not only has the number of entomologists in our area diminished greatly, but, in addition, very few of those actually at work with us trouble to send us records of the presence of the various insect species, which, from time to time reach us from the Continent or elsewhere. May we, therefore, ask our entomological readers to let us have notes of any interesting insects they may observe? In particular, notes concerning immigrants, no matter how common, will always be welcome.

LAMBTON CASTLE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

In March 1953, Lambton Castle was opened as a Residential College for Adult Education. As now arranged, its programme includes a wide range of subjects of which Natural History plays a not-unimportant part. The courses devoted to Natural History topics have been extremely successful. In addition to lectures illustrated by lantern slides and specimens, advantage has been taken of the woods along the Wear Banks to carry out a series of field excursions directed by well known and capable specialists in various branches of Natural History. Further, outings have been organised to visit the Fame Islands for the purpose of studying the birds and other life there.

Recently, the formation of a Lambton Castle Natural History Society has been suggested, and, so far, all approached to join have signified their desire to do so. Others, with the same end in view, should communicate with the Warden, Lambton Castle Residential College, Lambton Castle, near Chester-le-Street. When the number of possible members is large enough, a meeting at the Castle will be arranged, and the Society founded.

OTHER SUGGESTED NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

Not very long ago, very successful Natural History Societies existed in our counties at Sunderland, Hexham, Gateshead, Wolsingham and elsewhere. These collapsed for various reasons. Lately, however, it has been suggested that the time was ripe for resuscitating them. In fact, steps have already been taken to revive

the old Sunderland Society. It is to be hoped that the others will follow that example in the not-distant future. Further, it should be emphasized that there is scope for the foundation of new societies at Stockton, Bishop Auckland, South Shields, Morpeth and elsewhere.

OBITUARY NOTICE

RICHARD SIDDOWAY BAGNALL

We regret to announce that another of the founders of the *Vasculum* has passed away in the person of Dr. R. S. Bagnall.

Dr. Bagnall was born at Winlaton, and was the son of Mr. J. S. Bagnall, a member of the firm of R. S. Bagnall and Sons, forgemen and chainmakers, Swalwell and South Hylton.

From birth, Dr. Bagnall was of a delicate constitution, and, as a consequence, he was educated privately. However, very early, he displayed a taste for natural history, choosing for his studies the beetles. Almost immediately, he proved himself a first rate worker for he not only confirmed most of Bold's original records, but also added many novelties to our Durham lists.

His accounts of this work earned for him the Hancock Prizes in 1903 and 1905. These successes caused him to branch out into various neglected arthropod groups like the thrips, centipedes and woodlice. In these fields, he attracted the attention of Professor E. B. Poulton of the Hope Department of Zoology, Oxford, who gave him a research post there.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, he had to leave the Department to concentrate on work of national importance at the forges. Throughout this period, he continued his researches amongst the smaller arthropods. Further, he joined the original *Vasculum* Board in 1915. Then also his fruitful collaboration with Heslop-Harrison in investigation the British Cecidia or galls began.

From the end of the first war in 1918, he continued his work with the small forms with wonderful returns. However, his researches were greatly impeded by the fact that he was no longer free to pursue his natural history studies as previously for his business claimed the bulk of his time. Nevertheless, for quite a long period he kept producing research papers, many of considerable importance. For these, he gained, a fitting reward as in 1928 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Durham.

Unfortunately, not long after that event, his old enemies of rheumatic and heart afflictions began to play their parts in limiting his activities. As a result, he returned to Harrogate there, if possible, to recuperate. In spite of all the care and attention he received, he passed peacefully away in 1961.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

The Hundred and First Field Meeting of the Northern Naturalists' Union took place in the Causey Dene and Arch Area on Saturday, May 26th, 1962.

The President, Miss M. H. Oates, was present, and the party, in the absence of Mr. Fred Wade, was guided by members of the Annfield Plain and Stanley Naturalists' Club. There was a good attendance, and the woods were at their best.

As we entered the woods, we were struck by the beauty of the trees and shrubs. All of our usual forest trees were present with a sprinkling of more northern forms like the Rowan, Bird Cherry and Wych Elm. However, our more serious workers were specially impressed by the abundance of willow species observed. These included the Crack Willow, the Goat Willow, the Gray Sallow, the Eared Sallow, the Creeping Willow, the Almond-leaved Willow (the first time we have encountered this species in our explorations), the Common Osier and the Bay-leaved Willow. Further, we detected the hybrids *Salix aurita* x *repens*, *S. viminalis* x *atrocinerea* and *S. purpurea* x *viminalis*. Many of these bore the willow scale, and some displayed burrows of the Hornet Clearwing moth. On willow and alder also, we found borings of the longhorned beetle, *Rhagium bifasciatum* and even superimposed on these, the work of woodpeckers.

Amongst the shrubs, hazel, sloe, holly, wild cherry, guelder rose and elder took our attention, but northern species of wild rose were especially plentiful, *Rosa mollis*, *R. sherardi*, *R. coriifolia* and *R. dumalis* being most plentiful. A very special "find" amongst the roses was the Sweet Briar, *Rosa rubiginosa*.

No fewer than 205 species of flowering plants ferns and horsetails were observed, of which the most important were Woodruff, Fox Sedge, the Panicked Sedge, Moschatel, Wood Stitchwort, Bitter Vetch, Marsh Cinquefoil, the Hairy Woodrush, Greater Woodrush, Wood Clubrush, the Golden Saxifrage, the Marsh Crepis, and Wood Millet Grass. The rarest fern noted was the Hard Fern, but amongst the Horsetails we saw *Equisetum fluviatile*, *E. palustre*, *E. telmateia* and *E. sylvaticum* var. *capillare*.

Insects were very scarce for although Mr. Dunn took a few "micros" to identify, and beat some larvae, only those of *Oporinia christyi*, taken from wych elm, were at all important. On the wing, we noted the Green-veined White Butterfly. Humble bees also were very rare, but queens of *Bombus hortorum* and *B. pratorum* were seen at various flowers.

Except for galls of the mite *Tarsonemus spirifex* on oatgrass, and of the beautiful *Trigonaspis megaptera* on oak trunks, we only saw the marble, currant and the usual common forms on oak.

Mr. Gent as usual, made himself responsible for the birds and his report reads:—Despite the cold conditions, there was a considerable volume of bird song in the woods, the summer visitors being particularly noticeable. Willow Warblers, Whitethroats, several Garden Warblers and a Redstart were all heard. Resident species were also in good voice, the songs of the Wren, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Robin, Hedge Sparrow, Chaffinch and Yellow Hammer all being noted. Starlings were seen feeding young, and the nest of a Willow Warbler with 6 eggs found. Other species recorded included the Lesser Black-backed Gull, Swift, Swallow, Carrion Crow, Linnet, Redpoll and Reed Bunting. A small party which went further along the valley, were so fortunate as to find a badger "set".

BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This spring we have held three regular outdoor meetings, the first in Castle Eden Dene on April 1st, the second to the Edmondsley area on May 6th and the third to Hunstanworth and along the Beldon Burn on May 20th. In addition, on June 3rd, a fourth, specially arranged for our younger members, took us to the Fame Islands.

On the occasion of the Castle Eden Dene outing, we observed most of the usual spring plants recorded for the area. However, special attention was paid to the variation of the Dusky Sallow, *Salix nigricans*, to the Yews, here often clinging to the bare rock as they often do in their native habitats, and to the willow hybrid *Salix nigricans* x *caprea*. Moreover, we had the privilege of recording the Long-leaved Helleborine Orchid, *Cephalanthera longifolia*, once again from the Dene. When we visited the Black Wood, near Edmondsley, we discovered nothing new although we found new stations for such plants as the Primrose, Moschatel, Marsh Crepis, Golden Saxifrage and Large Bitter Cress. Mr. Dunn also reported that he had seen the Small White Butterfly, the curious moth, *Chimabacche fagella* and queens of the bee, *Bombus terrestris*. A Tawny Owl was also observed.

At Hunstanworth, along the burn, we found the Tea-leaved Willow very variable, and this attracted special note. In the same area, new to our outings, were the May Lily, *Maianthemum bifolium*, Bistort, the Pansy, showing great variation in flower colour from purple to yellow, the Red-berried Elder, the Shining Cranesbill and the Wood Geranium. Amongst the insects seen were *Bombus muscorum*, *B. terrestris*, *Vespa rufa*, the Green-veined White Butterfly, the remains of last year's artichoke galls on oak as well as larvae beaten to be reared later.

Those members who went to the Fame Islands on June 3rd had a very good time, seeing nothing new, but having a better view than ever of the gray seal colonies and also nests of many species of sea birds.

In addition to these regularly organised excursions, many outings, involving a few members on each occasion, have taken us to explore woodlands in the Waldrige, Edmondsley, Sacriston and Bumhope areas with a view to increasing our knowledge of the flora and fauna of a far from well-worked district. These, too, have so far yielded promising results.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Recent Ornithological Observations.—The rookery situated in the Haymarket, Newcastle upon Tyne, consisted of 16 nests during April. This rookery was only established last year, when there were three nests. Bullfinch—A pair was observed in Greencroft Wood, near Annfield Plain on April 20th; the first known record for this district. Long-tailed Tit—One bird was seen near Shield Row, Stanley on April 15th. Common Sandpiper—On April 25th, a single bird, on spring passage, was on the Tanfield Ponds, Stanley. Goldeneye—One female was at the Greencroft Ponds on April 20th and also four birds were on the Seaton Burn ponds on March 28th. Shoveller—Throughout April, a pair haunted the Tanfield Ponds whilst, on March 28th, six birds were on Gosforth Park Lake. Tufted Duck—Two were seen on Greencroft Ponds on April 28th and about sixty were noted on Gosforth Park Lake on March 28th. A party of twelve birds came under observation on Seaton Burn Ponds on March 28th. Golden Plover—One, on spring passage was on Seaton Burn Ponds on March 28th.—R. Marston Palmer.

A Weasel visits a Bluetits Home.—Early in the breeding season, I observed a pair of bluetits inspecting last year's home, a nesting box in my garden. A few days later, I saw what I thought to be one of the birds enter the box so I watched to see it come out again. When it emerged I was amazed to see fur, not feathers. What had popped out of the hole was a weasel! It climbed down the fence, through a drain pipe, and into a pile of stacked wood at the bottom of the garden. However, I am pleased to be able to say that the tits did not desert the box, but utilized it for nesting purposes, eight young ones being reared. R. Harris.

The Gooseberry Sawfly, *Pristiphora pallipes* Lep.—In spite of the unfavourable weather hereabouts (Team Valley 66), this sawfly was out quite early, and examples of the larval foodplants stripped in May. In the Team Valley, the species attacks Red Currant and Gooseberry in gardens but very rarely favours Black Currant or any of the so-called Flowering Currants. However, both in gardens and in old-established woods, the Alpine Currant, *Ribes alpinum*, is always badly damaged, even when the Common Gooseberry is available. The present season has presented no exception—J.W.H.H.

A Holy Island Note.—I have just returned from a short trip to Holy Island (68) and have never seen the orchids growing more profusely. *Dactylorhiza purpurella*. *D. incarnata* and the hybrids were a lovely sight at the Snook, on the Wiches and on the old golf course. I also found the Whitlow Grass, *Erophila verna*, on the Snook.—Weldon Watts.

Fungi at Brasside.—I have only seen the small, but interesting, Bird's Nest Fungus, *Crucibulum vulgare* Tul. twice previously in Durham (66). Then it was only in small numbers and restricted to a very small area. However, last autumn, whilst I was examining an old waggon-way near Brasside, I found the species in considerable numbers and spread over one hundred yards or more.

On the previous occasions, it was living on dead twigs of snowberry and on decayed scraps of timber. In this new station, it was much more catholic in its tastes. It occurred on old linoleum, on cardboard, on rotten wood, and even more abundantly on the cinders and soil which formed the old track. In fact, it seemed to be flourishing on anything which could contain even a little decayed organic matter.

On the same occasion and in the same locality, I was also pleased to find several colonies of the "Fungus Gun" *Sphaerobolus stellatus* Tode, ripening at the same time.—J. Thompson.

Observations from the Brasside Ponds (66).—More with a desire to study the variation of the willows than anything else, we paid a visit to the smaller of the Brasside Ponds. There, on the shores, we came across several colonies of Spotted Orchids. These, in the main, consisted of hybrid swarms involving the Purple Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza purpurella* and the Spotted Orchid, *D. fuchsii*. Pure examples of *D. purpurella* were not rare but only one specimen of pure *D. fuchsii* was discovered.

In the ponds the water snail, *Limnaea stagnalis*, a recent arrival, occurred in very small numbers. On the other hand, we found several pond weeds in profusion. These included *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *P. bertholdii*, *P. pusillus*, *P. natans* and *Zannichellia palustris*. Strangely enough, the only duckweed seen was the usually rare one with us, the Ivy-leaved Duckweed, *Lemna trisulca*, and it abounded.

Owing to the acts of vandals, the water levels in the ponds had been lowered considerably, and that had left many Cat's Tails, *Typha latifolia*, high and dry. That, in turn, will affect the strength of the Bulrush Wainscot Moth which also is a comparatively recent colonist.—J.W.H.H. and J.T.

A Visit to the Longstone (68).—In the *Vasculum* Vol. XIV, p. 1 (1927) the Rev. J. E. Hull recorded the results of his exploration of the Longstone in the Fame Isles. In particular, he listed four species of flowering plants he found there: these were *Glyceria maritima*, *Spergularia neglecta*, *Atriplex babingtonii* and *Cochlearia danica*.

Until this year, I had never landed on the Longstone, but on June 9th I was able to land and, naturally, looked for flowering plants.

Of these, I found three species the Sea Campion, *Silene maritima*, the Danish Scurvy Grass, *Cochlearia danica* and the Grass Wrack, *Zostera maritima*. Of the trio only one, the Danish Scurvy Grass, coincided with what Hull found. This was not uncommon, taking advantage if very precarious cracks and crevices. Its flowers were uniformly white. This does not coincide with the position on the larger islands for there both white and mauve-coloured forms exist.

On the Longstone, when we were there, the Sea Campion was in flower, and it was noteworthy that the plants were dimorphic in colour, some giving the impression that they were wholly glaucous in colour, and others presenting a dull diffuse pinkish hue.

Unlike Hull, who found the spider *Attus pubescens* on the island, we failed to find that, or any other arachnid, there.—J.W.H.H.

The Fate of Hawthorn Fruits.—Having been informed that the seeds of hawthorn were distributed by their being eaten by birds and subsequently passed through their intestines, I recently took the opportunity of examining the droppings of thrushes and blackbirds. In them, I found quite a number of Hawthorn seeds, but, in all cases, they consisted of an empty shell, the embryo presumably having been digested out.—R.Harris

Variation in Campion Flower Colour.—Recently, owing to various causes, the White Campion has become much less common in the Team Valley and neighbourhood. Still, it remains not uncommon along railway banksides and similar places. In some of these, like the mineral line at Fatfield, it comes into contact with the Red Campion and hybridizes with it. Moreover, as the resultant hybrids are themselves fertile, forms exhibiting every shade of colour from white to red come into being.

Independently of the variation originating thus, the Red Campions in the woods produce white flowered plants by mutation so that the Red Campion colonies in the Hermitage Woods, in Lambton Woods, and near Bewicke Main sometimes manifest white flowers.

Further, Red Campions can vary so as to intensify their coloration. Thus forms with dark red flowers and stems come into being. In addition, such plants display an armature of blackish hairs.

Again, variation can take the form of a flaking in the flower colour, the flaking generally being disposed radially but not regularly. In some flowers, pink and white merge into one another in concentric rings—a type of coloration sometimes displayed by crosses between the White and the Red Campion.

Lastly, and this form has occurred in Lambton Woods, near Shotton Hall and in Castle Eden Dene, the flower colour yielded by mutation may be of a light purple hue.

RECORDS

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

Salix caprea x nigricans Hybrid Sallow In Castle Eden Dene.	66
Stellaria nemorum L. Wood Stitchwort In the woods along Causey Dene.—J.W.H.H.	66
Myriophyllum alternifolium DC. Alternate-flowered Water-Milfoil Tipalt Burn between Cadgerford and Scotchcoulard (67). In the Tarn Beck (70), and in the Irthing between Irthing Head and Paddaburn (67 & 70), near Chirnsike Lodge (67 & 70) and near Forster's Hill (67 & 70). Ditch near Harehope (68).	67, 68, 70
Myriophyllum spicatum L. Spiked Water-Milfoil Quarry pond N. of Newton Seahouses (68). Till, W. of Weetwood Bridge (68). Holy Island Lough (68). Jed Water near Southdean (80).	68, 80
Hypericum humifusum L. Trailing St. John's Wort Sand pit by road between Apperley Dene and Scales Cross.	67
Genista tinctoria L. Dyer's Greenweed Old lime quarry between Healyfield and Dean Howl Farm (66). N. of Thockrington (67). Between the quarry and crags at Gunnerton. (67).	66, 67
Genista anglica L. Moor oar Muggleswick (66). Near Fellgrove (Blanchland) (67). Moor (68).	66, 67, 68
Polygonum bistorta L. Snake-root, Easter Ledges, Bistort Roadside N. of Ingoe. Near Burnstones (Slaggyford).	67
Scleranthus annus L. Basaltic outcrop just W. of Thockrington.	67
Orchis mascula (L.) L. Early Purple Orchid, Blue Butcher Gunnerton Crags (67). Gowk Banks near Butterbum (70).	67, 70
Dryopteris lanceolatocristata (Hoffm.) Alston Narrow Buckler Fern Near Wainhope in Kielder Forest. Peat moss on Wark Common.	67
Euonymus europaeus L. Spindle tree Basaltic crags N. of Belford.	68
Eupatorium cannabinum L. Hemp Agrimony S. Bank of Coquet near Morwick Mill, (67). N. bank of Wansbeck, 3 M W. of Morpeth (67). Bank of stream near Easington Grange, N.E. of Belford (68). Roddam Dene (68). White House Wood, near Ainwick (68).	67, 68
Epipactis helleborine (L.) Crantz Broad Helleborine Sand quarry by the main road, 1/4 m. S. of Allensford (66). Woods by a tributary of the Derwent, S. of Newlands (67). Blackheddon Burn near Robsheugh (67). Pidgon Banks (67).	66, 67
Ranunculus fluitans Lam. Water Crowfoot Coquet near Morwick Mill (67), and at Felton (68). Till, W. of Weetwood Bridge (68).	67, 68
Hypericum maculatum Crantz Imperforate St. John's Wort By a tributary of the Derwent, S. of Newlands.	67
Sisymbrium orientale L. Eastern Rocket Near Chevington Station. Roadside, just S. of Wark.	67
Nuphar lutea (L.) Sm. Yellow Water-lily, Brandy Bottle Pond in old quarry near Robsheugh. Tipalt Burn, between Cadgerford and Scotchcoulard. In Belling Burn, just above Bellingburn Head.—G.A. & M. Swan	67

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BY THE WAY

OUR LOCAL MOLLUSCA

In our number for December, 1961, we drew attention to the fact that, at the present time, the study of the Land Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham is completely neglected. This is difficult to understand inasmuch as the group was one of the earliest to be monographed in the *Transactions of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club*, Joshua Alder's *Catalogue of the Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham* appearing in that periodical in 1848.

In spite of our note, except for a few casual observations dealing with water species, our snails remain untouched. However, Mr. G. W. Temperley, himself no novice with the Mollusca, has urged us to repeat our earlier note, and this invitation is the result: who is going to respond?

INSECT MIGRANTS

From time to time we have given accounts of the insects which periodically migrate to this country from North Africa, the Continent, and even America. Whilst for the most part, such insects are butterflies and moths, dragonflies, like the Scarce Aeshna and the Yellow-winged Sympetrum and others, play the role of immigrant fairly regularly as do representatives of other groups.

This season, as far as our area is concerned, has been the worst we have ever experienced amongst such immigrants, only the Silver Y Moth (*Plusia gamma*) having been at all plentiful. However, that species seems to have been well distributed, and fairly plentiful, for we have seen it at Beadnell (68), Druridge Bay (67), Brasside and Aycliffe (66). The only season we have experienced which produced such a widespread dearth of immigrants was that of 1903 although it was, to a considerable degree, redeemed in September by the appearance locally of dense clouds of Painted Lady butterflies. We would welcome accounts of any migrating insects our members may have observed this season.

BUMBLE BEES

Recently, opinions have been expressed that the numbers of bumble bee species occurring in our area have been diminishing. According to T. J. Bold, our earliest worker in the group, in 1869 we possessed twelve true bumble bee species and four Psithyri or parasitic forms. Later, in 1902, the Victoria County History of Durham included almost the same series. Amongst these species, *Bombus soroensis* and *B. jonellus* were always very rare in Durham and Northumberland, and it seems certain that planned research would demonstrate that they still occur with us. A third, *B. sylvarum*, described by Bold as "by no means rare" seems really to be on the wane locally. Thus, Mr. Charles Robson captured it at Birtley once in the period between the wars whilst we observed it singly at Thorpe Thewles forty years ago, and in Castle Eden Dene on June 19th, 1954. If this species be regarded as lost, compensation exists in the form of *B. lapponicus*, discovered on the moorlands around Dipton Woods, apparently showing an attachment to bilberry.

It has also been stated that our bumble bees are "now much smaller" than they were formerly. This statement differs widely from the exact truth. Bees captured thirty-five years ago average the same size as specimens taken this season. In all probability, the statement is based on the fact that the earlier emergences of some species, especially *B. pratorum*, whilst differing in size amongst themselves, are often quite tiny.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

The Hundred and Second Meeting of the Northern Naturalists' Union was held in Aycliffe Quarry on Saturday, July 21st, 1962, by the kind permission of the Owners.

The President, Miss M. H. Oates, B.Sc., was present and led the party. Owing to the broken nature of the ground, we quickly divided into a series of small groups. Still, practically all of our members visited the deep pool near the entrance, and the cliff which marked the site of early quarry workings. There we were delighted to see some very unusual plants. These were the Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*), the Stonecrop, Wild Privet, the Intermediate Whitebeam and The Traveller's Joy. Later, the Snapdragon was detected on the cliffs in the newer quarry on the west side of the road.

Leaving the pool, we explored the irregular mounds and open ground, where we were delighted to encounter a characteristic limestone flora. From the very nature of the terrain, only a few trees and shrubs were noted, but these included, amongst others, the Ash, Wych Elm, White Poplar, Cherry, Sloe, the three Common Sallows, Guelder Rose, Ivy and the Alpine Currant. A special mention should be made of the wild roses for these displayed representatives of many varieties, northern and southern.

Amongst the other flowering plants, we detected more than 160 species, of which the most interesting were the Tall and Common Melilots, the Oxford and Hoary Ragworts, the Wall Lettuce, the Blue Fleabane, the Musk Thistle, the Hairy St. John's Wort, the Smooth Tare, Marjoram, Carrot, Flax, Common Gentian, Hoary Plantain, Cowslip, Restharrow, Kidney Vetch, Scented Violet, Centaury, Greater Knapweed, Small Scabious, Pepper Saxifrage, Hemlock, Salad Burnet, the Quaking Grass and the Upright Brome Grass.

When we reached the eastern side of the quarry, an unexpected sight met our eyes, for we had encountered a rather large pond which supported a strong colony of Reed Mace (*Typha latifolia*) alongside the Spiked Milfoil, the Bulrush (*Scirpus lacustris*), the Horned Pondweed, the Amphibious Bistort and Water Horsetail. Still stranger was the nearby presence of a colony of the Common Cotton Grass, and on the slopes, a sprawling mass of the Traveller's Joy.

Throughout our walk, insects were very scarce. However, we did see the Latticed Heath Moth, the Silver Y Moth, the Five and Six Spot Burnet Moths, larvae of the Bulrush Moth and the Green veined White Butterfly. Only the common bumble bees and the Red Wasp (*Vespa rufa*) were observed.

Concerning the bird and other forms, Mr. C. J. Gent reports:— The Common Lizard and the Field were noted whilst bird life was little in evidence, but the songs of the Whitethroat and Dunnock were heard in the undergrowth at the edge of the quarry. A Moorhen, with two young birds, was seen in the reed-mace pool. Swifts, Swallows, Sand Martins and Linnets were seen overhead as were several Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Blue Tits, House Sparrows and a Robin were also noted.

The 103rd Field Meeting of the Northern Naturalists' Union was held on September 15th, 1962, in the area along the Devils Water west of the bridge near Corbridge. The President, Miss M. H. Oates, was present, and there was an excellent attendance.

After we commenced our walk, we found it exceedingly difficult to plan our route. Where there had been oak, ash, alder, wych elm, birch and the like, with suitable footpaths, extensive tree felling had taken place followed, in general, by replanting with conifers, and the creation of open spaces.

The lessening of the numbers of the wych and elm and alder is much to be deplored; firstly, because the old wych elm stands supported the most northerly British colony of the Small Brindled Beauty Moth, and, secondly because the alders had been the only known station in Britain for the melanic form of Christy's November Moth.

After due consideration, we decided to follow the course of the stream upward, and, in doing so, we discovered that the alder still persisted in small quantity with a few representatives of other kinds of tree including oaks, ashes, hollies, rowan, hornbeam, sycamore and birch. With them we observed hazel, sloe, birdcherry and guelder rose; in the case of sloe and bird-cherry we noted examples bearing fruit.

The recently planted conifers included pine, larch and several species of spruce. In these coniferous woods the undergrowth was very sparse and consisted mostly of mosses, liverworts, and ferns, with occasional clumps of the pink-flowered *Claytonia alsinoides*.

Amongst the other flowering plants we noted were the Perforate and Imperforate St. John's Worts, Moneywort, Herb Robert, Wood Geranium, Angelica, Burnet Saxifrage, Blue and Bush Vetches, Lady's, Hedge and Marsh Bedstraws, Red Campion, Brooklime, Foxglove, Ragwort, Hawkweed, Field and Devil's Bit Scabious, Honeysuckle, Tormentil, Knapweed, Wood Sorrel, Woodsage, Bugle, Large Bird's Foot Trefoil, Bramble, Rasp, Strawberry, Woundwort, Broom, Whin, Guelder Rose and many species of wild rose.

Again we found insects in small numbers, the butterflies being represented by the Small Copper and the Green-veined White, and the moths by the Dark Marbled Carpet. Gall insects and mites were but little better. From oak we obtained all the Common Spangle Galls, the Artichoke Gall, the Marble Gall and *Dryophanta folii*; from rowan the Mite Gall, *Eriophyes pyri* and from elm, *Tetraneura ulmi*,

Again Mr. Gent's list was short. Amongst the birds he noted that House Martins were circling high above Dilston whilst Dippers were present at several points along the stream. Otherwise, birdlife was not much in evidence apart from Woodpigeons which were plentiful. However, the following were recorded; Carrion Crow, Rook, Jackdaw, Jay, Blue Tit, Wren, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Robin, Meadow Pipit, Bullfinch and Goldfinch.

A Slow-worm was captured amongst stones along the stream.

BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

During the summer we have had two regular field meetings, one on July 15th to Beadnell, where we concentrated on the dunes and the marshy ground to the west, whilst the other took us on September 2nd to Housesteads to examine the Roman station there.

Beadnell provided us with the only outing in which we saw many insects on the wing. There were all the usual bumble and solitary bees present, but, in addition, we observed the Small Heath Butterfly, the Common Blue, the Meadow Brown, the Green veined White, the Silver Y, the Cinnabar, the Speedwell Plume Moth, the Six-spot Burnet and larvae of the Drinker Moth.

Amongst the plants, we noted the Spotted Orchid, the Early Marsh Orchid, the Twayblade, the White and Red Campions, with their hybrid, the Dove's Foot Crane's-bill, Stork's-bill, the Bloody Geranium, the Sea Rocket, Spurge, Purple Milk-vetch, the Common and the Round-leaved Mallow, Meadow Rue, Hound's Tongue and the Burnet Rose. Naturally, in studying the plants, we collected many snails. Included in these were *Helix aspersa*, *H. nemoralis* and *H. itala*.

At Housesteads, we had the great privilege of having Mr. W. E. Gladstone with us to explain the salient features of the Camp and Wall. At the same time, the surrounding vegetation was noted, the most important plants listed being Thale Cress, Lady's Bedstraw, Hedge Bedstraw, Golden Rod, the Pansy, the Black Spleenwort and the Maiden Hair Spleenwort.

Leaving Housesteads, the more energetic of our party walked along the Wall, examining on the way the well-preserved mile castle. Reaching Hotbank Crag, we had a magnificent view of the Northumberland Lakes. However, we pressed on to Crag Lough. As we did so we collected Rockrose, Thyme, Bilberry, the Small Scabious and the Hard Fern.

Around the Lough, we entered a dense mass of willows, including the Tea-leaved Willow, the Bay Willow and the Grey Sallow. Nearby vegetation formed the usual combination of Marsh Ragwort, Valerian, Eyebrights, Sneezewort, Betony, Marsh Cinquefoil. Cotton Grass and the like.—E. Hall.

In addition to these formal outings, others have been arranged to study the general natured history of selected areas near Lanchester, Buttsfield, Cornsay, Sacriston, East Rainton, Brasside, Shadforth, Cornforth, Waldrige and Bumhope.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Wader Migration(Autumn Passage).—Ruff—At the Tanfield Ponds from August 7th to August 10th two birds were present. On the evening of August 18th a flock of nine ruffs flew into the ponds from the east; they were accompanied by two redshanks which were thought to be of the continental race. This flock was still there on August 20th, but had disappeared by August 22nd. Greenshank—Tanfield Ponds. July 12th, one immature bird. From August 7th to August 20th, three birds were noted most days, with a maximum of five on August 18th. Green Sandpiper—Tanfield Ponds, July 27th, two; July 28th, one. Common Sandpiper— Tanfield Ponds. From July 8th to August 10th up to three birds were frequently present. Dunlin—July 7th, two; July 8th, one. (These ponds are 13 miles inland, and during July of each year dunlin pass over them on their way from their Pennine breeding grounds to the coast.) Other birds: Grasshopper Warbler—Single birds were seen and heard "reeling" at the Greencroft Ponds on July 1st, and the Tanfield Ponds on July 2nd. Short Eared Owl—A single bird near the Tanfield Ponds on August 7th.—R. Marston Palmer.

Notes from Durham City. Recently Dr. Lewis Davies has sent me moths from insect traps operating near the University Science Laboratories, Durham. In general, the Lepidoptera are the same as those caught in my trap at Chester-le-Street, but a few interesting forms are included.

On July 20th, 1962, a single example of *Zanclognatha tarsipennalis* was captured—the second known Durham specimen.

Plusia bractea, an insect considered rare with us, has appeared four times, and on one of these occasions (July 24th, 1962), two arrived the same evening.

Lygris mellinata Fab. is a local moth feeding on red and black currant in gardens. However, it has never turned up at Chester-le-Street, but five specimens have arrived from Durham.—T. C. Dunn.

(In his *Catalogue of Lepidoptera*, Mr. J. E. Robson records it as not uncommon in Durham, and we have captured it at Birtley.—J.W.H.H.)

Odd Plant Notes.—In my recent wanderings, I have observed several interesting plants which are of some rarity. The Vernal Squill I found on the low cliffs between Craster and Dunstanburgh (68) whilst the Maiden Pink was found growing on a sunny bank at Edmundbyers (66). The Melancholy Thistle is not a plant prone to variation. Nevertheless, I have examined a large clump growing at Lowtown near Lanchester; it produces pure white flowers. Another unusual stray is the White Mellilot of which a single example was found growing on a building site at Castleside.—Fred Wade.

Two Plant Notes.—This year the Thorn Apple, *Datura stramonium*, has again come up in our garden in Durham city (66) having seeded itself from last season, but in greater profusion than previously. A small "forest" of several hundred plants appeared, a number of these being well over 3 feet high.

This year a plant of *Thymus drucei* Ronn. was discovered near the Bollihope Burn, Frosterley, producing completely white flowers.—A. N. Gibby.

Quarrelsome Lapwings.—In late May, I watched, for some time, a lapwing attacking a pheasant in a field in which, most obviously, it had its nest or brood. Very often indeed the lapwing swooped right down upon the pheasant in a regular bow-formed curve. This caused the pheasant to avoid impact after which the lapwing rose again in an upward and continuous curve only to repeat the descending and ascending movements. Throughout its operations, the peewit occasionally gave rise to its usual cry. The pheasant, which seemed to recognize my presence, remained almost stationary, only creeping along short distances in a crouching position. When, finally, I disturbed the pair, the lapwing alighted some distance away, only to return to the attack after which the pheasant rose and moved away in a skulking fashion.

Later, in June, I observed a lapwing attack a sea-gull which was passing over the same fields. The birds were at a fair height, and the onslaughts of the lapwing were frequent and vigorous.—C.R.

Variation in the Greater Knapweed.—Whilst exploring an old waggon way near East Rainton we noticed an unusual variant of the Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*). The normal type with its red-purple flowers was very common but, scattered amongst many of the clumps, was a number of plants bearing pale lilac flowers. It was noticed that the two forms were not isolated in separate groups but were mixed up together as though the seeds had been sown together. Another interesting feature of the same colonies was a distortion of the flower heads. In many cases, the ray-florets were suppressed on one side, the whole inflorescence displaying considerable damage. On dissecting a few heads, it was found that the distorted flower bases were attacked by insect larvae. These, in all probability belonged to the fly, *Urophora solstitialis*, or one of its close allies. It was also observed that the majority of the plants bore leaves supporting galls of the mite *Eriophyes centaureae*—J.T. and J.W.H.H.

Abnormalities in Hips of Rosa Sherardi Davies.—A twig of *Rosa sherardi*, collected at Buttsfield (66), carried a single hip perfect in size and

colour and almost ripe. However, below this twig was a second one with two very small hips, both quite green but, nevertheless, displaying signs of ripening. On a third twig were found two hips fused along the whole length of the peduncles and the bulk of the hip, except for the two discs. These were free, as were the stamens and styles. Further, the discs, with their orifices, carried no structural defects. Dissection of the two hips revealed the fact that the achenes were normal in number and size. As far as could be ascertained, the bush displayed no other abnormalities.

Humble Bees at Brasside (66).—During the past few months, several members of the Birtley Natural History Society have been investigating the flora and fauna of the Brasside area. There an extensive stretch of waste land exists which has encouraged the growth of thistles, knapweeds, hawkweeds and the like. As a result, in spite of the poor summer, humble bees have not been uncommon, so that our quite casual collecting has yielded no fewer than six species: *Bombus hortorum*, *B. pratorum*, *B. lapidarius*, *B. terrestris*, *B. agrorum* and *B. muscorum*.

This does not square with the figure (5) given recently in Eldon's Gossip in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle for the north. Further, although we have not looked seriously for the parasitic humble bees of the genus *Psithyrus*, we took a coal black example of the species *P. campestris* inside Lambton Castle.

It should be added that we often see the Common Hive Bee and also the yellow Ligurian form.—

J.T.

Squirrels in our Counties.—On September 12th I was surprised at finding a dead squirrel in the woods at Buttsfield (66). Other areas in which the squirrel exists are Blanchland (67), and Castle Eden (66).—J.W.H.H.

White Flowered Examples of Gentiana Amarella.—On September 20th, while we were looking for galls on the Burnet Rose near Cornforth (66), we were astonished at the enormous numbers of the Autumn Gentian in flower. Moreover, their coloration was a very deep purple. Further, we found no fewer than 17 white-flowered forms scattered about an area of over a hundred square yards.—J.W.H.H.

Abnormally Coloured Galls of Rhodites Eglanteriae.—This season, the pea galls on the various rose forms were more numerous than usual. Near Cornforth, one low bush of *Rosa dumetorum* bore eight galls of *R. eglanteriae* scattered over three leaflets. These were quite fully-grown, but were of an almost pure white colour. There could be no question of immaturity for nearby normally coloured galls from other bushes were exactly at the same stage of development.—J.W.H.H.

Larvae of the Lychnis Moth, Hadena bicruris Hufn.—On August 8th, we explored the dunes around Druridge Bay and found an isolated colony of white campion upon which there existed very many larvae of the Lychnis Moth, all nearly full-grown.—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS

LEPIDOPTERA

Arenostola pygmina Haw. Small Wainscot	66
Not rare, flying by day in the Buttsfield area.	
Laothoe populi L. Poplar Hawk	66
Eggs on poplar near East Rainton.	
Callimorpha jacobaeae L. Cinnabar	67, 68
Odd examples found on the Inner Fame, on the dunes at Bamburgh and at Druridge Bay.	
Macrothylacia rubi L. Fox Moth	67
Not common on the dunes, Druridge Bay.	
Spilosoma lubricipeda L. White Ermine	66
A single larva near Sacriston.	
Apamea unanims Hb. Small Clouded Brindle	66
Larvae very common on the grass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> near Blaydon and Sacriston.	

Uchloides venata Br. & Grey. Large Skipper	66
Although this fairly new arrival was common last season, only one specimen, noted near the pond East Rainton, has been seen this year.	
Depressaria nervosa Hw. .	66
Pupae fairly common in <i>Oenanthe</i> stems near Sacriston.	
Chimabache fagella Fab.	66
Larvae on birch near Corsay.	

FERNS AND FLOWERING PLANTS

Polypodium interjectum Shiv.	66
This fern is a high polyploid based on the Common Polypody, and for that, and other structural reasons, it is now regarded as of specific rank. It has been discovered, quite recently, near Butsfield and in the Slit Wood in Weardale. Sambucus ebulus L. Danewort 66	
Occurs in abundance at one point on broken ground near East Rainton.	
Barbarea intermedia Bor. Intermediate Yellow Rocket	66
Common and widely spread on waste ground at Brasside.—J.W.H.H.	
Epipactis helleborine (L.) Crantz. Broad Helleborine	66
A single plant found near Corsay.—E. Hall.	
Genista anglica L. Petty Whin	66
Sparingly on moorland ground near Corsay.—E. Hall.	
Arabidopsis thaliana L. Thale Cress	66, 67
Not common near Middleton-in-Teesdale. by the roadside near Wylam and on the Roman camps at Housesteads and Lancheater.	
Zannichellia palustris L. Horned Pondweed	66
Common in brick ponds at Birtley, East Rainton and Aycliffe.	
Zerna erecta (Huds.) Panz. Upright Brome	66
In the Limestone Quarry at Aycliffe.—J.W.H.H.	
Anthemis tinctoria L. Yellow Chamomile	67
Waste ground near Coanwood Station.	
Carex pendula Huds. Pendulous Sedge	67
Hart Burn just N. of Hartburn. N. bank of Wansbeck, ½ m. W. of Morpeth.	
Pimpinella major (L.) Huds. Greater Bumet Saxifrage	67
N. bank of Wansbeck, ½ m. W. of Morpeth.	
Origanum vulgare L. Marjoram	67
N. bank of Wansbeck, ½ m. W. of Morpeth. Hart Burn, E. of Rothley Mill. Walkmill (near Kirkwhelpington).	
Spergularia rubra (L.) J. & C. Presl. Sand-spurrey	67
By the newly constructed forestry road near Simonside.	
Potamogeton berchtoldii Fieb.	67, 68
Small pond near Nun Bum (Nunning) (67). Pond near Linn Hirst, S. of Wark (67). Till, E. of Weetwood Bridge (68).	
Melampyrum pratense L. Common Cow-wheat	67
Hauxy Bum near Bridge House (N.W. of Wark). On a hill, just N. of Ingoe.	
Saxifraga granulata (L.) Meadow Saxifrage	68
On the basalt at Budle Point. Also on the basalt South of Craster and Holy Island.	
Antennaria dioica (L.) Gaertn. Cat's; Foot	67, 68
On the basalt at Budle Point (68). Just below Jerry's Linn on the Chirdon Bum C67). Crook Burn near Tecket (67)	
Orchis mascula (L.) L. Early Purple Orchis	67
West Dipton Burn. Warks Burn near Steward's Hemmel.	
Stellaria nemorum Wood Stitchwort	67
West Dipton Burn. Devils Water near Steel.	
Melica nutans L. Mountain Melick	67
West Dipton Burn.	
Botrychium lunaria L. Moonwort	67, 68
Links at Holy Island (68). West Dipton Bum near the Paise (67). Old lime quarry/South of Bateinghope Burn at about 1.675 ft. (67).—G.A. & M.Swan	

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BY THE WAY

NOVEMBER SUNSHINE

We have heard some fantastic opinions expressed about our sunshine records in November, and we, therefore, think it will interest our readers to learn what the University Observatory has to say about the matter.

Our total for the month was 66 hours, the average being 58.8 hours. This gives a percentage of the average of 112, and of the possible of 26. The mean daily amount was 2.20 hours, the average being 1.96 hours. The greatest amount of sunshine in one day was 7.4 hours on the 15th whilst the number of days with no recorded sunshine was 12. The total sunshine since 1st January 1962 was 1340.9 hours, the average being 1271.88 hours.

THE BOG ORCHID, HAMMARBYA PALUDOSA

We have just received from Mr. Weldon Watts the results of expeditions he, Mr. Hird and Mr. Temperley have made in searching for the Bog Orchid, *Hammarbya paludosa*, in Northumberland and Durham.

They visited various recorded localities like Bloody Moss and Crane Moss near Harbottle (68) in Northumberland, and Eggleston Burn (66) in Durham without success. We, ourselves, have explored the Eggleston Burn area with a similar outcome. However, there are several habitats reported for the species later than those named. These are on the moors near the upper portions of the River Derwent where Mr. Richard Adamson obtained it, and similar points near Alwinton worked by Mr. R. B. Cooke.

Perhaps some of our members may look for this dainty little plant with a greater measure of success !

Secretaries' reports intended for our next number should be in the Editor's hands before February 1st.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

Our usual Autumnal Meeting was held by the kind invitation of the Consett and District Naturalists' Field Club in the Women's Institute Hall, Blackhill, on Saturday, October 27th, 1962.

The President, Miss M. H. Oates, B.Sc., was in the Chair, and our speaker was Mr. J. J. Robson, M.B.O.U., who dealt with " Our Larger British Fungi."

Mr. Robson began by showing slides, illustrating the general structure and classification of some of our more conspicuous species. He led us gradually, by means of further beautiful slides, prepared from local specimens, to glimpses of the more striking species in their native haunts, and therefore of an ecological nature. He ended by pointing out the need for further work in the group. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Robson for his interesting and useful talk.

After an excellent tea, arranged for us by members of the Consett Club, we inspected the usual exhibits.

These included literature dealing with various aspects of the work of the Field Studies' Council, brought by Mrs. Gibby, whilst Mr. Bell had on view an adult and a young slowworm. Mr. Dunn had laid out a collection of British Plume Moths, and Professor Heslop Harrison had brought a case of migrant butterflies, and also a collection of our rarer bumble bees. He also exhibited a living local plant of the Danewort—a species not seen previously in Durham. Special thanks must be awarded to Mr. Alker and his students for their fine array of exotic ferns. A living example of the Orange Peziza was available for handling and inspection.

Our sincerest thanks are due to the Consett and District Club for all they had done to make the meeting such a success.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the Club was held in the Freemasons' Arms, Front Street, Consett when there was a large attendance of members and friends.

The Chair was taken by Mr. A. Parry who, after Grace had been said, gave the toast of the Queen. Then, in his own characteristic way, Mr. G. Evans proposed the toast of our guest Professor Heslop-Harrison. In view of the illness of Prof. Heslop-Harrison, Mr. F. Bell made a reply in which he detailed the value the Professor had been to the Northern Naturalists' Union, our Club itself, and to Natural History in general.

The toast of the Club was introduced by Mr. T. Hall, and to this a suitable reply was made by Mr. J. J. Robson. After this, a vote of thanks was proposed to Mrs. Reed for all the services she had rendered the Club ; this was done by Mrs. Ashworth.

Finally, as we have grown to expect, Mr. J. E. Ashworth gave a very interesting account of a holiday he and Mrs. Ashworth had spent in Normandy and Brittany. This was illustrated by a marvellous series of slides in colour. A vote of thanks to Mr. Ashworth was proposed by Mr. Hall in a few well-chosen words ; this was carried enthusiastically.

BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As planned earlier in the season we continued our series of organized field meetings as well as more informal ones.

Of the former, we explored Leamside Wood on November 4th, and continued our examination of the Mill Wood, near Sacriston, on December 2nd. In neither of these woods was much animal life seen although both produced the oak galls reported from other local areas.

However, in the Leamside Wood, we made an astonishing discovery. For many years we have imagined that, with its disappearance from Shincliffe Woods, the Field Rose, *Rosa arvensis* had left us completely. Nevertheless, in this wood we found the plant in enormous quantities, chiefly in the form of *Rosa arvensis* var. *vulgaris* f. *major*. Other important roses noted were *Rosa micrantha*, and *R. obtusifolia*. Amongst the trees, we examined Bullace, Hornbeam and Spanish Chestnut. Other plants observed were Wych Elm, Rowan, Sloe, Bilberry, Burning Nettle, Oxford Ragwort, Common Golden Saxifrage, Woodruff, Golden Rod, Wood Geranium and Guelder Rose.

In the Mill Wood, the most striking features were the abundance of holly (some with berries !), and the wealth of certain moss species. Worthy of mention, likewise, were the Hornbeam, Wood Geranium, the Glaucous Rose (*Rosa glauca*) and Ivy. Of insects we saw the November Moth and galls of the gall gnat, *Stictodiplosis jacobae*, on ragwort.

Our irregular meetings took us to Buttsfield, Sacriston, Comsay, Birtley, Little Fell, Bewicke Main, Oxclose, Shadforth, Cocken and various other localities along the banks of the Wear.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Birds at Tanfield Ponds.—Greenshank : Autumn Passage ; from September 2nd to September 12th, up to 4 birds were present on most days. Spotted Redshank : Autumn Passage ; from September 6th to September 12th, a single bird was observed. Only the second record. Green Sandpiper : a date as late as October 14th was noted for a single bird. Common Snipe : two were seen on July 14th, 13 on the 27th, about 25 on September 6th, and about 40 on September 12th. The autumn build-up of snipe seems due to the arrival of winter visitors from Northern Europe : Common Sandpiper : A single bird on August 25th. A late date for this species : Mallard : A pair rested at the ponds, and were successful in rearing at least 3 young. Shelduck : One immature bird was at the ponds on August 18th. These ponds are 13 miles from the sea. Shoveller : August 5th, 3 immature birds, August 20th, 8. Teal : A flock of about 20 birds was on the ponds on August 18th. Short Eared Owl : On August 27th a bird was quartering the marshes around the ponds on its way from the moors to the coast. Common Wheat : Autumn Passage. From July 29th to August 27th up to 7 were frequently counted on the nearby fields on their way from the moorland breeding grounds to the coast, and then on to North Africa.—R. Marston Palmer.

Bird Notes.—Curlews were heard calling as they flew over South Gosforth (N) on August 16th. A single Wheatear on the 21st and two on the 22nd indicated that the autumn passage of this species had begun.

Swifts were last heard as they circled overhead on August 29th, and, on the 30th, some 60 Swallows were flying around Low Gosforth Farm in the late afternoon.

Greenshanks were present on the Gosforth Golf Course for some days at the end of August, four being seen at Gosforth Park Lake on September 2nd: two Spotted Flycatchers, and a small party of Willow Warblers, were observed the same day.

Small flocks of Common Grebes appeared near Gosforth Grammar School and Forsyth Road playing fields on September 16th.
C. J. Gent.

A Visit to Easington Dene (66).—This dene was once famous for its Magnesian Limestone specialties, and even now its treasures are not to be despised. Not far away the much persecuted "Castle Eden Argus" butterfly still occurs as does the *clara* form of the Common Blue. Here, likewise, the Rosebay Willow Herb seems to be deimorphic in flower colour. Aspen appears to be out of place here, but so does the Melancholy Thistle. *Campanula latifolia* and *Rosa obtusifolia* are common enough. Perhaps a curious occurrence in the Dene, and worthy of record, is the attachment of a strong colony of Currant Moths to Hazel.

Late Flowering Orchids.—On September 16th, a visit was paid to the Upper portions of Cassop Vale when we were so lucky as to discover a couple of good spikes of the Fragrant Orchid, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, in full flower. A week earlier, on September 9th, about a mile away in the same valley but lower down we detected several spikes of the Common Spotted Orchid also in flower.—J.T.

The Hart's Tongue Fern in Birtley.—Recently, walls in certain parts of Birtley have been invaded by several common species of fern. However, growing alongside these were several specimens of the Hart's Tongue Fern. The nearest previously known station was on the Vigo Railway.—J.W.H.H.

The Soft Hawk's-beard (*Crepis mollis* Aschers), in Northumberland.—Dr. J. K. Morton (*Vasculum*, 1960, 45, 30) and Professor J. W. Heslop-Harrison (*ibid.*, p. 31) have recorded their failures to find *Crepis mollis* in Upper Weardale. The former also stated: "The plant has been found in Upper Teesdale and in several Northumberland localities, but I have not seen, or heard of, any recent collections."

Actually, we recorded it from the W. bank of the Rede at Evistones (*Vasculum*, 1959, 44, 16). However, during July and August 1962 we found a number of localities in Northumberland in which *Crepis mollis* is abundant; in all cases, it was flowering freely.

In East Allendale it was abundant on grassy banks above the side of the main road from Sinderhope to the quarry a mile or so to the south; and was also to be found on the partially wooded banks of the river. In a damp place by the side of a road leading from Sinderhope to a bridge over the river, *C. mollis* was growing in the company of *C. paludosa*. Higher up the valley, *C. mollis* occurred in meadows around Teadham and Swinhope Shield.

In West Allendale we noted the plant in meadows near the roadside in the vicinity of Far Pasture, a mile or so S. of Ninebanks.

In N. Tynedale, *C. mollis* was very abundant on the grassy embankment of the derelict railway between Kielder Lodge and Kielder Station and also near the church to the N. of the station. In places it was also to be found by the side of the main road. We also saw the plant by the side of the forestry road between Kielder and Ridge End.

In Redesdale we found another locality for *C. mollis* in a meadow on the E. bank of the river, just S. of Elishaw Bridge.

All the records mentioned are for S. Northumberland (V.C. 67). The only stations in Cheviotland (V.C. 68) which we found were by the Common Burn and by the Broadstruther Burn.

The *Atlas of the British flora* (published by the B.S.B.I. in 1962) shows that since 1930 *Crepis mollis* has been recorded in only nine 10Km. grid squares out of a total of 3,500. Of the nine, one was in Northumberland (the Evistones record) and we can now add records for an additional five squares in Northumberland.

In "A New flora of Northumberland and Durham", published in 1868, Baker & Tate for this species say, "Not unfrequent in the hill denes", and then give a considerable list of them in V.C.s 68, 67 and 66. We (and probably others) have looked in vain in a number of these localities. Indeed, the only one of Baker & Tate's stations we can confirm is by the Common Burn, where we had previously also looked in vain—because the plant does not grow by the stream, but some little distance up the dry, grassy slopes above. Moreover, our other records are on dry, grassy banks or in meadows, perhaps not quite agreeing with Baker & Tate ("hill denes") or Clapham, Tutin & Warburg's "Flora of the British Isles" ("stream-sides and woodlands in mountainous districts"). Could it be that these statements have mis-led botanists, so that they narrowly missed finding the plant? It seems likely that further search will reveal other stations for it in our counties. We may add that in September we saw the plant growing in the Tatra Mountains of Czechoslovakia and again, it was on dry, grassy banks.—G.A. and M. Swan.

Crepis mollis (Jac.) Aschers. in Co. Durham (66).—In their extremely interesting article dealing with *Crepis mollis* in Northumberland, Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Swan seem to have overlooked the fact that, after we reported that our searches for it had ended in failure, we finally detected it in Upper Teesdale, just above High Force. Its presence in that station was duly recorded in the *Vasculum*, Vol. XLVI, page 23. *Crepis paludosa* was collected, too, but in slightly damper areas than those favoured by its relation. Taking all the pertinent facts into consideration, we think that *Crepis mollis* will turn up in other Weardale and Teesdale habitats.—J.W.H.H.

Eleocharis austriaca Hayek in Northumberland and Cumberland.—On July 22nd, 1962, we found *Eleocharis austriaca* Hayek on the W. side of the River Rede near Byrness. The river was in flood at the time and only the heads of the plant were above water, but it appeared that it was growing in rather sandy ground in a situation which would be submerged only during times of flood. On August 6th we found the same species on the W. side of the N. Tyne between Otterstone Lee and Mounces and also on the W. side of the Kielder Burn not far below its junction with the Ridge End Burn. In both these localities the *Eleocharis* was growing in sandy backwaters, liable to flooding. Later (September 29th) we found it also near Plashetts, in a silted-up pond, forming a backwater on the E. bank of the N. Tyne. On September 16th, 1962, we located *Eleocharis austriaca* on the W. bank of the Irthing near Gowk Banks, again in a sandy backwater. The latter locality is in Cumberland (V.C. 70), the other four stations being in S. Northumberland (V.C. 67); all are at altitudes of 500—800 feet.

Hitherto *Eleocharis austriaca* has been known from only one locality in Britain, namely, in a marshy ox-bow of the River Wharfe below Buckden Mid-West Yorks. (V.C. 64) (S. M. Walters & N. Y. Sandwith, *Proc. B.S.B.L.*, 1962, 4, 475), although it occurs in the Alps and Carpathians.

The identification of our specimens has been confirmed by Dr. S. M. Walters (University of Cambridge), who also visited the N. Tyne locality on August 23rd, and who will discuss the species in detail in a forthcoming paper in *Watsonia*.—G.A. and M. Swan.

A Northumbrian Plant thought to be Extinct.—In Baker & Tate's "New flora of Northumberland and Durham", published in 1868 there is an entry under *Potentilla alpestris* Hall: "On the basaltic dike at Spindlestone, now nearly or quite extinct; specimens from this locality are referred to *P. verna* by Winch and Johnston, but seem to belong to the present species". Writing in 1939 in "The Three Northern Counties of England", Harrison and Temperley give an entry under *Potentilla Crantzii* Beck (*Oealpestris* Hall): "Formerly at Spindlestone, now extinct".

So far as we are aware, no person now alive has seen this *Potentilla* (whatever its exact species may be), growing in Northumberland. However, we are glad to report that in 1962 we found a plant (which may be the one referred to above) on the basalt not far from the. Coast of Northumberland (V. C. 68), although

it would not be advisable to publish the exact locality. This plant appeared to us to be between *P. tabernaemontani* Aschers and *P. Crantzii* (Crantz) G. Beck Fritsch. We understand from Dr. S. M. Walters that a small living fragment which we sent to Cambridge, has grown into a flourishing plant, now under study. We look forward to hearing the verdict in due course.—G.A. and M. Swan.

Notes on the Juniper in Durham.—In the early years of the present century, the Juniper was quite plentiful in two distinct areas on Waldrige Fell. One of these was in the bog on the left side of the road leading to the village whilst the other flourished amongst the trees in the alder carr. In both, the plant is now extinct. The main reasons for its disappearance from the bog are well known. These were persistent firing of the heather by thoughtless youths. On the other hand, no such reason can be given for its vanishing from the alder wood. There, one fine plant lingered for quite a long time, and, throughout that period, supported a colony of the Juniper Pug Moth.

The plant also used to occur freely on the Durham Coast from Castle Eden Dene to Crimdon Dene. In this area, likewise, the shrub is steadily disappearing, although, in Castle Eden Dene, it is protected by its preference for isolated cliffs. Elsewhere on the coast, human interference, as at Blackhall Rocks, is responsible for its diminishing numbers.—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

Trollius europaeus L. Globe Flower	67
Hayfield near Inner Butt Hill, Warks Burn.	
Potamogeton alpinus Balb. Reddish Pondweed.	67
Warks Burn between Coldcotes and Haining Head. Crook Burn above Tecket. Tipalt Burn near Cadgerford.	
Andromeda polifolia L. Marsh Andromeda	67
Peat mosses to E. of Wedge Rigg (S. of Haining Head) and S. of Watch Hill, both near the head of the Warks Burn. Wedder Lares, by the Chirdon Burn. Two peat mosses, one SW. and the other NE. of Muckle Samuel's Crag, near the Irthing.	
Spergularia nibra (L.) J. & C. Presl. Sand-spurrey	67
Forestry roads near Grindon Green (Warks Burn) and near Hans Hill (Chirdon Burn). Near Chattlehope.	
Hippuris vulgaris L. Mare's-tail	67, 68
Sandyford Burn, near Twizell (68). Pond in old lime quarry, S. of Bateinghope Burn at about 1,675 ft. (67). Chirdon Burn, just above Bower (67).	
Anthriscus caucalis Bieb. Bur Chervil	68
Sand dune near Scremerston. The Heugh, Holy Island.	
Lysimachia vulgaris L. Yellow Loosestrife	67
Roadside near Dukesfield.	
Aquilegia vulgaris L. Columbine	67
Woods by the Chirdon Burn, just above Bower.	
Carex paupercula Michx.	67
Two peat mosses, one SW. and the other NE. of Muckle Samuel's Crag, near the Irthing.	
Carex distans L. Distant Sedge	68
On the coast between Cullernose and Craster.	
Carex muricata L. Prickly Sedge	68
Tributary of Barrow Burn coming from Barrow Law.	
Phleum arenarium L. Sand Cat's-tail	67
On the sand dune N. of Seaton Sluice, but we cannot agree with Baker and Tate's statement "Frequent in sandy ground all along the coast" so far as Northumberland is concerned.	
Scleranthus aimus L. <i>sensu lato</i> Annual Knawel	68
Near Hethpool Linn. By the Coquet, between Shillmoor and Linbrigg, near the <i>Polemonium caeruleum</i> .	

Clinopodium vulgare L. Wild Basil	68
By the Coquet, between Shillmoor and Linnbrig.	
Listera cordata (L.) R.Br. Lesser Twayblade	67
Old quarry near Chattlehope Crag.	
Oenanthe aquatica (L.) Poir. Fine-leaved Water Dropwort	68
Small pond by the side of the main road S. of Haugh Head.	
Trientalis europaea L. Chickweed Winter-green	66
Peat bog between the Coalgate and Hisehope Burns.	
Eriophorum latifolium Hoppe. Broad-leaved Cotton-grass	80
Bell's Burn, just above Bell's Linn.	
Allium vineale L. Crow Garlic	68
Near Rifle Range on the coast, N. of Berwick. Around the mouth of the Whiteadder Water. On the basalt, at Craster.	
Lythrum salicaria L. Purple Loosestrife	68
On the coast between Cullernose and Craster, near the <i>Serratula tinctoria</i> .	
Scirpus maritimus L. Sea Club-rush	68
N. bank of Tweed between Castle Hills and the mouth of the Whiteadder Water. On the coast, N. of Cullernose.	
Botrychium lunaria L. Moonwort	67, 68
Links at Holy Island (68). West Dipton Burn near the Paise (67). Old lime quarry, S. of Bateinghope Burn at about 1,675 ft. (67).	
Gentianella amarella (L.) Boner <i>sensu lato</i>	67, 68
Newton Point (68). Roadside and also on old quarry heaps near Borany (Hepburn Moor) (68). Crook Burn, above Tecket (67).—G. A. & M. Swan	
Rosa arvensis L. Field Rose	66
This rose was discovered in great plenty in Leamside Wood.	
R. micrantha Sm.	66
Also found in Leamside Wood, along the railway near Fishburn, and near Brasside.	
R. obtusifolia Desv.	66
In Leamside Wood, near Cocken, Thrislington, Beamish and Ox Close.	
R. coriifolia Fr.	66
Abundant in the East Rainton area, especially near the fishpond, also found near the old "blacking" factory, Breckon Hill.	

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Platylilia gonodactyla Schiff. Colt's Foot Plume.	66
Generally plentiful in waste places with its foodplant; usually double brooded.	
P. ochrodactyla Hub. Tansy Plume	66
Common in the Team Valley area and along the Wear at Chester-le-Street.	
P. pallidactyla Haw. Yarrow Plume	66
Not common along the Team between Lamesley, Beamish and Newbiggin, (Teesdale).	
Alucita tetradactyla L. Thyme Plume	66
Limited by the distribution of its foodplant thyme, but not rare on the coast as at the Blackhall Rocks and in Cassop Vale.	
A. pentadactyla L. Convolvulus Plume	66
This beautiful insect is of casual occurrence throughout the lower areas of Durham.	
Adaina microdactyla Hub.	66
Along the coast wherever its foodplant hemp agrimony flourishes, also in the birch wood on Waldrige Fell.	
Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla Haw.	66
Sparingly wherever scabious grows; more abundant on Waldrige Fell.	
S. pterodactyla L. Speedwell Plume	66
Extremely plentiful generally, wherever its foodplant, the germander speedwell grows.	
Agdistis benneti Curt.	66
Plentiful amongst its foodplant, sea lavender, on the south side of Greatham Creek; best found in the larval form in the spring feeding on sea lavender.	

Eurrhynx urticata L. Nettle Magpie	66
This beautiful moth is stated by Meyrick to be limited in its range "England to York". However, specimens have been taken along the Vigo Railway near Chester-le-Street.	
Orgyia antiqua L. Vapourer Moth	66, 67
The Vapourer Moth seems to be losing ground everywhere in our countries. Thus whilst it was once common on Waldrige Fell it is now extinct there. However, in 1961 it was captured at Slayley (67)—a new station.	
Maniola jurtina L. Meadow Brown	66
Although the Meadow Brown Butterfly is common throughout the area, it, in general, seems to be quite typical. However, in Cassop Vale brightly coloured forms, recalling the Scottish and Irish variety <i>splendida</i> , occur occasionally.	
Ochlodes venata Br. & Grey. Large Skipper	66
Despite the bad butterfly season of 1962, the Large Skipper seems to have maintained its recent numbers with us. It has now been recorded in many stations from Upper Weardale and Castleside to the Durham coast, West Comforth, East Rainton and Cassop being the latest to be discovered. In Cassop Vale it was found to be patronising a wide range of flowers, including those of <i>Rosa mollis</i> .	
Venusia cambrica Curt. Welsh Wave	66, 68
Robson, in his <i>Catalogue</i> , describes this moth as "scarce and very local". As its foodplant is rowan it is clear that in any case it would be limited in its range with us. However, he mentions a specimen, taken by Mr. Corder of Sunderland, which may have originated in the garden at Sunderland or at Bamburgh, in Northumberland. Robson comes down in favour of Bamburgh. In this connection it should be pointed out that we have taken specimens, not far from Sunderland, in the wood at Sharperley amongst rowan. This would seem to support the opposite view.	
Lophopterix capucina L. Coxcomb	66
Prominents are not very common with us so that it seems well to record the capture of this species at Cornforth, the Highland Quarry and also along the Vigo Railway.	
Notodonta dromedarius L. Iron Prominent	66
Eggs were found on the under side of birch leaves near Vigo.	
Triphaena ianthina Schf. Lesser Broad Border	66
Sparingly on various flowers at Lamesley.	
Notodonta ziczac L. Pebbled Prominent	66
Although thinly dispersed generally throughout Co. Durham, this "Prominent" seems to shun coastal areas. Nevertheless, it has been collected recently in one of the coastal dunes, and also at Bishop Middleham where eggs were found on the lower sides of leaves of <i>Salix caprea</i> .	
Epirrhoe tristata L. Small Argent and Sable	66, 68
This pretty little carpet seems to be restricted to the western parts of both counties where it prefers pinewoods in which bedstraw grows freely. In Co. Durham, it is to be found in such places from Chopwell westward and also in Teesdale. In Northumberland, we know it best from Dipton Woods and continuously up the valley of the South Tyne wherever its favoured conditions exist.	
Eupithecia indigata Hb. Ochreous Pug	67
This little "pug" seems to have its headquarters in the pine woods south of the Tyne between Hexham and Stocksfield.	
E. goossensata Mab. Ling Pug	66
Attached to heather, and quite common on most of our Durham and Northumberland moorlands.—J.W.H.H.	