

# THE VASCULUM

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Edited by  
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THE POPLARS, CHESTER-LE-STREET

## BY THE WAY

Secretaries of Societies and other contributors to "The Vasculum" are invited to send their notes to the Editor before 15th June, 1967.

## OBITUARY NOTICE

PROFESSOR JOHN WILLIAM HESLOP HARRISON, D.SC., F.R.S., F.R.S.E.

On January 23rd 1967, Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison passed away at the age of 86, at his home in Birtley.

After graduating at Armstrong College, University of Durham in 1903, he became a science master at Middlesbrough High School. During these school-teaching years, he carried on with his researches in his spare time. It was not long before his abilities in field studies, in both plants and insects, became widely known. It is not surprising, therefore, to find him returning to the University as a lecturer in zoology in 1919. His subsequent rise to fame was phenomenal. In 1926 he was appointed to a personal Readership in Genetics, the only one there has ever been at Newcastle. In 1927 he was appointed to the Chair of Botany, then in the very next year he gained his greatest distinction by becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society.

During all this time and indeed until only a few years ago, research papers flowed from his pen at an unbelievable rate. His name must have appeared in every journal of biological subjects at one time or another. In addition, it must be remembered that he was one of the four founder editors of the "Vasculum" in 1915, one of the founder members of the Wallis Club in 1922, one of the founder members of the Northern Naturalists' Union in 1924 and the first Vice-President of the Naturalists' Trust of Northumberland and Durham. He also conceived and founded the Birtley Natural History Society in 1948.

During his long life, he was first and foremost a field naturalist. From his great abilities in the field sprang all his subsequent distinctions. In the plants he became well known for his work on

many critical groups of species, but his name is most closely linked with the roses. In the insects, the Lepidoptera were his main field of work, although all other groups received his attention at one time or another. Here it was, that his important studies in genetics and evolution were carried out. It was he who started the study of Industrial Melanism in Moths, a field which has proved so important as an illustration of the mechanism of Natural Selection. In the field he missed nothing, and many of us will remember his remarkable memory for naming almost any species. To be with him on one of the outings of the N.N.U. was a most stimulating experience, for not only was he a mine of information but also a teacher of great distinction. For years he has led Field Meetings of the N.N.U. and we all know how we came to rely on his knowledge and willingness to help in any way. It was here that his photographic memory was always able to provide an answer.

Finally we must remember his leadership of the many expeditions from King's College to the Western Isles of Scotland. Here, his remarkable powers in the field were put to good use. Again he started something new, and although he would be the first to admit that there is much more to be done, he laid a firm foundation for future work.

His passing will leave a gap in our midst which will be difficult to fill.

## **THE SOCIETIES.**

### **NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION.**

By the kind invitation of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne, the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Union was held in the Hancock Museum on March 18th 1967.

Before the business meeting, the President, Mr. Fred Bell asked Mr. Dunn to speak about the death of Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison, whose obituary appears elsewhere in this journal. This was followed by a few minutes silence in remembrance of a faithful servant of the society for so many years.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the Treasurer's report was read by Mr. Dunn. In it, he reported a further loss on the year, due to the continued rise in printing costs. As a result, it was necessary to raise all subscriptions. After full discussion, it was decided to make the necessary increases in 1968. The member's subscription is to be increased by 2/6 to 12/6 for a full member and 7/6 for a junior. The annual affiliation fees for constituent societies are also to be raised to two guineas for small societies of less than 100 full members, and four guineas for larger societies. In addition, the subscription for the Vasculum by itself is to be increased to 7/6. Will all subscribers please make a note of these decisions. In order to cut costs wherever possible, it was decided to make some saving on printing by discontinuing Associate Members'

Cards. Instead, the individual societies were urged to obtain dates of all meetings, both indoors and in the field, as early as possible from the meetings secretary, and incorporate these in their own programmes.

After short reports from the secretaries, during which the next year's field meetings were announced, there followed the election of officers. Mr. R. H. Lowe was elected to the Presidential Chair, which he took straight away. The Vice-Presidents were then chosen and Mr. Dunn was elected Editor of the *Vasculum*. He then made an appeal for members to help him by sending in copy, particularly for the section dealing with Field Notes.

Mrs. Stoddart then gave a talk on the Derwent Valley. This was illustrated by slides taken mostly in the winter, with a heavy covering of snow on the ground. The lecture ended with a series of slides showing the Derwent Reservoir in various stages of construction.

After a vote of thanks by Mr. Thompson, tea followed in a nearby room, where Mrs. Gibby, Miss Vincent and the girls of Chester-le-Street Grammar School kindly attended to our wants. To these ladies, we tender our sincere thanks. In the tea room, Mr. Cooke had on display his usual collection of spring flowers. This year it was even better than ever for the open winter had encouraged more plants to flower. There were also on show, a series of pressed flowers from Mr. Hird and a collection of Postage Stamps showing biological subjects from Mrs. Gibby.

#### ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

The Annual Meeting, followed by the dinner, were held in the Civic Hall, Stanley on Saturday, 4th February, 1967, when about 120 members were present.

The Chair was taken by the Vice-President, Miss D. Robinson. First of all, the annual reports of the Secretary, Mr. Fred Wade, the Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Atkinson and the Excursion Secretary, Mr. A. Reay were read. These were highly satisfactory in every way. A point worthy of emphasis was made by Mr. Atkinson when he mentioned that although the annual subscription of two shillings had not changed since the founding of the club, the balance sheet still showed a surplus for 1966.

When it came to the election of officers it was learnt with regret that both Mr. Wade, the secretary and Mr. Atkinson, the treasurer were retiring because of health reasons. Both had served the club in their respective capacities since its foundation in 1942. They had seen it grow to a flourishing organisation of well over 200 members, with varied activities and sound finances. These two stalwarts are to be congratulated on having completed 25 years of fine work for the club. Their places were filled by Mr. S. Phillipson, secretary and Mr. E. Wardle, treasurer. Other new officers included

Miss D. Robinson, President and Mr. Livesey, Vice-President, the other posts being filled largely by re-election of present holders.

Mr. Wade then gave an account of the rambles planned for the summer. These ranged from as far south as Robin Hood's Bay to the Cheviots.

The annual colour slide competition was then judged by Mr. G. Evans, the many entries bringing back happy memories of the past year's outings.

Dinner was then taken in the adjoining dining room, during which Mr. Wade and Mr. Atkinson spoke of the experiences they had encountered in building up the club. They thanked the members for their loyalty and in saying farewell as officials themselves, hoped that those succeeding them would find running the club as enjoyable and as rewarding as they had.

After dinner Mr. Reay gave an interesting talk on a school cruise to the Baltic, illustrated by his own colour slides. Finally, Miss Robinson thanked all members for helping to make the meeting such a resounding success.

#### BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The lecture programme continued after Christmas with a joint effort by Mr. R. Harris and Mr. Dunn, helped with a number of slides of natural history interest. These had all been taken by Mr. Harris and were in many cases quite unique. On January 17th, the annual dinner was held in Hall's Cafe. After a very pleasant meal, Mr. Dunn reviewed the activities of the society during the past year, then thanked the ladies who had worked so hard to make the dinner such a success. Afterwards, Mr. Hall showed two films, one covering past outings of the society and the other of a summer holiday in Switzerland. Mr. Toyn entertained us with some local ghost stories on January 31st in his talk entitled "North Country Tales and Legends". This was followed, on February 14th, by a lecture on the geology of Greenland given by Mr. R. Preston. His slides introduced us to the country by stages and then to various places of geological interest inland, on the way home he had been fortunate enough to take some remarkable pictures from the air, of the new volcanic island, in full eruption, off the coast of Iceland. February 28th saw Dr. G. R. Potts talking about his researches into the habits and biology of the shags on the Fame Islands, and on March 14th, Dr. White of the Sunderland Society told us about the geology of Kishorn in Ross-shire. The lecturer brought many specimens which were handed round as he told the story of their formation and subsequent alteration by volcanic action and the weather. The session finished on March 28th with the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Dunn was elected to the vacancy of President, caused by the death of Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison. Two more Vice-Presidents, Messrs Charlton and Johnson were created; whilst the remainder of the offices were filled by re-election of present holders. Then

followed an exhibition of slides taken by various members. Mr. A. Wheatman showed a single slide of a chough, taken in N. Wales, Mr. Harris pictures of animals at Regent's Park Zoo, Mr. Burns photographs of birds of the Fame Islands and a number of Fungi, and lastly Mr. A. R. Dunn showed pictures taken in Austria, Jugoslavia, Greece and Turkey.

There have been two outings, both in excellent weather. The February trip was to Bollihope Burn where several mosses were looked at during a walk alongside the stream. On March 5th the venue was Hawthorn Dene, where we were most impressed by the masses of snowdrops and saw other plants such as dog's mercury just coming into flower.

#### SUNDERLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We have just received the Excursions Programme for 1967 from the secretary. A very pleasing feature is the inclusion of the field meetings of the Northern Naturalists' Union. Reference has already been made to a request for this practice to be followed by all societies. The rest of the programme is in two parts, whole day excursions and Wednesday evening outings. The whole-day excursions range from Ingleton in Yorkshire to Holy Island in Northumberland. The evening outings are of a more local nature to such places as Castle Eden Dene, Pitington, Beacon Hill and Warden Law Railway. There will also be conservation work and work on the recording of the flora in Hawthorn Dene from time to time, arrangements to be made later.

#### NOTES AND RECORDS

##### NOTES.

**Polystichum setiferum (Forsk.) Woynar, in Durham City.** Since the Soft Shield-fern is shown by the "Atlas of the British Flora" to be rare in Co. Durham, I was rather interested to come across about a dozen plants in the Wear Gorge in Durham, near Prebends Bridge. Mr. Bellamy, who confirms my identification, suggests that, along with many other species growing on the river banks nearby, it has probably been planted at some time by a "mad botanist". A. Silverside.

This is probably an example of transplanting from some natural habitat not far away, by some well meaning gardener to beautify the river banks. Unfortunately, whoever did it forgot to record the fact, resulting in the present confusion as to its status. It is in this way that studies in phytogeography can be completely upset. Ed.

**Habits of Bumble Bees.** It is often stated that the Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera* L., forages for pollen or nectar by confining its visits to one particular species for some time before switching to another. In this way, it is said, cross pollination is helped.

The practice does not appear to be the rule in species of *Bombus*. Thus on May 24th, I observed a queen *Bombus agrorum* Fab. probing flowers of the Bitter Vetch and Wood Dog Violet where their blooms were mixed together. The insect went from Dog Violet to Bitter Vetch and then to White Deadnettle without hesitation. Again, on July 6th, workers of *Bombus pratorum*, L., *B. lucorum* L., as well as *B. agrorum* Fab. were observed gathering pollen from flowers of Woody Nightshade, whence they passed to flowers of the Meadow Vetchling which were probed for nectar, and immediately

afterwards visiting flowers of the Bramble to gather more pollen, all in a small hedgerow triangle. C.E.R.

**An early Small White Butterfly, *Pieris rapae* L.** The first specimen of white butterfly this year was seen in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street, on April 1st. The insect was still rather weak and torpid and probably had not fed since emerging from its chrysalis. This is an early date for this part of the country. R. Harris.

**An aberrant Lesser Celandine, *Ranunculus ficaria* L.** Whilst in the Sawmill Wood near East Butsfield, with a group of members of the Birtley Natural History Society, a unique form of Lesser Celandine was encountered. Within the outer ring of petals a spiralled group of about 30 green scales, the same size as the petals, were present. This structure was not confined to one flower only, but was present in all those on one particular plant. T.C.D.

RECORDS.

INSECTS.

LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <b><i>Nonagria typhae</i></b> Thunb. Bulrush Wainscot.<br>Ryton Willows (66). Reaybum Marsh near the village of Throckley, where the moth appears to be quite common. About twenty pupae were found in the stems of <b><i>Typha latifolia</i></b> in the space of a few minutes. (67). H T Pales | 66, 67. |
| <b><i>Perizoma albulata</i></b> Schiff. Grass Rivulet.<br>Common at Dawdon.  | 66      |
| <b><i>Ortholitha bipunctaria</i></b> Schiff. Chalk Carpet.<br>Not common in Fulwell Quarry.  | 66      |
| <b><i>Eupithecia succenturiata</i></b> L., Bordered Pug.<br>Flying on Tunstall Hill.   | 66      |
| <b><i>Gnophos obscurata</i></b> Schiff. Common Annulet.<br>A single specimen taken on the wing near Dawdon. N. Lowe.   | 66      |
| <b><i>Acentropus niveus</i></b> Ol.<br>Not common at light and along River Banks, Chester-le-Street.   | 66      |
| <b><i>Eudorea murana</i></b> Curt.<br>Occasionally at light, Chester-le-Street.  |         |
| <b><i>Scoparia cembrae</i></b> Haw.<br>Occasionally at light, Chester-le-Street, and very common on silver birch trunks, Waldridge Fell.   | 66      |
| <b><i>Scoparia dubitalis</i></b> Hubn.<br>Common everywhere in Durham and S. Northumberland in waste places where ragwort grows.   | 66 67   |
| <b><i>Scoparia ambigualis</i></b> Treits.<br>Common everywhere in both counties.   | 66 67   |
| <b><i>Scoparia ulmella</i></b> Knaggs.<br>A few taken on elm near Hart.  | 66      |
| <b><i>Cataclysta lemnata</i></b> L.<br>Common at the mouth of the Tees in marshy ground where <b><i>Lemna</i></b> grows but I have not seen it north of this station.  | 66      |
| <b><i>Nymphula nymphaea</i></b> L.<br>Common in most ponds and streams, Chester-le-Street, Brasside Frosterley and Middlesbrough.  | 65 66   |
| <b><i>Nymphula stagnata</i></b> Don.<br>Redcar and Teesmouth. Much less common than the previous species   | 65, 66  |
| <b><i>Eurrhpara hortulata</i></b> L.<br>Common all round Chester-le-Street, in hedgerows and gardens wherever stinging nettle grows.<br>T.C.D.   | 66      |

HYMENOPTERA—CYNIPIDAE—GALL WASPS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b><i>Andricus curvator</i></b> Hartig.<br>Castle Eden Dene, on the wine. | 66 |
|---|----|

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Aulacidea tragopoginis</b> Thorns,<br>Herrington Hill and Houghton Cut galling <b>Tragopogon</b> .  | 66  |
| <b>Aulax hypochaeridis</b> Kieff.<br>Greatham Creek, Hawthorn Quarry, Hawthorn Hive and Fulwell Quarry, galling <b>Hypochaeris radicata</b> .  | 66, |
| <b>Cynips kollari</b> Hartig. .<br>Foxcover, Herrington, Herrington Hill, Offerton, Hawthorn, Rainton Park Woods, on <b>Quercus sessiliflora</b> .   | 66  |
| <b>Isosoma graminicola</b> Giraud.<br>Ryhope Dene, Sprucely, Tunstall Hill, Sharpley near Murton, always galling <b>Agropyron repens</b> .   | 66  |
| <b>Neurotenis quercus-baccarum</b> L. f. <b>lenticularis</b> Ol. Spangle Gall.<br>Foxcover plantation, Herrington Woods, Pesspool Woods and Rainton Park Woods on <b>Quercus sessiliflora</b> .  | 66  |
| <b>Neuroterus numismalis</b> Oliv. Butter Gall.<br>Foxcover Plantation at Herrington and Rainton Park Woods, on <b>Quercus sessiliflora</b> *  | 66  |
| <b>Rhodites rosarum</b> Giraud.<br>Hawthorn Hive on <b>Rosa mollis</b> .   | 66  |
| <b>Rhodites spinosissima</b> Giraud.<br>Penshaw Hill galling <b>Rosa spinosissima</b> .  | 66  |
| <b>Rhodites rosae</b> L. Robin's Pincushion.<br>Herrington Hill, Foxcover Plantation, Hawthorn Lane, Hawthorn Hive, Strawberry Hill, Houghton Cut, Castle Eden Dene, Aycliffe Quarry, Sherburn Quarry, Moorsley, East Rainton, Blackhall, Bishop Middleham, Tunstall Hill. | 66  |
| <b>Trigonaspis megaptica</b> P.<br>Rainton Park Woods on <b>Quercus sessiliflora</b> . J. Thompson.  | 66  |

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Polystichum setiferum</b> (Forsk.) Woynar. Soft Shield-fern.<br>About a dozen plants in the Wear Gorge, Durham City. A. Silverside.      | 66 |
| <b>Solanum nigrum</b> L. Black Nightshade.<br>In an old garden near Seaham.   | 66 |
| <b>Foeniculum vulgare</b> Mill. Fennel.<br>With the above species.  | 66 |
| <b>Rosa canina</b> var. <b>rhyncocarpa</b> (Rip) Rouy. Dog Rose.<br>In Cassop Vale near the old pit shaft, in Ryhope Dene and at Bollihope. | 66 |
| <b>Rosa canina</b> var. <b>racemosissima</b> Rail. Dog Rose.<br>In Cassop Vale near the old pit shaft and in Sharpley Wood near Seaham.     | 66 |
| <b>Rosa canina</b> var. <b>sphaerica</b> (Gren) Dum. Dog Rose.<br>In Sharpley Wood near Seaham.   | 66 |
| <b>Rosa canina</b> var. <b>lutetiana</b> (Lem) Baker. Dog Rose.<br>In Ryhope Dene.  | 66 |
| <b>Rosa dumetorum</b> var. <b>hemitricha</b> (Rip) W-Dod.<br>In Cassop Vale near the old pit shaft and in Ryhope Dene.                      | 66 |
| <b>Rosa dumetorum</b> forma <b>urbica</b> (Lem) W-Dod.<br>In Sharpley Wood near Seaham.   | 66 |
| <b>Rosa dumetorum</b> f. <b>semiglabra</b> (Rip) W-Dod.<br>In Ryhope Dene.  | 66 |
| <b>Rosa obtusifolia</b> var. <b>tomentella</b> (Lem) Baker.<br>In Cassop Vale near the old pit shaft.                                       | 66 |
| <b>Rosa obtusifolia</b> var. <b>sclerophylla</b> (Scheutz) W-Dod.<br>On Strawberry Hill.  | 66 |
| <b>Rosa glauca</b> var. <b>reuteri</b> (God) Cott.<br>In Sharpley Wood near Seaham.   | 66 |
| <b>Rosa glauca</b> var. <b>glaucohylla</b> (Winch) W-Dod.<br>With the previous var.   | 66 |
| <b>Rosa sherardi</b> f. <b>submollis</b> (Ley) W-Dod.<br>In Ryhope Dene.  | 66 |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Rosa sherardi</b> var. <b>omissa</b> (Desegl) W-Dod.<br>Along the Bollihope Burn.  | 66     |
| <b>Rosa sherardi</b> var. <b>woodsiana</b> W-Dod.<br>With the previous var.   | 66     |
| <b>Rosa conifolia</b> var. <b>celarata</b> (Baker) W-Dod.<br>Near Wardles Bridge, Holmside.   | 66     |
| <b>Rosa conifolia</b> var. <b>watsonii</b> (Baker) W-Dod.<br>With the previous var. J. Thompson.  | 66     |
| <b>Anchusa arvensis</b> (L.) Bieb. Small Bugloss.<br>Disturbed soil after road widening. Bishop Middleham.  | 66     |
| <b>Calystegia sepium</b> (L.) R.Br. ssp. <b>silvatica</b> (Kit.) Maire. American Bellbine.<br>In many roadside hedges, Wheatley Hill, Thornley, Cassop, Comforth, Bishop Auckland etc.  | 66     |
| <b>Verbascum thapsus</b> L. Mullein.  | 66, 68 |
| Roadside near Kelloe (66). Scree in Cassop Vale (66). Roadside near Longframlington and on the Common (68).   |        |
| <b>Chaenorhinum minus</b> (L) Lange. Small Toadflax.<br>On ballast of old railroad, Glanton.  | 68     |
| <b>Euphrasia nemorosa</b> (Pers.) Wallr. Eyebright.<br>Cassop Vale, Wheatley Hill, Comforth. All conf. F. H. Perring (66),also seen at Ludworth (66) and Holy Island (68).  | 66, 68 |
| <b>Clinopodium vulgare</b> L. Wild Basil.<br>Old Cassop.  | 66     |
| <b>Euphrasia curta</b> (Fr.) Wettst.<br>Junction of Hetha and Debden Burns in short turf, conf. P. F. Yeo.  | 68     |
| <b>Lamium hybridum</b> Vill. Cut-leaved Deadnettle.<br>Waste ground at crossroads between Sherburn Hill and Shadforth, det.F. H. Perring.   | 66     |
| <b>Galium palustre</b> L. ssp. <b>palustre</b> . Marsh Bedstraw.<br>Swampy ground at edge of Cassop Pond.   | 66     |
| <b>Galium palustre</b> L. ssp. <b>elongatum</b> (C. Presli) Lange.<br>Also in Cassop Pond in standing water supported by tall vegetation.   | 66     |
| <b>Gnaphalium uliginosum</b> L. Wayside Cudweed.<br>Wet cart rut, Greenhills Moor, Wingate.   | 66     |
| <b>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</b> L. Heath Cudweed.<br>Broom Ridge, above Ford Moss.   | 68     |
| <b>Filago minima</b> (Sm.) Pers. Small Cudweed.<br>Debden and Hetha burnsidess.   | 66     |
| <b>Serratula tinctoria</b> L. Saw-wort.<br>Salter's Lane, Wingate. South of Galley Law plantation, Fishburn. Both near drainage ditches on the Magnesian Limestone.   | 66     |
| <b>Cicerbita macrophylla</b> (Willd.) Howell. Blue Sow-thistle.<br>A few plants in Castle Eden Dene. G. G. and P. S. Graham.  | 66     |
| <b>Lycopodium selago</b> L. Fir Clubmoss.<br>Ireshope Burn: Eraser's Quarry (Rookhope) (66). Cottonshope Burn: screes to N. of Walltown: Lewis Burn, S. of the Forks (67).  | 66, 67 |
| <b>Lycopodium clavatum</b> L. Stag's Horn Moss.<br>Thinhope Burn (S. Tyne): near Sinderhope: Lewis Burn, S. of the Forks:Kielder Burn, near Ridge End: forestry road, N. of Simonside: old quarryin Slaley Forest (67). West Hill of Cheviot at 1250 ft. (68).  | 67, 68 |
| <b>Selaginella selaginoides</b> (L.) Link. Lesser Clubmoss.<br>W. bank of S. Tyne, near Lambley Station: head of Stobylea Burn,between Lilswood Moor and Pikeley Rigg: Swinhope Burn (E. Allendale):Irthing, N. of Gilsland: near Whiteley Shield (W. Allendale): Falloowlees Burn near Rye Close (E. Allendale): Snope Burn (S. Tyne): by the S. Tyne,near Knarsdale (67). Breamish above High Bleakhope (68). | 67, 68 |
| <b>Equisetum hyemale</b> L. Dutch Rush.<br>Whittle Dene: by the Irthing, opposite Gowk Banks.   | 67     |

G. A. & M. Swan.



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## BY THE WAY

**Secretaries of Societies and other contributors to "The Vasculum" are invited to send their notes to the Editor before 15th September, 1967**

### LEPIDOPTERA DISTRIBUTION MAPS SCHEME.

Many readers will remember the Plant Distribution Maps that were produced a few years ago, by the collection of records from all parts of the British Isles. This was done by Botanists everywhere. Finally, the "Atlas of the British Flora" was produced, embodying all these data.

Now we are to have the same thing for the Butterflies and Moths. Collecting and publishing information about the distribution of the rarer species is one of the major activities of entomologists, and one which has been going on for many years. One need only look at publications like the "Entomologist", the "Entomologists' Record", or the "Entomologists' Gazette" to see that the process is still important. From these already published records, it is probable that fairly accurate maps of the rarer species could be produced right away, but the distribution of the commoner species is seldom treated as fully. Field lepidopterists all over the country are therefore being enrolled to provide this information.

To ensure accuracy it is necessary, of course, for experts to be consulted on many critical species. The constituent societies of the Northern Naturalists' Union can do important work in their own areas, by recording whenever they can. It is realised only too well that the number of lepidopterists working in our area is woefully small, there being several societies without a single one. It will be necessary, therefore, to vet all records before handing them on to the organisers of the scheme. The only sure way of doing this is to submit specimens to people who are familiar with the insects and can name them easily.

As the project proceeds, a number of unrecorded areas will emerge, to which special expeditions will be organised in order to fill all the gaps. It is estimated that the full recording process will take about ten years.

As soon as sufficient data are available, distribution maps will appear in the entomological journals, and eventually an Atlas similar to the one for plants may be produced.

For Northumberland, records, with specimens please, should be sent to the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne, where Mr. Bales will gather all the information together. For Durham, the Editor will be pleased to act in the same capacity.

#### UPPER TEESDALE.

The ink was barely dry on the Bill allowing a reservoir to be built on the Cow Green site, before the contractors began their road widening and building operations. Meanwhile, many more people are visiting the area in order to take one last look at it before it disappears under water for ever. The extra visitors are providing something of a problem, both to the contractors and to the Naturalists' Trust Wardens on Widdybank Fell. We would appeal to all who may read this to take care not to do any unnecessary damage to the vegetation. Please leave it for the scientists to investigate as thoroughly as they can before it goes.

At the same time, we must deplore the attitude of the Raby Estate Office in refusing permission on Widdybank Fell, to bona fide professional biologists and even University departments. Surely this is a petty "dog in the manger" attitude!

#### MAMMAL TRAPPING.

We have just received a questionnaire from the Mammal Society, about trapping mammals for scientific research work.

The Society operates a Trap Loan Scheme, which makes its stock of Longworth Live Traps available on free loan to all bona fide workers. There is considerable pressure on this service, so that it sometimes fails to meet the requirements of the Society membership, while at other times traps are idle.

Before buying more Longworth traps or considering the purchase of other makes, the Council of the Mammal Society has decided to gather as much information as possible on trap availability and trapping methods from other interested organisations. They think it is possible that there may be considerable stocks of traps, which are unused or little used, as well as traps specially built for a specific purpose and no longer used. On the other hand, some societies with heavy trapping programmes may occasionally find themselves understocked, and others without any traps may reject a proposed research project involving trapping in view of the heavy cost of live traps, not knowing that they may be borrowed or hired.

The Mammal Society are therefore interested in all trapping work that is going on. Would members and constituent societies interested in this type of work, please pass on to the Editor any useful information they may have about stocks of traps, the uses they make of them and the desirability of obtaining traps on loan?

## THE SOCIETIES.

### NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION.

The 116th Field Meeting of the Union was held in Upper Teesdale, from Cow Green to Cauldron Snout, on 20th May 1967. In view of the recent publicity about the reservoir, a very large number of members and associate members were present.

Owing to some misunderstanding, the Consett Field Club's bus was not allowed to proceed up the road from Langdon Beck Hotel, because special permission had not been sought. This was a great disappointment, as many of the Consett members had come along specially to see the area before it became covered with wafer. After several delays the rest of the party was led on to Cow Green by Dr. M. E. Bradshaw. The flora of the limestone pavement on Cow Green was examined first of all, where outcrops produced several typical limestone plants like the Blue Moor Grass, **Sesleria albicans** Kit. ex Schult., Wild Thyme, **Thymus drucei** Ronn., Vernal Sandwort, **Mimuartia verna** (L.) Hiern, Hoary Whitlow Grass, **Draba incana** L. and Common Whitlow Grass, **Erophila verna** (L.) Chevall.

At the gate on to Widdybank Fell, Dr. Bradshaw gave an explanatory talk on the limestone grassland which flanks the pathway across Widdybank Fell, and arranged for the party to separate into groups, each with a botanist to help with the identification of the plants in this very important habitat. Unfortunately, at this point it began to rain and presently developed into a downpour, aggravated by a bitterly cold wind sweeping down from Crossfell. Many members of the party retreated to their cars and buses, soaked to the skin. In spite of this the gentians were seen to be in fine form. Indeed, many thought that there were more blooms than there have been for several years. Back at Langdon Beck, the field near the Hotel was visited during a short fine spell, when many Gentians, **Gentiana verna** L. and Bird's-eye Primroses, **Primula farinosa** L., were seen. After a picnic tea under cover, a quick retreat was all that was possible, except for the very hardy who were determined to see all they could no matter what the cost.

Two junior meetings have also been held. The first, to St. Mary's Island, kindly led by Mr. C. Bell on May 13th, was moderately successful, but the one to Waldrige Fell on June 10th attracted only a single junior member. It would appear that this outing is too near to G.C.E. examinations to attract very many young people. Each year shows a very disappointing attendance, so that we are reluctantly forced to suggest that it should be abandoned.

## BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

On May 28th, a small motorised group of members went to Berwickshire, to examine some of the border mires. Bemersyde Moss was the first port of call to see the nesting birds, particularly the Black-headed Gulls. The birds were there in thousands, but the weather was most inhospitable. In spite of this the party walked round the lakes to see the birds from all angles. After a picnic lunch inside the motor cars, we drove to Gordon Moss. By this time the rain had stopped, but it was still very wet under foot. The moss proved to be very interesting, the largest part of our time being spent on the many species and varieties of *Salix*. A few rather uncommon Microlepidoptera were also seen. This place is a delightful spot, which could prove worthy of much closer study by botanists and entomologists.

The first full outing was to the Fame Islands on June 4th. Although the wind was moderately strong and the sea rough, the boatmen took us out to Staple Island and to the Inner Fame. In general the breeding populations were very much down on recent years, except for Puffins, which were everywhere. Eiders, in particular, were down to about half their usual numbers. The other birds such as Kittiwakes, Shags and Terns were also very late in their nesting programmes, some of the terns having laid their first egg that very morning.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

The early outings of the society have been marred by bad weather, but the second outing of the summer programme, which was to Ushaw College, was a great success. Over eighty members were present.

The College was founded by Cardinal Allen at Douai, in France, in 1568, but it was destroyed during the French Revolution. The students and staff, who fled from France, were housed at Pontop Hall, near Annfield Plain, for a short time. From here they moved to Crookhall near Consett, and then to Ushaw in 1808.

The party divided into two parts and senior students acted as guides. They took us to see the beautiful Chapel of St. Cuthbert, the library with its rare manuscripts of John Lingard, and then, to our surprise and delight, to the natural history museum. Here we found a wonderful collection of stuffed birds. In it were specimens like the Peregrine Falcon, Raven, Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Corncrake, many of which several members had never seen before.

Lastly, we were taken to the east end of the college where are the playing fields. We were much interested in several stone-sided enclosures where a game called "Trap" is played. A more popular one with the students, however, is the Ushaw game of "Cat", which is played from the feast of St. Cuthbert to the end of May.

Afterwards, the guides were thanked by Mr. Puckering for their care and attention, and for the efficient way they had conducted the parties round the buildings.

#### DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

We have recently received a copy of the Annual Report for 1966-67. This is surely of tremendous value and interest to members, being crammed from cover to cover with information and suggestions.

The Report starts with notes from the officers, in which the wide range of interests of the club is most evident. These are followed by more detailed reports from the specialist sections. It is here that one sees how active the club has been. Thus the botanical section shows further plant records for squares NZ 21 and 31, the entomology section shows a fairly wide range of migrant butterfly sightings, whilst the mammals, birds, marine and freshwater animals all receive attention. The work being done on the animals of Hell Kettles ponds is a welcome addition. Too few projects of this type have been reported in these pages during recent years. Indeed, since the death of Dr. B. Millard Griffiths in 1940, virtually nothing of this kind has come to hand. The Darlington Club are very lucky to have with them an expert like Mr. E.. Hinton-Clifton who has recently moved into the area. He seems, already, to be making his presence felt.

We would congratulate the Darlington Field Club on a very useful publication.

#### SUNDERLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The 1966-67 Annual Report from the Sunderland Society is a striking booklet. Seldom have we seen a more effective cover design for any Natural History magazine anywhere. Congratulations to Mr. A. Suddes. Please do something like this again.

The report is on the same lines as usual, this being the declared policy of the Society. This is to list the plants and animals recorded by members during the past year. These lists have now reached the highest standard of scientific conformity and accuracy. Many records are now submitted to experts before inclusion in the lists. The result is as near perfection as possible.

The secretary complains in the Editorial, of fewer recorders than in previous years, but the list is just as long as usual. We hope the extra volunteers are forthcoming for surely this is a worthwhile project in which to be able to count as a partner.

In addition to the lists an interesting article on the status of the Collared Dove, **Streptopelia decaocto**, in Sunderland, is included. This, in itself, is a little gem of reporting and gives most useful information both on the history of the bird in Britain as well as in Sunderland. Apart from one or two notices about it from Northumberland and one from near Chester-le-Street, no other

records have been received by the Editors. Undoubtedly, it will have been seen by members of the Teesmouth Bird Club, but what about the rest of the county?

## NOTES AND RECORDS

### NOTES.

**Some Exotic Weeds of South Shields Parks.** The plant, *Smyrniurn perfoliatum* L., which was reported in the *Vasculum*, Vol. LI., No. 3, by the Rev. G. G. Graham, is widespread in the Marine Parks, and as these are made on top of the ballast hills, I have no doubt this is how the plant reached this country from S. Europe.

It is not the only unusual plant naturalised in the parks. Others include:— *Sisymbrium strictissimum* L., *Rumex alpinus* L., *Rumex scutatus* L., and *Rumex sanguineus* L. var. *sanguineus* (all are introduced species), *Allium triquetrum* L., *Arum italicum* Mill. (this persists despite determined attempts to eradicate it) and *Trachystemon orientalis* (L.) G. Don. The really surprising thing is several well developed patches of *Carex montana* L. which are "gardened around" mainly, I suspect, by habit. I can find no reason for these to be here and also can find no record of their being planted. This *Carex* was determined by David McClintock.

I would also like to make reference to several records of *Bupleurum rotundifolium* which have appeared in recent numbers of the *Vasculum*. I have found, locally, several specimens of this but on more critical examination, they all turned out to be *B. lancifolium* Homem. (*B. subovatum* auct.), a species introduced by bird seed and often coming after the use of "Swoop", (could I call it a "Swoop alien"?). *B. lancifolium* may be known by its slightly narrower leaves and granulate fruit, (C.T.W. 2nd. Ed., p. 512). I think the local records are more likely to be this than *B. rotundifolium* L. Michael Mullin.

**Bird Notes from Stanley.** The following observations may be of some interest:—

**Kittiwake:** A colony was again found this spring on the quayside in Newcastle, and 8 miles inland from the sea. On May 24th there were 16 occupied nests which are situated on the ledges of an old warehouse building. This colony was first formed in Newcastle in 1965, and is at present the only known inland colony in the British Isles, as far as I am aware. The Kittiwake is usually strictly a coastal species, inside and outside the breeding season. From 1962 to 1964, up to three pairs nested on an old building in Gateshead, but this was demolished in March of 1965. **Rook:**

The rookery, in the Haymarket in the centre of Newcastle, consisted of 28 occupied nests during May. This rookery was first formed in 1961 with only three nests.

**Grasshopper Warbler:** From April 29th to May 4th, a single bird was heard 'reeling' at the Tanfield Ponds, Stanley.

**Long-tailed Tit:** A pair noted in the Causey Wood, near Stanley, on April 14th.

**House Martin:** On June 5th, three birds hawking insects in Annfield Plain. Not previously recorded in this area. R. Marston Palmer.

**Plant Notes from Ryton.** *Allium paradoxum* (Bieb) G. Don. is an introduced plant from the Caucasus and N. Persia. It is a species of garlic with numerous bulbils, probably grown for this reason. It grows on the Station Bank and on the Church Banks in Ryton. *Arum maculatum* L. has also been found in the Churchyard. In the 'Gut', a pond below the station, which is really part of Ryton Willows, the Frogbit, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L. still grows. Although this plant is fairly widespread in England and Wales, it is local in its distribution and probably diminishing. Nancy Taylor.

**Some plants along the Northumberland Border.** During an outing to Coldstream, I came across the Common Wintergreen, *Pyrola minor* L., which was fairly common in the woods. Also present in the same place at the same time were the Twayblade, *Listera ovata* (L.) R.Br. and the Early Purple Orchid, *Orchis mascula* (L.) L. On the English side of the Tweed, and not far from the other plants, grew the Water Fennel, *Ranunculus trichophyllus* Chaix.

A visit to Alston and Moorhouse, on a very wet day, produced the Alpine pennycress, *Thiaspi alpestre* L. and Cloudberry, *Rubus chamaemorus* L. P. Hird.

**The Collared Dove, *Streptopelia decaoto*.** This species, which has recently started to spread all over England, was seen for the first time in the Isolation Hospital Grounds at Chester-le-Street, on April 30th 1967. There was only a single bird. R. Harris.

## RECORDS.

### INSECTS.

#### LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b><i>Xylocampa areola</i></b> Esp. Early Grey.  | 67     |
| A single specimen of this species came to light, on 12th April 1967, in Cold Law Wood. This is John Finlay's locality in Robson's catalogue, and still the only place in Northumberland where it is known to occur. The foodplant, Honeysuckle, is common in the area. |        |
| <b><i>Zygaenia filipendulae</i></b> Trem. The Six-spot Burnet.   | 68     |
| The yellow variety (ab. flava) of this species is very common on Holy Island. Several dozen were seen flying with the type on 10th June 1966. Several insects were seen 'in cop' but the type and the variety were not seen together.                                  |        |
| <b><i>Erebia aethiops</i></b> Esp. The Scotch Argus.   | 79     |
| About a dozen specimens of this species were seen in a field near the road which runs between Selkirk and Galashiels. All were freshly emerged on 1st August 1966.   |        |
| <b><i>Lampra fimriata</i></b> Schreber. The Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing.   | 66     |
| This moth came to light at Ryton Willows on 8th August 1966. Although not common, it was seen on several successive occasions at the same place.   |        |
| H. T. Bales.   |        |
| <b><i>Scoparia ambigua</i></b> Treits.   | 66     |
| Taken on the wing in Castle Eden Dene.   |        |
| <b><i>Udea lutealis</i></b> Hubn.  | 66     |
| Moderately common in Fulwell quarry.   |        |
| <b><i>Udea nivealis</i></b> F.   | 66     |
| Captured on the wing in Crimdon Dene.  |        |
| <b><i>Udea olivalis</i></b> Schiff.  | 66     |
| Common in Castle Eden Dene.  |        |
| <b><i>Agriphila culmellus</i></b> L.   | 66     |
| Also in Crimdon Dene.  |        |
| <b><i>Agriphila tristellus</i></b> Schiff.   | 66     |
| In Crimdon Dene.   |        |
| <b><i>Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla</i></b> Scop.  | 66     |
| Common in Fulwell Quarry. N. R. Lowe.  |        |
| <b><i>Nomophila noctuella</i></b> Schiff.  | 66     |
| At Chester-le-Street in most years, but its abundance varies due to the fact that it is a migrant.   |        |
| <b><i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i></b> L.   | 65, 66 |
| Cronkley Fell (65). Upper Teesdale on the Durham side. Cassop Vale, The Sneap, Muggleswick (66).   |        |
| <b><i>Pyrausta cespitalis</i></b> Schiff.  | 62, 66 |
| Miller's Dale in N. Yorks. (62). Widdybank Fell almost every year for the past 10 years in late May or early June. Juniper Valley near Waskerley.  |        |
| (66).  |        |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Udea lutealis</b> Hubn.   | 66, 67 |
| Very common in hedgerows and waste places almost everywhere in Durham and Northumberland. Taken at Teesmouth, Crindon, Blackhalls, Cassop, Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Birtley, Castleside, Blanchland, North Tyne, Hexham, Wittonstall etc. |        |
| <b>Udea femigalis</b> Hubn.  | 66     |
| Another migrant which varies a lot from one year to another. Taken at light in Chester-le-Street, also on the wing at Waldridge, Cassop Vale and Thrislington.   |        |
| <b>Udea nivealis</b> F.  | 62, 66 |
| Kildale in N. Yorks., Common at light in Chester-le-Street. Also taken on the wing at Edmondsley, Waldridge and Muggleswick  |        |
| <b>Udea olivalis</b> Schiff.   | 66     |
| Common in the woods all round Chester-le-Street.   |        |
| <b>Haritala ruralis</b> Scop.  | 66     |
| Common all round Chester-le-Street in July wherever nettles grow. Also at Waldridge, Wolsingham and The Sneap, Muggleswick.  |        |
| <b>Perinephila coronata</b> Hufn.  | 66, 67 |
| Common wherever elder is to be found. Frequent at light at Chester-leStreet, Waldridge, Edmondsley, and Combe Bridges (66). Woods along the Tyne at Riding Mill. (67). T.C.D.  |        |

#### FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Papaver argemone</b> L. Long Prickly-headed Poppy.  | 66     |
| As a roadside casual near Van Mildert College, Durham.   |        |
| <b>Arabidopsis thaliana</b> (L.) Heynh. Thale Cress.   | 66     |
| As a garden weed. Grey College, Durham.  |        |
| <b>Bromus thominii</b> Hard.   | 66     |
| casual near Van Mildert College, Durham. A. Silverside.  |        |
| <b>Symphytum orientale</b> L. Soft Comfrey.  | 66     |
| Perhaps formerly planted but now widespread on the banks of the Wear and elsewhere in Durham City. A. Silverside and J. R. Edmundson.  |        |
| <b>Onobrychis vicifolia</b> Scop. Sainfoin.  | 66     |
| On the new road embankment at Coxhoe probably introduced with grass seed.  |        |
| <b>Montia perfoliata</b> (Willd.) Howell. Spring Beauty.   | 68     |
| Garden weed in Ford Castle grounds.  |        |
| <b>Carex curta</b> Gooden. White Sedge.  | 68     |
| Ford Moss.   |        |
| <b>Dactylorhiza purpurella</b> (T. & T. A. Steph.) Soo. Northern Marsh Orchid.   | 66     |
| Appeared this year (1966) on dampish Magnesian Limestone waste ground at Wheatley Hill. This area, which was completely built over 20 years ago, now supports an interesting flora with <b>Rosa villosa</b> , <b>R. sherardii</b> etc., and shows what can happen if the local soil is left to natural regeneration. |        |
| <b>Glyceria declinata</b> Breb. Small Flote-grass.   | 66     |
| Muddy ground near Gore Burn, Wheatley Hill. Cassop pond margin. Wet ground at Thornley.  |        |
| <b>Glyceria fluitans</b> (L.) R.Br. Flote-grass.   | 66     |
| Also at Cassop Pond and in the Gore Burn between Wheatley Hill and Shotton. G. G. & P. S. Graham.  |        |
| <b>Equisetum variegatum</b> Schleich. ex Weber & Mohr. Variegated Horsetail.   | 67, 70 |
| Kielder Burn, near Ridge End (67). Irthing, N. of Gilsland (67 and 70).  |        |
| <b>Equisetum telmateia</b> Ehrh. Great Horsetail.  | 67     |
| S. Tyne, near Snope Burn; Irthing, N. of Gilsland; Newcastle, near Armstrong Bridge.   |        |
| <b>Cryptogramma crispera</b> (L.) R.Br. ex Hook. Parsley Fern.   | 67     |
| Basaltic Screens on Thinhope Burn, 100 yards from junction with Mardy's Cleugh (Hazley Crags); old quarry, Faw Side (Allenheads).  |        |
| G. A. & M. Swan.   |        |



# THE VASCULUM

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Edited by  
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THE POPLARS, CHESTER-LB-STREET

## BY THE WAY

Secretaries of Societies and other contributors to "The Vasculum" are invited to send their notes to the Editor before 15th November, 1967.

### HOOLIGANISM.

It has come to our notice recently, that cruelty to animals is still far too common. The practice, among certain types of young people, of "blowing up" frogs and toads is a deplorable pastime. There are many other forms of inflicting suffering on our wild creatures which are too gruesome to mention, but which still go on. Birds eggs are still taken from nests, and nests are pulled from their moorings and destroyed.

Would all members of the Northern Naturalists' Union please make it a personal responsibility to try to prevent these horrors. It should be remembered that the R.S.P.C.A. will give assistance and take action if a definite complaint is lodged with them. Too often, however, the culprits escape without being seen, or because people are unwilling to assert themselves.

### RARE ORCHIDS.

Two members of the Birtley Natural History Society, R. Harris and E. Hall, have recently found two more colonies, in County Durham, of the Red Helleborine, **Epipactis atrorubens** (Hoffm.) Schult.

The two stations previously known are several miles apart, with no obvious contact between them, and for some time it has been suggested that there could well be other colonies connecting them. These two new stations can be regarded as the first links in the hypothetical chain, and their discovery should be a stimulus for a more intensive search for further links.

A further point of some interest is that all four colonies occur on ground that has been disturbed at some time, such as old workings, ballast heaps, etc. None of these is likely to be the original

colony. The discovery of other stations might lead to the location of a very interesting plant habitat.

## THE SOCIETIES.

### NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION.

The Gainford outing, on July 8th 1967, was the 117th Field Meeting of the Union. Some fifty to sixty members and guests met on the village green, where the President, Mr. R. Lowe, welcomed everyone before the group was led off by Mr. Mulliner of the Darlington Field Club.

At first our route followed small country roads and lanes in very pleasant weather, to the village of Headlam. Here we rested for a picnic tea. Many plants were seen in the hedge-banks, but of special note were the Oxford Ragwort, **Senecia squalidus** L., Rough Chervil, **Chaerophyllum temulentum** L., Meadow Cranesbill, **Geranium pratense** L., and Cut-leaved Cranesbill, **Geranium dissectum** L. Everywhere the hawthorn was festooned with Goosegrass, **Galium aparine** L., from which were disturbed the two moths. Silverground Carpet, **Xanthorrhoe montanata** Schiff. and Common Carpet, **Epirrhoe alternata** Mull., the latter in clouds. In Gainford Great Wood a little limestone exposure in an old quarry, yielded the Hoary Plantain, **Plantago media** L., Self heal, **Prunella vulgaris** L., Thyme, **Thymus drucei** Ronn., Common Spotted Orchid, **Dactyiorchis fuchsii** (Druce) Vermeui, and Restharrow, **Ononis repens** L. Here too, the larvae of **Depressaria heracliana** Deg., were found in the flowers of **Heracleum sphondylium** L., whilst **Simaethis fabriciana** L. was seen flying over patches of nettle, and **Amelia paleana** Hubn. disturbed from mixed herbage.

Our main objective after tea was Dyance Wood with its heronry. It was quite a thrill to see the great birds flying overhead through gaps in the tree canopy. It was here too, that we heard Goldcrests calling, and saw a single Meadow Brown Butterfly.

Mr. Gent, who arrived at Gainford before the scheduled time, reported that House Martins were hawking for insects over the small meadow below the church at Gainford, where a pair of Spotted Flycatchers were also active. Sand Martins were flying to and fro over the River Tees, where the piping call of the Common Sandpiper was heard. A young Pied Wagtail was observed at the foot of the river bank, and there were juvenile Blue Tits in the neighbouring trees.

During the walk to Dyance Wood and on the return trip to Gainford, several other birds were noted. In July, bird song is declining, but the songs of the Wood Pigeon, Wren, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Sedge Warbler, Whitefthroat, Dunnock and Yellow Hammer were heard. Species seen included Pheasant, Lapwing, Curlew, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull, Collared Dove, Swift, Swallow, Carrion Crow, Rook, Jackdaw, Robin, Starling, Greenfinch, Linnet, Redpoll and Housesparrow.

The 118th Field Meeting was held at Rothbury on September 16th 1967, when some members arrived during the morning. Whilst others came later. The early birds walked westwards along the bank of the Coquet from Rothbury to the golf course, whilst in the afternoon the combined group explored the grounds of Gragside Estate.

On the walls by the river, the ferns **Asplenium ruta-muraria** L. and **Asplenium adiantum-nigrum** L. were in great abundance. A small ditch running into the river, proved of great interest, with plants like the Monkey-flower, **Mimulus guttatus** DC., Brooklime, **Veronica beccabunga** L., Water Speedwell, **Veronica anagallis-aquatica** L., Water Mint, **Mentha aquatica** L., Small-flowered Hairy Willow-herb, **Epilobium parviflorum** Schreb., and Narrowleaved Water-parsnip, **Berula erecta** (Huds) Coville. The willows on the river banks were a complex mixture of **Salix purpurea** L. with the gall of **Pontania viminalis** Hartig, **S. viminalis** L. with the gall of **Perrisia marginem-torquens** Winn, and **S. fragilis** L. with the gall of **Pontania proxima** Lepel. Meanwhile Messrs. Gent and Lowe were recording the following birds:— Moorhen, Lapwing, Black-headed Gull, Swallow, Jackdaw, Dipper, Song Thrush, Robin, Willow Warbler, Dunnock, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Starling, Goldfinch, Linnet and Yellow-hammer.

In Gragside Grounds many Fungi were noted along the paths to the lakes. Those identified included **Boletus scaber** Bull., **Peziza umbrina** Bond., **Amanita rubescens** Pers. (The Blusher), **Amanitopsis fulva** W.G.Sm. (Grisette), **Collybia maculata** Quel. and **Polyporus giganteus** Fr. The Tarspot fungus, **Rhytisma acerina**, was extremely common on the leaves of Sycamore. The gall of **Pontania pedunculi** Hartig was found on the Eared Sallow, **Salix aurita**, and one particular patch of the Grey Sallow, **S. atrocinerea**, yielded **Pontania bridgmanni** Hartig, **Oligotrophus caprea** Winn var. **major** Kieff., **Eriophyes tetanothrix** Nal., **Rhabdophaga heterobia** H. Low., and a **Melampsora sp.** A quite unusual gall on the tip of a frond of **Dryopteris felix-mas** (L.) Schott, turned out to be due to **Anthomyia signata** Brischke.

Of the insects, only two Microlepidoptera were seen. These were **Caloptilia elongella** L. and **Chelaria conscriptella** Hubn. The midges, however, were in great abundance, as we found when we sat down for our picnic tea by the side of one of the large lakes, whilst Mr. Lowe dredged for Molluscs. Birds of interest noted during this part of the outing were the Little Grebe, Mallard, Coot, Jay, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Goldcrest and Redpoll.

#### BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Two long distance outings have been held during the late summer months. The first was to the Breamish Valley and Linhope Spout on July 16th.

After visiting the Northumberland National Park's Information Centre at Ingram, a picnic lunch was taken, just to the west of

the village and by the stream. At Linhope Spout, a dead adder was found beside the track leading to the waterfall. This was carefully photographed. At the Spout itself, the party split up to follow various interests and inclinations. By the side of the stream a mixture of Eared Sallow, *Salix aurita* and Grey Sallow, *S. atrocincta* flourished, and from these a few insects were disturbed. A hillside nearby attracted a good deal of attention because of its many flowers. In a very small compass we identified Heather, *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull, Common Heath, *Erica cinerea* L., Mountain St. John's Wort, *Hypericum montanum* L., Wild Thyme, *Thymus drucei* Ronn., Milkwort, *Polygala vulgaris* L., Eyebright, *Euphrasia micrantha* Rchb., Self heal, *Prunella vulgaris* L., Moorland Spotted Orchid, *Dactylorhiza maculata* (L.) Vermeui, ssp. *ericetorum* (E. E. Linton) Vermeui, Common Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum pratense* L., Heath Bedstraw, *Galium saxatile* L. and Tormentil, *Potentilla erecto* (L.) Rausch. The return route lay across the open Moor over Ritto Hill to the upper Breamish, and thence by the side of the stream, alongside which grew a particularly fine avenue of copper beech trees. The number of insects on the wing was much less than expected. Only three species of butterflies were seen, the Greenveined White, *Pieris napi* L., the Small Heath Brown, *Coenonympha pamphylus* L., and the Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus* Rott. A single Light Emerald Moth, *Campaea margaritata* L. was knocked out of the Sallow bushes by the Linhope Burn, where the Silver-ground Carpet, *Xanthorrhoe montanata* Schiff. and Yellow Shell, *Euphyia bilmeata* L. were also found. On the open moor the Common Heath Moth, *Ematurga atomaria* L. was very common, whilst the Chimney Sweeper, *Odezia atrata* L. was plentiful in the bracken. On September 10th, 1967, the venue was Happy Valley in the Cheviots. The weather was unusually sunny and warm for the time of year, which helped the party to enjoy, to the full, the beauty of the countryside in autumn. At one point along the Wooler Water, we found the New Zealand Willow-herb, *Epilobium nerterioides* A. Cunn. growing quite happily on the shingle, with Stinking Groundsel, *Senecio viscosus* L., both in its typical rayed form and in its less common rayless form. From the ford at the junction between the Common and Harthope Burns we returned to Coldgate Mill via Middlefon Hall. Along the road, a good view was obtained of a pair of Goldcrests feeding on thistle heads. Not far away the photographers took close-up views of two Chi moths, *Polia chi* L., which were resting on the wall in their usual way.

## NOTES AND RECORDS

### NOTES.

**Bird Notes.** The following ornithological observations may be of interest to readers:— Wood Sandpiper: At the Tanfield Ponds, Stanley, on August 13th, there were two birds.

Green Sandpiper: From July 30th to August 1st, up to four birds were at the Tanfield Ponds.  
 Common Sandpiper: A total of five birds were at the Tanfield Ponds, between July 31st and August 13th.  
 Dunlin: A party of 7 birds at the Twelve Score ponds, Swalwell, on August 7th. Up to three birds present at the Tanfield ponds, between July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 1st.  
 Jack Snipe: Early date, Tanfield ponds, a single bird on July 30th.  
 House Martin: During June and July, three pairs nested on Annfield Plain Secondary Modern School. This is the first breeding record for the Stanley Urban district.  
 Grasshopper Warbler: Two different birds were frequently heard 'reeling' in the Tanfield ponds area during June and July.  
 Yellow Wagtail: First seen this summer at the Tanfield Ponds, on July 8th, when eight birds were noted, reaching a maximum of 23 birds on August 14th. A flock of at least 35 birds at Blaydon ponds, on August 15th.  
 Little Grebe: A pair was seen at the Tanfield ponds, on July 11th, and another pair at the Blaydon ponds, on August 15th.  
 Swift: A very large concentration of migrating birds, estimated to be between 500 and 1,000 individuals, was rioted over the Blaydon ponds area, on the evening of August 15th.  
 Golden Eagle: When on holiday on the Isle of Skye, I was fortunate enough to see two birds on August 28th. R. Marston Palmer.

**Botanising on Holy Island.** There can be few places in the north more rewarding to the botanist than Holy Island in July. Thus on 15th of that month I was in the sand dunes to the north of the village. The Northern Fen Orchid, *Dactylorhiza purpurella*, was in fair quantity, the Early Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza incarnata* was nearly over but there were still a few in flower, the Common Spotted Orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* was also in fair quantity, a few scattered plants of Twayblade, *Listera ovata* were about, Wintergreen, *Pyrola minor*, was seen in one place only, where there were seven spikes, the Scarlet Pimpernel, *Anagallis arvensis* was rare, the Bog Pimpernel, *Anagallis tenella*, Brookweed, *Samolus valerandi*, and Marsh Pennywort, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* were all very common in the wet areas, and there were also a few early flowers of the Grass of Parnassus, *Paroassia palustris*

In the Lough, which seems to be gradually filling up with vegetation, I saw huge stretches of Bog Bean, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, and small patches of Mare's Tail, *Hippuris vulgaris* and Yellow Flag, *Iris pseudacotis*. L. P. Hird.

**Is the House Martin spreading?** House Martins have built several nests on the Council houses at Thornley this year. This is the first time I have noticed them in this position. It would appear that they are on the increase and therefore looking for new buildings to colonise. A. Todd.

## RECORDS.

### INSECTS.

#### ODONATA—DRAGONFLIES.

*Aeshna juncea* L., Common Aeshna. 67, 68  
 Gosforth Park, Kielder, Rothbury. C. J. Gent.

#### LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

*Euproctis similis* Fuessi. Gold-tail. 67  
 A dead specimen was found on the pavement, in Clayton Road near the A1, Newcastle upon Tyne. It had marks of a bird's beak on its wings. The date was 10th July 1967.

*Crambus ericellus* Hubn. 68  
 A single specimen taken on the wing along the Spithope Burn, Redesdale, on 10th June 1967. A. G. Long.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Amathes castanea</b> Esp., Grey Rustic.<br>One near Crane Moss August 18th.  | 67         |
| <b>Ouraapteryx sambucaria</b> L., Swallow-tailed Moth.<br>One at lighted window, Gosforth, August 6th. C. J. Gent.  | 67         |
| <b>Mesographe forficalis</b> L.<br>One of the most common moths in the garden at Chester-le-Street. Along hedges almost everywhere, Chester-le-Street, Waldrige, Lanchester, Coombe Bridges.                                      | 66         |
| <b>Laodamia fusca</b> Haw.<br>Common at light some years and rare others, in the garden at Chester-le-Street. Always the deep black melanic form.   | 66         |
| <b>Dioryctria abietella</b> Zinck.<br>Only once at light at Chester-le-Street in 1955.  | 66         |
| <b>Homeosoma saxicola</b> Vaugh.<br>Common in the garden in Chester-le-Street. Also at Waldrige, Hart, Blackhall Rocks, Teesdale.   | 66         |
| <b>Crambus pascuellus</b> L.<br>Once only at Chester-le-Street in 1961.   | 66         |
| <b>Crambus dumatellus</b> Hb.<br>Bamburgh and Holy Island. Fairly common in the sand dunes.   | 68         |
| <b>Crambus pratellus</b> L.<br>Very common in all meadows and other grassy places, Chester-le-Street, Waldrige, Sherburn, Garmondsway, Croxdale, Widdybank Fell.  | 66         |
| <b>Crambus perlellus</b> Scop.<br>Holy Island, Embleton, fairly common near the sea.  | 68         |
| <b>Crambus hortuellus</b> Hb.<br>Very common everywhere, particularly in hay meadows and grassy places with <b>C. pratellus</b> , Chester-le-Street, Waldrige, Bamburgh.  | 66, 68     |
| <b>Agriphila culmellus</b> L.<br>Very common everywhere There is no place in Great Britain, where I have been in the summer months, when I have not seen it. This species must be the commonest moth in the British Isles. T.C.D. | 66, 67, 68 |

#### AVES—BIRDS.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Cygnus cygnis</b> , Whooper Swan.<br>Twenty five on small pool south of Ellington, January 14th. Twelve on Seaton Burn Lake, February 4th 1967.  | 67     |
| <b>Buteo buteo</b> , Buzzard.<br>One soaring near head of White Kielder Burn, August 20th, 1967.  | 68     |
| <b>Turdus torquatus</b> , Ring Ouzel.<br>One below Falcon Clints, Teesdale, April 30th. A pair near Great Tosson, May 7th. One on upper slopes of Girdle Fell, Cateleugh, August 20th 1967. | 66, 68 |
| <b>Corvus corax</b> , Raven.<br>A nest with 5 eggs in Upper Redesdale, March 12th. Another bird at a further crag in the same neighbourhood.  | 68     |
| <b>Bombycilla garrulus</b> , Waxwing,<br>One near Whittingham, February 26th 1967.  | 68     |
| <b>Streptopelia decaocto</b> , Collared Dove.<br>An occasional visitor to my garden in Gosforth since October 1965.   | 67     |
| <b>Tringa ocropus</b> , Green Sandpiper.<br>One flew up from small pool near Brockley Whins, May 8th 1967.<br>C. J. & I. C. Gent.   | 66     |

#### FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Cirsium heterophyllum</b> (L.) Hill. Melancholy Thistle.<br>A small colony by the roadside near Kirkheaton. C. J. Gent.                           | 67 |
| <b>Hieracium aurantiacum</b> L. Orange Hawkweed.<br>A large patch on the colliery branch railway line near Crows House Farm, Wheatley Hill. A. Todd. | 66 |
| <b>Festuca heterophylla</b> Lam. Grandmother's Hair.<br>Under trees in Ford Castle grounds, conf. A. Melderis.                                       | 68 |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Puccinellia distans</b> (Jacq.) Parl. Reflexed Meadow-grass.  | 66     |
| Inland on waste ground at Thornley. Also on path leading into Cassop Vale.   |        |
| <b>Catopodium rigidum</b> (L.) C. E. Hubbard. Fern Grass.  | 66     |
| Bishop Middleham and Witch Hill, both on Magnesian Limestone.  |        |
| <b>Poa nemoralis</b> L. Wood Meadow Grass.   | 66     |
| Castle Eden Dene under <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ; a very attenuated form with many 'florets' containing only one flower.   |        |
| <b>Poa chaixii</b> Vill. Broad-leaved Meadow Grass.  | 66     |
| In the Hermitage grounds, Chester-le-Street, conf. A. Melderis.  |        |
| <b>Catabrosa aquatica</b> (L.) Beauv. Water Whorl Grass.   | 66     |
| This lovely grass has, over the last eight years, covered large patches of mud in the Gore Burn, Wheatley Hill. Cleaning up operations nearly extirpated it in the spring, but it is now regenerating quite well. D. J. Bellamy                                    |        |
| reports it this year from the margin of what is left of Cassop Pond.   |        |
| <b>Bromus thominii</b> Hardouin.   | 66, 67 |
| Blyth sand dunes (67). Waste ground and lay-by near Fishburn (66).   |        |
| <b>Bromus lepidus</b> Hoimberg, Slender Brome Grass.   | 66     |
| Roadside on new housing estate, Hart Station, det. A. Melderis.  |        |
| G. G. & P. S. Graham.  |        |
| <b>Phyllitis scolopendrium</b> (L.) Newm. Hart's-tongue Fern.  | 67, 68 |
| Plessey Woods; Close House, Wylam (67). Waren Burn, near Twizel (68).  |        |
| <b>Asplenium viride</b> Huds. Green Spleenwort.  | 66, 67 |
| Ireshope Burn (66). Limestone rocks near Whiskershiel (Eisdon); Cottonshope Burn at approx. 1,000 ft.; Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); Irthing, N. of Gilsland (67).   |        |
| <b>Thylopteris phegopteris</b> (L.) Slosson. Beech Fern.   | 67     |
| Irthing, N. of Gilsland; Lewis Burn, S. of Forks.  |        |
| <b>Thylopteris dryopteris</b> (L.) Slosson. Oak Fern.  | 67, 68 |
| Snope Burn (S. Tyne); Irthing, N. of Gilsland (67). Waren Burn, near Twizell (68).   |        |
| <b>Polypodium vulgare</b> L. Polypody.   | 68     |
| Dinner Cairn on Cheviot at 2,300 ft.   |        |
| <b>Botrychium lunaria</b> (L.) Sw. Moonwort.   | 67, 70 |
| N. bank of S. Tyne, S.W. of Haltwhistle; W. bank of S. Tyne, near Lambley Station; Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); old quarry, near Cawfields; near Dirt Pot and by the Swinhope Burn (E. Allendale); S. Tyne near Knarsdale (67). Irthing, near Wileysike House (70). |        |
| <b>Trollius europaeus</b> L. Globe Flower.   | 67     |
| Meadow near Whitehill (E. Allendale); Swinhope Burn (E. Allendale).  |        |
| <b>Papaver argemone</b> L. Long Prickly-headed Poppy.  | 67     |
| Railway near Ewesley.  |        |
| <b>Rorippa sylvestria</b> (L.) Bess. Creeping Yellow-cress.  | 68     |
| Bowmont, near Cannonmill Bog.  |        |
| <b>Rorippa islandica</b> (Oeder) Borbas. Marsh Yellow-cress.   | 67, 68 |
| N. bank of Tyne, E. of Wylam (67). Bowmont, near Cannonmill Bog (68).  |        |
| <b>Hypericum maculatum</b> Crantz. Imperforate St. John's Wort.  | 67     |
| N. bank of Tyne, E. of Wylam.  |        |
| <b>Stellaria nemorum</b> L. Wood Stitchwort.   | 67     |
| Devil's Water, near Linnoldswood Farm; Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); Honeycrook Burn.  |        |
| <b>Vicia sylvatica</b> L. Wood Vetch.  | 67     |
| Near Taylorburn (W. Allendale); near Simonburn Castle.   |        |
| <b>Vicia lathyroides</b> L. Spring Vetch.  | 68     |
| Near Goswick.  |        |
| <b>Rubus saxatilis</b> L. Stone Bramble.   | 66, 67 |
| Ireshope (66). Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); Irthing, N. of Gilsland and also near Bell's Braes (67).  |        |
| <b>Poterium sanguisorba</b> L. Salad Burnet.   | 67     |
| Newbiggin Burn, near Font Reservoir; meadow on Simonburn Common.   |        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Saxifraga granulata</b> L. Meadow Saxifrage.<br>Devil's Water, near Linnodswood Farm; Mohope Burn (W. Allendale)  | 68         |
| <b>Lythrum salicaria</b> L. Purple Loosestrife.<br>Barmoor Mill; Ford Wood End; Cannonmill Bog.  | 68         |
| <b>Pepelis portula</b> L. Water Purslane.<br>Small pond, just above Low Bleakhope (Breamish).  | 68         |
| <b>Epilobium nertcriodes</b> Cunn.<br>Ireshope (66); Cottonshope Burn; Snope Burn (S. Tyne); near Walltown Quarry; Lewis Burn, S. of the Forks; Forestry road on Black Fell (Irthing) (67). Bowmont, near Cannonmill Bog (68). | 66, 67, 68 |
| <b>Hippuris vulgaris</b> L. Mare's-tail.<br>Small pond S. of Walltown.   | 67         |
| <b>Silaum silaus</b> (L.) Schinz & Thell. Pepper Saxifrage.<br>Meadow on Simonburn Common; Ouston Moor.  | 67         |
| <b>Polygonum bistorta</b> L. Bistort.<br>W. bank of S. Tyne, near Lambley Station and near Harper Town; Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); meadow at Sinderhope; Sirnonburn.  | 67         |
| <b>Myrica gale</b> L. Bog Myrtle.<br>Ford Moss.  | 68         |
| <b>Populus tremula</b> L. Aspen.<br>Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); Irthing, near Bell's Braes.  | 67         |
| <b>Andromeda polifolia</b> L. Marsh Andromeda<br>Mosses, near Fell End and Great Chesters; The Wou (Irthing).  | 67         |
| <b>Vaccinium uliginosum</b> L. Bog Whortleberry.<br>Still surviving in the (drained) Baron House Bog.  | 67         |
| <b>Pyrola minor</b> L. Cornon Wintergreen.<br>On an island in the Irthing, N. of Gilsland.   | 67         |
| <b>Lysimachia vulgaris</b> L. Yellow Loosestrife.<br>Bank of Irthing, opposite Gowk Banks  | 67         |
| <b>Trientalis europaea</b> L. Chickweed Wintergreen.<br>Ford Moss.   | 68         |
| <b>Anagallis tenella</b> (L.) L. Bog Pimpernel.<br>N. of the Golf Course at Bamburgh.  | 68         |
| <b>Gentianella amarella</b> (L.) Boiner <i>sensu lato</i> .<br>Old heaps near the Honeycrook Burn; roadside. Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) (67). On the coast, near Low Stead (Longhoughton) (68).                                 | 68         |
| <b>Trachystemon orientalis</b> L. G. Don.<br>Border of wood and field near Twizell (Warenford).  | 68         |
| <b>Linam repens</b> (L.) Mill. Pale Toadflax.<br>Railway near Lanton Mill.   | 68         |
| <b>Melampyrum pratense</b> L. Common Cow-wheat.<br>Devil's Water, near Ordlev; W. bank of Tvne, near Bridgeford; Honev- crook Burn.  | 67         |
| <b>Clinopodium vulgare</b> L. Wild Basil.<br>W. bank of N. Tyne, near Bridgeford.  | 67         |
| <b>Galeopsis speciosa</b> Mill. Large-flowered Hemp-nettle.<br>Field, near Cannonmill Bog.   | 68         |
| <b>Plantago media</b> L. Hoary Plantain<br>Old lime quarries, S. of Walltown; near Simonburn Castle (67). Ford Wood End (68).  | 67, 68     |
| <b>Littorella uniflora</b> (L.) Aschers. Shore-weed.<br>Smiddyshaw Reservoir (Waskerley) (66). Small quarry-pond, E.N.E. of Knowesgate. (67).  | 66, 67     |
| <b>Galium boreale</b> L. Northern Bedstraw.<br>W. bank of N. Tyne, near Bridgeford; Irthing, opposite Gowk Banks.  | 67         |
| <b>Linnaca borealis</b> L. Linnaea.<br>Near the head of Rook Hope.   | 66         |
| <b>Dipsacus fullonum</b> L. Teasel.<br>Sand dunes, near Goswick.   | 68         |

G. A. & M. Swan.



# THE VASCULUM

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Edited by  
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THE POPLARS, CHESTER-LB-STREET

## BY THE WAY

### SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES.

Would subscribers please note that all subscriptions are being raised as from 1st January, 1968. Full members will now pay 12/6 per annum and juniors 7/6. The price of the Vasculum is also being raised to 7/6 per annum. These increases are most regrettable but absolutely essential. For the last six years the cost of printing has been increasing all the time. This has been absorbed by constant pruning of the costs of administration and the generosity of several benefactors. The point has now been reached when these measures are no longer sufficient to bridge the gap between expenditure and income.

Would those concerned also please note that 1968 subscriptions are now due (as from 1st January, 1968). Early payments to the Hon. Treasurer, without having to be reminded next October or November, would be greatly appreciated. It should not be necessary to point out that this saves postage and also much time and work. Please send your cheques etc. to Mr. T. C. Dunn, at the above address, who will be pleased to supply banker's order forms.

If you gain any pleasure from reading the pages of this journal, then bring it to the notice of others who may wish to share your pleasure. Friends, acquaintances and young naturalists, who have not seen the magazine may like to subscribe to it, or become full members of the Northern Naturalists' Union. It is to every member's advantage to extend the number of active naturalists playing a part in the running of the Union, which could expand much quicker than it is doing at present.

## RECORDS OF MOLLUSCA.

It is many years since anyone checked the molluscs in our counties. Indeed, very little has been published, in this journal, since the late Rev. F. P. Blackburn ceased his active work on the group. His last list in the *Vasculum* records section, appears to have been in the August 1938 edition. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we have just received a list of some Northumberland Mollusca, from Mr. R. H. Lowe. These are noted later in this issue.

The event emphasises the paucity of work being done on the lesser known groups of plants and animals. Very little is known of the distribution of many of them. Junior members, in particular, would be well advised to take up the serious study of one or more of these groups. To suggest one example only, we cannot recall that anyone has ever recorded the distribution of earthworms in our counties.

## ROAD-SIDE VERGES.

The practices of spraying and of mowing road-side verges has become quite familiar during recent years. Local authorities have to think of safety on the roads and do all they can to prevent accidents. At the same time, the Naturalists' Trust of Northumberland and Durham has become increasingly apprehensive about the unnecessary destruction of roadside plants. Many of these are of quite outstanding beauty and a few of some rarity. How many of us, as children, have used the hedges as places to gather handfuls of flowers? Is it necessary to destroy them on B-class roads and lanes that are not so frequently used by through traffic? We think not. In fact, if the practices continue to be extended, there is a real danger of these reservoirs of wild plants becoming so depleted as to cause the extinction of some of our local rarities.

Information is required, from all over our counties, of roadsides that are considered to be so floristically rich as to be well worth conserving. This is a job for all readers of this journal and especially of our constituent societies. It might be an idea for each of our Field Clubs to set aside one of the summer outings as a "hedgerow day". This could be used to survey places of known road-side beauty, to list the plants, insects etc. present, and then pass on the information to the Secretary of the Naturalists' Trust, Mr. T. Tynan, Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. The location of the road-side is, of course, most important and any information should therefore be accompanied by details of Ordnance Survey grid references, and compass data specifying the side or sides of the road concerned.

Armed with this information the Council of the Trust feels it will be in a position to consult with borough and County surveyors with some effect, and to indicate to them a definite policy to be followed. We are certain that the people concerned are very willing to listen to sound advice. It is up to us to see that they get it.

## THE SOCIETIES.

### NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION.

The Autumn Meeting was held, by kind invitation of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, at the Leeds University Centre, Middlesbrough on 14th October, 1967. The President, Mr. R. H. Lowe, B.A., was in the Chair, whilst the lecturer was Mr. Gordon Woodroffe of the Cleveland Society. He chose as his topic "Zoos and Conservation". The talk was copiously illustrated by his excellent slides.

Mr. Woodroffe began by mentioning the present-day necessity for keeping a close watch on conserving our wild animals. There must be a drive to make politicians and planners more acutely aware of the problems caused by industrial expansion in maintaining representative natural habitats complete with their organisms. There has been growing destruction here. It must be stopped.

Mr. Woodroffe's point was that although zoos could not help directly in the conservation of natural populations in natural habitats, they could help to preserve species in danger of extinction and perhaps restock nature reserves set aside for the purpose. Notable successes have been Pere David's Deer, the European Bison, the North American Bison and Przewalski's Horse. At the present time, a similar rescue operation to save the Arabian Oryx is in an early experimental stage.

Then followed a tour of the European zoos in pictures. These were very fine indeed. They were intended to emphasise the progress being made at present in keeping "difficult" animals and breeding from them. This necessitates careful studies of food and feeding, together with a lot of veterinary work on the consequences of providing incorrect ecological conditions. Thus zoos have done a lot to help in the process of understanding the reasons for extinction. In this way we may be able to retain many species that are becoming very rare.

After tea a film introduced by Peter Scott, entitled "Wild Life in Danger", and produced by the Brook Bonds Tea Company, was shown. This was about already extinct or near extinct animals. It served as an excellent reminder of what Mr. Woodroffe had been saying and rounded off the proceedings very appropriately.

### BIRTLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Society began the autumn lecture programme on September 19th, in new surroundings at Chester-le-Street Grammar School. The excellent arrangements that we had enjoyed for the past few years in Mr. Hall's Cafe at Birtley, were no longer available. Reluctantly, it became necessary to move to Chester-le-Street to obtain a suitable meeting place.

The first lecture of the season was given by the President, Mr. T. C. Dunn, on the Moth Mapping Scheme, introduced earlier in the

year by the Nature Conservancy. "Slime Moulds" was the title of the lecture given on October 3rd by Professor J. H. Burnett. The many specimens on exhibition proved to be of great interest and have since acted as a stimulus to some of our members, who are now looking out for them in the field. Dr. W. A. Clark talked about Northumberland S.S.S.I.'S. on October 17th, with special reference to the recent rediscovery of the Bog Orchid, **Hammarbya paludosa** L., in some of the Northumberland Mosses. On October 31st. we had three films, kindly shown by the Birtley branch of the Caterpillar Company Ltd., and on November 14th Miss M. Oates gave a very enjoyable and instructive talk on Lake District habitats. Dr. Ennis talked about Food Poisoning and its consequences on November 28th, whilst the session was concluded by Mr. P. Foreman on December 12th, who talked about Christmas Island and its natural history.

Outings on the first Sunday of the month have been continued, until the foot and mouth epidemic became such a national disaster. They are cancelled until the disease clears up. Excursions have been to Plankey Mill and Salters' Gate. The meeting at the beginning of November was also cancelled because of the extensive flooding.

## NOTES AND RECORDS

### NOTES.

**The Bog Orchid, *Hammarbya paludosa* L., in Northumberland and Durham.** Although the Bog Orchid was first recorded in Durham (V.C.66) and S. Northumberland (V.C.67) more than a century ago, the number of botanists who have seen it in our counties, and the number of occasions on which it has been seen, are probably both very small. Among reasons for this are the very local occurrence of the plant, its small size (height, 3-12 cm.) and the greenish-yellow colour of its flowers.

Up to 1868, the year of publication of Baker and Tate's "New Flora of Northumberland and Durham", the plant had been seen by John Thompson in Muckle Moss (67), once on Dryderdale Moor near Wolsingham (66) by W. Backhouse and in a well-established station, discovered by John Binks around 1800, on the Egglestone Burn (66). For several years before 1877 it was found by Richard House at Blaxter Lough (67); and about 1822 Charles Robson discovered it in the Harnham area (67). J. W. Fawcett found the orchid on Muggleswick Common (66) in 1903 and in the same year the Rev. W. Featherstonehaugh recorded that he once found it near Edmundbyers, but this may refer to the same station as Fawcett, as may also a mention that the Vale of Derwent Naturalists' Field Club saw it in the upper reaches of the Derwent around the same date. Mr. R. B. Cooke extended the range of the plant by discovering it in Crane Moss, near Harbottle (67) in 1929 and he and Mr. G. W. Temperley again found it there in 1934. Then followed another period in which the **Hammarbya** appears not to have been seen.

However, recently the picture in Northumberland has changed. In 1964 the species was reported from Hexhamshire (67) by Mr. R. C. Seeley and was seen there the following year by Dr. W. A. Clark and Mr. O. L. Gilbert. When we visited the site in 1967, we saw approximately two dozen flowering spikes. On August 19th, 1967, a Field Meeting of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne was held at Crane Moss and those present saw eleven flowering spikes of the plant. On September 15th, 1967, we discovered the plant in a quite new locality, at an altitude of approximately 1,400 ft. near Buck Lake, which is S.E. of Monkside in Kielder Forest (67); here we saw 28 spikes. Thus we now know three recent well-scattered localities in Northumberland for the species.

Of the other recorded localities, we ourselves have searched for the *Hammarbya* only at Blaxter Lough. Because of drainage we think it rather unlikely that it will be found again there or at Harnham. It is to be hoped that some Durham botanists will rediscover the orchid at the Egglestone Burn, as it was reported in 1962 that no recent drainage appeared to have been carried out there. G. A. & M. Swan.

**The Moth Mullein, *Verbascum blattaria* L.** After the last (and only) record for this plant in 1930 in Durham County, the Moth Mullein has reappeared in Hamsterley Forest this year.

A single plant was found at the edge of the forest road growing amongst loose chippings and about 5 to 6 feet away from a forest of mainly coniferous trees, with a few deciduous ones. It was first found in flower on August 19th, when a few flowers had already set seed. Between 3 and 4 feet tall, the species was clearly recognised by the widely spread deep cream flowers with anther filaments clothed in purple hairs.

Its presence led to speculation concerning its origin. The road was made of local stone and one wonders if seed of the plant could have been introduced with this. Miss H. Bell and Miss C. Greenwood found the plant and I saw it with them on September 9th; it was still flowering but almost finished on September 23rd. M. H. Oates.

**The Fieldfare in Newcastle upon Tyne.** On September 27th, 1967, three fieldfares were present in Leazes Park, which is rather an early date. Later they flew off towards the west. R. Marston Palmer.

***Psidium lilljeborgii* in Northumberland.** This mollusc was dredged out of one of the large lakes in Cragside Estate, near Rothbury, during the N.N.U. outing on September 16th, 1967. I had an idea, when I saw the first ones, that they were uncommon, as I could not remember having seen them before. I was, therefore, very pleased when Kerney sent the identification. The only other record was Blackburn's in 1931. This was of a single specimen taken from the old reservoir at Allenheads, 1,200 feet above sea level (V.C.67). The present record is the first for V.C.68 and only the second for the whole of Northumberland and Durham. R. H. Lowe.

#### RECORDS.

#### INSECTS.

#### LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b><i>Agriphila inquatellus</i> Schiff.</b>  | 66         |
| Fairly common at light, Chester-le-Street; Waldrige, on the wing; Holmside; near Lanchester.   |            |
| <b><i>Agriphila tristellus</i> Schiff.</b>   | 66, 67, 68 |
| Very common on most grassy land, Chester-le-Street; Waldrige; Durham City; Cassop (66).<br>Pigdon near Morpeth (67), Holy Island; Bamburgh (68). |            |
| <b><i>Stenoptilia pterodactyla</i> L., Brown Wood Plume.</b>   | 66, 68     |
| Moderately common at light at Chester-le-Street. Also at Aycliffe, Waldrige, Lanchester (66).<br>Embleton (68).                                  |            |
| <b><i>Stenoptilia plagiodactyla</i> Staint. Grey Hill Plume.</b>   | 66         |
| Most frequently on limestone grassland. Common on the Magnesian limestone escarpments;<br>Cassop, Bishop Middleham, Sherburn, Thrislington.      |            |
| <b><i>Stenoptilia zophodactyla</i> Dup. Dowdy Plume.</b>   | 65, 66     |
| Only rarely taken on the sugar limestone pastures of Cronkley Fell (65) and Widdybank Fell (66).   |            |
| <b><i>Platyptilia gonodactyla</i> Schiff. Triangle-marked Plume.</b>   | 66         |
| Common at light at Chester-le-Street, and also in pastures here and at Birtley.  |            |
| <b><i>Platyptilia isodactyla</i> Zeil. Hoary Plume.</b>  | 66         |
| Occasional at light at Chester-le-Street.  |            |
| <b><i>Platyptilia ochrodactyla</i> Schiff. Ochreous Plume.</b>   | 66         |
| Uncommon at Chester-le-Street and Birtley.   |            |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Platytilia pallidactyla</b> Haw. Pale Plume.   | 66  |
| Common at Chester-le-Street, Waldrige, Edmondsley, Birtley.                                 |     |
| <b>Pterophorus pentadactylus</b> L. Large White Plume.                                      | 66  |
| Common at Chester-le-Street, Waldrige, the larva feeding on <b>Convolvulus sepium</b> L.    |     |
| <b>Pterophorus tetradactylus</b> L. White-shafted Plume.                                    | 66. |
| Local and never plentiful. Cassop, Thrislington.  |     |
| <b>Adaina microdactylus</b> Hubn. Hemp Agrimony Plume.                                      | 66  |
| Found in only two localities, always by disturbing it from Hemp Agrimony, <b>Eupatorium</b> |     |
| <b>cannabinum</b> L. Hawthorn Hive and Waldrige.  |     |
| <b>Oidaematophorus lithodactylus</b> Treits. Dusky Plume.                                   | 66  |
| Occasionally at light, Chester-le-Street. T.C.D.  |     |

MOLLUSCA.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>Potamopyrgus jenkinsi</b>                             | 67    |
| Bolam Lake.  |       |
| <b>Carychium minimum</b>                                 | 67    |
| Bolam Lake.  |       |
| <b>Lymnaea stagnalis</b>                                 | 67    |
| Bolam Lake.  |       |
| <b>Lymnaea peregra.</b>                                  | 67    |
| Bolam Lake; Rothley Lakes; Ryal, Capheaton.              |       |
| <b>Lymnaea albus</b>                                     | 67    |
| Rothley Lakes.   |       |
| <b>Lymnaea truncatula</b>                                | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Planorbis albus</b>                                   | 67,68 |
| Bolam Lake; Rothley Lakes (67). Cragside, Rothbury (68). |       |
| <b>Planorbis vortex</b>                                  | 67    |
| Rothley Lakes.   |       |
| <b>Sphaerium corneum</b>                                 | 67    |
| Bolam Lake.  |       |
| <b>Pisidium casertanum</b>                               | 67    |
| Bolam Lake.  |       |
| <b>Pisidium subtruncatum</b>                             | 67    |
| Bolam Lake, Rothley Lakes.                               |       |
| <b>Pisidium nitidum</b>                                  | 67,68 |
| Bolam Lake; Rothley Lakes (67). Cragside, Rothbury (68). |       |
| <b>Pisidium pulchellum</b>                               | 67    |
| Bolam Lake.  |       |
| <b>Pisidium personatum</b>                               | 67    |
| Rothley Lakes; Ryal, Capheaton.                          |       |
| <b>Pisidium milium</b>                                   | 67    |
| Rothley Lakes.   |       |
| <b>Pisidium lilljeborgii</b>                             | 68    |
| Cragside, Rothbury.                                      |       |
| <b>Bithynia tentaculata</b>                              | 67    |
| Rothley Lakes.   |       |
| <b>Aplexa hypnorum</b>                                   | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Lauria cylindrical</b>                                | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Marpessa laminata</b>                                 | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Clausilia bidentata</b>                               | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Balea perversa</b>                                    | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Arianta arbustorum</b>                                | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |
| <b>Helix nemoralis</b>                                   | 67    |
| Ryal, Capheaton.   |       |

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| <b>Hygromia striolata</b>      | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Hygromia hispida</b>        | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Helicella caperata</b>      | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Discus rotundata</b>        | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Arion intermedius</b>       | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Arion circumscriptus</b>    | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Arion hortensis</b>         | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Arion ater</b>              | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Vitrea crystallina</b> agg. | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Oxychilus alliarius</b>     | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Retinella radiatula</b>     | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Retinella nitidula</b>      | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Vitrina pellucida</b>       | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Limax maximus</b>           | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Lehmannia marginata</b>     | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton.               |    |
| <b>Agriolimax reticulata.</b>  | 67 |
| Ryal, Capheaton. R. H. Lowe.   |    |

#### FUNGI.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Hypoxylon coccineum</b> Bull.   | 66 |
| On fallen beech trunks, in plantation near Silksworth and on Herrington Hill. J. Thompson. |    |

#### FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Scabiosa columbaria</b> L. Small Scabious.  | 67         |
| N. bank of S. Tyne, near Wydon; S. bank of S. Tyne, near Beltingham; N. bank of Tyne, E. of Wylam.                           |            |
| <b>Petasites hybridus</b> (L.) Gaertn. Mey & Scherb. Butterbur (female).   | 67         |
| Roadside near Knarsdale Hall; near Bellister Castle; near Whitechapel (E. of Bardon Mill).                                   |            |
| <b>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</b> L. Wood Cudweed.  | 67         |
| S. bank of S. Tyne, near Beltingham.   |            |
| <b>Antennaria dioica</b> (L.) Gaertn. Cat's-foot.  | 66, 67, 68 |
| Ireshope (66). Mohope Burn (W. Allendale); Swinhope Burn, S. of the Forks (67). Hen Hole, at approx. 2,150 ft. (68).         |            |
| <b>Carduus nutans</b> L. Musk Thistle.   | 66, 68     |
| Near Greenside (66). Field, N. of Doddington; N. bank of Till, between Tindale House and Black Bank (68).                    |            |
| <b>Picris hieracioides</b> L. Hawkweed Ox-tongue.  | 68         |
| Railway, near Lanton Mill.   |            |
| <b>Mycelis muralis</b> (L.) Dumort Wall Lettuce.   | 67         |
| Mohope Burn (W. Allendale) at 1,250 ft.; Irthing, N. of Gilsland; Carr Shield, at 1,300 ft.                                  |            |
| <b>Potamogeton alpinus</b> Balb. Reddish Pondweed.   | 67         |
| Haltwhistle Burn, near Cawfields; pond on Plenneller Common; stream of Broadpool Common; small pond, near Ravensheugh Crags. |            |
| <b>Paris quadrifolia</b> L. Herb Paris.  | 67         |
| Devil's Water, near Linnoldswood Farm.   |            |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Epipactis helleborine</b> (L.) Crantz. Broad Helleborine.  | 67     |
| W. bank of S. Tyne, near Harper Town; S. bank of S. Tyne, near Beltingham.  |        |
| <b>Listera cordata</b> (L.) <b>R.Br.</b> Lesser Twayblade.  | 67     |
| Upper part of Swinhope Burn (E. Allendale).   |        |
| <b>Neottia nidus-avis</b> (L.) Rich. Bird's-nest Orchid.  | 67     |
| Woods, near the Convalescent Home, Gilsland.  |        |
| <b>Coeloglossum viride</b> (L.) Hartm. Frog Orchid.   | 67     |
| Hay meadow, N. of Carr Shield; Meadow near Pry Hill (E. Allendale): Honeycrook Burn; old quarry heaps, near Ravensheugh Crags.  |        |
| <b>Gymnadenia conopsea</b> (L.) R.Br. Fragrant Orchid.  | 67     |
| Meadow, near Studdon; small stream, near Sinderhope; Swinhope Burn (E. Allendale); meadow, near Wardrew (Irthing); hay meadow, near Whiteley Shield; Warks Burn; near Woodley Shield; Ouston Moor.                    |        |
| <b>Leuchorchis albida</b> (L.) E.Mey. ex Shur. Small White Orchid.  | 67     |
| Swinhope Burn (E. Allendale).   |        |
| <b>Platanthera chlorantha</b> (Custer) Reichb. Greater Butterfly Orchid.  | 67     |
| W. bank of S. Tyne, near Harper Town, in a hay meadow and also in marshy ground; meadow near Pry Hill (E. Allendale).   |        |
| <b>Orchis mascula</b> (L.) L. Early Purple Orchid.  | 67     |
| Devil's Water, near Linnoldswood Farm; meadow, near Garrets Hill (E. Allendale); E. bank of S. Tyne, S.W. of Haltwhistle; near Taylorburn and by the Mohope Burn (W. Allendale).                                      |        |
| <b>Lemma trisuica</b> L. Ivy Duckweed.  | 68     |
| Pond, near Ford Wood End.   |        |
| <b>Scirpus setaceus</b> L. Bristle Scirpus.   | 68     |
| Hollows, near Sandilands Bay, Holy Island.  |        |
| <b>Eleocharis quinqueflora</b> (F.X. Hartmann) Schwarz. Few flowered Spiked-rush.   | 67,70  |
| Haltwhistle Burn, near Cawfields; Irthing, near the Convalescent Home, Gilsland; Newbiggin Burn, near head of Font Reservoir; W. bank of Scaup Burn, just N. of Kielder Head (67). Irthing, near Forster's Hill (70). |        |
| <b>Carex laevigata</b> Sm. Smooth Sedge.  | 67     |
| Lewis Burn, S. of the Forks; W. bank of the N. Tyne, near Bridgeford; Corbridge Common; Dipton Dene; Upper Stoney Holes (Kielderhead Moor) at 1,100 ft.   |        |
| <b>Carex vesicaria</b> L. Bladder Sedge.  | 67     |
| Small pond, E. of Gilsland.   |        |
| <b>Carex pendula</b> Huds. Pendulous Sedge.   | 67     |
| Devil's Water, near Linnoldswood Farm.  |        |
| <b>Carex bigelowii</b> Torr. ex. Schwein. Stiff Sedge.  | 68     |
| Hen Hole, at approx. 2,150 ft.  |        |
| <b>Carex muricata</b> L. Prickly Sedge.   | 68     |
| Near Lanton Mill.   |        |
| <b>Carex dioica</b> L. Dioecious Sedge.   | 66, 67 |
| Ireshope (66). Head of Stobbylee Burn, between Lilswood Moor and Pikeley Rigg; Devil's Water, near Harwood Shield; Blackcleugh Burn (E. Allendale); Baron House Bog; S.E. bank of Kielder Burn, below Kielder         |        |
| Head; Birk Burn, near Birkyburn (Ottercops). (67.)  |        |
| <b>Catapodium rigidum</b> (L.) C. E. Hubbard. Hard Poa.   | 66     |
| Roadside, near Waskerley.   |        |
| <b>Melica nutans</b> L. Mountain Melick.  | 67     |
| Irthing, N. of Gilsland; Dipton Dene.   |        |
| <b>Koeleria cristata</b> (L.) Pers. Crested Hair-grass.   | 67     |
| Around Walltown.  |        |
| <b>Helictichon pratensis</b> (L.) Pilg. Meadow Oat.   | 67, 68 |
| N. bank of S. Tyne, near Wydon (67). Ford Wood End; cliff, just above Low Bleakhope (Breamish). (68).   |        |
| <b>Calamagrostis canescens</b> (Weber) Roth. Purple Smallreed.  | 68     |
| Cannonmill Bog. G. A. & M. Swan.  |        |