

Lepiota igni-volvata, a fungus new to Britain

I was delighted to realise that fungi would make a fascinating extension, by a month or so, of my hobby to photograph wild flowers and, accordingly, set out cycling on the 17th October 1975 to comb the area Peppard-Stoke Row-Cane End, seeking fungi.

Finding it quite beyond my limited botanical knowledge to sort them all out when I got home, I decided to risk being snubbed by Dr. F. B. Hora (whom I had never met) and to ask him to help. In the event I found him charming and extremely helpful. He immediately picked one fungus from my collection and put it to one side, reeling off all the others and writing the names down for me.

Three days later Dr. Hora phoned me to say that the one I picked out was apparently so rare that it had never been recorded in Britain before, that he had communicated with Dr. D. Reid who confirmed that he had no record of it at Kew, as having been found in Britain and, accordingly, my name was put down as the finder, at Kew Herbarium.

It was first recorded in France in 1948 and is considered very rare. On the 24th October we both set out for the Wyfold area to find it again, as Dr. Hora wanted samples for drying in order to be able to send to other botanists, and we were successful. (Dried specimens tell botanists all they want to know, it seems.)

"igni-" indicates that the base of the stipe, shaped rather like a human foot, has faint reddish markings when DRY.

J. P. Warrick

Fungi found on the Foray to Wasing Wood (O.S. 583632).

near Aldermaston on October 18th 1975

by P. Andrews

Identifications are by Dr. F. B. Hora. Species names of Agarics and Boleti are taken from the current British Check List, except in the case of Cortinarius mucifluus sensu J. Lange, which represents an emendation of that list (see note below).

Agaricus bitorquis

Armillaria mellea

Amanita citrina

Boletus badius

citrina var. *alba*

bovinus

muscaria

chrysenteron

rubescens

edulis

Boletus granulatus	Laccaria laccata
piperatus	Lactarius blennius
scaber	chrysorrheus
subtomentosus	hepaticus
variegatus	quietus
Calocera viscosa	rufus
Cantharellus cibarius	tabidus
tubaeformis	turpis
	vellereus
Clitocybe clavipes	Lycoperdon perlatum
dicolor	Marasmius androsaceus
Collybia cirrhata or cookii	Mycena galericulata
distorta	galopus
maculata	sanguinolenta
peronata	
Cortinarius alboviolaceus	Paxillus involutus
cinnabarinus	Piptoporus betulinus
elator	Pluteus salicinus
mucifluus <u>sensu</u> J. Lange	Psathyrella conopilea
torvus	gossypina
	hydrophila
Fistulina hepatica	
Gymnopilus penetrans	Russula caerulea
Hebeloma longiccudum	cyanoxantha
sinuosum	emetica
Heterobasidion (Fomes) annosum	fellea
	knauthii
Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca	mairei
Hypholoma fasciculare	ochroleuca
Inocybe fastigiata	sardonica
Kuehneromyces (Pholiota) mutabilis	Sparassis crispa
	Tricholoma nudum
	rutilans
	Xylaria hypoxylon

Dr. Hora adds the following note about Cortinarius mucifluus sensu J. Lange:

The Wasing Wood specimen matches exactly with J. Lange's description and coloured plate and there can be no doubt about the identification. What was originally meant in the literature by C. mucifluus has never been settled and interpretations are commonly referred to C. pseudo-salor, a species first described by J. Lange, who thus clearly considered the two species to be distinct. There is much to be said for abandoning the name C. mucifluus as being ambiguous and giving a new one to J. Lange's interpretation of it. Until this is done, the above citation can stand.

Reference

Dennis, R. W. G., Orton, P. D. & Hora, F. B. (1960) New Check List of British Agarics and Boleti. Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc., 43 suppl.

The Recorder's Report for Botany 1974-75

by B. M. Newman

This report has been made possible by the work of members who have kept records of the plants they have seen during the year, and once again their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. They are all regular contributors and their records are initialled.

Numbers of wild plants inevitably decrease as habitats disappear under roads and buildings, but there are still plenty to interest an enthusiastic observer. When the bull-dozers depart the road verges and gravel pits provide new habitats soon colonised by plants, and even rubbish tips have provided useful hunting grounds.

Among the rarer plants recorded this year are the Marsh Gentian, still flourishing at Hook Common and the Six-stamened Waterwort found at Sandhurst although thought to be extinct in the area.

The nomenclature and order are according to the "Flora of the British Isles" by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg, and an alien taxon is indicated by an asterisk (*). The English names are from "English Names of Wild Flowers", the recommended list of the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

Records were sent by:- Mr. P. Andrews (PA); Dr. H. J. M. Bowen (HJMB); Miss L. E. Cobb (LEC); Mr. M. Sell (MS); Dr. J. Toothill (JT); Mrs. E. M. Trembath (EMT).

List of Members' Records

<u>Juniperus communis</u> L.	Juniper	
Seedlings along the old railway cutting at Chilton.		(HJMB)
<u>Helleborus viridis</u> L.	Green Hellebore	
Near Nuffield.		(JT)
<u>Aconitum napellus</u> agg.	Monk's-hood	
Roadside near Downe House, Cold Ash.		(HJMB)
<u>Ranunculus circinatus</u> Sibth.	Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot	
In old gravel pit, Sandhurst.		(HJMB)
<u>Ranunculus trichophyllus</u> Chaix	Threadleaved Water-crowfoot	
Cock Marsh, 9th August.		(LEC)
<u>Thalictrum flavum</u> L.	Common Meadow-rue	
A very fine display along both sides of a drainage ditch after lengthy flooding of Pang water meadow at Pangbourne.		(EMT)
<u>Ceratophyllum demersum</u> L.	Rigid Hornwort	
In old gravel pit, Sandhurst.		(HJMB)
* <u>Rapistrum rugosum</u> (L.) All.	Bastard Cabbage	
On rubbish at Norris Green Tip, Woodley.		(HJMB)
<u>Rorippa islandica</u> (Oeder) Borbás	Marsh Yellow-cress	
Cock Marsh; 29th June.		(LEC)

<u>Hypericum androsaemum</u> L.	Tutsan	
Railway bank near Pangbourne Station.		(HJMB)
<u>Elatine hexandra</u> (Lapierre) DC	Six-stamened Waterwort	
On mud and floating in old gravel pit, Sandhurst. Found by R. C. Palmer, though believed to be extinct in v.c.22.		(HJMB)
<u>Montia perfoliata</u> (Willd.) Howell	Springbeauty	
Reading; second week in April.		(LEC)
<u>Chenopodium ficifolium</u> Sm.	Fig-leaved Goosefoot	
On rubbish at Norris Green Tip, Woodley.		(HJMB)
<u>Malva neglecta</u> Wallr.	Dwarf Mallow	
Sonning, 7th September.		(LEC)
<u>Impatiens capensis</u> Meerburgh	Orange Balsam	
Sonning, 7th September.		(LEC)
<u>Impatiens glandulifera</u> Royle	Indian Balsam	
Sonning, 7th September.		(LEC)
<u>Trifolium fragiferum</u> L.	Strawberry Clover	
Cock Marsh, 9th August.		(LEC)
<u>Coronilla varia</u> L.	Crown Vetch	
Recently disturbed soil, Childe-Beale Trust, Basildon.		(EMT)
<u>Pyrus communis</u> L.	Wild Pear	
Windsor Forest. Found by E. E. Green.		(HJMB)
<u>Saxifraga granulata</u> L.	Meadow Saxifrage	
Below the Ridgeway, near Chilton.		(JT)
<u>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</u> L.	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	
By streams in Hamstead Park, near Newbury.		(HJMB)
Mortimer, 8th March.		(LEC)
<u>Peplis portula</u> L.	Water-purslane	
On muddy shore of gravel pit, Sandhurst.		(HJMB)
<u>Callitriche intermedia</u> Hoffm.	Intermediate Water-starwort	
In old gravel pit, Sandhurst.		(HJMB)
<u>Viscum album</u> L.	Mistletoe	
On <u>Tilia</u> . South Hill Park, Bracknell.		(JT)
<u>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</u> L.	Marsh Pennywort	
Cock Marsh, 29th June.		(LEC)
<u>Smyrniolus olusatrum</u> L.	Alexanders	
On railway bank near Reading West. Found by Miss. E. Robson.		(HJMB)
<u>Oenanthe fistulosa</u> L.	Tubular Water-dropwort	
Cock Marsh, 29th June.		(LEC)
<u>Oenanthe aquatica</u> (L.) Poir.	Fine-leaved Water-dropwort	
Cock Marsh, 29th June.		(LEC)
<u>Mercurialis annua</u> L.	Annual Mercury	
On rubbish at Norris Green Tip, Woodley.		(HJMB)
<u>Polygonum mite</u> Schrank	Tasteless Water-pepper	
Shiplake, 28th September		(LEC)
<u>Fagopyrum esculentum</u> Moench	Buckwheat	
Shiplake, 30th August.		(LEC)

- Quercus petraea (Mattuschka) Liebl. Sessile Oak
Fairly common with many saplings, on Snelsmore Common. (HJMB)
- Pyrola minor L. Common Wintergreen
Woodland near Ascot. Found by R. C. Palmer. (HJMB)
- Hottonia palustris L. Water-violet
Cock Marsh, 29th June (LEC)
- Gentiana pneumonanthe L. Marsh Gentian
Hook Common, 6th September, flourishing in large numbers at this old site. (LEC)
- Nymphoides peltata (S.G.Gmel.) O.Kuntze Fringed Water-Lily
Well established in Whiteknights Lake. (PA)
- Antirrhinum orontium L. Lesser Snapdragon
Grassland, Hardwick estate. (EMT)
- Veronica scutellata L. Marsh Speedwell
Cock Marsh, 29th June. (LEC)
- Pedicularis sylvatica L. Housewort
Pangbourne. A fair spread this year. (EMT)
- Calamintha ascendens Jord. Common Calamint
Hardwick, 24th August. (LEC)
- Betonica officinalis L. Betony
Ashampstead. On felled woodland tracks. (EMT)
- Campanula trachelium L. Nettle-leaved Bellflower
A fine colony on bank of railway cutting west of Tilehurst station. (EMT)
- Bidens cernua L. Nodding Bur-marigold
Shiplake. 28th August. (LEC)
- Bidens tripartita L. Trifid Bur-marigold
Shiplake, 30th August. (LEC)
- Galinsoga parviflora Cav. Gallant Soldier
Earley. Roadside near Shepherd's House Inn. (HJMB)
- Galinsoga ciliata (Raf.) Blake Shaggy Soldier
Roadside, Bramshill. (JT)
- Tussilago farfara L. Colt's-foot
Burghfield, 8th February. (LEC)
- Erigeron glaucus Ker-Gawl Beach Aster
One clump by the railway near Tilehurst. (HJMB)
- Chrysanthemum segetum L. Corn Marigold
Sulham. In a barley field. (EMT)
- Chrysanthemum vulgare (L.) Bernh.. Tansy
Bridleway, Greathouse Woods. (EMT)
- Onopordum acanthium L. Cotton Thistle
a casual in a grassy field near Tilehurst. (HJMB)
- Centaurea diluta Aiton
Woodley. On rubbish at Norris Green tip. (HJMB)
- Potamogeton obtusifolius Mert. & Koch Blunt-leaved Pondweed
In old gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)
- Zannichellia palustris L. Horned Pondweed
In old gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

- Asparagus officinalis L. Wild Asparagus
On railway bank near Pangbourne Station. (HJMB)
- Allium ursinum L. Ramsons
On Berks. and Hants. banks of the river Whitewater near
Riseley. (PA)
Unhill Wood. (JT)
- Dactylorhiza fuchsii (Druce) Vermeul. Common Spotted-orchid
Lower Basingdon. Seventy-one good flowering spikes on embankment
created during roadworks in 1965. (EMT)
- Calla palustris L.
Near Ascot station. Found by R. C. Palmer. (HJMB)
- Eleocharis acicularis (L.) Roem & Schult. Needle Spike-rush
Old gravel pit, Charvil.
Forming a dense sward in old gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)
- Molinia caerulea (L.) Moench Purple Moor-grass
Colonising one corner of a gravel pit at Charvil. (HJMB)
- Echinochloa crus-galli (L.) Beauv. Cockspur
On rubbish at Norris Green tip, Woodley. (HJMB)

Botanical Records for 1973-74

omitted from the Reading Naturalist No. 27

- Ophioglossum vulgatum L. Adder's Tongue
Wick's Copse, Oxford. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Ranunculus auricomus L. Goldilocks Buttercup
In woods near Ashampstead. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Aquilegia vulgaris L. Columbine
Wick's Copse, Oxford. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Thlaspi arvense L. Field Penny-cress
Burghfield. Very large colony on newly formed bank to
gravel pit. (MS)
- Cardamine amara L. Large Bitter-cress
In ditches and on banks alongside river Thames, Streatley
to Moultsford. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Silene noctiflora L. Night-flowering
Several large plants in a field of Catchfly
Lucerne near Aston Upthorpe. (MS)
- Astragalus glycyphyllos L. Wild Liquorice
A fair number of plants near Wick's Copse, Oxford.
N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Cotoneaster horizontalis Decaisne Wall Cotoneaster
Several plants at Chinnor Hill, at a fair distance from
gardens. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Cotoneaster microphyllus Wall. ex Lindl. Small-leaved Cotoneaster
Well away from gardens at Chinnor Hill. N.H.S. walk. (MS)

- Chrysosplenium alternifolium L. Alternate-leaved Golden
One plant in bloom, Greenham. Saxifrage
Common, near Newbury. (MS)
- Carum carvi L. Caraway
Two plants at Wick's Copse, near Oxford. (MS)
- Pyrola minor L. Common Wintergreen
A colony of plants in a wood near Marlow. (MS)
- Primula veris L. x vulgaris Huds. Common Oxlip
One plant in woods near Ashampstead. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Pentaglottis sempervirens (L.) Tausch Green Alkanet
Some fine plants at Burghfield gravel pits. (MS)
- Cuscuta epithymum (L.) L. Dodder
Very large patch parasitic on Urtica dioica (Common Nettle) on
roadside at Bix Bottom. (MS)
- Atropa belladonna L. Deadly Nightshade
Large colony along verges, Warren Bank. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Lathraea squamaria L. Toothwort
A large colony growing on Corylus avellana (Hazel) in woods
near Ashampstead. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Acinos arvensis (Lam.) Dandy Basil Thyme
A large colony on disused railway line near Hermitage.
N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Campanula glomerata L. Clustered Bellflower
In full bloom at Streatley on May 19th. (MS)
- Petasites japonicus (Sieb. & Zucc.) F. Schmidt Giant Butterbur
A well established colony at a riverside site near Hungerford.
- Ornithogalum umbellatum L. Star-of-Bethlehem
A small colony by a lock near Streatley, well established away
from gardens. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Leucojum aestivum L. Summer Snowflake
Large colonies on islands in the river Thames, Streatley to
Moulsford. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Epipactis purpurata Sm. Violet Helleborine
One plant in woods, Chinnor Hill. N.H.S. walk.
Roadside colony at Stoke Row. One plant had at least sixty
flowers on one stem.
A fine plant at Lambridge Wood. (MS)
- Epipactis phyllanthes G. E. Sm. Green-flowered Helleborine
A small colony in Lambridge Wood, near Marlow. (MS)
- Orchis apifera Huds. Bee Orchid
Several plants in the Beechwoods at Chinnor. N.H.S. walk. (MS)
- Orchis morio L. Green-winged Orchid
A large colony, with shades from white to deep purple, near
Greenham Common. (MS)

The Recorder's Report for Entomology 1974-75

by B. R. Baker

Order Odonata (Dragonflies)

Agrion virgo (L.) Demoiselle Agrion
River Enborne, near Woolhampton, 1st and 14th June.

Enallagma cyathigerum Charp. Common Blue Damsel-fly
In the Water Garden, Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 15th and 29th June. (KIT)

Gomphus vulgatissimus (L.). Club-tail Dragon-fly
Vastern Road, Reading, 23rd June. This specimen, noticed dead in the road, had presumably been hit by a passing vehicle but with little visible damage.

Aeshna grandis (L.) Brown Aeshna
Many noticed on the river Kennet between Thatcham station and Bull's Lock on 25th August.

Order Ephemeroptera May-flies

Baetis scambus Eaton Moor Copse Nature Reserve, a male on 2nd October. (HHC)

Order Hemiptera (Plant-bugs, Leaf-hoppers, Aphids, etc.)

Acanthosomatidae

Cypostethus tristriatus (Fabr.) Juniper Bug
A single example from the Redlands area of Reading, November, 1975. Found by Mr. C. Bell, 60 Blenheim Gardens, Reading (AP). We have had 'town' records reported in earlier issues of Reading Naturalist and presume this bug, normally resident on downland, is existing on some garden form of Juniper or other alternative.

Miridae

Polymerus nigrita (Fallén) Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 10th July. (HHC)

Teratocoris saundersi Douglas and Scott Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 22nd August. (MC)

Lygaeidae

Scolopostethus decoratus (Hahn) Wokefield Common, 8th October. (HHC).

Cercopidae

Neophilaenus campestris (Fallén) Aldermaston, 23rd September. (HHC)

Order Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

Early Appearance of Hibernators

Aglais urticae (L.). Small Tortoiseshell Butler's Lands, Mortimer, 28th February. (BTP)

Notes on Immigrants

Vanessa atalanta (L.) Red Admiral

No early records received this year. Bracknell, 27th August. (MJD). Manor Farm, Reading, 7th September. (DCFC). Earley, 22nd September. (BTP). Mapledurham, 22nd September. (KIT)

Cynthia cardui (L.) Painted Lady

This immigrant also appeared spasmodically and then, only when the season was well advanced. Northcourt Avenue, Reading, 14th August. (LEC). Earley, 25th August. (BTP). Hook Common, 6th September. (LEC). Manor Farm, Reading, 13th September. (DCFC). Grove Hill, Reading, 14th August. (PS)

Macroglossum stellatarum (L.) Humming-bird Hawk-moth

It is many years since we have had records of this species in the Reading area, 1975 has produced two:-

In the garden of 2 Welland Close, Tilehurst, 21st September; a specimen observed several times during afternoon feeding at buddleia. (MRWS)

In the garden of 20 Glebe Road, Purley at 5 p.m. on 2nd October. Hovering over and darting around buddleia. (KIT)

Notes on Resident Species (Butterflies)

Hesperia comma (L.) Silver-spotted Skipper

Fairmile, Berkshire Downs, 27th July. Watlington Hill, numerous on 30th July. (BTP)

Callophrys rubi (L.) Green Hairstreak

Aston Upthorpe Downs, 31st May. (BTP)

Strymonidea w-album (Knoch) White Letter Hairstreak

Bradfield, 3rd August. (KVP)

Lycaena phlaeas (L.) Small Copper

This species seems to have benefited from the hot summer and has been recorded from numerous localities, the records in October relate to a third brood:-

Purley, 20th, 21st September (KIT). Kidmore End, 9th October (KIT). Manor Farm, Reading, 7th September (DCFC). Theale, 20th October (DCFC). Crowthorne, 22nd August (MJD). Wokingham, 29th July. Gatehampton, 1st August. Earley, 3rd August. Silchester, 7th August (BTP). Padworth, 14th July. Tadley, 19th June. (PS)

Lysandra coridon (Poda) Chalkhill Blue

Watlington Hill, 30th July. Gatehampton, 1st August (BTP). Bozdown, 28th July. (PS)

Celastrina argiolus (L.) Holly Blue

Allcroft Road, Reading, 26th April. Silchester, 19th May, Earley, 27th July. (BTP). Purley, 19th August. (KIT)

Hamearis lucina (L.) Duke of Burgundy Fritillary

Aston Upthorpe Downs, 31st May. (LEC)

Apatura iris (L.) Purple Emperor

Pamber Forest, 25th July, a female seen flying over willows.

(BTP)

Argynnis aglaja (L.) Dark Green Fritillary
Gatehampton, 24th June. Watlington Hill, 30th July. (BTP)
Haughurst area, 26th July. Wolverton, 29th July, Padworth,
4th, 15th July. (PS)

Melanargia galathea (L.) Marbled White
Mapledurham, 16th, 18th, 23rd July. (KIT) Hartslock, 19th July.
(KIT) Watlington Hill, 30th July. Hartslock, 1st August. (BTP)
Wolverton, 29th July. (PS)

Hipparchia semele (L.) Grayling
Silchester Common, 7th August. (BTP) Crowthorne, 22nd August.
(MJD) Aldermaston, 7th July. (PS)

Notes on Resident Species (Moths)

Conopia myopaeformis (Borkh.) Red-belted Clearwing
This little clearwing is probably resident as a colonist of apple
trees in many gardens in Reading. Our records over the past
decade relate to gardens in the east of the Town; these records
are therefore also some measure of the distribution of our members
who have remembered to scrutinise their apple trunks on sunny
days at the end of June. 1975 sightings were:- 2 College Road,
Reading, 30th June. (EB) 25 Matlock Road, Caversham, 13th July.

Chloroclysta citrata (L.) Dark Marbled Carpet
Padworth, 8th, 29th August. (PC, PH, RW)

Perizoma bifaciata (Haw.) Barred Rivulet
Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 1st August. (PC, PH, RW) Goring Heath,
29th July.

Eilema deplana (Esp.) Buff Footman
Padworth, 8th August. (PC, PH, RW)

Cucullia absinthii (L.) Wormwood Shark
Thatcham Moor, July. (PD) A notable record, the second for
the County.

Cosmia diffinis (L.) White Spot Pinion
Padworth, 15th, 29th August. (PC, PH, RW)

Mesoligia literosa (Haw.) Rosy Minor
Padworth, 8th August. (PC, PH, RW)

Archana dissoluta (Treits.) Brown Veined Wainscot
Woolhampton, 25th July. This wainscot was first recorded for
Berkshire in 1974 from the Kennet reed beds at Thatcham. It is
evidently a new-comer to the district and is presumably breeding
as further specimens were recorded at Thatcham in 1975. (PD)

Hoplodrina ambigua (D. & S.) Vine's Rustic
Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 17th August. Padworth, 5th September.
(PD)

Chilodes maritimus (Tausch.) Silky Wainscot
Until 1975 records of this species from the Kennet Valley reed
beds were scant, but on each of the following dates several
examples of this little wainscot were attracted to mercury vapour
lights at Woolhampton:- 14th, 17th, 20th June; 19th, 25th July.

Diachrysia chryson (Esp.) Scarce Burnished Brass
Woolhampton, 19th July.

Parascotia fuliginaria (L.) Waved Black Moth
Woolhampton, 19th July.

Order Hymenoptera (Bees, Ants, Wasps, Saw-flies and Ichneumon-flies)

Siricidae

Sirex juvenis (L.) male, 3rd August, Curridge Corner, Hermitage. (SPC)

Tenthredinidae

Eutomostethus punctatus (Konow)

Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 20th May. (HHC)

Tenthredo omisssa (Foerster)

Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 12th August. (HHC) This is a new county record.

Nematus bipartitus Lepelletier

Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 28th August. (HHC)

Ichneumonidae

Cratichneumon rufifrons (Gravenhorst) Wokefield Common, 24th June. (HHC)

Cynipidae

Synergus gallaepomiformis B. de Fons.

Chalkhouse Green, 3rd June. (HHC)

Formicidae

Leptothorax acervorum (Fabr.)

Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 10th July. (HHC)

Sphecidae

Diodontus luparus Shuckard

Wokefield Common, 24th June. (HHC)

Nysson trimaculatus (Rossi)

Reading, 25th July. (EB)

Prosopidae

Prosopis hyalinata (F. Smith)

Reading, 24th June. (EB)

Halictidae

Halictus eurygnathus Bluethgen

Nuney Green, 25th April. (HHC)

H. minutus (Schrank)

Nuney Green, 30th April. (HHC)

Sphecodes crassus Thomson

Nuney Green, 25th, 30th April. (HHC)

Andrenidae

Andrena parvuloides Perkins

Chalkhouse Green, 6th June. (HHC)

Megachilidae

Heriades truncorum (L.)

Burghfield Common, 6th July, 1972. (EB) A flourishing colony of this uncommon and local bee. New county record.

Chelostoma campanularum (Kirby)

Burghfield Common, 14th June, 1973. (HHC) Sharing the nest site of the preceding species, together with C. florissomme under which name they had stood hitherto in the Reading Museum collection.

Order Diptera (True Flies)

Tipulidae

Tipula maxima Poda

Reading, 16th July, 1975. (BTP) Not new, but an unexpected locality.

Prionocera turcica (F.)

Woolhampton, September 1974. (HHC)

Erioptera trivialis Meigen

Wokefield Common, 12th April 1975. (HHC)

Dicranota pavida (Haliday)

Wokefield Common, 16th April 1975. (HHC)

Molophilus obscurus (Meigen)

Aldermaston, 23rd September 1975. (HHC)

Culicidae

Aedes annulipes (Meigen)

Reading, 22nd May 1975 (EB)

Chironomidae

Metriocnemus picipes (Meigen)

Reading, 14th January 1975. (EB)

M. hygropetricus Kieffer

Reading, 30th January 1975. (EB)

Hydrobaenus pratorum (Goetghebuer)

Reading, 6th January 1975. (EB)

Micropsectra brunnipes Zetterstedt

Reading, 6th May 1975. (EB)

Mycetophilidae (det. P. J. Chandler)

Macrocera vittata Meigen

Reading, 13th June 1971. (EB)

M. angulata Meigen

Wokefield Common, 14th June 1973. (EB)

M. cingulata Meigen

Reading, 14th September 1974. (EB)

M. phalerata Meigen

Reading, 25th July 1974. (EB)

Brevicornu crassicorne Stann.

Goring Heath, 30th October 1968. (EB)

Rondaniella dimidiata (Meigen)

Goring Heath, 10th November 1973. (EB)

Exechia fusca (Meigen)

Reading, 16th November 1974. (EB)

Asindulum flavum (Winn)

Wokefield Common, 20th July 1973. (HHC)

Tabanidae

Haematopota crassicornis Wahlberg

Moor Copse, 10th June 1975. (HHC)

Chrysops pictus Meigen

Wokefield Common, 24th June 1975. (HHC)

Asilidae

Asilus crabroniformis L.

pair in cop., Gatehampton, 1st August 1975. (BTP). A noteworthy capture.

Platypezidae (det. P. J. Chandler)

Seri obscuripennis Old.

Wokefield Common, 4th October 1970. (EB) A new British record.

Platypeza fasciata (Meigen)

Reading, 20th September 1970. (EB)

Callomyia amoena Meigen

Woolhampton, 3rd September 1975. (HHC)

Agromyzidae

Napomyza lateralis (Fallén)

Reading, 11th January 1975. (EB)

Agromyza reptans Fallén

Reading, 5th November 1974. (EB)

Phytomyza taraxacocecis Hering

Reading, 11th May 1975. (EB)

Braulidae

Braula coeca Nitzsch

Checkendon, 12th August 1975 on queen bee in hive. (W. Fairbairn)

Tachinidae

Meigenia bisignata (Meigen)

Reading, 7th May 1975. (EB)

Degeeria luctuosa (Meigen)

Moor Copse, 10th July 1975. (HHC)

Leskia inanis agg. (Fallén)

Chalkhouse Green, 29th July 1975. (HHC)

L. tibialis (von Roser)

Moor Copse, 30th July 1975. (HHC)

Brachichaeta strigata (Meigen)

Woolhampton, 8th August 1975. (HHC)

Zenillea longicauda Wainwright
Moor Copse, 22nd August 1975. (HHC)

Calliphoridae

Sarcophaga albiceps Meigen
Moor Copse, 17th June 1975. (HHC)

S. rosellei Buttcher
Moor Copse, 17th September 1975. (HHC)

Muscidae

Haematobia stimulans (Meigen)
Aldermaston, 23rd September 1975 on cattle. (HHC)

Lyperosia irritans (L.)
Sonning Common, 24th August 1975 on cattle. (HHC)

Lispocephala pallipalpis Zetterstedt
Wokefield Common, 16th April 1975. (HHC) A new county record.

Fannia scalaris (F.)
Reading, 14th September 1975. (EB)

Limnophora triangula (Fallén)
Aldermaston, 23rd September 1975. (HHC)

The Society's Entomological Evening

This took place during the night of 1st/2nd August at Moor Copse Nature Reserve near Tidmarsh, Berkshire.

The weather conditions were ideal for insect flight and the good attendance of members were able to observe moths in abundance. Four mercury vapour lamps were in operation spread over the Reserve and a total of one hundred and one different species of Lepidoptera were recorded. The details of species additional to the Moor Copse list published in Reading Naturalist No. 27 1975, are given in a supplement in this present publication.

The Recorder acknowledges the help received from the following contributors:- Dr. E. Burt (EB); H. H. Carter (HHC); Mary Carter (MC); Peter Cuss (PC); Miss L. E. Cobb (LEC); Simon Corbett (SC); D. C. F. Cotton (DCFC); P. A. Davey (PAD); M. J. Dumbleton (MJD); Phillip Hooper (PH); A. Price (AP); B. T. Parsons (BTP); K. V. Pritchard (KVP); M.R.W. Sell (MRWS); P. Silver (PS); K. I. Thomas (KIT); and Robert Wood (RW).

We also acknowledge our indebtedness to the Director of Reading Museum & Art Gallery for allowing inclusion of the relevant records of specimens which are housed in the Museum's collections.

Recorder's Report for Vertebrates 1974-75

by H. H. Carter

PISCES

Esox lucius L. Pike.

Tinca tinca (L.) Tench.

Abramis brama (L.) Bream. All taken in Burghfield Gravel Pit during the year. (CW)

Leuciscus leuciscus (L.) Dace.

Alburnus alburnus (L.) Bleak. Both from Thames at Goring.

Salmo trutta L. Trout. Plentiful in the Pang at Moor Copse, Tidmarsh.

Gasterosteus aculeatus L. Three-spined Stickleback. Abundant in the Pang at Moor Copse in sheltered situations, though too small to maintain itself against the main current.

AMPHIBIA and REPTILIA

Triturus helveticus (Razoumowsky) Palmated Newt. Six at Wokefield Common Fish Pond, 22.4.75.

Rana temporaria L. Frog. Spawa found in a garden pond in Reading, 14.3.75. (DCFC). Many juveniles emerging from a pond at Bracknell, 9.7.75. (MJD)

Bufo bufo (L.) Toad. In evidence at an unusually early date. One dead on road, Sonning Common, 15.12.74. One dead on Barkham Road, Earley, 16.1.75. (BTP) One dead on Peppard Road, Chalkhouse Green, 30.1.75. One dead on Peppard Road near Emmer Green duckpond, 5.2.75. Single animals in or near Sonning Common on four dates from 8.3.75 to 18.9.75. One dead on road in Bracknell, 13.4.75 and three more, 17.4.75. (MJD) This observer also found eight together under a stone in his garden at Bracknell last year, 21.4.74. Several pairs were in amplexus at Pullen's Pond, Wokefield Common, 16.4.75. Abundant spawn was found there 22.4.75, and on the same date two dead toads were seen and a live male heard at the Fish Pond. It was not possible to check the Binfield Heath site as this has been fenced off and warning notices erected. Casualties among the breeding adults were very heavy in 1974, so this protection may prove beneficial.

Anguis fragilis L. Slow Worm. Three found at Mortimer, 22.1.75. Present at Bix in the summer of 1974. (NP)

Lacerta vivipara Jacquin Common Lizard. One at the old gravel pit near Three Firs, Wokefield Common, 22.4.75. Present at Bix in the summer of 1974. (NP)

Natrix natrix (L.) Grass Snake. Two at Wargrave Marsh, 3.5.75, one at Moor Copse, 4.5.75. (ERB) Two at Moor Copse, 22.8.75. One at Bearwood, 31.5.75; one, 900mm. long, killed by a gardener at Sindlesham, 2.8.75. (DCFC) Present at Bix Bottom. (N.P.).

Vipera berus (L.) Adder. Female, 500mm. long, basking at Arborfield, 18.3.75. (DCFC) Two near Five Oaken, Wokefield Common, 22.4.75. One about 600mm. long photographed at Bramshill, August 1975, by Mr. Yaxley.

MAMMALIA

INSECTIVORA

Talpa europaea L. Mole. Records rather few. One seen above ground and very active in wood near Frogmoor Farm, Stanford Dingley, at mid-day, 29.6.75. (KVP) One dead in garden at Bracknell, 30.6.75. (MJD) (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield (KP) - see note at end).

Sorex araneus L. Common Shrew. One found dead at Bracknell last year, 22.4.74. (MJD) One at Wyfold and at Withy Copse, 1.12.74; one at Peppard, 19.12.74. One at Satwell, Rotherfield Greys, 12.4.75. One, Greys Lane, 19.4.75. Two, Unicorn Lane, Peppard Common, 23.4.75. One, Bishopsland Farm, 28.4.75, and again, 1.5.75, and other localities in and near Sonning Common on six dates up to 30.6.75. One at Lowfield Farm, Henley Road, 27.5.75. (AW) (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield (KP) - see note at end.)

S. minutus L. Pygmy Shrew. One found dead at Crowthorne last year, 11.7.74. (MJD) (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield (KP) - see note at end.)

Neomys fodiens Pallas Water Shrew. Two found dead by River Loddon at Swallowfield. (KP)

Erinaceus europaeus L. Hedgehog. Again a year of abundance; animals late going into hibernation. Seen in Sonning Common area on eleven dates from 19.10.74 to 21.12.74, and after hibernation on seventeen dates from 27.4.75 to 17.9.75. One crossing road at Bradfield, 29.8.75. (KVP)

CHIROPTERA

Nyctalus noctula (Schreber) Noctule. Seen at Whiteknights on many dates in 1974, and twenty counted at the roost there on 26.6.75. (DCFC)

Myotis daubentoni (Kuhl) Daubenton's Bat. Taken in a mist-net beside Millbarn Pond, Wokefield, last summer, 13.6.74. (DCFC) A welcome record.

Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber) Pipistrelle. One - three bats together at localities in the Sonning Common area on nine dates from 23.4.75 to 25.8.75. Many seen during the year at Bracknell. (MJD) Seen last year at Wokefield, 13.6.74 and Virginia Water, 1.12.74, this year at Whiteknights, 11.4.75. (DCFC)

Placotus auritus (L.) Long-eared Bat. One found dead at Broomfield Road, Tilehurst, 23.5.75. (Helen Gautier)

LAGOMORPHA

Lepus capensis Pallas Hare. Twenty-three records from Sonning Common area, 31.10.74 to 11.9.75, mostly single animals, maximum four at Bishopsland Farm, 14.4.75. One at Bearwood, 31.5.75 and one at Manor Farm, 18.7.75. (DCFC) Further evidence of the scarcity of Hares in a good Rabbit year.

Oryctolagus cuniculus (L.) Rabbit. One hundred and seventy-five sightings north and west of Reading throughout the year, maximum

twenty-seven at Bishopsland Farm, 22.4.75. Large numbers of juveniles in March and April, animals of all ages scarce from mid-July onwards. One case of myxomatosis observed. DCFC, observing mainly to the south and east of Reading, saw hundreds during the year. Present at Hamstead Park, October 1975. (HJMB)

RODENTIA

Rattus norvegicus Berkenhout Brown Rat. Four seen dead on road from Sonning Common to Emmer Green, 3.5.75; 16.6.75 (MJC), 17.6.75 and 12.10.75, one on Henley Road, Caversham, 11.10.75; no evidence of unusual abundance in Oxfordshire. DCFC however found rats in large numbers south and east of Reading, amounting almost to plague proportions on some farms. (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield - see note at end.)

Apodemus flavicollis (Melchior) Yellow-necked Mouse. KVP trapped this species at Bradfield, where it frequently enters his house at Buscot Copse in the absence of House Mice. He observes that no A. sylvaticus have entered; this habit preference has been noted by other observers. Male trapped at the same locality by Mrs. Charley in mid-December 1974.

Apodemus spp. At Bradfield on 30.12.74 KVP found three field mice together under the metal floor of a bird-watching hide and three more in two nest boxes; a third nest box contained no mouse or nest material but was filled to the brim with acorns. Use of old birds' nests is recorded for sylvaticus but not for flavicollis.

Apodemus sylvaticus (Linnaeus) Wood Mouse. One found dead at Crosscroft Wood, Peppard, 23.3.75; one dead at Peppard post office, an adult male, 5.4.75. Present at Hamstead Park in October 1975, (HJMB), and in the same month EMT working with Longworth traps at Pangbourne caught this species regularly on every trap-night. (Skulls in pellets at Swallowfield - see note at end.)

Mus musculus Linnaeus House Mouse. One dead in Reading Market Place, 4.12.74. Numerous on Westleigh Drive estate, Sonning Common (built late 1960's) where attracted by pets' food.

Micromys minutus (Pallas) Harvest Mouse. Two nests in October 1973 under blackthorn hedge, Cutbush Lane, near Earley Sewage Farm. (P. T. Parsons)

Microtus agrestis (L.) Short-tailed Vole. Present at Burghfield, 1.2.75. (DCFC) One dead at Sonning Common, 25.4.75. One dead near Reading Station, 3.10.75. (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield - see note at end.)

Clethrionomys glareolus Schreber Bank Vole. One at Arborfield, 22.4.75. (DCFC) One at Moor Copse, Tidmarsh, 15.7.75. (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield - see note at end.)

Arvicola amphibius (L.) Water Vole. Present at Bradfield, 6.3.75 and 13.4.75. (DCFC) Two - three at Moor Copse, 22.8.75 and throughout the summer. (Skulls in pellets from Swallowfield - see note at end.)

Muscardinus avellanarius (L.) Dormouse. Present at Sawyers Wood, Tidmarsh. (Major Short)

Sciurus carolinensis Gmelin. Grey Squirrel. Hundreds present to the south and east of Reading. (DCFC) Eighty-two sightings in the Sonning Common area, in every month of the year. A male found dead at Hermitage, 26.10.74. (J. Gale) Three at Sawyers Wood, Tidmarsh, 20.12.74. Present at Hamstead Park, October 1975. (HJMB) Skull found at Swallowfield. (KP)

Meles meles (L.) Badger. Dead juvenile last year at Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, 7.2.74. (Mrs. Kemp) Footprint in New Copse, Gallowstree Common, 2.3.75. One at Bearwood, 24.4.75. (DCFC) Adult seen crossing road in late evening at Buscot Hill, Bradfield, 27.4.75. (KVP) One dead on Warfield Road, Bracknell, 30.4.75. (MJD) One found dead near sett at Tidmarsh, 6.8.75. (EMT) One found dead at Cold Ash, 6.9.75.

Mustela erminea L. Stoat. The only record this year comes from KVP who saw one hunting along the bank of the River Pang at Bradfield, 22.4.75.

M. nivalis L. Weasel. One seen by MJD in his garden at Bracknell, 18.2.75. Several seen during the year, including one at Theale, 5.7.75 and one at Whiteknights, 11.5.75, which emerged from a hole five metres up the trunk of a mature oak tree around which twenty - twenty-five excited starlings were gathered. The birds at once attacked the weasel which spiralled up the trunk to escape. (DCFC) One crossing Blounts Court Road, Sonning Common, 2.10.75.

M. vison Schreber Mink. One piebald animal on the bank of the Kennet near Theale, 1.11.74. Three seen along a mile (1.6 Km.) of the Kennet below Theale in mid-September 1975. (A. Munday per HJMB)

Lutra lutra (L.) Otter. One at Stanton Harcourt, 14.9.75 (HJMB)

Vulpes vulpes (L.) Fox. One in a Reading garden, 26.1.75, and six or more other sightings during the year. (DCFC) Bred at Sawyers Wood, Tidmarsh. (Major Short) One dead in Luckmore Drive, Earley, 11.1.75. Vixen calling at midnight, Buscot Copse, Bradfield, 21.6.75 and one seen near earth after dark, Fisher's Copse, Bradfield, 1.7.75. (KVP) One - three heard at night in the Sonning Common area on sixteen dates from 9.11.74 to 14.9.75 in every month except October. One seen carrying a dead cat in Mill Lane, Reading at 5 a.m. 6.10.75. (Mr. Knott)

Cervus dama L. Fallow Deer. Two parties of three and eight deer on Inkpen downs, 16.3.75 and slots seen near Silchester on the Englefield estate, 6.4.75. (KVP) A white fallow deer at Bramshill, 25.5.75 and two males at Silchester, 18.10.75. (DCFC) Slots, probably of this species, seen at Hamstead Park, October, 1975. (HJMB) Animals seen or heard, or fresh slots found in the Crowsley area on six dates from 1.3.75 to 25.8.75. (HHC and MJC)

Muntiacus reevesi Ogilby Muntjac. Slots found in Flowercroft Wood, Peppard, 2.3.75 and New Copse, Gallowstree Common, 2.3.65. KVP disturbed one from a bramble patch near Broomhill Copse, Bradfield at mid-afternoon, 17.8.75, but got only a fleeting glimpse of it. Reported from Bix Bottom.

Capreolus capreolus (L.) Roe Deer. Records continue to come in from the southern part of our area. Slots were found at

Ufton Court, 27.4.75. KVP saw one there, 8.5.75 and found slots with those of C. dama as reported above, 6.4.75. A female seen at Bearwood, 26.5.75. (BTP) As predicted last year, the areas occupied by the last two species now overlap.

Kathie Pickhaver, collecting pellets of raptors around Swallowfield, was able to accumulate a considerable quantity of small mammal and bird bones for identification. The predator responsible was unfortunately not known in most instances, but the majority of pellets were probably those of Strix aluco L. (Tawny Owl) and some were known to be from Tyto alba (Scopoli) (Barn Owl). The mammals were as follows:-

<u>Talpa europaea</u> L.	Mole	10 items
<u>Sorex araneus</u> L.	Common Shrew	103 "
<u>S. minutus</u> L.	Pygmy Shrew	27 "
<u>Neomys fodiens</u> Pallas	Water Shrew	2 " (not from pellets - found dead)
<u>Rattus norvegicus</u> Berkenhout	Brown Rat	68 " + 1 as above
<u>Apodemus sylvaticus</u> (L.)	Wood Mouse	92 "
<u>Microtus agrestis</u> (L.)	Short-tailed Vole	83 "
<u>Clethrionomys glareolus</u> Schreber	Bank Vole	4 "
<u>Arvicola amphibius</u> (L.)	Water Vole	23 "
<u>Sciurus carolinensis</u> Gmelin	Grey Squirrel	1 " (not from pellets - found dead)

The absence of Apodemus flavicollis (Melchior) (Yellow-necked Mouse) and Mus musculus L. (House Mouse) is noteworthy, as is the paucity of Sorex minutus and Clethrionomys compared with their near relatives.

When the numbers of items above are multiplied by the average body weight of the species represented, the results give a rough and ready index of their comparative importance as food for the predator. Shown as percentages of the total, they are:-

Talpa	2.7%
Sorex spp.	3.0%
Rattus	65.5%
Apodemus	5.1%
Microtus	6.4%
Clethrionomys	0.5%
Arvicola	16.8%
	100.0

(Virtually all the remains were those of adult animals, though a proportion of young ones may have been taken but not recovered because of their lesser durability. Bird remains were less than 1% of the total.)

In conclusion, I would like to thank the following contributors for records received:- BRB Brian Baker, HJMB Humphrey Bowen, MJC Mary Carter, DCFC Donald Cotton, MJD Michael Dumbleton, BTP Basil Parsons, NP Nigel Philips, KP Kathie Pickhaver, KVP Keith Pritchard, EMT Mary Trembath, CW Charlotte Wheeler AW Anne Whittle.

Weather Records in 1975

by A. E. Moon

The data refer to Reading University Meteorological Station. Since this is a new site, as mentioned in the summary for 1971, no comparison with an average is yet possible. All temperature readings are in Celsius degrees and rainfall measurements in millimetres which is now standard practice. A "rain day" is a day on which rainfall equals or exceeds 0.2 mm. For the designation of frost and ground frost days see Weather Records in 1961, but using all values below 0.0° Celsius.

STATION - READING UNIVERSITY. HEIGHT ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL - 215 ft.

		JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	YEAR
MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURES	MAX.	9.8	8.5	7.7	12.6	14.1	21.1	23.2	24.5	18.5	13.7	9.6	7.3	14.2
	MIN.	4.3	1.4	2.5	4.6	6.3	9.2	12.6	13.2	9.3	6.3	2.8	1.6	6.2
	MEAN	7.1	4.9	5.1	8.6	10.2	15.1	17.9	18.9	13.9	10.0	6.2	4.5	10.2
	RANGE	5.5	7.1	5.2	8.0	7.8	11.9	10.6	11.3	9.2	7.4	6.8	5.7	8.0
	GRASS MIN.	1.1	-2.1	-0.7	1.1	2.8	3.2	7.9	8.2	4.0	1.3	-1.4	-1.8	2.0
EXTREME TEMPERATURES	E. MAX.	13.5	12.3	12.9	20.4	21.2	26.5	29.9	33.0	23.8	17.3	14.0	11.9	33.0
	DATE	15	28	1	24	20	12.26	30	4	7	30	15	1	Aug. 4
	E. MIN.	-1.3	-2.2	-2.1	-2.0	-0.1	3.0	8.0	7.1	3.5	0.0	-2.3	-6.2	-6.2
	DATE	19	22	29	5	31	1	3	23	16	14	14	16	Dec. 16
	E. GRASS MIN.	-5.6	-8.2	-9.3	-7.3	-7.3	-4.6	0.2	-0.1	-2.9	-5.7	-7.9	-9.9	-9.9
	DATE	19, 26	22	17	5	31	1, 4	3	23	16	14	21	16	Dec. 16
DAYS WITH FROST		2	6	6	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	10	39
" " GROUND FROST		16	21	16	13	10	7	0	1	6	14	21	21	146
SUNSHINE HOURS	SUN.	44.6	73.8	71.6	145.5	154.0	305.6	247.2	225.6	148.4	121.8	81.3	39.8	1659.2
	% POSS.	17	27	20	35	32	62	50	50	39	37	30	16	37
	DAILY MEAN	1.44	2.63	2.31	4.85	4.97	10.19	7.97	7.28	4.95	3.93	2.71	1.28	4.55
PRECIPITATION m.m.	AMOUNT	96.8	28.5	68.3	42.2	48.1	7.9	63.6	25.7	98.6	20.9	54.5	26.4	581.5
	RAIN DAYS	23	9	20	18	9	5	9	12	18	7	15	7	152
	MAX. RAIN IN 1 DAY	14.3	7.4	15.3	12.3	21.3	3.7	27.2	6.1	43.0	4.6	18.4	17.6	43.0
	DATE	18	14	8	18	16	2	31	8	13	17	28	1	Sept. 13
LONGEST RUN OF CONSECUTIVE RAIN DAYS		20	9	8	6	3	2	2	4	7	2	6	2	-
LONGEST RUN OF CONSECUTIVE DRY DAYS		4	10	4	7	7	13	7	6	4	13	8	10	-
SNOW OR SLEET DAYS		2	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
DAYS SNOW LYING		0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
VISIBILITY	FOG AT 0900 G.M.T.	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	22
THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY	DAYS OF THUNDER	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	2	1	1	0	0	12
	DAYS OF HAIL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Monthly Weather Notes, 1975

1975

<u>January</u>	Wettest since 1948 and the mildest since 1921. 2.5mm. of rain fell in nine minutes at 10h. on 20th and 1.2mm. in three minutes at 11h.12m. on 27th. First ice of the winter noted on evaporation tanks on 19th.
<u>February</u>	Fogs were more frequent than normal and at 0900h. the number was the highest since 1961 (11). The 15th was the coldest day of the winter to the end of the present month.
<u>March</u>	Coldest since 1970 and wettest since 1964. The sunshine total was the lowest since 1969; the total sunshine in the first fifteen days of the month was only 11.7 hours.
<u>April</u>	The cold weather of the first ten days produced the greatest number of days with snow in April since 1970. The number of days with air frosts was the same as that year, all occurring in the first ten days. The night of the 25th/26th was, however, the warmest in April since 14th/15th 1945. Day temperature reached 60°F (15.56°C) for the first time this year on 14th.
<u>May</u>	Coldest since 1941. The 17th was the coldest May day since 18th 1968. The sunshine total was the lowest since 1969.
<u>June</u>	Average temperature was only slightly lower than in 1973, but rainfall was the lowest since 1962, when the total was only 3mm. It was however, the sunniest June since sunshine records began in Reading in 1939, the previous highest being 282.4 hours in 1940, and is the first time a total of 300 hours has been reached in any month, the previous highest being 298.8 hours in July 1959. In the eight days 6th-13th, 113.2 hours of sunshine occurred.
<u>July</u>	Sunniest since 1971. Of four heavy falls of rain in short periods two are worthy of mention - 6.1mm. in six minutes at 03h.48m. (G.M.T.) on 8th and 18.8mm. in ten minutes 17h.50m.-18h.00m. on 31st, both during thunderstorms.
<u>August</u>	Warmest since 1955; it was the first time 32.2°C (90°F) has been exceeded in this month since 16th 1947. The night of the 4th/5th was the warmest in August since 17th/18th 1947. It was the driest August since 1964 and sunniest since 1959.
<u>September</u>	The wettest month so far this year; the 13th was the wettest September day since 15th 1968.
<u>October</u>	Driest since 1970 and sunniest since 1971.
<u>November</u>	Although a wetter month, temperature and sunshine values were similar to 1973. The first ice recorded on evaporation tank on 22nd compared with the very late date of 19th January 1975 last winter.
<u>December</u>	Coldest since 1970 and driest since 1963. The minimum temperature of -6.2°C on 16th was the lowest December figure since 9th 1967.

Atmospheric Pollution 1975

Measurements of smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) are summarised in the following table. They constitute the results of daily measurements of smoke and SO₂ pollution by air filter and volumetric method respectively from apparatus installed in the Geography Department, Reading University, at Whiteknights.

Smoke Concentration Microgrammes per cu.m.				Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂) Concentration Microgrammes per cu.m.			
Month	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Mean	Highest	Lowest	
January	10	24 3rd, 18th	2 5th, 22nd	31	60 4th	13 13th	
February	54	126 28th	13 12th, 16th	97	367 26th	27 18th	
March	9	22 10th	0 2nd	47	82 14th	20 12th, 13th	
April	9	22 25th	2 7th, 20th, 29th, 30th	47	62 5th, 6th, 22nd	27 23rd	
May	9	27 22nd	2 1st, 26th	40	85 19th	21 5th, 6th, 15th, 16th	
June	4	16 6th	0 15th, 27th, 28th, 29th	46	108 7th	15 29th	
July	3	13 29th, 31st	0	36	89 2nd	15 13th	
August	9	37 28th	0 15th, 16th, 19th	49	149 28th	13 16th	
September	6	29 1st	0 13th, 27th	32	77 1st	13 11th, 24th, 28th	
October	19	59 29th	1 2nd	58	103 20th	20 2nd	
November	32	151 14th	3 15th	92	178 13th	47 1st, 15th	
December	33	128 15th	1 1st, 27th	83	208 15th	27 30th	
Year	16	151 14th Nov.	0 Various	55	367 26th Feb.	13 Vari- ous	

* 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th