Fungus Report 1977

by J. P. Warrick

Far too many species were seen for all of them to be listed here, so only those hoped to be of interest are reported.

* Appreciation and many thanks to Dr. B. Hora for identification.

March 23rd
Sepultaria sumneriana (Ascomycete) — Under Cedars by University Library

April 23rd
Morchella vulgaris — Ramsbury Drive, Earley
M. semi-libera — Garstons Hill, Ipsden

May 2nd
*Geopyxis carbonaria (Ascomycete) — Park Piece, Ufton
Very attractive, dull red with creamy ring. Only two records of this species at Kew since 1945.

June 15th
(Polyporus) Grifolia sulphurea — St. Mary's Churchyard

July 3rd
Crucibulum vulgare (Birdsnest fungus) — Garden by Earley station

October 3rd
*Lactarius mairei — College Wood
The fourth record in England for this fungus, which was found by E. Hemken and myself. It was known only in Morocco, it seems, before the late 1940's and not at all in Europe. Spore print: creamy, C-D of the Crawshaw scale.

October 9th
*Agaricus variegatus — Grass verge, Wokingham Road

October 10th
*Cortinarius sanguineus — Wasing Wood
Small, very attractive, wholly blood-red.

October 25th
*Lepiota acutisquarosa — Under conifers, Driffield Common

October 29th
*Melanoleuca grammopodium — Bearwood
Lyophyllum loricatum — Bearwood

The Recorder's Report for Botany

1976 - 77

by B. M. Newman

Once again members have explored the countryside and collected a large number of records from a wide selection of habitats. Those sent in by the following members are gratefully acknowledged:- Dr. J. Andrews (JA); Dr. H. J. M. Bowen (HJMB); Mr. H. Carter (HC); Miss L. E. Cobb (LEC); Mr. S. R. Diserens (SRD); Mr. M. Fletcher (MF) and Mr. J. P. Warrick (JPW).

The nomenclature and order are according to the "Flora of the British Isles" by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg. An alien taxon is indicated by an asterisk (*). Most of the English names are from "English Names of Wild Flowers", the recommended list of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, but if a different name is commonly used locally it is put in immediately after the scientific name, in addition to the recommended name.

List of Members' Records

Equisetum telmateia Ehrh. Great Horsetail
Ashley Hill, 11/7/77. (SRD)

*Pteris cretica L.
Brick basement wall by Old Town Hall (Survives weeding, but in small quantity); brick basement wall, South Street, Reading (MF)

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum L. Black Spleenwort
Brickwork of railway bridge, Kennet mouth, Reading; wall near Cemetery Junction (One plant, 1976). (MF)

Asplenium ruta-muraria L. Wall-rue
Garden brick wall, Hamilton Road, Reading. (MF)

Ceterach officinarum DC Rustyback Fern
Wet cement crack by the Thames, Reading. (MF)

*Delphinium orientale Gay Oriental Larkspur
Abundant on demolition site, Queens Road, Reading. (LEC) Sent in by MF.

Ranunculus arvensis L. Corn Buttercup
In wheatfield near Peasemore. (HJMB)

Ranunculus parviflorus L. Small-flowered Buttercup
Casual in garden in Knowle Close, Caversham, 26/5/77. (LEC)

Ranunculus circinatus Sibth. Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot
Gravel pit near Sandhurst. (HJMB)

*Adonis annua L. Pheasant's-eye
Several plants in field near Aston Upthorpe, 17/7/77. (SRD)

Myosurus minimus L. Mousetail
Field path near Shinfield, 17/5/77. (JA) Maiden Erlegh Stud field, Earley, 7/5/77. (JPW)

Thalictrum flavum L. Common Meadow-rue
Fawley Meadows, Henley, 11/7/77. (LEC)

Papaver hybridum L. Bristly Poppy Rough Poppy
Several plants in field near Aston Upthorpe, 17/7/77. (SRD)

Papaver argemone L. Long Prickly-headed Poppy
Cornfield, Kingstanding Hill, 4/7/77. (JA)

*Papaver somniferum L. Opium Poppy
In quantity on a bridle way near Mapledurham, 9/7/77. (JA) Small clump at Burghfield gravel pits, 3/7/77. (SRD)

Corydalis claviculata (L.) DC Climbing Corydalis
In flower on Bucklebury Common, 8/4/77. (SRD)

*Coronopus didymus (L.) Sm. Slender Wart Cress, Lesser Swine-cress
Whiteknights Park, 12/7/77. (SRD)

Iberis amara L. Wild Candytuft
Hurley chalk pit, 11/7/77. (SRD)

Erophila verna (L.) Chevall. Common Whitlowgrass
The Mount, Reading, 12/3/77. (LEC)

Cardamine amara L. Large Bitter-cress
Crookham Common, 8/5/77. (SRD)

Rorippa amphibia (L.) Besser Great Yellow-cress
River Kennet near Burghfield, 3/6/77. (SRD)

Erysimum cheiranthoides L. Treacle Mustard
Whiteknights Park, 21/6/77. (JPW)

*Sisymbrium orientale L. Eastern Rocket
Garden bed in the Abbey ruins, Reading. (LEC) Sent in by MF.

Reseda luteola L. Dyer's Rocket, Weld
Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

Reseda lutea L. Wild Mignonette
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77; Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

Viola lactea Sm. Pale Heath Violet, Pale Dog-violet
Hook Common, Inkpen Common, 21/5/77. (SRD)

Viola tricolor L. Wild Pansy
Colemans Moor, 13/5/77. (JPW)

Hypericum tetrapterum Fr. Square-stalked St. John's-wort
Riverside, King's Meadow, Reading. (LEC) Sent in by MF.

Hypericum montanum L. Pale St. John's-wort
On hard soil on top of ridge at Bix Bottom (BBONT reserve). (HJMB)

Elatine hexandra (Lapierre) DC Six-stamened Waterwort
In flooded pit, Yateley, Hants.; gravel pit near Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Silene dioica (L.) Clairv. Red Campion
Northern end of Crowsley Forest and Peppard. Unusually common this year. 12/6/77. (HC)

Silene alba (Mill.) E. H. L. Krause x dioica (L.) Clairv.
Roadsides at Benson and Culham. (HJMB)

Silene gallica L. Small-flowered Catchfly
Roadside on Hallowstree Common (site later cleared), 12/6/77. (HC)

*Silene pendula L. Drooping Catchfly
By side of track at Abbey Football Ground, Chalkhouse Green. Det. HJMB. 23/6/77. The site was later cleared. (HC)

*Vaccaria pyramidata Medic. Cowherb
Edge of pavement, Alexandra Road, Reading. Possibly from bird-seed? (HJMB)

Montia fontana L. Blinks
On damp ground near Shinfield, 17/5/77. (JA)

Chenopodium ficifolium Sm. Fig-leaved Goosefoot
Car park near river Blackwater, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Chenopodium hybridum L. Sowbane, Maple-leaved Goosefoot
In old garden at Dorchester. (HJMB)

Malva neglecta Wallr. Dwarf Mallow
In garden soil near river Blackwater, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

*Geranium versicolor L. Pencilled Crane's-bill
Dunsden, 9/9/77. (LEC)

Geranium lucidum L. Shining Crane's-bill
By footpath to west end of Spring Wood, Peppard Common. 29/5/77. (HC)

Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Hérit. Common Stork's-bill
Shinfield, 14/5/77; Chazey, 12/10/77; East Street, Reading, 13/10/77. (LEC)
Skew Bridge, Old Bath Road, Reading, 4/7/77. (JPW)

*Impatiens parviflora DC Small Balsam
Elmhurst Road, Reading, 13/10/77. (LEC)

Silaum silaus (L.) Schinz & Thell. Pepper-saxifrage
In meadow by the Kennet near Burghfield, 3/6/77. (SRD)

*Lupinus arboreus Sims Tree Lupin
By old pit, near Yateley, Hants. (HJMB)

*Melilotus officinalis (L.) Pall. Common Melilot
Sonning Eye, 11/7/77. (JPW)
Mill Lane, Reading. (BMN)

*Melilotus alba Medic. White Melilot
By old pit near Yateley, Hants. (HJMB)

*Tetragonolobus maritimus (L.) Roth Dragon's-teeth
Roadside flower-bed outside Grove Road School, Sonning Common, 24/9/77. (HC)
Bennet's Wood, near Streatley, 14/6/77. (JPW)

Lathyrus nissolia L. Grass Vetchling
By old pit near Yateley, Hants. (HJMB)

Aphanes arvensis L. Parsley Piert
Ramsbury Drive, Earley, 30/6/77. (JPW)

Filipendula vulgaris Moench Dropwort
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77. (JPW)

Potentilla argentea L. Hoary Cinquefoil
Chazey, 23/6/77. (LEC)

Geum rivale L. Water Avens
Moor Copse, 19/5/77. (JPW)

Agrimonia odorata (Gouan) Mill. Fragrant Agrimony
Bishopswood, Sonning Common, August - October 1977. (HC)
Bix Bottom, 13/8/77. (SRD)

Rosa rubiginosa L. Eglantine, Sweet Briar
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77; Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)
Border of gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

*Prunus serotina Ehrh.
One tree in Dry Sandford pit (BBONT). (HJMB)

Saxifraga granulata L. Meadow Saxifrage
Streatley Hill (NHS walk), 16/4/77. (JPW)

Chrysosplenium oppositifolium L. Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage
Near Ufton Nervet, 2/5/77. (JPW)

Daphne laureola L. Spurge Laurel
Bennet's Wood, near Streatley, 14/6/77. (JPW)

Callitriche intermedia G. F. Hoffm. Intermediate Water-starwort
Floating in old gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Viscum album L. Mistletoe
On Tilia, Pangbourne. (JA)

Thesium humifusum DC. Bastard Toad-flax
Hartslock, 10/9/77. (SRD)

Myrrhis odorata (L.) Scop. Sweet Cicely
Surviving by roadside, Middle Assendon. (HJMB)

Torilis arvensis (Huds.) Link Spreading Hedge-parsley
Fallow field near Appleford. (HJMB)

*Smyrnium olusatrum L. Alexanders
Established at Ufton Nervet, 8/5/77. (SRD)

Petroselinum segetum (L.) Koch Corn Parsley
Fallow field near Appleford. (HJMB)

Euphorbia cyparissias L. Cypress Spurge
Cookham, 14/5/77. (SRD)

*Buddleja davidii Franch. Buddleia, Butterfly-bush
Established in Davenport Wood, 13/8/77. (SRD)

Centaurium erythraea Rafn Common Centaury
Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

Blackstonia perfoliata (L.) Huds. Yellow-wort
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77. (JPW)

Cynoglossum officinale L. Hound's-tongue
Caversham Warren, 19/5/77. (LEC)

Pentaglottis sempervirens (L.) Tausch Green Alkanet
Caversham Warren, 19/5/77. (LEC)

Anchusa arvensis (L.) Bieb. Bugloss
Chazey, 12/10/77. (LEC)

Lithospermum officinale L. Gromwell
Bennet's Wood, near Streatley, 14/6/77. (JPW)

Echium vulgare L. Viper's-bugloss
Hartslock, 10/9/77. (SRD)
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77. (JPW)

Cuscuta europaea L. Greater Dodder
Large clump on bank of Thames below Hartslock, 10/9/77. (SRD)

Cuscuta epithymum (L.) L. Dodder
Silchester Common, 5/7/77. (JPW)
Chalk grassland near Mapledurham, 9/9/77. (JA)

Atropa belladonna L. Deadly Nightshade
Blounts Farm, and several long-established sites in Crowsley Forest, near Sonning Common. (HC)
Bank of Thames below Hartslock, 10/9/77. (SRD)
Bennet's Wood, near Streatley, 14/6/77. (JPW)

*Physalis alkekengi L. Cape-gooseberry
An aggressive weed by a footpath at Dorchester. (HJMB)

*Datura stramonium L. Thorn-apple
Waste ground, Kings Road, Reading. (LEC) Sent in by MF.

Verbascum thapsus L. Aaron's Rod, Great Mullein
Scrubland at rear of 82 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, 12/9/77. Three plants appeared here for the first time following the accidental burning of a large patch of brambles and the resulting death of the associated trees in 1976. (HC)

Verbascum nigrum L. Dark Mullein
Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

Antirrhinum orontium L. Weasel's Snout, Lesser Snapdragon
Roadside near Theale. (M. Sell) (HJMB) Field edge by M4 near Burghfield gravel pits. (SRD)

Linaria repens (L.) Mill. Pale Toadflax
Field near Aston Upthorpe, 17/7/77; Hanover Hill road verge, near Fingest, 13/8/77; Cholsey Station, 29/8/77. (SRD)

Chaenorhinum minus (L.) Lange Small Toadflax
Henley Road chalk pit, 10/7/77. (SRD)

*Erinus alpinus L. Fairy Foxglove
On walls at Windsor Castle. (HJMB)

Orobanche minor Sm. Common Broomrape
Many specimens at the Childe Beale Trust, 10/7/77. (SRD)

Verbena officinalis L. Vervain
Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

Calamintha ascendens Jord. Common Calamint
Dunsden, 9/9/77. (LEC)

Acinos arvensis (Lam.) Dandy Basil Thyme
Grassy bank near Aston Upthorpe, 17/7/77. (SRD)

Lamium amplexicaule L. Henbit, Henbit Dead-nettle
Caversham Warren, 19/5/77; Christchurch Gardens, Reading, 20/5/77; Knowle Close, Caversham, 26/5/77. (LEC)

Campanula trachelium L. Nettle-leaved Bellflower
Roadside at Crowsley hamlet, and on 28/8/77 in Reades Lane, both Sonning Common. (HC)

Campanula glomerata L. Clustered Bellflower
Chalk grassland near Mapledurham, 9/7/77. (JA)

Asperula cynanchica L. Squinancywort
Large clumps at Hurley chalk pit, 11/7/77. (SRD)
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77. (JPW)

Adoxa moschatellina L. Moschatel
Streatley Hill (NHS walk), 16/4/77. (JPW)

Valerianella dentata (L.) Poll. Narrow-fruited Cornsalad
Hollies Hill, 28/6/77. (JPW) Cornfield, Kingstanding Hill, 4/7/77. (JA)

Dipsacus fullonum L. Teasel
Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

*Galinsoga parviflora Cav. Gallant Soldier
Christchurch Road, Reading, 13/10/77. (LEC)

Senecio vulgaris L. (var. radiatus Koch) Rayed Groundsel
Garden beds near Maidenhead Town Hall. (LEC) Sent in by MF.

Senecio integrifolius (L.) Clairv. Field Fleawort
About a hundred plants at Whitehorse Hill. (HJMB)

*Doronicum pardalianches L. Leopard's-bane
Large group by road at Streatley, 7/6/77. (SRD)

Petasites fragrans (Vill.) C. Presl Winter Heliotrope
Road verge near Rotherfield Peppard, 22/2/77. (SRD)

Erigon acer L. Blue Fleabane
Lollingdon Hill, 7/6/77. (SRD)

Chrysanthemum segetum L. Corn Marigold
Field near Arborfield, 14/7/77; roadside near Sonning, 27/9/77. (SRD)

Artemisia absinthium L. Wormwood
One plant by road at Shillingford; frequent at Dorchester. (HJMB)

*Echinops sphaerocephalus L. Blue Globe Thistle
One plant on waste ground, Kings Road, Reading. (LEC) Sent in by MF.

Carduus nutans L. Musk Thistle
Abbey Football Ground, 13/7/77; waste land at west end of Spring Wood, 16/7/77. (HC) Hollies Hill, 28/6/77. (JPW)

Carduus acanthoides L. x nutans L.
Combe Gibbet, (Mrs. P. Small) Sent in by HJMB.

Onopordon acanthium L. Scotch Thistle, Cotton Thistle
Several huge specimens (over 8ft.) in a field near Arborfield, 14/7/77. (SRD)

Centaurea cyanus L. Cornflower
On disturbed ground near gravel workings, Theale, 21/6/77. (JA)

Cichorium intybus L. Chicory
In a field near Arborfield; on the M4 bridge, Cutbush Lane, Shinfield, 14/7/77. (SRD)

Lactuca serriola L. Prickly Lettuce
Chazey, 12/10/77. (LEC)

*Sagittaria platyphylla (Engelm.) J. G. Sm.
In gravel pit near Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Butomus umbellatus L. Flowering-rush
Planted in gravel pit near Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Potamogeton obtusifolius Mert. & Koch Blunt-leaved Pondweed
In flooded pit, Yateley, Hants.; gravel pit near Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Ornithogalum umbellatum L. Star-of-Bethlehem
By a stream at Pingewood, 3/6/77; bank of Thames below Hartslock, 7/6/77. (SRD) By a path at Sindlesham, 12/5/77. (JPW)

*Allium nigrum L.
A few plants in a hedge, Middle Assendon. (HJMB)

*Pontederia cordata L.
In gravel pit near Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Cephalanthera damasonium (Mill.) Druce White Helleborine
NE end of Crowsley Forest, flowering May-June. (HC)

Epipactis helleborine (L.) Crantz Broad-leaved Helleborine
NE end of Crowsley Forest, with Cephalanthera, but flowered later in the year. (HC)

Epipactis purpurata Sm. Violet Helleborine
More than fifteen plants in Crowell Wood, near Chinnor, 18/9/77. (SRD)

Spiranthes spiralis (L.) Chevall. Autumn Lady's tresses
Turville Hill, 18/9/77. (SRD)

Ophrys apifera Huds. Bee Orchid
Several large specimens at Hurley chalk pit, 11/7/77. (SRD)

Anacamptis pyramidalis (L.) Rich. Pyramidal Orchid
Watlington Hill, 8/7/77; Hartslock Reserve, 14/7/77. (JPW)

Eleocharis acicularis (L.) Roem. & Schult. Needle Spike-rush
On island in pit, Yateley, Hants.; forming a sward by gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Carex pseudocyperus L. Cyperus Sedge
Margin of gravel pit, Sandhurst. (HJMB)

Poa compressa L. Flattened Meadow-grass
By track above Bix Bottom at edge of BBONT Reserve. (HJMB)

Plants seen at Nuney Green chalk pit 17/7/77

(See also records from Mr. H. Carter, 1972, Reading Naturalist 24, 45)

Iberis amara L., Wild Candytuft; Sorbus torminalis (L.) Crantz, Wild Service-tree; Monotropa hypopitys L., Yellow Bird's-nest;

Blackstonia perfoliata (L.) Huds., Yellow-wort; Verbascum nigrum L., Dark Mullein; Acinos arvensis (Lam.) Dandy, Basil Thyme; Prunella vulgaris L., Selfheal; Prunella laciniata (L.) L., Cut-leaved Selfheal; Cephalanthera damasonium (Mill.) Druce, White Helleborine; Ophrys apifera Huds., Bee Orchid; Anacamptis pyramidalis (L.) Rich., Pyramidal Orchid.

Plants seen in a nearby field:-

Geranium columbinum L., Long-stalked Crane's-bill; Sedum telephium L., Orpine; Verbascum nigrum L., Dark Mullein; Kickxia elatine (L.) Dum., Sharp-leaved Fluellen; Kickxia spuria (L.) Dum., Round-leaved Fluellen; Anthemis arvensis L., Corn Chamomile; Anthemis cotula L., Stinking Chamomile.

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by B. R. Baker

Order Odonata (Dragon-flies)

Sympetrum striolatum (Charp.)

Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 22nd October. Several specimens observed basking on the trunks of tall ash trees which were in the direct rays of the late afternoon sun.

Order Hemiptera (Plant Bugs, etc.)

Idiocerus vittifrons Kirschbaum

Sonning Common, 15th October (HHC).

Allygus modestus Fieber

Forbury Gardens, Reading, 13th September (HHC).

Order Coleoptera (Beetles)

Despite discouraging weather, Glow-worms Lampyris noctiluca (L.) were again encountered in South Oxfordshire at Crowsley, Dunsden and Bishopswood from 2nd July to 10th August (HHC).

Order Diptera (True Flies)

Asilus crabroniformis L.

Hartslock Nature Reserve and Streatley, 13th September (BTP)

Callicera aenea (Fabr.)

Padworth Common, north of Benyon's Enclosure, 15th July (S. R. Miles).

Order Hymenoptera (Saw-flies, Bees and Wasps)

Vespa crabro L. Hornet

Tilehurst, 18th October, 1976 (RL). A further specimen found in a tool shed at Ramsbury Drive, Earley, 24th May, 1977 (BTP).

Urocerus gigas gigas (L.) Giant Horntail

A female specimen of this large and impressive looking Wood Wasp was seen (and heard) flying around the Recorder's garden at Matlock Road, Caversham, on 3rd August. It briefly inspected some recently erected larch-pole fencing, but did not attempt to oviposit thereon and flew off with much buzzing into neighbouring gardens.

Order Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths)

Thymelicus lineola (Ochsenheimer) Essex Skipper

Reported to be in the South Ascot area during July (PS). This is a very interesting record and would appear to be the first for the County. The species has probably been overlooked in the past as it closely resembles the Small Skipper which is widespread and abundant.

H. comma (L.) Silver-spotted Skipper

Watlington Hill, 10th August (BTP).

Gonepteryx rhamni (L.) Brimstone

Several records received, the earliest being Yeomanry House, Reading, 2nd February (SYT). Matlock Road, Caversham, 2nd February (HGB). This butterfly normally enters into hibernation in September but a late record has been received from Bracknell where a specimen was observed on 22nd October (MD).

Quercusia quercus (L.) Purple Hairstreak

Much scarcer in Pamber Forest than in 1976 (BTP).

Polyommatus icarus (Rott.) Common Blue

This species is normally double brooded and may be seen on the wing from May to September. A male in good condition was observed at Owlsmoor on the very late date of 13th October.

Lysandra coridon (Poda). Chalkhill Blue

Watlington Hill, 10th August. Hartslock Nature Reserve, 12th August (BTP).

L. bellargus (Rott.) Adonis Blue

Larvae nearing full growth observed among Horseshoe Vetch on the

Downs, 4th May. Second-brood adults observed from 4th - 17th September.

Celastrina argiolus (L.) Holly Blue

Spencers Wood, 29th April (JW). Caversham, 1st May and 4th August (HGB). Bracknell, 23 and 24th May (MD). Mortimer, 2nd May; Earley, 21st and 22nd May, 21st August; worn specimen near Streatley, 13th September (BTP).

Hamearis lucina (L.) Duke of Burgundy Fritillary

Aston Upthorpe Downs, 3rd June (BTP).

Ladoga camilla (L.) White Admiral

Scarce at Bearwood, 25th July; in good numbers at Pamber Forest, 5th July - 26th August (BTP).

Apatura iris (L.) Purple Emperor

Observed high over the oaks at Pamber Forest, 3rd August (BTP). On three consecutive days in early August a Purple Emperor again appeared at the Warburg Reserve. The specimen was visible at close quarters on the wall of the office, on the roof of the building and in the vegetable garden. (NP)

Vanessa atalanta (L.) Red Admiral

Ramsbury Drive, Earley, 6th July and 7th September; Whiteknights Park, 5th September, (BTP). Matlock Road, Caversham, 14th September, 4th, 22nd, 25th, 27th and 28th October (HGB). Bracknell, 6th, 9th and 11th October (MD). Aldermaston, 1st September (GE-F). Over a dozen examples noted on the buddleias along Vastern Road, Reading, 14th September.

Cynthia cardui (L.) Painted Lady

Mapledurham, 4th August (TJGH). Near the Hartslock Nature Reserve, 29th August (MET). Vastern Road, Reading, 14th September. Matlock Road, Caversham, 29th September. All the above records refer to single specimens.

Argynnis aglaja (L.) Dark Green Fritillary

Hartslock Nature Reserve, 5th and 17th July. Watlington Hill, 10th August (BTP).

Sphecia bembeciformis (Hübn.) Lunar Hornet Clearwing

A female observed flying around a sallow bush at 4 p.m. on 23rd July in a wood near Baughurst.

Bembecia scopigera (Scop.) Six Belted Clearwing

A new colony discovered at Hardwick, Oxon., 12th August.

Zeuzera pyrina (L.) Wood Leopard

Aldermaston, 15th July. (GE-F)

Cyclophora puppillaria (Hübn.) Blair's Mocha

A single specimen of this rare immigrant was taken in a mercury

vapour light trap at Matlock Road, Caversham, on the night of 24/25th October. New County record.

Perizoma didymata (L.) Twin Spot Carpet

Near Baughurst, a single specimen on 17th July (TJGH).

Angerona prunaria (L.) Orange Moth

Near Baughurst, a female at rest in the daytime on a bracken frond, 10th July (TJGH).

Sphinx ligustri L. Privet Hawkmoth

Eggs and a third-instar larva, Hartslock, 17th July. Eggs also noted at Crowsley Park. Larvae, nearly full grown noted at the side of the road to Wantage near the Fair Mile, 8th September (BTP).

Hyloicus pinastri (L.) Pine Hawkmoth

Aldermaston, 11th May (GE-F). Elgar Road, Reading, 8th August (RL). These two records give an indication of the long emergence period of this species.

Deilephila porcellus (L.) Small Elephant Hawkmoth

Aldermaston, 3rd June (GE-F).

Leucoma salicis (L.) White Satin Moth

East Hagbourne, 12th August.

Parasemia plantaginis (L.) Wood Tiger

Watlington Hill, 8th July (JW).

Xestia agathina (Dup.) Heath Rustic

Aldermaston, 3rd August (GE-F).

Mythimna vitellina (Hübn.) Delicate Wainscot

Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, a single example taken in a mercury-vapour light-trap, 23rd October (TJGH). This immigrant wainscot is recorded in most years on our southern and south-western coasts but inland records are infrequent. The Pinkneys Green specimen would appear to constitute a new County record.

Cucullia chamomillae (D. & S.). Chamomile Shark

Aldermaston, 11th May (GE-F).

C. verbasci (L.) Mullein Shark

Aldermaston, 14th May (GE-F). Larvae on Great Mullein at Wokingham, 15th June; and at Earley, 16th June (BTP).

Lithophane semibrunnea (Haw.) Tawny Pinion

Aldermaston, 6th October (GE-F).

L. leautieri (Boisd.) Blair's Pinion

One specimen at mercury-vapour light-trap, Caversham, night of

18/19th October; second record for the County. This species was first recorded in Britain at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, in 1951. Over the past twenty-five years, and particularly so in the last decade, there has been a steady northward spread from the centre of origin. The caterpillars feed on the flower-buds and foliage of Cupressus macrocarpa, a tree found commonly in built-up areas, and there seems no reason why the spread of this interesting addition to our fauna should not continue.

Eustrotia uncula (Clerck) Silver Hook

Goring Heath in a beech wood, 22nd July (TJGH). This is an interesting record from an atypical habitat. In previous years we have recorded Silver Hooks from Snelsmore, from boggy areas bordering Pamber Forest and from damp fields westwards from Pamber. In all of these areas there has been a good growth of sedges and coarse grasses upon which the larvae of uncula feed.

Parascotia fuliginaria (L.) Waved Black Moth

Aldermaston, 20th July (GE-F).

The Society's Entomological Evening

The venue chosen this year was Ufton Court, Berkshire, where the surrounding woodlands and open stretches of heather were known to hold much of interest for the entomologist. Mr. A. H. Bush, Warden of the Residential Centre at the Court, kindly provided facilities for us to operate a mercury-vapour moth-trap from one of the outbuildings and Mr. W. Beer, Head Forester of the Englefield Estates, allowed access to the woodland where a second generator-powered light was operated.

Although the night, 29/30th July, did not provide ideal flying conditions for moths (the temperature dropped to 9°C.) the assembled party seated around the sheets were able to see a steady stream of insects coming to the lamps and to record thirty-three species of moth. Two of the records were new to the list published in Reading Naturalist No. 29 thereby increasing the Ufton Lepidoptera List to three hundred and six species. The new records are: Nola cucullatella (L.) the Short Cloaked, and Polychrysia moneta (Fabr.) the Golden Plusia.

Contributors

Mrs. H. G. Baker (HGB); H. H. Carter (HHC); Dr. M. Dumbleton (MD); Lt. Col. G. G. Eastwick-Field (GE-F); T. J. G. Homer (TJGH); R. Leeke (RL); N. Phillips (NP); B. T. Parsons (BTP); P. Standley (PS); Miss S. Y. Townend (SYT); Mrs. E. M. Trembath (EMT); J. Warrick (JW); Mrs. J. S. Whitfield (JSW). Our thanks are due also to the Director of Reading Museum & Art Gallery for allowing us to incorporate any relevant records from the Museum's collections.

The Recorder's Report for Vertebrates, 1976-77

by H. H. Carter

FISH.

During the very dry spell of 1976 the fountain in the Forbury Gardens was cleared of fish and cleaned out. The goldfish were returned, but the interesting variety of native species described in an earlier report is no longer to be seen.

A systematic study of the angling columns of the "Reading Chronicle" has made possible the following analysis of the distribution of those species large enough to attract the angler.

Thymallus thymallus (L.) Grayling.

In the Kennet on the Craven Estate, Hamstead Marshall.

Esox lucius L. Pike.

Common in the Kennet from Hamstead Marshall to Burghfield, in gravel pits at Burcot near Dorchester and at Theale, and at Englefield.

Cyprinus carpio L. Carp.

Small numbers in the Kennet from Hamstead Marshall to Woolhampton, commoner in the Thames from Oxford to Reading. "Mirror" and "Golden" varieties have been taken.

Carassius carassius (L.) Crucian Carp.

Uncommon, recorded only from Ufton Nervet and Yateley.

Barbus barbus (L.) Barbel.

Common in the lower reaches of the Kennet below Woolhampton, also present in the Thames (Oxford and Clifton Hampden) and Loddon.

Gobio gobio (L.) Gudgeon.

As for Barbel, but extends up the Thames to Eynsham and up the Loddon to Eversleigh.

Tinca tinca (L.) Tench.

Small numbers in the Kennet below Ufton Nervet, also in the Thames (Culham and Pangbourne) and Loddon (Sindlesham and Yateley) and in a lake at Thatcham.

Leuciscus cephalus (L.) Chub.

Common in the Kennet from Hamstead Marshall to its mouth, and in the Thames from Radcot to Reading.

L. leuciscus (L.) Dace.

Common in the Kennet from Thatcham to Reading, also in the Loddon at Sindlesham.

L. rutilus (L.) Roach.

Common in the Kennet from Froxfield to Reading, the Thames from Lechlade to Cookham, and the Loddon at Sindlesham.

L. erythrophthalmus (L.) Rudd.

The only record is from Cottage Lane gravel pit, Burghfield.

Blicca bjoernka (L.) Silver Bream.

The only record is from Amey's pit, Theale.

Alburnus alburnus (L.) Bleak.

Amey's pit and River Kennet at Burghfield. Commoner in the Thames, from Radcot to Shiplake.

Abramis brama (L.) Bream.

Widely distributed but uncommon in the Kennet from Kintbury to Ufton Nervet and in Amey's pit, Theale. Commoner in the Thames from Radcot to Shiplake.

Cobitis taenia (L.) Spiny Loach.

A record from the Kennet at Newbury requires confirmation.

Perca fluviatilis L. Perch.

Present in the Kennet at Hamstead Marshall, and has reappeared at Burghfield where it has long been absent. Also a record from Ascot.

Two young specimens hatched in Whiteknights Lake on 7th May are now on display in Reading Museum.

Gasterosteus aculeatus L. Three-spined Stickleback.

Observed in company with the two following species.

Pygosteus pungitius (L.) Ten-spined Stickleback.

At Moor Copse Reserve in the River Pang, taken by B.R.B.

Phoxinus phoxinus (L.) Minnow.

Seen at the mouth of the Holy Brook in breeding coloration.

AMPHIBIANS.

Bufo bufo (L.) Toad.

Migration to breeding grounds across Folders Lane, Bracknell, 22nd and 25th February, 3rd March, (M.D.) Middleculham Farm, Remenham, 9th June (E. Fox).

Rana temporaria L. Frog.

Only one in a garden where previously abundant, Spencers Wood (J.W.). One dead in Green Road, 2nd March; sixteen adults and much spawn in a pond at Leighton Park, 19th March; many young

of this and the previous year in a garden at Ramsbury Drive; spawn at Cutbush Lane in 1975 (B.P.). Bred in Mortimer Common Pond (R. & ss). Frogs croaking in the Horse Pond, Gallowstree Common, on the night of 24th March.

Triturus sp. Newt.

Large numbers (about one hundred) in garden pond, Cockney Hill, Tilehurst (M.O.). At this locality, T. helveticus is marginally more likely than T. vulgaris.

REPTILES.

Anguis fragilis L. Slow Worm.

Several seen or taken near Mortimer, up to 2nd September. One of these gave birth to young in Reading Museum on 30th September. A colony near Hamstead Marshall level crossing in the railway embankment (always a favourite site for this species). (All R. & ss.)

Lacerta vivipara Jacq. Common Lizard.

Several seen in different places on Silchester Common, 19th July (B.P.).

Vipera berus (L.) Adder.

One on Silchester Common above Beggar's Bridge, 19th July (B.P.). The association with lizards is characteristic.

Natrix natrix (L.) Grass Snake.

One in ditch by Park Wood near Pangbourne, 2nd May (E.M.T.). One in Moor Copse by the Pang (Mr. & Mrs. Payne per E.M.T.). One at Thos. Lawrence's brickworks, Bracknell, 16th October 1977 (M.D.). A female about a metre long, freshly dead by the M4 at Earley, 11th July (J.P.). A female at Barkham, about five hundred to six hundred millimetres long, 14th August. One at Bearwood, injured, 30th June; one dead in Cutbush Lane, Earley, 29th July (B.P.). Six adults curled up together at edge of wood near Wargrave (no date given, Mrs. Wyatt per B.P.). Bred at Mortimer during the year (R. & ss.).

MAMMALS.

Talpa europaea L. Mole.

One dead at Thatcham Marsh, August or September (D.H.). Present at Spencer's Wood throughout the year (J.W.). Recent molehills in Crowsley Forest, 3rd January and 11th February.

Sorex araneus L. Common Shrew.

Two or three found dead, perhaps killed by cats, at Spencer's Wood during the year (J.W.). One at Crowsley Forest, 9th May; several in Rumerhedge Bottom, Checkendon, 30th July.

S. minutus L. Pygmy Shrew.

One dead at Thatcham Marsh, August or September (D.H.).

Erinaceus europaeus L. Hedgehog.

A large adult at Spencer's Wood, 3rd April; a large adult circling a smaller one as though to attack it from behind, the smaller constantly turning to face it, grunting and making butting movements with its head when too closely approached, Spencer's Wood, 9th July; many other sitings later in the year (J.W.). One seen in Warfield Road, Bracknell, 19th July, was only the second that M.D. has seen in seventeen years there. Droppings in Crowsley Forest, 8th January and 11th February; twenty-three sightings of living and dead animals in Emmer Green and the Sonning Common area from 5th April to 26th September.

Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schr.) Pipistrelle.

Small bats probably of this species at Spencer's Wood and Sonning Common throughout the summer (J.W. & recorder).

Nyctalus noctula (Schr.) Noctule.

Up to four (less than in previous years) seen on various dates at Spencer's Wood (J.W.). A large bat, probably of this species, seen patrolling Ramsbury Drive on a steady course three to five metres from the ground (B.P.).

Plecotus auritus (L.) Long-eared Bat.

One found dead in Warfield Road, Bracknell, 26th September by M.D. who also found corpses at Nine Mile Ride in September 1969 and in the centre of Bracknell, 26th September 1976.

Vulpes vulpes (L.) Fox.

One heard barking in Spencer's Wood, November and December 1976; barking ceased after a fox was found dead on the road in mid-December; one there 30th April (J.W.). Single animals seen at Aston Upthorpe Down 4th December 1976, Sulham Hill 19th January, Manor Farm 30th January, 5th February (very tame) and 17th April (K.P.). Vixen with cubs seen by the Society at Hartslock, 25th May. One at Warfield, 27th June, in the garden of M.D. who also found an earth with cubs near Bracknell Station, 8th April 1976. One in Greenfinch Drive, Tilehurst, 8th May (R.A.). One at Borocourt Hospital, 28th March (E.C.). Vixen at Padworth, 8th October 1977 (M.H.). Common at Goring Heath prior to 1977, but none this year. Foxes heard or signs seen in the Sonning Common area, 2nd January, 9th January, 26th July, 4th October and 7th October 1977. M.B. found one dead on the Burghfield Road, 16th September.

Meles meles (L.) Badger.

Sett in use at Mill Farm, Mapledurham, 26th December 1976 (B.K.). Tracks seen at Benyon's Enclosure, 12th March (K.P.). Cub about six weeks old seen at sett by Grass Hill, Caversham (an extension of the Kelmscott Close sett) 25th April (Mr. Armstrong). One dead on Hardwick Road, Whitchurch, 12th August (Mrs. Edmondson). One seen near Coppice Hall, Binfield Heath, 28th

September; an additional sett found in Crowsley Forest.

Mustela erminea L. Stoat

Tracks seen in Buscot Gully, Bradfield, February (K.P.). One seen on road between Mortimer and Beech Hill (B.P.).

Mustela nivalis L. Weasel.

One killed by cat in autumn of 1976 at Spencer's Wood (J.W.). Tracks seen in Buscot Gully, February (K.P.). Seen on road between Beech Hill and Mortimer on two dates in July (B.P.).

Oryctolagus cuniculus (L.) Rabbit.

Abundant this year around Spencer's Wood (J.W.). Present at Stoke Row, 22nd January. Three hundred and twenty-eight sightings in the Sonning Common area in every month from January to October, maximum on 3rd June with fifteen in Crowsley Park, five near Morgan's Wood, and sixty on the edge of Crowsley Forest. Maximum in the Chalkhouse Green/Bishopsland Farm area, eleven on 18th April.

Lepus capensis Pall. Hare.

One at Bellehatch Farm, Binfield Heath, 11th July; one at Bishopsland Farm, 26th September.

Clethrionomys glareolus Schr. Bank Vole.

One dead on Peppard Road, Chalkhouse Green, 28th September.

Microtus agrestis (L.) Short-tailed Vole.

One found in its system of runways under a discarded notice board at Gallowstree Common, 30th July.

Apodemus sylvaticus (L.) Wood Mouse.

Nest, probably of this species, containing acorns and acorn husks, at Spencer's Wood, 26th January (J.W.). The same observer reports that her cats bring in dead mice and voles at the average rate of one a day.

Examples shown to me were juvenile Wood Mice. One dead in Bur Wood, Sonning Common, 1st April.

A. flavicollis (Mel.) Yellow-necked Mouse.

Still abundant and entering houses at Buscot Copse, Bradfield (K.P.).

Rattus norvegicus Berk. Brown Rat.

Frequent at Spencer's Wood, where cats bring in ten to twenty each year (J.W.). One at Emmer Green, 25th February; one dead there, 19th April; one dead on Peppard Road, Chalkhouse Green, 2nd April; one dead at Coppice Hall, Binfield Heath, 12th April and 21st June.

Mus musculus L. House Mouse.

Continues common in the Old Town Hall building although this

is now largely vacated.

Sciurus carolinensis Gm. Grey Squirrel.

Scarce this year at Spencer's Wood, where none was seen until September (J.W.). One at Binfield Road, Wokingham, had a strongly marked rufous tinge, 16th August (R.S.). Thirteen sightings in Emmer Green and forty in the Sonning Common area, all months from January to September.

Dama dama (L.) Fallow Deer.

Three at College Wood, one killed by a car, mid February, and a young one there later in the year (H.B.). Several, mostly males, in a garden at Goring Heath on various dates. Two in woods behind Borocourt Hospital, 17th September (E.C.). Present in and around Crowsley Forest throughout the year, maximum four on 2nd April.

Capreolus capreolus (L.) Roe Deer.

Slots in Greathouse Wood, Bradfield, February; slots at Ufton Common, 10th March; adult male at Benyon's Enclosure, Padworth, where slots and rings were also found, 12th March; slots and rings on Bramshill Common, 3rd April (all K.P.). Buck and three does on the Moon estate west of Tilehurst, 8th July (A.E.).

Cervus nippon (Tem.) Sika.

Slots at Ufton Common, 10th March, and slots and droppings at Benyon's Enclosure, 12th March, attributed to this species by K.P. who has received reports of its presence from foresters and naturalists.

Muntiacus reevesi Og. Muntjac.

One at Dark Entry bridge on M4 at Bradfield, 26th December 1976; one at Beche Park Wood, 6th February; one at Captain's Gorse (both near Upper Basildon) (K.P.). One at Moor Copse, 24th June, and again in July (E.M.T.). One at Hardwick in August (Mrs. Begbie per E.M.T.). Twelve seen or (more often) heard in the Sonning Common area from January to October, maximum three in Stony Bottom, Peppard on 1st June. One on Ashampstead Common on 6th August (R.L.).

Thanks are due to the following contributors for a good crop of vertebrate records in a year which for devotees of other groups has been rather disappointing.

Contributors

Mr. Armstrong; R. Aubrey (R.A.); B. R. Baker (B.R.B.); Mark Baker; Mrs. Begbie; Mrs. E. M. Carter (E.C.); Dr. M. J. Dumbleton (M.D.); Mrs. Edmondson; A. J. Elkins (A.E.); H. J. M. Bowen (H.B.); E. Fox; M. J. Hitchcock (M.H.); D. Holyoake (D.H.); Mrs. B. Kay (B.K.); Roy Leeke (R.L.); M. Owen (M.O.); B. T. Parsons (B.P.); Mr. and Mrs. Payne; J. Pitt (J.P.); K. V. Pritchard (K.P.); Mr. Richards and sons (R. & ss.); R. Smewing (R.S.); Mrs. E. M. Trembath (E.M.T.); Mrs. J. S. Whitfield (J.W.); Mrs. Wyatt.