

- Hyoscyamus niger L. Henbane
On disturbed ground at junction of new peripheral road and
Shinfield Road, 26.7.78. JA
- *Nicandra physalodes (L.) Gaertn.
Rare, at Sutton's old trial grounds. HJMB
- *Datura stramonium L. Thorn-apple
In the garden of Mr. Prior at Charvil, fruiting 8.9.77. HC
- Verbascum thapsus L. Aaron's Rod Great Mullein
Old chalkpit on north side of Crowsley Forest, not seen
here before, 21.7.78. HC
- Antirrhinum orontium L. Weasel's Snout Lesser Snapdragon
In arable field by footpath from Flowercroft Wood to
Peppard Church, 21.7.78. HC
- Chaenorhinum minus (L.) Lange Small Toadflax
In arable field by footpath from Flowercroft Wood to
Peppard Church, 21.7.78. HC
- *Scrophularia vernalis L. Yellow Figwort
Bonfire site in Whiteknights Park; still locally frequent
at Bucklebury. HJMB
- Veronica scutellata L. Marsh Speedwell
By pond, on top of Sulham Hill. HJMB
- Rhinanthus minor L. Yellow Rattle
Centre clearing, Crowsley Forest, 21.7.78. HC
- Odontites jamberiana
This yellow-flowered plant survives at Aldermaston where
it was recorded as O. lutea several years ago (see
Reading Naturalist No. 18 p. 40.). HJMB
- Orobanche elatior Sutton Tall Broomrape
Knapweed Broomrape
Ridgway, near Whitehorse Hill, parasitic on Knapweed.
N.H.S. excursion. HJMB
- Orobanche minor Sm. Common Broomrape
Ashampstead, 15.7.78. LEC
- Verbena officinalis L. Vervain
"Bug's Bottom", Caversham. AMS
- Mentha arvensis L. Corn Mint
Crowell Hill Farm, 26.8.78. LEC
- Stachys arvensis (L.) L. Field Woundwort
Crowell Hill Farm, 26.8.78. LEC
- Galeopsis bifida Boenn.
In woodland clearings, Padworth Gully, N.H.S. excursion HJMB
- Plantago coronopus L. Buck's-horn Plantain
Frequent at Sutton's old trial grounds. HJMB
- +Galinsoga ciliata (Raf.) Blake Shaggy Soldier
Frequent at Sutton's old trial grounds. HJMB

- Senecio integrifolius (L.) Clairv. Field Fleawort
About five hundred plants on Whitehorse Hill, N.H.S.
excursion. HJMB
- Chrysanthemum vulgare (L.) Bernh. Tansy
Ashampstead, 15.7.78. LEC
Rough slope, adjoining the Hemdean Road end of "Bug's
Bottom", Caversham. AMS
- Cichorium intybus L. Chicory
Near Christchurch Road, Reading, 19.7.78. LEC
- Picris echioides L. Bristly Oxtongue
Ashampstead, 15.7.78; Drayton St. Leonard, 17.7.78. LEC
- *Cicerbita macrophylla (Willd.) Wallr. Blue Sow-thistle
Ashampstead, 15.7.78. LEC
- Epipactis helleborine (L.) Crantz Broad-leaved
Helleborine
Lower part of Padworth Gully; plantation E. of Whitehorse
Hill. N.H.S. excursion. HJMB
Aldermaston Soke (found by Mrs. Ford). HC
- Neottia nidus-avis (L.) Rich. Bird's-nest Orchid
Wyfold Copse. HC
- Coeloglossum viride (L.) Hartm. Frog Orchid
Rather scarce on Whitehorse Hill, N.H.S. excursion. HJMB
- Orchis mascula (L.) L. Early-purple Orchid
Large numbers this year in coppice at Moor Copse
Reserve. EMT
- Anacamptis pyramidalis (L.) Rich. Pyramidal Orchid
Footpath from Flowerscroft Wood to Kent's Hill,
21.7.78. HC
- Carex vesicaria L. Bladder-sedge
In dry pond on top of Sulham Hill (shown to me by
M. Sell). HJMB
- Carex strigosa Huds. Thin-spiked Wood-
sedge
Wet woodland rides, Moor Copse. HJMB
- Catabrosa aquatica (L.) Beauv. Whorl-grass
Locally dominant near Blue Pool, Stanford Dingley,
N.H.S. excursion. HJMB
- *Poa chaixii Vill. Broad-leaved
Meadow-grass
Still locally abundant around Padworth Gully. N.H.S.
excursion. HJMB

The Recorder's Report for Vertebrates, 1977-1978

by H. H. Carter

FISH

Lampetra planeri (Bloch). Brook Lamprey

Present in the Pang near Pangbourne (T.D.) and the Winterbourne near Bagnor (R.B.).

Salmo salar L. Salmon

Parr were introduced into the Pang below Tidmarsh about 1976 but have not been seen since. (T.D.)

S. trutta L. Brown Trout

Several in the Lambourn at Bagnor, 6th May (R.D.N.H.S. excursion).

Thymallus thymallus (L.) Grayling

One at Bagnor in the Lambourn, 6th May. The following records from the Reading Chronicle extend the known range of the named species in our area.

Esox lucius L. Pike

In the Kennet between Burghfield and Reading and the Thames at Remenham. In the Lambourn and Winterbourne at Bagnor but not seen there on 6th May (R.B.).

Barbus barbus (L.) Barbel

In the Thames at Radcot north of Faringdon and at Wallingford, in the Kennet at Woolhampton.

Gobio gobio (L.) Gudgeon

In the Thames at Radcot.

Tinca tinca (L.) Tench

In the Theale gravel pits and the Kennet at Woolhampton.

Leuciscus cephalus (L.) Chub

In the Thames at Lechlade and Remenham, in the Loddon near Stratfield Saye.

L. leuciscus (L.) Dace

In the Thames at Tilehurst and Radley, the Kennet at Hamstead Marshall and the Loddon near Stratfield Saye.

L. rutilus (L.) Roach

In a lake near Winnersh (Bearwood?).

Nemacheilus barbatula (L.) Stone Loach

One taken in the Thames at Reading, 27th July, along with Minnow and Dace.

Abramis brama (L.) Bream

In the Thames at Remenham.

Anguilla anguilla (L.) Eel

Found by the Thames Water Authority fishing team only in a tributary of the Cole at Watchfield and in the Gloucestershire Coln beyond Lechlade. Occurs in the Lambourn at Bagnor but not seen there on 6th May (R.B.).

The species must therefore occur in the Kennet and Thames as a migrant although it is seldom taken by anglers.

Perca fluviatilis L. Perch

In the Kennet at Woolhampton and Southcote.

Gasterosteus aculeatus L. Three-spined Stickleback

In the Lambourn at Bagnor on 6th May (R.D.N.H.S. excursion).

Pygosteus pungitius (L.) Ten-spined Stickleback

In the Winterbourne at Bagnor but not seen on 6th May (R.B.).
The habitat for the last two species in Berry Brook is now presumably destroyed (see p. 10) (C.D.).

Further information on fish is contained in an article published on page 12 of this issue of Reading Naturalist, and will be summarised in next year's report as it dates from November and the recording year traditionally ends with the Society's A.G.M.

AMPHIBIANS

Rana temporaria L. Frog

Male at Leighton Park on 30th March, six there on 2nd April (B.T.P.). One croaking in the Horse Pond, Gallowstree Common, 1st April. Spawn in Whiteknights Lake, 2nd April (B.T.P.) and 15th April (S.J.W.). A good example of the "explosive breeding" of this species, commencing on the same date over a wide area in response to our unpredictable climate. Two present during the summer in S.J.W.'s garden at Spencers Wood.

Bufo bufo (L.) Toad

One dead on road at Emmer Green on 3rd April, two dead at Three Firs, Burghfield Common (no date), one dead in Binfield Lane near Sonning Common on 9th September. Two taken alive at Woolhampton in May (Dr. Richards).

REPTILES

Anguis fragilis L. Slow Worm
Common at Kintbury (Dr. Richards).

Natrix natrix (L.) Grass Snake

A number of records from Moor Copse and the surrounding area from June to September, all from E.M.T., maximum three with two young ones in Hogmoor Copse on 11th July.

Vipera berus (L.) Adder

One at Pamber Road Garage, Silchester on 11th June (B.T.P.).

MAMMALS

Talpa europaea L. Mole

Numerous molehills along the banks of the Thames from

Caversham Bridge upstream to Scours Lane, November 1977. Moles active at Spencers Wood on 10th November 1977, 3rd January and 9th February, despite frozen soil on the last date (S.J.W.). A mole run in New Copse, Gallowstree Common, on 18th December 1977 and several in nearby Wyfold Copse on various dates in March 1978. One found dead in Spring Wood, Sonning Common, on 3rd June.

Sorex araneus L. Common Shrew
Found dead at Spencers Wood on 16th and 21st February during the very cold weather, and several heard chattering there on 3rd May (S.J.W.). Fifteen heard on various dates from 14th February to 30th June in the Sonning Common area. One found dead at Waltham St. Lawrence on 26th April by children of the primary school. Several trapped at South Stoke, 1977 (R.C.L.).

S. minutus L. Pygmy Shrew
One found dead at Spencers Wood on 16th February (S.J.W.). Remains in pellets of Barn Owl, Little Stoke in 1977 (R.C.L.).

Neomys fodiens Pallas Water Shrew
Seen at South Stoke, and remains found in pellet of Sparrowhawk there in 1977 (R.C.L.).

Erinaceus europaeus L. Hedgehog
Emerged from hibernation at Spencers Wood on 7th and 8th March, after which two were often seen in S.J.W.'s garden. One seen scratching vigorously using the hind feet in alternation, 12th August. Courtship circling so frequent that a track of 0.6 metres (2 feet) diameter was worn in the grass. Road fatalities unusually common during the year, mainly on country roads south of Reading but also at Caversham and on the Basingstoke Road in Reading. One discovered in a half bale of hay at Spencers Wood on 3rd November 1977 (all S. J. W.). One dead on road east of Henley, on 1st October, five seen alive, eleven dead on roads around Sonning Common from 15th to 28th November 1977 and 12th May to 17th August 1978, five seen together, mostly young, on Caversham Park Estate on 20th May, one on 24th May and two on 18th September.

Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber) Pipistrelle
Several seen at Spencers Wood on all warm days up to November (S.J.W.); thirty to forty in summer roost under facing tiles of house wall at 1 Blenheim Road (D.B.McD.).

Nyctalus noctula (Schreber) Noctule
One or two seen often at Spencers Wood. Up to four at Cross Lane Farm, Beech Hill in September and October. Several seen on the R.D.N.H.S. excursion to Stratfield Saye on 4th May (all S. J. W.).

Plecotus auritus (L.) Long-eared Bat
One in the living-room of 3 Priory Copse, Peppard Common, on 11th October evaded all attempts at capture until evicted by the Recorder with a shrimping net. This highly publicity-conscious mammal was evidently determined to remain in the room until the following day, thus earning a mention in both

this and the next issue of Reading Naturalist (see note at end of Fish section).

Vulpes vulpes (L.) Fox

Six cubs reared at 24 Northcourt Avenue in 1977 (G.M.). One at Spencers Wood on 21st January, four cubs playing at Pingewood on the late date of 26th July, one dead on the M4 at Burghfield (S.J.W.). One dead in Hartslock Woods on 12th February (C.B.B.). Two near Rectory Road, Padworth, on 12th March (M.J.H.). One in the Coombes, Barkham Hill, no date, (M.C. and D.A.). One barking at Crowsley on 19th October 1977, the first time I have heard this call in our area, three short gruff barks being uttered within one second. One at Cucumber Plantation, Sonning Common, mobbed by a pair of crows, 14th June. Foxes heard or signs seen in the Sonning Common area, and a long-dead corpse found, on eight other dates from 5th February to 10th October.

Meles meles (L.) Badger

A cub dead on the A33 near Swallowfield, no date. Setts in Sandy Lane and the Coombes, Barkham Hill, an area which in the past has produced few records (M.C. and D.A.). One found dying in Binfield Lane, presumably the victim of a car, on 19th August.

Mustela erminea L. Stoat

One dead on Inkpen to Kintbury road in April (B.T.P.). Tracks seen in Wellington Country Park on 4th May (M.T.). One in Moor Copse on 27th July (B.R.B.).

M. nivalis L. Weasel

One seen at South Stoke in 1977 (R.C.L.). One seen in Park Wood, Moor Copse, on 16th April, pursuing a baby rabbit into cover, returned to sight without its prey (E.M.T.).

Oryctolagus cuniculus (L.) Rabbit

Fewer seen than usual around Spencers Wood, one juvenile caught by a cat on 12th August (S.J.W.). Many south of Shiplake on 11th April, abundant signs at Shiplake Row on 9th June. Present at Bagnor on 6th May (R.D.N.H.S. excursion). There were one hundred and fifty sightings in the Sonning Common area, up to eight or nine together on several occasions. One case of myxomatosis.

Lepus capensis Pallas Brown Hare

One west of White Horse Hill on 1st July (R.D.N.H.S. excursion); six sightings in the Sonning Common area, never more than two together.

Muscardinus avellanarius (L.) Dormouse

A colony at Upper Basildon (T.D.). Last reported in 1975 from Sawyers Wood, Tidmarsh, not far from Upper Basildon.

Myocastor coypus (Molina) Coypu

A report received via M.B. of an enormous rat supposedly 0.7 metre in length, in a stream near R.O.F. (Royal Ordnance Factory), Burghfield, can only relate to this species.

Clethrionomys glareolus Schreber Bank Vole

Remains found in pellet of Tawny Owl at Goring in 1977 (R.C.L.).

Arvicola amphibius (L.) Water Vole
Signs at South Stoke in 1977 (R.C.L.). Present at Bagnor by the Lambourn on 6th May (R.D.N.H.S. excursion). In brook under Station Road, Theale, in the summer of 1978 (S.J.W.).

Microtus agrestis (L.) Short-tailed Vole
Trapped at South Stoke in 1977 in some numbers, remains found in pellets of Sparrowhawk at South Stoke, of Barn Owl at Little Stoke and of Short-eared Owl at Hartslock (R.C.L.). One found dead at 82 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, on 21st January.

Apodemus sylvaticus (L.) Wood Mouse
One frequented Chiltern Edge Church at Gallowstree Common from November to December 1977, when it was trapped. One in toolshed at 82 Kennylands Road, December 1977. Trapped in large numbers at South Stoke, Goring and Hartslock in 1977, also remains found in pellets of Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Tawny Owl at South Stoke and of Barn Owl at Little Stoke (R.C.L.). Two to three in nest under broody hen house at Spencers Wood with a hoard of 1kg. of wheat from 3rd January until ousted by a rat which was in occupation on 5th March (S.J.W.).

A. flavicollis Melchior Yellow-necked Mouse
Trapped at South Stoke, absent from Goring and Hartslock in 1977 (R.C.L.).

Micromys minutus (L.) Harvest Mouse
Trapped at South Stoke in 1977, remains found in pellet of Barn Owl at Little Stoke in 1977 (R.C.L.). One killed by cat at Spencers Wood on 17th January (S.J.W.).

Rattus norvegicus Berk. Brown Rat
One dead in Valpy Street on 22nd November 1977. One dead at Watlington on 26th November 1977. One under hen house at Spencers Wood on 5th March (S.J.W.). Juvenile in Woodlands Road, Sonning Common, on 11th January. One dead on road at Chalkhouse Green on 3rd April. Remains in pellet of Barn Owl at Little Stoke, 1977 (R.C.L.). Bones in pellet of Tawny Owl, Wyfold Copse on 1st October.

Mus musculus L. House Mouse
Remains in pellet of Kestrel at Goring in 1977 (R.C.L.). Two in Town Hall yard, Reading, on 21st June, one dead there on 27th June.

Sciurus carolinensis Gmel. Grey Squirrel
Up to three seen regularly at Spencers Wood (S.J.W.); twenty-seven sightings, mostly singles, dead or alive in the Sonning Common area, including one at Cray's Pond (A.H.C.) on 30th September.

Dama dama L. Fallow Deer
A pale greyish female at Spencers Wood on 11th December 1977 (H.L.C.). A male groaning in Crowsley Forest on 20th October 1977. Sightings or signs of up to three together at Crowsley, Flowercroft Wood, Peppard Common, Wyfold Copse, Cane End and Hook End, eighteen in all.

Capreolus capreolus (L.) Roe Deer

This species is still expanding its range through our area. Slots seen in all parts of Moor Copse from 2nd April onwards until one was seen on 17th May by E.M.T. and on 23rd May by M.L. Present in the Coombes, Barkham Hill (M.C. and D.A.).

Muntiacus reevesii Ogilby Muntjac

One seen going from Sonning Lane to the A4 at Twyford early on 30th October 1977 (E.L.). Present in the Coombes (M.C. and D.A.). Signs or hearings of up to three together at Crowsley, Sonning Common, Withy Copse, Peppard Common, Wyfold Copse and Nipper's Grove, nineteen in all. I have yet to see this deer alive in our area.

Contributors:

Danny Alder (D.A.), Brian R. Baker (B.R.B.), Mark Baker (M.B.), Richard Bellamy (R.B.), Michael Carson (M.C.), Anne H. Carter (A.H.C.), H. L. Cook (H.L.C.), Tudor Davies (T.D.), Christopher Dyczek (C.D.), Malcolm J. Hitchcock (M.J.H.), Ross C. Laughner (R.C.L.), Mark Littledale (M.L.), Grace Marshall (G.M.), D. D. McDonald (D.D.McD.), Basil T. Parsons (B.T.P.), Dr. Richards, E. Mary Trembath (E.M.T.), and S. Jocelin Whitfield (S.J.W.).

My thanks are due to all the above for a fine collection of records. It is good to see the hitherto neglected small mammals coming into prominence.

The Recorder's Report for Entomology 1977-78

by B. R. Baker

Order Plecoptera (Stone-flies)

Isoperla grammatica (Poda) Yellow Sally

Many specimens of this greenish yellow stone-fly were evident on the southern slopes of Carbin's Wood near Bucklebury Common on 11th June. They were flying in brilliant sunshine and frequently settling on conifers and birches along the rides. The species is abundant on the Kennet at Woolhampton about 1½ miles south of Carbin's Wood and we could have been witnessing a temperature-induced dispersal flight from the main breeding area.

Order Odonata (Dragon-flies)

Enallagma cyathigerum (Sharp.) Common Blue Damsel-fly
Shinfield Grange, 26th May; Wasing Gravel Pits, 28th May;
Whiteknights, 31st May; Kennet and Avon Canal, Aldermaston,
11th June (C.B.).

Pyrrhosoma nymphula (Sulzer) Large Red Damsel-fly
Shinfield Grange, 26th May; Wasing Lake, 28th May (C.B.).

Ischnura elegans (van der Linden) Common Ischnura
Whiteknights, 25th May; Shinfield Grange, 26th May; Wasing
Lake, 28th May; Kennet and Avon Canal, Aldermaston, 11th
June; Yateley Common, 24th July (C.B.).

Agriion splendens (Harris) Banded Agriion
Wasing Fish Pond, 28th May; Whiteknights, 31st May; Moor
Copse Nature Reserve, 31st May; Castle Crescent, Reading,
3rd June; Kennet and Avon Canal, Aldermaston, 11th June;
Thames, Caversham, 30th July (C.B.).

A. virgo (L.) Demoiselle Agriion
Kennet and Avon Canal, Aldermaston, 11th June (C.B.), an
atypical habitat. This species favours fast running streams
with a stony bottom as, for example, the river Enborne
near Brimpton, where it was observed in abundance, also
on 11th June.

Aeshna cyanea (Mull.) Southern Aeshna
Pamber Forest, 21st July (C.B.). A female of this species
was unexpectedly taken in the mercury-vapour moth trap at
Caversham on the night of 22nd-23rd August.

Aeshna grandis (L.) Brown Aeshna
Yateley Common, 24th July; Whiteknights, 28th July; Wasing
Lake, 30th July; Blue Pool, Tutts Clump, 3rd September
(C.B.).

Anax imperator Leach Emperor Dragon-fly
Whiteknights, 13th July; Aldermaston, 11th July; Shinfield
Grange, 17th July; Wasing Lake, 30th July (C.B.).

Cordulia aenea (L.) Downy Emerald
Wasing Lake, 28th May; Wasing Fish Pond, 28th May (C.B.).

Libellula depressa L. Broad-bodied Libellula
Castle Crescent, Reading, 3rd June; Hartslock, 4th June;
Kennet and Avon Canal, Aldermaston, 11th June (C.B.).
Carbin's Wood, Bucklebury Common, 11th June.

Libellula quadrimaculata L. Four-spotted Libellula
Wasing Gravel Pits, 28th May (C.B.).

Order Hemiptera (Plant Bugs, Frog-Hoppers, etc.)

Cyphostethus tristriatus (F.) Juniper Bug
Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, two specimens on 16th
April and one on 16th May (H.H.C.). Both of these were
noted on Cupressus macrocarpa, but not on adjacent
C. lawsoniana and although they were not seen feeding.

thereon this is the first positive indication of a food-plant alternative to Juniperus communis. An interesting record which provides a possible answer to the puzzle posed by earlier records in the Reading Naturalist by A.P. who noted this species in town gardens. (See Reading Naturalist No. 26 p. 38.)

Peritrechus lundii (Gmel.)
Crowsley, 17th May (H.H.C.)

Kleidocerys truncatulus (Walk.)
Finchampstead Ridges, 17th June, 1976 (R.G.L.).

Psallus perrisi (M. & R.)
Chalkhouse Green, 6th June; Crowsley, 14th June (H.H.C.).

Plagiognathus albipennis (Fall.)
Sindlesham Mill, 29th August, 1976 (R.G.L.).

Sthenarus rotermundi (Scholtz)
Crowsley, 14th June (H.H.C.).

Campyloneura virgula (Herr.)
Crowsley, 1st August (H.H.C.).

Dryophilocoris fulvoquadrimaculatus (Deg.)
Wyfold Copse, 11th June (H.H.C.).

Calocoris fulvomaculatus (Deg.)
Crowsley, 18th July (H.H.C.).

Oncopsis flavicollis (L.)
Finchampstead Ridges, 17th June 1976 (R.G.L.).

Macropsis scutellata (Boh.)
Crowsley, 30th August (H.H.C.).

Errastunus ocellaris (Fall.)
Finchampstead Ridges, 17th June 1976 (R.G.L.).

Order Coleoptera (Beetles)

Lampyrus noctiluca (L.) Glow-worm
Bucklebury Common, 17th June; a female glow-worm discovered under a piece of bark on the ground on the occasion of the Society's visit to this locality (K.A.). Cow Common, Well Barn Estate near Streatley, 14th July; a male attracted to mercury-vapour light on the occasion of the Society's Entomological Evening.

Harmonia quadripunctata (Pont.)
Crowsley, 7th June (H.H.C.).

Nacerdes melanura (L.) The Wharf-borer
Caversham, 11th July, a single specimen from a local shop submitted to the Museum, our first record for many years.

Lucanus cervus (L.) Stag Beetle
37, Ashmore Road, Reading, 12th June; 24, Donkin Hill, Caversham, 21st June, both specimens submitted to the Museum by local residents.

Order Diptera (True Flies)

- Ctenophora bimaculata (L.)
Highstanding Hill, Windsor, 28th May (R.G.L.)
- Anopheles claviger (Mg.)
Pamber Forest, c. 1971 (D.T.P.)
- Asilus crabroniformis L.
Lardon Chase, Streatley, 16th September
- Platypalpus pseudociliaris Strobl
Crowsley, 20th June (H.H.C.).
- Rhamphomyia tarsata Mg.
Crowsley, 14th June (H.H.C.).
- Empis albinervis Mg.
Crowsley, 1st August (H.H.C.).
- Euleia heraclei (L.)
Crowsley, 20th June (H.H.C.).
- Trypeta zoe (Mg.)
Wyfold Copse, 11th June (H.H.C.).
- Terellia serratulae (L.)
Sindlesham Mill, 29th August, 1976 (R.G.L.).
- Limnia unguicornis (Scop.)
Crowsley, 14th June (H.H.C.).
- Copromyza flavipennis (Hal.)
Crowsley, 11th May (H.H.C.).
- Fannia atra (Stein)
Crowsley, 14th June (H.H.C.).
- Helina quadrimaculella Hennig
Crowsley, 7th June (H.H.C.).

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

- Urocerus gigas (L.) - Giant Woodwasp or Giant Horntail
Shiplake, Tilehurst, Whitley Wood, Kidmore End and Sonning
Common during the period from 20th August to 23rd
September. An extraordinary year for this species, spec-
imens having been received at the Museum over the period
stated.
- Dolerus sericeps Thom.
Whiteknights, 22nd August, 1976 (R.G.L.).
- Tenthredo distinguenda (Stein)
Crowsley, 7th June (H.H.C.).
- Ophion minutus Kriech.
Crowsley, 11th May (H.H.C.).
- O. scutellaris Thom.
Aldermaston, 30th April (G.E-F.). Caversham, 21st May.

Cleonymus depressus (F.)
Crowsley, 20th June (H.H.C.).

Gastracanthus pulcherrimus Westw.
Chalkhouse Green, 22nd June, 1976 (H.H.C.).

Andricus quercus-calicis Burgsdorf.
Arborfield, 20th September, galled acorns submitted to the Museum by Mrs. Phipps. H.H.C. adds the following note about this interesting little gall-wasp. "A recent immigrant to Britain, unknown here before 1960. First taken in the Reading area in Crowsley Forest during September 1976 when the galls collected failed to produce wasps. A further supply of galls was collected from amongst leaf litter on 25th March 1978 and from these a single agamic female emerged in late September. The result of infestation is a gross distortion of the developing acorn to form a mass of angular lobes which overflow the acorn cup. In the centre of the mass where the tip of the acorn would normally be, there is a small hole through which the adult presumably emerges in due course. Members of this Society are earnestly requested to keep a look-out for this gall so that the progress of the species may be charted."

Andrena bucephala Stephens
Crowsley, 17th May, together with its parasitoid Nomada hirtipes Perez

Nomada hirtipes Perez
This species like Urocerus has had an unusually good year. (H.H.C.).

Order Lepidoptera (Moths & Butterflies)

Many interesting records have been received for this popular order and several members are operating mercury vapour moth traps in various parts of our County. The trap records, some of them compiled on a quantitative basis, will also be especially useful when the preparation of a new Macro- and Micro-Lepidoptera list for Berkshire (Vice County 22) is commenced.

Hepialus fusconebulosa (Deg.) Map-winged Swift
Aldermaston, 2nd June, 1976 (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Zeuzera pyrina (L.) Leopard Moth
Aldermaston, 9th July (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.); Caversham, 10th July; Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, 14th & 15th July (T.J.G.H.).

Apoda avellana (L.) The Festoon
Aldermaston, 15th June, 1976 (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Sphecia bembeciformis (Hubn.) Lunar Hornet Clearwing
Timpstone Plantation, Berks., 22nd July, a female observed flying around a willow bush at c. 5.00 p.m.

Conopia myopaeformis (Borkh.) Red-belted Clearwing
Alexandra Road, Reading, 16th June (A.P.).

C. formicaeformis (Esp.) Red-tipped Clearwing
Woolhampton, 16th April, larvae in Salix viminalis.

Bembecia scopigera (Scop.) Six-belted Clearwing
Hartslock Reserve near Goring, 24th June (G.B.); Streatley,
5th August; Aldermaston, 8th September, a dead specimen
discovered in a vehicle (P.S.).

Thymelicus lineola (Ochsenheimer) Essex Skipper
South Ascot, mid August. Following Mr. Standley's inter-
esting record in Reading Naturalist No. 30 we received a
call that this little butterfly had again appeared, and a
joint visit was paid to the locality. The Essex Skipper
and Small Skipper appeared to occur in equal numbers over
a fairly wide area; it would be interesting to know if
the Essex Skipper occurs in the Bracknell-Wokingham area.

Hesperia comma (L.) Silver-spotted Skipper
Streatley, 5th August; Pyrton Hill, 22nd August (B.T.P.).

Gonepteryx rhamni (L.) Brimstone Butterfly
Caversham, 30th March (H.G.B.); Hartslock Reserve near
Goring, 5th June, fully grown larvae (B.T.P.); Whiteknights,
23rd April (J.P.W.); Bracknell, 11th November (M.D.).

Anthocharis cardamines (L.) Orange-tip
In connection with an unusual abundance of this species
commented on by D.E.C. who saw it at Moor Copse on 7th
May, in Reading on 9th and 30th May and at Aston Rowant,
Aston Upthorpe Down and Hurley on various dates between
3rd and 19th June, the following note from outside our
area, contributed by Miss E. M. Nelmes, is of interest:
"During a mild spell in February 1978, a female Orange-tip
Butterfly was brought to my cottage in Stroud, Glos., for
identification. It had been caught two days earlier in
the lounge of a bungalow about a mile away. The day after
its arrival at the cottage was sunny, though windy, and
it was put outside, in an open jar in a sheltered part of
the garden. Shortly afterwards, it had flown away. The
garden has many aubretia and honesty plants and is fre-
quented by orange-tips."

Lysandra coridon (Poda) Chalkhill Blue
Hartslock Reserve near Goring, 24th July, ovipositing
female (B.T.P.).

L. bellargus (Rott.) Adonis Blue
Fewer seen than in 1977 but specimens observed over the
period 4th to 19th September (B.T.P.); also recorded by
P.S. on 12th September.

Celastrina argiolus (L.) Holly Blue
St. Peter's Hill, Caversham, 25th May; Bucklebury Place,
11th June (B.T.P.); Pamber Forest, 9th August (P.S.).

Ladoga camilla (L.) White Admiral
Pamber Forest in good numbers during July and August, the
black ab. nigrina also seen (P.S.); Woolhampton, 16th July
(B.T.P.).

Apatura iris (L.) Purple Emperor
Pamber Forest, 11th August, a female seen to fly down to a willow bush (P.S.); near Farley Hill, 20th August - a possible sighting (B.T.P.).

Vanessa atalanta (L.) Red Admiral
Near Brimpton, 17th June (H.G.B.); Pamber Forest, 27th July (P.S.); Caversham, 21st August; Pangbourne, 16th September; Tadley Common, 4th November (P.S.); Bracknell, 12th October; 13th November (M.D.); Reading, 20th November (A.M.).

Aglais urticae (L.) Small Tortoiseshell
Bracknell, 5th & 17th March; Crowtherne, 30th March (M.D.); Tadley Common, 4th November (P.S.).

Inachis io (L.) Peacock Butterfly
Has had a good year, many broods of larvae observed, Hartslock, Hardwick, Crowsley, Mortimer and Silchester (B.T.P.).

Argynnis aglaja (L.) Dark Green Fritillary
Hartslock Reserve near Goring, 14th July (B.T.P.).

Argynnis paphia (L.) Silver-washed Fritillary
Pamber Forest, first observed 27th July, the dark form valezina also seen at this date, this species was very late appearing this year (B.T.P.).

Melanargia galathea (L.) Marbled White
Hartslock Reserve near Goring, 14th July to 8th August, numerous (B.T.P.); near Temple Golf Course, 25th July, a strong colony (T.J.G.H.).

Gastropacha quercifolia (L.) Lappet
Aldermaston, 8th August (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Orthonama obstipata (Fabr.) The Gem
Caversham, 25th July.

Colostygia multistrigaria (Haw.) Mottled Grey
Aldermaston, 17th April (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Selenia lunularia (Hubn.) Lunar Thorn
Aldermaston, 14th June, 1976, 12th June, 1978 (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Gnophos obscuratus (D. & S.) Annulet
Aldermaston, 10th & 15th August, 1977 (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Ptilodontella cucullina (D. & S.) Maple Prominent
Moor Copse Nature Reserve, 22nd June, a male at rest on a tree trunk, new Reserve record; Cow Common, Berks. Downs, 14th July.

Clostera pigra (Hufn.) Small Chocolate Tip
Aldermaston, 21st July, 1976 (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Euproctis chrysorrhoea (L.) Brown Tail
Aldermaston, 24th July & 6th August, 1977 (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.). The only other record for the County for this

normally maritime species appears to be the mention in Reading Naturalist No. 22, a specimen taken in the Leighton Park light-trap. Both the Aldermaston examples have been authenticated and provide evidence of the occasional tendency of this species to wander far from its coastal breeding grounds.

Spaelotis ravida (D. & S.) Stout Dart
Caversham, 16th August, two examples in mercury vapour trap.

Xestia agathina (Dup.) Heath Rustic
Snelsmore Common, 8th September, a single specimen. As its name implies, this species is an inhabitant of heathy localities, though in recent years Berkshire records have been few. A specimen was in the Caversham light-trap on the morning of 8th September - an interesting and unexplained record.

Cerastis leucographa (D. & S.) White Marked
Aldermaston, 17th & 22nd April (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Hadena compta (D. & S.) Varied Coronet
Caversham, 14th June & 18th July; Earley, 29th June (N.H.).
- these appear to be the first published records for the Vice-County. This moth, whose caterpillar feeds on Sweet Williams, first appeared in any numbers in this country at Dover in 1948, subsequently spreading slowly northwards into the eastern counties. It has now reached Berkshire from an easterly direction but has yet to be recorded from Hampshire.

Mythimna straminea (Treit.) Southern Wainscot
Aldermaston, 23rd August (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.). - this specimen appears to be a wanderer from its main breeding area down in the Kennet Valley reedbeds.

M. unipuncta (Haw.) American or White-speck Wainscot
Caversham, 8th November - new Vice-County record. An unprecedented migration of this species took place along our southern and south-western shores during the autumn. There was a major influx in October and a second one in early November and it is thought that these may have had different origins. Very few of the insects were recorded at inland localities but we have heard of one being taken at Faringdon (V.C.22); the exact date has not yet been reported.

Lithophane leautieri (Boisd.) Blair's Shoulder-knot
Tilehurst, 13th & 21st October (N.H.); Aldermaston, 21st October (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.); Caversham, 6th November - all records refer to single specimens. A total of six moths have now been recorded for Berkshire and the spread of this interesting species, as predicted in last year's Reading Naturalist, seems to be continuing.

Xanthia gilvago (D. & S.) Dusky-lemon Sallow
Earley, 14th September (N.H.) - a noteworthy record of a species of which little has been heard in our area in recent years.

Ipimorpha retusa (L.) Double Kidney
Aldermaston, 13th August (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Mesoligia literosa (Haw.) Rosy Minor
Aldermaston, 27th July (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Celaena leucostigma (H ubn.) The Crescent
Aldermaston, 3rd September (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Heliothis viriplaca (Hufn.) Marbled Clover
Aldermaston, 17th July (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

Diachrysia chryson (Esp.) Scarce Burnished Brass
Aldermaston, 1st August (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.). Another
example of a species taken away from its main headquarters
down in the Kennet Valley.

Parascotia fuliginaria (L.) Waved Black
Aldermaston, 18th July (G.E-F.; K.H.P.; P.S.).

The Society's Entomological Evening

This proved a most enjoyable excursion both by way
of abundance of species seen and nature of the locality.
Our thanks are due to the Well Barn Estate who gave
permission for us to work light high up on the chalk
slopes at Cow Common, a locality where members could
spread themselves comfortably on the turf and enjoy a
splendid night's nothing. Under warm conditions we
recorded a total of eighty-two species though one of the
most impressive, a large male Privet Hawkmoth, chose not
to appear until around 2 a.m., a time when some of our
members had understandably departed for home and bed.

Contributors

K. Alexander (K.A.); G. Bellamy (G.B.); Mrs. H. G.
Baker (H.G.B.); Dr. C. Bucke (C.B.); Miss L. E. Cobb
(L.E.C.); Dr. M. Dumbleton (M.D.); Lt. Col. G. G.
Eastwick-Field (G.E-F.); N. Hall (N.H.); T. J. G. Homer
(T.J.G.H.); R. G. Leeke (R.G.L.); Master Andrew May
(A.M.); B. T. Parsons (B.T.P.); K. H. Pinnock (K.H.P.);
P. Silver (P.S.); P. Standley (P.S.); H. H. Carter
(H.H.C.); A. Price (A.P.); J. P. Warrick (J.P.W.).

Our thanks are also due to the Director of Reading
Museum & Art Gallery for allowing us to incorporate any
relevant records from the Museum's collections and to
John Ward for carefully scribing the results of the
Society's Entomological Evening.

WEATHER RECORDS IN 1977

by M. Parry

		JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	YEAR
MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURES °C.	MAX.	5.5	8.9	10.4	11.5	15.7	16.1	21.1	19.7	17.3	15.4	9.8	8.7	13.3
	MIN.	0.6	3.0	4.1	3.4	6.4	8.6	11.6	11.8	9.7	8.3	4.0	3.7	6.3
	MEAN	3.1	5.9	7.3	7.5	11.1	12.3	16.3	15.7	13.5	11.9	6.9	6.2	9.8
	RANGE	4.9	5.9	6.3	8.1	9.3	7.5	9.5	7.9	7.6	7.1	5.8	5.0	7.0
EXTREME TEMPERATURES °C.	E. MAX.	11.5	12.3	18.4	15.5	23.0	23.0	26.9	26.0	21.1	17.9	16.6	14.2	26.9
	DATE	25	20	2	12.25	26.28	3	6	1	5	21.22	10	23	July 6
	E. MIN.	-5.5	-2.9	-3.6	-2.3	0.4	3.0	6.4	6.4	4.2	2.3	-1.7	-1.0	-5.5
	DATE	13	27	30	10	1	9	30	29	14	11	30	1.3	Jan. 13
	E. GRASS MIN.	-10.8	-11.4	-9.9	-9.3	-5.2	-2.8	-0.9	0.7	-2.3	-3.4	-8.3	-7.2	-11.4
	DATE	13	28	30	10	1	9	15	10	18	11	27	3	Feb. 28
DAYS WITH FROST		11	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	32
GROUND FROST		20	16	15	18	9	6	2	0	6	7	16	16	131
SUNSHINE HOURS	SUM.	41	86	105	167	235	140	223	134	124	107	97	37	1496
	% POSSIBLE	16	31	29	40	49	28	45	30	33	32	36	15	31
	DAILY MEAN	1.34	3.09	3.40	5.57	7.58	4.66	7.19	4.32	4.13	3.45	3.23	1.20	4.10
PRECIPITATION m.m.	AMOUNT	57.4	94.8	62.4	33.4	40.8	74.9	17.0	131.9	17.5	45.1	47.7	69.8	692.7
	RAIN DAYS	15	21	18	15	13	16	8	16	7	16	15	21	181
	MAX. RAIN IN 1 DAY	16.2	16.1	10.0	9.8	14.4	20.3	4.7	31.8	6.0	17.9	12.3	16.9	31.8
	DATE	13	9	26	26	2	13	17	16	2	8	1	7	Aug. 16
LONGEST RUN OF CONSECUTIVE RAIN DAYS		4	10	12	5	7	9	3	5	2	4	5	9	-
LONGEST RUN OF CONSECUTIVE DRY DAYS		4	3	8	7	8	5	11	4	18	4	6	3	-
SNOW OR SLEET DAYS		4	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
DAYS SNOW LYING		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
VISIBILITY	FOG AT 0900 G.M.T.	9	5	6	0	1	2	0	5	1	13	0	4	46
THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY	DAYS THUNDER	0	1	2	4	2	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	16
	DAYS HAIL	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

OBSERVATIONS AT READING UNIVERSITY METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Monthly Weather Notes, 1977

by M. Parry

January

Coldest January since 1966, with air temperatures at or below 0 C for 122 hours: a little drier and a little sunnier than average.

February

Warmest for 10 years, but more than twice the normal rainfall (yet also sunnier than average): on 23rd, 1.2mm. of rain fell in 3 minutes (a rate of approximately 1 inch per hour).

March

Again mild, with 15.6 C (60F) reached on 2nd: wet and dull.

April

Cold, with a mean temperature hardly above that of March and a warmest day 3 C colder than that of March: rainfall a little below, sunshine a little above normal.

May

Rather cold and dry, but sunny: the 27th was the sunniest May day since late May 1966.

June

Cold for June, also rather wet, with 20mm. falling on one day: on 14th 4.1mm. fell in 3 minutes (a rate of over 3 inches per hour) during a heavy thunderstorm: dulllest June since sunshine records began in Reading (1939), with a sunshine record about that of an average March, and 5 consecutive sunless days, 17th - 21st.

July

Provided the year's warmest day (maximum 26.9 C): very dry (the driest July since 1955) and sunny.

August

Continued the cooler-than-average trend: the 19th was the coldest August night since 1954. With over 5 inches of rain, this was the wettest August since reliable records began at this station in 1920: heavy falls included 10mm. in 12 minutes (a rate of about 2 inches/hour) and 4.2mm. in 3 minutes (over 3 inches/hour) in thunderstorm rains on 17th.

September

Cool and very dry, with 18 consecutive dry days constituting the year's only drought period.

October

The first month since March to be warmer than average: dry and sunny, though with frequent morning fogs.

November

Average month for temperature, but rather dry and sunny: also the year's windiest month, with a highest gust of 63 mph.

December

Mild month with no snow and half November's number of air frosts: the warmest day's temperature of 14.2 C on 23rd was the highest since December, 1961.

WEATHER RECORDS: 1978

contributed by M. Parry

LOCATION: READING UNIVERSITY

[illegible]

Monthly Weather Notes, 1978

- JANUARY A changeable month. Though only slightly cooler than average, it had more air frosts than any January since 1968 and most ground frosts since 1963. Both wetter and sunnier than usual.
- FEBRUARY Coldest February since 1969 and with the longest duration (237 hours) of freezing temperatures in February since 1963. Slightly drier and less sunny than average.
- MARCH Warmer, wetter and yet sunnier than average. An unsettled month with some very low barometric pressures and some strong winds.
- APRIL A cold month (2 degrees C. below normal) with day-time temperatures especially low; the coldest April since 1922. Although in fact slightly drier than average, it was the wettest April since 1973 (illustrating the recent tendency towards dry spring months). Also the dullest April since 1966.
- MAY A month of average temperature, though the first half was cool and the second mild, and the last day of the month was the warmest of the whole year (an unusual distinction for May and an indication of the coolness of the summer). Wetter and sunnier than average. Also notable for its unusually high frequency of winds between North and East (64%).
- JUNE Cool, somewhat drier than average, but also very deficient in sunshine.
- JULY Again cooler than average and very dull (least July sunshine since 1965). Somewhat wetter than average.
- AUGUST Again cool but quite sunny, with less than average rainfall. This completed a trio of summer months about 1 degree C. cooler than normal.
- SEPTEMBER Average temperatures but very dry and sunny (the sunniest September since 1971).
- OCTOBER The first warm month (in relation to average) since March, with its warmest day exceeding that of September and rivalling that of August. Also extremely dry (usually October is the second wettest month of the year): a late taste of summer.
- NOVEMBER The warmest November since 1963 and also uncharacteristically dry (November is usually the wettest month), the driest since 1956.
- DECEMBER Near-average temperatures but the wettest month of the year and the wettest December since 1934. The 10th was not only 1978's wettest day but also the wettest December day in the University station's record (which began in 1921).