

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

Chairman: J. G. KEYLOCK

Secretary: H. L. M. PATTEN

Committee: The Chairman with Mrs. J. APPELYARD, Dr. E. G. NEAL, Mrs. P. A. WOLSELEY, M. G. McFARLANE and F. R. RENDELL

Recorders:

Botany (Vascular Plants): A.D. HALLAM, Pencross House, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon
(Bryophytes): Mrs. J. APPELYARD, Sunnyside, West Horrington, Wells
(Fungi): J. G. KEYLOCK, Sunnyside, East Street, Crewkerne

Zoology (Mammalia): Dr. E. G. NEAL, Mansell House, Milverton, Taunton
(Lepidoptera): Dr. H. M. CHAPPEL, The Old Rectory, Selworthy, Minehead
(Coleoptera): G. L. FREWIN, Wreath Green Cottage, Tatworth, Chard
(Odonata): J. G. KEYLOCK, Sunnyside, East Street, Crewkerne

FIELD MEETINGS 1974

CURLoad, 23 June (Leader J. G. Keylock)

The object of the meeting was to collect Plant Records for tetrad ST 3226 for the New Flora. The River Tone runs through the tetrad separating Curry Moor and Hay Moor. Over two hundred records were collected and the rhines were particularly productive. Four species of pond-weed were noted: *Zannichellia palustris*, *Potamogeton berchtoldii*, *Potamogeton pusillus*, and *Potamogeton trichoides*. Marginal aquatics were much in evidence including such species as *Thalictrum flavum*, *Butomus umbellatus*, *Scripus maritimus*, *Samolus valerandii*, and a rather uncommon sedge, *Carex vesicaria*.

SIMONSBATH, 21 July (Leader J. G. Keylock)

This was a joint meeting with the Yeovil and Bath Natural History Societies, and over eighty members attended. The party walked alongside the river bank from Simonsbath towards Cow Castle. *Montbretia* (*Crocoshmia x crocosmiflora*) and Monkey flowers were abundant at the sides of the river. Most of the Monkey flowers appeared to be the hybrid *Mimulus guttatus x luteus* with varying degrees of blotching on the lip and poor seed development, but a few plants of the pure *Mimulus guttatus* were seen. Other interesting and less common plants by the river were Water Purslane (*Peplis portula*), Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*) and Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*).

An interesting boggy flush near the start of the walk contained Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), Flea Sedge (*Carex pulicaris*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*).

Plants of note on the dry moor were Heath Grass (*Sieglingia decumbens*) and Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*). Near the old mine there was a small patch of Bird's-Foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*).

Buzzards were much in evidence and one was seen feeding young. Tree Pipits were also seen feeding young. The Demoiselle Agrion (*Agrion virgo*) and the Golden-ringed Dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) were plentiful along the stream.

WEACOMBE, 15 August (Leader H. W. Boon)

A party met at Staple Plain on the Quantocks, for an exploration of this attractive combe. Walking up the combe Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia bederacea*) was noted in one place by the stream, and Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) grew on the pleasant turfy track. A small patch of Cornish Moneywort (*Sibthorpia europaea*) was also observed by the stream.

The chief interest, however, lay in the small bogs which form at the springheads in the little side combes. Here there was an interesting variety of plants including Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), Lesser Skullcap (*Scutellaria minor*), Bog St John's-wort (*Hypericum elodes*), Many-stalked Spike-rush (*Eleocharis multicaulis*) and Bristle Club-rush (*Scirpus setaceus*). Further up the combe the Eyebright (*Euphrasia angelica*) was identified.

Later, a few members visited the disused quarry on the other side of Staple Plain, in Vinnicombe. Here Cudweed (*Filago germanica*) and Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) were among the less common species observed. It was interesting to see how several calcicolous species, such as Ploughman's Spikenard (*Inula conyza*) and Carlina Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), were at home in parts of the quarry, in great contrast to the acid flora of the adjacent combe.

LICKHAM COMMON and ASHCULME, 20 October (Leader J. G. Keylock)

The annual fungus foray was held at these two Devon Trust Nature Reserves by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hallam. The object of the foray was to start systematic recording of the fungi in both reserves.

Lickham was visited in the morning, and twenty-four species were recorded. The moist beech bank adjacent to the stream was particularly interesting, with large numbers of *Leotia lubrica* and *Cantberellus tubaeformis*. There was also a good crop of *Suillus bovinus* and a rather uncommon *Tricholoma* with a very slimy cap, *Tricholoma ustaloides*.

Thirty-five species were recorded from Ashculme. Interesting species included a well developed Beef-steak fungus, *Fistulina hepatica*, and the young stages of the Dog Stinkhorn, *Mutinus caninus*. A bracket-like toothed fungus, *Pbellodon melaleucus* was found on a moss-covered wet beech stump.

SOMERSET NATURAL HISTORY

RECORDERS' NOTES

BOTANY 1973

The name of each species is preceded by its number in J. E. Dandy, *List of British Vascular Plants* (1958), and the nomenclature used in this list, as amended by Dandy, *Watsonia* 7 (3), 157-178 (1969), has been adopted. Following the locality is the number of the ten-kilometre National Grid square. The bracketed numbers refer to the ten districts into which Somerset was divided by R. P. Murray, *Flora of Somerset* (1896). District and vice-county records are marked * and aliens †.

Contributors are identified by their initials:

J.A.	Mrs. J. Appleyard	J.V.C.	J.V. Carrington
H.W.B.	H.W. Boon	C.J.C.	C.J. Cornell
J.G.K.	J.G. Keylock		

PTEROPSIDA

- 24/1 *Thelypteris limbosperma* (All.) H.P. Fuchs
vc 3 (Som) (6) Roadside near Stapley Mill, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.

ANGIOSPERMAE

- 38/2 *Helleborus viridis* L.
vc 5 (2) Putham Wood, Cutcombe, SS93. H.W.B.
- 49/1 *Aquilegia vulgaris* L.
vc 6 (10) wooded stream bank between Welton and Radstock, ST65. J.A.

- 55/1 *Nymphaea alba* L.
vc 6 (9) Pond by railway, Middle Street Farm, Brent Knoll, ST35; Pond, Charterhouse Mineries, ST55. J.A.
- 72/2 *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* (L.) DC.
vc 6 (10) Waste ground near East Dundry, ST56. J.A.
- 81/1 *Cardaria draba* (L.) Desv.
vc (9) Near Langford, ST46. J.A.
- 102/4 *Rorippa islandica* (Oeder) Borbás
vc 6 (10) Damp waste ground near Radstock, ST65. J.A.
- 115/9 *Hypericum humifusum* L.
vc 6 (9) Several places near Priddy, ST55. J.A.
- 115/14 *Hypericum elodes* L.
vc 3 (Som) (6) Boggy ground near Beer Hill, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.
- 123/12 *Silene noctiflora* L.
vc 6 (10) Neglected field south of Radford, Camerton, ST65. J.A.
- 149/3 †*Montia sibirica* (L.) Howell
vc 3 (Som) (6*) Well-established along stream below Stapley Mill, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.
- 163/4 *Malva neglecta* Wallr.
vc 6 (8) Near East Huntspill, ST34. J.A.
- 168/4 *Geranium pusillum* L.
vc 6 (9) Roadside near Clevedon Court, ST47. J.A. *conf.* R.G.B. Roe.
- 168/12 *Geranium rotundifolium* L.
vc 5* (3*) Hedgebank near Wellington, ST09. J.W.B. There is a station for this species in the neighbouring part of Devon.
- 191/3 †*Melilotus alba* Medic.
vc 5 (2) Behind Dunster Beach, ST04. H.W.B.
- 192/10 *Trifolium striatum* L.
vc 6 (9) Field north of Banwell Wood, ST45. J.A.
- 204/1 *Hippocrepis comosa* L.
vc 6 (10) Clandown near Radstock, ST65. J.A.
- 207/1 *Lathyrus aphaca* L.
vc 6 (5) Margin of field near Knowle, Bawdrip, ST34. J.A.
- 207/2 *Lathyrus nissolia* L.
vc 6 (5) With *L. aphaca* above. J.A.
- 207/6 *Lathyrus sylvestris* L.
vc 6 (10) Old railway embankment, near Thicket Mead Bridge, Midsomer Norton, ST65. J.A.
- 235/2 *Sedum telephium* L.
vc 6 (9) Abundant in old railway cutting near Sandford Batch, Wrington, ST45. J.A. This is probably H.S. Thompson's station, 1925.
- 242/2 *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* L.
vc 5 (3) Holcombe Water, Brompton Ralph, ST03. H.W.B.
vc 6 (10) Wood near Chilcompton, ST65. J.A.
- 254/4 *Epilobium lanceolatum* Seb. & Maur.
vc 6 (10) Waste ground near Winford Manor, ST56. J.A.
- 254/5 *Epilobium roseum* Schreb.
vc 6 (5*) By rhine, Tadham Moor, Wedmore, ST44. J.A.
- 256/2 †*Oenothera erythrosepala* Borbás
vc 6 (10*) Waste ground, Welton, Midsomer Norton, ST65. J.A.
- 259/4 *Myriophyllum alternifolium* DC.
vc 6 (9) Pond north of Priddy, ST55. J.A.

- 296/1 **Sium latifolium** L.
vc 6 (5) Many plants in rhine near Othery, ST33. H.W.B.
- 300/4 **Oenanthe lachenalii** C.C. Gmel.
vc 6 (10) Bog near Hinton Blewett, ST55. J.A.
- 311/2 †**Heracleum mantegazzianum** Somm. & Levier
vc 6 (9*) By stream in small combe near Weare, ST45. J.A.
- 319/7 **Euphorbia platyphyllos** L.
Margin of field near Knowle, Bawdrip, ST34. J.A.
- 320/6 **Polygonum bistorta** L.
vc 6 (9) Meadow by Priddy Pool, ST55. J.A.
- 320/13 **Polygonum mite** Schrank
Field south west of Wedmore, ST44. J.A. *Conf.* R.G.B. Roe.
- 325/13 **Rumex pulcher** L.
vc 6 (9) Field near Compton Bishop, ST45; abundant on Nyland Hill, ST45. J.A.
- 382/5 **Centaurium capitatum** (Willd.) Borbás
Wavering Down, Compton Bishop, ST45. J.A. Recorded in 1950 for Crook Peak by F.K. Makins.
- 386/1 **Menyanthes trifoliata** L.
vc 3 (Som) (6) Streamside and wet area near Lower Munty, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.
- 392/2x1 †**Symphytum x uplandicum** Nyman
vc 6 (9) Abundant in Priddy churchyard and spreading to adjacent fields, ST55. J.A.
- 393/1 †**Borago officinalis** L.
vc 5 (3) Well-established on waste land, Spaxton, ST23, H.W.B.
- 397/1 **Lycopsis arvensis** L.
vc 6 (9) Burton Row, Brent Knoll, ST35. J.A.
- 422/1 **Kickxia spuria** (L.) Dumort.
vc 6 (8) Field near old railway, Chilton Polden, ST34; (9) Field near Brent Knoll, ST35. J.A.
- 422/2 **Kickxia elatine** (L.) Dumort.
vc 6 (9) With *K. spuria* above, Brent Knoll, ST34; (10) Fields near Radford, Camerton, ST65. J.A.
- 425/1x2 †**Mimulus guttatus** Dougl. *ex* Lindl. x †*M. luteus* L.
vc 5* (3*) Adscombe abd Cockercombe, Over Stowey, ST13; Enmore, ST23. H.W.B. *Det.* R.H. Roberts.
- 430/23 **Veronica agrestis** L.
vc 6 (9) Allotment near old railway, Wrington, ST46. J.A.
- 432/1 **Pedicularis palustris** L.
vc 3 (Som) (6) Common in boggy areas near Stapley Mill, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.
- 445/5 †**Mentha spicata** L.
vc 6 (10) White Post, near Chilcompton, ST65. J.A.
- 445/4x5 **Mentha x piperata** L.
vc 6 (10) By stream near Midsomer Norton, ST56; wet hedge-bottom, White Post near, Chilcompton, ST65. J.A.
- 445/4x3x5 **Mentha x smithiana** R.A. Grah.
vc 6 (10*) side of ditch, Clandown Bottom, Radstock, ST65. J.A.
- 445/6 **Mentha longifolia** (L.) Huds.
vc 6 (10) Waste ground near Winford Manor, ST56. J.A.
- 445/S †**Mentha suaveolens** Ehrh.
vc 5* (4*) Small ditch near Shepton Beauchamp, ST31 or ST41. C.J.C. *Det.* R.M. Harley.

- 448/1 *Thymus pulegioides* L.
vc 6 (10) White Hill, near Hinton Blewett, ST55; Hartcliff Quarry near Winford, ST56; (9) Field near Wrington, ST46. J.A.
- 459/3 *Stachys arvensis* (L.) L.
vc 6 (10) Arable field near Butcombe, ST56. J.A.
- 462/1 *Lamium amplexicaule* L.
vc 5 (4) Arable field south of Hurcott Lane, Whitelackington, ST31. J.G.K.
- 462/3 *Lamium hybridum* Vill.
vc 5 (4) Arable field near Martock, ST41. J.G.K.
- 476/1 *Legousia hybrida* (L.) Delarb.
vc 6 (10) Neglected field south of Radford, Camerton, ST65. J.A.
- 502/1 *Bidens cernua* L.
vc 6 (10) Pool at summit of Eaker Hill, Chewton Mendip, ST55. J.A.
- 506/7 *Senecio viscosus* L.
vc 5 (3) Old railway track, Oake, ST12. H.W.B.
- 522/1 *Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronq.
vc 5 (3) Bridgwater Docks, ST23. H.W.B.
- 528/3 *Achillea ptarmica* L.
vc 6 (8) Lane near Watchfield, Mark, ST34. J.A.
- 577/13 *Potamogeton pusillus* L.
vc 6 (8) Rhine south of Blackford, Wedmore, ST44. J.A. *Conf.* R.G.B. Roe.
- 577/14 *Potamogeton obtusifolius* Mert. & Koch
vc 5* (3*) Pond in wood near Norton Fitzwarren, ST12. H.W.B. *Conf.* J.E. Dandy. This species has not yet been recorded from vc 6.
- 579/2 *Ruppia maritima* L.
vc 5 (2) Fringing brackish pool, Wall Common, Stolford, Stogursey, ST24. H.W.B.
- 589/3 *Polygonatum multiflorum* (L.) All.
vc 5 (2) Near ruins of mill, Putham Wood, Cutcombe, SS93. H.W.B.
- 627/1 *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall.
vc 6 (9) Abundant on Wavering Down, Compton Bishop, ST45; Nyland Hill, Cheddar, ST45. J.A.
- 638/1 *Platanthera chloranta* (Cust.) Reichb.
vc 6 (8) Chisland Covert, Bawdrip, ST34. J.A.
- 638/2 *Platanthera bifolia* (L.) Rich
vc 3 (Som) (6) A few plants in wet area near Lower Munty, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.
- 655/4 *Scirpus sylvaticus* Mill.
vc 5 (4) Stream and marshy ground near Booser Pit, Merriott, ST41. J.G.K.
- 655/10 *Scirpus setaceus* L.
vc 5 (3) Old railway track, Oake, ST12. H.W.B.
- 660/1 *Rhynchospora alba* (L.) Vahl
vc 3 (Som) (6) Boggy ground near Stapley Mill, Churchstanton, ST11. J.V.C.
- 663/23 *Carex strigosa* Huds.
vc 6 (9) Ditch near Cheddar reservoir, ST45. J.A.
- 663/24 *Carex pallescens* L.
vc 6 (9) Field near Towerhead Brook, Banwell, ST45. J.A.
- 663/60 *Carex disticha* Huds.
vc 6 (8) Field by Pyde Drove, Woolavington, ST34; (9) Marshy ground near Charterhouse Mineries, ST55. J.A. *Conf.* R.G.B. Roe.
- 670/1 x *Festulolium loliaceum* (Huds.) P. Fourn.
vc 6* (9*) Roadside, Badgworth, ST35; (10*) White Post, near Chilcompton, ST65. J.A. *Conf.* R.G.B. Roe.

- 671/2 †*Lolium multiflorum* Lam. f. *ramosum* (Guss.) P. Junge
vc 6 (9) Waste heap, Decoy Pool Farm, Nyland, Cheddar, ST45. J.A.
- 673/2 *Puccinellia distans* (L.) Parl.
vc 5 (2) Salt marsh behind shingle near Blue Anchor, ST04. H.W.B. This seems to be Murray's station.
- 700/1 *Calamagrostis epigejos* (L.) Roth
vc 6 (10) By brook near East Dundry, ST56. J.A.
- 720/1 *Setaria viridis* (L.) Beauv.
vc 6 (8) Near Somerset Court, Brent Knoll, ST34. J.A.

A. D. HALLAM,
Recorder

BRYOPHYTES

Mosses

- **Fissidens osmundoides* Hedw. vc 5 Dripping rock cleft near Simonsbath SS73.
Dichodontium pellucidum (Hedw.) Schimp. var. *flavescens* (With.) Husnot. vc 5 Prior's Park Wood ST21 M.C. McFarlane.
Physcomitrella patens (Hedw.) B., S. & G. vc 6 Muddy field near Brent Knoll.
Drepanocladus revolvens Turn. (Warnst.) var. *intermedius* (Lindb.) Rich. vc 6 A wall near Hinton Blewett ST55.

Hepatics

Cephaloziella hampeana (Nees.) Schiffn vc 6 On live *Salix cinerea* L. six feet above ground level ST55 An unusual situation for this species, usually found on raw humus or soil.

- **Scapania scandica* (Arn. & Bruch) MacV. vc 5 Gritty ground near Simonsbath SS73.

J. APPLEYARD,
Recorder

*New county record.

LEPIDOPTERA 1973

Records of migrant Lepidoptera in 1973 showed a considerable improvement on 1972 which was an extremely poor year.

An example of the very rare *Danaus plexippus* (*Milkweed*) was seen on 30 September on Exmoor near Porlock and brought in alive to the Minehead Information Centre for identification. It was a female and in excellent condition after its travels across the Atlantic.

Herse convolvuli (*Convolvulus Hawk*) was seen at Washford in September, and a larva of *Acherontia atropos* (*Death-Head Hawk*) was reported from Lower Ham in the same month. Mr. Blathwayt reported an example of *Eurois occulta* (*Great Brocade*) from Weston-super-Mare district on 1 August. *Leucania vitellina* (*Delicate Wainscot*), *Leucania unipuncta* (*White-speck Wainscot*) and *Rhodometra sacraria* (*Vestal*) were seen both at Nettlecombe and Selworthy. The Pyralid moth, *Diasemia litterata*, turned up at light twice in July at Selworthy. There has only been one previous record from the County.

The following records refer to resident species and the most notable were as follows.

From Nettlecombe *Clostera curtula* (*Chocolate-tip*), *Cephis advenaria* (*Little Thorn*) and *Mythimna turca* (*Double Line*) were reported, as was the last named from Selworthy.

Sphex bembeciformis (*Lunar Hornet*) and *Aegeria andreniformis* (*Orange-tailed Clearwing*) were recorded from Great Breach Wood as was the last named from Crewkerne.

The following interesting records were sent in by Mr. C.S.H. Blathwayt:

Agrotis ripae (*Sand Dart*) in July at Weston-super-Mare and Berrow.

Celaena leucostigma (*Crescent*) in August at Shapwick.

Lithacodia fasciana (*Marbled White-spot*): several at Shapwick in June.

Tholomyges turfosalis (Marsh Oblique-barred): several at Shapwick in August.

Eupithecia denotata (Campanula Pug) at Weston-super-Mare in June.

Eupithecia pygmaea (Marsh Pug) at Shapwick in May.

Eurpithecia valerianata (Valerian Pug) at Shapwick in July.

At Selworthy *Apocheima hispidaria* (Small Brindled Beauty) was recorded for the first time in the last seventeen years. *Eupithecia succenturiata* (Bordered Pug) was seen in July and three examples of *Diarsia dablui* (Barred Chestnut) in August. The Plume moth *Stenoptilia zophodactyla* was recorded in October. The following interesting Tortricid moths were noted at Selworthy:

Acleris byemana

Enarmonia formosana

Epinotia immundana

Olethreutes decrepitana

Lobesia littoralis: three examples in June and August, and apparently a new County Record.

The year 1973 showed a considerable increase in the recordings of *Lithophane leautieri* (Blair's Pinion) at Selworthy and it proved to be fairly common at light in the Autumn at Nettlecome.

Dr. H. M. CHAPPEL,
Recorder

THE SOMERSET TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

President: The Rt. Hon. The Earl Waldegrave, K.G.

Chairman: Ernest Neal, Ph.D., F.I.Biol.

Undoubtedly the most significant step for the Somerset Trust in 1974 was the signing of the lease for its new headquarters, Fyne Court, in March. Fyne Court, set in 24 acres of woodland in the hamlet of Broomfield, is situated 650 feet up on the Quantocks. Although the house itself no longer exists there is a good range of buildings and these are being converted to provide offices, store rooms and an Interpretation Centre. It is hoped that the Interpretation Centre will be a real contribution to the conservation of the Quantock Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Representatives of the Gloucester and Somerset Trusts and Bristol Naturalists' Society met in December, 1973, to discuss the problems presented by the forthcoming local government changes and have since formed a Joint Committee to deal direct with the County of Avon on conservation issues affecting the whole area. However, the Somerset Trust is continuing to manage and finance its existing reserves in south Avon and, in local matters, is unaffected by the boundary changes.

Two new reserves have been leased since the beginning of 1974, namely Weston Moor in the Gordano Valley and an area of woodland at Combe Florey near Taunton. An extension of 15 acres has also been acquired for the existing Trust reserve at Westhay Moor.

A notable success this year was the Trust's part in opposition to the proposed cable car in Cheddar Gorge. There were sound conservation reasons for objecting and the Trust was greatly relieved that Sedgemoor District Council refused the planning application.

Unfortunately the Trust found it necessary to increase its subscription rates from October, 1974. This step is much regretted but is considered essential if the Trust is to continue to play an active role in Somerset. It is hoped that the change in the rate will not have an adverse affect on membership which has shown a healthy increase in the course of the year and now totals nearly 3,900.

E.A.C. Eyden