

## The Entomological Section.

*President*—Mr. GERALD B. CONEY, The Hall, Batcombe.

*Recorder*—Mr. A. E. HUDD, F.E.S., 108, Pembroke Road, Clifton.

*Treasurer*—Mr. W. A. BOGUE, F.E.S., The Bank House, Watchet.

*Secretary*—Mr. H. H. SLATER, Brooke House, Cannington.

THE last year has been one of progress with us, and we are by degrees getting together an efficient band of specialists, to whom the determination of insects belonging to orders not usually attractive to amateur naturalists can be entrusted. We are still in need, however, of the services of a gentleman who has studied the *Tenthredinidæ* (Sawflies, etc.), and if any reader can help us to find one we shall be very grateful. Those of our members who do not seem able to attend our meetings and field-days might at all events do a little general collecting in the neighbourhood of their own homes, and keep a few tube-bottles (in a pocket box for out-of-doors) half filled with spirit (methylated spirit and rain water in equal proportions), or formalin (formaldehyde one part to eight of rain water), into which could be put, with quickly fatal results, any bees, flies, beetles, sawflies, ichneumons, or other insects which strike them as uncommon looking. If sent to the Secretary towards the end of the year, with general indications of locality and date, a good deal of useful information as to specific distribution in the county might result, and sometimes records of insects new to the county list. It is perhaps as well to remark that uncommon species of these families are not always "uncommon looking."

We had three very enjoyable field-days during the past season—at Castle Neroche (May 26), Burnham sandhills (July 11), and Ashcott Turf Moor (August 4),—the last of which finished up with the fen light and sheet a little after

midnight. Our best thanks are due to Lord Portman and Captain Warry for their kind permission to visit their property on May 26 and August 4.

The present volume concludes the additions in Lepidoptera to the *Victoria County History* list. Next year we hope to begin the additions to the *Diptera* (Two-winged flies) or the *Coleoptera* (Beetles). As the former, in the hands of our honorary member, Mr. H. J. Charbonnier, seems to be in the most advanced state of preparation at present,—for we have a list more than doubling the records in the *V.C.H.* (which were 230),—it seems probable that that will come first. Mr. Charbonnier asks the Secretary to beg all our entomologists to collect a few flies for him when on the war-path against their own special “game”; and adds, “Velvety flies and bees should be killed with a few drops of benzole in a small bottle, not in a killing bottle, in which their fur catches all sorts of lepidopterous scales, and is spoilt. They should be then set, or simply pinned and dried.”

Mr. H. Doidge has, during the year, been actively engaged upon the arrangement of the Type Collection of Somerset Lepidoptera in the cabinet procured for the purpose. A map is now attached to the cabinet showing the distribution of the species on the divisional lines adopted by the Rev. R. P. Murray in the “*Flora of Somerset*.” Labels under each species indicate from which of the ten divisions the insects were captured.

## The Ornithological Section.

President—The Right Hon. LORD ST. AUDRIES.

Recorder—Mr. JAMES TURNER.

Secretary and Treasurer—Miss AMY SMITH, The Mount, Halse, Taunton.

THE chief meeting of the Ornithological Section was held at Taunton Castle on March 12, 1913, when there was a fairly good attendance. There have also been other smaller meetings for special purposes connected with the Society's collection of birds.

During the year typewritten copies (27 pp.) of the Recorder's "Notes on Somerset Birds, from 1865 to April, 1913," have been sent to all members of the Section who have paid their subscription for the year. A similar record for 1913-14 will probably be issued in the spring of 1915.

Dr. David Price has presented a case containing a nest of the Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) with four eggs, which he took at Castle Cary in the last week of June, 1913. The Rev. Father R. Chichester has also presented a few specimens of interest, including a case containing a cock and hen Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) with albino young, from Bath, 1895.

It should be noted that a new heronry has been formed on the property of Lt.-Col. J. W. Gifford, near Chard. Also that a large number of Black Redstarts were observed along the Somerset coast in October and November, 1913.

The chief event of the year has been the acquisition for the County Museum of seventy-eight cases of Somerset and Devon birds collected by the late Mr. Charles Haddon, who died at Taunton in 1912. With few exceptions these birds were shot by Mr. Haddon in the neighbourhood of Taunton and Stolford, but most of the sea-birds came from Lundy



re-papered, and the labelling (in white oil-paint) is now in progress.

The museum assistant has also been engaged upon cleaning and re-papering other bird cases in the general series and the Bidgood Collection. Some of the cases of the Marshall Collection of Albino birds are in a somewhat damaged condition, and must receive attention ere long.

The general series of birds has been better grouped, and several shabby duplicate specimens have been removed and given to schools.

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Since the above was printed, the death of the Recorder has taken place. We much regret that Mr. James Turner passed away at Minehead on Dec. 31, 1913. At his funeral at Staplegrove Church on Jan. 3, 1914, the Society was represented by Miss A. Smith, Secretary of the Section, and Mr. St. George Gray, Assistant-Secretary and Curator.

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## The Botanical Section.

*President and Recorder*—The Rev. E. S. MARSHALL, F.L.S.,  
West Monkton, Taunton.

*Secretary*—Mr. W. D. MILLER, Cheddon, Taunton.

A MEETING of the Section was held at Taunton Castle on Saturday, March 8th, 1913, the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., President, in the chair.

The accounts to date were passed, showing a balance in hand of 6s.

The President informed the meeting that he had recently mentioned to the Council of the Parent Society that he would be prepared to write a Supplement to Murray's *Flora of Somerset*, provided that the Editorial Committee would publish it in full in the Society's *Proceedings*; and he stated that

he would be willing to contribute towards the cost of printing. This Supplement appears in this volume (No. LIX) of the *Proceedings*, and will be welcomed by Somerset botanists as a very important addition to the bibliography of the County Flora.

In accordance with the arrangements made at the above meeting, field days were held on May 17th to Castle Neroche, June 5th to Ashcott, and July 24th to Minehead and Bossington. An average number of fifteen members and friends were present on each occasion, and fine weather and interesting localities tended to the enjoyment of all who took part. Though little of botanical importance was done, several new stations were recorded, many interesting plants were observed *in situ*, and the less advanced botanists had the great advantage of having their specimens named on the spot by the President and others.

Experienced field botanists would be giving a very appreciable impetus to the work of the Section if they could find the time to accompany these expeditions.

In connection with the excursion to Ashcott, the members visited the excavations then in progress at the Meare Lake Village, and had the pleasure of hearing Mr. St. George Gray and Dr. Bulleid's remarks on this year's work. Thanks are due to the Rev. W. T. and Mrs. Reeder, of Selworthy Rectory, for their kind hospitality, and to Lord Portman, Captain Warry, Mr. A. F. Luttrell, Sir Thomas Acland, and others for permission to collect on their land.

Notes of importance have been received from Mr. Watson and others, and these are incorporated in the President's Supplement. It is greatly to be desired that all members of the Section will make use of its organization by sending to the Secretary notice—accompanied by fresh or dried specimens—of all finds in which they are interested. Records are scanty for County Divisions I (the Exe and its tributaries) and VI (Axe, Yarty, and Otter head-waters), and extensions,

or possibly extinctions, of stations are always to be looked for.

During the summer, correspondence has been received from the Plant Protection Section of the Selborne Society, and pending a meeting of the Somerset Botanical Section, the Hon. Sec. has undertaken to act as Corresponding Secretary to the above Plant Protection Section. In this connection all members are requested to urge locally the importance of the preservation of rare species, and the harmfulness of the too abundant collection of plants, ferns, etc., by school children and others. For example the Cheddar Pink (*Dianthus caesius*)—though partially protected by its inaccessibility—is ruthlessly torn down by residents for sale. (It is readily propagated by seed). Any cases of the extinction, or probable extinction, of a station should be reported as soon as possible.

Dr. H. Franklin Parsons, a member of the Parent Society since 1875, who died recently at Croydon, has bequeathed to the Society such of his botanical specimens as refer to Somerset, and these will shortly be examined by Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S. Dr. Parsons published in Vol. XXI of the *Proceedings* a paper entitled "The Flora of the Eastern Border of Somerset." (See obituary notice at end of volume).

The Section has now a membership of 34, and notices are sent to many other botanists in the county. Prospects for work in 1914 are therefore satisfactory.