

## NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

Chairman: J. G. KEYLOCK

Secretary: H. L. M. PATTEN

Committee: THE CHAIRMAN with MRS. J. APPEYARD, H. W. BOON, DR. H. M. CHAPPEL,  
G. L. FREWIN, DR. E. G. NEAL, MRS. P. A. WOLSELEY, M. G. MCFARLANE

### Recorders:

- Botany — (Vascular Plants) A. D. HALLAM, Pencross House, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon.  
(Bryophytes) MRS. J. APPEYARD, 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.

### INDOOR MEETINGS

Illustrated lectures were given by: Dr. M. C. F. Proctor on "Adaptation and Evolution in Flower Pollination"; by Professor E. B. Ford on "Industrial Melanism in the Lepidoptera", and "Close-up on Nature", by Mr. A. E. McR Pearce.

A Social Evening was held in the N.F.U. Hall, Taunton, on October 18th.

### FIELD MEETINGS

COMBWICH COMMON, 11th June (Leader: H. W. Boon)

The party first explored the Common, an area of grassy salt-marsh alongside the tidal river Parrett. Here the Tuberous Foxtail Grass (*Alopecurus Bulbosus*) was abundant, with here and there patches of Sea Milkwort (*Glaux Maritima*) and two species of Sand-Spurrey (*Spergularia Media* and *S. Marina*), all in flower. In the muddy tidal ditch the bright white flowers of Long-leaved Scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia Anglica*) were seen; this plant is now spreading along the muddy banks of the estuary. The interesting Reversed Clover (*Trifolium Resupinatum*), with its pink twisted flowers, was just beginning to bloom; this species, classed as a "casual", has been noted here on and off since 1955. In spite of extensive alterations to the sea bank north of the common, the Sea Clover (*Trifolium Squamosum*) was found to be thriving, and actually increasing. One member also spotted a plant of Small-flowered Melilot (*Melilotus Indica*) growing near the village.

Later, the party moved on to another coastal area, at Stolford, where conditions were somewhat drier, and varied by turfy banks and a shingle ridge. On these banks four more rather unusual clovers were found — Birdsfoot Fenugreek (*Trifolium Ornithopodioides*), Slender Trefoil (*T. Micranthum*), Rough Trefoil (*T. Scabrum*) and Soft Trefoil (*T. Striatum*); on one small bank these four were all seen growing together. In a damp hollow Marsh Arrow-grass (*Triglochin Palustris*) was noted, while on the shingle ridge the Slender Thistle (*Carduus Teniflorus*) and Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium Flavum*) were both in flower. A little further west members were pleased to find the Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus Sardous*) scattered about some damp grassland behind the shingle ridge.

NORTH NEWTON, 10th August (Leader: H. W. Boon)

A large party met in fine weather to explore a section of the Bridgwater-Taunton Canal and nearby rhines.

Cut-grass (*Leersia Oryzoides*) was searched for without success in its usual station on the canal bank; this grass, a fairly recent addition to the flora of Somerset, is seen flowering only in hot summers, and evidently the current season proved too cool for the development. Near Coxhill Bridge the Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum Demersum*), the Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum Spicatum*) and the Fennel-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogetum Pectinatus*) were spotted and hauled from the canal by an enthusiastic member with a long stick.

Members then turned down Middlemoor Drove where there was a fine display of aquatic plants in the rhines. Two Water Plantains, the common *Alisma Plantago-Aquatica* and the uncommon *Baldellia Ranunculoides* were seen growing together in a few places, and the many differences were noted. Some handsome groups of Flowering Rush (*Butomus Umbellatus*) were just past their prime; but members were delighted at the sight of a colony of Greater Bladderwort (*Utricularia Vulgaris*) in full flower, the bright yellow blooms rising erect from the water. A varied assortment of the more usual aquatics included two Water Dropworts (*Oenanthe Aquatica* and

*O. Fistulosa*). Brookweed (*Samolus Valerandi*), two Bur-reeds (*Sparganium Erectum* and *S. Emersum*), Cyperus Sedge (*Carex Pseudocyperus*), Arrowhead (*Sagittaria Sagittifolia*), Frogbit (*Hydrocharis Morsus-Ranae*) and Narrow-leaved Water Parsnip (*Berula Erecta*). One flower of Water Violet (*Hottonia Palustris*) was seen, a late survivor from the usual flowering month of May.

The party regained the canal by another drove, in which Treacle Mustard (*Erysimum Cheiranthoides*) was growing. Returning by the towpath to North Newton the Sea Club-rush (*Scirpus Maritimus*) was seen adorning the banks, and thus a circular trip of much botanical interest was completed.

WEST MOOR, KINGSBURY, 8th July (Leader: J. G. Keylock)

A small party found much of interest in this small wetland area west of Kingsbury. Some osier is still grown in the area and the enclosing rhines showed all stages of plant succession, from those newly cleaned, to others densely filled with vegetation.

The Water Parsnip (*Sium latifolium*) was in flower and quite plentiful; it was interesting to compare it with the much commoner Narrow-leaved Water Parsnip (*Berula erecta*). Some of the rhines were choked with pondweeds (*Potamogeton sp.*) and some Water Violet (*Hottonia palustris*) was still flowering. One rhine contained a good growth of the rather local Whorled Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*).

Some fine stands of *Carex vesicaria* and *Carex pseudocyperus* were noted in the marginal vegetation along with a few plants of Treacle Mustard (*Erysimum cheiranthoides*).

## FUNGI

The annual foray was again held at White Vine Farm. The meeting was very well attended and led by Miss Margaret Holden. The Autumn was as dry as 1971 and this stimulated a more thorough search for the smaller fungi. At the end of the foray most of the larger fungi were displayed and Miss Holden talked briefly about each of the specimens. Mr. and Mrs. Oxenbury again entertained the party to tea and the Society is most grateful for their hospitality and also to Miss Holden for her expertise.

White Vine Farm, 22nd October, 1972

### AGARICS

<i>Agaricus arvensis</i>	<i>Laccaria amethystea</i> , <i>L. laccata</i>
<i>Agrocybe semiorbicularis</i>	<i>Lactarius piperatus</i>
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	<i>Lepista irina</i> *
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	<i>Mycena galericulata</i> , <i>M. haematopus</i> ,
<i>Bolbitius vitellinus</i>	<i>M. inclinata</i> , <i>M. polygramma</i>
<i>Cantharellus cinereus</i>	<i>Panaeolus fimicola</i> *, <i>P. rickenii</i> *,
<i>Clitocybe geotropa</i> , <i>C. nebularis</i>	<i>P. sphinctrinus</i>
<i>Conocybe tenera</i>	<i>Pluteus cervinus</i> , <i>P. pellitus</i> *,
<i>Coprinus plicatilis</i>	<i>P. salicinus</i>
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	<i>Psathyrella obtusata</i>
<i>Galerina unicolor</i>	<i>Stropharia merdaria</i> †
<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i> , <i>H. sacchariolum</i>	<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>
<i>Hypoholoma fasciculare</i> , <i>H. sublateritium</i>	

### GASTEROMYCETES

<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i> , <i>L. pyriforme</i>	<i>Scleroderma aurantium</i>
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### POLYPORES, ETC.

<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i>	<i>Phellinus ferruginosus</i> , <i>P. pomaceus</i> ,
<i>Coriolus versicolor</i>	<i>P. ribis</i>
<i>Daedalea quercina</i>	<i>Phlebia merismoides</i>
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>
(= <i>Trametes rubescens</i> )	<i>Polyporus nummularis</i> , <i>P. varius</i>
<i>Hymenochaete rubiginosa</i>	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i> , <i>S. rugosum</i>
	<i>Tyromyces stipticus</i>

## HETEROBASIDIOMYCETES

*Auricularia mesenterica*  
*Calocera viscosa*

*Exidia glandulosa*  
*Tremella mesenterica*

## ASCOMYCETES

*Ascobolus furfuraceus*  
*Calycella citrina*  
*Chlorosplenium aeruginascens*  
*Coprobia granulata*  
*Coryne sarcoides*  
*Daldinia concentrica*  
*Dasyscyphus niveus*  
*Diatrype stigma*

*Hymenoscyphus fructigenus*  
*Hypoxylon fuscum, multifforme,*  
*rubiginosum*  
*Mollisia cinerea*  
*Scutellinia scutellata*  
*Trochila ilicina*  
*Ustulina deusta*  
*Xylosphaera hypoxylon*

## MYXOMYCETES

*Lycogala epidendrum*  
*Stemonitis fusca*

*Trichia decipiens, T. varia*

## PHYCOMYCETES

*Pilobolus crystallinus*

## EXTRA RECORDS FROM 1971

\**Pistillaria puberula*, Buncombe wood, ST 23, 17th October.

Abundant on dead bracken stems.

\*†*Melanoleuca cognata*, Cockercombe, ST 13, 17th October.

\*†*Diatrype disciformis*, Cockercombe, ST 13, 17th October.

\*†*Entoloma porphyrophaeum*, White Vine Farm, ST 50, 4th November.

J. G. KEYLOCK.

\* New county records.

† Determined at Kew.

## SOMERSET NATURAL HISTORY

## RECORDERS' NOTES

## BOTANY 1971

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 of records are identified by their initials:

J.A.	Mrs. J. Appleyard	C.A.H.	C. A. Howe
H.W.B.	H. W. Boon	J.G.K.	J. G. Keylock
C.J.C.	C. J. Cornell	R.G.B.R.	Capt. R. G. B. Roe

## PTERIDOPHYTA

- 27/1 †*Azolla filiculoides* Lam.  
vc 5 (4) Rhine near Long Load, ST42. C.J.C.

## ANGIOSPERMAE

- 40/1(1) *Aconitum napellus* L. ssp. *anglicum* Stapf  
vc 5 (3) Still fairly plentiful by stream, Milverton Station, ST12, but is now being invaded by *Impatiens glandulifera*. H.W.B. This station has been in existence since 1847 — probably as early as 1823.
- 46/20 *Ranunculus circinatus* Sibth.  
vc 5 (4) Sutton Bingham reservoir, ST51. J.G.K.
- 46/22c *Ranunculus aquaticus* L. ssp. *penicillatus* (Dumort.) Bab.  
vc 5 (6\*) Tributary of R. Axe, near Amerham, Winsham, ST30. J.G.K.
- 57/1 *Ceratophyllum demersum* L.  
vc 5 (4) Sutton Bingham reservoir, ST50. J.G.K.
- 84/1 *Thlaspi arvense* L.  
vc 6 (8) Waste ground, Wedmore, ST44. J.A.
- 108/4 †*Sisymbrium orientale* L.  
vc 5 (2) By railway track near Watchet harbour, ST04. H.W.B.
- 115/9 *Hypericum humifusum* L.  
vc 5 (1) Below Pinkworthy Pond, Exmoor, SS74. J.G.K.
- 115/14 *Hypericum elodes* L.  
vc 5 (1) Near Warren Farm, Exmoor, SS74. J.G.K.
- 133/5 *Stellaria holostea* L. var. *laciniata* Bromf.  
vc 6 (9) Hedge near Theale, Wedmore, ST44. J.A.
- 154/1 *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* L.  
vc 6 (9) Latcham Drove, Wedmore, ST44. J.A.
- 154/9 *Chenopodium ficifolium* Sm.  
vc 5 (4) Eames Mill, Ilminster, ST31. J.G.K.
- 168/1 *Geranium pratense* L.  
vc 5 (6\*) Railway line near Crewkerne, ST40. J.G.K.
- 171/3 *Impatiens parviflora* DC  
vc 6 (10) Waste ground, Kentshire Farm, Winford, ST56. J.A.
- 192/5 *Trifolium squamosum* L.  
vc 6 (8) Barton St. David, ST53; still in Murray's station. R.G.B.R. (9) Many patches in Yarley Field Lane, Henton; first recorded here in 1882. J.A.
- 207/3 †*Lathyrus hirsutus* L.  
vc 6 (8\*) Rubbish tip, Street, ST43. J.G.K.
- 212/14 *Potentilla anglica* Laichard.  
vc 5 (3) Still in E. S. Marshall's station on Cothelstone Hill; Wind Down, Broomfield and Kingscliff, North Petherton. H.W.B.
- 220/3(2) *Alchemilla vulgaris* L. ssp. *vestita* (Buser) Raunk.  
vc 5 (4\*) Pen Wood, Hardington Mandeville, ST50. J.G.K.

- 232/7 **Sorbus torminalis** (L.) Crantz  
vc 5 (3) Several trees, up to 25ft. high in hedgerow thickets, near Spaxton, ST23; perhaps Murray's station. H.W.B. Murray cites J. C. Collins in H. C. Watson, *New Botanists Guide II* (1837). (4) Pen Wood, Hardington Mandeville, ST50. J.G.K.
- 242/2 **Chrysplenium alternifolium** L.  
vc 5 (2) Two small patches by stream near Enmore, ST23; (3) Large patch near stream, Tolland, ST13. H.W.B. (4) Banks of R. Parrett from source to West Chinnock, ST40, ST41. J.G.K.
- 254/4 **Epilobium lanceolatum** Seb. & Maur.  
vc 6 (10) Disused quarry, Downhead, ST64. J.A., *conf.* R.G.B.R.
- 254/6 †**Epilobium adenocaulon** Hausskn.  
vc 5 (3) By stream near Milverton, ST12. H.W.B.
- 254/13 †**Epilobium nerterioides** Cum.  
vc 5 (2) Hoccombe Water, about 1½ miles from Brendon Two Gates, SS74. R.G.B.R.
- 262/3 **Callitriche obtusangula** Le Gall  
vc 5 (4\*) Rhine near Midelney, ST42. J.G.K.
- 262/4 **Callitriche intermedia** Hoffm.  
vc 5 (1\*) Pinkworthy Pond, Exmoor, SS74. J.G.K.
- 319/7 **Euphorbia platyphyllos** L.  
vc 5 (2\*) Arable field near Stockland Bristol, ST24. H.W.B.
- 319/14 †**Euphorbia uralensis** Fisch. ex Link  
vc 6 (8) Wookey Station and along railway line, ST54. J.A.
- 320/6 **Polygonum bistorta** L.  
vc 5 (3) Marshy field near Enmore, ST23. H.W.B.
- 336/2 †**Alnus incana** (L.) Moench  
vc 6\* (8\*) By rhine, Totney Drove, near Mudgley, ST44. J.A., *det.* R.G.B.R.
- 364/1 **Empetrum nigrum** L.  
vc 5 (1) Source of R. Exe, SS74. J.G.K. (2) Near Saddle Gate, Exmoor, SS74. J.G.K.
- 473/1 **Littorella uniflora** (L.) Aschers.  
vc 5 (1) Banks of R. Barle, near Withypool, SS83. J.G.K.
- 485/10 **Galium uliginosum** L.  
vc 5 (6) Pond near Purtington, ST30. J.G.K.
- 558/217 **Hieracium umbellatum** L.  
vc 5 (6) Whitegates, Chard Common, ST30. J.G.K.  
vc 6 (8) Walton Heath, ST43. J.G.K.
- 558/219 **Hieracium perpropinquum** (Zahn) Druce  
vc 5\* (2\*) Blackpits Gate, Exmoor, SS74. (3\*) Elworthy Hill, ST03. J.G.K. Both *det.* P. D. Sell.
- 561/1 **Baldella ranunculoides** (L.) Parl.  
vc 6 (5) In quantity in rhine between Middlezoy and Moorlinch, ST33. H.W.B.
- 577/13 **Potamogeton pusillus** L.  
vc 5 (4) Sutton Bingham reservoir, ST51. J.G.K., *det.* J. E. Dandy.
- 577/19 **Potamogeton crispus** L.  
vc 5 (4) Sutton Bingham reservoir, ST51. J.G.K., *det.* J. E. Dandy.
- 577/21 **Potamogeton pectinatus** L.  
vc 5 (4) Sutton Bingham reservoir, ST51. J.G.K., *det.* J. E. Dandy. (6\*) Pond near Purtington, ST30. J.G.K., *det.* J. E. Dandy.
- 580/1 **Zannichellia palustris** L.  
vc 5 (6\*) Pond near Purtington, ST30. J.G.K.
- 605/2 †**Juncus tenuis** Willd.  
vc 6 (9) Near the shore of Blagdon Lake, ST55. J.A.
- 640/1 **Ophrys apifera** Huds.  
vc 5 (2) Plentiful near Shurton Bars, Stogursey, ST14. H.W.B.
- 655/2 **Scirpus cespitosus** L.  
vc 5 (6) Whitegates, Chard Common, ST30. J.G.K.
- 656/4 **Eleocharis multicaulis** (Sm.) Sm.  
vc 5 (6) Whitegates, Chard Common, ST 30. J.G.K.  
vc 6 (8) Walton Heath, ST43. J.G.K.

- 661/1 **Cladium mariscus** (L.) Pohl  
vc 6 (5) Kings Sedgemoor, ST43. C.A.H.
- 663/23 **Carex strigosa** Huds.  
vc 5 (4\*) Pen Wood, Hardington Mandeville, ST50. J.G.K.
- 676/6 **Poa nemoralis** L.  
vc 6 (9) Grassy verge, Middle Ellick Farm, Burrington, ST45. J.A.

## CHAROPHYTA

- Chara vulgaris** L.  
vc 5 (4) Sutton Bingham reservoir, ST51. J.G.K.
- Nitella translucens** Ag.  
vc 5 (2\*) Pinkworthy Pond, Exmoor, SS74. J.G.K.

A. D. HALLAM,  
Recorder.

## BRYOPHYTE RECORDS, 1971

## HEPATICES

- \*2/1 **Sphaerocarpus michelii** Bellardi  
vc 5 Clover field near Trent, 1960, ST61. Previously attributed to Dorset.
- †3/1 **Targionia hypophylla** L.  
vc 5 On soil, railway cutting, Sampford Brett, ST04.
- 10/13A **Riccia cavernosa** Hoffm.  
vc 5 Exposed mud, west end of Durleigh reservoir, ST23.
- †12/4 **Riccardia latifrons** (Lindb.) Lindb.  
vc 5 The Punch Bowl, Winsford Hill, SS83. J. A. Paton.
- \*31/5 **Lepidozia trichocladus** K. Müll.  
vc 5 Vertical peat bank, Hartford Bottom, SS29. J. A. Paton.
- 34/11 **Lophozia bicrenata** (Schmid.) Dum.  
vc 5 Sandy bank, St. Audrie's Forest, ST14.
- 36/1 **Barbilophozia floerkei** (Web. et Mohr) Loeske  
vc 6 Gritstone rocks, Wurt Pit, near Compton Martin, ST55.
- †36/3 **B. attenuata** (Mart.) Loeske  
vc 5 Shaded rocks near Tarr Steps, SS83. J. A. Paton.
- \*47/2 **Plectocolea subelliptica** (Lindb.) Evans  
vc 5 Clay cliffs above shore, west of Porlock, 1959. J. A. Paton. Previously recorded as **P. obovata**.
- †62/7 **Cephaloziella stellulifera** (Spruce) Schiffn.  
vc 5 Railway cutting, Sampford Brett, ST04. J. A. Paton.
- \*70/19 **Scapania subalpina** (Nees) Dum.  
vc 5 Rocks by East Lyn River, west of Malmsmead, SS74. J. A. Paton.
- †74/1 **Marchesinia mackaii** (Hook.) Gray  
vc 5 Embelle Wood, SS84. M. O. Hill.
- \*82/3 **Frullania microphylla** (Gottsche) Pears.  
vc 5 Rocks on the shore below Embelle Wood, SS84.

## MOSSES

- \*3/1 **Atrichum crispum** (James) Sull.  
vc 5 Bank of East Lyn River, west of Malmsmead, SS74. J. A. Paton.
- †10/1 **Archidium alternifolium** (Hedw.) Mitt.  
vc 5 On track, Britty Common, ST21.
- †34/2 **Encalypta vulgaris** Hedw.  
vc 5 Limestone outcrop, Cannington Park, ST24.
- 35/8 **Tortula papillosa** Wils. ex Spruce  
vc 5 On Ash, Cannington Park, ST24.
- †35/12β **T. muralis** Hedw. var. **aestiva** Hedw.  
vc 5 On derelict wall, Eastern Wood, Brendon Hills, ST03.
- 35/16 **T. cuneifolia** (With.) Turn.  
vc 5 Old quarry near railway, Sampford Brett, ST04.

- 37/2 **Desmatodon convolutus** (Brid.) Grout  
vc 5 Old quarry near railway, Sampford Brett, ST04.
- †43/3 **Cinclidotus mucronatus** (Brid.) Mach.  
vc 5 On *Alnus* by R. Parrett, near North Petherton, ST41.
- 52/11 **Weissia crispa** (Hedw.) Mitt.  
vc 5 In a field, Little Norton, near Montacute, ST41.
- †73/13B **Pohlia lutescens** (Limpr.) Lindb.  
vc 5 On soil on a wall above Embelle Wood, SS84. J. A. Paton.
- †77/19B **Bryum pseudotriquetrum** (Hedw.) Schwaegr var. **bimum** (Brid.) Lilj.  
vc 5 Marshy ground, Madacombe, SS84, M. O. Hill.
- 87/2 **Bartramia pomiformis** Hedw.  
vc 6 Wurt Pit, near Compton Martin, ST55.
- 98/10 **Orthotrichum sprucei** Mont. ex Spruce  
On *Alnus* by R. Parrett, near North Petherton, ST41.
- 139/4 **Amblystegium varium** (Hedw.) Lindb.  
vc 5 On log in marsh, Little Norton, near Montacute, ST41.
- †131/4 **Drepanocladus fluitans** (Hedw.) Warnst. var. **fluitans**  
vc 5 Wet moorland, Winsford Hill, SS83.
- \*135/3 **Isoetecium holtii** Kindb.  
vc 5 Rocks in R. Barle, above Tarr Steps, SS83. M. Corley.
- 136/1 **Scorpiurium circinatum** (Brid.) Fleish & Loeske  
vc 5 On Ham stone, Little Norton, near Montacute, ST41.
- †141/5B **Eurhynchium swartzii** (Turn.) Curn. var. **rigidum** (Boul.) Dix.  
vc 5 Field on Upper Lias, Little Norton, near Montacute, ST41.
- \*148/3 **Isoetecium pulchellum** (Hedw.) Jaeg & Sauerb.  
vc 5 Bank by stream, Rams Combe, ST13.

\* New county records.

† New vice county records.

All records without names after them are my own.

J. APPLEYARD.

#### SOMERSET LEPIDOPTERA IN 1971

The year 1971 appears to have been a poor one for migratory lepidoptera. **Plusia gamma** (**Silver Y**) was seen in considerable numbers in the autumn but none of the rarer migratory moths was noted until a specimen of **Rhometra sacra** (**Vestal**) was seen in October and **Leucania unipuncta** (**White-speck Wainscot**) in November, both at Selworthy.

New records for the Minehead district were **Celaena leucostigma** (**Crescent**) and **Schrankia taenialis** (**White-line Snout**), both seen at Selworthy.

**Amathes agathina** (**Heath Rustic**) was reported from Selworthy and from Shapwick.

**Leucania straminea** (**Southern Wainscot**) and **Leucania pudorina** (**Striped Wainscot**) were seen singly at Selworthy.

**Mythimna turca** (**Double-line**) turned up three times at light at Selworthy. This equals the total noted in the Minehead district for the previous sixteen years.

Larvae of **Cucullia absinthii** (**Wormwood Shark**) were again easily found on Wormwood near Porlock in September.

**Lithophane leautieri** (**Blair's Pinion**) was seen again in October at Selworthy and undoubtedly must breed in this district.

**Cosmia pyralina** (**Lunar-spotted Pinion**) was seen at light at Selworthy and Weston-super-Mare.

Mr. C. S. H. Blathwayt reported several **Leucoma salicis** (**White Satin**) moths at Shapwick in early July, and from the same locality in early June an example of **Eupithecia pygmeata** (**Marsh Pug**). He, also, reported **Ectropis consonaria** (**Square-spot Beauty**) from Weston-super-Mare.

From Selworthy come reports of the following:

**Cosymbia porata** (**False Mocha**)

**Parastichtis suspecta** (**Suspected**)

**Pseudoips bicolorana** (**Scarce Green Silver-lines**)

**Chesias legatella** (**Streak**)

**Eupithecia indigata** (**Ochreous Pug**)

**Cirrhia gilvago** (**Dusky-lemon Sallow**) was unusually common in the autumn at Selworthy.

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.

During the year the Nature Reserve at Black Rock at the head of Cheddar Gorge was formally opened by Lord Head, Chairman of the Wessex Region of the National Trust, and a Reserve of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres of deciduous woodland at Kilmersdon was acquired on a three-year agreement. This is particularly suitable as a study area for schools.

In addition the Trust are hoping to acquire three further Reserves in the very near future, namely: 156 acres at Great Breach Wood between Compton Dundon and Butleigh, mainly oak woodland with some coniferous plantation and particularly rich in butterflies, a gift from Mr. C. G. Trapnell; a further 16 acres of Westhay Moor adjoining the existing Reserve and 16 acres at Brown's Folly, Bathford. The East Area Committee successfully launched a mainly local appeal during the year for the purchase of this Reserve and over £900 had been raised by the end of June.

The Nature Conservancy have negotiated with Messrs. Fisons Ltd. over areas of the Somerset Levels in which both they and the Trust are interested. A five-year moratorium on peat-winning over a part of Shapwick National Nature Reserve, which is still owned privately, has been arranged. This period will be used to work out future peat-winning procedures and timing with the company to ensure the long-term conservation of the flora and fauna of the area.

By the end of June, Trust membership had reached 2,950, and the Council intend to make another concerted effort to increase membership to coincide with the imminent achievement of the 3,000 mark. The Trust is grateful to the Somerset County Council and one Urban District and eight Rural District Councils for the grants received in 1971-72. We are most heartened to feel that the value of the work we are trying to do has been recognised in such a practical fashion. Several grants have been already made or promised for 1972-73.

The Trust again had a display in the Forestry Pavilion at the Bath and West Show, and a bookstall at the Mendip Exhibition at Wells. The film, "The Last of the Wild", which was shown so successfully after the 1970 A.G.M. at Bristol was shown after the 1971 A.G.M. at Yeovil, and also the following day at Taunton. Both showings were heavily attended. Area Committees held a varied programme of events and for the third year in succession the West Area Committee opened a Nature Trail for children at Langford Budville in July and September. A photographic competition was held in the autumn. We are most grateful to those members who opened their gardens in aid of the Trust.

I have to report with deep regret the deaths of Mr. F. G. F. Drake, who had audited the Trust's accounts during the first five years of its existence, Mr. H. L. Douglas, who served on the Council of the Trust until the time of his death and was for several years our Subscription Secretary, and the sudden death of Mr. W. B. Collins, our Reserves Officer, in a road accident. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

A. C. M. HINGLEY,  
*Hon. General Secretary.*