

The Entomological Section

President—The Rev. Preb. A. P. WICKHAM, F.E.S., East Brent Vic., Highbridge.

Treasurer—Mr. H. DOIDGE, The Bank, High Street, Taunton.

Assistant Treasurer—Mr. C. J. PERRENS, 6, Park Road, Bridgwater.

Secretary—Dr. J. V. BLACHFORD, C.B.E., Milverton Ho., Long Ashton, Bristol.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Entomological Section was held at Taunton Castle on 13 February 1931, the President in the chair. All the officers were elected for the ensuing year.

A proposal by the Bristol entomologists to collaborate in endeavouring to introduce *Papilio machaon* on the peat moors was considered and an interesting discussion took place. The meeting agreed to share the costs of the experiment and the Secretary was instructed to proceed with the matter. ¶

The only field meeting of the year was held at Ivythorn Manor, near Street, on 4 June at the kind invitation of Mr. Edmund Page, M.C., who not only threw open his woods and grounds to the members but also provided them with tea. The day was one of the few fine intervals in a dreary season: in spite of this however insects were remarkably scarce. Several full fed larvæ of *Thecla quercus* were beaten out of some oaks, and Mr. R. Beck captured two specimens of *Cryptocephalus bipunctatus*, a somewhat rare beetle, this, we believe, being the first recorded capture of this insect in Somerset.

Mr. Tilley was elected a member, proposed by Miss Mapleton and seconded by Dr. Blachford.

We regret having to report that a large number of trees on Shapwick Moor which formed a very convenient and prolific sugaring ground have been cut down, and the collecting areas in that region seem to be fast disappearing. Captures of the following rare insects have been reported.

LEPIDOPTERA

Tortricina

Pædisca ? (*Eucosma*) *ratzeburgiana*, Rtz. Penselwood. (G. B. Coney).

Endothenia ericetana, Westw. Batcombe. (G. B. Coney).

Tineina

Aristotelia atrella, Haw. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Gelechia basaltinella, Zell. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Borkhausenia unitella, Hb. Turf Moor. (G. B. Coney).

Elachista apicipunctella, Sta. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Elachista subnigrella, Dgl. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Coleophora discordella, Zell. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Coleophora artemisicolella, Bruand. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Lithocolletis oxyacanthæ, Frey. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Lithocolletis quinqueguttella, Sta. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Leucoptera wailesella, Sta. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Luffia lapidella, Goze. Crewkerne district. (A. R. Hayward).

Eriocrania Kaltenbachii, Sta. Batcombe. (G. B. Coney).

Micropteryx aureatella, Scop. Penselwood. (G. B. Coney).

Mr. A. R. Hayward wishes to state that in the 1929 Report the Tortrix *C. grossana* was recorded by him in error ; it was a worn specimen of *C. splendana*, so the former has yet to be found in the county.

Mr. E. Page and Mr. C. J. Perrens report having taken several *Fagi* and two *Alni* at light in the oak woods near Ivythorn in June.

COLEOPTERA

Mr. R. Beck reports that on 4 June he captured a dozen specimens of *Cryptocephalus aureolus* at Ivythorn Hill. He

says he cannot find it recorded from Somerset, and although it appears to be fairly common and generally distributed Fowler does not mention this county as one of its localities.

He also took three *Cryptocephalus lineola* at the same place. Donisthorpe (*Brit. Coleoptera*, vi, 163) considers that this insect with the thick regular band is a variety of *Bipunctatus*; it does appear to have been recorded from Somerset previously.

Dr. J. V. Blachford took one specimen of *Attelabus curculionoides* at Long Ashton in June. Though fairly well distributed it is not a common insect and is not mentioned in Fowler as occurring in this district.

He also captured several specimens of *Dytiscus dimidiatus* in April in the rhines on the peat moors. Fowler, writing in 1887 (*Brit. Coleoptera*, i, 206), says this species used to be locally abundant in the Cambridgeshire and other fens, but of late years has become exceedingly rare. The last specimen taken in Britain was found three or four years ago in Askam Bog by the Rev. W. C. Hay.

It will greatly add to the interest of the Report if members will notify the Secretary, not only of County records which has been the custom hitherto, but also of any interesting insects they may take in the County, or any unusual abundance or scarcity of insects.

The Ornithological Section

President and Chief Recorder—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U.,
Dyrham Rectory, Chippenham, Wilts.

Vice-Presidents—The Very Rev. Dom. E. HORNE, F.S.A., and Mr. BERNARD
W. TUCKER, M.B.O.U.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., Taunton Castle.

Recorders (appointed March 1931) :—

District I—N. Somerset :—Messrs. B. W. TUCKER and D. D. RICHARDSON.

District II—E. Somerset :—Messrs. B. W. TUCKER and D. D. RICHARDSON.

District III—Mendip :—Messrs. STANLEY LEWIS and E. GERALD HOLT.

District IV—Central Somerset :—The Rev. C. J. PRING and Dr. G. FORDEN.

District V—Taunton :—Mr. B. W. TUCKER.

District VI—S. Somerset :—Mr. J. H. SYMES and Dr. H. B. ELTON.

District VII—Exmoor :—Messrs. N. G. HADDEN and E. W. HENDY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Section for 1931 was held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, on 26 March, when the President occupied the chair. Forty-eight members attended, as compared with thirty-one at the previous annual meeting.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1930, which showed a balance in hand on 31 December of £19 14s. 5d. On the other hand there was the liability of the cost of the Report for that year to be taken into consideration. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £22 5s. 0d. set aside as a special reserve fund.

The Officers of the Section were re-elected and thanked for their services; and the Very Rev. Dom. E. Horne and Mr. B. W. Tucker accepted the position of Vice-Presidents. The list of Recorders was reviewed, as given above.

The Seventeenth Report on Somerset Birds (1930), compiled by the President and Mr. B. W. Tucker, assisted by the Rev. C. J. Pring and Mr. E. W. Hendy, had recently been published. It included a report of the Wild Birds Protection Committee and a revised list of ornithological books in the Library of the Parent Society.

At this meeting Mr. Tucker offered a short explanation on the Census of Rookeries.

Most of the time was occupied in considering the proposed Rules for the Section submitted to the general meeting by the Committee of five appointed for this purpose. After the Very Rev. Prior Horne had spoken, Mr. B. W. Tucker proposed the adoption of the majority report and this was seconded by Dr. H. B. Elton. Major Kennedy thought the Rules could not be taken together and ultimately it was decided to take them separately. Rules I, II, III, V, VI, VIII and X were approved without dissent.

There were two amendments to Rule IV, and it was ultimately carried by a large majority in the following form :

In pursuance of section (b) of Rule II, it is the declared policy of the Section actively to further the effective protection of birds in the County, and to observe and support the law and County bye-laws on the subject.

Any member who, being reported to have acted in a manner seriously prejudicial to this declared policy or to the general interests of the Section, fails, in the opinion of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a meeting (after the announcement on the agenda), to give a satisfactory explanation of his conduct, shall cease to be a member of the Section.

Rules VII and IX were also passed in accordance with the majority report.

In the afternoon, Miss E. L. Turner, who was elected an Hon. Member of the Section, gave a lecture entitled 'Lost and Vanishing Birds' illustrated by lantern slides. In this part of the programme the Section was joined by the Taunton Field Club, who kindly provided Tea at Maynard's Restaurant for those able to accept the invitation.

Twenty-six members attended the autumn meeting on 9 October, when the President was in the chair. On this occasion twelve new members were elected.

The new Rules of the Parent Society governing the Sections (as passed at the Minehead Meeting, June 1931) were brought to the notice of the Section.

The proposed addition to Rule VI of the Section would be brought forward for ratification at the next annual meeting. It ran as follows :

The current affairs of the Section shall be controlled by a Committee of not more than seven, subject to any directions that may be given by a general meeting of the Section. The President, one or more Secretaries and Treasurer, to be included in the number. The Committee shall meet at least once a year.

An interim Committee was appointed consisting of the President, Secretary and Mr. B. W. Tucker. The same persons were elected as the Editorial Committee.

Printed copies of the Rules of the Section would be issued to members in the spring of 1932.

After lunch the President opened a discussion on the future investigation into the Avifauna of Somerset and the best method of reporting the same, and he was followed by Mr. Tucker and others.

The additions to the bird collections for the year ended 23 June 1931 are listed on p. cvii of this volume.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

In pursuance of the practice initiated in the 1930 *Proceedings* a selection of the more interesting ornithological records for 1931 is given below and, as before, reference should be made to the separate Report of the Section for fuller details. Special attention may be drawn to the occurrence of an Iceland Gull, the breeding of a pair of Hoopoes, and the first proof of the nesting of the Buzzard on the Mendips in recent years, while the fact that Blue-headed Wagtails, Dunlin, and Black-necked Grebes were observed in the breeding-season, apparently all in pairs, is suggestive.

STARLING, *Sturnus v. vulgaris* L.

Two ringed birds recovered in Somerset, one on Mar. 20 and the other *circa* Nov. 20, 1930, had been ringed in South Holland on Oct. 14, 1929, and in Pomerania on June 5, 1930, respectively (*Brit. Birds*, xxv, 114 & 115).

CROSSBILL, *Loxia c. curvirostra* L.

Small parties present at Winscombe in March. Two pairs remained until about mid-April and then suddenly disappeared after being joined by four or five other birds (D.B.G.)

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL, *Motacilla f. flava* L.

Male fully identified in Dist. IV on June 10 and 13, on latter date accompanied by a female (*S.L.*)

WAXWING, *Bombycilla garrulus* (L.)

One watched at close range at Dulverton on May 21 and several subsequent days (*S. A. Young*). As the date is very unusual and the bird was very tame it was possibly an escape.

PIED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa h. hypoleuca* (Pall.)

Male seen on passage at Orchard Wyndham in 1930 and 1931 (*W. Wyndham*). Single birds also noted at Cheddar, Apr. 23 (*G. Ham*) and at Abbot's Pool, near Bristol, May 4 (*P. I. Lake*).

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER, *Locustella n. naevia* (Bodd.)

Found breeding on a dry, gorse-clad heath on the Mendips at 600 ft., the first time located nesting in such a situation (*S.L.*)

MARSH-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechst.)

A considerable increase in Dist. IV: two well-established colonies in the area. Three nests reported and four seen by the recorder (*C.J.P.*)

BLACK REDSTART, *Phoenicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis* (Gm.)

Again present at Blagdon Reservoir in autumn, 1930 (*D. Carr—Report Wells Nat. Hist. & Archæol. Soc. for 1930*).

SWALLOW, *Hirundo r. rustica* L. and HOUSE-MARTIN, *Delichon u. urbica* (L.)

A census of Swallows' and Martins' nests at Bruton, carried out over an area of 4 sq. miles previously surveyed in 1929, gave a total of 60 Swallows' and 63 Martins' nests, as against 52 Swallows' and 104 Martins' in 1929. The decrease of Martins is difficult to account for (*P. A. D. Hollom*):

HOOPOE, *Upupa e. epops* L.

A pair bred in a hole in an apple-tree at Badgworth, but unfortunately one of the pair disappeared and the nest was deserted (*S.L.*). Details are given in the separate Report and in *Brit. Birds*, xxv, 164.

One seen on several occasions on a lawn between Merriott and Hinton St. George in early October (*H.B.E.*)

CUCKOO, *Cuculus c. canorus* L.

Egg found in nest of Cirl Bunting near Martock in May
(J.H.S.)

PEREGRINE, *Falco p. peregrinus* Tunst.

Three reared in Avon Gorge (W.R.T.). Pair on West
Sedgemoor, May 25, a curious date for such a locality
(H.B.E. & C.J.P.)

MERLIN, *Falco columbarius aesalon* Tunst.

One close to Weston-super-Mare, Apr. 15 (D.B.G.)

BUZZARD, *Buteo b. buteo* (L.)

The first case of breeding in the Mendip Hills in recent years
was proved on May 20, when a nest was found to contain
two young, a previous year's nest being close by (S.L.).
One seen by D. B. G. in Cheddar Gorge on Apr. 30, but did
not breed there.

[MARSH-HARRIER, *Circus æ. aeruginosus* (L.)

A probable old male Marsh-Harrier seen by Miss Mary M.
Adamson in the Bath district in July and August. Details
in separate Report.]

HERON, *Ardea c. cinerea* L.

Counts at the local heronries show that approximately 200
pairs bred in the county in 1931, a drop of about 20 pairs on
the 1930 total. There were increases at Etsome Wood and
Fivehead, but considerable decreases at Halswell Park and
Shapwick, in the latter case owing to wanton shooting,
while at Marston Park the birds (5 pairs) began to repair the
nests, but subsequently deserted.

GARGANEY, *Anas querquedula* L.

Pair at Blagdon, Apr. 27 (W.R.T.)

PINTAIL, *Anas a. acuta* L.

About 20 with Wigeon, Steart Point, Jan. 1 (L.A.H. &
W.R.T.)

TUFTED DUCK, *Nyroca fuligula* (L.)

Two ducks with broods of nine and six respectively at
Blagdon, Aug. 7 (S.L.)

SCAUP, *Nyroca m. marila* (L.)

Female observed repeatedly at Barrow between Oct. 29 and
Dec. 29 by A. C. L., H. T., and W. R. T.

COMMON SCOTER, *Oidemia n. nigra* (L.)

Drake at Barrow Reservoirs, Sept. 20 (*H.T.*)

STORMY PETREL, *Hydrobates pelagicus* (L.)

One picked up dead at Panborough, near Wedmore, in November (*S.L.*)

LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL, *Oceanodroma l. leucorrhoa* (Vieill.)

One picked up dead at Wells in November (*S.L.*)

FULMAR, *Fulmarus g. glacialis* (L.)

One picked up dead near lighthouse on sands at Burnham, Dec. 13 (*S.L.*)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps n. nigricollis* Brehm.

Single birds noted at Barrow in January, March, October and December (*A.C.L.* & *W.R.T.*)

Three on Blagdon Reservoir, Mar. 15 (*S.L.* & *W.C. Taunton*).
Pair in full summer plumage in another locality, June 28 (*S.L.*)

DUNLIN, *Calidris alpina schinzii* (Brehm).

A pair watched for two successive days (May 6 & 7) on Exmoor by a reliable observer. No nest was found but the birds may well have bred (*S.L.*)

COMMON SANDPIPER, *Tringa hypoleucos* L.

Nested and hatched off in Somerset: seen with young hardly able to fly; also in 1930 (*H. A. Sheppard per S. L.*)

GREY PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius* (L.)

One visited Blagdon in autumn 1930 (*D. Carr—Report Wells Nat. Hist. & Archæol. Soc.* for 1930).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus r. ridibundus* L.

One ringed as a young bird at Molfsee, Kiel, Germany, on July 2, 1930, was recovered at Weston-super-Mare in December 1930 (*Brit. Birds*, xxv, 78).

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucooides* Meyer.

One seen by F. L. B. at Barrow on Mar. 3, evidently a second-year bird. There appear to be only three previous county records (cf. *Brit. Birds*, xxiv, 344).

SPOTTED CRAKE, *Porzana porzana* (L.)

Three reported seen in Dist. III in first week of April. One near Wedmore in early November (*S.L.*)

QUAIL, *Coturnix c. coturnix* (L.)

One shot out of a couple on North Sedgemoor, Sept. 17.
Keeper had flushed three in the same field an hour before,
so there may have been five in all (*E.G.H.*)

The contributors of the various records can be identified from the following list :—

Rev. F. L. Blathwayt ; Dr. H. B. Elton ; D. B. Grubb ; L. A. Hawkins ;
E. G. Holt ; A. C. Leach ; S. Lewis ; Rev. C. J. Pring ; J. H. Symes ; H. Tetley.

B. W. TUCKER.

The Botanical Section

President—W. WATSON, D.S.C., A.L.S.

Committee—H. DOWNES, M.D., F.L.S., N. G. HADDEN, E. J. HAMLIN,
Miss I. M. ROPER, F.L.S., and H. S. THOMPSON, A.L.S.

Secretary and Treasurer—W. D. MILLER, Audrey, Burnham-on-Sea.

THE Annual General Meeting was held at the Castle, Taunton, on Thursday, 12 March 1931, Dr. Watson, President, in the chair. The meeting began with a vote of sympathy with the Secretary, Mr. W. D. Miller, in the accident which had befallen him, and the hope was expressed that his recovery would be speedy.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed as correct. The accounts were also read and passed, showing a balance in hand of £5 0s. 11*d.* It was announced that with the £3 placed on deposit last year, with the Parent Society, together with the interest, the Deposit Fund now stood at £21 7s. 11*d.* It was decided that 10s. should be subscribed to the Sharpam Moor Plot, and 7s. to the S.W.N. Union.

The President presented the Committee's Report for 1930 and made various remarks upon it, and a vote of thanks to the Secretary was passed for his preparation of the Report. He also described the International Botanical Congress at Cambridge as a very important gathering of its kind, and referred, at some length, to the ecological work and recent death of Dr. C. E. Moss, with whom he was well acquainted.

Arrangements for field days were left to the President and Secretary: Minehead, Bewley Down, Clevedon and Bruton were places suggested.

A number of fresh plants, among them flowering specimens of the spring snowflake, were exhibited. Miss Roper brought a copy of Swayne's *Gramina Pascua* (1790) for inspection.

The Ninth Annual Conference of the South-Western Natura-

lists' Union was held at Taunton from 5-7 June under the Presidency of Dr. A. B. Rendle, F.R.S.

The following report is chiefly taken from the account given by Miss Roper in the *Journal of Botany*, July 1931. The attendance of members and associates of affiliated Societies showed a decrease on previous years, which was to be regretted because the local botanists had arranged an excellent programme for the visitors. The meetings were held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton, and on Saturday morning, 6 June, Dr. Rendle gave his Presidential Address on 'Island Floras'. The purpose of the address was to draw attention to questions of plant-distribution and to show the reasons for particular species being where they are. Two excursions were arranged. An afternoon one was made to Bathpool by the side of the river Tone under the guidance of Dr. W. Watson, to study stream and pond life. *Wolffia* was seen in the pool from which it was first recorded for v.c. 5. The second excursion was by motor-coach over Exmoor through picturesque lanes to Dunkery Gate, and was attended by seven members of this Section. There most of the party ascended to the Cairn, but one or two remained on the lower slopes to examine the boggy ground amongst the clumps of *Empetrum*, which was abundant and showing various stages of fruit development. They were rewarded by finding two small plants in bloom of *Listera cordata*. This plant was first recorded from Dunkery in 1849 by W. H. Coleman, an active collector in Somerset, and his specimen is preserved in Herb. Watson at Kew. *Listera* had not been seen in the county during the present century. The drive was continued by Horner (where *Sibthorpia* was examined) to Minehead, where a short time was spent in studying the maritime flora of the sand-dunes and shingle.

On 26 June about twenty members examined the unique flora of the sandy and shingly warren between Dunster and Minehead. Walking along the lane to the shore there was some discussion as to a 'variety' of feverfew growing in the hedge, and on the shingle there was a fine display of viper's bugloss. The wet season suited the small clovers, *Trigonella* being abundant, and a search on hands and knees was rewarded by *Trifolium suffocatum* in some quantity. On the way to Mine-

head the sea stork's bill, henbane and *Silene conica* were noticed, among many commoner plants. A dock, considered by Dr. Watson as a hybrid between *R. crispus* and *R. obtusifolius* was collected with the putative parents. Some botanists are inclined to consider it to be a form of *R. domesticus* despite the N. British localisation of this plant.

On 9 June fifteen members and friends were rewarded by a fine day on Bewley Down. On two previous occasions when field days had been arranged for this locality the rain had prevented full advantage being taken to study the flora of the excellent bog associations. Among the more interesting plants seen were the three sundews and hybrids, western butterwort, bog asphodel, lesser butterfly and fragrant orchids, berry-bearing alder, allseed, *Eriophorum latifolium*, and *Agrostis setacea*. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent on the Down and at Wambrook we had a kind reception and an excellent tea from Miss Beviss.

In spite of heavy rain, which lasted all day a dozen members and friends attended the meeting at Braunton in N. Devon on 14 July. Most of the rare and interesting plants known to occur in this locality were noticed. *Teucrium scordium*, the Braunton sage, was not showing bud, and the weather prevented a search for *Scirpus Holoschoenus* and *Bartsia viscosa*.

About nine members turned up at Clevedon on 12 August in motor-cars and drove to Walton Moor to see *Cyperus fuscus*. The rhines had been recently cleaned out and diligent search failed to detect a single plant. The party returned to Ladye Bay and searched unsuccessfully for *Allium oleraceum* which had been reported from there, and then drove to Kenn Moor to see *Ranunculus Lingua* and *Wolffia* in the swamps near the railway. Waste ground near Clevedon Light Railway produced a small plant of *Linaria repens* and a quantity of a mint which is a hybrid between *Mentha longifolia* and *spicata* (teste J. Fraser). Its characteristic features are the long leaves and their very irregular serratures.

Mr. H. S. Thompson has continued his observations on the still rapidly changing salt marsh at Berrow, and the always interesting but sometimes fugitive vegetation in the adjoining strand zone, where strange vegetative forms of several plants

not normally growing on sea sand were obtained and also *Rhinanthus major* and *Scutellaria galericulata*. In the former muddy area fresh-water plants are more and more in evidence. In July and August he made a careful survey of the phanerogamic vegetation at Brislington Station, and a short account was sent to the *Journal of Botany*.

The wet summer contributed more to luxuriant vegetative than to floral development and seriously interfered with the field-work of many of our members. Nevertheless a fair amount of work was done on the plants of the county and the following notes refer to some of the interesting plants observed.

- Ranunculus Ficaria* var. *incumbens* Schultz. (9) Typical on the border of a rhine at Clevedon. *I. M. R.*
- Meconopsis cambrica* Vig. (2) Established at Holford but probably planted originally. *W. W.*
- Arabis scabra* All. (*stricta* Huds.). (3) Cannington Park and Wembdon. Planted by Mr. Corder. Still plentiful, 1931. *W. D. M. & E. J. H.*
- Draba muralis* L. (10) By a stream, Maesbury. *H. J. Gibbons.*
- Diplotaxis tenuifolia* DC. (2) Watchet. *W. W.*
- Viola ruralis* Jord. (10) Roadside near top of Wollard Hill. 'Unusually hairy', det. Dr. E. Drabble. *H. S. T.* A common member of the corn pansy (*V. arvensis* Murr.) group. It has been noted in divisions 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9. A very expressive local name for the corn pansy is 'look-up and kiss me'. *W. W.*
- V. arvensis* Jord. (2) Watchet to Blue Anchor. Minehead Warren. (3) Rowford near Taunton. A very distinct plant owing to its simple flexuose stems and its very divergent petioles. *W. W.*
- Arenaria tenuifolia* L. (3) Canal Bridge, Charlton; new for 3. *W. D. M.*
- Stellaria neglecta* Weihe. (10) Further observation confirms previous opinion that this is far less common in N. Somerset than the hirsute var. *Elizabethae*. The type grows profusely on 400 yds. of the s. bank of the road between Belluton Hill and Stanton Drew. *H. S. T.* Both the type and the variety are common in S. Somerset. *W. W.*
- Sagina filicaulis* Jord. (10) Base of wall, Brislington, and more

- prostrate between the metals at the railway station. This Jordanian species is intermediate between *apetala* and *ciliata*. *H. S. T.*
- Sagina ciliata* Fries. (9) Glabrous form, Purn Hill limestone escarpment. *H. S. T.*
- S. procumbens* var. *spinosa* S. Gibs. (2) Minehead Warren. *W. W.*
- Geranium molle* var. *grandiflorum* Vis. (3) Bank at Upper Cheddon, near Taunton. *W. W.*
- Melilotus officinalis* Lam. (*M. arvensis* Wallr.). (2) Watchet. *W. W.*
- Trifolium arvense* L. A pale greenish-white colour form, conspicuous from a distance. (8) Border of Burnham Golf links. *H. S. T.* This form is occasional on sand dunes. *W. D. M.*
- Coronilla varia* L. (10) Combe Down, Bath. *Sir M. Abbot Anderson*. An alien of increasing frequency. (*Fl. Bristol*).
- Lathyrus tuberosus*. L. (9) Rough ground on s. slope above Cheddar, 10 July 1931. Established very locally during the last few years. Enquiry proved that before the War the land was cultivated, and afterwards pigs were fed there by a miller. *H. S. T.* Recorded by Miss Claydon, 1929. *W. D. M.*
- Callitriche intermedia* Hoff. (8) Rhine, Sharpham Moor. *H. S. T.* 'Correct, I think, an extremely variable species.' *H. W. Pearsall*. *C. obtusangula* was collected from the same ditch. *H. S. T.*
- Agrimonia Eupatoria* L. (with white flowers). (3) Charlton. *W. D. M.*
- Geum rivale* x *urbanum* (*intermedium* Ehrh.). (1) Dulverton. *Mrs. Parry*. The plant collected is now (Feb. 1932) flowering in my garden. *W. W.*
- Sedum dasyphyllum* L. (1) Persists at Upton Noble. *E. Lovatt*.
- Epilobium montanum* x *parviflorum*. (10) Among an extensive mass of various willow herbs on waste ground, near Clifton Bridge Station. Name confirmed by Dr. Drabble. *H. S. T.*
- Carum Carvi* L. (8) Waste ground, Highbridge. Second record for the county. *W. D. M.*
- Anthemis cotula* L. (2) Minehead. *W. W.*
- Chrysanthemum segetum* L. (2) Watchet, but apparently occurring as a casual only. *W. W.*

- Senecio vulgaris* var. *radiatus* Koch. (2) Watchet. W. W.
- Hieracium maculatum* Sm. (10) Wall by church, Priston.
H. J. Gibbons.
- Campanula rotundifolia* L. (8) Burnham links. W. D. M.
- Legousia hybrida* Delar. Field above Weston-in-Gordano.
H. J. Gibbons.
- Lysimachia vulgaris* L. (3) With two, three and four leaves in a whorl. Three leaves appears to be the most frequent form. Firepool, Taunton. H. S. T. Such variations have been known there for many years. W. W.
- Erythraea pulchella* Fr. (8) Banks of Brue, near Highbridge. W. D. M.. I have specimens gathered there in 1898, etc., all confirmed by C. E. Salmon. H. S. T.
- Mimulus Langsdorfti* Donn. (5) River Axe, near Winsham.
Miss Neale.
- Veronica persica* var. *Kochiana* Godr. (9) Waste ground, Portishead. H. S. T. 'This variety which keeps its distinctive character in cultivation must be distinguished carefully from the long, small-leaved shoots of *V. persica* var. *Aschersoniana*.' E. Drabble.
- V. persica* var. *Corrensiana* Lehm. (10) On damp liassic soil, Newton Mill, near Bath, growing with great masses of var. *Aschersoniana* (the ordinary form of the species) in varying degrees of leaf serration and robustness. Confirmed by Dr. Drabble. H. S. T.
- Marrubium vulgare* L. (3) In a field between Langford and Norton Camp, near Taunton. As I have not noticed it previously it has probably been introduced, but the owner of the estate is unable to give any information on the subject. W. W.
- Lamium hybridum* Vill. (2) On a wall, Minehead Warren. Previously recorded as *L. amplexicaule*. W. D. M.
- Teucrium Scorodonia* var. *acrotomum* L. B. Hall. This variety has much more rounded leaves than the type. It was found by Messrs. Hall and Hadden on Exmoor, and described in the *J. of Bot.*, 1928. In a specimen (garden grown) recently sent to me by Mr. Hall the plant retains its distinctive characters. W. W.
- Salix repens* L. (10) Bushy base of railway embankment,

- Brislington, several drawn up specimens 2 ft. high, among long grass and near brambles and bushes of *S. viminalis* and *S. aurita*. The presence of one or two shrubs and a little *Fragaria elatior* possibly indicates former cultivation. Nevertheless the appearance of *S. repens* there is strange. *H. S. T.*
- Ceratophyllum submersum* L. (10) With *C. demersum* in the canal at Bath. *W. D. M.*
- Paris quadrifolia* L. (4) Park Wood and Old Hole Copse, Chaffcombe, Chard. *Mrs. Neale.*
- Juncus compressus* Jacq. (9) A good clump with fruiting spikes 20 in. high, growing in 2 in. of water on the s. side of Blagdon Lake, then (Oct. 10) slightly flooded. *H. S. T.*
- J. compressus* x *Gerardi*. (9) Berrow salt marsh, growing with *J. Gerardi*. A few dried specimens may be this 'extremely rare' hybrid, but distinctly nearer the first parent, though the stem leaves are broader than in true *compressus* and the capsules slightly less blunt. *J. compressus* has not hitherto been noticed on the new marsh. See White, *Flora of Bristol*, p. 600, *Proc. Bris. Nat. Soc.*, 1888, and *Journ. Bot.*, 1889, p. 49. *H. S. T.*
- Listera cordata* Br. (2) Dunkery. *C. J. Bartlett* and *N. G. Hadden.* (See account of the excursion of the S.W.N.U. to Dunkery. *W.W.*.) (1) Mounsey Hill Gate. *W. S. Parry.*
- Potamogeton crispus* L. Form with almost entire (not sinuate) leaves. (8) Rhine on Sharpham peat moor. *H. S. T.* A common form. *W. W.*
- Scirpus pauciflorus* Light. (8) Shapwick Moor, near Canada Farm, in several widely scattered places. *H. S. T.*
- Scirpus maritimus* L. (8) Near Edington Junction Station. *Mrs. Parry.* Seen near there twenty years ago. *W. W.*
- Rynchospora fusca* Ait. (8) Shapwick Moor, sparingly. The rediscovery of this by Mr. A. W. Graveson in July is most important, for it has not been observed in Somerset since 1888. Subsequent careful search in several enclosures by other botanists in September 1931 proved fruitless.
- Rynchospora alba* Vahl. (8) Many fine specimens showing the curious axillary buds on the roots, which will produce the next year's plants, Shapwick Moor. *H. S. T.* 'The growth from year to year is thus really sympodial, though each year's

growth usually dies away, leaving only the lateral axillary bud to continue growth in the next season.' *Dr. E. Drabble.*
Carex leporina L. (*C. ovalis* Good.). (2) Holford Combe.
W. W.

Spartina Townsendii. H. & J. Groves. (2) Stert. This plant seems to have firmly established itself. *W. W.*

Apera Spica-venti Beauv. (9) Berrow sands, as a strand plant. Panicles only up to 20 cm. long, *i.e.* rather smaller than usual, but this is not *A. interrupta* which Mr. Miller reports (*in lit.*) having seen at Berrow. *H. S. T.*

Festuca arundinacea var. *strictior* Hack. (9) Berrow sands, just above high water. The two specimens, taken from a fair clump, closely resemble in some particulars *F. juncifolia* St. Am. *H. S. T.*

F. rubra var. *pruinosa* (Hack.) Howarth. (9) Abundant and variable on sand at foot of low cliffs, s. of Battery Point, Portishead. *H. S. T.*

Bromus japonicus Thumb. (*B. patulus* M. & K.). (8) Burnham. *Lady Davy* (*teste* Kew). Near *B. arvensis*, but anthers only half as long. *W. D. M.*

Lastrea Thelypteris Bory. (8) Shapwick Moor. Numerous very tall and narrow fronds up to 3 ft. 9 in. growing in water (Sept.) beneath bushy border of a drove. The tallest stem taken was 23 in. to first pinna, and the frond 22 in. The great height of most of these ferns seemed to have been gained partly at the expense of the width of the frond. *H. S. T.*

Lastrea spinulosa is still in Leigh Woods. The only published records are Swete's *Flora*, 1854, and W. H. Painter, 1881 (*Fl. Brist.*). *I. M. R.*

Polypodium vulgare L. vars. *serratum* and *cambricum* Willd. Specimens of both these varieties collected near Street (8), were present in the late W. S. Clark's herbarium. *W. W.*

Equisetum variegatum Sch. (8) Burnham Links. *W. D. M.*

Azolla filiculoides was a brilliant sight in April for 100 yds. or so in a rhine by Moor Lane, South Clevedon. It had 'escaped' from a private pond on the Clevedon Court estate where it was planted a few years ago. *I. M. R.*

Among cryptogams the following are new vice-county records.

MOSSES

- Ephemerum serratum* var. *angustifolium* B. & S. On arable land, Rowford near Taunton (v.c. 5).
Fontinalis antipyretica var. *cymbifolia* Nichol. A plant from a quarry at West Monkton (v.c. 5) is considered by Mr. Dixon to belong here.
Bryum atropurpureum var. *gracilentum* Tayl. On fallow arable land near Taunton (v.c. 5).

HEPATICS

- Riccia commutata* Jack. Specimens collected from an arable field near Taunton are referred to this species by Mr. Knight.

LICHENS

- Pertusaria multipuncta* Nyl. On beech, Culmhead (v.c. 5).
Biatorrella campestris Th. Fr. On soil-cap of wall near Taunton. The sterile thallus was noted over ten years ago, but it is only recently that the presence of 'fruit' enabled it to be determined. *W. W.*
Placodium decipiens Leight. Cheddar (v.c. 6). *H. H. Knight* and *D. A. Jones.*
Physcia lithotea Nyl. On slate roof, Orchard Portman (v.c. 5).
Bilimbia nitschkeana Lahm. On elder near Culmhead (v.c. 5).
Calicium quercinum var. *lenticulare* Nyl. On post, Kingston (v.c. 5).

On 29 October a joint meeting with the Taunton Field Club was held at the Wyndham Hall, Taunton, and an audience of about sixty people heard an interesting lecture by Mr. Corder on 'Wild Flowers in their Haunts'. The lecturer gave some highly instructive remarks on the beautiful slides shown on the screen which were much appreciated by the audience. Some wild flowers were also shown by various members. Mr. Weiss of Bickenhall kindly sent some stereoscopes and views, and also some additional coloured lantern slides which were shown and commented upon by the chairman, Dr. Watson. The mental pabulum was supplied by our members, and afterwards all those present were entertained to tea by the Field Club.

Two interesting recent publications are especially worthy of notice :—*The International Address Book of Botanists* and *The Altitudinal Range of British Plants*. The former was prepared in accordance with a resolution passed at the Fifth International Botanical Congress held at Cambridge in 1930, and is a directory of individuals and various societies in all parts of the world interested in the study of botany. The latter, a reprint of articles contributed by Mr. Albert Wilson to the *North-Western Naturalist*, contains a vast amount of information as to the altitudes where our British species are found, and must have entailed an enormous amount of labour.

The recent illustrated paper by Messrs. E. Drabble and J. E. Little in *Journ. Bot.* (a magazine which is taken by the Section), July and August 1931, on 'British Veronicas of the *Agrestis* group', is both helpful and important to observers of the various forms of this group, several of which are mentioned previously in the Report.

Owing to the illness of our Secretary, who has been in a nursing home for four months, the work of preparing the Report has had to be undertaken by the Committee. It is their earnest hope, as it is of every member of the Section, that Mr. Miller will soon regain his health and be able to resume his invaluable secretarial duties.