

***Eubrychius velatus** Beck. Huntworth, near Bridgwater, one found on aquatic plants in pond. August. Very local. (Found by R. Avery, Mid-Somerset Naturalist Society).

Rhynchaenus salicis L. Alcombe, several beaten from Salix. May. Local.

Ceuthorhynchus melanostictus Marsh. Alcombe Marshes, one swept from *Mentha aquatica*. August. Local. Only once previously recorded from Bridgwater.

W. A. WILSON,
Recorder.

STEEP HOLM TRUST, 1959

TRUSTEES:

E. L. KELTING, O.B.E., *Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*

H. SAVORY, *Bristol Naturalists' Society*

MRS. M. L. COLTHURST, *Mid-Somerset Naturalist Society*

E. J. MASON, *Bristol Folk House Archaeological Club*

Whilst no outstanding events occurred, the season nevertheless proved to be again a satisfactory one in all respects. Requests to visit the Island were received from Schools, Colleges and Societies who had been before, while several others made the visit for the first time, including the West of England Science Teachers' Association. The Society's Ornithological Section paid their usual visit at Whitsuntide. Our thanks are again due to Dursley Grammar School for their good work put in on several occasions during the season.

The Steep Holm Peony continues its good progress despite the fact that its area is persistently invaded by the Alexanders. Here, however, it is possible to continue with systematic clearing, although, owing to the disturbance which would be caused, it is unfortunately not feasible to remove the roots of the Alexanders — the real source of the trouble — from the rocky fissures in which they grow. One viewed with much satisfaction the show of colour during the comparatively short flowering period. On one occasion over fifty perfect blooms were counted on the 'Peony Ledges', while below in the 'Peony Glen' the longer established plants are now in several cases large and robust.

The report of the Steep Holm Gull Research Station is printed in full in the Ornithological Section's 'Somerset Birds' 1959. To mention one or two points, the Herring Gulls of Steep Holm have done so well that the Colony is now one of the largest in Britain and one of the least persecuted. At present the most important investigation is a pathological one. As the Island is unusually free from interference by man, it seems likely that diseases, parasites and the behaviour of the Gulls themselves must be largely responsible for regulating their numbers. Study of wild birds in the peculiarly favourable circumstances appertaining to the Island gives results which promise to be of interest beyond the narrow scope of 'Gull research'. The ringing of gulls (including 1,000 nestlings) was continued by a party of four who stayed on the Island from 5th to 11th July. The overseas recoveries include two from France, one from Northern Spain and two from Portugal. Amongst passage migrants during the year an Osprey, seen by three observers on 5th September, takes pride of place. The Trust made their usual grant towards the expenses of the work of the Gull Research Station. With judicious expenditure the finances of the Trust continue to be satisfactory.

HARRY SAVORY,
Hon. Secretary, Steep Holm Trust.