

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

President—W. R. TAYLOR, M.A., 5 Pembroke Vale, Bristol, 8.

Hon. Secretary—G. H. E. YOUNG, Bank House, Martock, Somerset.

Hon. Treasurer—R. H. WEBSTER, Ivythorn, Holway Road, Taunton, Somerset.

Committee—The above, with C. J. PRING, H. H. DAVIS, E. G. HOLT, and P. HAYMAN.

1951

The Annual General Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on Saturday, 17 March 1951. The audited accounts showed a balance in hand of £22 17s. 8d. at the 31 December 1950 ; in addition there was the sum of £21 in a Reserve Fund. Twelve new members were admitted at this meeting. The Autumn Meeting also was held at Taunton Castle on the 3 November. Eighteen new members then joined the Section. There were two meetings of the Committee during the year.

A good deal of consideration has been given by the Section to the proposals of the Parent Society for closer co-operation between the Natural History Sections. This has resulted in the setting up of a Joint Standing Committee, on which we are represented by Mr. R. H. Webster and Mr. C. Trent Thomas. The practical results are that there will be a greater number of lectures, talks and excursions on all natural history subjects to which members of each Section will be welcome. The Ornithological Section give their full support to this arrangement.

A number of interesting events took place during the year, the outstanding ones being :—the visit to the Severn Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge in January, the joint meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and ourselves at Taunton in March, when Mr. P. E. Brown showed some excellent films of the Minsmere Reserve. Then in June we visited Steep Holme, where we found Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were nesting in large numbers and that there was a gratifying increase in the Cormorant colony. The Peregrine too was still there. The ugly scars of war-time military occupation were partially hidden by a luxuriant growth of alexanders. At the Bridgwater Agricultural Show in July and at the Taunton Flower Show in August the Section co-operated with the other Natural History Sections in staging an exhibit which took the form of a model of the Quantock Hills showing the bird, plant and insect features of each step from the high ground down to sea level. The lecturer for the November

meeting was Mr. G. Edwards whose talk was on 'Birds of an Eastern County' which he illustrated by a colour film showing, among other things, shots of the new Avocet colony.

The 37th Report on Somerset Birds did not appear until November owing to the indisposition of Mr. Peter Hayman who again prepared the draft manuscript. It has been improved by the insertion of a map showing the Ornithological districts and a list of the latest Rules of the Section. Membership at the end of 1951 was 138.

G. H. E. YOUNG,
Hon. Secretary.